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Transport sector backbone of provincial economy:

Legitimate issues of transporters to be resolved in phased manner: CM Bugti

CM Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti vows to maintain law & order on national highways

QUETTA, (VoM Report): Chief Minister of Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti met with a delegation of transporters and representatives of the All Pakistan Mazda Truck Goods Transport Association led by Parliamentary Secretary for Transport Mir Liaquat Ali Lehri. During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on the issues facing the transport sector in the province, the law and order situation on national highways, commercial activities, and measures to make the goods transportation system more effective.

Secretary Transport Balochistan Hayat Khan, Special Secretary Home Abdul Salam Khan Achakzai, Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister Imran Zarkoon, and Additional Secretary to the Chief Minister Muhammad Faridun Khan were also present at the meeting. The delegation included Chairman of the All Pakistan Mazda Truck Goods Transport Association Mir Nawab Mengal, prominent transporters Mir Daulat Khan Lehri, representatives of the Traders' Association Rahim Kakar, Noor Ahmad Kakar, Haji Yaseen Mengal, Noorullah Tareen, Haji Muhammad Ibrahim Banchari, Agha Dadullah, Haji Khalil, Tahir Ahmad Mengal, and Agha.

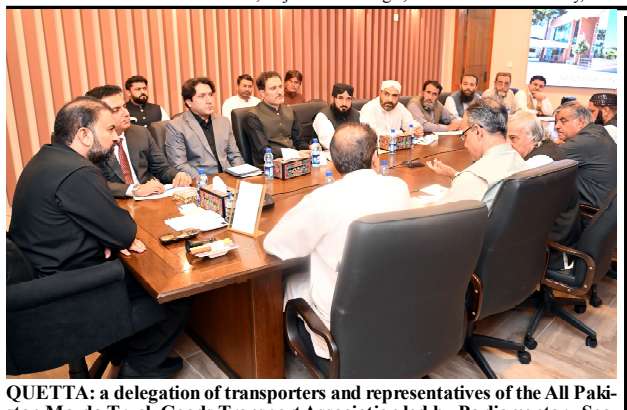
The delegation apprised the Chief Minister of Balochistan of the issues faced by transporters, traders, and the Goods Association, the difficulties encountered during transportation on highways, and various administrative matters related to the transport sector. On the occasion, Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that the transport sector serves as the backbone of the provincial and national economy, and the government is giving priority to resolving the issues faced by this sector.

He assured the delegation that the genuine problems of transporters would be resolved in phases and that the relevant departments had already been directed to take the necessary measures in this regard.

The Chief Minister said that maintaining law and order on national highways is the government's top priority, and all relevant institutions have been instructed to work comprehensively to provide a safe environment for passengers, transporters, and traders.



RAWALPINDI: A high-level delegation from the Federal Republic of Somalia, led by Defence Minister Ambassador Ahmed Moallim Fiqi, called on Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) and Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) at General Headquarters (GHQ).



QUETTA: a delegation of transporters and representatives of the All Pakistan Mazda Truck Goods Transport Association led by Parliamentary Secretary for Transport Mir Liaquat Ali Lehri called on Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti.

Somalia's high-level defence delegation calls on COAS Syed Asim Munir

Field Marshal reaffirms Pakistan's commitment to supporting Somalia in strengthening its security apparatus and fostering enduring peace in the region

RAWALPINDI, (APP): A high-level delegation from the Federal Republic of Somalia, led by Defence Minister Ambassador Ahmed Moallim Fiqi, called on Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) and Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) here on Thursday at General Headquarters (GHQ).

During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, regional security dynamics, and measures to further enhance bilateral defence and security cooperation were discussed.

Both sides underscored the importance of deepening military-to-military ties and capacity building initiatives to counter common security challenges, said a news release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR).

The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan's steadfast support and the professional role played by the Pakistan Armed Forces in promoting regional peace and stability.

The Field Marshal reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to supporting Somalia in strengthening its security apparatus and fostering enduring peace in the region.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister Mir Asim Kurd Gailu and MPA Kulsoom Niaz Baloch called on Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

No compromise on peace, security, public safety in Balochistan: Home Minister

Quetta traders suspend protest after positive response from provincial govt

QUETTA (ANN): Provincial Interior Minister Mir Ziaullah Langove said the business community is an important pillar of society and resolving its issues is one of the government's foremost responsibilities. He said peaceful protest is the constitutional and democratic right of every citizen, which is why the government held talks with traders after their protest and listened seriously to their concerns.

He clarified that although leaders of the All Parties Conference were members of the Ziarat Martyrs Committee, the restoration of the Levies Force was not discussed during the negotiations. However, it was agreed that all political parties would form a committee to work on the matter.

He urged people not to mislead the public of Balochistan, saying false and fabricated news is being spread on social media. He alleged that elements from India and Afghanistan are involved in the unrest in the province, while terrorists attempt to disrupt peace at every opportunity.

Following successful negotiations between the Balochistan government and the Anjuman-e-Tajiran Balochistan (Traders' Association), the shutter-down strike scheduled for 7 and 8 August in Quetta has been postponed.

The Interior Minister made these remarks during a joint press conference after the successful talks with the traders. Also present were Special Assistant to the Interior Minister Babar Yousafzai, Metropolitan Corporation Administrator Major (Retd.) Bashir Ahmed Bareech, Deputy Commissioner Quetta Mehrullah Badini, Anjuman-e-Tajiran Balochistan President Rahim Agha, and others.

Mir Ziaullah Langove said the Balochistan government has formed a special committee to address traders' concerns. The committee, comprising the Deputy Commissioner Quetta, the Quetta Administrator, and other relevant officials, will review traders' demands and ensure their prompt resolution.

He said all legitimate demands of the traders would be addressed on a priority basis and the government would continue extending every possible cooperation to the business community.

PM Shehbaz departs for Saudi Arabia on 3-day official visit

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday departed for Saudi Arabia on the invitation of Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud to meet the country's leadership and discuss bilateral relations and regional developments.

The prime minister is accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Federal Ministers Khawaja Muhammad Asif and Attaullah Tarar, and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Tariq Fatemi. During the visit, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will meet Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. The meeting will focus on further strengthening the longstanding fraternal relations and strategic partnership between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, as well as exchanging views on the regional situation.

During his stay in the Kingdom, the Prime Minister will perform Umrah and visit Madinah Munawara to pay his respects at the Roza-e-Rasool (Peace Be Upon Him). The prime minister's visit reflects the decades-long fraternal ties, mutual trust, and close brotherly relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

Security forces kill 12 terrorists in Balochistan IBOs: ISPR

RAWALPINDI, (Agencies): Security forces killed 12 terrorists belonging to Fitna al-Hindustan during intelligence-based operations (IBOs) in the Washuk and Mastung districts of Balochistan, the military's media wing said on Thursday.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), high-tempo intelligence-driven operations were conducted as part of the ongoing "Rad-ul-Fitna-3" campaign, which it described as a counterterrorism operation aimed at eliminating Indian proxies. "On August 5, movement of six terrorists was picked up by the security forces in Washuk District. Own troops effectively engaged these terrorists. As a result of precise and skilful engagement, all six terrorists belonging to Indian proxy, Fitna-al Hindustan, were sent to hell," it said. It said another intelligence-based operation was carried out in Mastung district on August 6, where six more terrorists were killed during an exchange of fire. The military added that a terrorist hideout was also destroyed. The ISPR said security forces and law enforcement agencies would continue operations under the "Azm-e-Istehkam" initiative, approved by the Federal Apex Committee on the National Action Plan, to eliminate foreign-sponsored terrorism from the country.

Islamabad urges de-escalation as Hormuz crisis complicates Iran-US dialogue

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Pakistan on Thursday said that resolving the standoff in the Strait of Hormuz was key to easing the wider conflict in the Gulf and Middle East particularly between Iran and the United States, reaffirming its support for all sincere diplomatic efforts aimed at achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the regional crisis. Briefing the media at the weekly press briefing, Foreign Office Spokesperson Tahir Andrabi said Pakistan remained actively engaged with brotherly countries to promote de-escalation and dialogue, adding that progress on the Strait of Hormuz would create a conducive environment for resolving broader regional tensions, including facilitating renewed engagement between Iran and the United States. He said Pakistan would continue to actively pursue diplomatic engagement and support all sincere initiatives to resolve the crisis, emphasizing that diplomacy remained the only viable path towards sustainable peace and stability in the region.

Terrorism to be defeated at any cost: IGP Balochistan

QUETTA (ANN): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Balochistan Muhammad Tahir said that it should not be forgotten that 1,195 police officers and personnel have laid down their lives for the establishment of peace, stability, and lasting security in the province.

He said these unsung heroes shed their blood so that others could live in peace.

He said death is inevitable, but the police remain determined to defeat the enemies of innocent people and foil their designs. He stressed that peace and stability do not come automatically but are achieved through the sacrifices of martyrs who are always ready to lay down their lives.

He expressed these views while addressing a ceremony held in connection with Police Martyrs' Day.

President, PM laud security forces for successful Radd-ul-Fitna III operations in Balochistan

ISLAMABAD, (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday paid tribute to the security forces for successful intelligence-based operations conducted under Radd-ul-Fitna III in Balochistan's Washuk and Mastung districts, in which 12 India-sponsored Fitna-al-Hindustan terrorists were killed. In separate statements issued by the Presidency and the Prime Minister's Office, both leaders commended the professionalism, courage and operational efficiency of the security forces in eliminating the terrorists in two distinct successful actions. President Zardari said the successful operations against India-backed terrorists were a manifestation of the resolve, courage and skill of Pakistan's security forces. He said Fitna-al-Hindustan and its facilitators were enemies of peace, stability and progress in Pakistan, and vowed that their nefarious designs would be defeated at all costs. The president reiterated the state's unwavering commitment to ridding the country of terrorism from every corner, and reaffirmed the nation's full solidarity with the armed forces and law enforcement agencies safeguarding the country's territorial integrity and the lives of its citizens. He prayed for eternal peace for the personnel who laid down their lives in the line of duty and for the health and recovery of those injured in operations against terrorism. "May Allah Almighty bless every corner of Pakistan with peace and stability, and grant our security forces success on every front," the president prayed.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, in his statement, also praised the security forces for their successful actions against Fitna-al-Hindustan terrorists in Washuk and Mastung, and lauded them for killing 12 terrorists during the operations.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of People's Republic of China to Pakistan H.E. Jiang Zaidong calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Debate about creating new provinces attempt to divert public attention from real issues: Dr Abdul Malik Baloch

QUETTA (ANN): Leaders of the All Parties Conference (APC) expressed serious concern over the overall political, law and order, and administrative situation in Balochistan. They announced that an APC meeting under the leadership of Maulana Fazlur Rehman will be convened in September to discuss restoring the political environment, taking measures to end insecurity on national highways, and addressing other issues facing Balochistan. Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP) and other political parties will also be invited to participate.

The announcement was made during a press conference at the Quetta Press Club by Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) Balochistan chief Senator Maulana Abdul Wasey, National Party leader Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch, and Awami National Party (ANP) Balochistan President Asghar Khan Achakzai. Also present were PkMAP's Isa Roshan, National Democratic Movement provincial president Ahmad Jan, Jamaat-e-Islami provincial general secretary Zahid Akhtar, Hazara Democratic Party central secretary general Qadir Ali Nael, and others. Senator Maulana Abdul Wasey said that the third meeting of the APC reviewed the current situation in Balochistan in detail and made several important decisions. He demanded that the government immediately implement the agreement reached regarding the Ziarat tragedy. He said the next APC meeting would be held in September with the participation of all central party leaders.

National Party chief Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch said the debate about creating new provinces is an attempt to divert public attention from the real issues. He said some circles are always eager to create new controversies, whether over the Constitution, the NFC Award, or the 18th Amendment, while the real problems of the people are pushed into the background.



QUETTA: Leaders of all Parties Conference, Maulana Abdul Wasay, Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch, Asghar Khan Achakzai, Isa Roshan, Akhtar Hussain Langau, and others are addressing a press conference.

THE VOICE OF MILLIONS

Friday August 07, 2026

No further sanctions

US President Donald Trump's meeting with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin delivered exactly what Moscow wanted — no deal and no further sanctions. Trump, who had threatened "serious consequences" if no immediate ceasefire was reached, instead retreated empty-handed. The result was a diplomatic win for Putin, with only the vague prospect of a peace process that leaves Russia free to seize more land at no cost. With Trump unwilling to take a harder line on Russia, Europe's only choice is to turn the tables on Washington, taking the initiative and intensifying the pressure on Moscow.

For Ukraine and Europe, the only relief was that Trump did not strike a territorial concession deal with Putin in pursuit of a short-term political victory. But the press conference made clear that such a deal in exchange for a ceasefire was never on Putin's agenda. The Kremlin leader emphasized the need to address what Moscow calls the "root causes" of the conflict — namely Ukraine's independent statehood and Euro-Atlantic future. Convinced that Russia is winning and that Kyiv will eventually crack, he showed no interest in compromise.

Faced with Putin's hardline position, Trump dropped the immediate ceasefire as his central objective — a move that directly contradicted the approach agreed with Ukraine and European leaders before the summit. Yet this reveals Europe's underlying weakness: a cycle in which Trump sets the strategic goals, while European governments limit themselves to providing the means to achieve those goals, from the Coalition of the Willing to the new scheme of financing US weapons through NATO.

Such a division of labor can work. It did during the Cold War, when US leadership steered the West to victory but it relies on a strong transatlantic bond and genuine trust, both of which now appear increasingly fragile. And if Trump unilaterally shifts the strategic objective in Ukraine from a ceasefire to an illusory full-scale peace deal, what purpose will these European-crafted mechanisms serve?

The lesson of the Alaska Summit is clear: Trump is unwilling to make Moscow pay for its aggression against Ukraine, no matter how many ultimatums he issues. The only viable path for Europe is to seize the initiative, demonstrate leadership to Washington and increase pressure on Moscow. In this context, it is encouraging that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was joined in Washington on Monday by several European leaders, including German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, Finnish President Alexander Stubb, French President Emmanuel Macron, and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. Their presence sends a powerful message that Ukraine is not alone and that the EU regards Kyiv's fate as an integral part of its own security. However, it is not enough for the leaders merely to exchange views or receive Trump's account of the situation. They should also come prepared to put forward concrete solutions.

This is where symbolism must give way to substance. Europe must start acting with confidence, as it "has the cards" to play a more active role. Europe already provides more military aid to Ukraine than the US, whose latest package is nearly exhausted. Moreover, Washington is increasingly shifting the financial burden of US weapons onto European allies. The Coalition of the Willing led by France and the UK should not wait for a ceasefire but deploy in a non-combat role to boost Ukraine's defense away from the frontlines by providing intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, boosting air defenses to protect Ukrainian critical infrastructure and civilian areas, as well as assisting with training of Ukrainian military and providing logistical support. Europe should also stop wrangling over frozen Russian assets, seize them outright and channel the funds directly into Ukraine's war effort.

At the same time, the EU must recognize that its foreign and security policy machinery is unfit for an era of great-power competition and urgently reform it, starting with the slow and ineffective unanimity rule on sanctions and other decisions. Without such change, Europe risks sliding into even greater irrelevance and resigning itself to the role of a secondary player, even on its own continent. The gravest danger for Europe is that Putin will read both Europe's perceived weakness and Trump's reluctance to confront Moscow as a green light for further aggression, eroding the NATO deterrence that has preserved peace on the continent for 76 years. Addressing these weaknesses is essential not only to save Ukraine but also to prevent a wider war.

A fee-paying postdoc at KU? Disturbing drift of our academia

DR MUHAMMAD IBTESAM MAZAHIR

There are moments when a single policy decision reveals deeper structural cracks in a system. The recent announcement by the University of Karachi (KU) concerning a postdoctoral fellowship programme is one such moment. Not because postdoctoral opportunities are unwelcome, but because the model on offer appears fundamentally misunderstood.

In what should have been a step toward strengthening Pakistan's research ecosystem, the programme instead resembles an undergraduate admission notice. According to the university's own announcement, selected "fellows" are expected to pay an admission processing fee (Rs10,000), an admission fee (Rs30,000), tuition fees (Rs100,000-120,000), departmental charges (Rs50,000-80,000), and even a "mentor fee" of Rs80,000.

This raises a fundamental question: do we, as a country, truly understand what a postdoctoral fellowship is?

Globally, postdoctoral fellows are not students. They are highly trained researchers who have already completed their PhDs and are now contributing to knowledge production, innovation and academic mentorship. At leading institutions across the United States, Europe and East Asia, postdocs are hired as employees or funded fellows. They receive stipends or salaries, access to research grants, and institutional support. In return, they publish, supervise students, build labs and elevate the university's global standing.

In Pakistan, however, the model appears inverted.

When a university charges scholars under the guise of a "postdoctoral fellowship", it is not a mere bureaucratic anomaly, it is a conceptual failure. A fellowship, by definition, is funded. When candidates are asked to pay for the privilege of conducting research under an institution's name, the line between academic development and commercialisation becomes dangerously blurred.

The implications are serious. First, such practices risk excluding talented researchers who cannot afford these costs, thereby reinforcing inequity in academia. Second, they undermine the credibility of the postdoctoral title itself. If postdocs are treated as fee-paying participants rather than knowledge producers, the value of their work is diminished. Third, this approach discourages serious researchers from engaging with local institutions, accelerating the already troubling brain drain.

Ironically, this development comes at a time when Pakistan urgently needs to strengthen its research capacity. The global knowledge economy is driven by innovation, interdisciplinary research and high-impact publications - all areas where postdoctoral researchers play a pivotal role. Yet, Pakistan faces a critical brain drain, losing thousands of skilled professionals annually. A fee-based postdoc programme does nothing to address this crisis, it only deepens it.

The contrast becomes even sharper when viewed through lived academic experience. Those who have navigated international academic environments understand that postdoctoral positions are built on merit, funding and intellectual contribution, not on fee structures. Exposure to global systems reveals a simple truth: universities invest in postdocs because they expect returns in the form of research output, rankings and reputation.

Why, then, are we moving in the opposite direction? Part of the answer lies in systemic gaps. Many faculty members in major Pakistani universities, including the University of Karachi itself, have not had postdoctoral exposure. This is not a criticism of individuals but an institutional reality. Without firsthand experience of how postdoctoral systems function globally, it becomes easier to misinterpret them as extended academic programmes rather than professional research roles.

However, this is precisely where leadership must step in. The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has long emphasised improving research quality, international collaboration and academic standards. But such goals cannot be achieved if foundational concepts like postdoctoral fellowships are redefined in ways that contradict global norms. Indeed, the HEC's own Post-Doctoral Fellowship Programme (Phase-III) offers selected scholars financial support of up to Rs2.9 million. Other Pakistani universities, such as LUMS and GCUF, offer postdoc stipends ranging from Rs130,000 to Rs150,000 per month. If Pakistan is serious about building a knowledge economy, it must start by respecting its researchers.

If we are to reverse this drift, I propose the following immediate steps:

For the University of Karachi: Immediately rescind the fee-based model and redesign the programme as a funded fellowship, in line with global norms and the HEC's own standards.

For the HEC: Issue clear, binding guidelines that define postdoctoral fellowships as funded, professional research positions, not fee-paying academic programmes.

For Pakistani academics and researchers: Speak out against this model. Do not apply for fee-charging postdocs. Refuse to mentor scholars who are being charged to work.

For the media: Continue to expose such policies and hold university administrations accountable.

Postdoctoral fellows should be funded, not charged; treated as professionals, not students; and integrated into research ecosystems, not administrative fee frameworks. Anything less risks turning academic aspiration into a transactional exercise.

The issue at hand is not just about one university or one programme. It is about the direction in which our academic culture is heading. Are we building institutions that invest in knowledge, or are we creating systems that extract value from those seeking to produce it?

The answer will determine whether Pakistan's educational vision thrives or withers under the weight of misplaced priorities.

Pakistan: The heart of Asia's destiny

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal

In the divine act of creation, the Almighty fashioned the human form with organs so perfectly attuned to one another that health and vigour depend upon their unbroken harmony. No faculty may falter without imperilling the rest. Foremost among them is the heart, which tirelessly propels the life-blood from the seat of intellect in the brain to the remotest vein in the toes. Through carelessness or affliction, however, obstructions arise; vessels constrict, clots form, and the vital current slows. Medicine is first employed to restore flow; when remedies prove inadequate, a stent may reopen the passage; and in the gravest peril, the surgeon must perform a bypass to safeguard existence itself.

Such, in many respects, is the condition of Pakistan today. Like the heart within the body of nations, Pakistan occupies a position of singular importance—geographically, politically, commercially, and strategically. It stands at the crossroads of civilisations, bearing responsibilities far beyond its borders. Pakistan has consistently extended every form of cooperation and assistance to address regional challenges, yet it has been afflicted by a persistent malady; terrorism nurtured from Afghan soil and abetted by Indian design. This external interference has disrupted the nation's stability and hindered its natural rhythms.

With exemplary patience, Pakistan pursued negotiations to resolve these tensions. When dialogue bore no lasting fruit, military operations were undertaken, not out of choice but necessity, to protect the country's integrity and the welfare of its people. Even now, despite these efforts, acts of terrorism continue, guided from across the border. In these difficult times, brotherly nations have extended valuable support for mediation. Qatar and Türkiye, along with other friendly countries, have offered their good offices to facilitate dialogue between Pakistan and Afghanistan, demonstrating a shared commitment to regional peace and stability. Such mediations reflected the hope that wisdom and mutual understanding could prevail over hostility, but all efforts went in vain due to Afghanistan's obstinacy in stopping hostile activities from their side.

The deeper tragedy lies in opportunities forfeited by continued strife. Central Asia—encompassing Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan—holds some of the world's most abundant reserves of natural gas, oil, uranium, and rare earth minerals. These landlocked states remain largely cut off from global markets. To their south lie Pakistan and Afghanistan, positioned by geography as the most direct overland bridge connecting this resource wealth with the energy-hungry economies of South and East Asia, particularly China and India. China, the planet's largest energy consumer, and India, its fastest-growing major economy, both grapple with structural deficits that could be eased through reliable northern corridors.

Pipelines for gas and oil, efficient road freight networks, and modern rail links traversing Pakistan and Afghanistan could generate billions of dollars annually in transit revenues. Such corridors would ignite industrial activity, multiply employment, develop infrastructure, and enable both nations to evolve from aid-dependent economies into thriving hubs of regional commerce. Ports such as Gwadar and Karachi could serve as vital gateways, while existing roads and proposed railways would knit together markets stretching from the steppes of Central Asia to the bustling ports of the Arabian Sea and beyond. This vision, however, remains locked behind a single critical barrier; the absence of enduring stability and cooperative governance in Afghanistan.

Pakistan and Afghanistan together constitute the natural link between supply and demand in this vast region. Transforming the corridor from a theatre of conflict into an artery of commerce is achievable, yet it requires genuine political will and responsible conduct from Kabul. A landlocked Afghanistan cannot forge a stable and self-reliant future without dependable transit partnerships with its neighbours. It faces a clear choice; become a corridor of commerce that benefits its people or remain trapped as a corridor of conflict that perpetuates isolation and dependence on international charity.

The potential rewards are substantial and mutual. Peaceful connectivity would bring transit fees, vibrant border trade, fresh investment, and thousands of jobs for Afghans and Pakistanis alike. Pakistan, in turn, would secure enhanced access to Central Asian resources and fuller utilisation of its strategic ports and highways. Ordinary citizens on both sides of the Durand Line stand to gain from shared prosperity. Yet no economic endeavour of this magnitude can succeed while terrorism, militant sanctuaries, and cross-border attacks persist. Afghan soil must no longer serve as a base for groups operating against Pakistan. The region's transit promise is therefore inseparable from a firm recalibration of policy in Kabul.

The current Afghan dispensation's tolerance—and in some instances apparent facilitation—of anti-Pakistan terrorist activity remains the foremost obstacle to integration. Kabul must review its posture, cease support for elements hostile to Pakistan, and take credible, verifiable action against networks destabilising Balochistan and the border regions. The Afghan people, who ultimately bear the heaviest cost of their leadership's decisions, would do well to ask themselves whether they desire a future marred by proxy conflict and seclusion, or one illuminated by connectivity, commerce, and collective advancement.

The strategic implications extend beyond immediate neighbours. Balochistan possesses considerable deposits of minerals and rare earth elements essential to modern technology. This wealth cannot be fully realised while terrorism, sustained through Afghan sanctuaries, continues to unsettle the province. Peace in Balochistan therefore serves not only Pakistani interests but aligns with the broader aims of the United States and other stakeholders who seek secure trade routes and diversified supply chains of critical materials. Washington and the international community have every reason to encourage Kabul to act responsibly, deny safe havens to terrorists, and support regional connectivity rather than permit instability to fester.

Central Asia offers the resources, South and East Asia the demand, and Pakistan and Afghanistan the vital corridor between them. Security and mutual trust remain the only missing elements—qualities that depend largely upon a change of approach in Kabul. The Almighty has endowed this region with extraordinary gifts of geography and potential. It falls to its leaders and peoples, guided by foresight and statesmanship, to remove obstructions so that these blessings may flow freely, nourishing prosperity and harmony much as a healthy heart sustains the entire body in balanced and enduring life.

A changed world

ARIFA NOOR

It's been a year since the May that Pakistan will celebrate. A few cycles ago, we had the unfortunate May 9, which too cannot be forgotten but for reasons best not to get into. But last year brought us a May as bright and celebratory as the May of English poetry. The month didn't necessarily begin this way — for the clouds of war darkened the horizon after the Pahalgam event, fighting was predicted and correctly so. The end, thankfully, came quickly as did the victory Pakistan could call its own thanks to the downing of multiple Indian aircraft. This is not to say Pakistan did not face an Indian assault or des-truction but the downing of aircraft in the plural does get more attention than other damage.

Overnight, the conversation about the mess in the country — from elections to economic fragility to the quality of democracy — gave way to debate about Pakistan's air force, its skilled pilots and the capacity of Chinese hardware to down the French Rafale. There was also some talk of Indian adventurism which also received its share of the limelight with the events in Canada. Then came the bromance with the latest inhabitant of the White House and the rest as they say is history.

The Iran war has simply added more feathers to Pakistan's cap, of being a peacemaker and mediator and a trusted ally of sworn enemies that collects accolades from around the world. As Pakistan basks in this international glory, it seems that New Delhi cannot understand the rapidly changing world around it. flummoxed by the noise and attention around Pakistan, it has reacted by passing petty comments at worst.

This has simply added to the celebrations at home — from the critical remarks to the debates about how this change of fortunes happened in India. But at the same time, despite the self-congratulations and praise for individuals who have been given all credit, Pakistan, too, has misread the situation at times. In other words, it may be missing the woods for the trees.

To understand what is happening vis-à-vis Pakistan and the world, it is important to take a view longer than the May conflict or change in the White House. Indeed, some of these events are taking place in a world that has moved on from 9/11; where terrorism is no longer the foremost priority in global politics.

After 9/11 and other high-profile attacks in Western cities such as London, and the spectre of terrorist organisations such as Al Qaeda and IS, Pakistan was viewed through the lens of militancy. Despite being a close ally of Washington, doubts remained. In fact, once George Bush, who shared a close relationship with Pervez Musharraf, left the White House, the Pakistan-US relationship became thornier and stormier, reflecting the questions that were being raised about Islamabad's intentions.

Over time, with incidents such as Mumbai, New Delhi learnt to take advantage of this world — internationally and domestically. From pushing for Islamabad to be placed on the FATF list to having Pakistan-based groups condemned internationally, New Delhi grew more assertive as its economic heft increased as did its relevance to the West. Domestically, the BJP painted Congress as a weak player, which was unable to punish Pakistan for 'attacks' such as Mumbai and promised to avenge each transgression. On both planks it succeeded.

But then, the world began to change. The US withdrew from Afghanistan and terrorism seemed less relevant in the face of economic stagnation; populist politics; and the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Terrorism slid down the priority list for the world. Nothing made this more evident than recognition of the new government in Syria. This is also evident in the change of attitudes from Balakot in 2019 to Pahalgam. If Indian accusations were believed in the first incident, in the second they were met mostly with silence. Not just because of the lack of evidence but also the environment.

Oct 7 and the Israeli rampage since has added a second dimension to this world. Islamabad is now being seen and hailed as a peacemaker as well as a security provider in the Middle Eastern region. American President Donald Trump, can't stop praising Islamabad and if the State Department has a view closer to India's, at the moment it is too irrelevant and gutted to make a difference.

Finally, it seems New Delhi is also learning to recognise this new world. There is anecdotal evidence the country is considering showing some flexibility in its approach to Pakistan and the idea of engagement. However, whether or not this leads to some qualitative change and talks is not clear.

At the same time, it is worth remembering that this may not stop New Delhi from fomenting clandestine trouble within Pakistan's conflict zones.

Islamabad remains ready to engage. But it needs to also be aware that the celebrations and the accolades will not last forever. The instability in the Gulf can and will lead to pressures for Pakistan, economically and otherwise. The phrase 'security provider' sounds impressive but there is little clarity on what it means for the country; and there is an aversion at home to discussing it in detail and what its ramifications — good or bad — might be. This is not good; for only a transparent debate can throw light on unexpected and unwelcome outcomes.

There might be renewed pressure from the West (read: the US) with regard to the Pakistan-China relationship as time goes on; it is worth remembering that it was the first Trump administration which began raising questions about Chinese loans to Pakistan. Indeed, this is reminder enough that Islamabad should use this space it has internationally to focus on the multiple domestic challenges, especially the economy.

The good times will not last forever.

U.S.-Iran rift over Strait of Hormuz fees threatens deal

Monitoring Desk

TEHRAN: Strait of Hormuz: Before the ink even dries on the United States-Iran memorandum of understanding, a dispute is emerging that could unravel negotiations to restore peace in the Strait of Hormuz.

Shipping has been at a near-standstill in the strait, a conduit for one-quarter of the world's seaborne oil, since the U.S. and Israel launched their war against the Islamic Republic on February 28. The threat of Iranian attacks sent insurance costs soaring and prompted many operators to avoid the route altogether, while vessels calling at Iranian ports faced additional complications from the U.S.-led naval blockade.

The 14-point agreement, which U.S. President Donald Trump signed on Wednesday in Versailles during his visit to France for a G7 summit, commits the two countries to negotiating a more comprehensive deal within the next 60 days. When announcing the MOU on Monday, Trump wrote on Truth Social he was "authoriz[ing] the toll free opening of the waterway."

Iran is to immediately begin the process of reopening the strait for the safe passage of commercial vessels, including demining operations and the removal of "technical and military obstacles, according to the MOU. Iran also must "make arrangements using its best efforts for the safe passage of commercial vessels with no charge for 60 days only from the Persian Gulf to the Sea of Oman and vice versa."

While Washington and Tehran appear to agree on toll-free transit during the initial 60-day period, they differ on whether Iran will be permitted to continue collecting fees after that two-month window expires.

Since mid-March, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps has been running a "tollbooth" under which foreign-flagged vessels undergo a strict vetting process with the IRGC before being allowed to transit through Iranian waters after paying a fee.

Trump stressed the strait will be "permanently toll-free." Vice President JD Vance told CNBC in a Monday interview that it would remain "toll-free for the long term."

Iran has insisted it intends to collect maritime service fees, not tolls.

The charges would offset the cost of services provided, including navigational assistance, vessel insurance, and environmental protection measures jointly administered by Iran and Oman, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baghaei told the semi-official Tasnim news agency late last month.



Russian President Vladimir Putin, center, attends the Russia-ASEAN summit in Kazan, Russia.

Putin can no longer hide catastrophic costs of his failing war from Russians

Monitoring Desk

MOSCOW: Putin likes to look after himself. Visitors during the Covid pandemic had to sit at the far end of a long table. Officials were obliged to remain in quarantine for a week before meeting him. In videoed sessions he showed off by gouging plain and accurate reports out of ministers. He barked at anyone who failed to give him a straight answer.

So it came as a surprise this week when a former Russian TV executive, Dmitri Skorobutov, claimed that any news that might upset Putin is filtered from the bulletins on the Rossiya-1 channel. Producers apparently stay behind after the end of the evening broadcast and edit a version specially for the man they call the Main Viewer. Skorobutov, now living in Switzerland where he received political asylum in 2020, claims that this practice was strengthened at the start of the Ukraine war. Although he is not a disinterested witness, he deserves a hearing.

It is hardly surprising to be told that political leaders often want to receive information that fits their predilections. But this is a different scenario. Skorobutov is suggesting that the Rossiya-1 production team is so fearful of annoying Putin that they create a nightly data package for him. In authoritarian states, news is power and the games to restrict access are not restricted to the broad viewing public.

Putin is no passive spectator. When starting the Ukraine war in 2022, he relied on reports from Colonel General Sergei Beseda, head of the FSB's fifth service, who assured him that the Ukrainian resistance would be negligible. This quickly proved wildly wrong.

Beseda was removed from his post and probably for a while arrested. But the truth was that he had only been looking for evidence that would back up what he knew Putin to believe and wished to hear.



Ismail al-Aqqad with his four children in al-Mawasi, Gaza, displaying his medical papers.

European Union has quietly sought to reopen communication with Russia

Monitoring Desk

BRUSSELS: The European Union has reached out to Moscow in a tentative bid to open a line of communication so the continent is not sidelined in any potential talks to end Russia's grinding war in Ukraine, officials said Thursday.

The news emerged as Ukraine launched one of its biggest drone attacks since Russia's all-out invasion of its neighbor more than four years ago, Russian officials said Thursday. A major Moscow oil refinery was hit for a second time in a week and commercial flights at Moscow airports were disrupted.

Against the backdrop of conflict, the EU has been quietly seeking to reopen communications with Moscow even as it doubles down on its support for Kyiv. Russian President Vladimir Putin, meanwhile, has tried to cut out Europe and Kyiv and negotiate Ukraine's future with Washington.

"In the past few weeks, brief contacts were made at diplomatic level to open communication channels but nothing was discussed on substance," an EU official with knowledge of the approach said on condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive move. A second official, also speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media on the matter, confirmed the Russia outreach is taking place but declined to comment further.

"In any future scenario, the EU has specific interests that will need to be defended, therefore it is important to have established diplomatic channels with Russia. The EU is not a mediator. It supports Ukraine in its efforts to achieve a just and lasting peace," the first official added. The Kremlin did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Putin has repeatedly said Europe cannot play any kind of mediation role in settling the conflict but has not ruled out speaking to the EU.

Russian nuclear chief accuses Ukraine of killing worker at Zaporizhzhia

Monitoring Desk

MOSCOW: The head of Russia's state nuclear corporation Rosatom on Thursday Ukraine of killing a key worker a drone attack on the Russian-controlled Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in southeastern Ukraine.

There was no immediate response from Ukraine and Reuters could not independently verify the statement.Russia took control of the plant, the largest nuclear power station in Europe, soon after its forces entered Ukraine in 2022 and both sides regularly accuse each other of endangering its safety with military action.

Alexei Likhachev, head of Rosatom, said in a statement that Ukrainian drones had the nearby city of Enerhodar on Wednesday, where most of the station's employees live. He said one power plant employee working at the station's central repair workshop had been killed and doctors were fighting for the life of a second employee injured in the same attack.

Ebola death toll tops 200 in Congo outbreak, CDC says

Monitoring Desk

EAST AFRICA: The number of confirmed dead in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the Ebola outbreak has reached more than 200, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention reported on Thursday. Taken together with patients who have died in neighbouring Uganda, the overall figure is now 204, according to Africa CDC representative Wessam Mankoula. He put the number of confirmed cases at 894, of which 875 in Congo.

Zimbabwe lawmakers back legislation extending president's time in power

Monitoring Desk

HARARE: Zimbabwe's lower house of parliament passed a bill to extend presidential terms from five seven years on Thursday, which would allow President Emmerson Mnangagwa to remain in power until 2030.

Some 216 lawmakers voted in favour of the draft legislation, passing the 187 mark needed for a two-thirds majority.

The bill now moves to the upper house of parliament, where it is also expected to sail through as Mnangagwa's governing ZANU-PF party controls it through traditional leaders and other proxies who generally vote with the party.

Signs that Mnangagwa, 83, wanted to stay in power beyond the end of his second term in 2028 emerged about two years ago, when his supporters started chanting slogans at ZANU-PF rallies that he needed more time to complete his agenda.

The party last year resolved to change the constitution to lengthen presidential terms and the plan received cabinet backing in February.

Critics say the bill is a ruse for Mnangagwa to stay in power for , though its backers say it will strengthen accountability and foster political stability.

Mnangagwa is nicknamed "the crocodile," an animal portrayed in Zimbabwean lore as stealthy and ruthless.

He came to power after a 2017 military coup

Germany moves two ships to Djibouti

Monitoring Desk

VIENNA: The German Navy is moving two ships to the Red Sea in preparation for a possible mine-clearing mission in the Strait of Hormuz, the country's defense minister confirmed on Thursday.

Speaking to the press before a meeting of NATO defense chiefs in Brussels, German Minister of Defense Boris Pistorius said that the mine-clearing ship Fulda and the supply ship Mosel had passed the Suez Canal. They are bound for Djibouti, which they are expected to reach in five to seven days and where they will be refueled and restocked.

A total of 140 German soldiers are aboard the ships, according to the German Ministry of Defense, including mine clearance divers, vessel protection teams and "autonomous systems."



Thick plumes of smoke with flames rise from an oil refinery following a Ukrainian drone attack on Moscow.

Israeli attacks kill 3 people in southern Lebanon

Monitoring Desk

LEBANON: At least three people have been killed in renewed Israeli attacks in southern Lebanon, Lebanese reports said on Thursday.Two people were killed in an Israeli drone strike on a town south-east of Nabatiyeh in the south, the state news agency NNA reported. Another person was killed in a separate drone strike in the south.The Israeli army announced on Wednesday evening that it had intercepted several missiles fired at Israeli troops in Lebanon. The Israeli Air Force subsequently said it had destroyed the launch pad.

In the war between Israel and the Hezbollah militia, approximately 3,900 people have been killed and 11,800 others wounded in Lebanon since the beginning of March, according to official figures.

The United States and Iran - Hezbollah's main supporter - have agreed to a framework deal to end the Iran war.



People outside José Joaquín de Olmedo International Airport were in shock following the deadly shooting.

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

Balochistan Water Security and Productivity Improvement Project (BWSPIP) OLD DAB/AB No.148/04-08-2026
Component - A: Flood Management of Kachhi Plains
Addendum No. 1 has been issued for the following Tenders:

RFB No.	Contract
PK-BID-PIU-529995-CW-RFB	Bohra Wah on Talli River
PK-BID-PIU-529990-CW-RFB	Qaisar Wah on Talli River

Key Corrections:
1. Both BDs: ITB 50.1 (Complaint Manager) has been amended to separate from Adjudicator role.
2. Qaisar Wah BD Only: GCC 45.1 coefficient corrected from 0.50 to 0.35.

Download Addendum from: www.biwrmdp.org.pk or receive from PIU office Address: 117/41-A1, Jinnah Town Samungli Road, Quetta Tel: 081-2503599 Email: pd.bwspip@gmail.com
Bid Submission Deadline: 03rd September 2026 at 11:30 AM (unchanged)
All bidders must incorporate this Addendum in their Bids.

AB No.169/6-8-2026

Project Director, Balochistan Water Security & Productivity Improvement (BWSPIP) Component (A) – Flood Management of Kachhi Plain Address: 117/41-A1. Jinnah Town Samungli Road, Quetta
Tel: 081-2503599 | Email: pd.bwspip@gmail.com
www.dpr.gob.pk @dpr_gob dpr.gob @dgpr.balochistan

TENDER NOTICE

The office of Chief Officer District Council Kohlu invites sealed percentage tender on composite schedule of rate 2023 Government of Balochistan (amended up to date) from interested contractors/firms for the following works under **Grant-in-aid**. **Call Deposit** is 2%. Tender Fees is Rs. 1500 on name of District Council Kohlu Account#5121-6

S#	Name of Work	E/Cost
1.	Construction of Slaughterhouse & Meat Market. *TSE-2627081154613*	10.0 M
2.	Construction of Jama Masjid Kohlu. *TSE-2627081154623*	10.0 M

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules-2014 single stage two envelope procedure.**Eligibility of Bidders:** Bidding firms must have valid registration with PEC in category C-6 or above. Bidding firm must be registered with FBR and BRA. **Tender Documents**: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed upon payment (non-refundable) bidding document fee (amount mentioned above) through Green Challan. (The NIT & Bidding Documents can also be downloaded from **https://bppthree.vdc.services/tenderssearch. Issuance of tender Documents:** From the date of publication of NIT to **24th August 2026** during office hours on working days. **Last Date of bid submission:** The Tenders must be submitted at the latest by **24th August 2026** at the office of the undersigned at **10:00 A.M** sharp, after which the bidder will not be entertained. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed office at **11:00 A.M Address:** Office of Chief Officer District Council Kohlu

CHIEF OFFICER DISTRICT COUNCIL KOHLU

DAB/AB No.164/6-8-2026
www.dpr.gob.pk @dpr_gob dpr.gob @dgpr.balochistan

TENDER NOTICE

The Assistant Director Local Govt & Rural Development Department Killa Saifullah invites sealed tenders as per Government of Balochistan Composite Schedule of Rates 2026 from the interested firms/ contractors for the following works:

S. NO	NAME OF WORK	E/COST
1	BORE WITH SOLAR SYSTEM AND WATER TANKS AT KILLI SHAGI & OTHERS KILLA SAIFULLAH PSDP 2026-27 (E-Bid) **TSE-2627081156523**	99,008,798
2	CONSTRUCTION OF DRAIN IN DIFFERENT LOCALITIES OF MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE MUSLIM BAGH (BSDI PHASE-III 2026-27) **TSE-2627081156543**	19,896,969

The Procurement shall be carried out in accordance with **Balochistan Public Procurement Regulatory Authority Rules, 2014** (amended till date) **BASIC ELIGIBILITY:** The Firms must have valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council who have also submitted the case for renewal (2026-27) in relevant Category, and registration with tax authorities i.e. (FBR and BRA), including similar nature work experience & Turnover Firms (Single Entity) having valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) in the Category C-4 & C-6 (for serial 1 & 2 respectively) or above along with relevant specialization codes. Valid Registration with Income Tax with active tax payer list Valid Registration with BRA with active tax payer list The bid proposals in respect of serial no.2 shall be sequentially page-numbered, duly signed, stamped, and properly hard-bound and irrelevant documents shall result in disqualification. Other Mandatory conditions and Detailed Marking Criteria mentioned in the Bidding Documents.**METHOD OF PROCUREMENT:** Single Stage-Two Envelope procedure. **ISSUANCE:** The Firms can obtain the bidding Documents from the office of the Assistant Director Local Govt & Rural Development District Killa Saifullah upon payment (nonrefundable) of bidding documents fee each Rs. 1500/- deposited in A/c title: AD Local Govt District Killa Saifullah, A/c No. 1061004078852272 in National Bank of Pakistan (NBP). (The NIT & Bidding Document can also be downloaded from www.bppra.org.pk. **Bid Security**: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit at Call of 3% & 2% (for serial 1 & 2 respectively) specified in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents**: The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gob.pk. **Issuance of tender Documents**: Complete Bidding Documents can be viewed at www.bppra.gob.pk. **Last Date of bid submission**: E-Bids can only be submitted electronically latest by 24th August, 2026 till 10:00 AM through supplier dashboard and manual bids can only be submitted latest by 24th August, 2026 till 10:00 AM in the office of the undersigned. **Tender opening**: All bids will be opened on same day at 11:00 PM (e-bids on EPPS system and manual bids in the office of the undersigned). **Address**: Office of the Assistant Director Local Govt & Rural Development Department Main National Highway District Killa Saifullah
Phone No: 0823610254, Email: shengrila_q86@yahoo.com
Bid Validity Period: Ninety (90)

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR Local Govt & Rural Development Killa Saifullah

DPRQ/PRQNo.691/6-8-2026
www.dpr.gob.pk @dpr_gob dpr.gob @dgpr.balochistan

TENDER NOTICE

TSE-2627071143013 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 DEPUTY DIRECTOR LIVESTOCK PISHIN invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2026 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates
Tender Fee 1000 PKR AND Bid Security 250,000

S.No	Name of Work/s	E/Cost
1	CIVIL WORK FOR CONSTRUCTION OF POULTRY SHED, FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF LAYER FARM, AT KILLI HAMDULLAH DISTRICT, PISHIN UNDER SPECIAL INITIATIVES LIVELIHOOD PROGRAM (SIL) FOR THE YEAR 2026-27	9,984,000

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 1 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 6,988,800 PKR Amount in3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Gurantee,Deposit at Call of amount 250,000 PKR 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 17 August, 2026during office hours on working days **Last Date of bid submission:** The Tenders must be submitted latest by 17 August, 2026till 12:30 PM. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 01:30 PM Address: District Livestock Officer, Livestock Department, band Road Pishin Phone no: 3218039651
Fax no: 0826920523 Email: pishindairyfarm123@gmail.com

DPRQ/PRQ No.584/04-8-2026

District livestock officer livestock & Dairy Development Department Pishin
www.dpr.gob.pk @dpr_gob dpr.gob @dgpr.balochistan

TENDER NOTICE

The Executive Engineer, Public Health Engineering Division, Dera Bugti, invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the procurement of the following work approved under PSDP 2026-27. Time limit three months.

S#	NAME OF WORK	APP. COST(M)
1	SUPPLY OF HDPE PIPES FOR WATER SUPPLY SCHEME GOPAT **TSE-2627081151673**	716,098,200/-

The procurement shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the Balochistan Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (B-PPRA) Rules. The detailed eligibility criteria, qualification requirements and other mandatory requirements are provided in the Bidding Documents. For procurement of pipesonly manufacturing firms (manufacturers) shall be eligible to participate in the bidding process. The procurement shall be conducted through **Single Stage – Two Envelope Procedure**. The bidders shall download the Bidding Documents from the B-PPRA website. The prescribed **Tender Fee of Rs. 5000/-** shall be deposited through **Green Challan** under the relevant Head of Account, and the original paid Green Challan shall be submitted along with the bid. Each bid shall be accompanied by a **Call Deposit Receipt (CDR) amounting to 4% of the Bid Price** issued by a scheduled bank in favour of the Procuring Agency. The bids shall be submitted electronically through the B-PPRA e-Procurement System (ePPS) on or before **20-08-2026 at 10:00 PM**. The electronic bids shall be opened on **20-08-2026 at 11:00 PM** in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Public Health Engineering Division, Dera Bugti. **The bidders or their duly authorized representatives may, if they so desire, remain present at the time of bid opening. Alternatively, bidders are advised to check the status of their bids on the same day after the scheduled bid opening time through the B-PPRA e-Procurement System (ePPS).** The original Green Challan and original CDR shall be submitted to the Procuring Agency Any bidder who fails to satisfy any one of the prescribed eligibility criteria specified in the Bidding Documents shall be declared non-eligible during the Eligibility Evaluation Stageand its bid shall not be considered for further evaluation Other terms and conditions are contained in the Bidding Documents. **Office of the Executive Engineer** Public Health Engineering Division, Dera Bugti.
Telephone: 0835-410533 / 0835-410433
E-mail:DB4023@bppra.gob.pk

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER Public Health Engineering Division South Dera Bugti

DPRQ/PRQNo.627/5-8-2026
www.dpr.gob.pk @dpr_gob dpr.gob @dgpr.balochistan

Terrorism can only be defeated through comprehensive, coordinated international response: Pakistan

UNITED NATIONS, (APP): Pakistan told the UN Security Council Wednesday that India's annexation of occupied Jammu and Kashmir seven years ago using 90,000 Indian troops was a "worst example of state terrorism".

"Today, 5 August marks a grim occasion – it is the seventh anniversary of the unlawful and unilateral measures imposed in Indian-illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir," Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, said in a debate on 'Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts', while underscoring the need for intensive international cooperation and practical action to fight the menace.

"On this day … the Kashmiri people, enduring over seven decades of injustice, indignity, unfulfilled promises and denial of their Security Council-guaranteed fundamental right to self-determination were subjected to a new wave of repression," the Pakistani envoy said.

Pakistan, he said, stands for zero-tolerance for such blatant perpetration of state terrorism – in occupied Jammu and Kashmir, and in other situations of foreign occupation. "Also, the international community must not allow counter-terrorism to be misused and abused as a pretext to suppress the internationally-recognized and legitimate struggles of peoples against foreign occupation and for their inalienable right to self-determination."

On Afghanistan, Ambassador Asim Ahmad said that since the Taliban's takeover of the country in 2021, an ever-more permissive environment has allowed terror groups to carry out attacks in Pakistan, "with active external support" from a neighboring State.

"Safe havens are available inside Afghanistan to terrorist groups such as TTP, BLA and its Majeed Brigade, ISIL-K and their affiliates, ETIM, and Al Qaeda affiliates," he said.

"We must effectively address this increasingly dangerous terrorist threat emanating from Afghanistan," the Pakistani envoy said, stressing that the Taliban must be held accountable to the obligation to ensure that Afghan territory is not used by any terrorist group to threaten or attack other States, including Pakistan. "External sponsors of terrorism must also be held to account for supporting, financing and arming these proxies – these terrorist groups in Afghanistan." He also agreed that the threat posed by Da'esh — while different from past decades — remains serious. "Acting alone, no State can effectively confront the transnational threat of terrorism," he stressed, calling for stronger border management and better efforts to disrupt terrorist financing.



RAWALPINDI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif departs on his official visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



ISLAMABAD: United States Chargé d'Affaires to Pakistan, Ms. Natalie A. Baker in a meeting with Federal Minister for Law, Justice and Human Rights, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar.

Baker commends Pakistan's role in Gulf conflict

ISLAMABAD, (APP): United States Chargé d'Affaires to Pakistan, Ms. Natalie A. Baker on Thursday appreciated Pakistan's positive and constructive role during the Gulf conflict and commended its diplomatic efforts to promote regional peace and stability during a meeting with Federal Minister for Law, Justice and Human Rights, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar.

The meeting, held at the Ministry of Law, Justice and Human Rights, focused on Pakistan-United States bilateral relations, matters of mutual interest and the regional situation. During the meeting, Ms. Baker also acknowledged the leadership and contributions of Field Marshal, Syed Asim Munir and Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in promoting peace and stability in the region.

Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar reaffirmed that Pakistan would continue to play a positive and constructive role in advancing regional peace, stability and dialogue.

Action against terrorists will continue:

Continuity of development process to be ensured in Balochistan at all costs: CM Bugti

QUETTA, (VoM Report): Chief Minister of Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti has termed the successful operations carried out by security forces in Washuk and Mastung as a significant achievement in the ongoing national campaign against terrorism. He said that anti-state elements and their foreign sponsors can never succeed in their malicious designs.

The Chief Minister stated that security forces and law enforcement agencies are working around the clock to foil every conspiracy aimed at sabotaging the peaceful environment of Balochistan.

He paid tribute to the security forces for demonstrating professional competence, timely intelligence, and effective strategy during these operations.

Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that the menace of terrorism is not the challenge of any single institution but a shared challenge for the entire state and nation, which requires national unity, public cooperation, and complete coordination among institutions to overcome.

He said that enemy-backed terrorist elements seek to hold Balochistan's peace, development, and prosperity hostage, but all their malicious designs will be thwarted.

The Chief Minister said that the Government of Balochistan will continue to extend full cooperation to the security forces and law enforcement agencies in the ongoing national efforts against terrorism.

Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch's 17-point agenda key to lasting peace in Balochistan: Rahmat Saleh Baloch

QUETTA (ANN): National Party central leader and Deputy Parliamentary Leader in the Balochistan Assembly Mir Rahmat Saleh Baloch warmly welcomed the joining of prominent personalities and hundreds of workers from various political parties in Panjgur into the National Party, calling it an important and encouraging development in Balochistan's politics.

He congratulated Agha Shah Hussain, Saeedullah, Abdul Majeed, Sher Ahmed Rind, Dad Muhammad, Abdul Waheed, Haji Irshad, Iqbal Ghulam Jan, Shoaib Ahmed, Ali Bakhsh, Mohabbat Khan, Mirza Jameel Ahmed, Shabbir Ahmed, Dr. Muhammad Hanif, Samiullah, along with their hundreds of associates and family members, on joining the National Party. He said their decision reflected sound political judgment, democratic awareness, and a commitment to politics based on public interest.

Rahmat Saleh Baloch said that amid the current political disappointment and uncertainty, the confidence shown in the National Party by serious leaders and workers committed to public service is an endorsement of the party's principled, democratic, and national stance.

He said that although the National Party is not in power, it has earned a strong place in the hearts of the people through its consistent, clear, and people-friendly politics. This is why people from various political parties are joining its ranks in large numbers. He added that this positive political development would have a favorable impact on Balochistan's overall political environment, as current uncertainty has been creating disillusionment among youth regarding democratic and parliamentary politics. Such developments would encourage them toward positive, constitutional, and democratic struggle.

Mir Rahmat Saleh Baloch expressed hope that the new members would use their political abilities, experience, and public connections to make the National Party more active, organized, and stronger.

He thanked the National Party's Quetta district cabinet, on behalf of himself and his Panjgur colleagues, for making the joining ceremony a success through their active participation, saying they had made them proud.

He also said that the 17-point agenda presented to the federal government by National Party President Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch is the key to lasting peace, political stability, and resolving long-standing issues in Balochistan.



QUETTA: Balochistan Assembly Speaker Captain (R) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai presenting gifts to the families of the martyrs a ceremony held in connection with Police Martyrs' Day.

Pakistan to launch China-Style law enforcement investigation centre

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Pakistan is set to embark on a major transformation of its policing system, with Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi announcing a series of reforms inspired by successful international law enforcement models, including the establishment of a China-style Law Enforcement Investigation Centre in Islamabad. The announcement came during a meeting with Assistant Superintendents of Police (ASPs) who recently returned after completing specialized training courses in China and Türkiye. The officers described the overseas programmes as an invaluable experience that significantly enhanced their professional capabilities and exposed them to modern policing practices, surveillance technologies, and contemporary approaches to maintaining law and order. Acknowledging the importance of international exposure, Naqvi declared that foreign training programmes would become a permanent component of the professional development of Pakistani police officers. He emphasized that the government was committed to equipping the country's law enforcement agencies with the skills and technologies required to address emerging security challenges. As part of the reform package, the Interior Minister announced the launch of a pilot project to establish a China-style Law Enforcement Investigation Centre in Islamabad.

The centre will integrate detention, investigation, and summary trial facilities under one roof, enabling the swift and efficient disposal of cases involving minor offences.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in a meeting with participants of the Al Launchpad Bootcamp Balochistan, along with Mr. Mohi Uddin Wani at Parliament House.

Balochistan Local Council Forum demands funds and full powers for local governments

QUETTA (ANN): Leaders of the All Balochistan Local Council Forum said the existing local government system has been completely paralyzed, depriving people at the grassroots level of essential public services. They demanded that the government fully empower local government institutions and provide them with the necessary funds, warning that if their demands are not met, they will convene a meeting and launch a strong protest.

The remarks were made during a joint press conference at the Quetta Press Club by Pishin Mayor Sardar Akbar Tareen, Qila Abdullah District Chairman Haji Ghausullah, Zhob Municipal Committee Chairman Shah Baran Kakar, Dukki District Chairman Khairullah Nasir, and others. The leaders demanded the immediate approval and release of annual development funds for all district councils, municipal corporations, municipal committees, town committees, and union councils so that public welfare and development projects can begin without delay.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, Honorable Mr Syed Mustafa Kamal, at the launching ceremony of the AKU Manual of Pediatrics, a free, locally developed clinical resource created "by clinicians, for clinicians" to support the diagnosis and management of common childhood conditions in Pakistan launched by The Aga Khan University.

Government spends Rs163bn on Balochistan CPEC roads

ISLAMABAD, (APP): The government has allocated more than Rs310 billion for nine under-construction China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) road projects in Balochistan's western zone since the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) 2022-23, with releases and expenditures reaching over Rs163 billion so far.

According to official data available with Wealth Pakistan, the projects received a combined allocation of Rs310.30 billion between PSDP 2022-23 and 2026-27, while releases and expenditures stood at Rs163.17 billion.

The single largest allocation of Rs82.6 billion was made for the 330-kilometre Khuzdar-Kuchlak section of National Highway N-25. Releases and expenditures on the project amounted to Rs40.67 billion.

Another Rs81 billion was allocated for the 187-kilometre Kararo-Wadh and Kuchlak-Chaman sections of N-25, with releases and expenditures of Rs25.29 billion.

The 273-kilometre Karachi-Kararo and Wadh-Khuzdar sections of N-25 received an allocation of Rs63 billion, of which Rs33.54 billion has been released and spent.

Among the M-8 motorway schemes, the 168-kilometre Awaran-Naal section received Rs26.03 billion, with releases and expenditures reaching Rs20.02 billion, while the 146-kilometre Hoshab-Awaran section was allocated Rs14.79 billion, with releases and expenditures of Rs9.40 billion.

The remaining projects include the 103-kilometre Nokundi-Mashkel Road, which received Rs7.84 billion and recorded releases and expenditures of Rs6.90 billion; the 22.7-kilometre Quetta Western Bypass on N-25, with an allocation of Rs6.91 billion and releases and expenditures of Rs5.95 billion.

The 106-kilometre Basima-Khuzdar section of N-30, with an allocation of Rs13.55 billion and releases and expenditures of Rs12.97 billion.

PRCS launches 'Red Million Movement' to train one million volunteers

ISLAMABAD, (APP): The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) launched the 'Red Million Movement' in Islamabad to mobilise and train one million volunteers across the country, aiming to strengthen humanitarian response, disaster preparedness and community resilience through nationwide youth engagement and capacity-building initiatives.

The nationwide campaign seeks to promote volunteerism and humanitarian values, particularly among young people, in line with the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

The launch ceremony, held at the PRCS National Headquarters, was attended by the heads of delegation of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the Norwegian Red Cross and the Turkish Red Crescent (Kizilay), and youth volunteers from across the country.

High-level Sindh-Balochistan meeting seeks resolution to sim drain dispute

JACOBABAD, (VoM Report): In an effort to resolve the dispute over the controversial Sim Drain between Sindh and Balochistan in Jacobabad, a high-level delegation from Balochistan visited the Deputy Commissioner's Office in Jacobabad in light of the directives of Nasirabad Division Commissioner Salahuddin Noorzai. An important meeting was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Jacobabad, Shehzad Ahmed Sahi.



The Balochistan delegation included Deputy Commissioner Jaffarabad Khalid Khan, Deputy Commissioner Sohbatpur Farida Tareen, Superintending Engineer Irrigation Circle Mudassar Zafar Khoso, Assistant Commissioner Sohbatpur Saifuddin Khoso, Sub-Divisional Officers Amanullah Gajani, Abid Ali Khoso, Imtiaz Ali Khoso, and other officials. During the meeting, Sindh Irrigation Department officials gave a detailed briefing on the disputed Jacobabad Sim Drain. Deputy Commissioner Jaffarabad Khalid Khan, Deputy Commissioner Sohbatpur Farida Tareen, and Superintending Engineer Mudassar Zafar Khoso presented Balochistan's position, stating that the devastating floods of 2010 and 2022 caused irreparable damage to Balochistan's districts. Therefore, they said, adding more surplus water from Sindh into the Main Hairdin Drain is unacceptable under any circumstances.

Mushaal offers again to mediate AJK crisis

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Mushaal Hussein Mullick on Thursday reaffirmed her support for the Kashmir cause, urged unity and peaceful dialogue in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), and offered to mediate the ongoing crisis, saying internal stability in the region is essential to strengthening the broader struggle for the rights of the people of IIOJK.

In a statement issued on Youm-e-Istehsal, Mullick paid tribute to the resilience of the Kashmiri people and described Azad Jammu and Kashmir as the peaceful base camp of the Kashmir freedom movement. She stressed that public grievances should be addressed through constitutional, institutional and non-political mechanisms, while peaceful dialogue should remain the primary means of resolving disputes.



GWADAR/ORMARA: Assistant Commissioner Dr Mah Noor Barkat chairs a meeting of officers of All Line Departments.

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