

Independent

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Pakistan calls for an immediate, unconditional ceasefire in Gaza

NEW YORK (APP): At the United Nations, Pakistan has reiterated the call for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire in Gaza.

act decisively, uphold human dignity, ensure accountability and deliver justice.

He said Pakistan demands establishing an inter-



The call was made by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar while delivering the national statement at UN Security-Council's meeting on 'The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question' in New York today.

The Deputy Prime Minister urged the UN Security Council and broader international community to

national protection mechanism and putting a categorical end to any forced displacement of Palestinians from their lands while upholding the right to return for refugees in accordance with international law.

The Deputy Prime Minister called for full unhindered humanitarian access to Gaza and immediate lifting of blockade to allow life-saving to reach

those in need.

He said suffering of Palestinian people is a stain on our conscience. Time for words is over, and time for action is now. Ishaq Dar reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering support for Palestinian people in their just struggle for dignity, justice and self-determination through establishment of sovereign, independent and contiguous Palestinian state with pre-1967 borders and al Quds al Sharif as its capital.

He said Pakistan welcomes the two-state solution conference chaired by Saudi Arabia and France and also commends the recent recognitions of State of Palestine by numerous UN member states which reflects adherence to justice and principles of international law. On this note, Ishaq Dar mentioned that Pakistan is amongst the first few countries to recognize state of Palestine following a declaration of independence in 1948.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhel, Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, Commander 12 Corps Lieutenant General Rahat Naseem Ahmed Khan and other high ups in a group photo during Balochistan Interfaith Harmony Seminar 2025.

Governor says: Minorities have freedom to express their faith & language in Pakistan

CM Balochistan Sarfraz Bugti, Commander 12 Corps Lt General Rahat Naseem Ahmed Khan also participated in seminar

QUETTA (APP): Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhel on Tuesday said that the condition of minorities in Pakistan is better than in many other countries and they have the freedom to express their faith and language.

He expressed these views while addressing the participants of the Interfaith Harmony Seminar 2025.

On this occasion, Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti, Commander 12 Corps Lieutenant General Rahat Naseem Ahmed Khan, Speaker Provincial Assembly Captain R Abdul Khaliq Achakzai, provincial ministers, mem-

bers of the assembly, leading figures of different religions and civil and military officers, along with a large number of women and men were present.

Addressing at the ceremony, the Governor said that in the context of the current situation, organizing a seminar on interfaith harmony is very important in which speeches of leading figures of different religions were heard and the problems being faced by minorities in the province were highlighted in the question and answer session, we are all known and recognized as human beings

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QUETTA: Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhel inaugurates Pashto Digitalization Project at Pashto Academy Quetta.

Blast derails Jaffar Express in Dasht area, injures a dozen passengers

Independent Report

QUETTA: An explosion struck a railway track in the Dasht area of Mastung district in Balochistan on Tuesday, targeting the Jaffar Express traveling from Peshawar to Quetta and wounding a dozen passengers.

Officials said the device was an improvised explosive planted near the track, which detonated as the train passed. The blast

caused four bogies to derail and left several passengers, including women and children, injured.

Rescue teams and security forces quickly reached the site to evacuate the victims. The injured were taken to hospitals in Quetta, and an emergency was declared to ensure timely medical care.

Health officials re

Continued on page 2

Court dismisses Imran's pleas seeking CCTV footage, halt of trial in GHQ attack case

RAWALPINDI (INP): An anti-terrorism court in Rawalpindi has dismissed both petitions filed on behalf of the PTI founder Imran Khan in the May 9 GHQ attack case. The case was heard by ATC Judge Amjad Ali Shah. PTI founder's counsels, Faisal Malik and Salman Akram Raja, appeared before the court, while special prosecutors Zaheer Shah and Ikram Amin Minhas appeared with their team.

The PTI founder's lawyers had filed two petitions: one seeking provision

of CCTV footage and court proceedings of September 19, and the other requesting suspension of proceedings until the High Court's orders on transferring the trial to jail. Lawyer Faisal Malik argued that they could not participate in the proceedings without consultation with their client. The court responded that the PTI founder had already boycotted the proceedings during the previous hearing after being connected, and advised them to challenge the matter of WhatsApp communication in the High Court.

Balochistan Govt, opposition agree to amend controversial mines and minerals act

CM Bugti emphasizes that the government's objective is to ensure decisions are made in the public interest; Concerns raised by all stakeholders will be addressed

QUETTA (ANN): Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, announced that after extensive consultations with opposition parties and other political groups, a consensus has been reached on the controversial Mines and Minerals Act. The legislation will be reintroduced in the Provincial Assembly for further amendments to address concerns raised by all stakeholders.

Speaking to the media after a session of the Balochistan Assembly, CM Bugti said that while differences existed between the government and opposition over the Act, negotiations over the past days have paved the way for agreement. "Many parties, including ours, had reserva-



tions regarding this Act. We have engaged not only with assembly members but also with political groups outside the Assembly to reach a balanced approach," he said.

He added that due to existing concerns, the Act has been temporarily halted

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Commander Bahrain Guard calls on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed

ISLAMABAD (APP): General Shaikh Mohammed Bin Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, Commander Bahrain National



Guard, called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force at Air Headquarters, Islamabad.

During the meeting, both sides reaffirmed their resolve for sustained de-

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CM Bugti calls Pashtun culture symbol of hospitality, honor, and brotherhood

Independent Report
QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, in his message on the occasion of Pashtun Culture Day, said that the province is a beautiful bouquet of diverse cultures, languages, and traditions, where Pashtun culture holds a distinguished place due to its history, richness, and timeless values.

He emphasized that Pashtun culture represents peace, hospitality, honor, and brotherhood—values that have been passed down through generations. "Celebrating cultural days is a way to showcase our identity and introduce the younger generation to the traditions and values of their forefathers," he noted.

Saudi Grand Mufti Sheikh Abdulaziz passes away

President, PM condole demise of Grand Mufti of Saudi Arabia

MAKKAH (INP): Saudi Arabia's Grand Mufti Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Abdullah Al-Sheikh passed away on Tuesday at the age of 81, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) confirmed. The Kingdom's top religious authority had been ill for some time.

Sheikh Abdulaziz Al-Sheikh was the Grand Mufti of Saudi Arabia and also served as the head of the Council of Senior Schol-



ars, the highest religious body in the country.

Born in 1943, Sheikh

Continued on page 2

PM, Kuwait's Crown Prince discuss regional, global issues

NEW YORK (INP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif held a bilateral meeting with Crown Prince of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah in New York today on the sidelines of UN General Assembly session.

The Prime Minister recalled the longstanding, historic fraternal ties between Pakistan and Kuwait. He conveyed his respects and good wishes for the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Recalling that both countries have always stood by each other through thick and thin, the Prime Minister thanked the Crown Prince for Kuwait's expressions of solidarity following the recent floods in Pakistan.

Expressing satisfaction over the positive tra-

jectory of bilateral cooperation between the two countries, the Prime Minister expressed Pakistan's keen desire to strengthen these ties further, particularly in trade, investment, agriculture, livestock, manpower export and health.

The Prime Minister said Pakistan is looking forward to hosting the Kuwaiti Crown Prince for an official visit to Pakistan later this year.

The two leaders also exchanged views on regional and international issues, including the situation in the Middle East.

The Crown Prince appreciated Pakistan's diplomatic efforts to effectively project the plight of the Palestinian people before the international community as well as playing an important role for peace in the region.

PM praises Trump's role in Pakistan, India ceasefire

NEW YORK (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday praised U.S. President Donald Trump and his team for playing a significant role in the ceasefire between Pakistan and India.

Speaking to the media in New York, the prime minister described President Trump as a strong advocate for peace and stability across the globe.

"President Donald Trump is a man of peace. He, along with his team, played a key role in bringing about the ceasefire between Pakistan and India," said PM Sharif.

NAB hands over retrieved state land to federal govt

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Industries and Production on Tuesday held a formal ceremony to mark the handover of retrieved state land from the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) to the federal government.

On behalf of the federal government, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Industries and Production Haroon Akhtar Khan received the land from NAB Deputy Chairman Sohail Nasir and NAB Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Director General Farmanullah, said a news release.

BA session turns heated over unemployment, border closures

Debate rages over water theft and mines act; assembly approves removal of illegal water pipes and special courts bill

QUETTA (ANN): The Balochistan Assembly witnessed a stormy session under the chair of Speaker Abdul Khaliq Achakzai, starting an hour and five minutes late. The session began with prayers for those who lost their lives in recent incidents.

Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, addressing the House, stressed that the Assembly had always prioritized public interest, urging members to rely on facts instead of rumors. He clarified that the reported killing of an Assistant Commissioner was false and disproved by forensic evidence.

JI lawmaker Maulana

Hidayat ur Rehman staged a strong protest, condemning unemployment as "economic murder" and accusing the government of pushing people into poverty and suicides. He criticized the closure of borders at Chaman, Gwadar and Kech, calling it an "anti-people" move and demanding their immediate reopening. "Does living near the border make people traitors?" he asked, further charging that the Balochistan government had failed the people. His continuous protests prompted the Speaker to remark sarcastically that "Maulana Hidayat ur Rehman is the ornament of the Assembly."

Parliamentary Secretary Mir Liaquat Lehri highlighted the struggles of local traders, saying they could not even pay shop rents while youth were "crying due to unemployment." He dismissed the government's claims as baseless.

Provincial Minister for Planning and Development Zahoore Bulendi defended government efforts, pointing out that border markets had been established and would be equipped with facilities. He added that cross-border terrorism was a serious issue, with federal and state insti

Continued on page 2



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Mir Sadiq Umrani, Nawabzada Tariq Khan Magsi, Bakht Muhammad Kakar, Mir Zahoore Ahmed Bulendi, Mir Asim Kurd Gailu, Parliamentary Secretary Haji Abdul Majeed Badini, Mir Liaquat Ali Lehri, Haji Muhammad Khan Lehri, Haji Barkat Ali Rind and MPAs Mir Younas Aziz Zehri, Mir Rehmat Saleh Baloch and Haji Ghulam Dastagir Badini expressing their views on resolution during Balochistan Assembly session.

Asia Cup 2025: Pakistan defeat Sri Lanka to keep final hopes alive

Sports Desk

DUBAI: Pakistan grabbed a five-wicket victory over Sri Lanka on Tuesday in the crucial Super Fours match to keep hopes alive for advancing to the Asia Cup 2025 final.

Chasing a modest 134-run target on a challenging surface and testing conditions here, the Green Shirts eventually knocked the winning runs for the loss of five wickets and 12 balls to spare.

Pakistan got off to a decent start to the pursuit as their opening pair of Sahibzada Farhan and Fakhar Zaman yielded 45 runs inside the batting powerplay before both fell victim to Maheesh

Theekshana in the sixth over. Farhan scored 24 off 15 deliveries with the help of two sixes and a four, while Fakhar made a 19-ball 17. Wanindu Hasaranga further added to Pakistan's woes by dismissing Saim Ayub and captain Salman Ali Agha in consecutive overs, bringing the total down to 57/4 in 8.1 overs.

Wicketkeeper batter Mohammad Haris and Hussain Talat briefly stabilised the run chase with their 23-run partnership for the fifth wicket, but Dushmantha Chameera cleaned up the former in the 12th over to dent their recovery. With the scoreboard reading 80/5 in 11.1 overs and a further 58

required off 53 deliveries, Mohammad Nawaz joined Talat, and the duo batted sensibly under pressure to steer their side over the line unbeaten.

Mohammad Nawaz top-scored for Pakistan with an unbeaten 38 off 24 deliveries, studded with three sixes and as many fours, while Talat made 32 not out from 30 balls, comprising four fours.

For Sri Lanka, Theekshana and Hasaranga bagged two wickets each, while Chameera could claim one. Put into bat first, the defending champions managed to accumulate 133/8 in their allotted 20 overs despite Kamindu Mendis's half-century.



Kamindu Mendis held the middle over together for Sri Lanka, Men's T20 Asia Cup Super Fours Sri Lanka vs Pakistan at Abu Dhabi.

Saudi Grand Mufti..

Continued from page 1

Abdulaziz bin Abdullah Al-Sheikh became one of the most respected clerics in the Islamic world. Over the decades, he played a central role in shaping religious thought and guidance across Saudi Arabia. He also holds the distinction of delivering the most Hajj sermons in history, addressing millions of pilgrims who traveled to the holy sites of Makkah and Medina. According to SPA, the funeral prayer for the late Grand Mufti will be held at the Imam Turki bin Abdullah Mosque in Riyadh after the Asr prayer.

Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz has further directed that absentee funeral prayers be performed for

Sheikh Abdulaziz at the Grand Mosque in Makkah, Masjid-e-Nabwi in Medina, and in all mosques across the Kingdom following the Asr prayer.

Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Abdullah Al-Sheikh's decades of service as Saudi Arabia's Grand Mufti and his leadership of the Council of Senior Scholars made him a central figure in the Kingdom's religious and social landscape. His sermons, rulings, and guidance were followed not just in Saudi Arabia but across the Muslim world. Meanwhile, President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif on Tuesday expressed deep sorrow and grief over the demise of Grand Mufti of Saudi Arabia.

Blast details..

Continued from page 1

ported that while some passengers sustained minor injuries, others remain in serious condition and are receiving critical care. Images shared online showed rescue teams working with law enforcement to clear the wreckage and assist passengers. Railway authorities confirmed that the explosion severely damaged the track, forcing a suspension of train services in the area. An investigation has been launched, though no group has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Railways Minister Hanif Abbasi has ordered an inquiry into the Jaffar Express incident and directed authorities to submit a report within 24 hours.



LAHORE: Commander Central Punjab, Rear Admiral Sohail Ahmad Azmi brief media about 4th Chief of the Naval Staff All Pakistan Hockey Tournament 2025 was held in Lahore from 25 September to 4 October 2025 at National Hockey Stadium, Lahore.

Pakistan calls for strengthened partnership between OIC, UN to advance peace, tolerance culture

NEW YORK (APP): Pakistan on Tuesday called for strengthened partnership between the OIC and the UN to advance a culture of peace and tolerance.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister (DPM/FM) of Pakistan, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar made these remarks as he participated in a Special OIC High-Level Event on the Promotion of a Culture of Peace and Tolerance,

commemorating the 1,500th anniversary of the birth of Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) today at the UN Headquarters in New York. The DPM/FM underscored that it was an opportunity to reflect upon the timeless values of peace, justice, compassion and tolerance exemplified by the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him). Highlighting the transformative impact of the philosophy of

the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him), he noted how his teachings on justice, consultation, tolerance and peaceful resolution of conflicts resonate deeply with the principles enshrined in the UN Charter. The DPM/FM underscored the universal relevance of the legacy of the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him), citing the Charter of Medina, the Treaty of Hudaibiyyah.

BA session turns..

Continued from page 1

tutions taking action. Parliamentary Secretary Abdul Majeed Badini tabled a resolution against the large-scale installation of illegal water pipes in canals of Jaffarabad and other districts. The resolution noted that this deprived hundreds of thousands of farmers of their rightful share of irrigation water and left nearly half a million people without drinking water. It expressed regret over the Irrigation Department's inefficiency despite Balochistan High Court directives. The resolution called for immediate removal of illegal pipes, strict action against those involved, installation of a digital monitoring system, and activation of water user committees. The House unanimously passed the resolution. Meanwhile, MPA Nawabzada Zareen Magsi introduced the "Balochistan Establishment of Special Courts and Seized Pakistanis Property Bill 2025," which was also unanimously approved by the Assembly. The session reflected mounting public frustration as lawmakers clashed over governance, border issues, resource management, and the controversial Mines.

Balochistan Govt..

Continued from page 1

to introduce necessary amendments that balance public interest with stakeholder concerns," CM Bugti stated.

He emphasized that the government's objective is to ensure decisions are made in the public interest and expressed hope that the revised Act will be passed after consultations and consensus in the Assembly.

Opposition Leader in the Balochistan Assembly, Mir Younus Aziz Zehri, also welcomed the move,

stating, "Our party and other political groups had concerns regarding this Act. We engaged in discussions both inside and outside the Assembly and tried to adopt a joint stance. We are pleased that these discussions have led to a constructive path forward."

The reintroduction of the Mines and Minerals Act is expected to address critical issues, ensure transparency, and provide a framework acceptable to all political stakeholders while promoting the province's economic interests.



Balochistan Border Trade Alliance Members Mir Jaide Reki, Haji Khaleem Dhami, and Saifullah Saifi Address Press Conference at Quetta Press Club.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER		
The Office of the Chief Officer District Chaman invites Sealed percentage tender on composite schedule of rate 2023 Government of Balochistan (amended up to date) from interested contractors / firms for the following Development Works for the year 2024-25 Govt. of Balochistan.		
S.No	Scheme	Amount
1	PROVISION OF LDPE WATER TANK DISTRICT COUNCIL CHAMAN UC NO. 2-3-10-17-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-31-35-37-38-39-10.	22.60 M
2	PROVISION OF LDPE WATER TANK DISTRICT COUNCIL CHAMAN UC NO. 1-4-8-9-13.	21.00 M
3	PROVISION OF LDPE WATER TANK DISTRICT COUNCIL CHAMAN UC NO. 14-29-30-36-41.	20.00 M
4	PROVISION OF LDPE WATER TANK DISTRICT COUNCIL CHAMAN UC NO. 5-6-7-11-12-15.	19.80 M
5	PROVISION OF LDPE WATER TANK DISTRICT COUNCIL CHAMAN UC NO. 16-18-32-33-34.	19.00 M

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn-over of at least equal to estimated cost in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Presence in Active GST Payer List Fresh Power of attorney on 100/- PKR affidavit in case of representation Latest Bank certificate of the Firm from Scheduled Bank Registration certificate of Audit Firm from Chartered Accountant of Pakistan Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit at Call of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed **2,000 PKR Issuance of tender Documents:** From the date of publication of NIT to 10 October, 2025 during office hours on working days **Last Date of bid submission:** The Tenders must be submitted latest by 10 October, 2025 till 10:00 AM. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 11:00 AM **Address:** District Council Chaman **Phone no:** 3337866216 **Email:** aalishan31@gmail.com

AB No.287/23-9-2025

CHIEF OFFICER
DISTRICT COUNCIL
CHAMAN

PM reaffirms resolve to further strengthen Pak-Saudi partnership

NEW YORK (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening its enduring partnership with Saudi Arabia, saying that the relationship between the two countries was founded on the principles of Islam, history, brotherhood, and trust, which would continue to grow.

The prime minister, in his televised message on the occasion of Saudi Arabia's National Day annually observed on September 23, extended greetings to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and the Saudi people on the National Day.

He said that during the tensions with India in May 2025, the solidarity expressed by the Saudi leadership and people would always be remembered by the Pakistani nation. The Pakistani people will also never forget the economic support provided by the Kingdom, which has bol-

stered the country's economy, said the prime minister who read out his message in Arabic language.

He recalled that the warm reception and hospitality extended to him and the Pakistani delegation during the recent historic visit to Riyadh was a source of immense joy and pride for him.

"I once again express my deepest gratitude to our Saudi brothers and sisters from the bottom of my heart. The people of Pakistan join me in thanking King Salman and Prince Mohammed bin Salman for making this visit filled with unparalleled love and memorable moments," he remarked. Prime Minister Shehbaz, who is currently in New York to attend the 80th UN General Assembly session, said that Pakistan took pride in the remarkable developmental journey of Saudi Arabia under the visionary leadership of Prince Mohammed bin Salman as the esteemed position held by the Kingdom in the global community was a shining example of his vision and wisdom.



QUETTA: Advisor to CM for Sports Meena Majeed talking to Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti during Balochistan Assembly session.

TENDER NOTICE

TSE-252609869133 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The Executive Engineer (Roads) Saddar CWPP&H Department Quetta invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2025 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates
Tender Fee 1000/- and Bid Security 2%

S.No	Name of Works	E/Cost
1	CONSTRUCTION OF BLACKTOPPING OF REMAINING ROAD AT KILLI MUSLIMABAD NEAR PDMA OFFICE QUETTA. (PSDP NO. 1337 Z2025.0063)	24,753,000

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 2 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 20,000,000 PKR Amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit at Call of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,000 PKR **Issuance of tender Documents:** From the date of publication of NIT to 13 October, 2025 during office hours on working days **Last Date of bid submission:** The Tenders must be submitted latest by 13 October, 2025 till 11:00 AM. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 12:00 PM **Address:** C&W Department near Ayoub Stadium Quetta **Phone no:** 3337392666 **Fax no:** 0819202228 **Email:** xenroadsaddar@gmail.com

Executive Engineer (Roads)
Saddar CWPP&H Department
Quetta

PRQ No.1457/23-9-2025
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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

DEPUTY DIRECTOR
AGRICULTURE ON FARM WATER
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT ZIARAT

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Deputy Director Agriculture
On Farm Water Management Harnai

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer PHE Division Sibi invites sealed percentage rates tenders based on composite schedule of rates, 2023 Government of Balochistan from interested contractors/firms registered with Income Tax, Sales tax and Balochistan Revenue Authority for the works mentioned below:-

S. No.	Description	Estimate Cost	Qty.	Earnest Money	Tender Fee	Time Limit.
1	WSS ALONG SOLAR BORE PIPE LINE HR TANK MOHALLAH RAHOZAI SIPAIZAI VILLAGE MALIK MUHAMMAD RAFIQUE SEHLACHI SIBI (PSDP NO.4951 Z2025.2370)					
1	D/D of Tube well TSE-252609869593	Rs.4,169 M	1 Job	2%	Rs.1500/-	30-06-2026
2	S/Instt of Solar System for Tube well & for OHSR TSE-252609869623	Rs.8,595 M	2 Nos	2%	Rs.2000/-	-do-
3	Constt of OHSR 50000 Gln TSE-252609869653	Rs.23,692 M	1 Job	2%	Rs.2000/-	-do-
4	Constt of UGST 50000 Gln & Pump House TSE-252609869683	Rs.10,411 M	1 Job	2%	Rs.2000/-	-do-
5	Supply of HDPE Pipe 23000 Rlt 160mm TSE-252609871793	Rs.32,870 M	1 Job	2%	Rs.2000/-	-do-
7	Supply of uPVC Pipe 6" dia 11000 Rlt 4" dia 14000 TSE-252609869683	Rs.21,079 M	1 Job	2%	Rs.2000/-	-do-
8	Civil work TSE-252609869933	Rs.17,995 M	1 Job	2%	Rs.2000/-	-do-
2	CONSTRUCTION OF SOLAR BASED WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES AT VILLAGE USMAN GOLA, SANGAT MACHI, KUBAD BUGHDIR IN TEHSIL LEHRI DISTRICT SIBI (PSDP NO.5009 Z2025.1086)					
1	WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES AT VILLAGE USMAN GOLA					
I	D/D of tube well & Solar System TSE-252609870603	Rs.9,608 M	1 Job	-do-	Rs.2000/-	-do-
II	Civil Work TSE-252609870713	Rs.3,889 M	1 Job	-do-	Rs.1500/-	-do-
2	WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES AT VILLAGE SANGAT MACHI					
I	D/D of tube well & Solar System TSE-252609870893	Rs.9,608 M	1 Job	-do-	Rs.2000/-	-do-
II	Civil Work TSE-252609870913	Rs.3,889 M	1 Job	-do-	Rs.1500/-	-do-
3	WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES AT VILLAGE KUBAD BUGHDIR					
I	D/D of tube well & Solar System TSE-252609871103	Rs.9,608 M	1 Job	-do-	Rs.2000/-	-do-
II	Civil Work TSE-252609871283	Rs.3,889 M	1 Job	-do-	Rs.1500/-	-do-
	CONSTRUCTION OF SOLAR BASED WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES AT VILLAGE USMAN GOLA, SANGAT MACHI, KUBAD BUGHDIR					
I	Supply of HDPE Pipe 110 MM 6000 Rlt TSE-252609871363	Rs.4,059 M	1 Job	-do-	Rs.1500/-	-do-
3	IMPROVEMENT OF WSS LUNI, DISTRICT SIBI (PSDP NO.4805 Z2025.1499)					
I	D/D of Tube well TSE-252609871383	4,937 M	1 Job	-do-	Rs.1500/-	-do-
II	Supply & Installation of Solar System for Tube well TSE-252609871723	4,055 M	1 Job	-do-	Rs.1500/-	-do-
III	CIVIL WORK TSE-252609871743	2,003 M	1 Job	-do-	Rs.1500/-	-do-
IV	Supply of HDPE Pipe 160 mm 2350 Rlt TSE-252609871763	3,335 M	1 Job	-do-	Rs.1500/-	-do-

Method of Procurement:- Single stage, Two envelope. **Bidding/Tender Document:-** Issuance:- Tender forms/documents will be issued from the date of advertisement published in news papers upto 09-10-2025 at 12:00 PM on presentation of requisite documents i.e Tender Fee (non-refundable), Bid security/earnest money, Valid Engineering Council Certificate in relevant/required category and drilling agency must have registration with Drilling Directorate I & P Department (CED-6, CE-9, CE-10 & C-11) above in relevant discipline with tax authorities i.e (NTN, Sales Tax and BST) where applicable. Pipes will be procured from Manufacturers not from suppliers. **Tender Fee Challan Code No.C-02725-02. Submission:-** Last date for submission of documents from advertisement published in news papers upto 09-10-2025 at 12:00 PM. **Opening:-** The tenders will be opened 09-10-2025 at 1.00 PM. **Place of Issuance:-** Submission, inquiries and opening will be:- **Address:-** Executive Engineer PHE Division Sibi. **Telephone No.** 0833-921191. **Fax No.** 0833-921191. **Email address.** phedivisionsibi@gmail.com

Terms & Conditions:- Under following conditions bid will be rejected. Conditional and telephonic bids/tenders. Bids not accompanied by bid security of required amount and form. Bids received after specified date and time. Black listed firm/contractors. Bid validity period (90 days). **Responsive bidder is required to submit following documents with bid.** List of similar assignment with cost under-taken over the past 5 years. Affidavit that firm has never been black listed. **Note:-** If may be noted that no pay order will be accepted/entertained and firms completed title /name should be written on the call deposit.

Executive Engineer
Public Health Engineering
Division Sibi

PRQ No.1456/23-9-2025
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AB No.287/23-9-2025

CHIEF OFFICER
DISTRICT COUNCIL
CHAMAN

Rana extends National day greetings to Saudi Arabia

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme, Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, has extended warm congratulations to the leadership and people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the occasion of their National Day, celebrated on September 23.

He stated that Saudi Arabia's National Day is a symbol of unity, progress, and national pride, and it also reflects the deep-rooted bonds of brotherhood and friendship between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

Rana Mashhood said that the day celebrates Saudi Arabia's historic achievements and modern transformation.

He praised the Kingdom for establishing itself as a modern state with global influence, under wise and visionary leadership.

He emphasized that Saudi leadership has played a pivotal role in ensuring peace, stability, and development across the region. Their foresight and wisdom, he said, have guided the Kingdom toward rapid progress.

Highlighting Saudi Arabia's economic growth, technological advancements, and global outreach, he observed that the Kingdom continues to inspire the world through its balanced approach of modernity and tradition.

The Chairman noted that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia enjoy a special relationship rooted in mutual respect, trust, and cooperation, which has grown stronger with every passing decade.

He said the youth of Pakistan deeply admire Saudi Arabia's development journey and look forward to greater opportunities for educational, scientific, and cultural collaboration with their Saudi counterparts.

Rana Mashhood also stressed the spiritual significance of Saudi Arabia, home to the holy cities of Makkah and Madinah, which remain the spiritual heart of the Muslim world.

He affirmed that Saudi Arabia's leadership continues to serve as a beacon of unity, faith, and heritage for the entire Islamic world.



ISLAMABAD: On the directive of the Prime Minister, Federal Minister for Water Resources, Muhammad Mueen Watto chairs a high-level meeting on water storage and flood control.

SC acquits accused in murder case

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court on Tuesday acquitted Mushtaq Ahmed, an accused in a murder case.

A three-member bench headed by Justice Hashim Khan Kakar heard the appeal challenging Mushtaq Ahmed's conviction.

During the proceedings, state counsel Rana Kashif informed the court that eyewitnesses had testified the fatal shot was fired by Ashfaq, the brother of the appellant.

Burn patients immediate, quality care is the govt's foremost priority: Mustafa

ISLAMABAD (INP): A seminar titled "From Trauma to Recovery: Elevating Burn Treatment Standards" was held at the MCH Auditorium, where leading health experts, government representatives, and international delegates participated.

The event was graced by Federal Minister for Health Syed Mustafa Kamal as Chief Guest, who emphasized that the immediate and quality care of burn patients is the government's foremost priority and that all available resources will be mobilized to achieve this objective.

Speaking on the occasion, South African burn specialist Dr. Nikki Allortto stressed that adherence to international standards and the availability of trained staff are the true guarantees of success in burn treatment. Professor Dr. Abdul Khaliq highlighted the importance of establishing a Stem Cell Bank and Burn Center, calling it a milestone for the future of healthcare in Pakistan.

The seminar was also attended by Professor Dr. Tanvir Khaliq, Professor Rana Imran Sikandar, Pro-

fessor Dr. SH Waqar, and other senior experts. Federal Minister Syed Mustafa Kamal formally inaugurated the Stem Cell and Skin Bank, while Dr. Muhammad Rauf Ahmed presented the scientific details of the project. Syed Mujahid Gilani, Incharge Burn ICU, discussed the practical challenges faced in burn units. The event concluded with an interactive question and answer session followed by a hands-on workshop at the Burn Center, where young doctors and medical staff received direct practical training.

Pakistan, UN strengthen collaboration on climate change initiatives

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Dr. Musadik Malik, met with United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in Pakistan, Mohamed Yahya, to discuss ongoing and future climate change initiatives in the country.

During the meeting, Yahya highlighted that 24 UN agencies are currently active in Pakistan, focusing on supporting development, resilience, and climate action.

"The United Nations remains committed to working closely with Pakistan to advance environmental sustainability and resilience," he said.

The discussions focused on large-scale UN programs in Pakistan, covering their scope, implementation strategies, and potential impact.

Both parties explored ways to enhance cooperation in climate adaptation, mitigation, and sustainable development, aiming for tangible benefits for communities most vulnerable to climate change.

Dr. Malik appreciated the UN's ongoing support, emphasizing the government's determination to strengthen collaborative frameworks. "We are committed to ensuring that our joint efforts translate into meaningful outcomes for those most affected by climate challenges," he said.

Chairman Senate condoles death of senior journalist Mazhar Iqbal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Tuesday expressed deep sorrow over the tragic death of senior journalist Mazhar Iqbal in a road accident.

In his condolence message, the Chairman Senate paid tribute to Mazhar Iqbal as a hardworking and talented journalist who performed his professional duties with dedication and integrity.

He said the late journalist's contributions to the field of journalism would always be remembered.

Terming his sudden demise an irreparable loss for both his family and the media fraternity, Gilani conveyed heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved family.

He prayed to Allah Almighty to grant the departed soul a high place in Jannah and to give the family strength and patience to bear the loss.

Dengue and Malaria alert issued in Karachi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Director Municipal Services Dr. Uzma Shah said on Thursday that the Department has issued an alert for dengue and malaria in Karachi, with preventive measures already underway. Talking to a private news channel, she said that the department has been vigilant and had initiated pre-monsoon planning three months ago, including fumigation drives across the city to control the spread of flies, mosquitoes, and cockroaches.

She added that after the monsoon, post-monsoon planning is also in progress to tackle diseases such as eye infections, malaria, and dengue.

NA Speaker mourns tragic demise of Senior Journalist

ISLAMABAD (INP): National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Tuesday expressed profound grief and sorrow over the tragic death of Senior Journalist Mazhar Iqbal in a road accident.

In his condolence message, the Speaker paid heartfelt tribute to Mazhar Iqbal, describing him as a talented and dedicated professional whose contributions to journalism will be fondly remembered. He termed the journalist's passing as an irreparable loss to the media fraternity.

UK reaffirms commitment to stand with Pakistan amid climate challenges

ISLAMABAD (APP): The United Kingdom has reiterated its commitment to stand with the government and people of Pakistan in the face of climate change and the ongoing flood situation.

British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Ms. Jane Marriott, expressed this resolve during her visit to Lok Virsa, Shakarparian, where she planted a tree as part of a plantation drive.

Speaking informally to the media, the High Commissioner said that Pakistan is among the countries most affected by climate change.

She stressed that tackling climate change requires joint global action and reaffirmed that the United Kingdom will continue to work closely with Pakistan in resilience-building projects.

She also appreciated

Lok Virsa's pivotal role in promoting and preserving Pakistan's cultural heritage.

Parliamentary Secretary for National Heritage and Culture, Ms. Farah Naz Akbar, highlighted the government's efforts to protect Pakistan's cultural identity while also supporting initiatives on environment and sustainability.

She welcomed the British High Commissioner's participation in the plantation drive as a gesture of friendship.

Lok Virsa Executive Director, Dr. Muhammad Waqas Saleem gave overview of the institution's role in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, documenting folk traditions, and promoting cultural diversity.

He said Lok Virsa remains committed to fostering partnerships that strengthen both cultural exchange and environmental responsibility.



ISLAMABAD: Chief Guest Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination Syed Mustafa Kamal cutting ribbon to soft launch of "From Trauma to recovery elevating Burn Treatment Standards, Stem Cells/Skin Bank" at PIMS.

NA body reviews PM's Grievance Wing Report, notes 96% resolution rate

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Standing Committee on Parliamentary Affairs on Tuesday reviewed the Annual Performance Report of the Prime Minister's Public Affairs and Grievance Wing, which registered 17,975 complaints with a 96% resolution rate.

The committee, chaired by MNA Rana Iradat Sharif Khan, was informed that the Wing, restructured on its recommendation, recorded a 189% increase in public complaints compared to 2022-

23, when 6,356 complaints were filed. The number also reflected a sharp rise from 9,501 complaints in 2023-24. To further improve grievance redressal, the Ministry launched the Public Grievance Management System (PGMS) in September 2024.

The system, officials said, is built on a three-pronged approach to enhance complaint handling, expand outreach nationwide, and apply data analytic for evidence-based policy making.

Islamabad sees 35% drop in robberies, 392 gangs busted: SSP Shoaib

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Operations Muhammad Shoaib Khan on Tuesday said that incidents of robberies in the federal capital had declined by 35 percent in 2025 compared to 2024, while cases of fear and motorcycle thefts and other crimes had decreased overall by 21 percent.

SSP Operations Muhammad Shoaib Khan addressed an important press conference at Rescue-

15, where he highlighted the effective measures taken by Islamabad Police to curb criminal activities. He said that since February, police teams had arrested 839 accused belonging to 392 gangs involved in different crimes across the city.

He said that before he assumed charge, the emergency helpline Pucar-15 received 60 to 70 calls daily, which had now been reduced to just 5 to 10 calls through improved strategy and effective policing.



ISLAMABAD: Chief guest Captain R. Asif Iqbal Asif, Director General DGSE, cuts a cake at a function held at the National Institute of Special Education on Tuesday to mark International Sign Language Day.

32 dengue cases reported in 24 hours, over 2,000 inspections in ICT

ISLAMABAD (APP): The district administration of Islamabad has intensified its dengue control campaign as 32 new dengue cases were confirmed in the federal capital during the past 24 hours, while anti-dengue teams carried out 2,079 inspections across different parts of the city.

According to the latest dengue surveillance report, out of the newly reported cases, 20 patients were identified in rural areas and 12 in urban localities of Islamabad. The administration confirmed that surveillance teams are actively engaged in both preventive measures and enforcement of standard operating procedures (SOPs) to curb the spread of the virus.

During field inspection,

officials conducted larvae sampling in various localities. The report highlighted that 26 samples tested positive, indicating the presence of dengue larvae, while 11 samples were found negative. Health officials warned that such findings reflect active breeding sites that require immediate attention and strict monitoring to prevent further transmission.

In addition to inspections, large-scale anti-dengue operations were carried out in high-risk areas. The surveillance report noted that fogging was conducted at 2,162 sites, while spraying was carried out at 1,661 locations. The purpose of these operations is to eliminate mosquito breeding sites and reduce the risk of further cases.

Saudi ambassador inaugurates buses gifted to IIUI

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) to Pakistan Nawaf Said Al-Malki inaugurated four buses gifted by the Saudi government to the International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI).

The inauguration took place during the ceremony held at the university's new campus, which was also attended by IIUI Vice Presidents, Saudi faculty members and senior university officials.

Speaking on the occasion, the ambassador said that the brotherly ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia were exemplary and acknowledged worldwide, while IIUI has a special

place in the heart of Saudi Arabia, said a press release on Tuesday.

He thanked the IIUI President and the university administration for their hospitality.

President IIUI, Prof Dr Ahmed Saad Alahmed, extended gratitude to the government of Saudi Arabia for the generous endowment.

He said such support further strengthens bilateral relations and contributes to facilitate students and staff at the university.

Earlier, Nawaf Said Al-Malki was briefed on IIUI's transport facilities by Syed Hassan Aftab, Director of the Central Transport Unit (CTU).



ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi in a meeting with Chairman WAPDA Gen Muhammad Saeed at his office.

CCP, IIUI hold session on competition law in the digital era

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP), in collaboration with the International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) on Tuesday organized a session on "Competition Law in the Context of Changing Economic and Digital Landscape". The session was part of CCP's ongoing advocacy and outreach efforts to raise awareness among students, researchers, and academia about the significance of competition law and its role in ensuring fair markets, consumer welfare, and economic growth, said a news release.

Representing the CCP, Salman Amin, Member CCP, led the delegation, accompanied by Marryum Pervaz, Secretary to the Commission/HOD Advocacy; Maliha Qudus, Deputy HOD Cartels & Trade Abuse and Noman Ahmed, Assistant Director

Mergers & Acquisitions.

From IIUI, the session was graced by Dr. Zia ul Haq, Director General IRI and Dean, and Dr. H Ghuffan Ahmad, Director Students Affairs. Speaking on the occasion, the CCP officials highlighted the evolving challenges of regulating markets in the digital economy, including e-commerce, fintech, and online platforms. They emphasized how competition law plays a vital role in preventing cartels, monopolistic practices, and deceptive marketing, while also ensuring that innovation and investment are not stifled.

Salman Amin underscored that the commission is working to create a level playing field for businesses in Pakistan, adding that awareness among young scholars and future professionals is key to fostering a culture of compliance with competition law.

21st death anniversary of renowned Urdu Poet Tabish Dehlvi observed

ISLAMABAD (APP): 21st death anniversary of Urdu poet and broadcaster Tabish Dehlvi is being observed on Tuesday, paying tribute to his literary contributions and services to Urdu language.

He was born on November 9, 1911, in Delhi, British India, his real name was as Syed Masood-ul-Hasan, he was deeply influenced by the Delhi School of poetry.

He migrated to Pakistan after Partition and joined Radio Pakistan Karachi.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood presiding over a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Defence after being elected as Chairman of the Committee at Parliament House.

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Polio mountain

The world’s battle against polio is stuck on a glass mountain. After 37 years and \$22bn, the Independent Monitoring Board has declared that conventional strategies are running out of road. Its latest assessment, The Glass Mountain, places Pakistan centre stage. The country has reported 27 new cases this year — small in absolute terms, but large enough to confirm what the IMB calls “resurgence” in one of the last reservoirs of wild poliovirus. The board’s findings are uncomfortable. It argues that Pakistan’s claims that transmission had been interrupted between 2021 and 2023 were an illusion created by Covid-19 restrictions. Lockdowns, not stronger campaigns, suppressed spread. That temporary reprieve has ended. With new infections surfacing, confidence in the programme’s direction is ebbing. Eradication in Pakistan has long suffered from predictable failings: financing that rewards effort rather than outcomes, superficial ties to routine immunisation, accountability systems that churn out reports instead of penalties, and an unhealthy reliance on donor-driven firefighting rather than sustained domestic leadership. The result is a system skilled at producing plans and press releases but unable to guarantee that every child is immunised. District managers often recycle excuses, while politicians offer rhetorical commitment without following through on resources or enforcement. The IMB now proposes shifting responsibility for eradication from Geneva to the WHO’s Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office. That change is intended to blunt the corrosive perception that polio eradication is a Western agenda imposed from outside. It may also force local politicians to accept ownership. For years, community hostility — stoked by conspiracy theories, mistrust of outsiders and repeated security lapses — has translated into refusals, boycotts and, tragically, killings of vaccinators. Recasting the campaign as a regional priority could help repair that legitimacy gap. But the harder work lies at home. Pakistan’s federal and provincial authorities must treat polio not as an externally funded programme but as a national test of competence. Chronic under-performance in high-risk districts cannot be indulged indefinitely. Integration with wider health services is overdue: routine immunisation and primary care should be the foundation, not an afterthought. Surveillance, meanwhile, needs sharper focus; environmental samples show far more virus in circulation than case counts suggest, signalling invisible chains of transmission that remain unbroken. Eradication is not impossible. The coming low-transmission season offers an opening, but only if old habits are abandoned. More money and foreign technical help will not suffice. What is needed is innovation, political will and the readiness to hold failures accountable. A virus that once terrified the globe survives here still. Whether it is eliminated or allowed to endure will depend less on donors’ dollars and more on Pakistan’s resolve to climb its own glass mountain.

Arifa Noor

There is a new defence pact in town — or, shall one say, the region.

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have signed a defence agreement with pomp and celebration and the announcement has caused much noise and buzz at home and abroad (in some places). Commentary, analyses, songs and discussions, applause — it is all there.

And while the discussion is far from over and one can find much praise and a little bit of criticism from the cheerleaders and doubting Thomases, there is a consensus that very little information is available at the moment. Serious and insightful comment, it seems, will have to wait.

Indeed, more details will need to be filled in and a fuller picture made available before a comprehensive analysis can be undertaken. No wonder then that at the moment, there are more questions than answers and more conjecture than information — questions about what this pact will

mean operationally; what the two countries will commit to each other; whether or not this pact has been signed with a specific state in mind or not; and whether it will be expanded to include more countries or followed by more bilateral accords.

But even in the absence of answers, the euphoria in Pakistan is instructive. There is hope, conjecture and even belief that this pact will bring ‘good’ times for the country. And these hopes do not necessarily emanate from officialdom but are also being discussed privately.

Partly, this is understandable because Saudi Arabia has always come to Pakistan’s rescue in the past — with oil on deferred payments as well as loans that help with our forever crisis, ie, low foreign reserves. Even now, the country is one of the biggest contributors to our reserves, with a loan that will be rolled over (and over) whenever the moment arrives.

So now that there is a formal agreement in place for a bilateral de-

fence pact, in which each promises to come to the aid of the one that is under attack, the conclusions everyone is jumping to are quick. Obviously, Pakistan will provide the muscle power in this relationship, with its well-known military prowess, and obviously, Riyadh will provide some financial concessions or assistance to Islamabad. The good times, they are a comin’.

But these assumptions reveal the elite consensus, shaped over decades, which continues to be in place. A consensus in which the elite want to use external funds to run the economy, wittingly or unwittingly accepting the primary role of the military in not just ensuring these funds but also being the main player domestically. And the politicians are willing to accept the role of the junior partner, in politics and in terms of the share of the money. Funds they too squirrel away while spending a wee bit on the populace.

Even though the past few years seemed to offer little to no chance of

geostrategic rents, the ruling elite was and is reluctant to change its mad, bad ways. The previous PML-N government counted on CPEC; the PTI had hopes of investment from overseas Pakistanis; the 2022 floods led to talk of climate-related aid; then came the talk about investment from the Gulf. The common thread running through all this is the notion that some external flows would help end the crisis without the country having to go through the pain of reform and real adjustment.

It is noteworthy that this ‘hope’ was real even though it was accompanied by a public debate on critical economic challenges and problems, in terms of diagnosis and prescriptions — whether it was to increase the tax base or to reduce government spending at the centre or even amend the NFC. The detail with which these discussions took place was unprecedented. But for those in power, even as they took part in these discussions, the political will was missing. Bad habits

formed over years are simply part of the explanation.

Another reason for this is also the challenge of legitimacy. Those in power, be it the PTI government in power or the present set-up, are so insecure they would rather offer immediate relief, however unsustainable, than go through the painful reform process.

It is this hope of immediate relief that led to the ‘chatter’ around the domestic implications of this pact.

While much of this conversation was positive, there were also comments about the fear of Pakistan selling itself cheap. This stems no doubt from the view that post-9/11,

Pervez Musharraf had been overly eager to join the US-led effort and had not bargained well enough. Whether or not one agrees with this view, there is no doubt that the decision allowed the general to successfully create the mirage of economic prosperity and buffer his regime.

Hence, it is no wonder that, however much the world and Pakistan’s

place in it are changing, domestically, this pact is being viewed exactly the same way as some past moments — an opportunity to stabilise and sustain this set-up, along with the balance of power it has put in place.

However, it would be worth asking if the inflow that is being expected is going to be comparable to what came our way in the past — a question which requires the expertise of those more familiar with economic matters.

But even if the sums are generous, what will this mean for the populace at large? For this elite consensus, for the most part, has also meant a complete disregard, if not wilful negligence, of the development of the people.

And this neglect of the people will continue to pose the biggest challenge to the ruling elite, even if they are able to sustain the current set-up as well as successfully evade the criticism about the quality of democracy. It would be worth paying attention to this in the middle of celebrations.

Isn’t Hindutva embarrassing India?

Jawed Naqvi

The Beatles needed to breathe again after a traumatic experience with Imelda Marcos. They found solace in India even if they were not eventually convinced of Maharishi Mahesh Yogi’s healing powers.

Nelson Mandela needed to thank those who with their moral courage stood by him through the thick and thin of apartheid. He visited India at the top of the list just to express his deep gratitude. India was regarded as a spiritual Alamut and a politically upright comrade, not calculating or self-regarding, but an earnest friend.

It has taken 11 years to sully the image. Hindu Nepal or Muslim Saudi Arabia, Christian US or Buddhist Sri Lanka and, closer to home, the marooned Sikhs in Punjab — the message from everyone is unmistakable and loud. Hindu nationalism has humiliated India and has put it on a slippery slope to a catastrophe.

All the tight and usually unwarranted embraces the Indian prime minister unleashed on for-

eign dignitaries over a decade or so and got photographed for a captive media to sing peans to, ring hollow today.

Indians abroad are increasingly enduring the slings and arrows of racism, jingoism and slur, all because they know that returning home holds even more dire prospects for them. How many Indian prime ministers before the advent of Narendra Modi needed to lunge at heads of state or government to hug them at any opportunity? Or which of them would even remotely consider committing electoral support to a foreign leader as Modi did, least of all to “my friend Donald Trump”?

Indira Gandhi comes to mind for famously ducking a fraternal bear hug from Fidel Castro when he handed her the gavel at the 1983 Non-Aligned Summit in New Delhi. And yes, she did make personal intervention with a foreign government, albeit when she was not in office. That’s when she pleaded with Gen Zia to spare Z.A. Bhutto’s life. She held Nusrat Bhutto’s hand from her rented home in Delhi

throughout the traumatic denouement.

As for Modi’s halcyon days with Saudi Arabia before the rippling events of last week, he has much to thank Manmohan Singh for setting it right. During the Cold War, India had scant interest in the Saudi monarchy. In fact, Giora Becher, the Israeli envoy to India in 1992, shared a handy insight. “At any time the United States sold arms to Saudi Arabia, Indian and Israeli ambassadors made a beeline to the State Department to protest. They might have saved money by sharing a taxi, it was so regular.”

Singh broke the taboo by inviting the Saudi king as chief guest for the 2006 Republic Day parade. It had the high symbolism of A.B. Vajpayee visiting Lahore’s Minar-i-Pakistan in 1999. Why then the brouhaha when Saudi Arabia signed a defence pact with Pakistan?

Riyadh has always had special and equal ties with Islamabad. When the Saudis asked Pakistan to join the war against the Houthis in 2015, Pakistan’s parliament turned down the pro-

posal. But after what Israel did with Qatar, it was a different story. Nobody in the South Asian neighbourhood is as worried as India is. It needn’t have been this way.

The thought is conditional. Had there been routine good neighbourly ties with Pakistan, the Saudi pact wouldn’t have amounted to anything more than its purpose — to vacate any threat to the Gulf state from Israel. Terrorism is cited as a factor for bad ties with Pakistan, which doesn’t wash. It can’t be blamed on terrorism that Modi’s India struggles to find stable relations with other neighbours too — of varied religious hues.

According to Manmohan Singh, both neighbours were close to clinching a win-win closure on Jammu and Kashmir. It was stalled when Musharraf was removed from power.

Which is to say that peace was possible despite the Mumbai carnage of 2008. The idea was to remove terrorism from its roots, and the reflection was discussed in Sharm El-Sheikh. Moreover, Xi Jinping told Modi pre-

cisely that during their meeting at a retreat in Tamil Nadu. For India to be truly prosperous, it would require normal ties with China and Pakistan, Xi said. Instead, Modi poked Xi in the eye with what China calls a cartographic aggression over Ladakh in August 2019.

The Galwan episode put paid to any further hopes. The good news is that the recent SCO summit in its statement condemned the horrific killings in Pahalgam, and slammed terror attacks in Pakistan, namely the Jaffar Express slaughter. Ergo: the world is ready to be guarantors against the scourge. It was this confidence that spurred Singh to be positive, which Modi will find difficult to be. He must play to the Hindutva script targeting Muslims and Christians much of the time, Pakistan all the time. The fallout is that India’s image stands dented enormously by its shocking isolation in Operation Sindoor.

In the Middle East, Hindu nationalism has played both sides of the street, embracing a genocidal Benjamin Netanyahu

while hugging the sheikhs simultaneously. After the Qatar incident, this luxury may not exist.

Other questions remain though: Netanyahu had a reason to attack Qatar because it was host to the Hamas leadership; Saudi Arabia is inherently anti-Hamas. It’s, therefore, excessive to fear an imminent Israeli attack. But why should India worry about the defence pact? Discussion in the Indian media suggests the ‘suspended’ Operation Sindoor could be adversely impacted. How will Hindu nationalism negotiate that?

Yes, Donald Trump called to greet Modi on his birthday last week. Then he proceeded to give what some cartoonists vicariously described as birthday bumps. Trump slapped prohibitive costs on visas for Indian IT professionals to work in the US with the option of staying on. An all-round humiliation from the one who believes Modi is the father of the Indian nation.

“Yesterday, all my troubles seemed so far away.” The Beatles song from 1965 tugs the heart ever more.

Lawfare and HR

M. Shahrukh Shah Nawaz

It is important to reflect on the meaning of ‘lawfare’, especially in connection with international law and the politics of international law. Pakistan recently removed the death sentence for various offences in a move to align its domestic laws with its international obligations under the GSP-Plus trade agreement with the European Union. It might be helpful to understand why such a move could be treated as outside interference rather than a genuine internal decision to uphold human rights.

In 2021, the European Parliament adopted a resolution, calling for a review of its trade relations with Pakistan, on the basis of the latter’s eligibility for the GSP-Plus status, which removes duties from developing countries’ products, helping them lessen poverty and create employment.

The resolution linked the review to the country’s blasphemy laws, especially the case of Shagufta Kausar and Shafqat Emmanuel, who had, at that point, been on death row since 2014, and called on the European Commission and the European External Action Service to immediately review Pakistan’s eligibility for GSP-Plus. Pakistan submitted an eight-point National Action Plan for Business and Human Rights with the EU during the review.

The European Parliament’s then vice president, Heidi Hautala, said that by adopting two resolutions to review Pakistan’s duty-free market access, the European Parliament had indicated that there could

be no guarantee that the GSP-Plus scheme would continue unless the UN conventions were further implemented. Therefore, the Senate has passed a bill to end the death penalty for certain offences, in a move to align Pakistan’s domestic laws with its commitments under the GSP-Plus. While some welcome this development, others argue that Pakistan is being subjected to ‘lawfare’ and being forced to enact laws because of outside pressure. The Broadsheet, Reko Diq and Kulbhushan Jadhav cases are cited as instances where the authorities claimed that international laws were being weaponised against Pakistan.

In 2021, a former Pakistani law minister stated that the country was being subjected to lawfare to achieve political and economic goals “without any military war”, and that both legitimate and illegitimate tools were being deployed to force Pakistan to capitulate. He said that Pakistan had succeeded in implementing 26 of the 27-point FATF Action Plan, yet it had been kept on the grey list, (Pakistan was removed from the grey list of the global anti-money laundering watchdog in 2022). He also said that the decision of the International Court of Justice in Indian spy Kulbhushan Jadhav was another example of this tactic, and pointed out that the ICJ (Review and Reconsideration) Bill 2020, was passed in view of the ICJ’s verdict.

Another example of lawfare was pointed in the case of a bill moved in the US Senate regarding Pakistan’s role in Afghanistan, before and after Kabul’s fall. According to Pakistani lawmakers,

Pakistan was faced with a conundrum after Washington’s hasty withdrawal from Afghanistan under a deal that the US had directly made with the Afghan Taliban, but Washington was putting pressure on Pakistan to take responsibility for the events in Afghanistan.

In 2021, the then US secretary of state, Antony J. Blinken designated Pakistan as a country of particular concern for violating religious freedom. The Trump administration had put Pakistan on this list in December 2018, and retained it in 2020.

The US ad-ded Pakistan to the Child Soldiers Pre-vention Act list, which could have resulted in sanctioning military assistance and participation in peace-keeping programmes, but, fortunately, Pakistan was soon removed from it. Now, after the passage of the Anti-Terrorism (Amendment) Bill, 2025, it is being asked whether its implementation will enable an effective response to terrorism, or whether domestic laws are being weaponised against the opposition. Such enactments could result in international criticism of Pakistan for curbing civil and political rights.

In Kenya, hundreds were arrested after nationwide protests, which Mwaura Kabata, vice president of the Law Society of Kenya, termed as ‘lawfare’, as the government weaponised domestic laws to curb offline and online dissent.

The term ‘lawfare’ can be misinterpreted, so, Pakistan needs to properly understand this term when formulating and implementing policies, especially pertaining to its obligations under international law and human rights.

Beyond the flashlights

Gulmina Bilal Ahmad

While attention is drawn to the second phase of CPEC following the recent meeting of the Pakistani and Chinese leadership in Beijing, let us focus on the technical skills and education opportunities that are being brought in. The collaboration between Pakistan and China is aimed at transforming vocational training, language education and technical collaboration between the two countries.

Language is more than just words. It is a gateway to greater understanding and opportunity. In view of this fact, one of the biggest waves in the Pakistan-China TVET (technical vocational education and training) collaboration is investment in learning Mandarin across Pakistan.

Thousands of Pakistani students should be able to gain access to structured courses that align with international proficiency standards, opening doors to academic programmes, scholarships and jobs connected with China — jobs in China, with Chinese companies working in Pakistan and also with global Chinese companies in need of people having equal proficiency in English and Mandarin.

In addition to students, Pakistani teachers can access further training to become proficient Mandarin instructors, a critical step that can sustain and expand language education in the long run. This kind of capacity building is what turns short-term programmes into initiatives that bring lasting change.

Imagine enrolling in a diploma or degree programme and studying in Pakistan but getting to spend your final year immersed in a Chinese uni-

versity. This is precisely what many students in Pakistan can expect from joint academic programmes springing up in fields like software technology, drone applications, agriculture, medical laboratory and pharmacy.

Specifically, in the second phase, there are 14 major projects from diverse fields including language training, e-commerce, software technology, drone applications, agriculture, pharmacy, nursing, non-ferrous metallurgy and intelligent mining. Each project varies in scale, duration, funds and expected impact, targeting not only student training but also faculty development, digital course creation and joint curriculum design.

The estimated economic value of these projects is over 21 million RMB (approximately \$3 million) annually. Institutions like Guangzhou Polytechnic University, Wuhan Technical College of Communication and Pingziang Health Vocational College are pioneering technical diploma collaborations in software technology, drone applications and medical laboratory technology respectively. The proposed programme length ranges from three to four years.

These projects revolve around curriculum co-development, digital course creation, professional qualification standardisation, student exchange schemes, enhanced exposure to advanced technologies and practical training.

In health-related fields, institutions such as the Beijing Vocational College of Labour and Social Security and Sichuan Vocational College of Health and Rehabilitation will be executing short-term digital training courses to upskill Pakistani profes-

sionals in smart health techniques and nursing. These tailored courses provide flexible learning opportunities focusing on immediate vocational needs.

The programmes feature co-developed curricula and professional qualification standards that are recognised in both countries, and the digital learning components are designed for accessibility and quality.

However, not everyone can commit to multi-year degrees. This challenge can be addressed through digital short course, allo-wing skilled professionals in fields such as e-commerce, health-care, nursing and agriculture to upgrade their competencies through well-designed digital offerings that can be fitted around their schedules. In an increasingly expensive world, we need such increasing training flexibility.

E-commerce and skills competitions add an innovative edge to learning and the idea is not only to incentivise but also to encourage Pakistani and Chinese learners to interact and engage while learning.

For Pakistan, the Pakistan-China collaboration in the technical skills sector is both an opportunity and a wake-up call. Our youth must grasp these chances to upgrade skills that align with future economies.

Technical and vocational skills institutes across the country must embrace these programmes and push for greater cooperation. At our end, we’ll support smooth student mobility and encourage faculty to maximise the benefits of the partnerships in various trades signed under CPEC’s second phase.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over cabinet meeting.

Sindh cabinet approves wide-ranging reforms

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, on Tuesday presided over a key cabinet meeting to review the province's flood situation and praised coordinated departmental efforts, while the cabinet approved major reforms in financial management, correctional facilities, judicial processes, culture promotion, agriculture inspection, taxation reforms, and road safety.

The meeting, held at CM House, was attended by provincial ministers, advisers, special assistants, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Principal Secretary Agha Wasif, Chairman P&D Najam Shah, and senior officials. At the outset, the chief minister briefed the cabinet on flood conditions, noting Sindh had been under threat for six weeks.

The first wave brought 534,000 cusecs at Guddu Barrage on August 24, followed by 481,000 cusecs at Sukkur and 273,000 cusecs at Kotri. A second wave peaked at 635,000 cusecs on September 15. Despite forecasts of up to 1.1 million cusecs,

timely mobilisation ensured control. Only 17 of 528 planned relief camps were activated, assisting 192,122 people. The Health Department treated 134,240 patients at 145 medical camps, while the Livestock Department vaccinated 1.6 million cattle. Mr Shah lauded Irrigation Minister Jam Khan Shoro and Irrigation Secretary Zarif Khoro, and ministers, MPAs, and district administrations for their field presence and collective efforts. He cautioned that climate change could trigger earlier and more severe monsoons next year, stressing preparation in line with "climate realities."

Amendments to the Sindh Financial Rules, 2023 and Delegation of Financial Powers Rules decentralise scrutiny of arrears claims, empowering departmental committees to cut delays. Claims older than 10 years will still require Finance Department approval. In a landmark step, financial autonomy has been extended to 34,106 schools through cost centres, allowing headteachers to directly access operational funds.

Punjab Governor says: Role of legal community vital in the stability of country and promotion of democracy

Independent Report

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that the role of the legal community is important in the stability of the country and the promotion of democracy. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is the hero of our future generations. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari exposed India at the international level.

The entire nation stood behind the Pakistan Army in the war against India. The PPP is ensuring all possible assistance for the flood victims. He expressed these views while addressing a seminar organized by the People's Lawyers Forum at the Lahore High Court today.

Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that it is a matter of great joy for me to have come to the Lahore High Court Bar today, where Leader of the People Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, among others, also addressed the gathering.

The Punjab Governor said that the PPP has always taken steps for the betterment of lawyers and for solving their problems. The Punjab Governor said

that I started my politics from zero and today I thank Allah for appointing me to the highest constitutional position in Punjab. He said that the legal community has always supported the PPP in bad times. The Governor of Punjab said that there is a close bond between Kalakot and the PPP, which we attach great importance to. He said that the legal community has made sacrifices and struggled a lot for the country. The Governor of Punjab said that it is commendable that the lawyers have always supported the constitution and the law.

Provincial govt will hold talks with Afghan authorities: Gandapur

PESHAWAR (INP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur has said that a positive message has been received from Afghanistan, and the provincial government will hold talks with Afghan authorities.

Speaking to the media in Peshawar, Gandapur criticized the prevailing lawlessness in the country, terming the cases against him as baseless. He asserted that his party would not step back from its mission of freedom and would prove through public gatherings that the entire nation stands with the PTI founder.

He urged state Institutions to function within the framework of the Constitution, adding that they are fighting for the people's real cause. Commenting on Afghanistan, the KP chief minister said the Afghan government wants the issue resolved, and a provincial delegation will engage in dialogue with them. He described a recent statement by a Federal minister on the matter as "deeply regrettable."



ISLAMABAD: The Federal Minister for IT and Telecom, Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja visited the site of the upcoming Center of Excellence for Gaming and Animation at NED University, Karachi, to review ongoing progress and development plans.

Two killed in Nowshera firing

NEWSHERA (INP): Two persons were killed in a firing incident that took place near Khostgi area of Nowshera district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, tv channels quoting Rescue sources reported.

According to initial reports, unknown assailants opened fire and killed two persons near Khostgi area of Nowshera. The Rescue team after receiving reports rushed to the site and shifted the dead identified as Sikander and Haider to hospital.

Over 50 villages flooded in Dadu as River Indus bursts its banks

DADU (INP): The River Indus, which is in high flood at Mehr in Dadu, has inundated over 50 villages, causing a colossal loss to the people by flooding homes, shops and destroying crops.

Meanwhile, several villages situated in the katcha area of Sujawal have been submerged, forcing the locals to take shelter at safe places.

The River Indus was in medium flood at Kotri Barrage as 364,000 cusecs of water was heading towards the Indus Delta till last reports came in.

On the other hand, people displaced by floods in Sujawal have appealed to the Sindh government to provide them with ration and other items.

Crops grown over hundreds of acres of land were submerged after a 10-foot-wide breach developed in Jinpur Shams canal in Taranda Muhammad Panah in Bahawalpur. And despite the fact that the authorities were informed of the situation, nobody came to plug the breach.

Residents of the area have requested the deputy commissioner to take notice of their plight. On the other hand, the suburban areas of Taranda Muhammad Panah still lie submerged.

Minister Arora hosts dinner reception in honour of Sikh pilgrims from UK

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Minorities Affairs and President of the Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (PSGPC) Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora on Tuesday hosted a grand dinner reception in honour of 75 Sikh pilgrims from the United Kingdom and members of the PSGPC.

The reception was attended by diplomats from several countries, including the Honorary Consul Generals of Sri Lanka, Uzbekistan, and Portugal, Reverend Dr. Majeed Abel, as well as political and social leaders, members of civil society, and prominent representatives of different faiths.

Addressing the gathering, Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora said the land of Pakistan holds sacred significance for the Sikh community. "Pilgrims visiting here are our brothers, and serving and hosting them is our duty. The government and people of Pakistan have always promoted religious harmony and will continue to strengthen bonds of brotherhood with all communities and faiths," he stated.

ANF recovers over 115 kg of drugs worth Rs 124.5m in 9 operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF), conducting 9 operations across the country, recovered as many as 115 kilograms of drugs worth Rs 124.5 million and arrested 8 suspects, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman on Tuesday.

He informed that 4 kg of hashish was recovered from the possession of an accused near Kamra Road, Attock. Similarly, 1.2 kg of hashish was recovered from the possession of an accused near Kak Pul, Islamabad. As many as 300 grams of ice were recovered from the possession of the accused near Jhang Road, Faisalabad.

The arrested accused confessed to selling drugs to the students of educational institutions.

During other operations, 290 Alprazolam, 400 Revotril, 400 Lexotenil, and 150 Valium tablets, totalling 383 grams, were recovered from the luggage of a passenger travelling to Dubai at Jinnah International Airport, Karachi.

As many as 105,000 Tramadol tablets, 7500 Xanax tablets, and 17,000 Valium tablets were recovered from a parcel sent to Dubai at a courier office in Karachi, and the accused was arrested. In another operation, 13.5 kg of poppy straw was recovered from the possession of the accused riding a bus near the Motorway Toll Plaza in Islamabad.

Hyderabad: Dengue patients receiving treatment at Bhitai Hospital as the city battles an alarming surge in cases.



KARACHI: Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab is addressing a press conference at the MC Head Office along with Deputy Mayor Salman Abdullah Murad and others.

Sindh govt to provide pink scooters to women

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh government has decided to provide pink scooters to women this week. In this regard, an important meeting was held in Karachi under the chairmanship of Sindh Senior Minister Information, Transport and Mass Transit Sharjeel Inam Memon.

The meeting reviewed the "Pink Scooters Program" in detail. Secretary Transport Asad Zamin, MD Sindh Mass Transit Authority Kanwal Bhutto, and other officers attended the meeting. Speaking at the meeting, Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon said that the provincial government will distribute free

electric scooters to women and female students this week. He said this initiative is a revolutionary step for women that will make daily travel easier. He said that the facility will save time, reduce travel costs, and provide women with safe and dignified transport.

Diplomats from Bangladesh visit PITB to discuss ICT solutions

LAHORE (APP): A delegation from Bangladesh comprising dignitaries and other senior officials on Tuesday visited Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) to gain insight into the ICT interventions rolled out by Punjab government.

The Bangladesh delegation, led by Ministry of Home Affairs Senior Secretary H.E. Nasimul Ghani, included High Commissioner Bangladesh H.E. Muhammad Iqbal Hussain, Additional IG of Police Bangladesh Muhammad Rezaul Karim, Deputy Secretary Bangladesh Muhammad Mahbubur Rahman, Additional Deputy IG of Police Bangladesh

Muhammad Zannatul Hassan and Consul (Press) Muhammad Tayub Ali. PITB Senior Management including DG IT-Solutions Waqar Naem Qureshi and DGe-Governance Sajid Latif gave an overview of PITB, followed by a comprehensive presentation on digital reforms in the Law & Order sector by ADG Syed Qasim Ifzal and PITB Chief Technology Officer Adil Iqbal Khan. In this regard, PITB Chairman Faisal Yousaf stated that according to the vision of the Punjab Government, PITB is striving to provide transparent, efficient and reliable services to the public through latest global technology.

ATC summons Aleema Khan in Nov 26 protest case

RAWALPINDI (INP): The Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) in Rawalpindi on Tuesday summoned PTI founder's sister, Aleema Khan, as an accused on September 29 in connection with the November 26 protest case.

The case was heard by ATC Judge Amjad Ali Shah, during which the prosecution submitted the challan against Aleema Khan in court.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan addressing a seminar organized by the People's Lawyers Forum at Lahore High Court.

Hanif calls for immediate action against encroachments

RAWALPINDI (APP): Member Provincial Assembly (MPA), Raja Muhammad Hanif, has stressed the need to complete the Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) ongoing projects at the earliest with integrity and transparency.

According to the RDA spokesperson, during his visit to the RDA office, the Director General of RDA, Kinza Murtaza, gave a detailed briefing to him on the reforms and ongoing development works, including the Rawalpindi Master Plan and the Ring Road Project.

The MPA appreciated the efforts of RDA and directed that more aggressive steps be taken for the development and improvement of Rawalpindi.

Barrister Arsalan says: Allegations against BISP, insult to poor women

SUKKUR (APP): Barrister Arsalan Islam Sheikh, Mayor Sukkur and Spokesperson for the Sindh Government on Tuesday has stated that Hafiz Naem-ur-Rehman's allegations against the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) are not only baseless and false but also tantamount to rubbing salt in the wounds of the poor people.

Barrister Arsalan Islam Sheikh pointed out that the funds collected under the Jamaat-e-Islami's Al-Khidmat Foundation have always been questioned for transparency.

Collecting donations in the name of service and using them for political purposes is not philanthropy but a betrayal of public trust.

Al-Khidmat Foundation has never presented an effective model for poverty eradication or large-scale public welfare at the state level. He added that BISP has been a lifeline for flood victims, a support for poor women, and a beacon of hope for millions of families.

PMML provides relief to 25,000 families, treats 217,000 patients

MULTAN (APP): The Pakistan Markazi Muslim League (PMML) has carried out a wide-reaching relief operation across flood-affected areas of South Punjab, distributing dry ration to 25,000 families and providing cooked meals to more than 300,000 individuals impacted by the disaster.

To address public health needs, PMML established 110 medical camps, including 48 permanent and 62 mobile units, which have so far treated 217,571 patients with free medication. Special facilities and care were arranged for women and children. The party's Women Wing also provided clothes, bedding, and other essentials to women, while children received 1,100 schoolbags, books, and shoes. Reviewing the efforts, PMML South Punjab President Imran Liaqat Bhatti emphasized that relief materials were being distributed based on ongoing field surveys to ensure aid reached only genuine victims.

According to data released by PMML, the party also distributed essential household items including charpoy, mosquito nets, bedding, utensils, and water coolers to 5,000 families. In support of livestock owners, 50 tons of silage and fodder were supplied to sustain animals in flood-affected zones.



PESHAWAR: Chairperson NCRC Ayesha Raza, Deputy Representative UNICEF Sharmela Rasool, Madhev Belbase (Child Protection Officer, UNHCR) Taymor Nawaz Director Coordinator, Commissionerate Afghan Refugees, Ijaz Khan and Nasir Bostani (DG Social Welfare, Balochistan), posing for a group photo during launching ceremony of Comprehensive Report and a Policy Brief on the Situation of Displaced and Migrant Children.

MoU inked between Balochistan Board of Investment, Fisheries Dept

Balochistan enters new era of investment with major shrimp farm project: CM Bugti

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti has announced a transformative investment initiative with the launch of a Rs. 5 billion shrimp farming project in Damb, Hub.

The agreement, a public-private partnership, is set to revolutionize the province's fisheries sector, enhance export capacity, and generate thousands of employment opportunities for the youth.

The announcement

came during a signing ceremony held at the Chief Minister's Secretariat, where a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was inked between the Balochistan Board of Investment, the Fisheries Department, and a consortium comprising House of Kasib, Dhabeji Aqua Food, and Alkaram Textile Group.

Chief Minister Bugti emphasized Balochistan's vast natural resources and strategic investment potential. "Balochistan is a

peaceful, secure, and investor-friendly province," he added, reaffirming his government's commitment to facilitating both domestic and international investors. He highlighted fisheries, agriculture, and mining as key sectors ripe for development, noting that the government is actively collaborating with development partners to accelerate economic growth.

Sarfraz Bugti praised Bilal Khan Kakar, Vice Chairman of the

Balochistan Board of Investment and Trade, and his team for their efforts in bringing the project to fruition. He described the shrimp farm initiative as "a new hope for the people of Balochistan," and a pivotal step toward realizing the province's long-held aspirations. "This project will not only inject new energy into the provincial economy but also position Balochistan as a vital contributor to Pakistan's export landscape," Bugti said.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti witnessing MoU signing ceremony inked between the Balochistan Board of Investment, the Fisheries Department, and a consortium comprising House of Kasib, Dhabeji Aqua Food, and Alkaram Textile Group. Provincial Ministers, Parliamentary Secretary Fisheries, Vice Chairman BBoIT Bilal Khan Kakar are also present.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan with Ambassadors of ASEAN member states, standing hand-in-hand -symbolizing unity, partnership and a shared commitment to stronger trade and economic ties.

Shaza Khawaja says

IT will be core element of recent Pak-Saudi agreement, 5G to be introduced in months



KARACHI (APP): Federal Minister for Information Technology (IT) and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Tuesday said that IT would be the core element of the recent Pak-Saudi agreement.

She said that the nation would see reliability of internet in the country and 5G would be introduced in months with its initial launch in seven cities of the country.

She said this while addressing the launching ceremony of 26th ITCN Asia expo and later talking to media persons at Expo Centre here.

The Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja said that the macro-economic situation had witnessed a larger stability and moving towards sustainability in the country.

She said that Karachi carried the weight of economic development of the country.

She said that when they came to power it was said that Pakistan was about to default but it improved, inflation came down and it was now moving towards sustainability.

Khawaja said that Pakistan receiving praise from across the world due to Marq e Haq, which played a significant role in bringing laurel to the country.

She said that the Technology ranking of Pakistan was getting better and this system had firmly achieved momentum to development owing to the backing of the nation and the Prime Minister.

Major expansion planned at Port Qasim to boost cement, clinker exports: Junaid Anwar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry has announced a series of major initiatives aimed at boosting cement and clinker exports by enhancing port infrastructure and operational capacity, with a particular focus on Port Qasim.

Chairing a meeting, he said a sub-committee representing all major ports, headed by the Port Qasim Authority, Rear Admiral Syed Moazzam Ilyas, has finalized key recommendations to accelerate export

capabilities.

The minister underscored the urgent need to expedite the construction of two additional multi-purpose berths at Port Qasim, which will significantly increase the port's capacity to handle export cargo more efficiently.

To support export logistics, plans are also underway to build an additional storage facility at Port Qasim with a capacity of 30,000 metric tons. The project is expected to begin by the end of 2025 after completing necessary formalities, he added.

Pakistan, Bangladesh chambers agree to strengthen trade ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Commerce Ishaan Afzal Khan on Tuesday attended a networking session between the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) and the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI).

During his meeting with DCCI President Taskeen Ahmed and Board members, the coordinator

highlighted the uptick in commercial activity between the two countries, said a news release.

He noted that business communities on both sides are increasingly exploring opportunities in pharmaceuticals, automotive, and mineral sectors.

Ishaan reaffirmed his commitment to creating a comprehensive and conducive environment for businesses from both countries.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, addressing the International Conference on Biosciences at Allama Iqbal Open University.

Ambassador Tirmizi meets Careem Captains in Dubai; lauds their contributions

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Pakistan to the United Arab Emirates Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, Tuesday, visited the Careem office in Dubai Media City and held an interactive session with Pakistani captains of the service.

Ambassador Tirmizi and his team were warmly welcomed by Mudassir Sheikh, CEO and Co-Founder of Careem and appreciated the ambassador for his desire to personally meet the captains acknowledge their contributions and pay them tributes for their

dedication, a press release received here said.

He praised the ambassador's easy accessibility and constant availability whenever approached by the Pakistani community.

Ambassador Tirmizi lauded the professionalism and resilience of the captains describing them as the true ambassadors of Pakistan. "Through your service, commitment, and positive interaction with people of diverse nationalities, you are building a positive image of Pakistan."

75-acre land comes into possession of Gwadar Free Zone

GWADAR (INP): Gwadar Free Zone Company Limited (GFZCL) has taken into possession 75 acres (30.35 hectares) at Navy Ward for the continual development of Gwadar North Free Zone in line with purpose set forth in concession agreement and land deed. The possession activity came to happen during a handing over and taking over ceremony held among GPA, COPHC and GFZCL on the previous day, Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday.

Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) delivered the GFZCL a peaceful, vacant and physical possession of the subject land 75 acres free from all encumbrances, claims, de-

mands, charges hindrances, interruption and litigation.

Out of 75 acres of land, 55 acres have been handed over by Pakistan Navy and 20 acres have been handed over by Pakistan Coast Guards. As per document available to Gwadar Pro, Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) and China Overseas Ports Holding Company (COPHC) through its subsidiary Gwadar Free Zone Company Limited (GFZCL) entered into a concession agreement dated 6th February 2007 and a lease deed dated 20th April 2015 under which GPA is obligated to put the GFZCL in possession of a total 2,280 acres of land.

Pakistan, ASEAN pledge to boost trade, economic ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan hosted Ambassadors of 07 ASEAN member states at the Ministry of Commerce here Tuesday, reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to expand trade, investment, and people-to-people links with Southeast Asia.

The meeting was attended by the Ambassadors and senior diplomats of Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Brunei Darussalam, Vietnam and Myanmar, underscoring the breadth of ASEAN representation in Islamabad.

Welcoming the Ambassadors, Jam Kamal Khan

said Pakistan aimed not only to increase bilateral trade but also to build comprehensive, long-term partnerships in technology, skills, and infrastructure.

"All ASEAN countries already enjoy cordial relations with Pakistan, but there is immense potential to go further. Through technology transfer, value addition in agriculture, and a skilled human resource base, we can take our trade from the current level to its true potential," the Minister observed.

He briefed the Ambassadors on Pakistan's new trade policy, the vehicle import policy, tariff ratio-

nalization measures spearheaded by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and progress toward a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the GCC.

He stressed that Pakistan was a gateway to Central Asia, with its ports gaining importance under new transit trade agreements that cut costs for regional partners.

He also urged ASEAN companies to invest in Pakistan's Special Economic Zones under CPEC, citing improved macroeconomic stability — inflation now in single digits — and a business climate geared toward foreign investment.



ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi in a meeting with Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Rashid Mahmood Langrial at his office.

Tanveer highlights role of biosciences in strengthening Pakistan's agriculture

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain highlighted the role of biosciences in strengthening Pakistan's Agriculture, saying, "Agriculture is the backbone of the economy and modern biosciences can give new life to this sector."

This, he stated while addressing as a Chief Guest at the first international academic and research conference on biosciences held at Allama Iqbal Open University on Tuesday. The conference was organized by the Department of Biology, Faculty of Sciences, which

was attended by renowned national and international scientists and experts.

The Minister expressed regret that Pakistan was lagging behind India in this field, emphasizing that advancing biosciences would open new avenues for development, ensuring a bright future for coming generations.

He also praised the university and Vice-Chancellor Dr Nasir Mahmood for their outstanding performance, noting that under his leadership, admissions increased from 800,000 to 1.2 million in a short period which was an extraordinary achievement.

Telenor announces Rs. 58 mln for flood relief, rehabilitation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Telenor Pakistan has announced a contribution of Rs. 58 million to support nationwide flood relief and rehabilitation efforts, reaffirming its longstanding resolve to stand with the nation in times of crisis.

The contribution included a cash donation of Rs. 10 million to Al Khidmat Foundation, enabling immediate relief through the provision of life-saving nutrition, medicines and hygiene packs in severely affected areas.

This amount comprises voluntary contributions from Telenor Pakistan employees, as well as funds from the company itself. In addition to financial assistance, Telenor is also providing in-kind services as part of its overall

contribution.

Recognising connectivity as a lifeline during emergencies, Telenor Pakistan has facilitated free calls in flood-affected areas to support rescue and emergency operations.

The company has also deployed additional resources to ensure uninterrupted network services, helping families and communities stay connected during these challenging times.

Fridtjof Rusten, CEO of Telenor Pakistan, said: "The devastation caused by the recent floods is heartbreaking, and our deepest sympathies are with all those affected. When lives and livelihoods are disrupted, collective action becomes imperative."



DHAKA: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Commerce Ishaan Afzal Khan, met with DCCI President Taskeen Ahmed and board members during a networking session with RCCI to boost bilateral trade.

Measures for promoting digital economy set to attract foreign investment: Khurram Schehzad

KARACHI (APP): Advisor to Federal Finance Minister, Khurram Schehzad, Tuesday said that the government is working on 'neo economy' and several fundamental steps being taken to promote digitization are expected to attract major foreign companies in the coming days.

He expressed the views while talking at a session titled 'Fiftyrside: Inside the engine room, in dialogue with leadership' held here on the inaugural day of the 26th edition of ITCN Asia Karachi, Pakistan's premier IT and Telecom expo and conference at the Expo Center Karachi.

The advisor to the finance minister said that Pakistan is rapidly emerging as a major global player in

the neo economy and the finance ministry was striving to pave stable foundations of a supportive infrastructure of the digital economy in the country.

The government has constituted an advisory body, Pakistan Crypto Council, to work on the matters related to blockchain policy development, cryptocurrency and digital governance while Pakistan Virtual Assets Regulatory Authority (PVARA) has also been formed to oversee and regulate the digital assets, he stated.

The digital economy is flourishing in Pakistan and SBP as the banking regulator is very forthcoming while a number of other institutions were playing their part as well, he stated.

OGDCL posts Rs 169.9bn profit, declares record Rs 15.05 dividend for FY25

ISLAMABAD (APP): Oil & Gas Development Company Limited (OGDC) on Tuesday announced its financial results for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, reporting a profit after tax of Rs 169.904 billion on net sales revenue of Rs 401.178 billion, translating into earnings per share (EPS) of Rs 39.50. The Board of Directors of OGDC declared a final cash dividend of Rs 5.00 per share (50%), taking the total payout for FY25 to Rs 15.05 per share (150.5%) — the highest-ever annual dividend in the company's history.

During the year, OGDC contributed Rs 264 billion to the national exchequer and achieved foreign exchange savings of US\$3.192 billion, underscoring its central role in the economy.

The Company announced five discoveries, spud fifteen wells, and secured seven new explora-

tion blocks in the 2025 bid round, strengthening its portfolio. Despite security challenges and gas offtake curtailments, OGDC pursued exploration and drilling activities with resilience. Average net saleable production stood at 30,919 BPD of oil, 652 MMSCFD of gas, and 642 MTD of LPG, primarily from wholly owned and operated fields, maintaining its leading share in national output. Production output would have reached 32,709 BPD of oil, 743 MMSCFD of gas, and 714 MTD of sulphur had SNGPL will not curtail the offtake from Nashpa, Qadirpur, and Bettani fields, besides curtailment from Uch Field due to less demand by Uch Power. Key development projects — including the commissioning of Jhal Magsi Field and progress in compression facilities at Dakhni, KPD-TAY, and Uch.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity was report at the port where four ships, Seaspan Santos, MSC Fie-X, Kaisa-1 and Marangas Efiessos carrying Container, LPG and LNG berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Engro Vopak Terminal and Pakistan Gas Port Terminal respectively on Monday.

Meanwhile three more ships, Venus-9, Good Heart and Jetta carrying LPG and Coal are also arrived at outer anchorage during last 24 hours.

A total of eleven ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships, Giovanni Topic and Falmouth Bay left the port on today morning, while five more ships, Noor El Huda, Seaspan Santos, Avon, Mugello and Kaisa-1 are expected to sail on today afternoon.

Cargo volume of 202,580 tonnes, comprising 142,570 tonnes imports cargo and 60,010 export cargo carried in 6,910 Containers (3,380 TEUs Imports & 3,530 TEUs Export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

PSX turns bullish, gains 390 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) turned around to bullish trend on Tuesday, gaining 390.36 points, showing an increase of 0.25 percent, closing at 157,945.03 points against 157,554.66 points on the previous trading day.

A total of 1,521,517,383 shares valuing Rs.58.725 billion were traded during the day as compared to 1,665,972,171 shares valuing Rs.60.902 billion on the last trading day. As many as 486 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 195 recorded gains and 261 sustained losses, whereas the share prices of 30 remained unchanged.

Despite fierce opposition from Israel & US, France recognizes Palestinian statehood at UN

UNITED NATIONS (APP): France Monday formally recognized a Palestinian state, becoming the latest in a wave of countries to take the step that has angered Israel and the United States.

French President Emmanuel Macron recognized Palestinian statehood in a historic speech at the United Nations General Assembly in New York on Monday.

"France recognizes today the State of Palestine," President Macron told the 193-member Assembly where world leaders and UN delegates gave him a standing ovation.

Monday's meeting, convened by France and Saudi Arabia, comes after the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and Portugal all announced their formal recognition of the state of Palestine on Sunday, with several other nations expected to follow suit at the Assembly's 80th ses-

sion this week.

In his speech, Macron delivered an impassioned call for an end to Israel's war in Gaza, for the release of Israeli hostages held by the Hamas, and for the revival of the idea of a two-state solution to the decades of conflict between the Israelis and the Palestinians.

"The recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people takes nothing away from the rights of the people of Israel whom France supported from Day One and to the respect of which it is staunchly committed," he said.

"This is why we're so convinced that this recognition is the only solution that will allow for Israel to live in peace."

The meeting follows the General Assembly's resolution overwhelming endorsement of the outcome declaration from the first phase of the confer-

ence, which took place in July at UN Headquarters.

Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud thanked those countries that have recognized the State of Palestine or announced their intention to do so.

"We call on all other countries to take a similar historic step that will have a great impact on supporting the efforts towards the implementation of the two-State solution, achieve permanent and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, and find a new reality whereby the region can enjoy peace, stability, and prosperity," he said. The US and Israel boycotted the meeting.

Most countries in Asia, Africa and South America recognize the Palestinian state. The number of Western countries that recognize Palestinian statehood has increased since the start of Israel's genocidal war in Gaza.



French President Emmanuel Macron speaks at a United Nations (UN) General Assembly meeting being organized by France and Saudi Arabia in support of a two-state solution between Palestine and Israel.

UN chief warns of 'relentless' suffering and says the U.N.'s principles 'are under siege'

UNITED NATIONS (APP): UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres opened the first day of speeches by world leaders at this year's General Assembly by warning on Tuesday about the chaotic state of the world but projecting optimism that cooperation can bring change. "We have entered an age of reckless disruption and relentless human suffering," Guterres said to the 193-member Assembly. "The principles of the United Nations that you have established are under siege."

Each September,

heads of state and government gather in New York for high-level week, where leaders present their global priorities. The Secretary-General's opening address traditionally sets the tone.

This year, as the UN marks its 80th anniversary, Guterres recalled the institution's founding after World War Two, when nations created the United Nations "as a practical strategy for the survival of humanity." "Eighty years on — we confront again the question our founders faced — only more urgent, more intertwined, more un-

forgiving," he told delegates. In his wide-ranging address, one of the most pressing issues he listed were the invasion of sovereign nations, the weaponization of hunger, the silencing of truth and the rising seas swallowing coastlines. He addressed the three raging wars — in Gaza, Ukraine and Sudan — overshadowing the U.N.'s 80th anniversary this year, saying that a diplomatic solution was the only way to end all three conflicts. But he reserved his sharpest words for the Israeli war in Gaza.

Ukraine says it hit Russian oil infrastructure in Bryansk, Samara regions

Monitoring Desk

KYIV: Ukraine's military struck two Russian oil distribution facilities in the Bryansk and Samara regions overnight, Kyiv's general staff said on Tuesday.

In Samara, the military hit a line production station that mixes Russian oil for its flagship Urals oil grade for export, the general staff said on Telegram.

In Bryansk, it hit a line production station of a pipeline critical for Russian army supplies, it said.

"The extent of the

damage is being determined," it added.

Ukraine has in recent weeks renewed its campaign of long-range drone attacks on Russian oil production sites, systematically targeting key facilities to try to reduce Moscow's export revenues and front-line supplies.

The Russian defense ministry said on Telegram that its units destroyed Ukrainian drones over Bryansk and Samara. There was no immediate comment from Russia issued publicly.

Russia says further restrictions on fuel exports are possible if needed, Ifax reports

Monitoring Desk

MOSCOW: Russian Deputy Energy Minister Pavel Sorokin said on Tuesday that further restrictions on fuel exports are possible if needed, the Interfax news agency reported.

Russia has extended a gasoline exports ban until the end of September, and the authorities have said the restrictions could be extended into October if the shortages persist.



Activists demonstrate along the border with the Gaza Strip, in southern Israel, calling for an end to the war.

Drone flights 'most serious attack' on Danish infrastructure, PM says

COPENHAGEN (AFP/APP): Large drones that flew over Copenhagen airport for hours and caused it to shut down constituted the "most serious attack on Danish critical infrastructure" to date, Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said Tuesday.

Airports in Copenhagen and Oslo reopened early Tuesday, hours after unidentified drones in their airspace caused dozens of flights to be diverted or cancelled, disrupting thousands of passengers.

"This is part of the development we have recently observed with other drone attacks, airspace violations, and cyberattacks targeting European airports," Frederiksen said in a statement provided to AFP. She referred to simi-

lar drone incidents in Poland and Romania and the violation by Russian fighter jets of Estonia's airspace.

The governments of Poland, Estonia and Romania have pointed the finger at Moscow, which has brushed off the allegations.

Frederiksen told Danish broadcaster DR she could "not rule out" that Russia was behind the drone activity. Moscow denied involvement, with Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov criticising her remarks as "unfounded accusations". On X, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky denounced what he said was a Russian violation of Denmark's airspace.

Danish police meanwhile said they had been unable to identify the drone operator.

Ghana deports at least six west Africans expelled by US to Togo

ACCRA (AFP/APP): Ghana has deported at least six west Africans to Togo after they were expelled to Accra as part of an immigration crackdown by US President Donald Trump, their lawyers said Tuesday.

Eleven deportees in total had sued the Ghanaian government to stop their further deportation, but one of their lawyers, Oliver Barker-Vormawor, told a judge at the Ghana High Court's Human Rights Division they had been "deported" over the weekend while the case was underway.

One was released to a relative in Ghana while six were confirmed to have been sent to Togo, Barker-Vormawor told AFP.

The rest were probably "sent to Togo as well. But we haven't been able to establish contact" with them, he said.

Asylum seeker jailed for sex assault on teen that sparked UK protests

Monitoring Desk

LONDON: An Ethiopian asylum seeker, whose arrest in July sparked angry protests outside the hotel near London where he and other migrants were being housed, was jailed for 12 months on Tuesday for sexually assaulting a teenage girl and another woman.

The protests outside the Bell Hotel in Epping, about 30km north of the British capital, became a touchpaper for a string of country-wide demonstrations amid rising tensions over immigration. Hadush Gerberslasie Kebatu was convicted at Chelmsford Magistrates' Court earlier this month of sexually assaulting a 14-year-old girl and a woman, attempting to sexually assault the girl, inciting her to engage in sexual activity and one count of harassment.



Indonesia's Minister of Economic Affairs Airlangga Hartarto and EU Trade Commissioner Maros Sefcovic pose with signed documents during a joint announcement on the Indonesia-European Union Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement in Nusa Dua.

Indonesia, EU finalize free trade deal on 99% of goods

Monitoring Desk

JAKARTA: Indonesia and the EU finalized negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement on Tuesday, securing a deal that removes tariffs on nearly all goods amid US President Donald Trump's trade war.

Indonesia's chief Economic Minister Airlangga Hartarto and EU Trade Commissioner Maros Sefcovic jointly announced a "substantive conclusion" of the Indonesia-EU CEPA in Bali, after over nine years of talks. "Today, we mark an important milestone (in) the longstanding partnership between Indonesia and

the EU..." (This) CEPA is a new era in our bilateral relations," Hartarto said during the signing ceremony. "As we look ahead for the next stage — the legal scrubbing, translation, ratification — we reaffirm (our) determination to bring this CEPA into force at the earliest opportunity. The target should be the first of January 2027."

The agreement removes import duties on 98.5 percent of tariff lines, the EU said in a statement. In a separate statement, Indonesia's Coordinating Ministry of Economic Affairs said both sides have committed to removing over 98 percent of tariffs on around 99 percent of imports.

Kazakhstan to receive 300 American freight locomotives in \$4.2 billion deal

ASTANA (Kazinform/APP): Agreements worth approximately \$4.2 billion were signed with the American company Wabtec in the presence of U.S. Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick. The signing ceremony took place as part of the Kazakh President's working visit to the United States, Kazinform News Agency cites Akorda.

The documents provide for the delivery of 300 freight locomotives with enhanced specifications to Kazakhstan, as well as associated maintenance services. A recognized global

leader in transportation technology, the company is a key partner in the modernization of Kazakhstan's railway industry.

The Wabtec Kazakhstan locomotive assembly plant has been successfully operating in Astana since 2009. Over this period, the company has invested more than \$230 million. Since its launch, the plant has produced over 600 locomotives for Kazakhstan Temir Zholy (KTZ) and for export. The level of production localization has reached 45%.

WHO sees no autism links to Tylenol, vaccines

GENEVA (AFP/APP): Neither the painkiller Tylenol nor vaccines have been shown to cause autism, the World Health Organization said on Tuesday, following comments from the US president and his administration to the contrary.

President Donald Trump insisted on Monday that pregnant women should "tough it out" and avoid Tylenol due to an unproven link to autism and also urged major changes to the standard vaccines administered to babies.

Medical groups have long cited acetaminophen, or paracetamol—the primary ingredient in Tylenol—as among the safest painkillers to take during pregnancy.

WHO spokesman Tarik Jasarevic acknowledged that there had been some "observational studies that have suggested a possible association between prenatal exposure to acetaminophen or paracetamol and autism".

But, he told reporters in Geneva, "the evidence remains inconsistent".

He pointed out that a number of studies conducted since the observational studies had "found no such relationship". "If the link between acetaminophen and autism were strong, it would likely have been consistently observed across multiple studies," he said, warning against "drawing casual conclusions about the role of acetaminophen in autism".

NATO warns Russia it will use all means to defend against airspace breaches after Estonia incursions

Monitoring Desk

BRUSSELS: NATO warned Russia on Tuesday that it would use all means to defend against any further breaches of its airspace after the downing earlier this month of Russian drones over Poland and Estonia's report of an intrusion by Russian fighter jets last week.

The Sept. 10 incident in Poland was the first direct encounter between NATO and Moscow since the war in Ukraine began. It jolted leaders across Europe, raising questions about how prepared the alliance is against growing Russian aggression.

Another test of NATO's preparedness and credibility came last Friday, after Estonia said that three Russian fighter jets had entered its airspace for 12 minutes without authoriza-

tion, a charge that Russia has rejected. "Russia should be in no doubt: NATO and Allies will employ, in accordance with international law, all necessary military and non-military tools to defend ourselves and deter all threats from all directions," the alliance said in a statement.

"We will continue to respond in the manner, timing, and domain of our choosing," the 32-member NATO said, and underlined its commitment to Article 5 of its founding treaty that an attack on any one ally must be considered an attack on them all. Asked whether suspect aircraft would be shot down, NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte said this would depend "on available intelligence regarding the threat posed by the aircraft."

Trump returns to UN podium and Zelensky talks

UNITED NATIONS (AFP/APP): Donald Trump makes his big comeback to the UN General Assembly podium on Tuesday, where the US president intends to denounce "globalist institutions" and meet with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky as patience with Russia wears thin.

Trump will address the United Nations for the first time since he returned to office and quickly took to slashing the US role in international organizations. It will be Trump's second time seeing Zelensky since the US leader invited Russian President Vladimir Putin on August 15 to Alaska, a meeting that broke Moscow's isolation in the West but yielded no breakthrough on Ukraine.

Russia has not only kept up its barrage of attacks on Ukraine in the past month but has increasingly raised fears in Western Europe, with drone or

air incursions in NATO members Poland, Estonia and Romania.

Mike Waltz, newly installed as the US ambassador to the United Nations, voiced solidarity with NATO allies over the airspace violations.

"The United States and our allies will defend every inch of NATO territory," said Waltz, who was earlier Trump's national security advisor.

Trump took office vowing that he could end within one day the Ukraine war, which has claimed tens of thousands of lives, and boasted of his personal chemistry with Putin.

But Trump acknowledged last week that Putin had "really let me down."

A UN report released Tuesday found that Russian authorities have tortured civilian detainees in Ukrainian areas Moscow occupies, including sexual violence, in a "widespread and systematic manner."

White House rejects talks offer from Venezuela's Maduro

CARACAS (AFP/APP): The White House on Monday dismissed a request by Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro for talks with counterpart Donald Trump to de-escalate tensions between the two arch-enemies.

The brush-off came as two Venezuelan opposition leaders backed a US naval build-up near the South American country, calling it critical for the restoration of democracy.

Trump has dispatched eight warships and a submarine to the southern Caribbean in an anti-drug operation Venezuela fears could be the preamble to an invasion. US forces have destroyed at least three suspected Venezuelan drug boats in recent weeks, killing over a dozen people.

On Sunday, the Venezuelan government released a letter that leftist Maduro had sent to Trump.

In the missive, Maduro—whose July 2024 reelection was rejected as fraudulent by Venezuela's opposition and much of the international community—rejected as "absolutely

false" US allegations that he leads a drug cartel and urged Trump to "keep the peace."

Reacting on Monday, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said Maduro's letter contained "a lot of lies."

She added the Trump administration's position on Venezuela "has not changed" and it viewed the regime as "illegitimate."

The US deployment is the biggest in the Caribbean in years. Maduro has accused Trump—who during his first term tried unsuccessfully to expedite the Venezuelan president's ouster—of trying to affect regime change. It was "a first letter, I will certainly send them more," Maduro said Monday night during his weekly television program, during which he said his goal was "to defend the truth of Venezuela."

"If they close a door, you open a window, and if they open a window, you open a door with the truth of your country, lighting up the world, illuminating the White House with the light of the truth of Venezuela."

East Timor to become ASEAN bloc's 11th member in October

Monitoring Desk

DILI: East Timor is slated to become the 11th member of the ASEAN regional bloc in October, Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said Tuesday during a visit to the Southeast Asian nation.

The accession will be formalized at a gathering of world leaders in Kuala Lumpur, confirmed Anwar, whose country currently chairs the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

East Timor is the youngest country in the region, having gained independence from Indonesia in 2002 after 24 years of occupation.

"The accession of Timor-Leste to ASEAN will be of immense benefit to us all," Anwar told a press conference after a meeting with East Timor's president, Ramos-Horta, in the country's capital, Dili.

"We will certainly have a big celebration for your accession to ASEAN in October 2025," he said.

Anwar said the two leaders also discussed trade, investments, tourism, education and defense during the bilateral talks.

He is also scheduled to meet with East Timor Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao during his visit.

President Jose Ramos-Horta has long campaigned for ASEAN membership, and an application was first submitted in 2011.

"Our discussions have been a warm, constructive focus on the future as we prepare for our historic accession to ASEAN in October in Kuala Lumpur," Horta said.

"We are committed to working closely with Malaysia and all ASEAN members to fulfill their remaining milestones on our path to full membership."

East Timor continues to grapple with high inequality, malnutrition, and unemployment.

Its economy remains heavily reliant on its oil reserves.



Travellers wait in terminal 4 at Heathrow Airport, at London.

WB report urges bold reforms to reduce poverty, build resilience in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The World Bank (WB), in a report released Tuesday based on 25 years of official household surveys in Pakistan, stressed the need for bold, sustained and people-centered reforms to reduce poverty, strengthen resilience and protect vulnerable populations.

The report titled "Reclaiming Momentum Towards Prosperity: Pakistan's Poverty, Equity and Resilience Assessment", marked the first comprehensive evaluation of poverty and welfare trends in the country since the early 2000s.

After a steady decline from 64.3% in 2001-02 to 21.9% in 2018-19, the national poverty rate began to increase in 2020, mainly due to compounding shocks including

COVID-19, inflation, floods and macroeconomic stress, but also because the consumption-driven growth model that delivered early gains has reached its limit, it said.

To address this, the report called for sustained and people-centered reforms to protect poor and vulnerable families, improve livelihood opportunities, and expand access to basic services for all.

The report taped into 25 years of official household surveys, nowcasted projections, geospatial analysis, and unique administrative data sources.

Official poverty estimates are based on multiple rounds of the Household Integrated Economic Survey (HIES), using Pakistan's national poverty line and methodology,

which remained the most relevant tool for policymaking.

For international comparisons, the report applied global poverty thresholds updated in June 2025.

Beyond 2018-19, which is the latest available survey round, it used micro-simulation models to project poverty estimates.

New poverty estimates and trends based on survey data would be produced once the recently collected HIES 2024-25 data is released.

"It will be critical to protect Pakistan's hard-won poverty gains while accelerating reforms that expand jobs and opportunities—especially for women and young people," WB Country Director for Pakistan Bolormaa Amgaabazar said.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti expressing his views during Balochistan Assembly session.

Ahsan visits BGI HQs: 500 genomics training scholarships for 500 Pakistani experts announced

GUANGZHOU (APP): Federal Minister for Planning and Development Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday visited the headquarters of Beijing Genomics Institute (BGI) in Guangzhou, marking a significant milestone in Pakistan-China scientific collaboration.

During the visit, BGI announced the provision of 500 training scholarships for Pakistani experts, aiming to enhance skills and expertise in the field of genomics.

This initiative is set to deepen bilateral ties and open new avenues for co-operation in cutting-edge biotechnology," the minister said.

Speaking on the occasion, he described the genomics partnership as "a new chapter in Pakistan-China friendship," highlighting that the collaboration extended beyond infrastructure development to exploring the fundamental blueprint of life itself.

Both countries have moved beyond building roads and power plants. Now, we are decoding the very essence of life," he said.

Highlighting the transformative potential of the partnership, he remarked, "CPEC 2.0 guarantees a bright future centered on health, food security and innovation through genomics and biotechnology." Ahsan Iqbal said the cooperation was not just limited to treating diseases but also paved the way for shared prosperity between the two nations.

"The friendship between Pakistan and China is higher than mountains and deeper than oceans," he said. He further noted that with genomics cooperation, the bond between the two countries has become as meaningful and intricate as the human genome itself.



QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretaries Mir Liaqat Ali Lehri, Haji Abdul Majeed Badini and MPA Mir Rehmat Saleh Baloch meeting with Provincial Minister for Irrigation Mir Sadiq Umrani.

Gwadar starts receiving 2 MGD water from Shadi Kaur Dam

GWADAR (INP) The Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) has started supplying water from Shadi Kor Dam to the city's main transmission line, adding two million gallons per day (MGD) to the system after nearly three and a half years, officials said.

The 83-kilometer-long pipeline was reactivated on the directive of Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, following day-and-night efforts by GDA's water division under the supervision of Director General Moim-ur-

Rehman Khan, according to Gwadar Pro.

Chief Engineer Haji Syed Muhammad, Project Director Water Mir Jan Baloch and Site Engineer Kamran inspected the resumed flow.

The move follows Bugti's September 17 meeting in Gwadar, where it was decided to transfer the city's entire water distribution network to GDA.

Since then, GDA has accelerated installation of new household connections, urging residents to promptly submit applications.

District administration takes efforts to revive health facilities under reform drive

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner Kalat, Captain @ Jameel Baloch said that all Basic Health Units (BHUs) and hospitals in the district are now fully operational as the health sector has undergone a significant transformation.

DC Jameel Baloch shared that since assuming office in March 2025, the district administration has implemented a comprehensive reform policy aimed at ensuring staff presence and enhancing service delivery across public health facilities.

As a result, 22 BHUs, 3 Rural Health Centers, and the 50-bed District Teaching Hospital are now providing

round-the-clock medical care. A key initiative has been the establishment of a specialized center at the District Teaching Hospital to combat Leishmaniasis. The center now administers Glucantime injections—an internationally recognized treatment for the disease.

"We are taking emergency measures to deal with Leishmaniasis cases in the district," said DC Baloch, adding that the Health Monitoring Committee has been activated to ensure timely and effective care. The hospital also now offers regular surgical services for deliveries and emergencies, supported by a dedicated 24-hour.

NAB Balochistan to hold open court for public complaints

Independent Report

QUETTA: NAB Balochistan will conduct an Open Court on 25 September 2025 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at its Shahra-e-Gulistan Road office to register complaints against financial malpractices. Complainants must provide identity, address, and verified information, as anonymous complaints will no longer be entertained.

Transport, public safety updates in Balochistan

Independent Report

GWADAR/QUETTA: The Gwadar and Quetta administrations addressed ongoing transport issues, including unauthorized diesel transfers by bus operators, illegal occupation of terminal land, and ongoing maintenance at Karachi Bus Terminal, Hazar Ganji. Authorities emphasized that all operations comply with the law, passenger safety is a priority, and strict action will be taken against violations.

Health services audited in Gwadar

Independent Report

GWADAR: DSM PPHI Gwadar, Dr. Murshid Dashti, inspected BHU Ghti Door and BHU Shadoband, reviewing staff attendance, EPI sites, MCH centers, and Telehealth clinics. Guidelines were issued to improve service quality and ensure better healthcare for the public.

On this occasion, Assistant Engineer Muhammad Asif gave a detailed briefing regarding ongoing projects.

Work is going on rapidly on various buildings of Quaid-e-Azam Cadet College Sanjawi, which will be completed as soon as possible. Provincial Food Minister and Chairman Food Authority Haji Noor

Muhammad Khan Durrani will soon inaugurate Quaid-e-Azam Cadet College Sanjawi.

The Food Minister Haji Noor said that during his government, efforts were made day and night to solve the basic problems of the people, the best Quaid-e-Azam Cadet College has been built in Sanjawi.

He said that the facilities that are lacking in Quaid-e-Azam Cadet College Sanjawi would be completed saying that he could address the problems of his people day and night on priority basis during incumbent government and in the future this would be continued.

BFA accelerates anti adulteration drive on dairy products

Independent Report

QUETTA: Under the direction of Secretary Food, Manzoor Javed Ali, the Balochistan Food Authority intensified inspections of milk and yogurt across various locations, including Samungli, Khizi Chowk, Hazar Ganji, Jatak Stop, Kasi Road, Mekangi, and Gwale Mandi. Authorities penalized nine suppliers and shop owners for selling substandard products, confiscated 150 liters of adulterated milk, dry milk powder, and 140 kg of poor-quality yogurt, and conducted immediate testing of 7,470 liters of milk through mobile labs. Officials confirmed the presence of water and powdered milk adulteration in collected samples.



NEWYORK: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets Federal Chancellor of the Republic of Austria, H.E. Christian Stocker on the sidelines of 80th session of United Nations General Assembly.

Pak-Bahrain reaffirm commitment to strengthening bilateral parliamentary cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain, during their meeting at Al-Safriya Palace on Tuesday, underscored the spirit of cordiality and brotherhood that reflects the enduring friendship and historical ties between Pakistan and Bahrain.

During the meeting, Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq conveyed warm greetings and messages of goodwill on behalf of the President of Pakistan, Asif Ali Zardari, and the Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

The leadership of Pakistan expressed their wishes for the continued prosperity and development of Bahrain. King Hamad graciously acknowledged these sentiments, extended his best wishes for the leadership of Pakistan, and prayed for the progress and well-being of the Pakistani people.

The two leaders held an extensive exchange of views on important regional and international issues of mutual concern.

They emphasized the importance of peace, stability, and cooperation in the region, with Speaker Ayaz Sadiq reiterating Pakistan's principled stance on the peaceful resolution of the long-standing disputes of Palestine and Kashmir.

He strongly condemned the ongoing atrocities in Kashmir and Palestine and reaffirmed that sustainable peace in the region can only be achieved through just and lasting settlements of these disputes. King Hamad congratulated Pakistan on the Pakistan-Saudi Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement, terming it a milestone achievement that strengthens collective security in the region. He lauded Pakistan as a key Muslim country and a prominent military power in the Islamic world, playing a vital role

in safeguarding the collective interests of the Ummah.

In response, Speaker Ayaz Sadiq reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering commitment to defending and promoting the shared values and aspirations of the Muslim world.

Both leaders also discussed the long-standing bilateral ties between Pakistan and Bahrain, underscoring the need to further expand cooperation in parliamentary, economic, and cultural domains. They highlighted the importance of enhancing parliamentary exchanges, sharing legislative experiences, and fostering institutional linkages between the two parliaments.

Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq especially praised the Bahrain Parliament for establishing a dedicated section on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on its official webpage, describing it as a commendable step towards promoting inclusive and sustainable progress.



Commander Karachi Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi interacts with media during Opening Ceremony of 2nd CNS International Sailing Regatta 2025.

Food Minister reviews works of Quaid-e-Azam Cadet College Sanjawi project

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Food Minister and Chairman Balochistan Food Authority Haji Noor Muhammad Khan Durrani on Tuesday visited Quaid-e-Azam Cadet College Sanjawi area of Ziarat district to review progress of ongoing projects.

On this occasion, Assistant Engineer Muhammad Asif gave a detailed briefing regarding ongoing projects.

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LORALAI: Parents and brother of Shaheed Waqar Khan Kakar inaugurates Balochistan Residential College (BRC) Loralai which is officially renamed Shaheed Captain Waqar Kakar Residential College.

UoT boosts student capacity with digital skills training

QUETTA (APP): With the support of the federal and provincial governments, the University of Turbat (UoT) is taking significant steps to enhance its students' capacity by equipping them with modern digital skills and potential to benefit from emerging opportunities. In this regard, the Directorate of Student Affairs organized two awareness sessions on the Young Peace and Development Corps (YPDC) and the Youth Digital Hub (YDH), as part of the Uraan Pakistan Program.

A large number of students from various departments participated in the

sessions. In the first session, office bearers of the YPDC Turbat University Chapter, including President Mir Zangi, Vice President Wasima, General Secretary Fatima Nazir, Media Relations Officer Bakhtiar Rind, and Coordinator Musaddiq, briefed the participants on the objectives and vision of YPDC. Addressing the participants, Director Student Affairs, Chakar Hyder, said that the establishment of the YPDC Turbat University Chapter aims to actively engage students in peacebuilding and socio-economic development initiatives.

Meanwhile, Provincial Minister for Food, Haji Noor Muhammad Durrani, and Provincial Environment Minister, Naseem Rehman Khan Malakhel, echoed the significance of Pashtun Culture Day in preserving heritage, promoting societal harmony, and educating the new generation about traditions. In Pishin, a cultural festival supported by the Department of Culture featured games, sports, and performances, emphasizing the celebration of Pashtun identity, language, and traditions.



QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta Division Shahzaib Khan Kakar presides over the meeting regarding Karachi Bus Terminal Hazar Ganji.

China to implement Zardari visit's outcomes: Zaidong

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of People's Republic of China Jiang Zaidong has said that China is willing to work with Pakistan to implement the important outcomes of President Asif Ali Zardari's visit, advance the action plan to foster an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era (2025-2029).

"This will set an example for building a community with a shared future among neighboring countries, and contribute to the building of a community with a shared future for mankind," the ambassador said in his article on "Revisiting the home away from home: continuing the epic tale of China-Pakistan ironclad friendship".

He said that from September 12 to 21, President Asif Ali Zardari was invited to attend the opening ceremony of the 2025 Golden Panda International Cultural Forum, and subsequently paid visits to Sichuan Province, Shanghai Municipality, and the

Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. This marked President Zardari's second visit to China following his state visit in February this year - a vivid testament to his profound affection for the Chinese people and great importance attached to China-Pakistan relations, he added.

The Ambassador said that as President Zardari penned in his article for China Daily, "As I recall my frequent visits to China in the past several decades, I have always considered China my home away from home. The warmth and hospitality extended to me and my family, and the staunch and steadfast support given to the people of Pakistan on every occasion are cherished impressions etched in my memory."

During this journey to his "home away from home", President Zardari traversed three provincial-level administrative regions, visited four destinations, met with heads of local governments, and engaged with ordinary Chinese citizens.



NEWYORK: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar held a bilateral meeting with Hungarian FM Peter Szijarto on the sidelines of the 80th UNGA Session.

Pakistan, Hungary reaffirm to further cement bilateral ties, cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister (DPM/FM) Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Foreign Minister of Hungary Peter Szijarto, Tuesday, reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening Pakistan-Hungary bilateral ties on the eve of 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, including by exploring new avenues of cooperation.

The DPM/FM met with Hungarian foreign minister on the sidelines of the High-Level Week of the 80th session of the UN General Assembly session in New York, Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release.

During the meeting, DPM/FM Dar underscored Pakistan's strong desire to

deepen trade and investment linkages with Hungary. The DPM/FM apprised the Hungarian FM regarding the steps being taken by the Government of Pakistan for facilitating Hungarian investments in Pakistan.

The Hungarian foreign minister thanked the prime minister as well as the DPM/FM for their personal involvement and support in supporting Hungarian investments in Pakistan.

Issues pertaining to regional and international peace and security also came under discussion during the meeting.

"The two sides expressed their resolve for the early finalization of the agreement for the protection of mutual investments.



QUETTA: Provincial Secretary Irrigation Saleh Muhammad Nasar meeting with Speaker Balochistan Assembly Captain (ret'd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai.

French envoy announces €500,000 aid for KP flood victims

ISLAMABAD (APP): France Ambassador to Pakistan, Nicolas Galey on Tuesday announced financial support of €500,000 to assist flood-affected communities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, stressing the need for global cooperation in tackling climate change.

Speaking to reporters at his residence, Ambassador Galey said the aid will strengthen recovery efforts and also highlighted that the assistance reflects France's solidarity with Pakistan at a time of heightened climate challenges.

He said France remains committed to working with Pakistan on humanitarian support and long-term solutions to climate-related disasters.

The Ambassador said, "In the tragic circumstances many parts of Pakistan have been going through during the last weeks, we are pleased and proud to support Acted with a grant of 500,000 euros."

He said, the French contribution will fund a

seven-month initiative titled Community-Led Recovery for Flood-Affected Populations in Buner and Swat. The project, implemented by Acted, a French international NGO, in coordination with the provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, aims to reach 3,000 households - nearly 21,000 people.

He said the programme will focus on restoring livelihoods, repairing damaged infrastructure, providing safe water and sanitation, ensuring access to education, and offering psychosocial support to vulnerable groups. Families who lost their homes will also receive shelter assistance.

Acted, which has been working in Pakistan since 1993, said the project is designed to respond to immediate needs while strengthening community resilience against future disasters.

Under the plan, Acted will create short-term jobs through gender-sensitive livelihood schemes.