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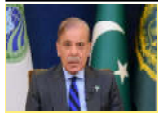
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PM vows to take steps for effective probe, prosecution of crimes against journalists



Mobile Internet Suspended in Quetta for 24 Hours Due to Security Situation

Levies-Police Merger Vital for Long-Term Peace in Balochistan: CM Bugti

From Our Correspondent: SANJAWI: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has said that the provincial government's decision to merge Levies with the police is crucial for ensuring lasting peace, security, and good governance across the province.

Speaking at a large public gathering in Sanjawi, hosted by Provincial Minister for Food Haji Noor Muhammad Dumar, CM Bugti said that although the B-Area to A-Area conversion appears unpopular to some quarters, it is a necessary step for long-term stability and effective law enforcement in Balochistan.

"The merger of Levies into the police force is not just a reform — it is a foundation for a safer and more stable Balochistan," Bugti remarked. He added that the provincial government is committed to creating professional, accountable and modern policing systems throughout



the province.

Highlighting other major development initiatives, CM Bugti announced that the Tehsil Headquarters Hospital Sanjawi will

be expanded into a 20-bed fully functional hospital under a public-private partnership, ensuring better healthcare services for the people of the region. He further announced two new buses for the boys' and girls' colleges in Sanjawi, and the construction of an administrative complex to

improve government service delivery.

Focusing on education, Bugti said that 14 inactive schools in Sanjawi and Ziarat are being reactivated and

will reopen after the winter break. He emphasized that teacher recruitment will be based on merit, ensuring improved standards of education in remote areas.

To strengthen law and order, the Chief Minister announced the establishment of four new police stations and reaffirmed

his government's commitment to fair resource utilization for public welfare.

Bugti also addressed local development demands, announcing the resolution of Sanjawi's land settlement issue and the construction of the Sanjawi Bypass Road. He said that the proposal to upgrade Sanjawi to district status is under active consideration and will be prioritized in upcoming administrative reforms.

The Chief Minister also declared that new blocks and four buses will be provided to the Quaid-e-Azam Cadet College Sanjawi, enabling students to benefit from improved academic and transport facilities.

The event was attended by provincial ministers, parliamentary secretaries, senior civil officers, tribal elders, and a large number of local residents, reflecting strong public support for the government's vision for peace and progress in Balochistan.

Balochistan Government Approves Separate Jail for Juvenile Prisoners in Quetta

QUETTA (WEB DESK): The Balochistan government has approved the construction of a separate jail for juvenile prisoners in Quetta, aiming to improve rehabilitation and educational opportunities for young offenders.

According to the Prison Department of Balochistan,

the new juvenile jail in Quetta will be built at an estimated cost of Rs. 750 million, and construction is expected to begin soon. Officials said that until the completion of the main project, a temporary facility for juvenile inmates will be set up on Saraniab Road.

The upcoming model jail for juveniles will also feature a school



and a vocational training center, providing inmates with access to education and skill development programs. This initiative is part of

the provincial government's broader efforts to promote rehabilitation and reform in the prison system. Authorities believe the project will mark a significant step toward a more humane and reform-oriented justice system for young offenders in Balochistan.

SHO among 3 cops injured in IED blast in KP's Hangu: police

NEWS DESK: Three cops, including a station house officer (SHO), were injured in a blast caused by an improvised explosive device (IED) in the Doda area of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Hangu district on Sunday, police said.

Abbas Majeed, the regional police officer in Kohat division, confirmed these details to Dawn, further stating that a police convoy was targeted in the IED attack.

He added that SHO Imranuddin was among the three injured policemen.

Separately, a statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office said the provincial chief executive, Sohail Afridi, had taken notice of the incident and sought a detailed report from the KP inspector general of police.



He directed that the injured policemen be provided immediate medical treatment, the statement said, adding that the CM paid tribute to the police personnel's "courage and sense of duty".

The CM further directed that security in the province be tightened and strictly monitored

for suspicious elements. "Elements involved in (such) cowardly attacks will be taken to task," the statement continued, adding that the CM had taken place as Pakistan continues to grapple with terrorism. A rise in terrorist activities, mainly in KP and Balochistan, was

PM vows to take steps for effective probe, prosecution of crimes against journalists

NEWS DESK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday said the government would take steps to ensure effective investigation, justice, and prosecution in cases of crimes against journalists.

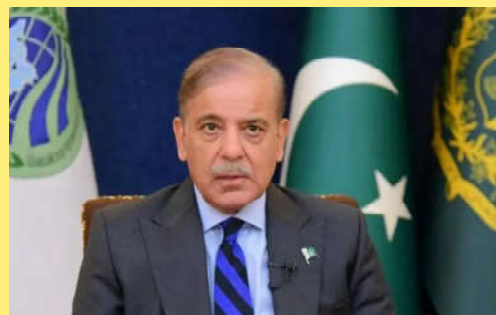
His remarks came on the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists. The day, observed on November 2, highlights the need for justice in cases where journalists are attacked or killed. This year's observance draws attention to the online threats faced by women journalists and the broader chilling impact these have on freedom of expression.

"Today reminds us that a free, informed, and responsible press is the foundation of any democratic society," the prime minister said in a statement.

"Journalists enable public access to facts and are torchbearers of truth. Violence, threats, or reprisals against them while performing their duties are attacks on freedom of expression.

"I pay tribute to journalists who faced hardships for truth and solidarity with families of media workers who lost loved ones in the line of duty." He added that the Government of Pakistan was committed to protecting press freedom and providing a safe environment for journalists.

"We will take measures to ensure effective investigation, justice, and prosecution of crimes



against journalists.

"I appeal to the international community, media organisations, and civil society to play their role in

protecting journalists and promoting freedom of expression. A free press guarantees a strong, transparent, and democratic Pakistan."

Pakistan is consistently ranked as one of the world's most dangerous countries for journalists due to frequent threats, physical attacks, and a pervasive culture of impunity for perpetrators. In the 2025 World Press Freedom Index by Reporters Without Borders (RSF), Pakistan was ranked 158th out of 180 countries. A day prior, the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) condemned the worsening situation for media professionals in Pakistan.

A delegation from the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) held talks with IFJ President Dominique Pradalié and Secretary General Anthony Bellanger at the Syndicat National des Journalistes (SNJ) headquarters in Paris, according to a statement issued from Islamabad on Saturday.

"The IFJ leaders expressed deep concern over targeted killings of journalists, misuse of the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (Peca) to file cases against media workers, undeclared censorship, harassment by state and non-state actors, forced layoffs, and non-payment of salaries," the statement said. "They urged Pakistan's president, prime minister, and top judge to take immediate notice, warning that inaction could prompt an appeal to the United Nations for intervention."

NETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Pakistan-Saudi Arabia Defense Pact – A Historic Milestone in Bilateral Relations

Editorial:

For over eight decades, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have enjoyed close and cordial relations rooted in faith, friendship, and mutual cooperation. The recent visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to the Kingdom has further strengthened these historic ties, marking a new chapter in the relationship between the two brotherly nations.

SMIDA An Unprecedented Event

The signing of a Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is unprecedented. For the first time, both states have formally pledged that an attack on one will be considered an attack on both. This landmark pact is not only a testament to their shared commitment to peace and security but also a reflection of the growing geopolitical importance of Pakistan in the wider Middle East and South Asia. Over the years, Saudi Arabia has stood firmly by Pakistan, extending support in critical times, whether financial, diplomatic, or strategic. At the same time, Pakistan has successfully managed to maintain positive ties with both Saudi Arabia and Iran, balancing its role in a region often marked by divisions. This ability to uphold cordial relations with diverse regional players demonstrates Islamabad's maturity in diplomacy.

China, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia Fully Support Pakistan

Equally significant is the fact that Pakistan continues to receive consistent and unconditional support from major global actors such as China, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia. These relationships enhance Pakistan's leverage on the international stage and help consolidate its role as a bridge between the Muslim world and the global community. The defense agreement with Saudi Arabia is, therefore, a matter of immense pride for the Pakistani nation. It not only secures Pakistan's strategic interests but also strengthens the balance of power in the region. Such developments assure the people of Pakistan that their country is not isolated but deeply engaged in shaping the future of regional security and cooperation.

This is Indeed A National Achievement

This historic step deserves to be celebrated as a national achievement. It is a reflection of Pakistan's enduring diplomacy and its ability to transform long-standing friendships into strategic partnerships that ensure stability, prosperity, and peace for generations to come.

Land Law and Its Importance in Pakistan

By Amir Hamza Bashir

Land is one of the most valuable and contested assets in Pakistan. The legal framework that governs the ownership, possession, and transfer of land is known as Land Law. It ensures that property rights are protected and that disputes over land are resolved through legal and transparent means.

Historical Background of Land Law in Pakistan

The foundation of land laws in Pakistan was laid during the British colonial era through legislation such as the Land Revenue Act and the Registration Act.

After independence in 1947, these laws continued to guide Pakistan's land management system. Today, major statutes like the West Pakistan



Land Revenue Act, 1967, and the Transfer of Property Act, 1882, remain the cornerstone of land governance and property transfer in the country.

Land Record Management and Reforms

Traditionally, the Patwari system has been responsible for maintaining land

records across Pakistan. However, it has often been criticized for corruption, manipulation, and lack of transparency. In recent years, the government has initiated significant reforms through the Punjab Land Records Authority (PLRA) and other provincial projects to digitize land

human interference in property registration and ownership verification.

Challenges in Pakistan's Land System

Despite reforms, Pakistan continues to face issues like illegal possession (land grabbing), forged documents, and slow judicial processes. These

problems create uncertainty for investors and ordinary citizens alike.

To overcome these challenges, there is a strong need for comprehensive digital record-keeping, specialized land tribunals, and public awareness campaigns to educate citizens about their property rights.

Land law is not just a legal framework—it is the foundation of economic stability and social justice in Pakistan. A fair, transparent, and efficient land management system encourages investment, infrastructure development, and public trust in state institutions. Strengthening land laws and ensuring their effective implementation are vital steps toward achieving legal certainty and sustainable growth in Pakistan.

The Author is a Student of LLB (7th Semester).

Quetta's Traffic Chaos: Urgent Reforms Needed to Fix the Crisis

Anjela Kaynat:

Quetta, once a city known for its peaceful ambience, now faces an escalating traffic crisis. Every day, thousands of commuters endure hours of gridlock, navigating congested roads, reckless drivers, and deteriorating infrastructure. From rickshaws and motorcycles to private cars, the overwhelming number of vehicles clogs major roads, while encroachments and illegal parking worsen the situation.

The city's transport system is on the brink of collapse, demanding immediate intervention from both authorities and residents. This article explores the root causes of Quetta's traffic woes, identifies the most affected areas, and outlines urgent solutions to restore order to the roads.

The Strain on Quetta's Road Infrastructure

Quetta's road network, originally designed during the colonial era, was never intended to accommodate the city's rapid population growth and rising number of vehicles. Al-

though the city was rebuilt after the 1935 earthquake, its road capacity has remained largely unchanged, struggling to support over 1.2 million residents and the thousands of vehicles added each year.

Key roads such as Jinnah Road, Sariab Road, Liaquat Bazaar, Masjid Road, and Zarghoon Road have become perpetual bottlenecks, choked by illegal encroachments, unregulated parking, and an ever-increasing number of vehicles. Without a structured urban transport model, these roads remain gridlocked, affecting daily life and economic activity.

Major Traffic Challenges

Severe Congestion on Key Roads

Traffic congestion is worst in commercial hubs such as Liaquat Bazaar, Masjid Road, Jinnah Road, and Zarghoon Road, where vehicles move at a snail's pace during peak hours.

With no alternative routes or bypasses, all traffic is funneled through these roads,

causing massive delays. Key intersections, including Balochistan University Chowk,

Meezan Chowk, and Prince Road, frequently experience severe traffic jams.

The Surge of Non-Custom Paid Vehicles

(NCP) and Unregistered Vehicles

The unchecked influx of non-custom paid vehicles (NCP) and unregistered vehicles has compounded the traffic crisis.

A 2010 report estimated over 50,000 NCP vehicles on Balochistan's roads, causing an annual revenue loss of Rs 15 billion to the national exchequer.

By 2024, this number has surged to nearly 80,000, with a significant concentration in Quetta (Excise and Taxation Department, 2024).

Despite periodic crackdowns, including the 2023 seizure of 113 NCP vehicles worth Rs 982 million (ARY News, 2023),

enforcement efforts have failed to stem the tide. Quetta's traffic police estimate that 40% of vehicles in the city are

either unregistered or NCP (Think Transportation, 2023), worsening congestion and lawlessness on the roads.

Lack of a Proper Public Transport System

Unlike other major cities in Pakistan, Quetta lacks an organized public transport system.

With no buses or mass transit options, residents rely on rickshaws, motorcycles, and private cars, further clogging the roads. Over 50,000 rickshaws operate within the city, creating congestion in already packed areas like Masjid Road and Liaquat Bazaar (Traffic Survey: Quetta Smart and Safe City, 2023).

Although the government has revisited the Quetta Mass Transit Train project,

financial constraints have delayed its execution, leaving residents without an efficient alternative to private transport.

Encroachments and Illegal Parking Worsen Congestion

Unauthorized stalls and illegal parking occupy nearly 30% of road space in busy commercial zones such as Prince

Road and Jinnah Road (Think Transportation, 2023). Street vendors set up shop on sidewalks, forcing pedestrians onto the roads, while shopkeepers extend their businesses onto public spaces, further restricting traffic flow.

Deteriorating Road Conditions

Over 60% of Quetta's roads are in disrepair, riddled with potholes, cracks, and poor drainage systems (PNRIS, 2024). Roads such as Joint Road, Sariab Road,

Sabzal Road, and Nawa Kili are among the worst affected. During rainfall, flooding exacerbates the problem, making navigation nearly impossible.

A tragic reminder of Balochistan's road infrastructure crisis occurred in 2024, when a bus plunged into a ravine in Washuk district due to poor road conditions. Despite promises of road improvements, delays in infrastructure projects continue to endanger commuters.

Weak Traffic Management and Enforcement

A lack of proper traf-

fic regulation has led to frequent violations, reckless driving, and rising accidents.

With an inadequate number of traffic police officers on the roads, many drivers ignore basic rules—running red lights, driving on the wrong side, and engaging in dangerous maneuvers.

Although the Balochistan government announced plans to build flyovers and underpasses in 2024 to ease congestion, financial setbacks have stalled these projects (Balochistan Express, 2024).

Practical Solutions to Fix Quetta's Traffic Woes

To address Quetta's worsening traffic crisis, a multi-faceted approach is needed, combining road expansion, better enforcement, and public transport development. Here are some key solutions:

1. Road Expansion and Maintenance

• Widen key roads such as Masjid Road, Jinnah Road, and Zarghoon Road to accommodate growing traf-

fic.

2. Regulating Non-Custom Paid Vehicles

• Enforce stricter measures to curb the influx of NCP vehicles.

3. Establishing a Public Transport System

• Launch a city bus service to provide an affordable alternative to private cars.

4. Regulating Rickshaws and Motorcycles

• Implement route-based restrictions for rickshaws to prevent congestion in commercial hubs.

5. Strengthening Traffic Law Enforcement

• Deploy more traffic police officers to ensure compliance with traffic rules.

6. Removing Encroachments and Illegal

Parking

• Conduct regular operations to clear roads of unauthorized stalls and illegally parked vehicles.

• Establish alternative vending zones to prevent the return of street vendors.

7. Traffic Awareness and Public Education

• Launch awareness campaigns to educate citizens on traffic rules and road safety.

• Integrate basic traffic education into school curriculums to instill discipline in future generations.

Call to Action: A Collective Responsibility

Every day, Quetta's residents face the frustration of endless traffic jams, reckless drivers, and poorly maintained roads. Yet, the problem persists—not just because of weak governance, but because of collective negligence.

Authorities must act swiftly to expand roads, enforce traffic laws, and implement public transport reforms.

Citizens, too, have a role to play—by obeying traffic rules, avoiding illegal parking, and discouraging encroachments.

Neither Capitalism nor Communism

Aziz ur Rehman Agha

The Cold War may have ended, but the ideological clash between Capitalism and Communism continues to shape global politics, economics, and international relations. Even today, global alliances reflect these old ideological divisions.

However, both Capitalist and Communist systems have failed to manage political and socio-economic affairs effectively. One system suppresses personal freedom; the other deepens inequality. Both carry serious structural flaws that make them unsuitable for modern societies.

This calls for a new, balanced approach—one found in the Islamic socio-economic and political philosophy, which follows a middle path between the two extremes.

The Flaws of Communism

Communism lies at one extreme of the ideological spectrum. It suppresses individual freedoms such as speech, press, and trade.

Historical examples from Maoist China during the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976) show how intellectual expression was crushed—books and music not aligned with party ideology were banned, and private libraries were destroyed. Similarly, in the USSR, any deviation from party thought was treated as a crime.



Economically, Communism eliminates private property and discourages entrepreneurship. Without personal incentive, individuals lose motivation to innovate and work for economic growth. As a result, this system hamp-

ers development and limits prosperity. The severe restrictions on basic rights and freedoms make Communism unsustainable in modern nations.

The Problems with Capitalism

On the other end

lies Capitalism, which has enabled just 1% of the world's population to control more wealth than the remaining 99% combined.

This system inherently promotes economic inequality, empowering elite industri-

alists while exploiting the working class. Under Capitalism, profit takes precedence over people—workers are overburdened, and ethical values are often sacrificed for industrial gains.

Furthermore, Capitalism's obsession

with rapid industrialization and profit maximization has led to environmental destruction, resource depletion, and climate crises.

It prioritizes wealth accumulation over sustainability. These internal contradictions—

growing inequality, moral decay, and ecological harm—make Capitalism an unfit model for an equitable, sustainable society.

The Islamic Socio-Economic Philosophy: A Balanced Approach

Both Capitalism and

Communism fail because they represent extremes—one suffocates freedom; the other breeds inequality. Islam, however, offers a balanced socio-economic philosophy that harmonizes justice, freedom, and social welfare.

The Islamic economic system allows private ownership and business freedom, but regulates them through moral and legal checks. The obligation of Zakat (charity) redistributes wealth, preventing concentration in the hands of a few.

Meanwhile, the prohibition of Riba (usury) ensures financial fairness and discourages exploitation. Together, these principles foster economic justice, social cohesion, and sustainable development.

Conclusion

Neither Capitalism nor Communism provides a complete solution to humanity's political and economic challenges. Both contain inherent flaws—one curtails human freedom, the other destroys social equality.

The Islamic socio-economic model, however, offers the ideal middle path—balancing individual rights with collective welfare. With its emphasis on justice, equality, and moral responsibility, Islam presents the most sustainable and humane political and economic philosophy for the modern world.

Mohsin Naqvi inspects construction work on Islamabad's two mega projects

ISLAMABAD (INP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has visited T-Chowk flyover and Shaheen Chowk underpass projects in Islamabad in order to review the progress on construction work.

Overall, 60 percent of the work on the T-Chowk flyover project has been completed.

The flyover will be opened for traffic in early December while the Shaheen Chowk underpass will also be completed in a month.

Mohsin Naqvi reviewed the progress of both projects and inspected the construction activities. He also observed the quality of construction work, expressing satisfaction with the progress on the projects.

Mohsin Naqvi directed that quality should be ensured in construction work at all costs.

Mohsin Naqvi said no compromise will be made on quality and speed.

With the completion of the flyover, passengers from GT Road will be able to come to Islamabad signal-free.

This project will prove to be an important milestone in solving the travel problems of citizens, Mohsin Naqvi added.

Mohsin Naqvi said the T-Chowk flyover project will significantly improve the flow of traffic.

The pace of construction work of Shaheen Chowk Underpass project should be further accelerated, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi ordered.

He directed work should be continued on the project 24/7 simultaneously.



QUETTA: Emir Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) Balochistan is Maulana Hidayatullah Rehman addressing a press conference at Quetta Press Club (QPC).

Trump threatens US military action in Nigeria over treatment of Christians

WASHINGTON (INP): US President Donald Trump said he has asked the Defense Department to prepare for possible "fast" military action in Nigeria if the West African nation fails to crack down on the killing of Christians.

The US government will also immediately stop all aid and assistance to Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation and top oil producer, Trump said in a post on Truth Social.

If the United States sends in military forces, it would go in "guns ablazing," to completely wipe out the Islamic terrorists who are committing these horrible atrocities," Trump wrote, without providing any evidence of specifics about the treatment of Christians in Nigeria.

Trump called Nigeria a "disgraced country" and warned its government must move quickly. "If we attack, it will be fast, vicious, and

Other nations on the list include China, Myanmar, North Korea, Russia and Pakistan.

Before Trump posted his attack threat, Nigerian President Bola Ahmed Tinubu earlier on Saturday pushed back against claims of religious intolerance and defended his country's efforts to protect religious freedom.

The characterization of Nigeria as religiously intolerant does not reflect our national reality, nor does it take into consideration the consistent and sincere efforts of the government to safeguard freedom of religion and beliefs for all Nigerians," Tinubu said in a statement, citing "constitutional guarantees to protect citizens of all faiths."

Nigeria's Foreign Ministry, in a separate statement, vowed to keep fighting violent extremists and said it hoped Washington would remain a close ally, saying it "will continue to defend all citizens, irrespective of race, creed, or religion. Like America, Nigeria has no option but to celebrate the diversity that is our greatest strength."

The US military footprint in West Africa was significantly diminished when about 1,000 troops withdrew from Niger last year. While the US sometimes has small groups of troops in the region to take part in drills, the largest US military base on the continent is in East Africa in Djibouti, which hosts over 5,000 troops and is used for operations.

Trump had designated Nigeria a country of concern during his first term in the White House. His Democratic successor Joe Biden removed it from the US State Department list in 2021.

On Friday, Trump said "thousands of Christians" were being killed in Nigeria by radical Islamists, but offered no details.

Fisherman from Pakistan arrested, coerced into carrying out tasks for Indian intelligence agency: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Information Minister Attaullah Tarar has said that a fisherman from Pakistan was arrested by the Indian coast guard and was coerced into carrying out tasks for the neighbouring country's intelligence agency.

Attaullah Tarar addressing a press conference in Islamabad alongside Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhary, said that the Indian media was creating a false narrative in the aftermath of the four-day May conflict with Pakistan.

He said that law enforcement agencies had recently apprehended a fisherman called Ijaz Mallah, who used to go fishing in the high seas.

In September this year, when he was out fishing, he was arrested by the Indian coast guard and after this arrest, he was taken to an undisclosed location and was coerced and forced to do some tasks for the Indian intelligence agency," he said.

"He was told that he would be compensated and if he did not comply, he would have to stay imprisoned for two to three years," the minister said. "So this common fisherman was eventually released by the Indian intelligence agency and was sent to Pakistan on a task to procure certain things... which included uniforms of the Pakistan Navy, the Pakistani Army and of Sindh Rangers," he added.

"He was tasked to procure uniforms with certain name tags, and certain fittings and measurements because this was part of a bigger plan of the Indian intelligence agency to launch a propaganda warfare against Pakistan," Tarar said, showing pictures of items allegedly procured from the fisherman on a screen off to the side.

The minister said that Pakistan's intelligence agencies were well-equipped to deal with any situation, and put the fisherman in question under surveillance when he tried to procure the items.

While he was under surveillance, our law enforcement agencies were fully alert and following his trail. He was also asked to get Pakistani currency, cigarettes, match boxes, lighters and was asked to specifically procure Zong SIM cards," he said.

"He procured all these items and he was on his way to India when law enforcement agencies apprehended him from the sea, arrested him and took these items into custody," the minister said.

"This is part of a greater plan by India to malign Pakistan and to use such propaganda items and disinformation, and we have been very active countering the misinformation and disinformation by the Indian media and Indian state," he said.



HYDERABAD: Lawyers celebrating their victory of Advocate Ayyaz Hussain Tunio, elected as a Member of the Sindh Bar Council at Session Court.

Minister hails China's Innovation Journey at Space-Film Premiere

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Planning, Board of Investment (BOI), Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh hailed China's Innovation Journey at the Space-Film Premiere of the 8K space film "Gazing Back from the Cosmos: Out of the Blue Window Is the Blue Planet".

The event was organized by China Media Group (CMG) in collaboration with the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Pakistan at National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), Islamabad, Gwadar Pro reported.

The screening which, featured footage from the Chinese Shenzhou-13 mission was described by BOI as the world's first 8K film recorded in space."

Addressing the audience, Sheikh said he has "been in politics for the past 32 years and has witnessed advancement in China's remarkable transformation firsthand."

He added, "Pakistan can greatly benefit from China's experience in poverty alleviation, technological innovation and promoting deeper cultural and media cooperation between Pakistan and China."

Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh noted that under the leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Asim Munir, the government "has undertaken significant initiatives to advance education, skills development and technical growth in the country."

He said these efforts align with the objective of "strengthening Pakistan's human capital and ensuring inclusive economic progress."

No let-up in smog as Lahore again emerges as city with worst air quality

LAHORE (INP): Lahore continues to make headlines due to extremely poor air quality as AQI in the city of gardens soared to 388 on Saturday, again putting it at the top of the world's most polluted cities.

New Delhi, where AQI was recorded at 293, was second on the list. The situation in other cities of Punjab, including Gujranwala, Faisalabad, Multan, was also extremely hazardous for human health.

In Lahore, the AQI in and around Rawi Road was recorded at 820.

636 in and around AC Cantonment Office, 620 around the Civil Secretariat, 591 in Allama Iqbal Town, 581 at the Government College University (GCU), Lower Mall and surrounding areas and 498 in Gulberg-III.

The situation is also pathetic in south Punjab where extremely high level of pollution has led to the spread of chest and throat infections and skin diseases.

In Lodhran, the AQI crossed the 400 mark, while, on the other hand, residents of the city are taking the situation lightly as they don't wear facemasks and take other

precautionary measures. Deputy Commissioner Lodhran Dr. Lubna Nazir has said that the district administration is crack down on the individuals whose actions lead to smog.



QUETTA: Effectees of Bahria town Kasi hold a protest in favor of their demands outside Quetta Press Club (QPC).

PFUJ delegation visits SNJ Qs in Paris: IFJ leaders focus on Pakistan's deteriorating media landscape

PARIS (INP): A delegation from the Pakistan Federation of Journalists (PFUJ) held crucial talks with top officials of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) at the Syndicate National des Journalistes (SNJ) headquarters.

IFJ President Dominique Pradalié and Secretary General Anthony Bellanger expressed grave concern over targeted killings of journalists, cases filed under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA), undeclared censorship on media outlets, harassment of working journalists by both state and non-state actors, and widespread non-payment of salaries along with forced dismissals by media owners.

The IFJ leaders urged Pakistan's President, Prime Minister, and Chief Justice to take immediate notice of the dire situation, warning that failure to act would prompt an appeal for United Nations intervention.

During the detailed meeting, the PFUJ delegation—comprising Secretary General Shakeel Ahmed, Ravalpindi-Islamabad Union of Journalists President Tariq Usmani, and Foreign Committee Head Waseem Shahzad Qadri—briefed Pradalié and Bellanger on the ground realities.

In a joint statement, the IFJ president and secretary general affirmed that the federation is closely monitoring Pakistan's media environment. They strongly condemned unlawful actions against journalists, including the misuse of PECA to lodge cases, and demanded the immediate withdrawal of all such charges, effective legislation to protect journalists' rights, and legal action against those responsible for targeted

killings. The statement also denounced undeclared censorship imposed by government institutions, as well as harassment of journalists and journalists, calling for an immediate end to these unconstitutional and undemocratic practices.

Highlighting the forced layoffs of hundreds of journalists and media workers, the IFJ officials demanded that Prime Minister Man Shehbaz Sharif introduce urgent and robust legislation to halt what they described as the "economic massacre" of journalists in Pakistan. The federation pledged full support to PFUJ, its representative body in Pakistan, committing to take steps at every level to safeguard journalists' rights and employment. The issue will be placed on the agenda of the upcoming IFJ Congress.

Pradalié and Bellanger also took serious note of alleged death threats issued to PFUJ President Rana Muhammad Azeem and members of the Taliban-linked groups. They called on the Prime Minister and top investigative agencies to conduct a thorough probe and ensure that those involved in the terror group face the full rigor of the law, including severe punishments.

Following the discussions, the PFUJ delegation was given a tour of the Journalists' Memorial. The visit concluded with a lavish dinner hosted by IFJ President Dominique Pradalié in honor of Shakeel Ahmed, Tariq Usmani, and Waseem Shahzad Qadri.

This meeting underscores growing international pressure on Pakistani authorities to uphold press freedom and reports of increasing vulnerabilities for media professionals.

Ishaq Dar to visit Turkiye on Monday to discuss Gaza peace plan

ISLAMABAD (INP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar will represent Pakistan at a meeting of the foreign ministers of eight major Muslim countries in Turkiye next week, to discuss the

next steps in the Gaza peace plan. All preparations regarding Ishaq Dar's visit have been put in place which is being taken place on the invitation of Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan. According to dip-

lomatic sources, Ishaq Dar will leave for Turkiye on Monday (November 3). Besides Ishaq Dar and Hakan Fidan, foreign ministers from Saudi Arabia, Qatar, UAE, Egypt, Indonesia

and Jordan will be in attendance. The sources further said Ishaq Dar is expected to strongly condemn Israel's resumption of attacks on Gaza while reiterating full support to the Palestinian people.

"Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan invited the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar to Turkiye for the forthcoming meeting next week of the eight Foreign Ministers of partner countries who

were engaged on the sidelines of UNGA80 in the diplomatic process on Gaza," the Foreign Office said in a statement on issued last Tuesday.

The FO said Dar and Fidan discussed the evolving situation in Gaza, and the next steps and modalities for achieving lasting peace in Palestine.

In September, eight Arab and Muslim-majority countries had formed a group to work with US President Donald Trump to end the Israel-Hamas war. Convened on Sept 23 on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York, the group built on the 2023 Arab-Islamic Contact Group to align with Trump's 20-point peace plan.



GILGIT: President Asif Ali Zardari along with Commander 10 Corps and Force Commander Northern Areas during the ceremony marking the 78th Independence Day of Gilgit-Baltistan.

CM Afridi vows to make KP model of justice, transparency in line with Imran's vision

PESHAWAR (INP): Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Sohail Afridi declared that the core of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) politics revolves around justice, rule of law, and public service rather than power, describing the provincial government as a "mission" to realize Imran Khan's dream of a sovereign and prosperous Pakistan.

The remarks came during a meeting at the Chief Minister's House in Peshawar with a large delegation from PTI Attock, led by PTI leader Major Tahir Sadiq and Imran Tahir. The group, comprising

over 500 workers and more than 60 Chairmen, congratulated Afridi on his appointment and extended best wishes. Welcoming the visitors with warmth, Afridi pledged to transform KP into an exemplary, transparent, peaceful, and people-friendly province. "This is not just a government but a mission to establish a self-reliant Pakistan where justice and merit prevail," he said, emphasizing PTI's commitment to principled politics and constitutional freedom.

The Chief Minister highlighted that his appointment as a young tribal leader has injected fresh energy into party workers nationwide, marking a new era of unity and public empowerment under Imran Khan's vision. In a related development, the KP Administration Department issued an official notification allocating portfolios to provincial cabinet members on the Chief Minister's directives.

Pakistan, Germany share common values of peace, development: Punjab CM

LAHORE (INP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said that Pakistan and Germany share the common values of peace, development and human dignity. She made these remarks during a meeting with Derya Türk-Nachbar, a member of the German Parliament, in Lahore.

The meeting focused on bilateral relations, parliamentary cooperation, women's empowerment, education, youth exchange programs, environmental protection, and clean energy initiatives.

Maryam Nawaz warmly welcomed the German parliamentarian and thanked Germany for expressing solidarity with Pakistan during the recent floods. She said it was an honor to host Germany's distinguished guests in Lahore, the historic and cultural heart of Punjab.

Congratulating the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES) on its 100th anniversary and acknowledging its 35 years of service in Pakistan, the Chief Minister praised the foundation's role in strengthening democracy, social justice, and dialogue between the two countries.

Maryam Nawaz emphasized that Pakistan and Germany both believe in democracy, tolerance, and parliamentary governance, which are essential foundations for peace and progress.

She lauded Derya Türk-Nachbar for her work in inclusive policymaking, gender equality, and human rights advocacy.

The Chief Minister proposed that FES hold training workshops for lawmakers, young leaders, and women parliamentarians under its democratic governance program.

She said that exchanges between Punjab and the German parliamentarians would provide an opportunity to learn from Germany's model of federal cooperation and local autonomy.

Highlighting Germany's role as a reliable development partner since 1951, Maryam Nawaz noted that German cooperation has contributed significantly to Punjab's progress in environment, vocational training, energy, health, and women's economic participation.

Expressing interest in adopting Germany's dual vocational training model to enhance youth employment skills, she welcomed greater German investment in renewable energy, agricultural technology, IT services, and clean manufacturing.

She also underscored that education is a key pillar of the Punjab government's reform agenda, focusing on curriculum modernization, digital learning, and global research collaboration. Over 10,000 Pakistani students are currently studying in German universities, she added.

Maryam Nawaz said women's empowerment remains central to Punjab's social policy, citing initiatives such as the E-Bike Scheme, Honahar Scholarship Program, and Women Inclusive Program, which ensure women's safe and dignified participation in the economy.

She noted that Punjab's cultural landmarks, including Badshahi Mosque, Lahore Fort, Shalimar Gardens, and Dargah Darbar, symbolize shared civilizational heritage. Cultural cooperation, she said, serves as an effective form of diplomacy, and Punjab welcomes joint art and cultural projects with German institutions.

Reaffirming her commitment, Maryam Nawaz said Pakistan and Germany are determined to further strengthen their friendship through parliamentary engagement, sustainable development, and mutual cooperation.

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QUETTA: Chairman Barshore Development Forum Aminullah Kakar addressing the general body meeting.

Balochistan Bar Council Elections 2025: Unofficial results announced

QUETTA (INP): The Balochistan Bar Council elections concluded with voting held across various districts of the province, as lawyers elected their representatives for the new council term.

According to unofficial and unconfirmed results, a close contest was witnessed in several constituencies, with both the Professional Panel and Independent candidates securing key victories across different zones. Vote counting continued late into the evening under the supervision of presiding officers at district bar offices and polling stations, as results from major regions including Kalat,

Chaman, Pishin, Dalbandin, and Nushki began to emerge. In the Kalat Zone, Independent candidate Khalid Mahmood Advocate emerged victorious with 87 votes, securing a clear lead. Zahoor Ahmed Baloch Advocate of the Professional Panel followed in second place with 47 votes, according to unofficial results.

In Chaman, part of the Quetta Zone, the Professional Panel made a strong showing, while Independent candidate Mir Attaulah Langove came second with 35 votes. From the Independent Lawyers Panel, Mir Attaulah Langove won 8 votes, finishing close

behind in third place. The Pishin polling station also reported a tight race under the Quetta Zone. The Professional Panel's Afzal Harifal led with 21 votes, followed by Najebeullah Kakar with 20 votes. Independent candidates Khalil Panizai and Akbar Shah tied for third position, each securing 18 votes.

In Dalbandin, the Professional Panel continued its strong performance. Afzal Harifal took the lead with 39 votes, while Independent candidate Mir Attaulah Langove came second with 35 votes. From the Professional Panel's Najebe Kakar secured third position with 32 votes.

A close contest was recorded in Nushki, where Independent Panel candidates Mir Attaulah Langove and Akbar Shah both finished first with 10 votes each. They were closely followed by Professional Panel's Afzal Harifal and Nader Chigari, who received 9 votes each. Independent candidate Khalil Panizai took third place with 7 votes.

The results highlight a competitive electoral landscape across Balochistan's legal fraternity, with both panels securing representation in multiple districts. Despite the unofficial nature of the results,

Ending crimes against journalists imperative for a just and democratic society: Speaker

ISLAMABAD (INP): Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has said that journalism is an essential pillar of the state and a fundamental component of democracy.

He said that every year, journalists around the world face violence, intimidation, and oppression while performing their professional duties, and many have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

He expressed these views on the eve of the International Day to end impunity for crimes against journalists, which is observed annually on November 2 under the auspices of the United Nations.

The Speaker said that ending crimes against journalists is imperative for the establishment of a just and democratic society.

Condemning the atrocities and killings of journalists in Gaza, Palestine, and Indian illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), he said that the targeting of journalists and media workers by the Israeli occupation forces and Indian armed forces constitutes a blatant violation of human rights, international law, and the principles of freedom of press.

Ayaz Sadiq urged the United Nations and the international community to take immediate notice of the ongoing state terrorism and crimes being committed against journalists in Gaza and Indian illegally

Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. He remarked that such actions are not only an attempt to suppress freedom of expression but also an effort to conceal the truth from the world. The Speaker said that the Parliament of Pakistan has always played an active role in ensuring freedom of the press, freedom of expression, and the safety of journalists.

He added that the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017 stands as a testament to the unwavering commitment of the Parliament and the Government of Pakistan to ensure that citizens, particularly journalists, have access to legislative and governmental information. Ayaz Sadiq reaffirmed that the Parliament will continue to raise its voice at all relevant forums for the protection of journalists and the defense of press freedom.

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ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Attaulah Iqbal and Minister of State for Interior Tahir Chaudhry are holding a press conference here in PID.

INSPAD President, APHC-AJK Convener discuss IIOJK's current situation in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (INP): President of the Institute of Peace and Development (INSPAD), a leading organization active for human rights and religious harmony, Muhammad Tahir Tabassum met with All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir (APHC-AJK) chapter Convener Ghulam Muhammad Safi in Islamabad today and discussed in detail the current situation in occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Muhammad Tahir Tabassum on the occasion said the APHC-AJK is effectively highlighting the

voice of the oppressed people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir at national and international forums.

He said the forum is creating a strong diplomatic narrative, for which the credit goes to Ghulam Muhammad Safi and the entire Hurriyat leadership, who are continuing their freedom struggle on principled grounds even in the most difficult circumstances.

Tahir Tabassum said the role of the Hurriyat leadership in shaking the world conscience and exposing Indian atrocities is of a historic nature and today the Kashmiri dis-

pute has once again become the centre of attention. He said the right to self-determination is the inalienable right of the Kashmiri people and until this right is given to them, the Kashmiri freedom movement will continue at all costs. He said the international community must play its active and impartial role for a just and lasting solution to the circumstances that last peace and stability can be established in South Asia.

Ghulam Muhammad Safi on the occasion said, "To make the Kashmiri freedom movement

organized and strong, we must unite and work with unity on every front." Tahir Tabassum also expressed profound grief and sorrow on the tragic death of the son of APHC-AJK General Secretary Advocate Perviz Ahmed.

He prayed for the elevation of the deceased and for patience for the bereaved family. Kashmiri dispute so that lasting peace and stability can be established in South Asia.

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