



## QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

## Balochistan Doesn't Need New Buildings—It Needs a Future



## Editorial:

The decision to demolish the historic Balochistan Assembly building and construct a new one for Rs. 5 billion is not just unwise—it is outrageous. At a time when the province is struggling with extreme poverty, a failing education system, and a collapsing healthcare sector, prioritizing infrastructure over people's well-being raises serious questions about governance and leadership.

Balochistan has the highest child mortality rate in Asia, with maternal mortality also at alarming levels. According to the Directorate of Nutrition Cell, 54% of children suffer from stunting, while over 60% of women are anemic. Hidden hunger, a silent crisis, is worsening health conditions, especially among women. The province's female literacy rate has hit a historic low, and over 3 million children remain out of school. Given these grim realities, how can

any rational mind justify spending billions on a new building while millions of people suffer from malnutrition, disease, and illiteracy? The existing assembly building is not just a structure; it is a part of Balochistan's history and culture. It stands in a secure zone with ample space to function effectively. There is no logical reason to shift it elsewhere. More importantly, in a province where resources are scarce, this massive sum should be directed towards improving the Human Development Index (HDI). Balochistan doesn't need more concrete structures—it needs a future. It needs leadership that understands the struggles of its people. The priorities of the government must be questioned. Should Rs. 5 billion be wasted on a new assembly building, or should it be used to improve healthcare, provide clean drinking wa-

ter, ensure food security, and address the devastating impacts of climate change? The answer is clear to anyone who values human lives over political vanity projects. Shockingly, most of the opposition has chosen to remain silent on this reckless decision—except for Jamaat-e-Islami chief Maulana Hidayat ur Rehman, who has voiced his opposition. This silence is both disappointing and alarming. If those who claim to represent the people do not stand against such misplaced priorities, who will? Balochistan does not need another building—it needs a future. It needs leadership that understands the struggles of its people. It needs investment in its children, its women, and its environment. If Rs. 5 billion is to be spent, let it be on human lives, not on another structure that adds no real value to the province's future.

## Addressing Poverty and Inequality: A Call for Sincere Leadership and Perpetual Reforms

By Amjad Rashid: Poverty and inequality, much like man-made disasters, afflict societies worldwide, including Pakistan. These are not natural

phenomena but rather systemic issues rooted in human actions and policies. To eradicate this disease, national governments must craft comprehensive strategies aimed at safeguarding future generations from its scourge. In Pakistan, the onus lies heavily on our political elite, spanning all parties, to recognize the gravity of the situation and redirect their efforts towards combating this man-made affliction.

Without a collective awakening and a shift in approach, the cure will remain elusive. Moreover, at the international level, institutions such as the IMF, addressing these issues. However, reliance on the failing neoliberal order is futile; instead, a paradigm shift towards sustainable solutions is im-



perative. In Pakistan, the establishment of robust local governance structures with financial decentralization is paramount. Political elites possess a window of opportunity to empower local bodies and enact pro-poor policies. The Chinese model serves as a beacon of inspiration, demonstrating the efficacy of such strategies when implemented effectively. Regional connectivity, underpinned by a long-term

that address our unique challenges. Special economic zones, coupled with initiatives for youth development and the expansion of remittances, offer short-term relief while perpetuating reforms to broaden the tax base and reduce dependency on electoral politics. South Asia, in particular, requires a concerted effort towards regional connectivity, resource exploration, harnessing youth po-

ership committed to implementing existing solutions. The concept of Basic Democracy warrants reevaluation, with a focus on strengthening local bodies to eradicate poverty and pursue enduring prosperity through perpetual reforms. It is incumbent upon all stakeholders responsible for the nation's development to prioritize this agenda and steer Pakistan towards a brighter future.

## Illegal Israeli Attack on Gaza Hospital Sparks Outcry over Violation of Human Rights

By Samiullah:

In recent years, the Israel-Palestine conflict has witnessed numerous escalations, resulting in the tragic loss of countless lives and extensive damage to infrastructure. Among the most shocking incidents in this ongoing conflict is the illegal Israeli attack on a hospital in Gaza, which has sparked international outrage and underscores the pressing need for international intervention to protect the most vulnerable individuals caught in the crossfire.

## The Inhuman Act: Targeting Hospitals:

War, even when waged between states with longstanding conflicts, is subject to rules and conventions. The fundamental principle of international humanitarian law is to protect civilians, including the wounded, children, and the elderly. Hospitals are meant to be sanctuaries in times of conflict, places where the injured can receive medical care without fear of attack. Yet, the attack on a hospital in Gaza flagrantly violated these principles and sent shockwaves through the international community.

## The Impact of the Attack:

The repercussions of the attack on a hospital in Gaza were catastrophic. Innocent civilians, including chil-



dren, the wounded, and the elderly, were directly affected by this grave violation of international law. Lives were lost, and the injured faced dire circumstances with limited access to medical care. More-

over, such actions further fuel the cycle of violence in the region, making it increasingly difficult to achieve a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

## International Responsibility:

The United Nations and powerful nations must step up and play a pivotal role in addressing the Israel-Palestine conflict. The concept that "the enemy of my enemy is my friend" has been a longstanding principle

in international relations. In this context, it should translate into a resolute commitment to safeguard the rights and safety of the most vulnerable. Powerful nations should exert diplomatic pressure on the conflicting parties

to adhere to the rules of war and peace.

## Thucydides' Insights: Rules of War and Peace:

The ancient Greek historian Thucydides,

element of the international order. The attack on a hospital in Gaza stands as a blatant violation of these principles and underscores the necessity of enforcing them.

## To Sum Up:

The illegal Israeli attack on a hospital in Gaza serves as a stark reminder of the tragic consequences that the Israel-Palestine conflict continues to impose on innocent lives. It is imperative for the international community to unite in its efforts to promote peace, protect the most vulnerable, and ensure the principles of war and peace are upheld. As Thucydides noted, these principles are not a sign of weakness but the cornerstone of a just and humane world order.

It is high time for the United Nations and powerful nations to take proactive measures to end the suffering and work towards a lasting solution in the region.

## About the Author:

The author, Mr. Samiullah, holds an M.Sc. in International Relations from Quaid-i-Azam University in Islamabad and is also a law graduate. He currently serves as the Public Relations Officer for the Ministry of Information and Public Relations in Balochistan. His unique perspective on international relations and conflict resolution adds depth and authority to this article.



### Campaign against encroachments in DI Khan launched

DI KHAN (INP): Acting on public complaints, the Tehsil Municipal Administration (TMA) Dera Ismail Khan, on Wednesday has launched a series of operations to remove encroachments and improve municipal cleanliness across the city.

On the directions of TMO Muhammad Hanif, Encroachment Incharge Fahad Khan Sadozi with TMA staff removed all temporary encroachments from Imamia Gate to Muslim Bazaar, ensuring a clear passage for citizens. In a similar action, he also cleared the route from Fowara Chowk to Stylo Market, restoring smooth pedestrian and traffic movement.

Likewise, under the special instructions of the TMO, Garden Supervisor Sani Khan Chishti supervised effective cleanliness work at Liaquat Park and Insaf Park.

He also oversaw a dedicated cleaning operation at Central Chowks providing a cleaner and more pleasant environment for the public.

TMO Muhammad Hanif, while appreciating the efforts of the municipal staff, said that clearing encroachments and ensuring timely cleanliness was a top priority of the administration.

He reaffirmed that strict action would continue against illegal encroachments and that the municipal team was fully committed to providing citizens with a clean, healthy, and accessible environment.

### Govt raises freight margin on petroleum products

ISLAMABAD (INP): The government revised upward the freight margins on petroleum products.

According to official documents, the freight margin on high-speed diesel has been fixed at Rs6.19 per litre, with an additional 32 paise per litre increase in the extra margin.

On petrol, the freight margin has been raised by Rs2.04 per litre, bringing the total to Rs8.69 per litre. For kerosene, the margin has been revised to Rs7.83 per litre after an increase of 2 paise. In addition, the government continues to impose heavy levies on petroleum products. A Petroleum Levy (PL) of Rs78.02 per litre on petrol and Rs77.01 per litre on diesel remains in place, alongside a carbon levy of Rs2.50 per litre on both fuels.

Margins for distributors and dealers also remain significant, with Rs7.87 per litre distributor margin and Rs8.64 per litre dealer margin on both petrol and diesel.

### AIOU signs agreements with two prominent institutions to promote education

ISLAMABAD (INP): Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), on Wednesday, signed separate agreements with two prominent institutions to promote education, research, and implement modern teaching models and provide new opportunities in digital learning.

AIOU signed these agreements with Aghit Pakistan and Science and Technology (KUST), aiming to expand access to education, empower the youth and pave new pathways for academic development.

Under the agreement with Aghit Pakistan, both institutions would jointly design programs to promote education, community

development and youth skill enhancement.

The collaboration seeks to broaden educational resources and introduce new initiatives for societal progress.

Meanwhile, the agreement with KUST focuses on facilitating access to quality education through online and hybrid learning models. This partnership includes joint research, academic and teaching exchanges and technical support for advancing digital education, further strengthening the educational vision of both institutions.

The signing ceremonies saw Dr Tariq Cheema, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Aghit Pakistan and Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, Vice Chancellor of AIOU, who represented their respective institutions.

Similarly, the agreement with KUST was signed by Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Syed Zafar Ilyas and Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood.

The ceremonies were also attended by the University's deans, principal officers and faculty members.

On this occasion, Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood expressed that AIOU had a longstanding tradition of fulfilling its commitments to research and teaching.

He emphasized that these agreements would be implemented effectively to bring the light of education to every corner of the country.



ISLAMABAD: Naz Khan Acting Country Manager-IFC Pakistan calls on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb.

### FBR records shortfall of Rs156b in Sept alone

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan's tax revenue witnessed a major setback due to the recent floods, with the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) recording a shortfall of Rs156 billion in September alone.

According to data, the FBR fell short of its first-quarter (July-September) target by Rs199 billion. Against the set target of Rs3,083 billion, collections stood at Rs2,885 billion during the quarter. During this period, the FBR also issued refunds worth Rs157 billion.

In terms of collections, Rs1,395 billion came from income tax, Rs1,130 billion from sales tax, Rs190

billion from federal excise duty, and Rs324 billion from customs duty.

Sources said that the floods caused an estimated loss of at least Rs60 billion in tax revenue.

In a separate development, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) extended the date for submission of Income Tax Returns till October 15, the FBR stated.

The government taking a major step for the people has extended the deadline for the submission of the Income Tax Returns for a more 15 days. The FBR has issued a notification in the regard as well stating the Income Tax

Returns can be submitted till October 15. The FBR sources apprised that as many as 40,000 or 0.4 million people have submitted the Income Tax Returns.

The tax payers can swiftly file their Income Tax Return through a simple Income Tax Return form available on the FBR website. Earlier, the FBR has announced September 30 as the last date for the filing of the Income Tax Returns.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Business community has been demanding the extension in the deadline of the filing of the Income Tax Returns.

### US should not pursue "extremist or forceful politics": Fazl

LAHORE (INP): Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Pakistan (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rahman has criticised US foreign policy, stating that the United States should not pursue "extremist or forceful politics."

He asserted that Hamas is a central stakeholder in the Palestine issue, and excluding it from negotiations is unrealistic.

Speaking to the media, Maulana Fazlur Rahman emphasised that the Palestinian issue is currently the most pressing global concern. He referenced the founder of Pakistan, who once described the creation of Israel as "a

dagger in the back of the Arab world."

The JUI-F chief reaffirmed his party's stance that Israel is an illegitimate state. He criticized US President Donald Trump, accusing him of "imposing decisions" and condemning behaviour as neither ethical nor political.

Maulana Fazlur Rahman stated that no solution can be imposed on Palestinians, and any discussion about a two-state solution must be based on mutual acceptance, which currently does not exist—Israel doesn't accept Palestine, and vice versa. He

added that the two-state solution cannot be forced upon Palestinians.

Drawing a comparison with past global actions, he questioned how Saddam Hussein was executed over alleged war crimes, while over 100,000 Palestinians have been martyred due to hunger, lack of medicine, and disease—yet their plight is overlooked. He called the United Nations' speech referencing Saddam's conviction by the International Court of Justice as "regrettable," considering the silence on ongoing Palestinian suffering.



ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Barriat Chaudhry addressing the seminar. A high-level seminar on "Adapting to Climate Change and Flood Management" was held at the National Library.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq along with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar in a meeting with Parliamentary leader of PPP and PML-N at Parliament house.

### Pakistani scholar demonstrates Eco-Friendly dam research at BRI Forum

BEIJING (INP): Areej Sabir, a Pakistani PhD candidate from Hohai University, presented her innovative research on sustainable dam technology at the 3rd Contest of Dam Safety Science Popularization for Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) countries.

Under the theme "Better Dams, Better Life", the forum facilitated discussions on sustainable water resource management, climate resilience, and transboundary water cooperation. Areej's presentation, "Innovating Eco-Friendly Dams with Real-Time Monitoring", demonstrated how dam design can integrate natural processes through simulated seasonal flow patterns.

Her approach aims to maintain ecological balance while supporting fish migration, spawning and overall aquatic biodiversity. "China leads in dam engineering, and this platform provides crucial knowledge exchange opportunities for BRI nations," Areej noted, emphasizing the importance of integrating ecological considerations into infrastructure development.

Reflecting on Pakistan-China cooperation, Sabir described dam safety collaboration as "a cornerstone of our bilateral partnership." She highlighted that given Pakistan's

significant water security and energy needs, particularly through projects like the Diamer-Bhasha Dam under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), collaboration with China's expert institutions like NHRI is both logical and essential.

"This partnership goes beyond contractor-client relations; it's built on long-term strategic trust," she stated. The knowledge and technology transfer in areas such as seismic safety, sediment management and digital monitoring represent the most valuable aspect of this collaboration, according to Areej.

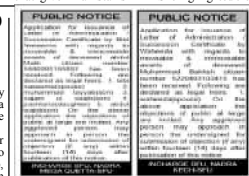
She highlighted that

### CM Bugti urges youth to actively confront, defeat anti-state propaganda

QUETTA (INP): Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti, on Tuesday, strongly urged the youth of the province to actively confront and defeat anti-state propaganda.

Post Karachi to Quetta out of a pure spirit of service to education but was targeted by a cowardly act of terrorism. He also re-membered Justice Nawaz Marri, announcing that Serena Chowk would be renamed after Shaheed Justice Nawaz Marri to permanently commemorate his sacrifice.

CM Bugti also addressed the security situation in Quetta. "The nation pays tribute to our zealous young men who promptly acted and sent the terrorists to hell," he said. He recognized the security forces of the province's peace and development, declaring them the real heroes of history. He further said that ongoing operations in the Zehri area have broken the back of the terrorists, whose screams are now being heard.



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## Pakistan People's Party (PPP) urged to respect provincial boundaries in governance

ISLAMABAD (INP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari on Wednesday underscored the need for dialogue to ensure political stability and called on the PPP to respect provincial boundaries in governance, stressing that cooperation between provinces is essential for effective administration.

Speaking exclusively to a local news channel, Azma Bokhari said the Punjab provincial government, under the active leadership of Chief Minister Punjab is actively helping flood victims without any outside support.

She confirmed Punjab's

dedication to the rehabilitation of those affected by floods and promised that the province will take full responsibility for managing all flood-related challenges.

Bokhari made it clear that Punjab respects other provinces and never interferes in Sindh's matters, adding, however, she accused PPP of involving itself in Punjab's governance. "There is no confusion from our side. We do not want to create problems. If PPP wants to help, they should do it properly and keep away from our affairs," she said.

On the issue of flood victim registration under the

Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Bokhari explained that the process is complicated and difficult.

She assured that Punjab will handle all flood relief independently and make sure no victim is left without assistance. She said, "Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif and Maryam's performance is putting them in a difficult position. Instead of focusing on their own province, they are interfering in our affairs."

In her concluding remarks, she said, "We want to resolve issues through dialogue, as they are part of our allied government."



ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan Yahya Afridi along with Judges of Supreme Court and Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja witnessing MoU signing ceremony between Law & Justice Commission of Pakistan and the National Development Council (NDC) for the development of the NDC Database, Faisalabad.

CEO NIT Band Syeda Tanzeela Sabhat Secretary LDC sign the document during a ceremony held at Supreme Court of Pakistan.

## 51 grids, 585 feeders impacted nationwide, out of which 417 feeders fully restored: Power Division

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Ministry of Energy (Power Division) on Wednesday reported significant progress in restoring electricity across flood-affected areas, with most grids and feeders either fully or partially restored.

According to the Division's latest report, a total of 51 grids and 585 feeders were impacted nationwide, out of which 417 feeders have been fully restored while 165 have been partially re-energized.

In Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) jurisdiction, 28 grid stations and 81 feeders were impacted.

Of these, 71 feeders have been fully restored and 10 partially energized. Restoration work has been successfully completed in Faisalabad, Toba Tek Singh, Chiniot and Mianwali.

Lahore Electric Supply

Company (LESCO) faced disruption to 67 feeders, of which 66 are now fully restored and one is partially functional. Power has already been completely restored in the districts of Lahore, Nankana Sahib, Okara and Sheikhupura, while electricity for the remaining 150 consumers is expected to be restored by October 2.

In Multan Electric Power Company (MEPCO) areas, 181 feeders affected.

Some 64 feeders have been fully restored, while 114 are operational on a partial basis. Full restoration efforts will commence as soon as floodwaters recede in the region.

The Gujranwala Electric Power Company (GEPSCO) reported damage to 11 grid stations and 103 feeders. Out of these, 102 feeders have been fully restored, while 1 have

been partially restored.

In Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO) areas, 90 feeders fully restored and 1 have been partially restored. Restoration work has been successfully completed in key districts, including Swat, Shabali, and Dera Ismail Khan.

In Tribal Electric Supply Company (TESCO) areas, particularly in North Waziristan and Khyber, 18 feeders were affected. Restoration has been completed on all affected feeders.

Meanwhile, in Sukkur Electric Power Company (SEPCO) region 44 feeders affected. Out of these, 6 feeders have been fully restored, while 38 have been partially restored.

The Power Division is working tirelessly to ensure full restoration as soon as possible to bring relief to all affected areas.

## UNFPA-Pakistan launches YDI Tool 2025 to develop PYDI-2026

ISLAMABAD, Oct 01 (INP): The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA-Pakistan) on Wednesday launched the Youth Development Index (YDI) Tool 2025, in collaboration with the Prime Minister's Youth Program (PMYP) and SDPI as implementing partner, to develop the Pakistan Youth Development Index (PYDI) - 2026 to systematically measure and track the progress of youth well-being and development in Pakistan.

The YDI Tool 2025 has been rolled out with the clear objective to collate the progress on youth development for establishing YDI 2026 that demonstrate Pakistan's commitment to global frameworks such as the UN, Commonwealth, and other international organizations, said a press release.

The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), an implementing partner of PMYP and UNFPA will extend secretariat support to PYDI Technical Working Group (TWG) to finalize YDI Tool along with finalizing the pre-testing methodology, valid-

ity of tool, data collection instrument, weighting of domains and indicators, assessing data availability and ensuring their suitability for the Pakistan Youth Development Index.

The Youth Development Index (YDI) is a composite measure developed by the Commonwealth Secretariat to assess the multi-dimensional progress of young people aged 15-29.

YDI measures the multi-dimensional progress of youth across various sectors, including education, employment, health, civic participation and political engagement.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Muhammad Ali Malik, Deputy Secretary to the Prime Minister, emphasized the urgent need for the Pakistan Youth Development Index (PYDI), highlighting the country's unique demographic profile.

According to the 2023 Census, nearly 68% to 70% of Pakistan's population is under the age of 30, equivalent to almost three out of every four Pakistanis.

Dr. Malik underscored that if the immense potential of this youth population is effectively harnessed through a conducive environment, Pakistan can reap a powerful demographic dividend by turning its youth into a national asset. Conversely, failure to address youth needs could give rise to serious social challenges, including radicalization and extremism.

He explained that the Primary objective of the PYDI is to establish measurable indicators of youth empowerment and progress, enabling performance assessment, identification of gaps, and the definition of success in quantifiable terms.

These insights will serve as a roadmap for effective government interventions.

Reflecting on the Youth Development Index (YDI) 2021, Dr. Malik noted that limited availability of data posed significant challenges, leading to compromises in indicators and reliance on qualitative methods. With a stronger foundation now in place, the new PYDI will build on this progress.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Syed Imran Ahmed Shah was called on by the Ambassador of Republic of Turkey İrfan Neziroğlu today to discuss possible Collaboration in Social Sector.



ISLAMABAD: Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani in a meeting with the Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Dr. Jemal Bekir Abdullah at Awan-e-Sadr.

## Security forces gun down 10 terrorists in Quetta IBO

RAWALPINDI (INP): Security forces gunned down 10 Indian-sponsored terrorists in an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in the Gazarband on the outskirts of Quetta on Wednesday.

The sources added that a joint IBO was conducted on information about the presence of India-backed terrorists, and the militants were neutralised after an intense exchange of fire which also injured two security personnel.

A large number of weapons and explosives were also recovered from the terrorists.

The operation comes a day after terrorists carried out a suicide attack near the FC headquarters in the provincial capital, resulting in 11 fatalities.

Two Frontier Corps personnel were among those martyred and more than 20 sustained injuries in the blast.

The explosion was followed by intense gunfire, sparking chaos and fear across the area.

## IMF given Pakistan deadline until 2031 to eliminate circular debt in power sector

ISLAMABAD (INP): Crucial decisions have emerged from the ongoing economic negotiations between the Government of Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The IMF has given Pakistan a deadline until 2031 to completely eliminate the circular debt in the power sector. As part of this agreement, Pakistan is required to maintain zero growth in circular debt flow each year moving forward.

According to sources, the government has decided to increase the circular levy on captive power plants. A 10% levy will be imposed on captive power plants in the current fiscal year, which will increase to 15% from January 2026. The government expects to generate PKR 105 billion in revenue during the current fiscal year from off-grid captive

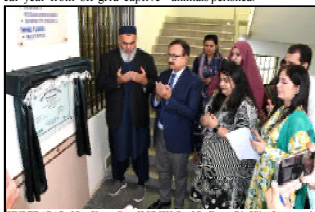
power plants alone.

During a briefing to the IMF delegation, the government revealed that the recent floods have caused PKR 370 billion in damages to the national economy.

The floods resulted in the deaths of 1,006 people and injured 1,063 across the country. Additionally, 12,569 houses, 2,130 kilometers of roads, and 248 bridges were destroyed.

The briefing further disclosed that 866 water facilities, 1,098 educational institutions, and 128 health centers were affected. The agriculture sector alone suffered a loss of PKR 155 billion, of which PKR 87 billion was due to damage to key crops.

Approximately 3.26 million acres of agricultural land were impacted, and 11,000 livestock animals perished.



HYDERABAD: Vice-Chancellor of LUMHS Prof. Dr. Irfan Durrani Ujjain Inauguration site-of-the-art Microbiology Laboratory LUMHS Hyderabad.

## Strict action will be taken against anyone driving without license: ITP

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) has warned that after the extended deadline of October 7, strict action will be taken against anyone driving without a valid license, including arrest and impounding of vehicles.

The Chief Officer of the Islamabad Traffic Police while speaking to a local news channel explained that the authorities have made it clear that strict measures will be enforced against those driving without a valid license after the extended deadline of October 7, warning that offenders will be subject to legal action including detention and confiscation of their vehicles as part of efforts to curb unlawful driving practices in the city.

In addition to legal penalties, officials have also announced that individuals found driving without a license will be ineligible to receive character certificates until they obtain a valid driving license. This move aims to discourage unli-

censed driving by linking it to broader legal and administrative consequences.

The Islamabad Traffic Police urges all drivers to comply with the licensing requirements before the deadline to avoid facing these strict penalties. The authorities emphasize that these measures are necessary to improve road safety and maintain law and order in the city.

The Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) has expanded its services at facilitation centers to accommodate the increased demand for driving licenses, he said, adding that this includes longer operating hours and the deployment of mobile units to make the licensing process more accessible for citizens across the city.

Authorities emphasized that the focus goes beyond imposing penalties; it is about enhancing the character of citizens by reducing unlicensed driving, a major cause of accidents in the capital.

## Seven suspects arrested, narcotics and weapons recovered

BAHAWALPUR (INP): Police arrested seven suspects in separate operations and recovered narcotics and illegal weapons.

The official sources said a team from Police Station Khairpur Tamewali arrested one suspect and recovered 25 liters of liquor. Meanwhile, teams from Police Stations Baghdad-ul-Jadid and Uch apprehended two suspects and recovered over three kilograms of hashish.

In another operation, Head Rajkan Police arrested four accused, seizing four pistols. Separate cases have been registered against the accused, and investigations are currently underway.

## Progress of BRT Red Line bus project reviewed

KARACHI (INP): Commissioner of Karachi Syed Hassan Naqvi here on Wednesday chaired a meeting to review the progress of the BRT Red Line bus project. The meeting decided to take priority measures to remove obstacles and accelerate work on the project, on its completion by June 2026.

The project, spanning from Model Colony to Malir Cantonment, Safaora, University Road, and Nurmash, is progressing rapidly. The meeting reviewed the condition of University Road, which was damaged by recent rains, and decided to initiate immediate repairs. The CEO of Trans Karachi Fawad Ghaffar said that the pothole repairs on University Road would be completed within a week.

The Commissioner emphasized the need for priority action to improve University Road, which has been causing difficulties for citizens and affecting traffic flow. The meeting also noted that issues related to the use of storm-water drains for sewage lines and issues at other points on the alternative route at Masjid Bait-ul-Mukarram and other locations have been resolved.

The meeting was attended among others by the Secretary Transport, Asad Zamin, CEO Trans Karachi, Fawad Ghaffar, COO of Water and Sewerage Corporation Asadullah KHAN and representatives from utility organizations including K E and Sui Gas Water and sewerage Corporation and other senior officers of concerned departments.

## National Polio Campaign will begin on Oct 13

PESHAWAR (INP): The National Polio Campaign will begin on October 13 with a target of administering drops to around 45 million children under the age of five.

Zia-ur-Rehman, Spokesperson for Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme, talking to media during the campaign, more than 400,000 frontline workers will go door-to-door to administer polio drops to target children.

This is an opportunity for parents to get their children vaccinated who are missed due to floods.

While parents in high-risk union councils where virus is found in environmental samples are also requested to get their children vaccinated.

In this campaign, Vitamin A will also be given along with polio drops during the October campaign to boost children's immunity, Zia disclosed.

Regarding the vaccination of children above five years of age, the spokesperson replied that this is one of the recommendations of the Technical Advisory Group, which is currently under consideration between the NEC and the provincial EOCs.