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CM Bugti vows to ensure equitable distribution of resources in entire Balochistan

QUETTA (VoM Report): Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti emphasized that government officers and staff must prioritize public service and avoid unnecessary delays in addressing citizens' problems. He noted that resolving issues locally would spare residents the hardship of traveling to the provincial capital, Quetta.

The Chief Minister visited his native area in Northern Dera Bugti where he met tribal elders and local residents, engaging with them in traditional Balochi style and listening to their concerns. During the visit, he personally heard complaints related to various departments and issued immediate directives to officials for resolving several public issues on the spot.

Sarfraz Bugti said that the government is working to strengthen governance systems in remote areas so that citizens can access basic facilities and services at their doorstep.

Highlighting progress in education, he said that hundreds of previously closed schools have been reopened and made functional.

"Education is the foundation of national and family development, and the government is committed to providing quality learning opportunities for Balochistan's children," he remarked.

On the security front, the Chief Minister praised the sacrifices of security forces and law enforcement agencies in combating terrorism, declaring their efforts as vital for peace in the province.

He condemned terrorists for targeting innocent civilians, stressing that the nation will never forget the sacrifices of its martyrs. "Even in Independence Day celebrations, we have not forgotten our heroes. The martyrs who laid down their lives for Pakistan's defense and peace are the pride of the nation," he said.

Tribal elders expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister, acknowledging the government's special focus on the development of underprivileged areas.

They noted that large-scale development projects in Northern Dera Bugti and other remote regions are a significant achievement of the current administration. They also appreciated the visible improvements in health and education sectors and commended Bugti's immediate action on public grievances during his visit.



QUETTA: Abdul Razzaq Khilji and his brothers, who provided timely assistance to Lady Doctor Mah Noor Nasir, the victim of an acid attack at Civil Hospital Quetta called on Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti



Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz President Nawaz Sharif and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif attend PML-N meeting in Murree.

Strait of Hormuz defenders will 'break your legs', Iran army chief to Trump

TEHRAN, (Monitoring Desk): Iran's Army Chief Major General Amir Hatami on Sunday warned the United States against any attempt to claim the strategic waterway as US territory, saying, "You are very wrong! Even joking about this is a massive mistake. This is Iran, and it has guardians who will break your leg."

Speaking at a ceremony marking National Journalists' Day, Hatami described the strategic waterway as a "divine geopolitical capacity" for Iran, saying it would never return to its previous status.

Hatami said activating Iran's geopolitical leverage over the strait was necessary to remove the threat of war from the country, adding that Iran would defend it with all its strength.

He also claimed that Iranian forces had struck the US aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln at least once, temporarily grounding its fighter jets.

Hatami also announced a financial reward for anyone who kills or captures a US soldier involved in an act of aggression, saying the era of American military presence in the Persian Gulf was permanently over.

He said a new initiative had been launched with support from public crowdfunding campaigns, under which Iranian citizens could contribute funds to support the armed forces' defence operations.

"Under the scheme, anyone who kills or captures a US soldier and hands them over to Iranian authorities will receive a reward of 5 billion tomans, equivalent to about $30,000," Hatami said.

He added that Iranian women who accomplish the feat would receive double the reward.

An Iranian military official said that Qatar should allow an Iranian team to enter the country to investigate the fate of pilots whom Tehran says were captured by Qatari forces, Iranian media reported. Qatar denies holding any Iranian pilots.

Doha said on Saturday that its search and rescue teams had found the remains of one pilot after Iranian aircraft violated Qatari airspace in March and failed to respond to attempts to contact them.



Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan Chairman Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui (centre) addresses a press conference in Karachi

CM Bugti announces government jobs for Abdul Razzaq Khilji, brother

QUETTA, (VoM Report): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has announced government jobs for young man Abdul Razzaq Khilji and his brother, who provided timely assistance to Lady Doctor Mah Noor Nasir, who was the victim of an acid attack at Civil Hospital Quetta. He paid tribute to their spirit of humanity, courage, and bravery. Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti met Abdul Razzaq Khilji and his brothers at the Chief Minister's Secretariat and encouraged them for taking immediate action to help the affected lady doctor during a difficult situation.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister of Balochistan said that Abdul Razzaq Khilji, without caring for his own safety, demonstrated human compassion and helped the affected lady doctor. He said that such courageous, responsible, and humanitarian young people were an example for society to follow. He said that the nation was proud of young people like Abdul Razzaq Khilji who, realizing their responsibility in difficult circumstances, stepped forward to help others. He added that the younger generation should also learn from such courageous and compassionate individuals.

The Chief Minister said that the government encouraged citizens and recognized the services of those who played a timely and effective role in saving human lives and helping people in distress.

Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti announced government jobs for Abdul Razzaq Khilji and his brother, saying that their bravery and spirit of humanity were a positive example for society.

On the occasion, Abdul Razzaq Khilji and his brothers thanked Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti for ensuring timely and better medical treatment, encouragement, support, and the announcement of government jobs. They expressed their prayers and best wishes for him.

Operations against terrorist elements essential to safeguard Pakistan's national security: President

Commends security forces for successful operation against terrorists in Kharan

ISLAMABAD, (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari, Sunday, commended the security forces for their successful intelligence-based operation against terrorists in Kharan district, Balochistan.

The president observed that the destruction of hideouts of Fitna al-Khwarij terrorists and the recovery of a large quantity of weapons and ammunition were significant achievements, President Secretariat Media Wing said in a press release. He reiterated that operations against terrorist elements, operating with external support, were essential to safeguarding Pakistan's national security. President Zardari said the entire nation stands firmly with Pakistan's security forces in the fight against terrorism.

Security Forces kill 7 terrorists in IBO in Kharan

QUETTA, (APP): Security forces killed seven terrorists in an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in the Lajay area of Kharan district, Balochistan.

The security sources said that the operation was conducted under Operation Radd-ul-Fitna 3 following intelligence reports about the presence of terrorists in the area.

The security sources said that the security forces engaged the terrorists and killed seven members of Fitna-ul-Khwarij, while several others were injured during the operation.

A huge cache of modern weapons, ammunition and other equipment was recovered from the terrorists' hideouts. Security forces also seized two vehicles and a motorcycle allegedly being used by the terrorists, they said. The hideouts of the terrorists were completely destroyed as part of the operation.

Security sources said the killed terrorists were involved in planning and executing various criminal and terrorist activities in Kharan and Lajay, including looting, extortion, kidnapping for ransom, target killings and suicide attacks.

Security forces are continuing intelligence-based and targeted operations across Balochistan under Operation Radd-ul-Fitna 3 to dismantle terrorist networks and restore lasting peace in the province.

Security sources said the pursuit of terrorists would continue until all militant elements were eliminated and that all necessary measures would be taken to achieve the operation's objectives.

Goods transporters suspend nationwide strike for 40 days after govt assurances

KARACHI, (Monitoring Desk): The All Pakistan Goods Transport Alliance on Sunday announced suspending its nine-day nationwide strike for 40 days after the federal and Sindh governments gave assurances on key demands including petroleum pricing. Addressing a joint press conference alongside Sindh Governor Nehal Hashmi, Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab and Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan, alliance president Malik Shahzad Awan said that the federal and provincial governments have assured to resolve key issues including toll tax reduction, parking issues, petroleum pricing and axle load limits. He noted that several issues had already been resolved by the federal and provincial governments, while others would be taken up at the cabinet level — for which assurances had also been given. He said committee meetings would continue and expressed hope that all commitments and promises would be honoured.

MQM-P urges national dialogue to finalise framework for creation of new provinces

KARACHI, (Monitoring Desk): Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) Chairman Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui on Sunday called for a national dialogue on the creation of new provinces, saying Pakistan's existing administrative structure no longer corresponds to the country's demographic realities and governance requirements. The call comes amid a renewed debate on administrative reforms after Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi proposed last month the creation of new administrative units, arguing that Pakistan's "collapsed" governance structure requires restructuring to meet growing administrative challenges. Siddiqui, addressing a press conference alongside senior MQM-P leaders Dr Farooq Sattar and Mustafa Kamal, urged political parties to rise above partisan differences.

Overseas Pakistanis can play key role in Balochistan's development: Governor

NEW YORK, (VoM Report): During the official visit of Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail to the United States, he addressed a Pakistan Independence Day ceremony held in Houston last night and extended heartfelt Independence Day greetings to all Pakistanis and the Pakistani diaspora living in Pakistan and various countries around the world. He said that despite living thousands of miles away from their homeland, there has been no decrease in their love for Pakistan or their spirit of patriotism, which is certainly commendable.

On the occasion, a large number of men and women were present, including internationally renowned Pakistani businessmen Tanveer Ahmed, Tahir Bhatti, Dr. Asif Qadeer, and Maxim Chief Executive Officer Uzair Hassan.

Addressing the participants, Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail said that during his visit to the United States, he had come to attend the "Youth and Artificial Intelligence Summit" organized by the Youth International Organization at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, where they presented the case of Pakistan's youth in a strong and effective manner. He expressed hope that the positive results of their efforts at this global platform would emerge soon. He said that he was also pleased to learn that a large Pakistani community, particularly Pakistani businessmen and traders, was settled in Houston. He said that they were not only bringing a good name to Pakistan through their hard work and achievements but were also playing an important role in highlighting the positive image of their homeland. Governor Mandokhail said that it was a fact that the private sector, local investors, and overseas Pakistanis had a very important role to play in Pakistan's economic development and strength. Overseas Pakistanis not only financially support their families but also play a significant role in strengthening the national economy through remittances.



QUETTA: Acting Speaker Balochistan Assembly Ghazala Gola, Provincial Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani, Provincial Advisor for Sports and Youth Affairs Meena Majeed Baloch and Parliamentary Secretary Haadia Nawaz addressing an emeregency press conference regarding martyrdom of daughter and mother in Noshki.

PM directs to provide maximum assistance, relief to flood-affectees

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to utilize all available resources to provide maximum assistance and relief to the people affected by floods across the country.

PM Shehbaz Sharif issued these directives during a meeting with NDMA Chairman Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik in Islamabad, who briefed him on the prevailing weather situation in the country, particularly the flood situation arising from monsoon rains, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

Shehbaz Sharif also directed the NDMA to maintain effective coordination with the relevant provincial authorities and Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs).

He also appreciated the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and modern technology at the National Emergencies Operations Centre.

The NDMA chairman briefed the prime minister on the weather and flood situation with regard to monsoon season. He also apprised him on the ongoing relief operations in flood-affected areas and measures being taken for the rehabilitation of affected people.

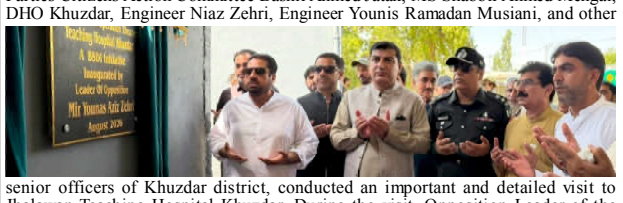
The NDMA chief said that with the cooperation of the federal government, the Authority would continue relief operations in flood-affected areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the FFD, the Tarbela Reservoir was currently at its maximum conservation level and operating at full capacity, while the Mangla Reservoir was 68% filled. Moreover, the Indus River at Tarbela, Kalabagh and Chashma is currently flowing at a low flood level downstream.

The department also forecast scattered rain, wind and thunderstorms, with isolated heavy falls, across the upper catchments of all major rivers during the next 24 hours.

Opposition Leader vows to provide better medical facilities to public

KHUZDAR, (VoM Report): Opposition Leader in the Balochistan Assembly Mir Jhalawan Mir Younis Aziz Zehri, along with Commissioner Khuzdar Qadir Bakhsh Parkani, Deputy Commissioner Abdul Razzaq Sasoli, SSP Khuzdar Dostain Dashti, Chief Officer Wadera Muhammad Saleh Jamot, XEN Buildings Saleem Umrani, XEN PHE Abdul Rauf Qambrani, XEN Irrigation Saeed Mustafa, Chairman of the All Parties Citizens Action Committee Bashir Ahmed Jatak, MS Shabbir Ahmed Mengal, DHO Khuzdar, Engineer Niaz Zehri, Engineer Younis Ramadan Musiani, and other



senior officers of Khuzdar district, conducted an important and detailed visit to Jhalawan Teaching Hospital Khuzdar. During the visit, Opposition Leader of the Balochistan Assembly Mir Younis Aziz Zehri formally inaugurated the operation theatre restored under the BSDI initiative. On the occasion, he conducted a detailed inspection of various departments of the hospital and reviewed in detail the medical facilities being provided to patients, cleanliness, treatment arrangements, and the overall condition of the hospital. Opposition Leader Mir Younis Aziz Zehri, Commissioner Qalat Division Qadir Bakhsh Parkani, and Deputy Commissioner Khuzdar Abdul Razzaq Sasoli met officers and staff working in various departments of the hospital. They appreciated their performance and efforts to provide medical facilities to the public and discussed necessary measures for further improvement of the hospital.

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Heightened stakes

The syndrome of uneasy peace in the Middle East is unravelling. The summary rejection of the Iranian rejoinder by President Trump for ending the conflict perpetually has raised the stakes, which could reignite hostilities. Tehran, however, says its demands – lifting of US naval blockade to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, removal of sanctions, and unfreezing of its foreign assets – are "rational" and "legitimate". The news of disengagement soon sent Brent crude climbing by $4.16 per barrel. Iran believes it must have full sovereignty over the water channel, and this is where the riddle rests. The US is unwilling to accept Iran's supremacy on one of the world's most important navigational routes, as well as the Islamic Republic's demand to retain its enriched uranium cache. Among other points of contention that threaten to cause a rupture are Iran's desire to include Lebanon in the peace mosaic while giving a shut-up call to Israel as well as its call upon the Gulf states to wind down US bases on their soil.

The good point, nonetheless, is that both the warring sides still want to give diplomacy a chance. Pakistan's extraordinary role in making the US and Iran see light at the end of the tunnel is valued by either side, providing the necessary breathing space for a plausible quid pro quo across the table. Now with Trump due in Beijing tomorrow, the ballgame is likely to be one of engagement, wherein the focus will be on reaching a détente. China has already put its weight behind Iran by voicing opposition to continued US sanctions and seconding the Islamic Republic's doctrine of manning the Strait as an extension of its sovereignty.

Trump will, thus, have to be generous enough to recognise the emerging realities of a new world order and try to balance out American interests as best as possible. It is a given that the Blue Stripes' power and prestige are on a downslide in the Middle East, as the Gulf allies of the superpower find little intent in aligning with it. All that is desired at this moment is to get back to the dialogue table for cobbling a win-win equation.

NFC: what K-P wants

DR SYED AKHTAR ALI

The National Finance Commission (NFC) is the fiscal spine of Pakistan's federation. It is through this constitutional mechanism that resources are distributed among the federating units, ensuring balance, equity and cohesion. Yet, for Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, the NFC today represents not equilibrium, but a growing imbalance - one that raises fundamental questions about constitutional compliance.

At the centre of this debate lies Article 160 of the Constitution, which mandates that the NFC Award be revisited every five years. This requirement reflects the dynamic nature of federalism. However, the continued operation of the 7th NFC Award - well beyond its constitutional life - has effectively frozen fiscal arrangements in time. As the Foundational Note on K-P's NFC Position observes, such delay undermines the very purpose of periodic adjustment.

The merger of the erstwhile FATA with K-P under the 25th Constitutional Amendment was a historic national decision. It expanded the province's population by over 6.5 million people and added vast underdeveloped regions requiring immediate investment in governance, infrastructure and security.

Yet, the NFC formula was never updated to reflect this transformation.

The foundational note clearly states that population, area and other variables of the merged districts should have been incorporated through an Amendment and Modification Order under Article 160(6) and (7), but this was not done. The result is a structural mismatch between needs and resources.

The issue is not merely one of delay but of deviation from the Constitution. The continued reliance on the 2015 Amendment and Modification Order - without fresh consensus - has effectively bypassed the constitutional requirement of a new NFC Award. Instead of constitutionally determined shares, there has been a growing reliance on discretionary federal grants.

This shift raises serious concerns. The document notes that such arrangements render provincial shares "mere calculations without any constitutional basis". In a federation, fiscal transfers must be rule-based, not discretionary.

The province of the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa is paying heavy price. The financial implications are stark. Data contained in the document shows that approximately Rs964 billion meant for the merged districts flowed to other provinces between 2018-19 and 2025-26.In addition, the federal commitment - based on the Sartaj Aziz Committee's recommendation - of around Rs90 billion annually has not been fully honoured. Against an estimated requirement of Rs2.2 trillion over several years, only about Rs1 trillion has been released, leaving a shortfall exceeding Rs1.2 trillion.

Combined, these two omissions have resulted in a cumulative loss of over Rs2.17 trillion to K-P. This is not merely a fiscal gap; it is a developmental deficit affecting some of the most vulnerable regions of the country.

Dr Mushraf Rasool Cyan is a voice within the NFC and the author of the Foundational Note on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's National Finance Commission Position. In an interaction, the Member NFC, representing the Government of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, presented the province's position with clarity and constitutional precision.

Drawing on the official foundational note, he observed: "The NFC is a dynamic and essential constitutional mechanism meant for periodic adjustment of fiscal sharing arrangements. Any continuation of an award beyond the constitutionally mandated five-year period, without fresh consensus, defeats the very intent of Article 160."

Emphasising that the post-merger realities of K-P have not been reflected in the existing formula, he said: "The population, area, and other variables of the merged districts ought to have been incorporated in the NFC formula through an Amendment and Modification Order. The omission has effectively deprived Khyber Pakhtunkhwa of its rightful share."

Dr Cyan, while highlighting a more fundamental concern regarding the nature of fiscal transfers, said: "The constitutional provisions relating to NFC do not allow any statistics or long-term exclusion of a federating unit from equitable sharing arrangements."

His remarks underscore a critical point: this is not a political dispute but a constitutional question.

The demands of K-P are neither extraordinary nor unreasonable. They are grounded in constitutional provisions and fiscal logic: 1) Immediate update of the NFC formula to reflect post-merger realities; 2) Inclusion of merged districts' share within the divisible pool; 3) Fulfilment of federal commitments regarding development funding; 4) Strict adherence to the five-year constitutional cycle; 5) Recourse to constitutional forums, if necessary, to enforce compliance.

The NFC is not a contest among provinces; it is a mechanism for strengthening the federation. Equity in fiscal distribution fosters trust, while perceived injustice weakens national cohesion.

K-P has endured decades of conflict and now shoulders the responsibility of integrating newly-merged districts. Denying it its rightful share is neither sustainable nor just.

The Constitution provides a clear roadmap. What remains is the will to follow it.

When dismounting the tiger

Jawed Naqvi

Something is notably common in the politics of Donald Trump, Benjamin Netanyahu, Narendra Modi, Nawaz Sharif, Imran Khan, Sheikh Hasina and even Asif Zardari. Several others qualify, naturally, but this little sample explains the way democracy has turned into a zero-sum game between political leaders at the expense of the masses. In other words, all the eminences listed above are either riding the tiger of power or rode one to face its fateful consequences. A zero-sum game is a competitive situation in game theory where one participant's gain is exactly balanced by another's loss, meaning the total benefits and losses sum to zero. The total amount of resources is fixed, so one player can only win at the expense of another. The masses can only stare in disbelief. Abraham Lincoln and Immanuel Kant would be horrified by the hollowing out of democracy into a fossil of itself.

All the above leaders would likely be in jail should they get off the tiger's back, assuming they are not already there or living in exile. The fear of reprisal grips Trump and Netanyahu most starkly. They may be the most powerful men today, going about wrecking the world at will and threatening Armageddon. Trump faces impeachment the moment he leaves office, having revelled in the fear and anguish of his foes during his stay at the helm. The revenge could come earlier, in November, should the mid-term polls give Democrats a majority in both Houses.

Desperately, Trump's supporters have floated the idea of a perpetual presidency or at least a third term even if it is done without legal sanction. Why do politicians turn to crime to get even with the opponent? Supporters see another remote route to Trump's reprieve. They saw Gerald Ford granting Richard Nixon the presidential pardon. Trump may be hoping for similar reprieve from J.D. Vance or Marco Rubio, should one of them muscle their way to the next presidency. A Hillary Clinton-supported Democratic presidency, on the other hand, remains Trump's biggest nightmare come November 2028.

Likewise for Netanyahu, who has been pleading for support from Trump and through him with various power brokers in Israel. He needs their help to dodge serious corruption charges that look set to send him and possibly his wife to prison if and when he dismounts from drunken power. The war with Iran among its other uses has kept the law from catching Netanyahu by the neck. Nawaz Sharif and Pervez Musharraf had a bruising tit-for-tat that left both physically impaired and sent them both to live in exile, by turn. Imran took on Zardari and Sharif, and Zardari's party joined hands with arch-foe Sharif's group to ensure that Imran gets his comeuppance. Hasina was fortunate not to be devoured by the Bengal tiger after a timely helicopter ride ferried her to Delhi. The beast on its part had shovelled her off its back with a very mean intent.

Narendra Modi's circumstances seem indulgent, for now. But he shares the fraught playbook with Trump, Netanyahu et al. As luck would have it, the Indian opposition is crawling with individual ambitions and calculations stalking a range of diverse regional interest groups, some with links to enticing sources of lucre. Modi blatantly bulldozed his way to scalp another state for his party in West Bengal, recently. The election commission was widely seen as a member of Modi's team. Voters' names were removed by the millions, offices of the ruling Trinamool Congress raided, its strategists arrested only to be released after the elections. Aparna Bhattacharya argued in The Wire that "in 150 seats, more than half of West Bengal's 294, total deletions were greater than victory margins, and BJP won 99. In 2021, it won just 19 of these".

The strategy was not dissimilar to the ones BJP used in Delhi where the chief minister and his cabinet colleagues were jailed before the elections and freed when the BJP had won. Earlier, Haryana and Maharashtra saw the election commission helping fulfil Modi's agenda. In Maharashtra, the Supreme Court stepped in to bail out Modi's coalition by arguing strangely that the wronged chief minister should not have resigned as that had weakened his case. Now Mamata Banerjee has refused to submit her resignation in West Bengal even as a new BJP government has come to power. Let's see what the apex court says.

A crucial problem for the opposition is Modi's near total control over the media. Israeli and the American media by contrast display a handy critique of the government despite the ongoing war. Their leaders have faced strident opposition too. Rival TV channels work for and against the Trump establishment, which allows everyone access to different views. Modi's monopoly of the entire media in northern India has been enabled by the business tycoons who he supports for mutual benefit. Whatever resistance he gets comes from alternative space such as YouTube channels. and online media portals like The Wire, Scroll etc.

Modi is going about wrecking the opposition as a man possessed. The tricks he has used can be regarded as his own patented innovations. His stated objective in 2014 was to establish a Congress-free nation, reference to the behemoth once led by Gandhi and Nehru, and which has governed the country through much of its existence. Congress has fallen on bad times since the assassination of two of its charismatic prime ministers, Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi. The Congress, sans a Gandhi at the helm, has never attained a majority on its own. Rajiv Gandhi's 400-plus seats in 1984 remains an Indian record. Rahul Gandhi has the charisma but not many reliable Congress colleagues. The BJP chief ministers of Assam and West Bengal, for example, were Congress members before they were slapped with corruption charges by the BJP. Modi bailed them out, a ploy that works entirely at the mercy of the tiger he rides.

Climate resilience facility

BY ALI TAUQEER SHEIKH

Pakistan's engagement with the IMF enco-m--passes two complementary facilities. The Exte-n--ded Fund Facility provides support for macroeconomic stabilisation, while the Resilience and Sus--tainability Facility (RSF) targets climate ad--aptation and mitigation for resilience building.

For the IMF, resilience is the capacity of countries to withstand, adapt to and recover from external shocks that threaten macroeconomic and financial stability. Within the RSF framework, this concept emphasises structural reforms that reduce vulnerability to climate-related shocks while enabling sustainable economic growth. How effectively can the RSF address our climate vulnerabilities and adaptation needs?

The RSF's following five reform areas define its approach: 1) climate-integrated public investment management to restructure project selection to prioritise climate-sensitive infrastructure development through enhanced screening and budget integration mechanisms; 2) water system resilience and disaster response coordination, to focus on irrigation modernisation and disaster preparedness through digital systems and financing frameworks; 3) climate information architecture and financial risk management to establish banking sector climate risk integration and corporate disclosure requirements; 4) transport decarbonisation and green mobility to implement carbon pricing and EV promotion schemes; 5) energy sector alignment with climate commitments to restructure subsidy systems and mandate efficiency standards for consumer appliances.

These reform areas encompass 13 specific measures expected to mainstream climate considerations across government planning and investment processes. While the RSF framework establishes important institutional foundations, there are several critical gaps.

Integrating local governance: The RSF's federal-centric approach does not adequately engage local government roles mandated by the 18th Amendment. Climate resilience depends on local institutional capacity for early warning systems, emergency response coordination, and locally led adaptation measures. However, the current framework lacks strengthening mechanisms for municipal-level implementation of LG institutions. For instance, the RSF has created provincial irrigation tariff mechanisms and digital collection systems. But it does not address municipal water management, drainage systems, or flood management that directly affect community resilience. It assumes provincial-level reforms will automatically translate into local level improvements, without creating institutional linkages that connect policy to implementation.

This gap is an opportunity for enhancement. Provincial set-ups could use RSF-supported imp-rovements to strengthen local climate capacity by enhancing LG Acts that clearly define climate duties for district and municipal authorities. Sub-provincial resource allocation mechanisms could create climate-weighted fiscal transfer systems that encourage LG climate investments while co--ordinating with provincial and federal priorities.

Urban development gaps: The RSF framework does not explicitly recognise urban planning, land-use regulation, or pollution control that have critical importance for climate resilience. Pakistan's cities are vulnerable to air pollution, plastic waste, inadequate drainage, heat-island effects, etc, yet none of the 13 reform measures directly target these challenges.

Without effective urban planning and zoning laws, cities experience haphazard expansion, inefficient land use, and inadequate infrastructure provision, leading to increased exposure to environmental hazards and higher disaster recovery costs, creating broader economic instability.

As already seen, the absence of green infrastructure and pollution controls leads to environmental degradation, poor air quality and increased disaster vulnerability, raising healthcare costs. The RSF's infrastructure screening requirements may indirectly influence urban development patterns but lack explicit frameworks for climate-sensitive urban planning. This represents a missed opportunity to leverage the facility's institutional reforms and support provincial development of model legislation for climate-sensitive urban planning.

Differential vulnerability considerations: The framework lacks requirements for gender-disaggregated data collection, gender-sensitive impact assessment, or inclusive participation mechanisms despite climate impacts disproportionately affecting women, children, the elderly and marginalised. The lack of gender-segregated data results in policies that overlook differentiated impacts on marginalised groups. The exclusion undermines resilience-building effectiveness by assuming uniform impact distribution rather than addressing differential vulnerabilities that determine actual community resilience capacity. Not invoking the IMF's Strategy Towards Main-stre-aming Gender inadvertently reinforces existing inequalities while failing to harness the full poten--tial of inclusive resilience strengthening approaches. Cross-sectoral integration: The RSF's sectoral approach reinforces institutional silos rather than promoting integrated strategies. The five reform areas operate through different agencies with separate timelines, lacking clear cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms. Climate resilience requires integrated approaches that address interconnections between water management, energy systems, transport infrastructure and urban planning. Yet, the RSF's monitoring mechanisms rely primarily on federal-level performance indicators that may not capture local-level implementation effectiveness. This creates accountability gaps where reform implementation may achieve procedural compliance without building substantive resilience capacity. Strategic opportunities: Effective climate resilience requires addressing these gaps through enhanced integration of local governance, urban planning and social inclusion within the RSF framework. Rather than fundamental restructuring, these enhancements could build upon the facility's strong institutional foundation to create more comprehensive approaches to climate adaptation. The framework could include LG capacity-building mechanisms and community-level resilience indicators, aligning international support with constitutional requirements. This would strengthen institutions most critical for augmenting subnational resilience.

The RSF's emphasis on coordination mechanisms could be expanded to include enhanced integration with existing sectoral policy frameworks.

War, Iran's denuclearisation and the region

INAM UL HAQUE

The war in the Middle East is in its 7th day. Essential aspects were covered in my article titled, "Rising Lion, True Promise: the Israel-Iran shadow war goes hot" on 15 June. As discerned, from eliminating Iran's ability to acquire nuclear weapons; and to 'facilitate' regime change in Tehran, the US-Israel nexus now demands unconditional surrender of the Islamic Republic. Israel reckons nuclear weapons in the hand of clerics would continue to pose it an 'existential threat', therefore removal of both is an imperative. IDF's current targeting strategy of killing almost the entire Irani military, leadership and important political, religious leaders and scientists; its wide-ranging attacks on infrastructure; its operations against Irani military facilities, in addition to nuclear installations at Natanz, Fordow, Bushehr, IR-40 (Arak) and elsewhere are aimed at achieving these dual objectives. Tel Aviv reckons Irani regime stands on shaky grounds due to prolonged sanctions, poor economic performance, political unrest and degradation of its regional clout and proxy potential. Hence persistent operations 'would' lead to the regime change but before that nuclear potential has to be taken out. For this, Israel had been 'shaping the environment' for years through military and diplomatic coercion, assassinations, cyber-attacks and degradation of Iran's 3H (Hamas, Hezbollah and Houthi) proxies through relentless overt and covert military, cyber and sabotage operations. Mossad has deep ingress at sensitive levels of the Irani state and society as substantiated by the recent assassinations of Irani scientists and military, religo-political leaders, not deemed possible without 'Humint' or human intelligence. However, Israel cannot go it along without substantial support from its key allies, the US, UK and France. Militarily, to take on the deeply burrowed Fordow fuel enrichment plant for example, IDF lacks bunker-busting munitions like the GBU-43/B, GBU-57 and the transporting bombers. It is also dependent upon its limited number of KC-707 air-to-air refuelers, to enable IAF's F-15L, F-16 and F-35 fighter jets to target Iran, during some 3,000 km of roundtrip. The US may join the war to compensate for Israeli shortfalls and has been repositioning its military, air as well as naval assets in the theatre. From messaging to posturing to shooting war, parties have room for diplomacy under coercion. Netanyahu from Day One was desperate to suck the US into this war. That outcome might leave Iran badly bruised but determined and hostile; Tehran's nuclear programme retarded, not eliminated but capped; and power within Iran re-arranged. The US is letting Israel weaken Iran sufficiently so that it is ready to sign a nuclear deal on unfavorable terms, which could be capping and rolling back the nuclear programme, short of an attack by the US forces. Such a deal might irreparably weaken the clerics, laying grounds for a regime change. Israel's deal, imposed on Hezbollah after recent military degradation, forcing Hezbollah to stay neutral in this war, can be a US-Israeli blueprint. However, the US participation in a shooting war has implications. First, declaration of war by any US president without consulting the Congress is unconstitutional, but US presidents have been doing so after World War II. So, domestic legal challenges can be circumvented. Second, any further degradation of nuclear facilities after the US involvement may cause dangerous radiation leaks and set wrong precedence; as the US, a responsible power would be attacking nuclear installations, legally forbidden even in war. Third, the US involvement may expose around 50,000 US troops on 19 bases in the Middle East to Irani and proxy retaliatory attacks. Although Tehran has been careful in its targeting strategy so far, desperation leads to errors and blunders. Fourth, conflagration would upend regional stability as Iran borders some six countries including Pakistan and Iraq, and has some 14 maritime neighbours. Regime change, domestic instability would have religious and sectarian repercussions especially in Iraq, that still bases US troops on sprawling Victory (Al Asad), Habbaniyah and Marez camps, etc. Iraq is Iran's known ally. Although the Jewish influence on the American policy is no hidden secret, and although Netanyahu sees everything through a dangerous and hate-filled binary, the world Jewry should be more careful in reigning Netanyahu, rather than allowing the US to get involved in a deeply unpopular war. World Jewry needs to be sensitive to the damage Netanyahu has already caused to their cause, and sense the international rage directed at Zionism and Jews for their genocidal war under America's criminal complicity in Gaza. So, by rational standards, the US should, instead of getting involved, push seriously to halt hostilities and work for a deal. However, as Netanyahu is apparently under nobody's control; Trump is unpredictably mercurial; ceasefire is making no apparent headway; and Israel is sustaining damage, however limited, so the conflict might escalate in the short term with or without the direct US involvement. The recent US pronouncements of Iran's unconditional surrender and killing Khamenei etc are part of posturing strategy aimed at bringing Iran to the negotiating table without getting involved in a shooting war. Iran is likely to fight back using its missile arsenal, the largest in the region. Continued military degradation would, however, reduce its lethality and effectiveness. With the present rate of around 11% missiles, especially in the Hypersonic category (Khyber Shikan for example) getting through the four-tiered Israeli AD system, the much smaller Israeli population would be subjected to fear, psychological trauma, shelter psychosis and insecurity. Iran may also usher in crisis in the oil markets by shutting down the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow waterway allowing 20% of global oil flows.

South Korea, Japan reaffirm denuclearisation goal, closer defence ties

SEOUL, (Agencies): South Korea and Japan on Friday reaffirmed their commitment to the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula and agreed to revive joint search-and-rescue drills in a step forward for security ties between the neighbouring countries.

Meeting in Seoul, South Korean Defence Minister Ahn Gyu-back and his Japanese counterpart Shinjiro Koizumi agreed to work on regional stability bilaterally, as well as through their partnerships with Washington, in the sixth round of talks between the two countries. "Both ministers shared the view to continue cooperation for maintaining regional peace and stability amid a grave security environment," South Korea's defence ministry said in a statement.

South Korea and Japan, with US encouragement, have been working to develop closer ties since 2022 and overcome sometimes bitter historical differences, a policy continued by President Lee Jae Myung and Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi.

In 2019, Seoul moved to end the GSOMIA intelligence-sharing pact with Japan after Tokyo restricted exports of semiconductor materials and removed South Korea from its preferential trade list, over lingering grievances rooted in Japan's past colonial rule of the Korean peninsula.

In 2025, Japan's then-Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba and President Lee agreed to closer security and economic ties, and the defence ministers committed to working with Washington against North Korea's nuclear threat and Pyongyang's growing military ties with Russia, including cooperation on AI and unmanned systems and annual trilateral drills.

Takaichi and Lee agreed in January 2026 to deepen shuttle diplomacy and in May expanded cooperation on energy.

On Sunday, Ahn and Koizumi also agreed to continue fostering exchange between their air forces' respective aerobatic teams — South Korea's Black Eagles and Japan's Blue Impulse — to further advance search-and-rescue exercises designed for various maritime accident scenarios.

The two previously held talks in Japan in January and met again in May at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore where they discussed a possible military-logistics support agreement covering fuel, food and ammunition. The two sides also agreed to hold a joint humanitarian search-and-rescue exercise in June, the first in almost a decade.



Japanese Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi and South Korean Defence Minister Ahn Gyu-back salute to national flags during a welcoming ceremony before their meeting at the Defence Ministry in Seoul, South Korea.



As hot weather continues to affect Berlin, the capital of Germany, city residents spent time in public areas with puddles and fountains to cool off. Adults and children tried to cool down by playing in the water areas in squares and parks.

Qassem rejects Lebanon-Israel deal; demands Israeli withdrawal

TEL AVIV: Hezbollah Secretary-General Naim Qassem rejected the framework agreement signed between Lebanon and Israel under US sponsorship, and called for Israel's withdrawal from Lebanese territory in line with the Iranian-US memorandum of understanding. In a statement, Qassem made his first comments on the framework agreement signed in Washington at the conclusion of the fifth round of negotiations between Beirut and Tel Aviv on Friday.

"This agreement is null and void, and the provisions of the Iranian-American memorandum of understanding must be implemented," he said.

Qassem also warned against linking an Israeli withdrawal to the disarmament of the resistance across all of Lebanon, calling it "a very dangerous proposal that crosses all red lines".

He said such a move would turn Lebanon "into a plaything in the hands of the Israeli enemy".

Hospitals across Europe ring alarm as heat wave roasts continent

PARIS, (Agencies): A deadly heat wave sweeping across Europe prompted authorities to issue health warnings today; with France banning public alcohol consumption in Paris and warning that hospitals were nearing capacity as soaring temperatures strained public services across the continent. The heat wave affected at least 101 million Europeans with temperatures exceeding 35 degrees C (95 degrees F). Authorities across the continent linked more than 220 deaths to the extreme heat.

French and British health services reported a surge in emergency calls and visits as the extreme heat affected the elderly and ill. France and Spain reported deaths from the extreme temperatures, including a 3-year-old boy who was trapped in his family's car "We are reaching a saturation point in hospital facilities," Paris police Prefect Patrice Faure said. "The number of hospitalizations keeps increasing." In Paris, 25 cardiac arrests were recorded over 24 hours, compared with fewer than 10 typically, the office of Health Minister Stephanie Rist said. Nationally, she said emergency room visits for heat-related reasons increased fourfold.

London Ambulance Service said the extreme heat led to the highest number of life-threatening emergency calls in a day.

The European Joint Research Center, indicated more than 380 million people would face temperatures exceeding 30 C.

Peace deal in tatters after Iran hits Bahrain, Kuwait over US strikes

TEHRAN, (Agencies): Iran lashed out at recent U.S. airstrikes by launching drone and missile attacks on Bahrain and Kuwait Friday, while warning it would completely suspend negotiations to end the Middle East war if Washington carried out further attacks.

Efforts to reopen the Strait of Hormuz without Iran's direct oversight sparked the crossfire now gripping the region and have imperiled negotiations for a lasting cease-fire.

A multinational maritime body overseen by the U.S. Navy said Saturday that it would expand a route near Oman for both inbound and outbound traffic, setting up a new flashpoint with Tehran.

The global community has long considered the strait an international passageway, despite its being situated in Iran and Oman's territorial waters.

In recent days, Iran has twice attacked vessels going through a route on the Omani side of the strait backed by a United Nations agency.

Iran insists that it alone must govern the strait, the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf that once carried a fifth of the world's oil and natural gas.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi reiterated the claim during a state visit to Iraq Sunday.

"Any interference in this matter, any attempt to establish new or separate arrangements from those currently being carried out by the Islamic Republic of Iran, will only lead to further complications, delay the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, and increase the level of tension, just as over the past two nights we witnessed incidents in the Strait of Hormuz that led to an increase in tension and confrontation," he said in Baghdad.

The United States and Iran are still debating the terms of an interim peace deal, including shipping arrangements through the strait, removing a U.S. blockade and sanctions and addressing the future of Iran's stockpile of highly enriched uranium. Under the memorandum of understanding signed earlier this month, the U.S. and Iran have 60 days to iron out the details.

The strikes threaten to torpedo the deal before it can be finalized. Continued fighting in Lebanon, where an Israeli soldier was killed by Hezbollah fire early Sunday, has also threatened the agreement.

The Kuwaiti military said air defenses intercepted incoming Iranian drones and missiles Sunday morning, just after the U.S. strikes.

Kuwait, which hosts a major U.S. Army base, said it had detected and intercepted two ballistic missiles and there were no reports of injuries or damage.

Bahrain's Interior Ministry said the Iranian strikes damaged a residential building near the international airport and no one was killed. The ministry released photos of an 8-story building, with the top floor destroyed, filled with rubble and its windows blown out.

Bahrain is home to the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet, whose base there came under repeated attack during the war. The damaged building on Sunday was not near the fleet's headquarters, in downtown Manama.

Bahrain's Foreign Ministry denounced what it called "a dangerous escalation that reveals that what Tehran is doing is not a passing act, nor an isolated incident, but rather a deliberate approach and a systematic pattern of repeated aggression." Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard claimed responsibility for both attacks.

The latest U.S. strikes came after the U.S. and Iran traded attacks earlier in the weekend.

The U.S. military's Central Command said it struck Iranian military "surveillance infrastructure, communication systems, air defense sites, drone storage facilities and minelayer capabilities" Sunday, following an attack on a ship at sea early Saturday morning. That ship, the Panamanian-flagged tanker Kiku, carried crude oil for the state-run energy company of Qatar, a key mediator between Iran and the U.S.

In a social media post, Trump said the U.S. had "struck Iranian missile and drone storage locations, and coastal radar sites, for violating the Cease Fire Agreement, AGAIN!" He warned of a point where the U.S. may no longer be able to be reasonable, "and will be forced to militarily complete the job."

"If that happens, the Islamic Republic of Iran will no longer exist!" Trump wrote on Truth Social. The incident follows a similar back-and-forth that occurred just days prior, when an Iranian drone struck a merchant vessel off the coast of Oman Thursday, and the U.S. military retaliated with strikes

Iran has consistently said the cease-fire must include a halt to fighting in Lebanon, where Israel has launched an invasion and airstrikes in the name of fighting the Iran-backed armed group, Hezbollah. Days after the U.S. and Israel launched the war against Iran, Hezbollah joined the war in solidarity with its Iranian allies. Israel responded with an invasion that has occupied large swaths of southern Lebanon and displaced hundreds of thousands of people. Israel has said it will not withdraw its troops until Hezbollah is disarmed.

Last week, Israel and the Lebanese government signed a framework agreement to end the conflict. But their deal did not include Hezbollah or Iran. Hezbollah has criticized the deal and rejected calls to disarm. On Sunday, Araghchi again said during a visit to Iraq that the U.S. must force Israel to halt attacks and withdraw.



An anti-corruption protest was held in Metro Manila ahead of the Senate impeachment trial of Philippine Vice President Sara Duterte.

Death toll from Venezuela earthquakes rises to 920 with thousands missing

CARACAS, (Agencies): The official death toll from twin earthquakes in Venezuela rose to 920, National Assembly President Jorge Rodriguez said, as rescuers raced to find survivors beneath collapsed buildings.

The South American country is reeling from the magnitude 7.2 and 7.5 quakes that hit the country's north within less than a minute of each other on Wednesday.

In a televised address, Rodriguez updated the death toll that had previously been at 589.

He also announced a military deployment to one of the worst-hit regions, the state of La Guaira.

More than 50,000 people were missing following the disaster, United Nations aid chief Tom Fletcher told AFP.

"We've got over 50,000 people missing, over 500 people dead, so a massive job to go through the rubble," he said, while the US Geological Survey predicted more than 10,000 deaths.

Families searched desperately for loved ones trapped under debris, with some of them using their hands to claw at the rubble of buildings. At one flattened building in La Guaira, AFP saw workers using sledgehammers to break debris and calling for "absolute silence" to detect cries from trapped survivors. Countries around the world have pledged humanitarian aid and rescue support to Venezuela.

Trump unveils new US passport, with picture of himself

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump unveiled a rendering of a new limited-edition United States passport to mark the country's 250th anniversary of independence — featuring his stern-faced likeness. "The USA's new passport, which says, 'Welcome, but be good!'" Trump said in a post on his Truth Social platform featuring the passport mock-up. The image features a glowering Trump leaning on his desk and his signature, with the text of the Declaration of Independence in the background. It appears to be based on a portrait taken by White House photographer Daniel Torok. The opposite page shows a painting depicting the declaration's signing in 1776, with the words "United States of America 250."



People went to the polls to vote in the local government elections. In Bangkok, the capital of Thailand



A woman reacts as she mourns over the body of a victim killed in a reported Israeli airstrike on a police station in the Al-Mawasi district, during a funeral at Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, Gaza Strip, Palestine.

CJP becomes new political challenge for Modi govt

NEW DELHI: India's newly formed political outfit, the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP), has emerged as a challenger to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government while highlighting concerns over repeated examination paper leaks and the country's education system.

The report also cited CNN as saying that government examination paper leaks have become a persistent issue in India, fueling protests among students demanding greater transparency and accountability.

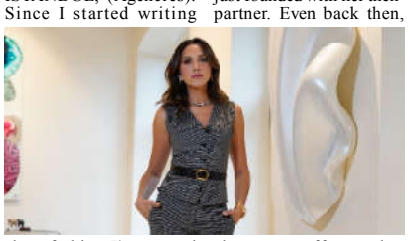
According to Abhijeet Deepke, founder of the CJP, diapers are the last solution left to prevent paper leaks in government exams. Indian students are heading towards suicide due to Modi's wrong policies.

Congress leader Abhishek Dutt says that the Modi government has ruined the lives of 65 million students by leaking 90 exam papers in 10 years. The incompetence of Indian Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has brought India's education system to the brink of collapse.

According to CNN, Modi's incompetent minister is hiding his failure by calling the protesting youth as terrorists.

How Turkish brand redefines everyday elegance globally

ISTANBUL, (Agencies): Since I started writing about fashion, I've crossed paths with many designers, brands and brand stories. I first met Yasemin Öğün years ago, around 2011 or 2012, when we sat down at Zorlu Center to talk about the brand she had just founded with her then-partner. Even back then, she gave off a calm, observant energy – someone who analyses her surroundings carefully, manages crises well and carries confidence without needing to be in the spotlight.



Over the years, we have met many times, and that impression never changed. Yasemin always felt composed, self-assured and quietly intelligent in the way she ran things. Most recently, we met at her Muse For All pop-up store in IstinyePark. Standing there, I saw a woman I had known for nearly 15 years – someone who had gradually built her own path, step by step.

She had left her first partnership behind, founded a new brand that expressed her vision more clearly, and continued to evolve.



Mexicans delivered humanitarian aid supplies they collected for those affected by the earthquakes in Venezuela to the Venezuelan Embassy in Mexico City

At least 14 killed in Saudi Aramco chopper crash near Ras Tanura

RIYADH, (Agencies): At least 14 people were killed when a helicopter operated by state oil giant Aramco crashed in Saudi Arabia, the kingdom's official press agency reported.

The Saudi Press Agency, citing an official at the energy ministry, reported the helicopter crashed in Ras Tanura in the country's east.

"The accident claimed the lives of all 14 passengers, all Saudi citizens," the agency said, adding that an investigation was underway to determine the cause of the crash.

Aramco says it operates more than 60 aircraft, including helicopters, serving more than 300 heliports in Saudi Arabia, making it one of the largest corporate fleets in the region.

The deadly accident comes as oil-rich Gulf nations seek to ramp up their output following Iranian attacks and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, a vital waterway for the export of oil and gas.

The Gulf monarchy did not indicate the incident was in any way connected to a hostile attack.

During the Middle East war, Iranian attacks had targeted energy facilities in the Gulf.

Ras Tanura is home to one of the largest refineries in the Middle East, with a capacity of 550,000 barrels per day (bpd), and is critical to Saudi Arabia's energy sector.

The refinery has been targeted several times, notably during an Iranian drone attack at the beginning of the conflict, which caused a fire and forced a partial shutdown.

Riyadh said in April that the weeks-long attacks had disrupted several production operations at key facilities, with refineries in Ras Tanura as well as Jubail, Yanbu and Riyadh targeted.

Saudi Arabia, the world's leading crude exporter, produces a little over 10 million bpd.

Creation of new provinces matter of public convenience, better governance, national interest: Aleem Khan

Says this is a national issue and the creation of new provinces should not be sacrificed to political expediency or partisan interests

ISLAMABAD (APP): President of Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) Abdul Aleem Khan while expressing support for the creation of Hazara Province in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, has said that the people across the country want new provinces to be created on administrative grounds.

He said that voices for the creation of Hazara Province have been raised in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly since 2010 and it is encouraging that major political parties support the establishment of Hazara Province, said a press release.

He said that IPP stands firmly with the demand for Hazara Province in order to ensure the resolution of people's problems.

He said that the creation of South Punjab and Bahawalpur provinces is also extremely important and the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party will extend its full support to these demands.

Abdul Aleem Khan said that voices are also being raised for the creation of new provinces in Punjab and Sindh, as the rapid increase in population has made the creation of additional provinces an urgent need of the time.

IPP President said that the creation of new provinces can help to resolve public issues and improve administrative efficiency.

He stressed that this is a national issue and the creation of new provinces should not be sacrificed to political expediency or partisan interests.

He said there would be no harm in dividing each of the four provinces into more four administrative units.

He added that the present circumstances demand a new working order across the country and we must move forward in accordance with the requirements of the modern era, keeping the current situation in view.

Abdul Aleem Khan said that the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party would continue to raise its voice for the creation of new provinces at every forum.

He said politicians should fulfill their responsibilities and take ownership of the issue of new provinces.

The IPP President stressed that instead of protecting political fiefdoms, politicians must focus on resolving the problems being faced by the people.



NORTH DERA BUGTI: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti visiting various development projects. Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan is also present.



ISLAMABAD: India's Independence Day is being observed as a "Black Day" under the auspices of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) and the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Cell, with a protest demonstration outside the National Press Club.

President Zardari confers Tamgha-e-Imtiaz on AIOU VC

ISLAMABAD (APP): President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Asif Ali Zardari conferred the prestigious Tamgha-e-Imtiaz upon Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr Nasir Mahmood on the occasion of Independence Day in recognition of his outstanding services to the field of education.

The national honour acknowledges Prof. Dr Nasir Mahmood's valuable contributions to the promotion of education, provision of quality educational opportunities, professional development of teachers, advancement of research and improvement of educational institutions, said a press release. Under his leadership and vision, various positive and effective initiatives have been undertaken to strengthen the education sector and enhance the quality and accessibility of education. His contributions have played an important role in promoting academic development, institutional improvement, research and learning.

Balochistan Police important component of counterterrorism efforts: Home Minister

QUETTA, (VoM Report): Balochistan Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Langove has praised the courage of police personnel who were wounded in an encounter with militants in Mastung, saying the force continues to play a vital frontline role in the fight against terrorism.

The minister made the remarks while visiting injured policemen at the Trauma Centre and a private hospital in Quetta on Saturday. Special Assistant for the Home Department Babar Yousafzai accompanied him during the visits. Langove met the injured personnel and asked about their health and treatment. He appreciated their determination and bravery during the confrontation in the Kund Umrani area of Mastung, where police personnel faced militants despite the risks involved. He said the policemen had demonstrated professional commitment by confronting the attackers and successfully repelling the assault. According to the minister, the high morale of the injured personnel reflected the wider determination of Balochistan Police to resist terrorism.

"The nation takes pride in its brave police personnel and deeply values the sacrifices being made by police and other security forces for peace and security," Langove said. He said Balochistan Police remained an important component of counterterrorism efforts and acknowledged the sacrifices rendered by police officers and other security personnel in maintaining peace and public order across the province. The Home Minister said the courage displayed by those serving on the frontline against terrorism was respected throughout the country.



Balochistan Minister of Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Zia Ullah Langau visits injured police personnel from Mastung firing incident at Quetta trauma center.

Freedom enjoyed by country achieved through immense sacrifices

WADH, (VoM Report): Quality education, knowledge, research and constructive thinking were highlighted as essential pillars of Pakistan's future at an Independence Day ceremony held at Haji Mir Naik Muhammad Residential Public School, Wadh, where students and speakers reflected on the country's freedom struggle and the sacrifices behind its creation. Teachers, students, local notables and political and social representatives attended the programme, with Mir Azram Mengal serving as chief guest. The school administration, teachers and students welcomed him upon his arrival. The ceremony opened with recitation from the Holy Quran, followed by Naat. Speakers subsequently discussed the historical importance of August 14, 1947, and the sacrifices made during the Pakistan Movement.

They appreciated the efforts of Mir Shafiq-ur-Rehman Mengal in promoting education in Wadh, saying the establishment of the modern residential school had created additional opportunities for students from the area. The role of teachers in academic development, character-building and nurturing responsible citizens was also acknowledged. Students participated in speech competitions covering the independence movement, the significance of freedom and the contributions and sacrifices associated with the creation of Pakistan.

They also addressed subjects including education, science, literature and the role of youth in national development.

Speakers said the freedom enjoyed by the country was achieved through immense sacrifices and carried a responsibility for successive generations to work for a stronger and more prosperous Pakistan.

They stressed that educational and training activities beyond the classroom could strengthen students' confidence, broaden their abilities and encourage intellectual growth.

The participation of students in speeches delivered in Arabic, Urdu and English was a notable feature of the event and received appreciation from the audience.

Some participants also spoke about the humanitarian situation in Gaza and expressed solidarity with Palestinians, linking the issue with the broader importance of freedom and human dignity.

The speakers maintained that quality education, intellectual development, positive thinking and strong character were necessary for sustainable national progress. They appreciated the school administration for creating an environment conducive to learning and providing students with opportunities for constructive extracurricular activities.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, guests and school officials distributed certificates of appreciation among students who excelled in speech competitions and other activities.

The event was attended by Haji Mumtaz Mengal, Mir Noor Jan Mengal, Mir Imran Mengal, Mir Noorullah Mengal, Mir Salman Karim Raisani, Mir Mujeeb Noor Pindrani, Mir Aamir Bizenjo, Mir Mehboob Bizenjo, Mir Muhammad Raisani, Maulvi Ali Muhammad Mengal, Mir Abdul Sattar Shahizai.

Pak-Türkiye cooperation to grow stronger; endure for generations: Mehmet

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) hosted its prestigious International Excellence Awards-2026 in Istanbul, bringing together senior Turkish government officials, diplomats, leading Pakistani and Turkish business figures and representatives of the business community to celebrate Pakistan's entrepreneurial excellence and forge stronger economic ties between the two brotherly countries.

Around 40 prestigious awards were presented to prominent Pakistani business leaders from diverse sectors in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the national economy, said a release issued here on Saturday.

The impressive ceremony was attended by senior Turkish government officials, representatives of the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce, Pakistani diplomats and a large number of business leaders from both countries.

The awards were presented by Deputy Governor of Istanbul Mehmet Sulun, alongside Consul General of Pakistan in Istanbul Khawaja Khurram Naeem, ICCI President Sardar Tahir Mehmood, Executive Board Member Istanbul Chamber of Commerce Munir Ustun, and ICCI Senior Vice President Tahir Ayub.

Speaking as Chief Guest, Deputy Governor of Istanbul Mehmet Sulun congratulated the award recipients and appreciated ICCI for bringing Pakistan's business community to Türkiye.

He said initiatives of this nature provided an effective platform for strengthening people-to-people and business-to-business contacts and could open new avenues for trade, investment and joint ventures between Pakistan and Türkiye.



LAHORE: Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Emir Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman addressing a jam packed Press Conference alongwith the central and provincial office-bearers at Mansoorah.

Govt committed to combat terrorism; achieve durable peace in Balochistan: CM Bugti

QUETTA, (VoM Report): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has reaffirmed the provincial government's resolve to pursue militants and their facilitators, saying counterterrorism efforts would continue until lasting peace and security are established across the province.

The Chief Minister commended security forces for their operation in the Shor Parod area near the Khuzdar-Kalat border, describing the action against suspected militants as an important achievement.

Referring to reports that 10 militants were killed during the operation, Bugti praised the security personnel involved for demonstrating courage, determination and professional expertise while confronting armed elements and disrupting their activities.

He paid tribute to the security forces for their continued services and sacrifices in the fight against terrorism, saying their contribution remained vital to maintaining peace and stability in Balochistan.

People of Balochistan united against terrorism: Ali Madad Jattak

QUETTA, (VoM Report): Provincial Minister Haji Ali Madad Jattak has strongly denounced the attack on the convoy of Balochistan Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Langove in Khadkucha, Mastung, saying acts of violence will not deter the government, security institutions or the people from pursuing peace.

Jattak said the Home Minister remained safe in the incident, while security personnel assigned to his protection sustained injuries.

He said such attacks would neither affect the morale of state institutions nor weaken their determination to maintain security and stability across Balochistan. He stressed that the government, police and other security agencies would continue performing their duties despite attempts by anti-peace elements to create fear and unrest. "No matter what tactics anti-peace elements employ, the government, police and other security institutions will continue to discharge their responsibilities for safeguarding peace and stability in the province and the country," he said.

The provincial minister said the people of Balochistan were united against terrorism and would not permit forces attempting to destabilize the province to succeed in their objectives.

He paid tribute to security personnel for their continued services and sacrifices in the fight against terrorism, saying their role in protecting citizens and maintaining peace deserved the nation's appreciation.

Jattak expressed relief that Langove had escaped unharmed and prayed for the speedy recovery of the security personnel injured in the attack.

"The nation stands firmly with its brave personnel and all those who have made sacrifices for peace," he said, adding that acts of terrorism could not undermine the collective determination to defeat violence and preserve peace.

Federal Minister Khichi visits Mohenjo-daro

LARKANA (APP): Federal Minister for National Heritage & Culture, Aurangzaib Khan Khichi, along with Federal Secretary, National Heritage & Culture Division, Asad Rehman Gilani, Director General, Federal Department of Archaeology & Museums, Syeda Tanzeela Sabahat, and Director General, Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA), Muhammad Ayub Jamali, Director PNCA, Amanullah visited the World Heritage site of Mohenjo-daro on Saturday.

During the visit, the delegation reviewed the archaeological remains and ongoing efforts for the preservation, conservation, and protection of the UNESCO World Heritage Site. The officials were briefed on the historical significance of Mohenjo-daro, conservation measures, and challenges associated with safeguarding the ancient site.

The Federal Minister emphasized the importance of protecting Pakistan's archaeological heritage and ensuring effective measures for the preservation of Mohenjo-daro for future generations.



Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Aurangzeb Khan Khichi in a group photo during his visit to the World Heritage Site of Mohenjo-Daro

Taliban regime secretly deployed 70 ETIM fighters to Badakhshan

ISLAMABAD (APP): An official document has revealed that the Taliban's General Intelligence Directorate ordered the deployment of 70 foreign Uyghur East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM) fighters, referred to in the document as "Muslim Uyghur mujahideen," to Badakhshan province along with dozens of weapons.

The document indicates that the letter was sent to the Intelligence Directorate of Badakhshan by the Intelligence Directorate of Baghlan Province following instructions from the Operations Deputy Directorate of the Taliban's General Intelligence Directorate.

The document instructs local Badakhshan intelligence authorities to ensure that the deployment and presence of these fighters are kept secret.



QUETTA: Renowned Politician and former Senator Nawabzada Haji Lashkari Raisani talking to the participants during Masses Contact Campaign.

Balochistan govt to give effective response to terroists on every front: Shahid Rind

Says counterterrorism operations would remain part of govt's efforts to establish durable peace in the province

QUETTA, (VoM Report): Balochistan Chief Minister's Assistant for Information and Political Affairs Shahid Rind has reaffirmed the provincial government's resolve to counter elements attempting to undermine peace, saying sustained efforts against terrorism will continue to protect citizens and preserve stability.

Rind commended security forces for their operation in the Shor Parod area along the Khuzdar-Kalat border, saying the timely action had disrupted the plans of suspected militants.

He described the reported killing of 10 militants during the operation as a major achievement for the security forces and praised the personnel involved for their courage, professionalism and determination.

"The elements seeking to damage peace in Balochistan will be given an effective response on every front," Rind said, emphasizing that counterterrorism operations would remain part of the government's efforts to establish durable peace in the province.

He acknowledged the services and sacrifices of security personnel engaged in the fight against terrorism, saying their efforts were instrumental in safeguarding the lives and property of people across Balochistan.

Rind said the resolve demonstrated by security forces in carrying out their responsibilities showed that those seeking to destabilize the province would not be permitted to achieve their objectives.

He maintained that the provincial government and security institutions were working in coordination to address security challenges and would continue taking necessary measures to protect the public and maintain peace.

The Chief Minister's aide also paid tribute to security personnel for their sacrifices, courage and continued services in support of peace and stability across Balochistan.

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