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A policeman trying to extinguish flames of fire after the deadly traffic accident: Photo taken from social media.

6 Killed as Bowser Collides Head-On with Car on Coastal Highway near Ormara

From Our Correspondent:

ORMARA – A devastating traffic accident claimed the lives of six people, including two women and two children, after a high-speed collision

between an oil bowser and a passenger car on the Makran Coastal Highway (N-10) near Ormara.

According to Coastal Highway Police Superintendent (SP) Aslam Bangulzai, the tragic incident occurred in the

B2 area within Zone-I, Ormara.

A Toyota Corolla (registration number BJN-481) traveling toward Turbat collided head-on with an oncoming bowser headed toward Karachi.

The impact was severe enough to kill all six occupants of the car instantly.

The victims include two men, two women, and two children.

Police identified the driver of the Toyota Corolla as

Aslam.

Highway police units arrived at the scene shortly after the crash to secure the area, oversee rescue operations, and prevent traffic congestion.

SP Bangulzai confirmed

that the accident site has been cleared,

and two-way traffic flow on the Coastal Highway has resumed normally.

An investigation into the cause of the collision is underway.

Govt files review plea against SC ruling to move Imran to Shifa International Hospital, terms it 'discriminatory'

NEWS DESK:

The federal government on Wednesday filed a petition in the Supreme Court, seeking a review and recall of the SC order to shift incarcerated former prime minister Imran Khan to Islamabad's Shifa International Hospital for medical examination and treatment.

The government's review petition, filed by Islamabad Advocate General Naveed Hayat Malik on behalf of the federal capital's chief commissioner a day after the SC's ruling, termed the interim order "discriminatory".

The petition, a copy of which is available with Dawn, stated that the order was "in excess of jurisdiction" and, therefore, "liable to be reviewed". The plea further stated that the order "suffers from errors of law floating on the surface of the record".

It argued that Rule 197 of the Pakistan Prison Rules, 1978, which governs the manner and mode of the transfer of a prisoner to the hospital, had escaped SC's attention in its ruling on Imran's hospitalisation.

"Had the court taken note of the above-noted provision of law, the order of review could not have been passed," the plea said.

Elaborating on Rule 197, the plea stated that it explained that government orders for the transfer of a prisoner would be obtained through the police inspector general (IG) in cases wherein a convicted or under-trial prisoner was to be admitted



File Photo of PTI Chairman Imran Ahmed Khan.

to the hospital for treatment.

However, in emergency cases, the jail superintendent was authorised to act as if the government sanction had been given, and if he did so, he should immediately inform the IG, the plea added, citing the rule.

Under the rule, in cases where a prisoner was to be moved to a hospital for an operation, the shifting should take place as close as possible to the time fixed for the operation, and the prisoner should be brought back to the prison hospital "as soon as this can conveniently be done", the plea said.

Moreover, it contended that issuing directives for the treatment of a convict at a private hospital, and that too on

the basis of a report that did not disclose any condition requiring immediate medical treatment, "will severely disturb the entire criminal justice system".

Here, the mention of a report was a reference to the report submitted to the SC by the Adiala jail superintendent on Imran's health, a day before the court's interim order.

The petition also cited Article 25 of the Constitution, highlighting that it granted the fundamental right to be treated equally and that the "Constitution abhors discrimination and favouritism".

It argued that "similarly placed convicts will claim the same special treatment afforded to the respondent (Imran) in violation of the prison rules".

Three Afghan Nationals Gunned Down in Quetta Drive-By Attack, One Injured



File Photo: A policeman stands alert in Quetta:

QASEEM SHAH:

QUETTA: Unidentified gunmen opened fire on a group of Afghan nationals at Hazar Ganji Cross in the provincial capital late Tuesday night, leaving three dead and one critically injured, according to police officials.

The incident took place while four Afghan workers, who had recently arrived from the Dalbandin area of Chaghi district,

were waiting for transport to travel to Gulistan in Killa Abdullah district.

Two masked attackers riding a motorcycle intercepted the group and opened indiscriminate fire before fleeing the scene.

Confirming the casualties, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Khizar Hayat provided key details regarding the investigation.

Immediate Casualties: Two victims died on the spot, while two others were rushed

to the hospital in critical condition.

Hospital Fatality: One of the injured victims succumbed to his wounds during treatment, raising the death toll to three.

Victim Background: Preliminary inquiries indicate the men were day laborers in Dalbandin and were transiting through Quetta.

The motive behind the assault remains unknown, and a formal investigation is underway.

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Winds of change to where?

ZAHID HUSSAIN: THERE is much talk of the 'winds of change', but where are they blowing from? Well-briefed sections of the media and well-connected cabinet ministers tell us that some form of administrative restructuring to create new provinces is inevitable, and that it may come sooner rather than later.

We are told it is 'the will of the people' and that anyone who opposes it will be swept aside. One cannot help but wonder whether it is really the will of the people or that of the powers that be.

Curiously, while federal ministers belonging to the ruling PML-N deny any public knowledge of such a move, the PPP has vowed to resist the creation of new provinces.

And there has been no debate on the issue in parliament or the provincial assemblies.

Perhaps, as with the previous 26th and 27th Amendments, the draft is being prepared somewhere else, and lawmakers are expected simply to rubber-stamp it.

Speculation about an impending 28th amendment on administrative restructuring had been circulating for some time, but it was the interior minister's public statement last month that confirmed that a change was in the offing.

His remarks amounted to an indictment of the entire political order and a call for structural change.

A statement by the military spokesman soon after gave further shape to the emerging plan.

Those statements triggered intense public debate over a plan whose contours remain obscure.

All manner of suggestions — from the creation of new administrative units to devolution — are being floated.

Yet even the political parties and federal ministers who adamantly support restructuring admit they have no clear framework for how it should be carried out.

The collapse of the system is the result of the denial of democratic rights to the people.

There is no disagreement that the existing political power structure has long since collapsed and can no longer deliver.

But any attempt to salvage the system through patchwork will fail.

The crisis runs far deeper and cannot be resolved merely by re-drawing administrative units.

Some media reports, apparently based on the official briefing, suggest the still to be finalised 28th amendment is not limited to new administrative units, but also envisages 'sweeping governance restructuring'.

Structural reform is inseparable from democracy, and any change imposed by extra-constitutional forces will only

worsen the chaos and fuel instability.

Yet even the existing imbalance of power in favour of the establishment, there appears little likelihood of resistance from a civilian leadership of questionable legitimacy.

The 26th and 27th Amendments have already damaged the foundation of the Constitution by virtually destroying judicial independence;

many are of the view that the judiciary has been reduced to an extension of the executive.

A 28th amendment as currently conceived would destroy

even the semblance of democracy that remains.

The creation of new administrative units and devolution of power to local governments has long been viewed as a way to improve governance.

Yet the country's political parties have never reached a consensus on the issue, and the constitutional requirement of a two-thirds

majority in both the national parliament and provincial assemblies has made the creation of new provinces almost impossible.

There is broad agreement on establishing a separate

south Punjab province, but whether it should be divided along linguistic or administrative lines remains a sticking point. Similarly,

while there appears to be a general acceptance in KP of a Hazara province, the exact boundary remains disputed.

The suggestion to divide Sindh, however, remains the most contentious issue. Not surprisingly, the PPP has campaigned aggressively against a plan that would create a separate Karachi province,

while others have suggested placing the country's financial and

industrial hub under direct federal control.

Both proposals amount to cutting off Sindh's capital city, which makes no sense; any such move could spark an uprising in the country's second-biggest province.

Likewise, dividing Balochistan into several administrative units would only worsen an already volatile situation.

Far from improving governance, such arbitrary plans, conceived arguably by extra-constitutional elements, are impractical.

Rather than pursuing a controversial redrawing of adminis-

trative boundaries, empowering local governments is both more practical and urgently needed to take democracy to the grassroots.

Devolution from the centre to the provinces, and from the provinces to the local level, is a core feature of the 18th Amendment.

Unfortunately, the provinces have failed to implement the second stage of this devolution. That failure has distorted the system and caused widespread governance breakdown.

Local governments have not only had their powers curtailed but have also gone years without elections.

Punjab, for instance, has held no local government elections for years despite repeated Supreme Court orders.

Sindh and KP have held elections, but their local governments' powers have been drastically reduced, and their finances are controlled by provincial governments, rendering them largely ineffective.

Even a megacity like Karachi is governed directly by provincial ministers. Balochistan, the country's most troubled province, has virtually abandoned the local government system, further disenfranchising its population.

What is needed is a constitutional amendment clearly defining the powers of local government and



Zahid Hussain

making those powers mandatory.

The grand idea of creating more provinces, and governance reform imposed by the establishment,

will only expedite the very collapse of the state that the interior minister mentioned.

It must be left to parliament and the political parties to build consensus on devolution to local government, which is essential for democracy and good governance.

We have the example of political parties jointly working on the 18th Amendment, which strengthened federalism through the devolution of power to the provinces.

A major problem, however, is the security set-up's growing control of the state.

A civilian government of doubtful legitimacy, beholden to the establishment for its survival, is in no position to resist pressure.

The collapse of the system is the result of the denial of democratic rights to the people, and the rot cannot be stopped through imposed solutions.

A country mired in economic, political and internal security crises cannot afford another contentious issue dividing the people.

These so-called winds of change are certainly not good for the future of democracy and the country.

What we need is the restoration of democracy and the supremacy of the Constitution to stem the rot.

Plastic in the Womb: Balochistan's Invisible Health Crisis

By Myra Zahid:

In the dusty plains of Balochistan, where drought already strains farms and families, a different kind of threat is moving in quietly. It cannot be seen, smelled, or stopped at the door.

It is microplastics, plastic fragments smaller than five millimeters, and they are now turning up in the air we breathe, the soil we farm, and even inside newborn babies.

Microplastics form when plastic waste breaks down under sun, heat, and friction.

They have been found almost everywhere where scientists have looked: household dust, farmland, drinking water, vegetables, and human tissue.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) estimates that the average person eats and breathes in roughly 39,000 to 52,000 microplastic particles every year. In 2019, a global study commissioned by WWF International made headlines when it calculated that people may be ingesting close to a credit card's worth of plastic every week.

The Express Tribune carried the story for Pakistani readers, a reminder that this is not a distant problem, but one already inside our food and water.

Pakistan's Plastic Problem



Pakistan generates an estimated 6.41 million tons of plastic waste a year, according to the UN Development Programme (UNDP), with the vast majority never properly collected or recycled.

World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) says 86 percent of the country's plastic waste is mismanaged, left in open dumps, burned, or washed into rivers and the sea. That puts Pakistan among the

world's worst plastic polluters.

When this waste breaks down in open dumps, fields, and gutters, it does not disappear. It fragments

into microplastics that drift into the air or sink into the soil, eventually working their way into the crops we eat.

Mothers and Babies at Risk

The most alarming discoveries are happening before birth. In 2020,

scientists in Italy found microplastics inside the human placenta for the first time, proof that plastic particles can pass from a pregnant mother to her unborn child.

Since then, researchers have also found microplastics in human breast milk.

According to exposure data reported in the Journal of the Pakistan Medical Association (JPMA),

microplastics can carry toxic chemicals

such as BPA and phthalates, both known to disrupt hormones.

These chemicals are linked to low birth weight and long-term developmental risks in children.

In Pakistan, a 2024 study by the University of Karachi's Institute of Marine Science found microplastics in the breast milk of lactating mothers in fishing communities along the Karachi coast,

where seafood is eaten almost daily. No equivalent study has yet been done in Balochistan, but the risk factors are familiar here too: communities along the Gwadar, Pasni, and Ormara coastline depend

just as heavily on the sea, while facing even thinner access to maternal and child healthcare.

What Can Be Done

There are practical

defenses. Lab tests show that fine water filters (around 0.2 microns, such as certified reverse-osmosis systems) can remove 94 to 100 percent of plastic particles from drinking water.

Balochistan's Agriculture Department is already distributing seeds for home gardening. Families

growing their own vegetables on terraces or small plots, using compost instead of plastic mulch, can

cut their exposure while also improving food security.

Small daily habits help too: choosing cloth bags and glass or metal bottles over plastic, never heating

food in plastic containers, and never burning plastic waste, which releases microplastics and toxic fumes directly into the air.

A Policy Gap, and a Climate Connection

Experts say microplastic pollution needs to be treated as both an environmental and a public health issue. That means enforcing waste management laws, banning single-use plastics and plastic

mulching in farming, and monitoring microplastics in soil, air, and food, something Pakistan currently does very little of.

Climate change is making the problem

worse. Rising heat speeds up plastic breakdown, drought-driven dust storms carry particles further through the air, and floods wash plastic waste into farmland and waterways. Protecting mothers and children from microplastics is, in that sense, also a matter of climate justice.

Pakistan's progress on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals is already behind: official data shows

reliable figures exist for less than 10 percent of SDG indicators nationally, and only 7 percent

Balochistan. Microplastics sit at the intersection of two of those goals, SDG 13 (Climate Action) and

SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), yet remain almost entirely unmeasured here.

The Bottom Line

Microplastics are invisible, but the risk they carry is not. In a province already facing drought, poverty,

and stretched healthcare, this is a threat reaching the next generation before it is even born.

Waterfiltration, home gardens, and less plastic use can help right now. But lasting protection will need real monitoring, enforced policy, and research — starting with the studies Balochistan still doesn't have.

University of Balochistan Students Win First Position at National Climate Justice Youth Film Festival

QUETTA: Students of the Department of Journalism at the University of Balochistan have secured first position at the National Climate Justice Youth Film Festival held in Islamabad, delivering an outstanding performance with a documentary focusing on climate and sustainable transport issues.

Students from seven universities across Pakistan participated in the festival, presenting documentaries on topics including climate change, electric vehicles and sustainable transportation.

A team from the University of Balochistan's Department of Journalism, comprising Tehreem Moazzam, Mahnoor Fatima, Khalid Zubair and Muhammad Sami,



won first position for its documentary.

NED University of Engineering and Technology Karachi secured second position, while the University of Sindh Jamshoro stood third.

Students from Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi, University of Engineering

and Technology Peshawar, Sindh Agriculture University Tandojam, University of Sindh Jamshoro, NED University Karachi,

M u h a m m a d Nawaz Sharif University of Agriculture Multan and the University of Balochistan participated in the festival.

A policy dialogue held as part of the festival brought together representatives from the government, universities, financial institutions, industry and development sector. Participants discussed key issues including electric public transport, electrification of two- and three-wheelers, fi-

nancing, charging infrastructure and sustainable mobility.

University of Balochistan Wins for Second Consecutive Year The achievement is particularly significant as University of Balochistan students also secured first position at the National Climate Justice Youth Film Festival last year.

With this year's victory, students of the Department of Journalism have demonstrated their capabilities and creative talent by winning the prestigious competition for the second consecutive year.

The University of Balochistan delegation participating in the festival was led by Chairman of the Media Department, Dr. Muhammad Faheem Baloch.

MPA Hidayat-ur-Rehman Baloch Reviews Educational Institutions and Facilities in Gwadar

GWADAR: Balochistan Member of Provincial Assembly Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman Baloch visited Gwadar

Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman also conducted Provincial Education Minister Rabeela Famed Durani and ap-



University, Government Boys Degree College and Government Girls Degree College to review educational activities, student attendance, teaching affairs and issues confronting the institutions.

At Gwadar University, he met Vice Chancellor Abdul Razzaq Sabir, Professor Manzoor and other officials.

The meeting discussed the university's academic and administrative situation as well as issues faced by students.

The Vice Chancellor briefed the MPA about the university's requirements, including the need for a bus and other essential facilities.

and the Chief Minister to make efforts for resolving the institution's needs.

Later, the MPA visited the boys' and girls' degree colleges, where he inspected classrooms and reviewed the attendance of students and teachers, along with ongoing academic activities.

Appreciating the comparatively better attendance of students at the boys' college, he stressed the need to bring absent students back into regular educational activities.

At the girls' college, he expressed satisfaction with the academic performance and administrative affairs of the institution.

prised her of the performance and educational requirements of the Government Girls Degree College.

During the visit, the college administration presented him with a copy of the institution's first-ever published magazine, highlighting its academic and educational activities.

The MPA said that ensuring quality education in Gwadar, regular attendance of students and provision of essential facilities to educational institutions are among his top priorities.

He pledged to raise the issues of educational institutions at every relevant forum and make all possible efforts for their resolution.

NAB Balochistan Holds Awareness Lecture on Students' Role in Combating Corruption



QUETTA: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Balochistan organized an awareness lecture at Leaders Odyssey School and College, Quetta, on the topic "Role of Students in Eradicating Corruption and NAB's Working Mechanism" as part of its ongoing anti-corruption awareness campaign.

The lecture aimed to educate young people, particularly students, about the harmful effects of corruption and promote collective efforts to build a corruption-free

society. Deputy Director NAB Balochistan Farhan Youssaf Khan interacted with students and faculty members and briefed them about NAB's vision and mission, as well as the important role students can play in combating corruption.

He emphasized that young students have a key role in bringing positive change to society. He urged students to make honesty, integrity and accountability fundamental principles

of their lives and to develop a strong rejection of corrupt practices. Referring to Islamic teachings, Farhan Youssaf Khan said that self-accountability and honesty are among the fundamental principles of Islam and that corruption in any form cannot be tolerated.

He identified nepotism, bribery, favoritism, coercion and discrimination as forms of corruption and said that collective efforts by students, as important members of society, could play a significant role in laying the founda-

On the occasion, Vice Principal Ms. Farha and Lecturer Muhammad Akmal of Leaders Odyssey School and College appreciated NAB Balochistan's efforts to raise awareness among students about corruption.

They stressed the importance of educating students about integrity, honesty and accountability and said that collective efforts by students, as important members of society, could play a significant role in laying the founda-

tion for a corruption-free future.

The school administration also assured NAB Balochistan of continued cooperation in its anti-corruption awareness campaign.

At the conclusion of the lecture, NAB Balochistan presented a commemorative shield to the Vice Principal of Leaders

Odyssey School and College in recognition of the institution's participation and cooperation in promoting anti-corruption awareness.

DC Nasirabad Reviews Education System, Directs Action Against Absentee Staff

NASIRABAD: Deputy Commissioner Nasirabad Virendra Lal chaired an important meeting of the District Education Committee to review the overall situation of educational institutions across the district, restoration of academic activities after summer vacations, attendance of teachers and students, improvement in teaching practices and measures to enhance the quality of education.

The meeting was attended by District Education Officers (Male and Female), including Manzoor Shirazi, along with other Education Department officials and members of the committee.

During the meeting, education officials gave the Deputy Commissioner a detailed briefing on the performance and overall condition of educational institutions across Nasirabad.

They said teaching activities had resumed normally in government schools following the summer vacations.

However, some employees found absent from duty should face challenges related to teacher attendance, availability of basic facilities and other administrative matters.

The committee was also briefed on the teacher attendance system, provision of quality education, effective

implementation of curricular activities and the overall performance of educational institutions. The meeting reviewed various measures to improve educational standards, ensure timely attendance of teachers, increase student attendance and promptly resolve issues faced by schools across the district.

Speaking at the



meeting, Deputy Commissioner Virendra Lal directed the concerned officials to give special attention to ensuring regular teaching activities, teacher attendance and a better educational environment for students in all government schools.

He ordered that employees found absent from duty should face challenges related to teacher attendance, availability of basic facilities and other administrative matters.

The committee was also briefed on the teacher attendance system, provision of quality education, effective

a society's development and prosperity.

He directed officials to utilize all available resources to address problems in educational institutions and improve the quality of education.

He further instructed education authorities to conduct regular inspections of schools, strengthen monitoring of teacher attendance and teaching

activities, and take practical measures to resolve difficulties faced by students. Virendra Lal said improving the education system in Nasirabad is among the government's priorities and that negligence or dereliction of duty would not be tolerated.

He directed the relevant authorities to identify problems confronting educational institutions and adopt a coordinated strategy for their resolution so that students could receive not only quality education but also a safe, supportive and conducive learning environment.

29-Year Wait Ends as Abdul Jabbar Receives Temporary Appointment on Merit

Abdul Jabbar's Story of Patience and Hope Highlights Commissioner Nasirabad's Merit-Based Initiative

QUETTA: The policy of Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti centered on merit, transparency and prompt redressal of public grievances has begun producing tangible results, with the 29-year wait of Usta Muhammad resident Abdul Jabbar for government employment finally coming to an end.

On the directives of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakil Qadir Khan and Senior Member Board of Revenue (SMBR) Qambar Dashti, Commissioner Nasirabad Division Salahuddin Noorzi issued orders for Abdul Jabbar's temporary appointment on merit and in accordance with applicable rules and regulations.

Abdul Jabbar completed his Patwari course in 1997. During his training, his father passed away. Due to his academic commitments and



examinations, he was unable to see his father for the last time.

Despite the profound personal loss, Abdul Jabbar completed his Patwari qualification.

However, his dream of securing a govern-

ment job remained unfulfilled for 29 years.

Throughout this period, he continued to pursue employment opportunities, visiting various government offices and facing prolonged uncertainty and financial difficulties. Despite

the hardships, he did not lose hope.

Recently, Abdul Jabbar travelled from Usta Muhammad to the office of the Commissioner Nasirabad Division to obtain information about interviews for temporary appointments.

His financial circumstances can be gauged from the fact that he did not even have enough money to buy petrol for his motorcycle for the journey to the divisional headquarters. He reportedly sold his daughter's gold earring to cover his travel expenses.

Upon reaching the Commissioner's Office, however, he learned that a decision regarding the position he had come to inquire about had already been made on merit.

Commissioner Nasirabad Division Salahuddin Noorzi had already issued orders for his temporary appointment in accordance with the directions of the relevant authorities and applicable rules.

When Abdul Jabbar was presented with his appointment order at the Commissioner's Office, the pain of his 29-year wait turned into a sense of joy. In an emotional moment, he thanked Allah Almighty and described the occasion as one of the most memorable moments of his life.

Abdul Jabbar's story demonstrates how transparent and merit-based decisions can not only ensure deserving candidates receive their rightful opportunities but also strengthen public trust in state institutions.

The timely action taken by Commissioner Nasirabad Division Salahuddin Noorzi in accordance with merit and rules provided relief to a citizen who had been waiting for almost three decades for his due right.

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Safe City Cameras Strengthen Security Monitoring in Usta Muhammad, Says SP

USTA MUHAMMAD: Superintendent of Police Usta Muhammad Hafiz Muaz-ur-Rehman has said that the installation of surveillance cameras under the Safe City Project has significantly improved monitoring of law and order in the city.

Speaking to Deputy Director of the Divisional Information Department Nasirabad Division Naik Muhammad, the SP said the provincial government had installed surveillance cameras at various locations across Usta Muhammad under

the Safe City initiative, while work on some components of the project was still underway.

He said the cameras were enabling police to maintain continuous and effective surveillance in the city. The situation and were providing significant assistance in monitoring suspicious individuals, criminal elements and suspicious activities.

Hafiz Muaz-ur-Rehman described the Safe City Project as an important and com-

mendable initiative of the provincial government aimed at protecting the lives and property of citizens through modern technology and maintaining law and order.

He said important locations, entry and exit points and sensitive areas were being monitored continuously through the surveillance system.

This would help police respond promptly to suspicious movements and any untoward incident.

The SP added that

Safe City cameras could also serve as important evidence in the event of an incident, helping investigators strengthen the investigation process.

He said Usta Muhammad Police was utilizing all available resources to protect citizens and maintain peace and security in the city.

The SP further emphasized that expanding the scope of the Safe City Project and connecting additional important locations to the modern surveillance network would further improve crime prevention and public safety.

He said effective coordination between police and other relevant institutions would ensure maximum benefit from the Safe City system and contribute to the safety of its residents.

DC Kech Meets Traders, Community Representatives to Address Public Issues in Turbat

TURBAT: Deputy Commissioner Kech Yasar Iqbal Dashti held meetings with Mayor of Municipal Corporation Turbat Balak Sher Qazi, Chief Officer Turbat Shoaib Nasir, representatives of Anjuman-e-Tajir Kech, including Ejaz Ahmed Joski and Siraj Sher Joski, and other representatives

of the business and community circles. Assistant Commissioner Buleda Abu Bakr Meervani and the Tehsil Dar Buleda were also present during the meetings. The discussions covered the overall situation in the area, administrative and social affairs, public issues and challenges faced by the local business commu-

nity, along with several other matters of importance.

The participants apprised the Deputy Commissioner of various regional, social, administrative and commercial issues being faced in Kech district and presented suggestions for their resolution.

Detailed discussions were also held on strengthening cooperation between the administration and local stakeholders, improving public facilities, enhancing administrative affairs and addressing the concerns of the business community.

Welcoming the participants, Deputy Commissioner Yasar Iqbal Dashti said the district

administration attaches great importance to resolving public issues, providing better facilities to citizens and maintaining effective communication with representatives of different sections of society, including social and business communities.

He said the administration's foremost priorities are public service, establishing a better administrative environment and ensuring timely resolution of legitimate public concerns.

The Deputy Commissioner further said that the business community and various segments of society play an important role in the development of the area.

Pakistan condemns 'unprovoked' Israeli attack on Syria air base

NEWS DESK: The Foreign Office (FO) on Wednesday strongly condemned the "unprovoked" attack carried out by Israel on an air base in Syria, saying such acts had the potential to "further undermine regional peace and stability".

Syria's state-run Ekhbariya television, citing a military source, said on Tuesday that Israel carried out eight airstrikes on the runway and storage facilities at the Abu al-Duhur base near Aleppo in northwest Syria. A separate military source and a civilian who lived near the base said there were no casualties.

"Such provocative actions constitute a flagrant violation of international law and have the potential to further undermine regional peace and stability," the FO said on Wednesday.

"Pakistan expresses its unwavering solidarity with the brotherly people of Syria, and reiterates its full support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic," the FO said. Pakistan also called on the international community to play its role in ending repeated violations of international law by Israeli occupation forces and to hold them accountable for their destabilising actions in the region, it added.

US envoy for Syria Tom Barrack said on

Tuesday it was confirmed that Israel carried out the strikes on the air base in Idlib province.

The attacks "constitute an unnecessary escalation that does not advance regional stability", Barrack, a business friend of President Donald Trump who is

in a statement after a day of official silence by Israel.

"Israel repeatedly warned Syria that such a deployment would pose a threat to Israel's security. Syria chose to ignore these warnings," said the statement, which stopped short of

Turkish government slammed Israel's remarks in a statement on Wednesday quoted by the Anadolu state news agency.

"The frivolous allegations put forward by the Israeli Prime Minister's office aim to legitimise Israel's unlaw-



also ambassador to Turkey, wrote on X.

"We encourage all parties to prioritise logical discourse over further military incidents," he said.

The strike marked extraordinary defiance by Israel of the United States, which has sought to support Syria's new government allied with Turkey.

"Israel and Syria agreed to a status quo in security matters, which Syria was on the verge of breaching by permitting Turkish troops to

deploy at an airbase near Aleppo," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said

acknowledging Israeli responsibility.

Syrian Foreign Minister Assad al-Shibani called for the attacks to stop, saying Israel should recalculate its position toward Syria because it was confronting not only Damascus, but also Syria's allies.

"These attacks don't have security justifications... We will continue in our diplomatic path to dissuade Israel from this policy and to force it to stop its attacks on Syria," he said at a press conference with International Atomic Energy Agency chief Rafael Grossi in Damascus.

Meanwhile, the full airstrikes targeting Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity," it said.

The base, about 70 km (43.5 miles) east of the Turkish border, has been out of service as a dedicated military airfield since 2013 and changed hands several times during Syria's 14-year civil war between forces loyal to former president Bashar al-Assad and opposition factions.

Israel has repeatedly struck Syrian forces since Assad was ousted in 2011. It has so far attacked mostly government sites in southern and central Syria, most recently in March.

Terrorist attempts to impede Balochistan's development will be foiled 'at all costs', Zardari tells CM Bugti

NEWS DESK: President Asif Ali Zardari held a meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfaraz Bugti on Wednesday and expressed the resolve to foil terrorist attempts of hindering development in the province.

Attempts by foreign-backed terrorists to hinder development in Balochistan will be foiled at all costs. The day is not far when terrorism will be eradicated from Balochistan," he said, according to a statement released by the Presidency after the meeting.

The meeting was held at Aitawa-Sadr in Islamabad, the statement said, adding that CM Bugti briefed the president on the overall situation in Balochistan and steps being taken for development.

President Zardari noted that effective coordination between the federal and provincial governments was necessary for peace, progress and public welfare in Balochistan, according to the statement.

"Pakistan's largest province in terms of area deserves special attention and resources," the statement quoted him as saying. Faraz Talpur, the president of PPP's women's wing, and Mir Ali Hassan Zehri, a former provincial minister from Balochistan, were also present during the meeting.

The meeting took place against the backdrop of near-constant terrorist activity and lawlessness in Balochistan, including attacks on infrastructure.

A week before the meeting, a main gas pipeline in Karachi district's Bolan was blown up by unidentified attackers,

and security forces have been conducting operations against terrorists in the province.

In the latest action, they killed nine terrorists during intelligence-based operations (IBO) in the Ziarat, Hamai and Surab areas of Balochistan.

On Monday, two terrorists were killed and

detonation, according to the military's media affairs wing.

The Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies (PICSS) monthly security assessment said security situation deteriorated most significantly in Balochistan in the country last month.

The overall death



following which supply to several towns and cities was suspended.

Similarly two 220kV high-voltage transmission pylons were blown up and as many were partially damaged near the Uch Power Plant in Dera Murad Jamali on July 13. The attack by unidentified armed men had disrupted electricity supply to Quetta, Sibi, and several other parts of Balochistan.

Meanwhile, security

three others were injured in an IBO in the Kalbi Zaika area of Balochistan, seven were killed in an IBO in Kharan's Lajay area on Sunday.

On Saturday, security forces killed 10 terrorists and injured many others in an IBO in the Shor Pard area of Balochistan's Khuzdar district.

That followed the killing of at least 18 terrorists in Surab, including eight in a premature

toll increased by 241 per cent in Balochistan, from 109 in June to 372 in July, the report said.

Security personnel deaths in Balochistan increased from six in June to 62 in July, representing a rise of 933pc. Terrorist deaths rose from 75 to 238, while civilian deaths increased by 93pc, from 28 to 54. Eighteen members of peace committees were also killed in the province.

Digital platforms need to take Pakistan's 'specific circumstances' into account, minister tells Google delegation

NEWS DESK: Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry on Wednesday told a delegation from Google that digital platforms would have to take the country's "specific circumstances" into account.

According to the interior ministry, Chaudhry met a delegation from the tech giant led by Senior Director David Weller. Google

with Google for a safe and peaceful digital environment," Chaudhry was quoted as saying. He said that Pakistan's geographical location was "different from other countries".

"Digital platforms will have to take into account the specific circumstances of Pakistan," he said, adding that terrorists used social media to spread fear

and promote terrorism. Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said there was "great scope" for a fruitful partnership with Google and for strengthening bilateral ties in various areas.

Google's Global Affairs Vice President William L. White had described his visit as a "big milestone".



Pakistan's representative Kyle Gardner, also part of the delegation. It said the meeting covered digital security, the effective use of social media against terrorism, the timely regulation of online content and mutual cooperation.

"Pakistan wishes to further enhance cooperation and coordination

and promote terrorism. Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said there was "great scope" for a fruitful partnership with Google and for strengthening bilateral ties in various areas.

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PMD issues flood alert for Leh Nullah as heavy rains continue to batter Rawalpindi and Islamabad

NEWS DESK: The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) on Wednesday issued a flood alert for Leh Nullah as heavy rainfall continued to batter Islamabad and Rawalpindi for a third day.

The department said that heavy rainfall, expected over the next few hours, could cause water to accumulate in low-lying areas and raise the water levels in local drains, particularly Leh Nullah.

It also issued a flood alert for Leh Nullah as the water levels at Kattarian and Gawalmandi exceeded the designated thresholds. According to the Met Office, the water level in Leh Nullah in-

creased to 21 feet at Kattarian and 16 feet at Gawalmandi at 6:30am, before reducing. By 11:30am, water levels at Kattarian and Gawalmandi were recorded as 16 feet and 19 feet, respectively.

The PMD asked authorities to make arrangements for evacuating people from low-lying areas. The Met department asked all stakeholders concerned to remain highly vigilant, closely monitor the situation, and be prepared to take necessary precautionary measures in case of further escalation.

The department said that 122mm of rainfall had been recorded at Shamsabad, 121mm at Kutchi Chowk, 119mm

at Kattarian, 118mm at Pirwadi, 100mm at Zero Point, 100mm at Bokra, 95mm at Saidpur and 94mm in Gola.

Meanwhile, Rescue 1122 said that a madrasah in Saddar area had to be evacuated after water entered the premises. It said 150 children present in one of the buildings were safely evacuated, adding that no casualties were reported.

A day earlier, the Met Office had predicted more rain and warned that heavy rains may cause urban flooding in low-lying areas of Islamabad/Rawalpindi, Mardan, Swabi, Peshawar, Nowshera, Gujranwala, Gujrat, Sialkot and Lahore.

PM directs petroleum minister to travel to Karachi, hold talks with oil refineries for reducing diesel prices

NEWS DESK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday directed Petroleum Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik to travel to Karachi and hold negotiations with oil refineries to reduce diesel prices, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said.

The premier issued the directive during a meeting with the petroleum minister, which Information Minister Attaulah Tarar, Economic Affairs Minister Ahmad Khan Cheema, Climate Change Minister Dr Musadik Malik, and MNA Hamza Shehbaz also attended.

According to the PMO, the prime minister directed Malik to "immediately" reach Karachi and take steps for providing the public relief with regard to fuel prices.

It said he directed the minister to "hold ne-

gotiations with the oil refineries" and "ensure measures to reduce the price of locally produced diesel".

The petroleum minister himself should complete negotiations with the refineries as soon as possible to reduce its prices. As much relief as possible should be provided to the pub-

lic immediately," it said.

The development comes after the government on Tuesday raised the price of petrol by 72-hour ultimatum, accusing it of failing to honour assurances made by the petroleum minister regarding its demands.

The dealers had sought replacement of the existing high margin

Last week, the Pakistan Petroleum Dealers' Association (PPDA) had given the federal government a 72-hour ultimatum, accusing it of failing to honour assurances made by the petroleum minister regarding its demands.

The dealers had sought replacement of the existing high margin

with a variable margin linked to the retail prices of petrol and diesel, proposing that it be set at 8pc of the retail price of both fuels.

In a move aimed at averting the nationwide strike, the government on Friday approved a 15.5 per cent increase in dealers' margins on both petrol and high-speed diesel.

The decision raised the dealers' margin on both fuels by Rs1.34 per litre, from Rs8.64 to Rs9.98 per litre. The revised margin is scheduled to take effect from Sept.

The shift from fortnightly to daily petroleum price revisions added another demand from dealers, who sought to link their margins to retail prices. The government, however, decided to retain the daily pricing mechanism.



3 'SRA terrorists' arrested for firing at Independence Day stall in Karachi, killing owner: CTD

NEWS DESK: The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) said on Wednesday that its personnel, along with those of a federal intelligence agency, had arrested three men affiliated with the banned Sindhudesh Revolutionary Army (SRA) for their involvement in firing at an Independence Day stall in Karachi.

In a statement, CTD said the stall owner was killed in the incident that took place on August 12.

A stall selling national flags and badges was fired at in Defence Housing Authority Phase 2 near Sunset Boulevard at around 11:30pm, the statement said, adding that the stall owner was seriously wounded in the incident and later succumbed to his injuries.

The deceased — identified as Aman, a resident of Korangi's Christian Town — had set up the stall at the location since the beginning of August, CTD said.

Following the firing incident, a case was registered at the Defence police station and CTD, along with a federal intelligence agency, Peshawar, Nowshera, Gujranwala, Gujrat, Sialkot and Lahore.

"The investigation team took the investigation forward on technical grounds and with the help of other available evidence," the press statement said.

On August 18, three terrorists were arrested in a joint operation near Korangi Causeway in Karachi, it added.

According to CTD, three hand grenades and a pistol were recovered

men revealed during interrogation that they were affiliated with the proscribed SRA and had been tasked with targeting Independence Day stalls in Karachi.

They said they received directions from an SRA member residing outside Pakistan, identifying him as Arsalan Shah.

CTD said Shah "worked to spread terror-

ism in Sindh at the behest of an Indian proxy".

The statement said it was found during the investigation that Sajjad had been reconnaissance of Independence Day stalls from August 3 and decided to target the stall located in DHA Phase 2 on August 11.

On the night of Au-

gust 12, Sajjad reached the site on a motorcycle, while two of his accomplices,

Zafar and Faraz, were on a different motorcycle to provide him cover. Sajjad opened fire at the person present at the stall and fled the scene immediately after the statement said.

After their arrest, they revealed that they were getting financial

support from abroad "to create fear and panic in Karachi" ahead of August 14.

CTD said further investigation regarding their "alleged facilitators" was under way.

"The arrested terrorists are being interrogated while a probe is also under way to trace

any of their possible facilitators, coordinators outside Pakistan, sources providing them financial assistance and weapons and ammunition," the statement said, adding an investigation was also being conducted regarding their possible involvement in other incidents of crime.

The interior ministry had banned the SRA in 2020, along with Jeay Sindh Qaumi Mahaz-Areas Group (USQM-A) and Sindhudesh Liberation Army (SLA) under the Anti-Terrorism Act.

SRA operatives have been found involved in multiple incidents of terrorism, and it was around this same time last year that Hyderabad CTD had said it had arrested three "most-wanted terrorists" SRA in Jamshoro during an intelligence-based operation.

"The terrorists of the banned SRA were wanted in the cases related to firing on cargo trailers going to Punjab, especially in the areas of district Sujawal,

CTD said at the time, adding that they had confessed to carrying out multiple attacks, including planting bombs and a vehicle tracks and targeting law enforcement personnel.

