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Pakistani Students and Pilgrims Return from Iran as Repatriation Continues

News Desk:

The process of bringing back Pakistani students and pilgrims stranded in Iran is ongoing amid the country's current situation.

According to FIA sources,

around 200 Pakistani nationals have returned to Pakistan over the past two days via the Gabd-Rimdan border, which connects Gwadar with Iran.

Deputy Commissioner Gwadar Naqibullah Kakar said that the repatriation of Pakistani citizens is continuing in

view of the prevailing conditions in Iran.

He confirmed that 51 male and female students arrived in Pakistan from Iran on Monday alone.

The deputy commissioner further stated that more than 125 Pakistani students have so

far returned to the country through the Gabd-Rimdan border.

He added that the district administration has made special arrangements for returning students, including facilities for food, accommodation, and onward travel.

Naqibullah Kakar also said that, given the current circumstances,

the Pakistan Embassy in Iran and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have put in place special measures to facilitate the safe return of Pakistani students and other citizens.

WWF-Pakistan says removal of trees in Islamabad also linked to infrastructure development

NEWS DESK:

WWF-Pakistan on Tuesday disputed the Islamabad authorities' stance that paper mulberry trees were removed in the capital due to allergies, stating that the action was also linked to infrastructure development.

Recently, large-scale tree removal took place in at least three locations in the federal capital, including acres of tree cover around Shakarparian. Islamabad's Capital Development Authority (CDA) has maintained that only paper mulberry trees were removed as they had been causing pollen allergies, and earlier on Tuesday Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry assured lawmakers that more trees would be planted in the coming months.

"WWF-Pakistan's field assessments indicate that vegetation loss in the capital is not limited to Paper Mulberry management alone, but is also linked to infrastructure development in multiple locations," the environmental body said on social media.

"Beyond pollen and allergies, Islamabad's recent tree removal reflects broader challenges in urban planning," it added.

Social media users and even some lawmakers have alleged that, besides paper mulberry, old indigenous trees were also chopped down.

Responding to those queries in the National Assembly on Tuesday, Chaudhry explained there were "three possible reasons" for removing the trees: the presence of paper mulberry species;

areas designated as brown zones in Islamabad's Master Plan but commonly regarded as green until development began, including Embassy Road; and sectors also considered as green areas until they were built.

"I am saying with utmost responsibility that no other species was removed," he asserted, about the claims of other species besides the paper mulberry being cut.

In its Facebook post, WWF-Pakistan noted: "Urban trees play a critical role in soil stability, climate regulation, and biodiversity support."

"Any tree removal must follow evidence-based planning, legal compliance, and clear restoration commitments to ensure long-term ecological balance," it demanded.

Polio sample from North Waziristan tests positive, taking 2025's tally to 31

NEWS DESK:

The tally of polio cases for 2025 reached 31 on Tuesday after a sample collected last year in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's North Waziristan district tested positive. Pakistan's Polio Eradication Programme said in a statement that the Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio Eradication at the National Institute of Health (NIH), Islamabad, had confirmed a case of wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) in North Waziristan. "This is the fifth case reported from North Waziristan in 2025, bringing the total number of polio cases in Pakistan for the past year to 31," it said. Meanwhile, an official from the lab said that the case was included in the list for 2025 as the sample was collected last year.

"It takes up to three weeks to confirm that a child has been affected. There are some more samples in the lab which are being analysed and, in case of confirmation, the tally for 2025 may further increase," he said. He added that wild poliovirus was detected in a four-month-old girl from Union Council Spinward-2 in North Waziristan.

News Desk:

Key issues concerning Balochistan, including security, development planning, and public welfare, were discussed during a high-level meeting held at the Parliament House on Tuesday. Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti met Speaker of the National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail also in attendance.

The chief minister briefed the participants on the prevailing law and order situation in the province, ongoing and proposed welfare schemes, development priorities, and the importance of effective coordination between the federation and the province. He emphasized that sustained progress, social har-



mony and public well-being in Balochistan depend on strong institutional cooperation.

Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq highlighted the need to focus on the rights of women and youth, social uplift, and human resource development in the province. He said Balochistan is vital to Pakistan's overall growth

and stressed that resolving the province's challenges remains a key priority of the government.

Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar said the federal government is committed to the swift, transparent, and efficient implementation of projects in infrastructure, education, and healthcare in Balochistan.

He reiterated that the welfare and development of the province's people are being treated as a national priority and assured continued support to the provincial government.

The meeting agreed that co-ordinated efforts by parliament, the federal government, and the provincial administration would help en-

sure long-term development, economic stability, and social progress in Balochistan.

The speaker noted that Balochistan holds a special place for him and assured that all possible resources would be mobilized to address the province's issues.

Participants also acknowledged the role of security forces and law enforcement agencies in maintaining peace and stability in the province, appreciating their professionalism and sacrifices.

The speaker's efforts to strengthen links between federal and provincial democratic institutions were also commended.

The meeting concluded with a consensus to further deepen federal-provincial cooperation, maintain close coordination on shared development objectives, and continue collaboration on public welfare initiatives.

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Balochistan's Historic Shift to Merit-Based Government Jobs: Ending Corruption and Empowering Youth



Editorial:

In a province long plagued by nepotism and job-selling scandals, Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has taken a bold and welcome stand. He has declared zero tolerance for corruption, favoritism, and the sale of government posts — and he is backing his words with action.

The announcement of filling 111 Finance Department vacancies through a fully online, paperless, and 100% merit-based recruitment process marks a genuine turning point for transparent governance in Balochistan.

For the first time in the province's history, candidates will apply and be tested entirely online.

Qualifications will be verified instantly, and successful applicants will receive appointment letters within an hour. This fast, fair system eliminates middlemen,

backdoor deals, and bribery — the very practices that have robbed deserving young people of opportunities for decades.

This merit-based recruitment drive in Balochistan is more than administrative reform; it is a lifeline for the province's educated youth.

By ensuring government jobs go to qualified candidates rather than relatives or those who can pay, the initiative restores hope and dignity.

As Chief Minister Bugti has promised, the model will soon expand to all departments, creating a culture where talent, not connections, determines success.

The broader impact on Balochistan's development and stability should be profound.

Transparent hiring means better-qualified civil servants, leading to more efficient public services, reduced waste,

age of funds, and faster implementation of development projects.

When resources reach the people instead of corrupt pockets, infrastructure, education, and health services improve — laying the foundation for sustained economic growth.

Equally important, fair job opportunities address a major source of youth frustration in the province. Giving young Baloch the chance to serve their homeland on merit can reduce alienation and contribute to lasting peace.

Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti's focus on merit, technology-driven transparency, and accountability offers real hope. If these anti-corruption reforms in Balochistan are implemented with consistency, they can transform governance, unlock the potential of the province's youth, and set a powerful example for the rest of Pakistan.

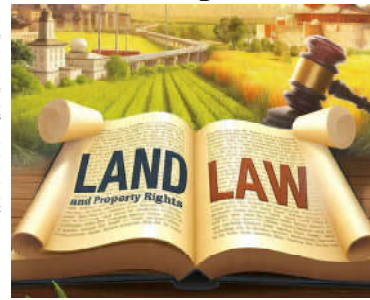
By Amir Hamza Bashir:

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 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 records and reduce human in-

terference in property registration and ownership verification.

Challenges in Pakistan's Land System

Pakistan continues to face issues like illegal possession (land grabbing), forged documents, and slow judicial processes. These problems create un-

certainly 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

Anjeela 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 in-

tended to accommodate the city's rapid population growth and rising number of vehicles. Although the city was rebuilt after the 1955 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, Sariah 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 in Quetta

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 Baloachistan University Chowk, Meeran Chowk, and Prince Road, frequently experience severe traffic jams.

The Surge of Non-Custom Paid (NCP) and Unregistered Vehicles

The unchecked influx of non-custom paid (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 De-

partment, 2024).

Despite periodic crackdowns, including the 2023 seizure of 115 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 (INRIX, 2024). Roads such as Joint Road, Sariah Road,

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 development. As a result, this system hampers

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

The Problems with Capitalism

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's needs, and greed, not justice, is the guiding principle.

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 a 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.



Consensus on matters of national security need of the hour, DG ISPR says

NEWS DESK: Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director General Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry has stated that unity and consensus on matters of national security and narrative is the need of the hour, Radio Pakistan reported on Tuesday.

According to the report, he made the remarks as a delegation of the National Faigham-i-Aman Committee (NPAC), led by its Chairman Hafiz Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, met with the DG ISPR in Rawalpindi.

"Speaking on the occasion, the DG ISPR emphasised that unity and consensus on matters of national security and narrative were the need of the hour," it said.

He said a comprehensive discussion was held on internal security challenges in the context of Fitna al Khawarij, Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan and Tehreek-i-Taliban Afghanistan, which further strengthened the shared stance of all stakeholders, it said.

"Reiterating Islamabad's principled position on Kashmir, Gaza and Gaza, DG ISPR

said supporting oppressed peoples is Pakistan's moral responsibility," it added.

He stressed that public awareness and a truth-based narrative were decisive tools in countering the enemy's psychological warfare, the report said.

Terming the meeting as highly productive, the DG ISPR expressed hope for further progress in building trust and enhancing practical cooperation in the days ahead, it said.

Meanwhile, the NPAC delegation expressed unwavering solidarity with Pakistan's armed forces and reaffirmed their collective resolve to counter anti-state narratives and hostile propaganda, it said.

Assuring full cooperation in promoting the national narrative, the committee strongly condemned Fitna al Khawarij as well as the Afghan Taliban, stressing that terrorism had no justification under any circumstances, the report said.

It also announced plans to disseminate the message of Islamic unity, social harmony and constitutional equality across the country

through mosques and other religious public forums, it said, adding that it was also agreed to adopt a zero-tolerance policy against hate speech and sectarianism. The committee also proposed enhancing awareness and guidance sessions in mosques, seminars and universities to effectively promote the state narrative.

The DG ISPR's meeting comes less than a week after Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) and Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Field Marshal Asim Munir emphasised the army's zero-tolerance policy towards any threats to national security.

The CDF had made the remarks while addressing officers during a visit to Lahore Garrison, where he also reaffirmed the military's resolve to respond to evolving challenges with professionalism and determination.

He said the armed forces "remained committed to safeguarding Pakistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity and internal stability, while promoting discipline, excellence and selfless national service".

3 women suffocate in Rawalpindi due to gas leak from geyser: police

NEWS DESK: Three women died due to a gas leak at an apartment in Rawalpindi on Tuesday. Initially, Rescue 1122 spokesperson Usman Gujjar had told Dawn that the incident was an explosion caused by a suspected gas leak.

However, Intiaz Nazir, a sub-inspector at Rawat police station, said that all the victims suffocated because of a gas leak from an instant geyser.

Meanwhile, a Rescue 1122 statement, which confirmed the casualties, said one woman found unresponsive at the scene had been taken to a hospital where she was being provided medical assistance.

According to Rescue 1122, the ages of the deceased women were 45, 60 and 70 years, while the one who lost consciousness was 23 years old.

The statement said the incident occurred in Bahria Town Phase VII, and two emergency vehicles as well as five rescue personnel were sent



to the site, following a search and rescue operation was initiated.

It further stated that Rawalpindi District Emergency Officer Engineer Sibghatullah pointed to a "significant increase" in gas leak incidents due to the increased use of gas heaters and stoves at homes during the winter season.

Rescue 1122 said most of these incidents were a consequence of "minor negligence", advising citizens not to turn any electricity switch on or off if they smell gas, nor light a match in such a situation. Instead, open win-

dows and doors to ventilate the house and relocate all residents to a safe place outside the house, it said.

The incident comes two days after an explosion in Islamabad on Sunday claimed the lives of eight people, including a newlywed couple.

Twelve people were injured in the explosion, which officials said seemed to have been caused by a gas cylinder, but a thorough investigation would determine the exact cause. Prime Minister Sheikh Sharif had also ordered an inquiry into the explosion.

FCC takes up first case at new premises

NEWS DESK: The Federal Constitutional Court finally settled into its newly renovated building on Constitution Avenue on Monday, where FCC Chief Justice Amin-uddin Khan presided over a bench to resume hearing challenges to the imposition of the super tax inside the refurbished Courtroom No. 1.

Before the hearing, Justice Amin-uddin Khan inaugurated the new court building in a simple ceremony attended by Justices Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi, Amir Farooq, Ali

Baqar Najai and K.K. Azam Nazeer Tarar, Attorney General for Pakistan Mansoor Usman Awan, Supreme Court Justice Asad Ali Khan, President Haroon Rashid, FCC Registrar Hafeez Khan, along with lawyers and staff of the new establishment.

The FCC has a total sanctioned strength of 13 judges. Soon after its establishment, the FCC was shifted to the Islamabad High Court on a temporary basis, though it was originally envisaged that the new apex court would be

housed in the building designated for the Federal Shariat Court (FSC). The FCC had to move to the IHC after FCC judges resisted the plan and decided against their premises.

Courtroom No. 1 has been completely revamped with new furniture and fixtures, replacing the older seating, along with the installation of a modern audio system to facilitate lawyers and litigants.

However, a senior lawyer expressed disappointment over the currently available facilities in the building.

Dawood Ahmed, News Desk: ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has formally nominated Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP) Chairman Mehmood Khan Achakzai for the post of Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly, party sources confirmed on Tuesday.

PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan said the nomination papers have been submitted to the National Assembly Speaker, making this the second time the party has put forward Achakzai's name for the influential parliamentary role.

The development comes after National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq responded to the Speaker on January 12, opposition members expressed confidence in Achakzai's leadership and parliamentary experience. The letter referred

to Rule 39 of the National Assembly's Rules of Procedure, which states that the opposition leader must be chosen from among members who enjoy the support of a majority on the opposition benches.

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Work on ML-I project to commence from Karachi Port in July this year: Abbasi

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi has announced that work on the Main Line-I (ML-I) project will commence from Karachi Port in July 2026.

During his visit to

Karachi and a meeting with Chairman Karachi Port Trust (KPT), Rear Admiral (R) Shahid Ahmed, the minister said that a joint strategy has been finalized to enhance the port's logistics and cargo handling performance.

Both sides agreed to strengthen the railway system to ensure efficient transportation of cargo from Karachi Port, said a press release issued here on Tuesday. The minister out-

lined major reform initiatives that serious efforts are underway to shift freight movement from road to rail in order to improve efficiency and reduce logistics costs.

He said Pakistan Railways would significantly expand its cargo handling capacity in the coming months. As part of this initiative, the railway infrastructure connected to Karachi Port will be upgraded and

made more effective. Hanif Abbasi further announced that the 54-kilometer railway section between KPT and Pipri will be modernized to facilitate faster and smoother cargo movement. He said that Paki-

stan Railways plans to operate four freight trains daily within the next five months, a step expected to play a crucial role in promoting rail-based cargo transportation.

Chairman KPT Rear Admiral (R) Shahid Ahmed reaffirmed that bulk cargo transportation would be prioritized through rail and stated that KPT would upgrade its internal railway tracks to support enhanced freight operations.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets a delegation from Ericsson led by President Patrick Johansson.

Govt, opposition reach consensus on appointing new opposition leader in NA

ISLAMABAD (INP): The government and opposition have reached a consensus on appointing a new opposition leader following the disqualification of PTI's Omar Ayub as Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly.

According to sources, Achakzai will be the sole candidate of the united opposition. NA Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq assured that Achakzai will be appointed as the Leader of the Opposition after completing the required legal formalities.

Sources said the NA speaker will fulfill all procedural requirements before issuing the notification for the appointment.

Earlier, a Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) delegation met speaker of the National Assembly and formally submitted the nomination of Achakzai for the posi-

tion of opposition leader. The PTI delegation included Barrister Gohar Ali, Asad Qaiser, Aamir Dogar and Iqbal Afridi, while Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Tariq Fazal Chaudhry was also present at the meeting.

Speaking to the media, PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali said that the appointment of the opposition leader would be made by Thursday. He said the Speaker holds the authority to issue the notification at any time, adding that once the opposition leader is appointed in the National Assembly, the appointment in the Senate will also follow.

He further said that there is no forward bloc within PTI, and that the party's founder was, is, and will remain its chairman. He added that no political committee can alter PTI founder Imran Khan's decisions.

Heavy fog forces closure of several motorway sections

LAHORE (INP): Heavy fog in plain areas of Punjab, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on night between Monday and Tuesday forced closure of several motorway sections after visibility dropped, Dunya News reported. According to the Motorway Police spokesperson, Motorway M1 from Peshawar to Burhan, Motorway M2 from Lahore to Islamabad, Motorway M3 from Faizpur to Jaranwala, Motorway M4 from Abdul Hakim, Motorway M5 from Multan to Rohri and Motorway M11 from Lahore to Sambrial have been closed for all kind of traffic.

The Motorway Police said that monitoring teams are deployed on major routes to ensure safety and manage traffic flow as weather conditions evolve. Authorities have warned that lane violations during fog can lead to serious accidents, urging drivers to strictly follow lane discipline. Motorists have been advised to use fog lights, maintain a safe distance from vehicles ahead while driving. Citizens planning to travel have been instructed to prefer daytime journeys. The Motorway Police has defined safe travel timings between 10:00am and 6:00pm when visibility is relatively better. The police further advised the public to avoid unnecessary travel and contact the Motorway helpline 130 for guidance or assistance during fog-related disruptions. Motorway Police said that monitoring teams are deployed on major routes to ensure safety and manage traffic flow as weather conditions evolve.

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China-Pakistan Neurosurgery Forum held to fosters medical cooperation

ISLAMABAD (INP): The China-Pakistan Neurosurgery Forum was held at the Zhongshan (Central South) Hospital of Wuhan University, marking the launch of the first phase of the Luojia Medical International Forum hosted by the hospital.

The hybrid event brought together more than 35 neurosurgeons, medical scholars, hospital administrators and international students from both countries who engaged in substantive discussions on deepening collaboration in clinical practice, joint medical training, scientific research and

advancing the vision of the China-Pakistan health corridor. In his keynote speech, Dr. Muhammad Shahbaz, President of the China-Pakistan Medical Association, delivered a presentation titled "China-Pakistan Health Corridor: Opportunities, Challenges and Future Perspectives".

He provided an analysis of the current healthcare landscape in Pakistan, reviewed the ongoing collaborative healthcare initiatives between the two countries and outlined a vision for a high-profile operation. Upon thorough search, the police recovered a heavy quantity of arms and cartridges concealed in secret compartments of the vehicle. The operation was led by Station House Officer (SHO), Abid Waseem along with his team. The police successfully traced and solved a blind murder case. Following the complaint lodged by the brother of deceased Amjad, DPO Shehbaz Elahi issued special instructions for immediate investigation. Following the directives, SHO Abid Waseem and his team utilized modern technology, evidence, and ground intelligence to identify the prime suspect.

Joining the forum from Lahore in a virtual

session, Professor Azam Niaz, Chairman Department of Neurosurgery, King Edward Medical University, provided a comprehensive overview of the development of neurosurgery in Pakistan.

He outlined existing clinical capabilities, discussed challenges faced by local institutions and reaffirmed his strong commitment to fostering closer ties with his Chinese medical counterparts.

Professor Niaz highlighted the need to expand training and research opportunities in China for Pakistani neurosurgeons, as well as to strengthen cooperative mechanisms for managing complex neurosurgical cases.

The session was also addressed by Professor Chen Jincao, head of the neurosurgery department at the Zhongnan Hospital of Wuhan University.

In his remarks, Professor Chen highlighted the importance of sustained academic exchanges and long-term partnerships in elevating neurosurgical standards and healthcare outcomes in both countries.

The forum also featured professional insights and presentations from other senior hospital leaders, including Professor Hou Zuyong and additional medical experts, who shared their expertise and perspectives on bilateral medical collaboration.

Bid to foiled smuggle a large cache of arms, ammunition foiled

KOHAT (INP): On the special directives of District Police Officer (DPO) Kohat, Shehbaz Elahi, the police on Tuesday foiled a major attempt to smuggle a large cache of arms and ammunition during a high-profile operation.

According to the police sources, the MRS police intercepted a suspicious vehicle at the High check post. Upon thorough search, the police recovered a heavy quantity of arms and cartridges concealed in secret compartments of the vehicle. The operation was led by Station House Officer (SHO), Abid Waseem along with his team. The police successfully traced and solved a blind murder case. Following the complaint lodged by the brother of deceased Amjad, DPO Shehbaz Elahi issued special instructions for immediate investigation. Following the directives, SHO Abid Waseem and his team utilized modern technology, evidence, and ground intelligence to identify the prime suspect.

tion is underway, while cases are being conducted to apprehend facilitators and other members of the smuggling network. In a separate development, the police arrested a proclaimed offender. The accused named Khayal Gul was apprehended during routine patrolling in the Mirchungi area. In charge Shadi Khel Police Port, Roman Khan, along with his team, arrested the fugitive, who was wanted in a murder case. The accused was shifted to the concerned police station for further legal proceedings. Meanwhile, the MRS Police successfully traced and solved a blind murder case. Following the complaint lodged by the brother of deceased Amjad, DPO Shehbaz Elahi issued special instructions for immediate investigation. Following the directives, SHO Abid Waseem and his team utilized modern technology, evidence, and ground intelligence to identify the prime suspect.

NA committees present periodical reports for first half of 2025

ISLAMABAD (INP): Several standing committees of the National Assembly presented their periodical reports for the first half of 2025 during the session at the lower house on Tuesday.

MNA Tahira Aurangzeb, on behalf of the Standing Committee on Finance, submitted the committee's report covering the period from January 1 to June 30, 2025. She was followed by Malik Muhammad Amir Dogar, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, who presented his committee's report for the same period.

Zahra Wadood Fatmi, representing the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Human Rights, also submitted the periodic report, emphasizing the committee's work during the first half of the year. The Standing Committee on Climate Change and Environment Coordination, represented by Tahira

Aurangzeb, likewise presented its report. Major (r) Tahir Iqbal moved for the presentation of the Standing Committee on Planning and Development and Special Initiatives' report for the January-June 2025 period.

Raja Khurram Shahzad Nawaz, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Interior and Narcotics Control, requested the House to condone the delay in presenting the report on the Capital Development Authority Amendment Bill 2025, which he subsequently presented.

Similarly, Naveed Qamar sought condonation for the delay in presenting the report on the Corporate Social Responsibility Bill 2025, which was later submitted. Dr. Shazia Sobia Aslam Soomro, Acting Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Federal Education and Professional Training, moved for and subsequently presented the report on the Allied Institute Multan Bill 2025.



RIYADH: Federal Minister for Petroleum Affairs Pervais Malik held a meeting with H.E. Bandar Ibrahim Al-Khorayef, Saudi Minister of Industry and Mineral Resources on the sidelines of Future Minerals Forum.

Work on ML-I project to commence from Karachi Port in July this year: Abbasi

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi has announced that work on the Main Line-I (ML-I) project will commence from Karachi Port in July 2026.

During his visit to Karachi and a meeting with Chairman Karachi Port Trust (KPT), Rear Admiral (R) Shahid Ahmed, the minister said that a joint strategy has been finalized to enhance the port's logistics and cargo handling performance.

Both sides agreed to strengthen the railway system to ensure efficient transportation of cargo from Karachi Port, said a press release issued here on Tuesday.

The minister outlined major reform initiatives in the cargo transport sector, stressing that serious efforts are underway to shift freight movement from road to rail in order to improve efficiency and reduce logistics costs.

He said Pakistan Railways would significantly expand its cargo handling capacity

in the coming months. As part of this initiative, the railway infrastructure connected to Karachi Port will be upgraded and made more effective.

Hanif Abbasi further announced that the 54-kilometer railway section between KPT and Pipri will be modernized to facilitate faster and smoother cargo movement.

He said that Pakistan Railways plans to operate four freight trains daily within the next five months, a step expected to play

a crucial role in promoting rail-based cargo transportation. Chairman KPT Rear Admiral (R) Shahid Ahmed reaffirmed that bulk cargo transportation would be prioritized through rail and stated that KPT would upgrade its internal railway tracks to support enhanced freight operations.

Both sides reiterated their commitment to jointly improving Karachi Port's logistics efficiency, with the aim of strengthening Pakistan's trade and transport network.

Ten key sectors open for investment at Pak-China Agriculture Conference

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan has intensified efforts to draw Chinese investment into its agriculture sector ahead of the Pakistan-China Agriculture Investment Conference 2026, as authorities prioritize investment-ready and commercially viable projects over policy discussions.

Officials at the Ministry of National Food Security & Research (MNFSR) say the conference, scheduled for January 19 in Islamabad, is focused on presenting Chinese investors with concrete opportunities across ten priority agricultural sectors identified for their strong growth potential, scalability, and alignment with Chinese market demand.

According to a Gwadar Pro's report, these sectors include agri-chemicals and farm inputs; agri-technology and precision agriculture solutions; food processing and value addition; the meat and poultry industry; dairy inputs and processed dairy products; fruits and vegetables covering production, cultivation, processing, and export; animal feed and related value chains; fisheries and aquaculture including processing; cold chain systems and agriculture logistics; and food-grade packaging materials and equipment.

In the run-up to the conference, MNFSR has held a series of online orientation sessions to brief Chinese investors

on these priority sectors and the investment-ready projects within them. The sessions, organized in collaboration with Pakistan's diplomatic missions in China, were aimed at familiarizing Chinese agribusiness firms, companies, and investors with joint venture opportunities, technology partnerships, and commercially sound proposals to be showcased at the conference.

According to ministry officials, the conference will offer Chinese investors a curated pipeline of bankable projects spanning modern farming, value-added agribusiness, processing, storage, logistics, and technology-driven agricultural solutions. The focus remains

on ventures with clear implementation plans and the potential to move swiftly toward execution. As part of the preparations, MNFSR evaluated dozens of proposals submitted by Pakistani private companies, and investors with joint venture opportunities. The evaluation process assessed commercial feasibility, scalability, technology integration, and prospects for joint ventures with Chinese firms. Officials said the shortlisted projects will underpin targeted business-to-business engagements during the conference, with the aim of facilitating memorandums of understanding, joint ventures, and direct investment commitments.



ISLAMABAD: Japanese Ambassador Akamatsu Shuichi and Secretary Economic Affairs, Muhammad Humair Karim, signing Grant-in-Aid Project between Pakistan and Japan. Japan has extended a grant aid of 2,910 million Japanese Yen to Pakistan for the Project for the Improvement of Child Health Care Facilities in South Punjab.

DC Sibi Chairs District Development Committee Meeting; Rs. 250 Million Projects Approved Under BSDI Phase-II



SIBI: A meeting of the District Development Committee was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Sibi, Major (R) Ilyas Kabzai, in which Wing Commander Colonel Zahair, Colonel Abdul Mannan, Assistant Commissioner Sibi Mansoor Ali Shah, Executive Engineer KESCO Zafar Ali, Executive Engineer Urban Planning & Development Raziq Murri, and officers from concerned departments participated.

While addressing the meeting, DC Major (R) Ilyas Kabzai stated that BSDI Phase-I has been successfully completed, for which he expressed gratitude to Almighty Allah, adding that the project provided the public with essential services including health, education, clean drinking water, and other basic facilities.

He said that keeping in view the issues raised during open courts and public outreach campaigns, several development schemes under BSDI Phase-II have already been approved.

He informed that in Phase-II, education, healthcare, and clean drinking water have been given top priority, and development projects worth Rs. 250 million have been sanctioned.

The approved schemes include:

Solarization of various schools across Sibi district Solarization of women halls and police stations Construction of Tuff Telle streets, paved roads, Establishments for a separate room for women and solar system at the Police Public Library Provision of classrooms for shelter-less schools in different localities.

The Deputy Commissioner further stated that Sibi is a hot region where electricity demand remains extremely high due to severe heat.

Therefore, considering public complaints raised in open courts, electric transformers worth Rs. 20 million have also been approved to resolve load shedding and voltage issues, providing relief to the citizens.

DC Kabzai emphasized that the core objective of these development initiatives is to ensure timely and sustainable solutions to public problems. He directed all departments to maintain transparency, quality, and speed while executing development work.

The session was attended by various officials, including the Director General of Agriculture Extension, Masood Baloch, Additional Deputy Commissioner Pishin, Najam Kakr, Director Economic and Marketing, Abdul Khaliq Jozgari, Secretary of the Market Committee Pishin, Shah Zaman

As part of the development efforts, a ceremony to lay the foundation for a mosque and other essential facilities at the Pishin Fruit and Vegetable Market will be held on January 24, with the participation of selected members of the provincial assembly, district administration, union representatives, and local dignitaries.

Economic Growth and Benefits for Farmers: Secretary Parkani further highlighted that the full activation of the market would not only boost business activities in the region but also provide better market access, competitive pricing, and various other facilities.

Upcoming Inauguration Ceremony: This, he said, would contribute significantly to the overall economic growth of the area.

Public Awareness and Communication: In a bid to keep all stakeholders informed, it was decided that the Pishin Market Committee will regularly publish advertisements in newspapers to provide essential updates and raise awareness about the market's activities and developments.

The full operationalization of the Pishin Fruit and Vegetable Market is expected to have a transformative impact on the local economy, fostering growth in agriculture, trade, and local business activities.

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Secretary of Agriculture Balochistan Chairs Key Meeting on Enhancing Pishin Fruit and Vegetable Market



QUETTA: A crucial meeting regarding the full operationalization of the Pishin Fruit and Vegetable Market was chaired by Secretary of Agriculture Balochistan, Noor Ahmad Parkani.

The meeting involved key decisions to make the market fully functional and enhance its role in the local economy.

The session was attended by various officials, including the Director General of Agriculture Extension, Masood Baloch, Additional Deputy Commissioner Pishin, Najam Kakr, Director Economic and Marketing, Abdul Khaliq Jozgari, Secretary of the Market Committee Pishin, Shah Zaman

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Economic Growth and Benefits for Farmers: Secretary Parkani further highlighted that the full activation of the market would not only boost business activities in the region but also provide better market access, competitive pricing, and various other facilities.

Upcoming Inauguration Ceremony: This, he said, would contribute significantly to the overall economic growth of the area.

Public Awareness and Communication: In a bid to keep all stakeholders informed, it was decided that the Pishin Market Committee will regularly publish advertisements in newspapers to provide essential updates and raise awareness about the market's activities and developments.

The full operationalization of the Pishin Fruit and Vegetable Market is expected to have a transformative impact on the local economy, fostering growth in agriculture, trade, and local business activities.

While addressing the meeting, DC Major (R) Ilyas Kabzai stated that BSDI Phase-I has been successfully completed, for which he expressed gratitude to Almighty Allah, adding that the project provided the public with essential services including health, education, clean drinking water, and other basic facilities.

He said that keeping in view the issues raised during open courts and public outreach campaigns, several development schemes under BSDI Phase-II have already been approved.

He informed that in Phase-II, education, healthcare, and clean drinking water have been given top priority, and development projects worth Rs. 250 million have been sanctioned.

The approved schemes include:

Solarization of various schools across Sibi district Solarization of women halls and police stations Construction of Tuff Telle streets, paved roads, Establishments for a separate room for women and solar system at the Police Public Library Provision of classrooms for shelter-less schools in different localities.

The Deputy Commissioner further stated that Sibi is a hot region where electricity demand remains extremely high due to severe heat.

Therefore, considering public complaints raised in open courts, electric transformers worth Rs. 20 million have also been approved to resolve load shedding and voltage issues, providing relief to the citizens.

DC Kabzai emphasized that the core objective of these development initiatives is to ensure timely and sustainable solutions to public problems. He directed all departments to maintain transparency, quality, and speed while executing development work.

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DC Duki Chairs Key Meeting on Special Support Program for Education and Healthcare

DUKI: A crucial meeting regarding the Special Support Program was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Duki, Mohammad Naem Khan.

The meeting was attended by key officials, including District Education Officer Dr. Naseeruddin Tokhai, District Health Officer Dr. Bahadur Khan Loni, Accounts Officer Abdul Baqi, Social Welfare Officer Jahanzeb Khan, and other relevant personnel.

During the meeting, a detailed review was conducted of the documents submitted by deserving individuals seeking support under the Special Support Program for education and medical treatment.

The applications were thoroughly examined to ensure fairness and transparency.

Key Highlights of the Meeting: Transparent Review Process: DC Mohammad Naem Khan instructed all concerned officials to ensure that the verification process of the applications is conducted with full transparency.

Successful Implementation of the "No Parking" Initiative: The meeting also discussed the successful implementation of the "No Parking" initiative across the city, which has significantly reduced traffic congestion and improved the flow of traffic.

Recognition of Traffic Officers: A group of traffic officers were recognized for their exemplary performance during a ceremony at the Deputy Commissioner's office.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Miran Baloch expressed appreciation for the honest and efficient work carried out by the QRF and Levies Force, which significantly reduced traffic issues for the residents of Loralai.

He mentioned that the Levies Force is now officially part of the police force and urged the officers to continue working with the same integrity and dedication.

"If you perform with sincerity and honesty in the police force, success will undoubtedly follow," he said.

The QRF, Levies Force, and Traffic Police play a key role in improving traffic flow.

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SP Musa Khel Chairs Key Meeting on Integration of B Area into A Area Police Jurisdiction

MUSA KHEL: A significant meeting regarding the swift completion of the integration process of B Area into A Area under police jurisdiction was chaired by SP Musa Khel, Kaleemullah Kakr.

The meeting was attended by all relevant committee members involved in the integration process.

In his address, SP Musa Khel emphasized that after the integration of the Levies Force, the scope of the police's authority has significantly expanded. Both the former A Area and B Area are now completely under police control.

He assured that the handover and takeover process would be completed in an efficient, transparent, and smooth manner, as the relevant committees have already been formed.

Key Points Discussed During the Meeting: Successful Integration of Levies Force: SP Musa Khel pointed out that the inclusion of the Levies Force into the police system has greatly enhanced the law enforcement capacity in the district. He directed the committee members to work closely with the Deputy Commissioner of Musa Khel to expedite the formal procedures related to the integration.

Equal Treatment for Levies Personnel: He also reassured that after the integration, all Levies personnel will be considered part of the police force, and no discriminatory treatment will be allowed. All procedures will be conducted based on merit and transparency.

Key Education Meeting Held to Discuss Educational Development and Literacy Challenges

KHUZDAR: A significant meeting of the District Education Group was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Khuzdar, Abdul Razaq Sassi.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue, Rehmatullah Baloch, District Education Officer, Abid Hussain Baloch, Executive Engineer of the Communication and Construction Department, Saleem Razaq Umar.

During the meeting, the officials discussed the challenges faced by the education system in Khuzdar and explored ways to improve the quality of education and literacy rates.

The officials also discussed the importance of investing in education and infrastructure to create a better future for the district's residents.

The meeting concluded with a commitment to continue working together to address the educational challenges and promote the development of the district.

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PIA's revival set in motion with \$482 million privatisation deal

NEWS DESK: Arif Habib, chairman of the investment firm that headed the consortium which secured a 75% majority stake in Pakistan International Airlines Corporation Ltd (PIACL) through a televised public auction on December 23, 2025, outlined plans to revive the national carrier during a media briefing in Karachi.

The winning bid of Rs135 billion (approximately \$482 million) marked the first major privatisation of a state-owned enterprise in nearly two decades and underscored Pakistan's commitment to market-driven economic reforms supported by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The government will retain the remaining 25% stake, with potential future discussions on its acquisition by the consortium or a strategic foreign partner.

Habib said the airline's revival will require disciplined capital management and professional governance, representing a clear departure from decades of sovereign-backed operations. "PIA incurred losses of nearly Rs800 billion because previous managements did not bother to hedge," he said. "They assumed money was going straight to government coffers, so there was little incentive to manage risks from fluctuating oil prices or currency devaluation." Under private ownership, he added, every financial decision carries direct consequences, making risk management, operational efficiency and profitability essential.



The consortium's ownership structure shows that Fauji Fertiliser Company Limited (FFC), a military-affiliated and publicly listed fertiliser giant, holds 25% of the privatised stake. The Arif Habib Group, together with Fatima Fertiliser, holds another 25%, while the remaining 25% is shared among AKD

Group Holdings, City Schools (Private) Limited and Lake City Holdings (Private) Limited, a real estate company. Habib explained that FFC joined after the auction at the consortium's request. "Fauji Fertiliser said whoever wins the auction, they will join that party," he said. "We told them that if they

wanted us to be the Imam of this prayer, they would need to offer the prayer behind us." He said FFC's inclusion added financial heft and strategic credibility to the consortium.

The consortium plans to assume full operational control around April 2026 and has committed to reinvesting ap-

proximately Rs125 billion from the bid proceeds into fleet modernisation, route expansion, debt management and broader operational improvements. Habib said no layoffs were planned for at least one year. "We want to give current employees time to adjust to the new dynamics, polish their

skills and align with a performance-oriented culture," he said. He praised the dedication of PIA employees for keeping the airline operational despite years of systemic hurdles, weak management and service challenges that drove millions of Pakistani travellers and members of the

diaspora toward competing airlines. A central pillar of the turnaround strategy will be a renewed focus on high-value passenger segments, including Hajj and Umrah pilgrims travelling to Saudi Arabia and Pakistanis living abroad.

These segments, numbering in the millions, were historically loyal to PIA but shifted to competitors as service standards declined under state management. "We intend to regain their trust by restoring service quality, safety and reliability," Habib said.

Operational plans include a merit-based approach to workforce management. Employees demonstrating competence and adaptability will be retained, while training and coaching programmes will be offered to those falling short of performance benchmarks. Fleet expansion is also a priority, with plans to raise the number of operational aircraft from the current 15 to 18 to 38 in the short term, including Airbus A320X, Boeing 777s and ATR aircraft.

Habib said safety would remain non-negotiable, with zero tolerance for violations of standard operating procedures.

Policies being evolved to support small and medium enterprises (SMEs)

NEWS DESK: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Industries and Production Haroon Akhtar Khan has said that supporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs) through responsive policies and targeted facilitation will help unlock growth, reduce the trade deficit, and create much-needed jobs.

During his visit to Techno Auto Glass Ltd, Pak Suzuki Motor Company Ltd, and Aisha Steel Mills at Bin Qasim Industrial Park on Monday, he expressed appreciation for the industrial infrastructure that is helping create

highly skilled, much-needed jobs in the manufacturing sector. He pledged the government's support for the sector, especially by facilitating higher volumes of small cars for Pakistan's middle and lower-middle classes, who currently use motorcycles.

Mr Haroon was briefed by industry representatives and Smeida Chief Executive Officer Nadia Jahangir Seth on the contribution of SME clusters to Pakistan's manufacturing and export sectors. Around 75 companies in the automotive and automotive parts industry

operate in Bin Qasim and surrounding areas, providing employment to almost 100,000 people and producing high-quality local parts used in the automotive sector. Ms Seth briefed the SAPM on ongoing initiatives to support SME clusters, including efforts to improve access to finance, enhance technology, and expand market linkages. The industry stakeholders pledged to further increase their localisation efforts to reduce costs and transfer skilled jobs to Pakistan, creating opportunities for the young population.



NEWS DESK: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) has approved the government's motion to keep end-consumer tariff of distribution companies (DISCOs) unchanged for the calendar year 2026.

In its decision released on Monday, Nepra pointed out that the Power Division had stated that over the years unit sales had gone down from 113 billion kilowatt hours (kWh) in financial year 2023 to the projected 101 billion kWh in FY26, primarily due to the influx of solar net metering and off-grid solar. The capacity of net metering and off-grid solar has increased to 6,539 megawatts and 12,629 MW, respectively, which leaves an impact of around Rs3.5/kWh on grid rates.

The Ministry of Energy said that the total revenue requirement of ex-Wapda DISCOs for FY26, as determined by Nepra, had decreased by Rs142 billion as compared to FY26, resulting in a reduction of Rs0.62

kWh in the average base tariff for the calendar year. Explaining the reasons, the Power Division highlighted that the major factor for the reduction in the average rate was the decrease in power purchase price for FY26 as compared to FY26. The division explained that although the average tariff had been slashed by Rs0.62, the reduction was eaten up by the change in sales mix as subsidised consumers increased exponentially from 9.5 mil-

lion in FY22 to 20.71 million by June 2025. With this shift, the consumption from subsidised consumers rose from 8,527 million kWh in FY21 to 19,711 million kWh by June 2025.

It was also submitted that despite the change in sales mix, the federal government decided to maintain the existing applicable tariff for each category of consumers and out of the total determined revenue requirement of Rs3,379 billion, a sub-

sidy of Rs248 billion would be picked up by the federal government. Nepra determined the uniform tariff as required under Section 31(4) of the Act, which included the impact of previous year adjustments of Rs71.572 billion, to be passed on over 12 months from the date of notifying the decision.

The proposed electricity base rates for various categories of domestic consumers will be in the range of Rs3.95 per unit to Rs47.69 per unit for the ongoing year. For the domestic consumers using more than 700 units per month, the tariff will be Rs47.69 per unit, while for the protected domestic consumers using 1-100 units, the tariff will be Rs10.54 per unit, and for the protected domestic consumers using 101-100 units, the tariff will be Rs13.01 per unit.

For the non-protected domestic consumers using 1-100 units, the tariff will be Rs22.44 per unit, and for consumers using 101-200 units, it will be Rs28.91 per unit. The tariff for 201-300 units will be Rs33.10 per unit, while for 301-400 units, it will be Rs37.99 to Rs39.05 per unit. The tariff for 401-500 units will stay at the existing Rs40.22 per unit. The tariff for consumption of 501-600 units will be Rs41.62 per unit, and for 601-700 units, it will remain at Rs42.76 per unit. For the lifeline domestic consumers using 1-50 units and 51-100 units, the tariff will remain unchanged at Rs3.95 per unit and Rs7.74 per unit, respectively.

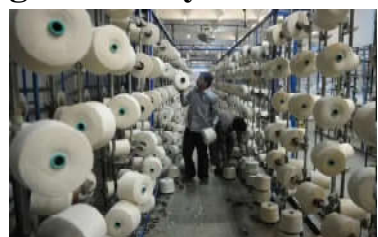


Textile exports log fourth straight monthly decline

NEWS DESK: In what appears to be major concerns over the country's export performance, Pakistan's textile and clothing sector recorded a 2.57 per cent decline in November, the fourth straight month of negative growth, signalling persistent challenges in one of the country's key industries.

The November decline extends a trend of volatility in the textile and clothing industry, which had seen a sharp rebound of over 30 per cent in July — the first month of the current fiscal year. The stark contrast highlights unstable global demand and ongoing domestic challenges that continue to weigh on the sector's performance.

Official data released by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics on Thursday showed that textile and clothing exports dropped to \$1.423bn from \$1.464bn in November 2024. This follows a sharper 1.1pc decline in November on a month-on-month basis, reflecting ongoing challenges in the sector. In September, textile



and clothing exports saw a decline of 1.99pc and 7.34pc year-on-year in August, following a strong rebound of over 30pc in July.

Pakistan's largest export-earning industry shrank 2.57pc in November. The PBS data showed exports of ready-made garments rose 9.21pc in value and 29.16pc in quantity during November, while knitwear dipped 4.87pc in value but increased 2.26pc in quantity. Bedwear dropped 3.43pc in value and 4.37pc in quantity.

Towel exports dipped 6.31pc in value and 8.12pc in quantity in November, whereas cotton cloth went down 9.72pc in value and contracted 5.85pc in quantity, respectively. Yarn exports surged 25.59pc YoY in November. The exports of made-up articles, excluding towels, dipped by 10.08pc, and tents, canvas and tarpaulin went down by 30.12pc in November. The import of synthetic fibre increased 39.44pc, and the arrival of synthetic and artificial silk yarn increased by

2.47pc in November. However, other textile items' import increased by 7.52pc the period under review. The import of raw cotton declined 65.12pc year-on-year in November. However, the arrival of second-hand clothes surged 48.21pc. The import of textile machinery also grew 11.20pc.

Pakistan's oil import bill also grew 1.63pc to \$6.41bn in the first five months of FY26 from \$6.52bn last year, reflecting an uptick in demand, particularly for petroleum products and petroleum crude.

Govt planning to impose 'export emergency'

NEWS DESK: The government has planned to announce an 'export emergency' in the country and create a special cell at PM Office to address problems and complaints of the business community on an urgent basis for increasing exports by 40pc in four years and by around 20pc by 2035 for sustainable economic growth and job creation.

"We will have to transform the entire system and become an export nation on an emergency basis, otherwise the dependence on the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and friendly countries for financial support would continue," said Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal at a news conference on Monday.

He conceded the country's export performance in first four months (July-October) was not satisfactory even though exports grew by around 1pc. He also said there were genuine questions and impatience why GDP was not growing fast

quickly but it was a pragmatism decision of the government not to rush for growth through consumerism as was done by the previous government in 2022.

To gain quick growth to 6pc in 2022, the then government facilitated consumerism by opening imports which increased growth rate but created \$50bn trade deficit that evaporated the country's foreign exchange reserves and then led to massive devaluation and inflation whose impacts are

felt even today despite corrective measures. Ahsan Iqbal says special cell to be created at PM Office for addressing hurdles to achieving '40pc growth' target.

"We don't have to go for artificial growth but the one which is backed by all sectors of economy including agriculture, industry and exports for sustainable path."

This can only be done through pragmatism. If we were to break

free of external crutches and achieve economic independence, we have to leapfrog exports. There is no other option," he said.

The minister said a committee he led proposed comprehensive measures to the PM, including announcement for an export emergency, rapid payment of refunds and a special unit in the PM Office with a dedicated hotline tasked with listening to exporters and businesses issues for settlement on emergency basis.



Australia captain Alyssa Healy to retire after upcoming India series

NEWS DESK: Alyssa Healy, a mainstay of Australia's dominant women's cricket team for 15 years and latterly its captain, has announced that she will retire from the game after the upcoming multi-format series against India.

The 35-year-old wicketkeeper-batter was part of two one-day international World Cup triumphs and six successful T20 World Cup campaigns before taking over as skipper after the retirement of Meg Lanning in late 2023.

"It's with mixed emotions that the upcoming India series will be my last for Australia," she said in a statement on Tuesday.

"I'm still passionate about playing for Australia, but I've somewhat lost that competitive edge that's kept me driven since the start, so the time feels right to call it a day."



Healy made her Australia debut in 2010 and scored 3,563 runs with seven centuries in one-day internationals and 3,054 with a single hundred in Twenty20s.

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"I'll genuinely miss my teammates, singing the team song and walking out to open the batting for Australia."

Healy made her Australia debut in 2010 and scored 3,563 runs with seven centuries in one-day internationals and 3,054 with a single hundred in Twenty20s.

for her country, as well as making 275 dismissals behind the stumps.

"Alyssa is one of the all-time greats of the game and has made an immeasurable contribution both on and off the field over her 15-year career," said Cricket Australia Chief Executive Todd Greenberg.

As a mark of her status in Australia, Healy was never defined by her relationship with her uterus.

Australia wicketkeeping great Ian, nor her husband, test paceman Mitchell Starc.

She had already announced her retirement from T20 internationals and her final match will play her last matches for Australia in three ODIs and a single test against India in February and March.

Women's cricket has come on in leaps and bounds during Healy's career but, despite having missed only two for Australia since her debut in January 2011, her final match will be only her 11th test.

Salah and Mane meet again with AFCON final place on the line

NEWS DESK: Three years after they last appeared together, Sadio Mane and Mohamed Salah meet again on Wednesday on opposing sides as Senegal and Egypt clash for a place in the Africa Cup of Nations final.

The last-four showdown in the Moroccan city of Tangiers will be the first time the former Liverpool teammates have shared a pitch since the Anfield club lost to Real Madrid in the Champions League final in May 2022.

Shortly after that, Mane left for Bayern Munich before moving to Al-Nassr in the Saudi Pro League a year later.

Salah, meanwhile, has been heavily linked with a move to Saudi Arabia in the near future but remains for now at Liverpool despite falling out of favour with coach Arne Slot before coming to the Cup of Nations.

The Egypt captain is a man on a mission in Morocco, having scored four goals in four appearances on the Pharaoh's run to the semi-finals as he targets winning AFCON for the first time.

Salah, who turns 34 in June, is running out of time to win a major international honour with his country having suffered the agony of two final defeats in the competition.

After being part of the Egypt side beaten by Cameroon in the 2017 final in Gabon, Salah skippered the team beaten on penalties by Senegal in 2022 in Yaounde.

Mane had a penalty saved in normal time on that dramatic night at the Olembe Stadium, but recovered to score the decisive kick in the shoot-out as Senegal became African champions for the first time.

Salah was due to take Egypt's next penalty but would not get the chance to step up and was already on the verge of tears as Mane prepared to strike the decisive blow.

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months later, the teams met again in a decisive World Cup qualifying play-off and once more penalties were needed — Salah missed, Mane scored and Senegal won.

They went on to reach the last 16 in Qatar while Egypt failed to qualify for the first World Cup held in the Arab world.

Both have qualified for the upcoming tournament in North America, providing what may perhaps be a last chance for the two veterans to step on the big stage of all.

Feeling the pressure for now, however, it is all about contention for the trophy more than the prize.

The pair played together under Jürgen Klopp for five years between 2016 and 2021, with Salah arriving from Roma in 2017 and Mane's departure.

They formed a formidable front line along with Roberto Firmino and together won the Champions League in 2019 and the Premier League in 2020 — there were also two defeats to Real in Champions League finals.

But Mane recently admitted that sometimes the pair found it difficult to get along on the pitch.

"I think Mo is first of all a very nice guy, I think though inside the pitch, sometimes he would pass to me and sometimes he wouldn't," Mane said on the Rio Ferdinand Presents podcast.

"Only Bobby (Firmino) was there to share the balls. Some times it was like this," he added with a laugh.

"I still remember one game when I was really, really angry because he doesn't pass me the ball."

"This time they really are on opposing sides, as two former African footballers of the year look to lead their countries to glory — for the second time, in Mane's case."

"The pressure for me is over. Before I won the African Cup, sometimes I played badly because of the pressure," Mane, who has one goal at this AFCON, admitted on the same podcast.

Mane's departure. They formed a formidable front line along with Roberto Firmino and together won the Champions League in 2019 and the Premier League in 2020 — there were also two defeats to Real in Champions League finals.

But Mane recently admitted that sometimes the pair found it difficult to get along on the pitch.

"I think Mo is first of all a very nice guy, I think though inside the pitch, sometimes he would pass to me and sometimes he wouldn't," Mane said on the Rio Ferdinand Presents podcast.

"Only Bobby (Firmino) was there to share the balls. Some times it was like this," he added with a laugh.

"I still remember one game when I was really, really angry because he doesn't pass me the ball."

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Variawa wins Dakar eighth stage, Al-Attiyah retains overall lead

NEWS DESK: Saoud Variawa won the eighth stage of the Dakar Rally in a South African one-two with Henk Late-gan on Monday as Nasser Al-Attiyah saw his overall lead cut to four minutes in the Saudi Arabian desert.

Dacia Sandriders driver Al-Attiyah finished fifth and one minute and 16 seconds behind 20-year-old Toyota SA driver Variawa, who beat factory entry Lategan by three seconds on the 483km loop around the southern city of Wadi Ad Dawasir.

The Qatar's closest rival Mattias Ekström was third for Ford in the long stage of the 48th edition of the rally.

"The car was perfect on a very long stage on which it was difficult to keep up with the pace," said Variawa.

"In the dunes, we navigated well while a lot of others got lost. At times we went our own way and perhaps that's where we made a difference. We pushed and overtook other cars. It was difficult in the dust."

Last year's Dakar runner-up Lategan moved up to third overall, six minutes and eight seconds off the lead with five stages remaining before Saturday's finish in the Red Sea port of Yanbu.

The one-two was the fourth ever by South African drivers in the car category. Ford's Nani Roma and Carlos Sainz were fourth and fifth, respectively.

Sixth-placed Sebastian Loeb, the nine-times world rally champion driving for Dacia, remained in contention for the overall title.

The announcement was made in November last year by the world football body, which is expanding the Fifa Series by involving more member nations and introducing a women's edition.

What turned the fate for the national women's team was a meeting between Fifa supremo Gianni Infantino and the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) president Mohsen Gilani. It paved the way for national women's teams to participate in the series of friendly matches and face new nations across other federations.

The Pakistan women's football team, despite an 8-0 loss against Chinese Taipei in the AFC Women's Asian Cup qualifiers in June last year, showed some promise when they beat Indonesia and Kyrgyzstan in subsequent matches. However, the team's lack of exposure in matches against other nations will require more focus from them on the pitch.

"We don't have too many details about the series yet," says Maria Khan, the midfielder and captain of the national team. "Fifa will be releasing more information sometime this month [January], so we don't really have an idea who all we will be playing against. However, our target as a team, every time we step on the pitch together, is to always represent Pakistan in the best way possible," she adds.

Shahrukh Sohai, a sports management professional and analyst, is of the view that the team's squad, based on their performance showcased during the AFC Women's Asia Cup qualifiers, seems strong.

"There could be a few new additions on the cards [in terms of change in squad], but the team is not expected to have any friendly matches before the series," he says.

"They will really have to hit the ground running. Under its Strategic Objectives for the Global Game 2023-2027, Fifa came up with its branchchild, the Fifa Series, in 2024. The inaugural series in 2024 included 24 Member Association (MA) national teams taking part in a competition. National teams from all six confederations faced one another from March 18 to 26, 2024.

The upcoming series is the extended second phase of that, laying the path forward for more nations to be part of the competition. Many experts see

the international friendly matches as an opportunity to fine tune the skills of national team players, preparing them for the crucial South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship in the coming summer.

Adeel Rizki, who has been the national team head coach since 2022, believes the opportunity will be, to a great extent, a crucial step towards exhibiting a good performance during the SAFF Championship.

"Being part of this Fifa Series is an achievement in itself," Rizki tells Eos. "However, our objective goes beyond participation. We aim to compete, perform and showcase Pakistan's talent in women's football on the global stage. This experience will also serve as an important stepping stone as we build towards the SAFF Championship 2026."

As for the challenges, he points out that the women in green are expected to face Competing against opponents whom they have not faced before, they will be up against a strong and competitive opposition. "But such exposure is of utmost importance for the growth and development of our women's team at the international level," he points out.

"Sadly, we have not had much time to practice and get together," says Maria Khan.

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Alonso leaves Real Madrid, Arbeloa appointed as coach

NEWS DESK: Real Madrid said on Monday coach Xabi Alonso has left the Spanish giants by mutual consent, to be replaced by Alvaro Arbeloa.

After losing the Spanish Super Cup final against Barcelona on Sunday the club decided to part ways with the Basque coach, who had been in charge for less than eight months, and immediately appointed former Madrid player Arbeloa who was coaching the reserve side.

"Real Madrid announces that, by mutual agreement between the club and Xabi Alonso, it has been decided to bring his tenure as first-team coach to an end," said Los Blancos in a statement.

In a separate statement Madrid then announced Arbeloa would take Alonso's place, without specifying the length of the 42-year-old's contract.

"Arbeloa has been the coach of Castilla since June 2025 and has developed his entire coaching career in Real Madrid's academy since 2020," said Los Blancos.

Arbeloa's first

match at the helm is a Copa del Rey last-16 visit to face second-tier Albacete on Wednesday.

The Spaniard played 238 times for Madrid between 2009-2016, winning two Champions League titles and La Liga once, among other silverware.

Arbeloa also lifted the World Cup with Spain in 2010, as well as the European Championship in 2008 and 2012, playing alongside the French superstar Kylian Mbappe wrote

Alonso joined in June, replacing veteran Carlo Ancelotti, but Madrid struggled to find consistency under the Basque coach and are second in La Liga, four points behind Barcelona.

Los Blancos were outplayed in a 3-2 defeat in Saudi Arabia on Sunday by Hansi Flick's side, the 44-year-old's last at the helm.

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Macclesfield draw Brentford after FA Cup

NEWS DESK: New Chelsea manager Liam Rosenior was handed a trip back to his old club Hull City in the FA Cup fourth round draw on Monday while non-league giant-slayers Macclesfield will welcome top-flight Brentford.

A 5-2 drubbing by Atletico Madrid in September was hailed by Rosenior as a turning point for Macclesfield, although it was the team's only league defeat until December.

Despite a Clasico win over Barcelona in October, it appeared president Florentino Perez had not fully warmed to Alonso, who had intended to bring a modern coaching approach to the team.

While Ancelotti, who led Madrid to three Champions League wins across two spells in charge, was hailed for his man-management, Alonso was appointed for his tactical nous.

Early on during his time in charge Alonso said the "rock'n'roll" was about to begin, but it never came, with few entertaining attacking displays, despite the superb output of Mbappe, La Liga's top scorer.

Crystal Palace 2-1 at their Moss Rose ground last Saturday.

They will have to produce another huge upset against Brentford, punching above their weight in fifth in the Premier League standings.

"We said before that we would have liked to get Liverpool, Chelsea, or Arsenal but another Premier League side is incredible," said Rosenior after the draw at Liverpool's Anfield ground. Rosenior played

in the FA Cup final for Hull City against winners Arsenal in 2014 and also managed the club from 2022 to 2024. He kicked off his tenure as Chelsea boss last Saturday with a 5-1 FA Cup third round win at Championship (second tier) side Charlton Athletic.

Premier League leaders Arsenal, the record 14-times winners of the FA Cup, will host Wigan Athletic (third tier) in 2013.

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Modi, Trump have 'incredible friendship', says new envoy

NEWS DESK: US ambassador-designate Sergio Gorr said on Monday his mission in India is to strengthen ties between the "oldest and the largest democracies" and conveyed President Donald Trump's best wishes to "his friend" Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He said that India and the US are discussing a trade deal and the first call between the negotiators will be made on Tuesday.

The trade discussion is a euphemism for Mr Trump as the envoy told the US Senate at his confirmation hearing that the president was "crystal clear" about stopping all oil imports from Russia to India, The Hindu said.

Mr Gorr also said that India will be invited to join as a full member of Pax Silica, a new US-led strategic initiative aimed at securing global silicon and high-technology supply chains.

The ambassador's



statement, made to hundreds of US embassy staffers in Delhi and Indian media, was unconventional as Mr Gorr has not yet presented his credentials

to President Droupadi Murmu. According to diplomatic protocol, ambassadors are expected to make public appearances only after the

credentials are presented. Sources said President Murmu will accept the credentials later this week.

Mr Gorr said that the "friendship" be-

tween Mr Trump and Mr Modi is "real" and the US and India "are bound not just by shared interests, but by a relationship anchored at the highest levels.

Real friends can disagree, but always resolve their differences in the end." And while trade is very important for our relationship, we will

continue to work closely together on other very important areas, such as security, counter-terrorism, energy, technology, education, and health," Mr Gorr added.

Earlier, he told the US Senate that Mr Trump had made it "crystal clear" that India would have to end all imports of Russian oil, which make up about 35 to 40 per cent of India's intake.

Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick also said that trade negotiations would be resolved "once" India stops buying the oil, suggesting this was a pre-condition for any deal. Sergio Gorr, who hopes to be confirmed soon, added that India and the US are "not that far apart" from a deal on the 50pc tariffs that the US has imposed on India.

"I do think it will get resolved in the next few weeks," Mr Gorr said, also indicating that Mr Trump was committed to travelling to

India for the Quad Summit, and has invited Indian commerce and trade officials to Washington next week to resume talks on a free trade agreement.

Mr Lutnick, who has been more sharply critical of India, said that the US president had called India's purchase of Russian oil as "nonsense".

"India has to basically open its market, and stop buying Russian oil," Mr Lutnick told reporters in one of a series of interviews he gave on Friday.

The comments by US officials came days after Mr Trump posted that he expected "no difficulty" in coming to an agreement on trade.

In the past few days, the Financial Times and CNBC TV have reported that Mr Trump told European Union leaders in a call that they must impose "100pc tariffs" on India and China for their purchases of Russian oil, The Hindu said.

Nepal's youth scramble for poll jobs

NEWS DESK: Tens of thousands of young Nepalis have applied for temporary jobs policing upcoming elections, the first polls since a youth-led uprising spotlighted the Himalayan nation's economic woes.

Nepal estimated it suffered losses of about \$586 million and that nearly 15,000 people lost their jobs after protests toppled the government in September.

The youth-led demonstrations, initially triggered by anger over a brief government ban on social media, were fuelled by deeper frustration over corruption and economic hardship.

"I hope the election will go well, and I am able to help in my own way as a temporary police officer."

Nepal plans to fill 149,090 police posts ahead of the March polls, with each recruit paid roughly \$280 for 40 days of service -- a princely sum where per capita gross national income in 2025 was \$1,404, according to a UN monitoring report.

More than 839,000 Nepalis left the country of 30 million to work abroad last year, according to government data.

And 82 percent of the country's workforce is in informal employment, the

World Bank says.

The temporary officers will be tasked with managing queues at polling stations, carrying ballot boxes and other logistical duties.

"Sunday was a public holiday but so many people, most of them youths, were queuing outside police stations with great excitement," police spokesman Kalle told AFP.

There were queues across all 77 districts to fill the application form on Monday, he said.

Many of the young applicants would be participating in their first election as a temporary police officers.



Afghan Taliban appoint first envoy to India since return to power

NEWS DESK: Afghanistan's Taliban government has appointed their first senior official in India since the group returned to power in 2021, charged with leading its embassy in Delhi.

India has not officially recognised the Taliban government, but the move signals a deepening engagement, with New Delhi seeking to exploit divisions between Islamabad and Kabul.

Noor Ahmad Noor, a Taliban foreign ministry official, assumed responsibility as charge d'affaires and has already held meetings with Indian officials, the embassy said in a statement.

"Both sides emphasised the importance of strengthening Afghanistan-India relations," the Afghan Embassy said, in a post on X late



Monday. India has not commented, but India has sought to seize the opening.

Nuclear-armed rivals India and Pakistan fought a brief but deadly clash in May 2025, their worst confrontation in decades.

The appointment of Islamic law may appear an unlikely match for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's

Hindu nationalist government, but India has sought to seize the opening.

The appointment is significant for the Taliban, which has sought to reclaim control over Afghanistan's overseas diplomatic missions as part of a broader push for international legitimacy.

Russia is the only country to officially recognise the Afghan Taliban government.

Police issue arrest warrant against former Netanyahu aide

NEWS DESK: Israeli police issued an arrest warrant for a former aide to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday, accusing him of being implicated in two affairs involving the premier's office.

Israel Einhorn, a former campaign adviser to Netanyahu who now lives in Serbia, appeared on a list of people whom the police suspect of involvement in the so-called "Bild affair" and are prevented from communicating with the prime minister's office.

Next to Einhorn's name a line was added saying there is a "pending arrest warrant against him," according to a document submitted to the court.

"We can confirm the warrant," a police spokesman told said.

The Bild affair involved the leaking of classified intelligence from the Israeli military to the German tabloid Bild in September



2024. Two other Netanyahu aides were arrested and indicted for the leak.

The document alleged that Hamas was not interested in a ceasefire agreement, and to support Netanyahu's claim that the prisoners taken by Hamas on October 7, 2023, could only be released through military pressure rather than negotiations.

Einhorn has not returned to Israel since the investigation was

opened, but he was questioned by Israeli investigators in Serbia last year.

He is also a suspect in the so-called "Qatargate" scandal, in which he and other close associates of Netanyahu are accused of being recruited by Qatar to promote the Gulf country's image in Israel.

Qatar hosts senior Hamas leaders and has played a mediating role between Israel and the Palestinian movement during the conflict in

Gaza. It also sent millions of dollars in cash to Gaza every month between 2018 and October 2023 to pay Hamas's civil servants and for cash handouts to Palestinian families.

The news of the warrant came after the police detained a current senior aide to Netanyahu suspected of obstructing an investigation, with local media reporting that it was the premier's chief of staff Tzachi Braverman.

China rejects India's objections to Shaksam Valley projects, defends CPEC

NEWS DESK: China has firmly rejected India's opposition over infrastructure activity in the Shaksam valley in Kashmir region after New Delhi's criticism of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) flagship project.

"First of all, the territory you have mentioned is part of China's territory and China's infrastructure development activities in its own territory are beyond reproach."

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said in response to a question during her regular briefing on Monday.

Mao Ning said that Pakistan and China signed a border agreement and determined the border between the two countries in the 1960s. These are the rights of Pakistan and China as sovereign states.

CPEC, as an economic cooperation initiative, aims to promote local socioeconomic development and improve livelihoods. Such agreements and CPEC will not affect China's position on Kashmir and China's political ties, security cooperation and regional and international issues.

At a media briefing last Friday, India's External Affairs Ministry spokesperson opposed China's infrastructure development projects in



the Shaksam Valley. He also criticised the China-Pakistan "boundary agreement" signed in 1963 and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Earlier, Pakistan and China agreed to align their development strategies and build an upgraded version of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, known as CPEC 2.0, during wide-ranging talks in Beijing that also covered political ties, security cooperation and regional and international issues.

The Seventh Round of the Pakistan-China Foreign Ministers

Strategic Dialogue was co-chaired in Beijing on January 4 by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister.

Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, who was visiting China from January 3 to January 5 at Wang's invitation.

According to a joint press communiqué issued at the conclusion of the talks.

Read more: Pakistan, China agree to strengthen coordination at bilateral, multilateral forums. As part of their economic engagement, Pakistan and China agreed to

develop an upgraded CPEC, a pioneering project of the Belt and Road Initiative. The two sides said the new phase would focus on the key sectors of industry, agriculture and mining, promote the building and operation of Gwadar Port.

Ensure the smooth passage of the Karakoram Highway, and enhance Pakistan's capacity for sustainable development.

The next round of the China-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue will be held in Islamabad next year on mutually convenient dates, the communiqué said.