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# QUETTA VOICE

## Pakistan, Iran Agree to Strengthen Border Trade and Security Cooperation

**Yousaf Sasoli:**

**NOKUNDI:** Pakistan and Iran have agreed to enhance border trade, improve border management, and strengthen bilateral cooperation following a high-level meeting held at the Taftan border corridor, officials said.

The meeting brought together senior officials from both countries to discuss expanding legal cross-border trade, facilitating the movement of pilgrims, and addressing challenges faced by traders operating along the Pakistan-Iran border.

The Pakistani delegation was headed by Chagan Deputy Commissioner Jehanzeb Noor Shahwani, while the Iranian delegation was led by a senior border commander.

Assistant Commissioner Taftan Naem Qasim Shahwani and other officials from both sides also participated in the discussions.

Officials reviewed a wide range of issues related to border administration, including measures to prevent smuggling, improve the efficiency of

border crossings, strengthen coordination on border fencing, and promote lawful commercial activities between the two countries.

Both sides agreed to adopt a coordinated strategy aimed at making Pakistan-Iran border trade more secure, transparent, and efficient.

The joint approach is expected to facilitate legitimate business, improve customs coordination, and provide better services for traders, pilgrims, and residents of border communities.

The delegations emphasized that stronger cooperation on border security,

legal trade, and cross-border connectivity would contribute to regional economic growth and reinforce long-standing bilateral ties between Pakistan and Iran.

At the conclusion of the meeting, officials reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining regular communication and continuing joint initiatives to expand Pakistan-Iran trade, enhance border security, and improve management of the Taftan crossing in the coming months.



**QUETTA:** Security has been placed on high alert across Quetta following reports of potential security threats.

## Quetta on High Alert as Security Tightened Across City; Quetta-Karachi Highway Reopens After 24 Hours

**Staff Reporter:**

**QUETTA:** Security has been placed on high alert across Quetta following reports of potential security threats and a threat alert, prompting authorities to intensify precautionary measures throughout the provincial capital.

Joint teams comprising the Frontier Corps (FC), Police, and other law enforcement agencies have launched coordinated search operations, snap checking, and checkpoints at sensitive locations across the city to maintain law

and order. Additional security personnel have been deployed at Quetta's entry and exit points, major highways, commercial centers, markets, intersections, sensitive government buildings, and other key locations. Security officials are conducting thorough inspections of vehicles, motorcycles, and suspicious individuals while verifying national identity cards (CNICs), driving licences, and vehicle registration documents.

Meanwhile, security forces have reopened the Quetta-Karachi National

Highway to all types of traffic after it remained closed for nearly 24 hours.

Passenger buses, private vehicles, and freight transport have resumed movement, although strict security checks continue at multiple points along the route.

According to security sources, protective measures have been further strengthened in response to the threat alert.

Surveillance has been intensified around sensitive installations, government offices, educational institutions, and public places, while additional

personnel have been deployed to ensure a swift response to any emergency.

Authorities have urged residents to avoid unnecessary travel and to carry their Computerised National Identity Card (CNIC).

Vehicle registration documents, and other relevant identification when leaving home, as security checks remain in effect across the city.

Officials said the enhanced security measures are precautionary and aimed at ensuring public safety while maintaining peace and order in the provincial capital.

## Balochistan Food Authority Launches Major Crackdown on Sewage-Irrigated Vegetables in Quetta

**Qaseem Shah, Ali Hamza:**

**QUETTA** – In a major move to protect public health, the Balochistan Food Authority (BFA) has launched a massive crackdown against the cultivation of vegetables using toxic sewage water.

During a recent high-impact operation on Quetta's Sabzal Road, BFA teams destroyed hazardous crops spread across 22 acres of land. The destroyed produce included contaminated cauliflower, mint, coriander, purslane (kulla), onions, and beets, all of which were being irrigated with wastewater from drains.

### Zero Tolerance for Health Risks

Director General of BFA, Habibullah Khan, issued a stern warning to violators, emphasizing that growing food crops with sewage water will not be tolerated under any circumstances, especially given strict directives from both the High Court and the provincial government.

The operation was executed under the direct super-



vision of BFA Director Operations, Fakhruddin Marri.

"These phase-wise, un-

biased operations against unhealthy vegetable cultivation will expand across other

regions as well," stated DG Habibullah Khan. "Sewage water can only

legally be used for non-edible crops. Anyone violating these

### A Call for Public and Media Cooperation

The BFA chief highlighted that edible crops raised on toxic drain water pose severe, long-term risks to human health.

To make the fight against adulterated and unhygienic food more robust,

the authority is upgrading its public complaint management system to ensure rapid responses.

DG Khan urged both the citizens of Balochistan and the media to actively report illegal farming practices and unhygienic food points, promising that immediate action would be taken on every tip-off.

According to officials, these aggressive safety measures are being actively sustained under the special directives of Provincial Minister and BFA Chairman,

Haji Noor Muhammad Durran, to completely block the supply and sale of contaminated food items in the province.

# QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

## South-West Asia and the War Against Narcotics: Where Does Pakistan Stand?

**By Dr. B. Sultan:** Lady Macbeth once remarked that "a little water clears us of this deed" after the assassination of the King. Yet, with time, she remained haunted, obsessively rubbing her hands in an attempt to cleanse the imagined stains of blood. The persistence of narcotics production and trade in South-West Asia resembles this unending struggle—a dark reality that cannot be easily washed away.

Afghanistan has long been recognized as the world's largest producer of opium, with its roots tracing back to the early 1900s. Over the decades, the repercussions of this industry spilled into neighboring Pakistan and Iran. In the late 2000s, Taliban leader Mullah Omar imposed a strict ban on poppy cultivation through threats, forced eradication, and severe punishments. However, as revealed by the UNODC Opium Survey 2007, the ban primarily targeted cultivation while the trade continued. After the fall of the Taliban, opium again became a major source of funding for logistics, weapons, and militia payments.

In 2022, the Taliban leadership once again announced a ban on poppy cultivation, with Hibatalah



Akhundzada officially declaring significant reductions. Some Western reports, supported by satellite imagery, showcased declining poppy fields in southern Afghanistan. However, this raises critical questions: Can Afghanistan realistically abandon such a central economic resource while facing

sanctions? And what consequences does this shift have for Pakistan? While certain international outlets hastily claim that Pakistan has become a new hub for narcotics, such narratives ignore key realities. The issue is not a simple matter of "shifting sands" but a complex regional security challenge. The

porous border between Pakistan and Afghanistan, coupled with cross-border networks of drug traffickers, means temporary shifts in cultivation are often strategic rather than permanent. Moreover, Afghanistan's pivot towards methamphetamine production—highlighted by satellite

evidence of expanded ephedra processing hubs—reflects adaptive strategies of traffickers rather than genuine eradication. In Pakistan, however, the situation is markedly different. Since 2001, the country has largely maintained its "poppy-free" status, despite sporadic spillovers from

Afghanistan. Following the Taliban's 2022 ban, some illicit cultivations did emerge in border areas, particularly within Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Yet, these were swiftly addressed through Pakistan's Poppy Elimination Campaign (PEC-2025). This multi-agency effort,

led by the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) and provincial administrations, successfully destroyed thousands of acres of illegal poppy fields. Over 250 FIRs were registered, dozens of arrests were made, and awareness campaigns were launched across educational institutions. Importantly, in-

dependent surveys after March 2025 confirmed the effectiveness of these eradication drives.

Pakistan's determination to combat narcotics often remains under-reported internationally, overshadowed by outdated or selective portrayals.

The fact remains: Pakistan continues to fight this menace not only for its own stability but also for global security.

What is urgently needed is greater recognition of these efforts by the international community and enhanced cooperation from agencies such as the UNODC.

As South-West Asia remains at the heart of global narcotics trade routes, Pakistan's role is both frontline and decisive. Balochistan, in particular, holds the potential to transform from a vulnerable transit zone into a hub of opportunity, stability, and resilience. Just as Lady Macbeth's imagined guilt could not be washed away with water, the global community cannot absolve itself of responsibility by ignoring Pakistan's sacrifices and achievements in this ongoing struggle. The fight against narcotics requires collective recognition, support, and action—not selective narratives.

## Hypertension: The Silent Threat We Continue to Ignore

**By Dr Rubaba Khan Buledi:**

Every year, World Hypertension Day reminds us of a health crisis that continues to grow quietly across the globe. Unlike many diseases that arrive with immediate warning signs, hypertension often develops silently. A person may appear healthy, continue their routines, and feel physically normal while high blood pressure gradually damages the heart, kidneys, brain, and blood vessels. This is why medical experts across the world describe hypertension as the silent killer.

In Pakistan, the burden of hypertension is increasing at an alarming pace. Rapid urbanisation, unhealthy eating habits, physical inactivity, smoking, stress, and lack of routine medical checkups have created conditions where cardiovascular diseases are becoming more common among both older and younger populations. Unfortunately, many individuals only discover they have high blood pressure after suffering from serious complications such as stroke, heart disease, or kidney failure.

Women Neglect Their Own Health, Prioritise Family

What makes hypertension particularly dangerous is the lack of awareness surrounding it. In many households, people still consider blood pressure problems to be temporary



conditions caused only by stress or fatigue. Self-medication and delayed medical consultation remain common practices.

A large number of patients discontinue medicines once they start feeling better, without understanding that hypertension often requires lifelong management and regular monitoring.

The challenge becomes even more serious in developing regions where access to healthcare facilities remains limited. In rural and remote areas, many people are unable to undergo routine health screenings due to economic difficul-

ties, long travel distances, or lack of awareness. Women, especially in conservative societies, frequently neglect their own health while prioritising family responsibilities.

As a result, hypertension often remains undiagnosed until it reaches dangerous stages.

Another worrying trend is the increasing prevalence of hypertension among younger people. Fast food consumption, excessive use of digital devices, reduced physical activity, and rising mental stress are contributing significantly to this issue. The modern

lifestyle has distanced many people from healthy daily habits that once naturally supported physical wellbeing. Walking has been replaced by prolonged sitting, home-cooked meals by processed food, and social interaction by constant digital engagement.

Public Awareness Campaigns are Essential

Mental health also plays an important role in blood pressure related illnesses. Economic uncertainty, unemployment, work related pressure, and social stress contribute heavily to anxiety and chronic tension. When stress becomes a per-

manent part of life, it directly affects the cardiovascular system. Unfortunately, mental health awareness remains weak in many societies, where emotional wellbeing is often ignored or misunderstood.

Preventing hypertension does not always require expensive treatment. In many cases, small but consistent lifestyle changes can significantly reduce health risks. Balanced diets, reduced salt intake, regular exercise, proper sleep, and avoidance of smoking can greatly improve cardiovascular health. Even simple daily hab-

its such as walking for thirty minutes, drinking enough water, and managing stress levels can make a noticeable difference.

Public awareness campaigns are essential in this regard. Governments, healthcare institutions, educational organizations, and media platforms must work together to educate people about the dangers of uncontrolled blood pressure. Schools and colleges should also encourage health education programs that teach young people the importance of nutrition, physical activity, and preventive healthcare.

Technology can also become an effective tool in tackling hypertension. Telemedicine, mobile health applications, and digital awareness campaigns can help reach communities that lack direct access to medical professionals. Regular blood pressure monitoring devices are now more accessible and can help individuals take responsibility for their own health. However, technology alone cannot solve the problem without public willingness to adopt healthier lifestyles.

A Healthier Society Cannot be Built Through Hospitals Alone

Healthcare systems must shift their focus from treatment alone to prevention and early diagnosis. Preventive healthcare is not only more effective but also more affordable in the long term. Hospitals across Pakistan continue to face increasing pressure from patients suffering from preventable cardiovascular complications. Investing in awareness and early intervention can reduce this burden significantly.

Women's health deserves special attention in discussions surrounding hypertension. Pregnancy related hypertension, hormonal changes, nutritional deficiencies, and limited healthcare access place many women at greater risk. Community level awareness programs targeting mothers and families can play a vi-

tal role in early detection and treatment.

The role of family support is equally important. Healthy living becomes easier when families collectively adopt positive habits. Shared meals with balanced nutrition, reduced dependence on unhealthy food, and encouragement for physical activity can create healthier communities from within households themselves.

World Hypertension Day should not remain a symbolic observance marked only through seminars and official statements. It should encourage serious reflection on how modern lifestyles are affecting public health. Hypertension is no longer a disease affecting only the elderly. It is becoming a widespread societal challenge that requires collective responsibility and long term commitment.

A healthier society cannot be built through hospitals alone. It requires awareness, discipline, preventive care, and responsible choices at both individual and community levels. The fight against hypertension begins not in emergency rooms but in our homes, schools, and workplaces, and daily routines.

If societies truly wish to reduce the growing burden of cardiovascular disease, they must recognize one simple reality. Prevention is always more powerful than cure.

Governor Balochistan Announces Plans for International Climate Change and AI Conference at BUTEMS

QUETTA: Governor of Balochistan Jaffer Khan Mandokhail has announced plans to organize an international seminar and conference on Climate Change and Artificial Intelligence in Quetta, saying that the Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUTEMS) has the capacity to host a global academic event on climate issues.

The Governor made these remarks during a meeting with BUTEMS Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Khalid Hafeez at the Governor House in Quetta.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Khan Mandokhail said that climate change is not merely a global challenge but a matter of humanity's survival and future.

He added that the proposed seminar would be linked with the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030) to encourage participation from UN representatives, internationally renowned scientists, and environmental experts.

He said the Government of Balochistan would soon announce the international conference, which will focus on both Climate Change and Artificial Intelligence, highlighting the importance of global collaboration in addressing emerging environmental and technological challenges.

The Governor emphasized that empow-



ered public sector universities to address community needs while contributing to solutions for global issues is one of the government's key priorities.

Addressing Graduate Employment Challenges, Governor Mandokhail expressed concern over the growing number of educated professionals in Pakistan and the shortage of employment opportunities available to them.

He said that both the federal and provincial governments face the challenge of creating sustainable employment for graduates and professionals.

He stressed the need to explore new economic opportunities and strengthen public-private partnerships to ensure that educated youth can secure meaningful livelihoods without becoming financially dependent.

Laptops for BUTEMS Zhub Campus Students The Governor also announced that students of the BUTEMS Zhub Campus will receive laptops under the Prime Minister's Laptop Scheme, enabling them to enhance their digital skills, innovation, and research capabilities and compete effectively at both national and international levels.

Focus on AI, Data Science, and Robotics Highlighting the future direction of higher education, Governor Mandokhail said that BUTEMS, as a specialized university in science, technology, and management sciences, should continue strengthening its academic programs in AI, Data Science, and Robotics, aligning its curriculum with evolving global job market demands.

He recommended expanding programs in emerging disciplines such as Artificial Intelligence, AI Data Science, Mathematics with Machine Learning Ro-

of essential public services and infrastructure.

Concluding the visit, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of coordination, cooperation, and effective communication among all relevant departments for the successful implementation of development projects.

He assured that the district administration would continue extending full support to ensure the development process is carried out efficiently and without delays.

Sohbatpur development projects, Deputy Commissioner Fareeha Tareen, BSDI projects Balochistan, Sohbatpur infrastructure development, Balochistan development schemes, Government of Balochistan district administration Sohbatpur, public welfare projects, construction monitoring.

She emphasized that maintaining high construction standards is essential to delivering durable and reliable public infrastructure.

The Deputy Commissioner issued clear directives that all development projects must be completed within the stipulated timelines, warning that negligence or unnecessary delays would not be tolerated.

She stressed that every scheme should be executed according to the approved design and specifications to provide long-lasting benefits to the public.

Highlighting the importance of transparency, Ms. Tareen directed departments to ensure strict monitoring throughout the execution of all projects.

She instructed officers to conduct regular field visits and adopt effective measures to accelerate the pace of work.

She reaffirmed that the timely completion of public welfare projects remains the district administration's top priority.

In line with the Government of Balochistan's development vision, she said all ongoing schemes are being closely monitored to ensure the timely delivery of essential public services and infrastructure.

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Harnai Administration Holds Open Court to Address Public Grievances, Strengthen Public Services

HARNAI: Large-scale Open Court (Khuli Kachehri) was held at the Harnai DC Complex under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Arshad Hussain Jamali to hear long-standing public grievances and



ensure their prompt resolution. A large number of participants, including tribal elders, community representatives, and local citizens, attended the session.

A key feature of the open court was the joint participation of civil administration, law enforcement agencies, and military officials under one roof, reflecting a coordinated approach to public service and governance.

Among those present were Lieutenant Colonel Arbab Ali Khan, Wing Commander of FC 81 Wing Harnai, Engineer Abdul Hafeez Jhokrani, SP Harnai Muhammad Saleem

Tareen, Additional Deputy Commissioner Ghulam Haider Tareen, the District Education Officer (Harnai), and heads of various government departments.

During the session, residents raised a wide range of issues, including concerns related to education, healthcare, law and order, access to clean drinking water, and public infrastructure. Citizens openly shared their day-to-day problems and requested immediate government intervention.

Responding to the complaints, Deputy Commissioner Arshad Hussain Jamali issued on-the-spot directives to the relevant departments to resolve the reported issues without delay.

He assured participants that the primary responsibility of the government machinery is to serve the people and emphasized that the grievances highlighted during the open court would not be ignored due to bureaucratic delays. Instead, he said,

completion of public welfare projects remaining the district administration's top priority.

Mr. Khan further directed officials to maintain a strong field presence, continuously supervise construction work, and immediately resolve any technical or administrative obstacles that could delay project completion.

Concluding the visit, the Deputy Commissioner instructed the relevant departments to maintain regular monitoring of all ongoing projects.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of ensuring the transparent, efficient, and accountable utilization of public development funds so that government resources are spent solely on public welfare and every project is completed within its approved budget and schedule.

He stated that, in line with the Government of Balochistan's development agenda, efforts are being intensified to accelerate development activities in Dukki, with the timely

concerned authorities to submit regular progress reports to the district administration and ensure that all development projects are implemented with complete transparency, quality assurance, and accountability.

Dukki development projects, Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Naem Khan, BSDI Balochistan, Dukki infrastructure projects, Government of Balochistan development, public welfare projects Dukki, road construction Balochistan, drainage projects Dukki, development funds transparency.

During the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed work on roads, drainage systems, public infrastructure, and other development projects. He assessed the quality of construction, pace of work, technical standards, and overall progress of each scheme.

Officials also briefed him on project timelines, utilization of development funds, and challenges being faced during implementation.

Muhammad Naem Khan directed all development projects to ensure that every development project is completed according

to the approved design, prescribed quality standards, and within the stipulated timeframe to provide residents with durable and high-quality public facilities.

He made it clear that negligence, the use of substandard construction materials, or poor-quality workmanship would not be tolerated under any circumstances.

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Sohbatpur Deputy Commissioner Reviews BSDI Development Projects, Directs Timely Completion

SOHBATPUR: Deputy Commissioner Fareeha Tareen, accompanied by Wing Commander Shoab Hassan of 139 Wing, conducted a detailed inspection of ongoing development projects being implemented under the BSDI initiative across the district.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the pace, quality, and overall progress of construction work at various project sites.

She also received comprehensive briefings from officials of the relevant departments on the status of ongoing schemes, implementation milestones, challenges, and future plans.

Ms. Tareen inspected the construction materials being used and instructed officials to ensure that all materials strictly comply with the approved quality standards.

She emphasized that maintaining high construction standards is essential to delivering durable and reliable public infrastructure.

The Deputy Commissioner issued clear directives that all development projects must be completed within the stipulated timelines, warning that negligence or unnecessary delays would not be tolerated.

She stressed that every scheme should be executed according to the approved design and specifications to provide long-lasting benefits to the public.

Highlighting the importance of transparency, Ms. Tareen directed departments to ensure strict monitoring throughout the execution of all projects.

She instructed officers to conduct regular field visits and adopt effective measures to accelerate the pace of work.

She reaffirmed that the timely completion of public welfare projects remains the district administration's top priority.

In line with the Government of Balochistan's development vision, she said all ongoing schemes are being closely monitored to ensure the timely delivery of essential public services and infrastructure.

Concluding the visit, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of coordination, cooperation, and effective communication among all relevant departments for the successful implementation of development projects.

He assured that the district administration would continue extending full support to ensure the development process is carried out efficiently and without delays.

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Ziarat District Coordination Committee Reviews Security of Mangi Dam and Khanozai-Sanjavi Road Projects

ZIARAT: Deputy Commissioner Abdul Qudoos Achakzai chaired an important meeting of the District Coordination Committee to review the security situation surrounding the Mangi Dam project and other development projects in the district.

The meeting was attended by Lieutenant Colonel Zeeshan of FC 155 Wing, Major Amir, SP Ziarat Abdul Qudoos Dahwar, CTD In-charge Abdul Majeed, Special Branch official Muhammad Shkiki Eng-

near Ziarat from the Mangi Dam project, representatives of relevant government departments, dam staff, and the government contractor.

Participants conducted a comprehensive review of security arrangements for the Mangi Dam project and the Khanozai Cross-Sanjavi Road construction project.

The meeting focused on ensuring uninterrupted construction activities, safeguarding project personnel and equipment,

and strengthening coordination among all concerned agencies.

The committee also reviewed the overall law and order situation in Ziarat district and discussed measures to further enhance public safety.

Addressing the meeting, Deputy Commissioner (General) Ali Nawaz Jamali directed the concerned departments to carry out regular market inspections, strictly enforce government price lists, and take indiscriminate legal action against traders found violating official pricing regulations.

He emphasized that ensuring the availability of quality essential goods at government-

approved prices remains the district administration's top priority. He urged all departments to perform their responsibilities with integrity and efficiency to safeguard consumer interests.

Mr. Jamali further stated that effective cooperation between the district administration, government institutions, traders, and other stakeholders is essential for maintaining price stability, improving market transparency, and protecting consumer rights.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the district administration and participating departments reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening price control measures in Ziarat and ensuring strict enforcement of official rates at affordable prices.

Loralai Price Committee, Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Haseeb Shuja, Ali Nawaz Jamali, Loralai Price Control, essential commodities prices, market monitoring Loralai, consumer protection Balochistan, profiteering crackdown, official price list.



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Quetta Police Foil Robbery Attempt, One Suspect Killed and Two Arrested in Kechi Baig Operation

QUETTA: Police conducted a successful operation in Kechi Baig after receiving information about an ongoing robbery, resulting in the death of one suspected robber and the arrest of two others following an exchange of fire. According to police, officers from Kechi Baig Police Station responded to reports of a robbery in progress. Upon reaching the scene, the suspects allegedly opened fire on the police party, prompting officers to re-

taliate. During the exchange of gun fire, Nasrullah, a resident of Dhadar currently living in Quetta, was fatally injured and later pronounced dead while undergoing treatment at the Civil Hospital Quetta. Two other suspects, Asadullah Raheja and Sanaullah Jan, both residents of Dhadar, were arrested in an injured condition.

Police said the arrested suspects are allegedly involved in multiple robbery incidents reported in different police station jurisdictions across the Sarhab area.

During the operation, police recovered 11 stolen mobile phones, a TT pistol, and a stolen motorcycle that was allegedly used in criminal activities. The injured suspects were shifted to hospital for medical treatment. Police officials stated that further investigations are underway and that additional arrests are expected during the interrogation of the arrested suspects.

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PM Shehbaz to visit Iran, Turkiye from July 3-5: FO spokesperson

NEWS DESK: Foreign Office spokesperson Tahir Andrabi said on Thursday that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif would undertake official visits to Iran and Turkiye from July 3 to 5.

"PM Shehbaz will travel to Iran first to participate in the funeral ceremony of Iran's late supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and will convey condolences on behalf of the people and the Government of Pakistan to the Iranian leadership and the bereaved families while reaffirming solidarity with the brotherly nation in their hour of profound grief," Andrabi said.

"The conference will bring together leading Turkish businessmen and investors alongside senior officials, dignitaries and other cabinet ministers and senior officials who will accompany PM Shehbaz."

"The prime minister will hold discussions on the entire gamut of the bilateral relationship with a special focus on giving impetus to bilateral trade and investment cooperation between the two brotherly countries. The leaders' meeting will also reflect on issues concerning regional peace and security."

Andrabi further added that during the stay in Istanbul, the prime minister would also address a business conference being hosted by Pakistan to spotlight Pakistan's trade and investment potential in



priority areas, including the SEZs, energy, trade, IT and privatisation sectors. "Pakistan and Qatar issued a joint statement at Bergenstock on June 21, which highlighted the relevant parties in Doha yesterday and held separate meetings with the US and Iranian negotiators in Doha, and these culminated late last night, in fact, well into the morning," he said.

The spokesperson further highlighted three specific points on the Doha talks. "One, there was positive progress made on issues related to the different aspects of the Islamabad MOU, building on the Lake Lucerne Summit. Two, parties agreed to continue discussion over the coming period and three, next meeting to be set at the earliest possible time following the funeral procession of the former Iranian Supreme Leader," he said.

Participants reject weaponisation of water, call for abolishing the treaty during IWT Seminar

Speaking about the seminar on the Indus Water Treaty, an independent member of Parliament, Ghulam Sarwar Khan, said on Thursday that he sought on Thursday a detailed report from the provincial health secretary and police chief after a citizen filed a petition, citing reports of an HIV outbreak allegedly resulting from the reuse of contaminated syringes and medical negligence at a Karachi hospital. The petition, filed by Tariq Mansoor, was taken up by a two-member SHC bench comprising Justice Adnan Karim Memon and Justice Adnan Iqbal Chaudhry.

In its written order, seen by Dawn, the bench noted that the plea arose from the reported HIV outbreak at Kulsam Bai Valika SSSI Hospital, SITE, Karachi, allegedly caused by the reuse of contaminated syringes and gross medical negligence, resulting in the infection of approximately 84 to over 200 children, with several reported fatalities.

The order noted that the medical facility was a "public hospital functioning under the Sindh Employees Social Security Institution (SESSI) and was "responsible for providing medical facilities to insured workers and their dependents".

The hospital caters to a large number of patients daily and owes a statutory duty to provide safe and adequate medical treatment," the SHC bench stressed.

The petitioner contended that "despite repeated reports in the national media regarding the HIV outbreak, no transparent, independent or time-bound inquiry has been conducted to fix responsibility on the officials and medical staff allegedly involved," according to the order.

PTI criticises government over economy, governance and party leaders' detention

NEWS DESK: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Secretary General Salman Akram Raja on Thursday criticised the federal government over what he described as worsening economic conditions, poor governance and the continued detention of the party's leadership.

Speaking at a press conference alongside PTI Lahore President Mansoor Akram Raja referred to his recent visit to Kahna in NA-123, the constituency of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, where he extended condolences to the families of children who lost their lives after the roof of a private tuition centre collapsed.

He said the incident exposed systemic shortcomings that had left children from underprivileged families without adequate access to education and healthcare.

The tragic loss of 14 young lives in the pursuit of education reflects the dark reality of

2 killed in rain-related incidents in KP, taking two-day tally to 9: PDMA

NEWS DESK: Rain-related incidents claimed the lives of two men in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Thursday, while Punjab witnessed two deaths in the last 24 hours due to similar occurrences, authorities said.

According to the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), a fresh monsoon spell across the country was set to begin from July 1 and continue till July 6.

Two deaths from a roof collapse incident in Manshera took the number of lives lost since July 1 to nine, data from the KP Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) showed.

Around 2am, torrential rain in Manshera caused the roof of a temporary mud-and-wood structure to collapse, claiming the lives of two shepherds and injuring four others, PDMA said.

Providing a breakdown of the total deaths since Wednesday, PDMA said they included four men, four children and a woman.

Two lives were lost each in Khyber and Punjab. In Khyber, Haripur, Nowshera, Shangla and Upper Dir saw one death each. Water from a damaged dam in Lower Dir, and four each from Bajaur, Khyber, Manshera and Mardan. A woman was wounded

in Nowshera, while a child was hurt in Shangla. Lower Chitral witnessed torrential rainfall and a cloudburst in the Osaki area of Drosh tehsil, resulting in a flashflood, the PDMA stated in an earlier update. As a result, 27 houses were damaged and no injury was reported, excluding the incident from its figures.

Additionally, a total of 163 cattle perished, including 138 in Lower Chitral and 25 in Upper Dir, PDMA said.

The rainfall impacted infrastructure as well, with Lower Chitral accounting for 30 of the total 41 damaged houses. Two were fully damaged, while 28 were partially affected in the district, which saw flash floods caused by heavy rain. Six houses were fully or partially damaged in Shangla, while three were partially injured in Upper Chitral.

Human losses and infrastructure damage recorded from July 1-2 in KP — PDMA

Lower Chitral witnessed torrential rainfall and a cloudburst in the Osaki area of Drosh tehsil, resulting in a flashflood, the PDMA stated in an earlier update. As a result, 27 houses were damaged and no injury was reported, excluding the incident from its figures.

Flashfloods caused by heavy rain also occurred in Upper Chitral, Haripur and Shangla, while lightning strikes were reported from Khyber, Bajaur, Buner and Upper Dir. In Lower Dir, Pals, Swat, Shangla, Malakand, Buner, Bajaur, Targhan, Batagram, Manshera, Abbottabad, Haripur, Mardan, Swabi, Mohmand, Khyber, Nowshera, Charsadda, Kohat, Karak, Hangu, Kurram, Orakzai, Bannu, Lakki Marwat, DI Khan, Tank.



recorded from July 1-2 in KP — PDMA

24 hours, 35mm in Malam Jabba, 30mm in Bajaur, Peshawar, 25mm in Balakot, 15mm in Bajaur's Khaia, 16mm in Parachinar and Mammad Gut each, 10mm in Timgergara, 6mm in DI Khan airport area, and 4mm in Pattan.

Peshawar witnessed traces of rain, while Dir, Saidu Sharif and Cherat reported from there. The PDMA said partly cloudy weather with chances of rain-windstorm/thunderstorm was expected in Peshawar, Upper and Lower Dir, Upper and Lower Chitral, Upper and Lower Kohistan, Kolaipal, Swat, Shangla, Malakand, Buner, Bajaur, Targhan, Batagram, Manshera, Abbottabad, Haripur, Mardan, Swabi, Mohmand, Khyber, Nowshera, Charsadda, Kohat, Karak, Hangu, Kurram, Orakzai, Bannu, Lakki Marwat, DI Khan, Tank.

PIA's first direct flight from Lahore to Manchester takes off after 6 years

NEWS DESK: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has resumed direct flights between Lahore and Manchester after six years.

The flight, operated by a Boeing 777-300ER, departed from Lahore at 10:30 AM on Thursday.

An inaugural ceremony was held at Lahore airport, where PIA Chief Operating Officer Khurram Mubtasim saw off the passengers, the statement said.

Hours ago, the first flight destined for Lahore left Manchester on Wednesday night.

The PIA statement said the resumption of flights on the Lahore-Manchester route would help strengthen "people-to-people ties" between the two countries.

PIA now operates five weekly flights between Pakistan and Manchester, the statement said, adding that these included four flights from Islamabad and one from Lahore.

Pakistanian flights had been banned from flying to the European Union, the United Kingdom and the US in June 2020, after one of its aircraft crashed in Karachi, killing nearly 100 people on board.

The European Union Air Safety Agency had barred PIA from operating in EU countries over safety concerns, and the ban on flights followed the then-aviation minister

reached the site, where a bomb disposal unit successfully defused it. Security forces said around 50kg of explosives had been planted beneath the bridge.

The terrorists targeted a government girls' school and a bridge in the district. According to local sources, explosives planted at the school partially damaged the building.

SHC seeks details from Sindh health secretary, police chief on reports of HIV outbreak at Karachi hospital

NEWS DESK: The Sindh High Court (SHC) sought on Thursday a detailed report from the provincial health secretary and police chief after a citizen filed a petition, citing reports of an HIV outbreak allegedly resulting from the reuse of contaminated syringes and medical negligence at a Karachi hospital.

The petition, filed by Tariq Mansoor, was taken up by a two-member SHC bench comprising Justice Adnan Karim Memon and Justice Adnan Iqbal Chaudhry.

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vincial secretary of Labour and Human Resources Department that sought a report from SESSI. The order said the petitioner had informed the court that a preliminary list of the children allegedly af-

Security forces foil attempts to blow up girls' school, bridge in KP's Bannu

NEWS DESK: Two separate attempts by terrorists to destroy civilian infrastructure in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Bannu district were foiled on Thursday.

The terrorists targeted a government girls' school and a bridge in the district. According to local sources, explosives planted at the school partially damaged the building.

Security forces responded promptly and prevented what could have been a major incident.

Terrorists also planted explosives under a bridge in an attempt to destroy it and disrupt movement in the area. According to officials, a barrel filled with explosives was placed beneath the bridge.

Violence in Bannu has included attacks on police and jirga members, prompting targeted operations by police and security forces.

World Bank report, Raja claimed it questioned federal government expenditure and alleged that appointments had been made in departments that were expected to be abolished.

He said expectations of reducing federal spending after the 18th Amendment had not been met.

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Raja also said that around 40% of children in Pakistan were out of school, while many of those enrolled continued to lack access to quality education.

He said PTI would strengthen its role as a social force despite what he described as state crackdowns, adding that the party would continue its political activities.

Commenting on the situation in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Raja said around 40% of children in Pakistan were out of school, while many of those enrolled continued to lack access to quality education.