

QUETTA VOICE

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Quetta Voice.



Reko Diq Mining Company and Quetta Chamber of Commerce Join Hands for Sustainable Economic Growth in Balochistan

Pakistan and Afghanistan Extend Ceasefire Amid Ongoing Efforts to Resolve Border Tensions



Monitoring Desk: ISLAMABAD/DOHA: Pakistan and Afghanistan have mutually agreed to extend the ongoing ceasefire as both sides continue diplomatic efforts to resolve recent border clashes through dialogue and peaceful negotiation. The announcement comes ahead of the Doha peace talks, scheduled to begin tomorrow in Qatar, where delegations from both countries will meet to discuss a two-point agenda focused on reducing tensions, ensuring border stability, and promoting long-term regional peace.

According to diplomatic sources, the temporary truce — initially announced for 48 hours — has been extended to provide an opportunity for confidence-building measures and constructive dialogue. Mediators in Doha are expected to play a crucial role in facilitating talks and encouraging mutual cooperation between the two neighboring nations. Earlier today, the Pakistan Foreign Office (FO) confirmed that both Pakistan and Afghanistan are making "sincere efforts" to find a peaceful and lasting solution to what it described as a

"complex but solvable issue." During a weekly briefing, FO Spokesperson Shafiq Ali Khan stated that the ceasefire period is being utilized for meaningful engagement.

"Pakistan values dialogue, diplomacy, and a mutually beneficial relationship with Afghanistan," he said. "The Government of Pakistan continues to closely monitor the situation and will take all necessary steps to safeguard its territorial integrity and protect its citizens." It may be mentioned that the Afghan Taliban authorities had earlier

sought a ceasefire extension following Pakistan's precision airstrikes on terrorist hideouts inside Afghan territory, sources said.

The strikes reportedly targeted groups affiliated with the outlawed Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) involved in recent cross-border attacks.

The ongoing Pakistan-Afghanistan ceasefire and the upcoming Doha peace dialogue are viewed as significant steps toward regional peace, stability, and counterterrorism cooperation between the two countries.



Suicide Attack Foiled in Mir Ali, North Waziristan — Six Terrorists Killed, Say Security Sources

Suicide Attack Foiled in Mir Ali, North Waziristan — Six Terrorists Killed, Say Security Sources

Monitoring Desk: NORTH WAZIRISTAN: Security sources have confirmed that a major suicide attack on a security forces camp in the Mir Ali area of North Waziristan was successfully foiled, resulting in the deaths of six terrorists.

According to security sources, a terrorist driving an explosives-laden vehicle rammed it into the boundary wall of the camp, causing a powerful explosion. Despite the blast, the attackers failed to breach the compound.

Following the explosion, five more terrorists attempted to enter the camp but were immediately neutralized outside due to the swift and



effective response of the security personnel, the sources added.

Security sources further revealed that a total of 108 terrorists — reportedly sent by the Afghan Taliban — have been killed over the past four days during various

counter-terrorism operations across the region.

They also confirmed that one soldier was martyred and six others sustained injuries when the roof of a security post partially collapsed after the blast. Security sources

reiterated that under the National Action Plan, the people of Pakistan, along with the armed forces and law enforcement agencies, remain steadfast in their mission to eliminate every foreign-backed terrorist from the country.

Chaman Border Temporarily Reopened to Allow Stranded Afghan Refugees to Return

By Syed Sardar Khundai

CHAMAN: The Pakistan-Afghanistan border at Chaman has been temporarily reopened to facilitate the return of stranded Afghan refugees.

The crossing had been completely sealed in recent days following border clashes between Paki-

stan and Afghanistan, which also halted all transit trade activities.

According to security sources, the reopening is a goodwill gesture and applies only to the repatriation of Afghan refugees. Thousands of Afghans, including hundreds of families, were stuck at the Chaman refugee camp after

the closure of the border.

Meanwhile, the ongoing suspension of transit trade has left hundreds of trucks and containers carrying fresh fruits stranded on both sides of the border.

Well-informed sources warned that if these shipments are not allowed to pass, traders could suffer losses amounting to millions of rupees.

Business leaders and representatives of the Chaman Chamber of Commerce have urged both Islamabad and Kabul to immediately restore transit trade to prevent severe financial losses for traders on both sides of the border.



No further leeway for undocumented Afghan refugees: PM Shehbaz Sharif

NEWS DESK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif ruled out on Friday any further extension for Afghan refugees "illegally" residing in Pakistan, directing provincial governments and relevant authorities to ensure their "swift and dignified" repatriation.

Chairing a high-level meeting on the matter, Shehbaz said Pakistan has "borne the burden long enough" and that "those without valid visas will have to return home."

The meeting was attended by Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, federal ministers, and Sindh, Balochistan and Punjab chief ministers as well as representatives from Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK).

Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) was represented by Muzammil Aslam after K-P CM Sohail Afzidi excused himself. "The brave people of Pakistan, who sacrificed their loved ones in

the war against terror, now ask how long will we continue to bear this burden?" said Shehbaz.

Expressing concern over increasing terror incidents linked to Afghan nationals, the premier noted that Pakistan had hosted millions of Afghans for decades despite its own challenges.

"It is alarming that attacks on Pakistan are being launched from Afghan soil and that Afghans are found involved in such incidents."

The meeting was briefed that the phased repatriation process had begun, and 1.47 million Afghan nationals have been sent back as of October 16. The forum decided that no further grace period would be granted to undocumented Afghans.

The premier directed federal and provincial institutions to "work in close coordination" to complete the process without delay. "Only those Afghans holding valid visas will be allowed to stay in Pakistan."

Reko Diq Mining Company and Quetta Chamber of Commerce Join Hands for Sustainable Economic Growth in Balochistan

News Desk:

The Reko Diq Mining Company (RDMC) — operated by Barrick Gold Corporation — hosted a delegation from the Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry (QCCI) to explore new opportunities for local business participation, economic growth, and sustainable mining development in Balochistan. The delegation, led by QCCI President Muhammad Ayub and Vice President Nasir Khan, included prominent business leaders from across the province.

Welcoming the visitors, RDMC Country Manager Zarrar Jamali shared an overview of the Reko Diq project's scale, significance, and transformative potential for Pakistan's mining industry. He emphasized RDMC's commitment to developing an inclusive, transparent, and competitive supply chain that actively integrates local businesses from Balochistan into the project's long-term operations.

Jamali said, "Reko Diq represents a historic opportunity for Balochistan and Pakistan. Our focus is to ensure that the people of Balochistan, especially local entrepreneurs and suppliers, become key beneficiaries of this



world-class copper-gold project."

Expressing appreciation for RDMC's inclusive approach, QCCI President Muhammad Ayub stated, "We are here to represent Balochistan's business community and to strengthen cooperation with RDMC. Through mutual partnership, we can drive shared prosperity and empower local industries. Given Balochistan's limited industrial base compared to major cities like Karachi or Lahore, RDMC's local procurement policies can play a pivotal role in bridging the economic gap."

QCCI Vice President Nasir Khan commended Barrick's social development initiatives

and praised RDMC's community engagement model, describing it as "an example of responsible corporate behavior that promotes both business and community progress."

During the session, Clemens Engelbrecht, RDMC's Head of Supply Chain & Commercial, emphasized that supporting local businesses in a sustainable, ethical, and compliant manner is at the core of Barrick Gold's global philosophy. He said, "As Reko Diq evolves into Pakistan's largest copper and gold mine, RDMC remains dedicated to partnering with capable local vendors who meet international standards of quality, safety, and transparency. This will not only build supply chain capacity in Balochistan but also ensure long-term, inclusive growth."

Reko Diq Mining Company (RDMC) operates under a joint venture between Barrick Gold Corporation, the Government of Pakistan, and the Government of Balochistan, making it one of the most strategically significant projects in the country. The company continues to set benchmarks in responsible mining, transparency, stakeholder engagement, and local economic empowerment.

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Crisis at Balochistan's Oldest University: Mismanagement, Protests, and Financial Woes



Editorial:

The University of Balochistan (UoB), the oldest and most prestigious institution of higher education in the province of the country, finds itself grappling with a severe financial crisis.

With monthly expenditures of Rs 28 crore to pay 1,450 employees and dwindling grants from the Higher Education Commission (HEC), the situation demands urgent and comprehensive action.

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC), chaired by Asghar Ali Tareen, has shed light on alarming issues, including over-staffing, fund misuse, and administrative failures. These revelations highlight the long-standing mismanagement that has pushed this vital institution to the brink.

Key Issues Exposed:

- **Overstaffing and Mismanagement:** The university's bloated workforce has exacerbated financial burdens, with questionable appointments of unqualified or connected individuals.

- **Fund Misuse:** Rs 22.876 million meant for house rent and repairs, along with laptops for students, have reportedly been misused, raising serious accountability concerns.

- **Non-Returning Teachers:** Thirteen faculty members sent abroad for higher education failed to return, prompting PAC to call for strict legal actions, including FIRs against their guarantors.

The Role of the Government

While the Government of Balochistan has provided Rs 22 crore, it is evident that this support falls short of addressing the financial demands of an institution of this scale. Education is not a luxury; it is a necessity. The government must ensure timely payment of salaries to faculty and staff and provide additional support to stabilize the university's finances.

The Way Forward

Accountability: Individuals responsible for fund misuse and mismanagement must face strict consequences.

Protests and Employee Rights: The University Act 2022, which imposes fines and imprisonment on protesting employees, must be revisited. Silencing staff is not a solution; addressing their grievances is.

A Call for Balance

It is crucial to separate the actions of a few self-serving individuals from the institution as a whole. Punishing the university, its students, and its dedicated faculty for the misdeeds of a few will only exacerbate the crisis.

Balochistan University has played a pivotal role in shaping the province's educational landscape. The government, university administration, and all stakeholders must collaborate to restore its financial and academic integrity. The future of higher education in Balochistan depends on it.

Educating parents indispensable to battle polio in Baluchistan

By Muhammad Ishaq Nasir

Despite tall claims and repeated campaigns on the part of concerned quarters, the crippling virus is yet to be eradicated from the country. Pakistan is one of three countries including Afghanistan and Nigeria battling the crippling virus across the globe.

This year, Pakistan has confirmed 21 polio cases from most of the marginalized and illiterate

illiterate and destroy generations silently.

The literacy rate in Pakistan, ignoring its quality, is arguably 60%. Even if accepted, it indicates that 40% people are illiterate. Most of the population lives in rural areas: villages. The rural population is uneducated because it prefers livelihood over schooling. Why send a child to school where he earns nothing as compared to a garage where he can

people, so they are more likely to feel frustrated and dissatisfied. Furthermore, people with low literacy skills usually have equally inadequate problem-solving skills.

As a result, they often feel isolated and vulnerable, and many of them feel like outcasts. An outcast has no moral meter and would do anything to satisfy his needs; be it stealing, robbing or even murdering. Illiteracy also leads

driven by technology. Even if they somehow get a job, many illiterate people are underpaid.

They are unable to earn the required income and in many cases perform a lot of duties with little pay. Without a reasonable source of income, taking care of the dependent family members, including sick ones, may prove to be a gigantic task mostly.

Child marriage is another grave problem that

She is considered a means of raising money through dowry payments to support the rest of the family members. In a way, the girl child is viewed as a property. They are traded to help the family earn money. The issue of illiteracy can cut across generations within a family. It can become cyclical in such a way that even the third or fourth generation family members suffer the same fate.



parts of the country. A strong surveillance system indicates that the virus continues to circulate in Pakistan and remains a threat to children. Polio is a crippling and a deadly infectious disease. But, if one understands deeply and looks beyond the physical world, it will be found that illiteracy is a far more serious problem than Polio.

Polio might be capable enough to destroy an individual's life but

earn RS 1500 per month. Illiteracy indirectly opens the door for crime. Crime in Pakistan is present in various forms. Organized crime includes drug trafficking, money laundering, extortion, black marketeering, political violence, terrorism, abduction, etc. Illiteracy might not be responsible for all these crimes but it definitely is playing a crucial role. Daily life is harder for illiterate

to poverty. Education equips one with the required skills and provides opportunity for employment.

There are an estimated 25 million children in Pakistan who are not going to school. A person who is unable to read and write may experience a hard time in finding a job especially in a world where the market demands well-trained employees who can cope with an industry

may come about due to illiteracy. 21% of girls in Pakistan are married before 18 and 3% are married before the age of 15.

According to UNICEF, Pakistan has the sixth highest number of child brides in the world—1,909,000. Parents fail to recognize the benefits of taking children to school to learn how to read and write. Instead, the girl child may be forced into early marriage.

Intergenerational illiteracy mainly comes about because education is given little to no value in the family setup.

The children that come along will thus see illiteracy as the norm and not make any effort to learn how to read and write. Most importantly, illiteracy has a direct impact on human health. It prevents people from being able to read the instructions on a medicine.

The Rise of Digital Journalism in Balochistan

Qaseem Shah:

Balochistan, Pakistan's largest yet most underreported province, is witnessing a media revolution. What was once a region dominated by traditional print media and weekly newspapers has now embraced the era of digital journalism.

The emergence of Balochistan's first digital daily platforms has not only reshaped the flow of information but also amplified local voices long neglected by national outlets. In this new era, technology is transforming how news is reported, shared, and consumed across the province—from Quetta to Gwadar, Turbat, and Kharan.

From Print Media to Pixels: A Transformational Shift

For decades, print media in Balochistan served as the backbone of public awareness.

Newspapers were the primary sources of information in urban centers like Quetta, where journalists worked under limited resources and restricted access to data.

However, with the spread of the internet and smartphones, the media landscape began to change dramatically.

The rise of digital daily platforms enabled journalists to publish stories in real-time, bypassing the long and costly process of print production.

Platforms like Quetta Voice and other online news outlets pioneered this transition, demonstrating how

Technology as a Catalyst for Local Journalism

Digital transformation has empowered local journalists in



Balochistan's first digital daily could bridge the gap between traditional journalism and the digital age.

Today, readers in both urban and remote areas can access breaking news, analysis, and features directly from their mobile phones.

ways unimaginable a decade ago. Smartphones, affordable internet, and social media platforms such as Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), and WhatsApp have turned every reporter into a real-time news broadcaster. This has led to faster reporting of events—from po-

litical developments and security updates in Quetta to stories of resilience from the Makran coast. Digital journalism in Balochistan is no

democratic and participatory than ever before.

Breaking Barriers: Accessibility and Inclusivity

Previously excluded from the mainstream narrative—especially in districts like Panjgur, Zhob, and Khuzdar—can now share their stories with a wider

audience. Moreover, online platforms have provided space for women journalists and youth voices to emerge. Digital journalism has made it possible for these groups to report safely, express freely, and contribute meaningfully to the public debate.

Challenges Facing Digital Journalism

Despite this progress, digital journalism in Balochistan faces multiple challenges. Poor internet infrastructure, limited advertising revenue, and threats to press freedom continue to hinder its growth.

Many journalists still struggle with access to training, reliable equipment, and sustainable income.

Fake news, misinformation, and lack of digital literacy also pose serious threats to credibility—a problem not unique to Balochistan but significant in developing media ecosystems.

However, the rise of Balochistan's first digital daily outlets has proven that resilience, innovation, and commitment can overcome many of these obstacles.

With proper support from institutions and increased digital education, the province can develop a strong and credible online journalism network.

The Future of News in Balochistan

The future of local journalism in Balochistan is undeniably digital. As readers shift from printed pages to mobile screens, the demand for faster, reliable, and visually engaging news will continue to grow.

Print media may retain its cultural and

historical value, but digital platforms are now the driving force behind media growth, public engagement, and government transparency.

For emerging journalists, this digital shift offers endless opportunities—from data-driven storytelling and multimedia production to investigative reporting powered by social media analytics.

In the years ahead, digital journalism in Balochistan will play a central role in shaping public opinion, connecting communities, and strengthening democracy.

Conclusion

The transformation of journalism in Balochistan reflects a broader shift in Pakistan's media landscape.

From the era of print media to the dawn of Balochistan's first digital daily, technology has empowered journalists, expanded access to information, and connected people across distances.

While challenges remain, the ongoing digital revolution—led by innovative local platforms like Quetta Voice—continues to redefine what it means to inform, engage, and represent the people of Balochistan.

The rise of digital journalism is not just a technological change—it's a social awakening, ensuring that every story from Balochistan finds its voice in the global digital sphere.

Punjab moves federal govt to ban TLP, confirms Azma Bukhari

LAHORE (INP): Punjab moved the federal government to ban Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), confirmed provincial minister Azma Bukhari on Friday. Addressing a press conference at Punjab Information

Minister announced that the Punjab cabinet has approved a ban on Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), and a summary has been sent to the federal government for final approval. Bukhari stated that during TLP's so-called

"peaceful protests", 202 police personnel were seriously injured, and 97 police vehicles were completely destroyed. She said that the Punjab government's decision is not against any religious party, be-

lief, or group, but is aimed solely at curbing extremist elements responsible for violence and destruction. "No action has been taken against any religious organization, mosque, or madrasa," Azma Bukhari added,

clarifying that the measures are strictly against those spreading chaos and extremism in the name of religion. Punjab police on Thursday released details of casualties and damage caused during

Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) protests over the past nine years. According to the police report, 11 police personnel have been martyred and 1,648 injured in various violent incidents. The report further stated that 16 civilians lost their lives, while

2016 to 2025. Among the injured, 69 officers were permanently disabled, 202 sustained serious injuries, and 1,194 suffered minor wounds. The report further stated that 16 civilians lost their lives, while

54 others were injured during violent clashes with protesters. Additionally, 97 police vehicles were completely destroyed, two were set on fire, and 10 police buildings sustained severe damage during the TLP protests.



QUETTA: Pakistan Peoples Party central leader and former federal minister Qamar Zaman Kaira meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti.

AJK kicks off preparations to celebrate AJK govt 78th founding anniversary on October 24

ISLAMABAD (INP): The brick preparations have begun to celebrate the 78th founding Anniversary of government of the State of Jammu & Kashmir.

Jammu & Kashmir on October 24 in a befitting manner with the renewal of pledge to continue Kashmir freedom movement till its logical end - besides to utilize all possible due resources for ensuring progress and prosperity of the liberated territory.

This year too, the anniversary of the emergence of the AJK government is being observed when India, through its shameful, forced, sinister unlawful act of August 5, 2019, had scrapped the special status of the internationally-acknowledged disputed Hindu-layan state of Jammu & Kashmir through abrogating article 370 and 35-A of its own constitution by blatantly defying the United Nations Resolutions on Kashmir which determine the grant of right of self-determination to

the people of the disputed Jammu & Kashmir state through a free and fair plebiscite granting Kashmiris the above right to decide about their destiny, under the auspices of the United Nations, the official sources have said.

The Founding Day of Azad Jammu Kashmir government is observed on October 24 every year to celebrate the founding anniversary of AJK government liberated by the valiant sons of the soil from the clutches of the India-backed despotic Dogra regime.

Highlighting the programs scheduled for celebrations to observe the day in Azad Jammu & Kashmir, the sources told APP that special ceremonies would be held in all ten districts of Azad Jammu & Kashmir to celebrate the day with simplicity.

The speakers will highlight the historic significance of the

founding day. Besides 'Fateha' will be offered for the Kashmiri martyrs and special prayers for the early success of the Jammu & Kashmir freedom movement.

Since the Kashmiris struggle for freedom in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) has reached at climax amidst the pro freedom and anti India street agitation across the bleeding occupied Jammu & Kashmir state (for past over five years) and the reign of state terrorism unleashed by the Indian occupying forces for the last 78 years, the government in the liberated territory (AJK) has started due preparations to chalk out special programs to observe the founding anniversary of the state government with due zeal and fervor.

This year too the AJK government's founding day anniversary will be observed with prime focus to elaborate the due role of this base camp of the

Kashmir freedom movement for raising the Kashmiris indigenous struggle for freedom at international level besides to reiterate complete solidarity with the people of the IOJK in their just and principled struggle for liberation of the motherland from Indian clutches.

The day will dawn with special prayers for the early success of Kashmir freedom movement, as well as for the stability and prosperity of Pakistan, the ultimate destination of the people of Jammu & Kashmir, who (Kashmiris) had attached their destiny with it, the day they raised their voice against India-backed Dogra regime over seven decades ago. It will be followed by rallies in various parts of Jammu & Kashmir, where public and private organizations to commemorate the day.

In Mirpur special ceremonies to observe the Foundation Day of AJK government will be hosted under the auspices of various social

President PM command armed forces for killing several Fitna-al-Khawarij terrorists in KP

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday commended the armed forces and security agencies for successful operations in various areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, killing several Indian-backed Fitna-al-Khawarij terrorists. In separate statements, they said the security forces foiled the nefarious designs of the terrorists through their

professional skills. PM Shehbaz Sharif said the security forces eliminated 34 Indian-backed terrorists in Spinwam, South Waziristan and Bannu. He said the government was committed to completely eliminate terrorism from the country. Zardari stated that operations under the "Azm-e-Istehkam" campaign will continue with full force to their logical end as the security forces defeat terrorists through their

Zardari said noting that the timely actions of the security forces helped improving the law and order situation across the country. A reaffirming Pakistan's firm resolve to eliminate terrorism in all its forms, President Zardari stated that operations under the "Azm-e-Istehkam" campaign will continue with full force to their logical end as the security forces defeat terrorists through their

ists and the nation defeats terrorism. He emphasized that Pakistan will not rest until the menace of terrorism is fully defeated. The president further said that the entire nation stands firmly behind its Armed Forces and law enforcement agencies in their mission to safeguard the homeland and uphold peace.

PRCS distributes relief assistance among vulnerable families in Swat

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Crescent Society (PRCS), in collaboration with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the Turkish Red Crescent (TRCS) and the Norwegian Red Cross (NorCross), distributed relief assistance to the most deserving families in Swat on Thursday.

Under the initiative, 216 families received food packs supporting Rs 22,000 each to 40 pregnant women and Rs

NorCross-backed hygienic kits and essential household items including buckets, mugs and jerrycans. The distribution also included IFRC-supported insecticide-treated mosquito nets and water bottles to help promote hygiene and prevent disease outbreaks, a PRCS news release said.

The PRCS, in partnership with the IFRC, also extended cash assistance to the most deserving families, providing Rs 22,000 each to 40 pregnant women and Rs

45,000 each as multi-purpose cash grants to 350 families to help them meet their essential needs with dignity.

The distribution ceremony was attended by PRCS Chairperson Mrs Farzana Naek and Secretary General Muhammad Abudullah Khan, PRCS Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chairperson Farzand Ali Wazir, IFRC Head of Delegation Mrs Beyza Taner, along with staff, volunteers and Movement partners.

Mrs Naek said the initiative reflected the PRCS's continued commitment to supporting the most vulnerable communities across Pakistan in collaboration with Movement partners. She thanked the IFRC.

The Turkish Red Cross and the Norwegian Red Cross and other partners for their sustained cooperation in humanitarian work. During her visit, Mrs Naek also toured the PRCS Swat Branch as well as Mr Wazir and delegations from IFRC, TRCS and NorCross.



ISLAMABAD: The Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan, Mr. Yahya Afridi, presiding over the 55th meeting of the National Judicial (Policy Making) Committee (NJPMC) today at the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

Pakistani, Chinese Scientists identify key Wheat Genes to fight fungal disease

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistani and Chinese scientists have identified 47 important genes in wheat that could help develop new varieties resistant to a major fungal disease and better able to withstand climate challenges.

The joint research has been published in the international journal Rice (SpringerOpen) on October 2025, Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday. The study was led by Bahar Hussain of University of Central Punjab (Pakistan) and Qian Raza of Chinese Academy of Sciences (China), with Dr. Rana Muhammad Anif of University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) serving as the corresponding author. It also in-

cluded experts from Australia and the United States.

The research focuses on a group of genes known as MLO (Mildew Locus O), which determine how wheat plants respond to powdery mildew, which is one of the world's most damaging wheat diseases, capable of cutting yields by more than half if uncontrolled.

"This study provides a compendium of wheat MLO genes which could be functionally characterized to control their roles in MLO resistance and further exploited in wheat breeding programs for the development of climate-resilient cultivars," the authors wrote.

Using the latest wheat genome data, the team mapped 47 of these MLO genes across all 21 wheat chromosomes. They found that 10 of these genes are particularly active when the plant faces disease or environmental stress, making them promising targets for future breeding and gene-editing efforts.

Importantly, key experiments were conducted in China, where researchers tested wheat varieties under controlled conditions. This included N9134, a Chinese wheat line known for its strong resistance to powdery mildew.

"Seeds of both genotypes were obtained from Peking University Institute of Advanced Agricultural Sciences, China," as per

the study.

A PM-resistant wheat line, N9134, that shows high resistance to all Blumeria graminis races in China, along with a susceptible wheat cultivar, Fielder, were selected for quantitative real-time PCR-based expression analysis," the study explained.

The findings show that previously unused genetic diversity in wheat can be harnessed to build stronger, disease-resistant, and climate-resilient crops.

This breakthrough provides a solid foundation for breeding improved wheat varieties, which is crucial for countries like Pakistan, where wheat is a staple food and climate change is making crop diseases more severe.

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Floods cause loss worth Rs822b across Pakistan

MULTAN (INP): Recent floods caused loss worth Rs822 billion across Pakistan, according to an initial report.

According to official documents, the recent floods have caused an initial economic loss of Rs822 billion, severely affecting the country's agriculture and infrastructure sectors. The report states that the government has requested assistance from development partners to determine the actual scale of damages caused by the floods.

The disaster has affected nearly 6.5 million people across 70 districts nationwide, with Punjab being the worst-hit province due to river overflows in the Sutlej, Chenab, and Ravi. In Punjab alone, 27 districts suffered extensive damage to agricultural land and residential properties. Across the country, a total of 229,763 houses were damaged, while 1,037 people lost their lives and 1,067 were injured in the floods.

The federal government has provided Rs2 million in compensation for each deceased individual, the document further revealed. Earlier, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) cautioned that recent Pakistan floods could trigger inflationary pressures and slow economic growth.

Hong Kong sign MoU to strengthen Trade and Investment cooperation

BEIJING (INP): Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce (HKGCC) and Industries, Commerce & Investment Department Punjab (ICID) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to establish a framework for enhanced cooperation in trade, investment and economic collaboration.

The signing ceremony was held at the HKGCC office. Agnes Chan, Chairman of HKGCC, and Chaudhry Shafay Hussain, Minister for Industries, Commerce & Investment, Punjab, signed the document on behalf of their respective sides, Gwadar Pro reported on Friday.

The MoU aims to generate mutual benefits for the business communities in HK SAR and Punjab by leveraging the incentives offered by the Government of Punjab, while further strengthening Hong Kong's role as a "super-conductor."

Under the agreement, both sides will facilitate business opportunities, exchange key market intelligence and jointly organize trade promotion initiatives.

Chaudhry Shafay Hussain said that an increasing number of international companies are setting up industrial units in Punjab, where tax holidays, leased land in industrial zones and low-cost labour are available.

He noted that foreign investment is not only creating employment opportunities but also facilitating the transfer of advanced technologies to the province. "This collaboration with HKGCC is an important development in attracting investment, promoting our exports and strengthening people-to-people ties, which will bring shared prosperity to both Hong Kong and Punjab," he said.

Agnes Chan said the Chamber's mission is to open doors for its members.

"This MoU will provide a direct channel to explore new opportunities, foster mutual understanding and drive growth between our two economies," she said.

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LAND ACQUISITION

Whereas it appears to the Deputy Commissioner, Quetta District that additional land measuring 77-Rolls 25-Pols (i.e. 19-128 Acres) bearing different Khata numbers, situated in Marial Vela, Pata & Marial Vela, Tansen, Shery, Muska, Khatkhwa, Muska Khushkhat, Sahibzada, Tappa Durran, Tehsil Sadoor, District Quetta (details given in the schedule appended below), is needed to be acquired by the Army Authorities, Quetta which was erroneously missed from inclusion in the acquisition for "Extension of Marial Airbase". It is hereby notified that the (land details can be seen obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours) likely to be acquired for the aforesaid purpose.

This Notification is made under Section 4 of Land Acquisition Act, 1924 (I of 1924), as amended, which empowers the Government to acquire land for public purposes.

In exercise of the powers conferred by the said Section, the Deputy Commissioner, Quetta District, Quetta is pleased to authorize the officers, their servants and workmen for the time being engaged in undertaking work on the subject land to enter upon and survey the land in the locality and do all other acts, required or permitted by the said Section.

Any person having interest in the land who has any objection to the acquisition of the above mentioned land may, as given under Section 5(A) of the said Act, file objections in writing before the Deputy Commissioner, Quetta District, Quetta within Thirty Days (30) of the publication of this notification.

Deputy Commissioner, Quetta District, Quetta

PRO No. 1568/17-10-2025

PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE
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Naval Chief highlights maritime security challenges during US visit

RAWALPINDI (INP): Pakistan's Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf has visited the United States and held a range of meetings with senior naval, coast guard, and government officials, focusing on deepening co-operation between the two countries in the fields of defence and maritime security.

According to a statement issued by the Naval Chief's office on Friday, the Naval Chief's discussions with American

officials were chiefly focused on maritime cooperation, regional security, and defence engagement reflecting strong Pak-US naval ties.

Admiral Naveed Ashraf held separate meetings with US

deputy chief of the naval staff and vice commandant of the Coast Guard.

During his visit, Admiral Ashraf visited the National Defence University and met with its President, Vice Admiral Peter A.

Garon. The meeting focused on issues of mutual professional interest, including regional security, professional training, and enhancing maritime co-operation between the two nations.

In addition, the Pakistan Navy Chief visited the US Department of State, where he met with Deputy Assistant Secretary of Political and Military Affairs, Stanley L. Brown.

The visit also saw

Admiral Ashraf address a gathering of US scholars and thinktank experts. In his speech, he highlighted Pakistan Navy's role in tackling regional maritime security challenges and the importance of joint

maritime efforts in ensuring stability in the region.

Admiral Ashraf's visit to the US is expected to bolster the growing defense and maritime security ties between the two countries.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Chief of Army Staff and Federal Ministers visiting newly upgraded Gcoissance Advanced Research Laboratories (GARL).

Third phase of LG by-elections scheduled to be held on Oct 19

PESHAWAR (INP): The Provincial Election Commissioner, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Saeed Gul, has directed that foolproof arrangements be made for the third phase of local government by-elections scheduled to be held on October 19, 2025, in 12 seats across seven districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He emphasized that such arrangements should ensure that voters can exercise their right to vote freely and without fear. He expressed his views while chairing a high-level review meeting held at his office in Peshawar to assess the election preparations.

The meeting was attended by officials from the police, provincial government, and other relevant departments.

During the meeting, Director Elections, Muhammad Nadeem Khan, gave a detailed briefing on the arrangements for the upcoming third phase of local government by-elections on October 19, 2025, and the by-elections for the vacant National Assembly seats NA-1 (Chitral) and NA-18 (Haripur) scheduled for November 23, 2025.

The meeting was informed that elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will be conducted in seven districts including

Kohat, D.I. Khan, Abbottabad, Mansehra, Malakand, Shangla, and Upper Dir, where 12 Village Council seats are vacant. All necessary arrangements for these elections have been completed.

A total of 88,359 voters will exercise their right to vote. For this purpose, 66 polling stations and 201 polling booths have been established. Among these, 23 polling stations have been declared sensitive and 5 as highly sensitive, for which adequate security measures have been ensured.

The Provincial Election Commission was informed that CCTV cameras are being installed at

polling stations, and additional security personnel will be deployed at sensitive and highly sensitive polling stations. All security agencies will remain in close coordination throughout the process.

Furthermore, control rooms will be set up at both provincial and district levels, which will remain operational 24 hours a day with dedicated staff.

The Provincial Election Commission expressed his gratitude to the provincial government and security agencies for their cooperation and expressed hope that the by-elections will be held in a peaceful manner.

Chinese Company installs Weather and Tidal Monitoring Station at Gwadar Port

ISLAMABAD (INP): China Harbour Engineering Company (CHEC) has completed the installation of a weather and tidal monitoring station at Gwadar Port. The team responsible for the installation included associate researcher Ding Ruibin, senior engineer Liu Yihu, engineer Yao Guipeng, assistant engineer Li Fangzhen, engineer Amir Nazeer, and engineer Sahir Hanif, according to a report carried by Gwadar Pro.

The primary objective of the newly established Gwadar Port Weather and Tidal Monitoring Station is to observe and record real-time environmental parameters of the Gwadar coastal region.

The initiative supports port operations, navigation safety, marine environmental management, and long-term climate and oceanographic studies.

A Gwadar Port official told Gwadar Pro that

the maritime environment is highly dynamic and that weather shifts can alter operational plans in ways that may cause delays, increase risks, or even lead to catastrophic outcomes if not properly managed.

"Precise monitoring of tidal changes is equally critical, as tides influence docking procedures, berth allocations, and the overall safety of ships and port infrastructure. Comprehensive monitoring of weather and tidal conditions acts as a preemptive risk management tool, enabling harbor masters to prepare for inclement weather, modify schedules, and implement safeguards with agility," he explained.

With the installation and commissioning of the new monitoring station, he said that Gwadar Port is now better prepared for severe weather events. "By analyzing incoming weather data alongside tidal data, port officials

can proactively reorganize cargo operations, secure vulnerable infrastructure, and coordinate with emergency services."

Such data-driven preparedness not only enhances overall safety but also reduces operational downtime and ensures smoother, faster recovery when conditions normalize," he added. When asked about the equipment, he said that a total of four specialized oceanographic instruments have been installed at the Gwadar Tidal Station, each serving a critical monitoring function essential for marine and port operations. "An anemometer measures wind speed and direction. Wind speed is determined by the rotational velocity of its propeller—the stronger the wind, the faster it spins. The Conductivity, Temperature, and Depth (CTD) sensor measures seawater conductivity, temperature, and

depth, allowing precise determination of salinity and profiling of the water column."

This data is vital for assessing ocean water characteristics, supporting marine research, and ensuring navigation safety," he explained.

He added that the water quality monitoring system continuously measures seawater quality parameters using high-sensitivity optical sensors. It detects key indicators such as turbidity, temperature, salinity, and potential contaminants, ensuring environmental compliance and early detection of anomalies. "The submerged tide gauge records real-time sea-level variations using radar or pressure-based sensing. The data supports tidal predictions, storm surge assessments, and long-term sea-level rise studies essential for port planning and coastal infrastructure resilience," he noted.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Senator Dr. Musadik Malik, held a meeting today with the International Advisory Board of the Samson Group of Companies.

Sirajul-ul-Haq emphasizes on religious values to transform Pakistan strong Islamic welfare state

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami, Sirajul-ul-Haq, Thameer Majid Hussain, Bilal Kakar and other speakers. He said that leadership must draw inspiration from the guiding principles of Islam and Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

Addressing a seminar titled "Stability of Pakistan and Ideological Challenges Facing the Youth" at the National Press Club, Sirajul Haq underscored the importance of youth training, quality leadership, and revival of the collective ideology of the Muslim Ummah, said a press released on

Thursday. The event was also addressed by Haroon Ali Gilani, Raja Majid Hussain, Bilal Kakar and other speakers. He said that leadership must draw inspiration from the guiding principles of Islam and Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

Sirajul Haq stated that Quaid-e-Azam vision was not monarchical like king Akbar but modeled on the governance system taken from Islamic values. He said the vision of Quaid-e-Azam was also commendable because he presented a

clear Islamic vision based on a system ensuring justice, minority rights, and socio-economic balance.

He pointed out contradictions in the country's educational system and social training, noting that created mental and ideological confusion among youth.

He urged comprehensive training of youth based on the concepts of Ummah, justice, courage, and leadership to enable them to play a constructive role in national development.

Discussing global issues, Sirajul Haq cited the Palestinian

resistance and emerging intellectual movements as examples of organized, educated leadership that inspire optimism for the future.

Sirajul Haq urged youth "not to complain but to light their own candle," adding that collective small peaceful efforts could become a powerful tide of change.

He stressed that state institutions, educational curricula, and political leadership should jointly ensure transparency, opportunity, and justice for the younger generation to achieve national stability and progress.

Attock Petroleum, Huawei sign MoU to develop EV charging network in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): Attock Petroleum Limited signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Huawei Technologies Pakistan Pvt Ltd. and its partner, AE Power, last week to collaborate on developing electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure across Pakistan.

The signing ceremony was held at Huawei's Islamabad office, Gwadar Pro reported on Friday.

Under the agreement, the three organizations will jointly work to establish EV charging stations and promote the use of electric mobility in the country.

aims to contribute to the creation of a sustainable, energy-efficient transportation ecosystem while supporting national efforts to reduce carbon emissions and strengthen clean energy initiatives.

The development of EV infrastructure in Pakistan has gained momentum in recent years with both public and private sectors showing growing interest in clean transportation.

According to official reports, over 3,800 investors and companies have expressed interest in setting up EV charging stations nationwide, with more than 70 licenses already is-

signed and several stations operational. The government's National Electric Vehicle Policy (2025-2030) targets the establishment of 10,000 EV charging stations by 2030, supported by tariff reductions of up to 44 percent to encourage investment.

Several provinces have also launched initiatives to expand EV networks. Punjab has proposed installing 2,000 charging stations and introducing 600 electric buses, while

Sindh aims to place charging facilities every 50 kilometers along major routes to facilitate intercity travel. Additionally, Pakistan's latest 120 kW EV charging station has recently been inaugurated in Islamabad, capable of charging vehicles within an hour. Public interest in electric vehicles is steadily growing, particularly among users of two- and three-wheelers such as e-bikes and rickshaws, while private car adoption continues to increase gradually as infrastructure improves.

The collaboration between these organizations is expected to further accelerate these developments and support Pakistan's transition toward a cleaner, greener, and more connected energy future.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired a meeting to review the prices and supply situation of various essential commodities.

Punjab cabinet approves TLP ban, sends summary to Centre for action

NEWS DESK: The Punjab cabinet has approved imposing a ban on Tehreek-e-Labaik Pakistan and forwarded a summary to the federal government for further action. It was announced by Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari while addressing a press conference in Lahore on Friday.

She revealed that the Punjab cabinet has approved the ban on TLP and sent the case to the federal government for implementation. "The misuse of loudspeakers will now be strictly controlled under the Loudspeaker Act," she added.

The information minister said the government and the state have now decided to deal firmly with the group. Using religion's name,

they built properties worth millions of rupees. Petrol pumps, luxury watches, and large amounts of money have been recovered from them.

Azma said that despite repeated offers for dialogue, TLP leaders chose confrontation instead of negotiation. "How does burning private vehicles and attacking police officers help the people of Gaza?" she asked.

Providing details of the recent violence, she said 200 police personnel were injured, 17 vehicles were damaged, and two completely burnt. "An inspector was martyred, one officer was shot in the arm, and another in the throat — he will never speak again," she said. The minister also

confirmed that Section 144 has been imposed across Punjab to prevent further unrest. "We will register cases under the PECA Act for arson and vandalism. Bank and social media accounts of those involved have been frozen, and there is a complete ban on carrying weapons," she added.

Azma urged citizens to surrender any illegal firearms to the police, warning that failure to do so would result in terrorism charges. "Loudspeakers may only be used for sermons or religious addresses — not for incitement," she said.

She thanked traders, transporters, and the general public for rejecting the strike call given by the religious group. She said there was "no

justification for such protests" and that the government would not allow any group to paralyze the country under any pretext.

"Those demanding the release of prisoners must know that their demands never even mentioned Palestine. The world is appreciating Pakistan's role in supporting the Gaza ceasefire, yet these protests were called after the peace agreement. This was not a peaceful movement," she said, questioning, "What was the fault of the martyred SHO?"

The Punjab information minister stressed that the Punjab government's decisions were not directed against any religious party but were taken to uphold law and order.