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Pakistan promoting peace, dialogue at global, regional levels: Gilani

Chairman Senate highlights the longstanding brotherly relations between Pakistan and Qatar

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani here on Sunday held a meeting with a high-level Qatari delegation led by Sheikh Nayef Bin Eid Al Thani, prominent businessman and senior member of the Royal Family of Qatar.

The Chairman Senate warmly welcomed the delegation and highlighted the longstanding brotherly relations between Pakistan and Qatar. The Chairman Senate said that the relations between Pakistan and Qatar were rooted in shared history, culture, faith and mutually beneficial trade ties spanning centuries, said a news release.

He stressed the need to further deepen bilateral relations through enhanced trade, investment and socio-political cooperation.

The Chairman Senate briefed the delegation about his initiative of the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC), being held under the highly relevant theme of "Peace, Security and Development" in the contemporary global environment. He appreciated the participation of the Honourable Speaker of Qatar in the ISC held in the federal capital. The Chairman highlighted Pakistan's constructive role in promoting peace and dialogue at the global and regional levels and appreciated the significance of the Makkah Accord in promoting unity, peace and stability among Muslim countries.

He also appreciated Sheikh Nayef Bin Eid Al Thani's entrepreneurial vision and role in promoting stronger economic and trade ties between Pakistan and Qatar. The Chairman Senate invited Qatari investors to explore opportunities in Pakistan, particularly in the fields of tourism, agriculture, energy and other sectors of mutual interest. Sheikh Nayef Bin Eid Al Thani thanked the Chairman Senate for the warm hospitality and appreciated Pakistan's role in promoting peace, dialogue, development and regional cooperation. He commended the Makkah Accord, expressing the hope that it would contribute to greater regional stability, security and unity in the Muslim world. The Qatari delegation expressed keen interest in exploring investment opportunities in Pakistan and emphasized the importance of further strengthening bilateral ties through trade, investment and enhanced cooperation.



ISLAMABAD: High-level Qatari delegation led by Sheikh Nayef Bin Eid Al Thani, prominent businessman and senior member of the Royal Family of Qatar in a meeting with Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani



QUETTA: Milad Committee holds a rally in connection with Eid Milad un Nabi (SAW) at Mannan Chowk.

Ashrafi, Yousaf vows to strengthen peaceful coexistence, mutual respect, unity in country

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Chairman Pakistan Ulema Council and Secretary General International Tazeem-e-Haramain Sharifain Council, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi, met Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Sardar Muhammad Yousaf and discussed a range of issues, including the proposed International Seerat Conference, Hajj arrangements and efforts to promote interfaith and intra-faith harmony in the country.

During the meeting, Ashrafi appreciated the Federal Minister and the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony for the arrangements made for pilgrims during the previous Hajj and the measures being undertaken for the facilitation of pilgrims during the current year.

He said the Ministry had taken valuable and commendable steps over the past two years to improve services and facilities for Hajj pilgrims.

Discussing the International Seerat Conference, Ashrafi expressed confidence that the conference would provide a positive, effective and comprehensive roadmap, in the light of the Seerah of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him), to address challenges confronting the younger generation of Pakistan and the Muslim world.

The meeting also discussed further strengthening coordination and cooperation between the National Paigham-e-Aman Committee and the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony to promote interfaith and intra-faith harmony, religious tolerance and national unity across the country.

Sardar Muhammad Yousaf thanked Ashrafi for his visit and appreciated the role of the National Paigham-e-Aman Committee and the Pakistan Ulema Council in promoting interfaith and intra-faith harmony, tolerance and national unity.



SHANGLA: On the directives of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) distributed ex-gratia assistance cheques among bereaved families of coal-mine workers who lost their lives in the tragic coal-mine incident in Balochistan.

Public requirements should remain primary consideration in all projects, says Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman

GWADAR, (VoM Report): Balochistan Assembly member Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman Baloch has stressed the need for timely execution, transparency and high construction standards in development schemes being undertaken in Gwadar, saying public requirements should remain the primary consideration in all projects.

He expressed these views during a visit to the Communication and Works (C&W) Department's Buildings office in Gwadar, where Executive Engineer Saeed Muhammad gave him a detailed briefing on various development schemes. The official briefing covered the status of completed and ongoing works, including government buildings and other construction projects being carried out at different locations across the district. The MPA said development initiatives were intended to improve public facilities and reduce the difficulties confronting local residents, making it essential for authorities to ensure that projects delivered tangible benefits to communities. He emphasized that quality and transparency could not be compromised, and called for closer supervision of construction activities to maintain prescribed standards.



Members of the Karen community gathered at Wat Dok Mai temple in Bangkok, Thailand, to participate in a traditional wrist-tying ceremony

NDMA disburses aid to 34 Balochistan mine victim families

ISLAMABAD, (APP): The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), on the directives of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, on Sunday distributed ex-gratia assistance of Rs two million each to the bereaved families of 34 coal-mine workers who were killed in a tragic mining incident in Balochistan on July 30, providing immediate financial support to the affected families.

The cheques were handed over in Shangla, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, by an NDMA team in coordination with local representative Dr Ibadullah Khan.

The federal assistance reflected the government's solidarity with the bereaved families and its commitment to supporting communities affected by disasters and tragedies.

The initiative also underscored the government's resolve to safeguard the lives and welfare of workers employed in high-risk sectors, while extending timely assistance to families facing hardship after the loss of their loved ones.

US judge strikes down Trump's visa ban affecting 75 countries, including Pakistan

NEW YORK (APP): A U.S. judge struck down the Trump administration's ban on issuing visas to immigrants from 75 countries, including Pakistan, calling the move "patently unlawful" and contrary to federal immigration law.

In a 61-page ruling, US District Judge Jeannette Vargas in Manhattan issued the ruling , saying the policy exceeded Secretary of State Marco Rubio's authority.

The policy had imposed a blanket suspension on immigrant visa processing based on the applicant's nationality. Judge Vargas said the measure represented a direct violation of the legal framework governing the processing of immigrant visas.

The suspension, which took effect in January, affected immigrant visa applicants from Pakistan and Bangladesh, several Latin American and Balkan countries, as well as nations in Africa, the Middle East and the Caribbean. "The Policy, which categorically prohibits the issuance of immigrant visas based upon the nationality of the applicant, represents a direct abrogation of this statutory scheme," Vargas wrote.

Road in Duki to be named after female doctor who survived acid attack: CM Bugti

QUETTA, (VoM Report): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti announced on Sunday that a major road in the Duki district will be named after Dr Mahnoor Nasir, a doctor who suffered an acid attack in June, in honour of her "bravery, resilience and services as a medical professional". Dr Nasir, a 29-year-old female doctor at Quetta's Civil Hospital, was seriously injured in June when a hospital employee allegedly threw acid on her, suffering severe burn injuries to her face, chest, legs and other parts of her body.

The attacker, later identified by police as Humayun Shah, was said to have been kil-led in an encounter after law enforcers tra-ced him as he attempted to flee on a bus.

In a post on X, the chief minister lauded the "bravery, courage and sense of duty" displayed by Dr Nasir and said that a road in Duki had been renamed after her.

He maintained that Dr Nasir's determination was an "example for the daughters of Balochistan".

Youth must become job creators to drive Pakistan's sustainable development: Syedal Khan

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Linking the country's economic future with the entrepreneurial capabilities of its youth, Deputy Chairman Senate, Syedal Khan Nasir said that Pakistan's sustainable development hinges on transforming the youth into job creators rather than job seekers. Equipped with modern skills, technology, and financial backing, young entrepreneurs possess the full potential to scale their startups into international brands. He expressed these views while addressing as the chief guest at the "International SMEs Excellence Awards 2026," organized by the Rawalpindi Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industries. Syedal Khan Nasir highlighted that over 7.14 million active SMEs across the country served as the bedrock of the national economy. This sector contributed 40 percent to the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP), 30 percent to exports, and accounts for over 80 percent of employment in the non-agricultural sector. Providing financial and technical support to small businesses translated into securing the entire nation's economic ecosystem. Stressing the imperative of providing loans on easy terms to small traders, he urged for the practical benefits of the State Bank's regulatory framework and the "2026–28 Access to Finance Plan" to reach the grassroots level so that economic policy outcomes do not remain confined to official files.

President Zardari seeks greater market access for Pakistani products in Malaysia

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari, called for further strengthening Pakistan-Malaysia cooperation in law enforcement, counterterrorism, narcotics control and combating human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

The president said this during his meeting with Malaysia's Minister for Home Affairs, Saifuddin Nasution bin Ismail, at Aiwan-e-Sadr which was also attended by Minister for Interior & Narcotics Control Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi, President Secretariat Media Wing said in a press release.

Welcoming the Malaysian Minister and his delegation, the president said Pakistan attaches great importance to its close and fraternal relations with Malaysia, rooted in shared faith, culture, mutual respect and strong people-to-people ties.

The president appreciated the positive progress in strengthening institutional cooperation, particularly in internal security, immigration and legal and judicial matters.

He said continued coordination between the relevant institutions of the two countries would help facilitate their citizens and address matters of mutual concern. High Commissioner of Malaysia to Pakistan Mohammad Azhar Mazlan, Ibrahim Darus, Director of Special Branch, Royal Malaysia Police and Deputy Commissioner General Rehabilitation, Malaysian Prison Department Hafidz Othman also accompanied the visiting minister, among others.

Matters relating to increasing bilateral trade also came under discussion. The president stressed the need to explore greater market access in Malaysia for Pakistani products that were in demand there, including rice, potatoes, wheat, poultry and animal feed. The visiting Minister informed the president that 2026 marked the 69th year of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Malaysia, which were established in 1957 following Malaysia's independence. He also informed that 14 flights per week currently connect various cities of Pakistan with Malaysia.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq addressing Parliamentary Seminar on Water Governance "Evidence from Local, Low Cost Solutions for Water Security and Flood Resilience" hosted by SDGs Secretariat at Parliament House

Lives of all Pakistani citizens equally valuable: Home Minister

Mir Ziaullah Langove says militant elements are exploiting young people and women for their own objectives and financial gains

QUETTA, (VoM Report): Balochistan Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Langove has said the government is ready to engage in dialogue with all those who accept the Constitution of Pakistan, but warned that acts of terrorism and violence against citizens and the state would be dealt with according to law.

Speaking on the prevailing situation in Balochistan, Langove said the provincial government was pursuing measures to provide young people with education, technical skills and employment opportunities, describing these as essential tools to prevent extremist elements from influencing the youth. He maintained that sustainable peace in the province required greater investment in human development and opportunities for ordinary people, particularly young men and women.

The Home Minister also took aim at nationalist leaders Mahmood Khan Achakzai and Sardar Akhtar Mengal, questioning whether their political positions adequately served the broader interests of the people.

Referring to the killing of Punjabi citizens in Balochistan, Langove questioned whether Mengal had condemned such incidents strongly enough, stressing that the lives of all Pakistani citizens were equally valuable and that attacks on innocent people should be denounced without distinction. He also expressed reservations over Achakzai's stance on Afghanistan, saying political positions concerning the neighbouring country should not come at the expense of Pakistan's national interests. "Pakistan is our country and Pakistan is our homeland," Langove said, emphasizing the need for clarity on issues concerning national sovereignty and national interest.

The minister said terrorism had inflicted serious suffering on ordinary people and economically disadvantaged communities across Balochistan. He alleged that militants had, in some instances, taken ambulances and used civilians as human shields during violent attacks.

Discussing the activities of the proscribed Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) and Balochistan Liberation Front (BLF), Langove alleged that militant elements were exploiting young people and women for their own objectives and financial gains amid continued instability.

He further alleged that India was backing terrorists

Tarar urges young officers to keep national interest paramount

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Attaullah Tarar urged young civil servants to perform their responsibilities with integrity, professionalism and a strong sense of responsibility while keeping the national interest paramount.

Addressing 217 probationary officers of the 54th Common Training Programme (CTP) during their visit to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting's Digital Communication Department, he said effective government communication played a vital role in promoting transparency, providing accurate information to the public and strengthening trust in state institutions.

The minister said the Common Training Programme was playing an important role in enhancing the professional capabilities of government officers and preparing them for effective public service.

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Addressing out-of-school children

A highly ambitious plan to enrol half of the 25.1 million out-of-school children in Pakistan by 2030 has just been undertaken by the Sindh government in collaboration with UNICEF. The move aims to tackle larger issues such as poverty, child labour, gender discrimination and access to education over the next five years to improve the country's literacy. It goes without saying that 'addressing' issues like poverty, discrimination and the like is a highly simplified way to take charge of a deeply complex problem.

In a discussion featuring senior government officials, Sindh Education Minister Sardar Ali Shah pointed out that the reasons behind school dropouts must be understood for effective interventions. But what does 'understood' mean within this context? When the general public routinely decries inflation, exorbitant school fees and a substandard quality of education in public schools, are practical and comprehensive measures not warranted as an immediate next step?

Considering Pakistan's current state of education, there is a pressing need to move beyond buzzwords that merely identify the problem but offer no concrete steps as respite. Instead, there is a greater need to address core issues underlying problems such as poverty and child labour.

These issues include administrative corruption, misplaced funding, incompetent implementation of previous initiatives and a regressive culture that still wants girls to only aspire for marriage.

Only time will tell whether this plan comes to fruition or not. But a transparent plan of action will surely offer predictive clues about its success - and as of yet, the plan does not exist. Improving the country's literacy is a lengthy challenge.

But for now, it seems like the government is focused on asking questions that have been answered countless times before. For any meaningful progress, the government must introduce action, not just rhetoric.

AI on the battlefield

Usama Khilji

The prominent use of artificial intelligence in warfare lately will remind many of us in Pakistan that this is not new.

The 'signature strikes' via drones in Pakistan by the Obama-led US administration considered any 'military age males' as legitimate combatant targets, a practice that led to a very high civilian casualty rate unaccounted for by the US and criticised by rights groups.

The processing of footage captured by surveillance drones that constantly buzzed above Waziristan and adjoining areas and deducing targets as early as in 2008 was one of the earliest cases of the use of AI intelligence in warfare which made Pakistan a testing laboratory for the tech-enabled warfare that would follow.

As a technological tool that uses large swathes of data called large language models to process information and make deductions for varied purposes, AI has come to be used across sectors, including in the information ecosystem. The 'fog of war' created by the use of generative AI in information operations is another example of its deployment in warfare, but that deserves a dedicated discussion. The lesser known targeting of people through AI certainly merits attention.

AI has several functions in warfare today, such as finding and classifying targets; fusing data for command and control; helping plan operations with generative AI and simulation; enabling drones and other unmanned systems to operate; and in supporting cyberwarfare, maintenance and logistics.

Reports of AI company Anthropic refusing to accede to terms demanded by the Pentagon in a military contract highlighted the tensions as well as collaborations that exist between technology companies and governments. However, the Anthropic case was an outlier, as evident from the eager signing of a contract with Pentagon by OpenAI. It signified that in a competitive market, an ethical stand taken by a company can quickly be overrun by another company.

In the Israeli genocide of Palestinians, the collusion of tech companies with the Israeli military has demonstrated the extent to which they are willing to go for profit, positioning them effectively as defence companies. The Israeli military has used AI for target generation and ranking, surveillance and signal analysis, translation/tra-n--scription of intercepted communications, and cloud infrastructure to store and process huge da--tasets for the genocide.

The best known AI-enab-led warfare systems used by Israel are Gospel and Lavender. Gospel suggests strike targets using technology by Palantir, whereas Lavender uses machine learning to create a list of potential hu--man targets, scoring people from zero to 100 bas--ed on data such as family ties and intercepted calls.

Microsoft, Google, OpenAI and Palantir, among others have been supplying advanced technology to enable Israel to carry out the Palestinian genocide. Microsoft provides the Israeli defence ministry with software, Azure cloud services to store data, and Azure AI services to process the data including language translation, apart from using OpenAI models. The news agency AP's investigations have found a direct link between AI-based targeting and "the wrongful killing of civilians, including a Lebanese family with children".

After having quietly removed the restriction on the use of its AI products for military purposes from its policy, Google along with Amazon has a $1.2 billion contract with Israel called Project Nimbus, for the provision of cloud computing and AI services to the Israeli military.

Just like everyday use of AI results in error and hallucinations, AI use in warfare comes with a critical risk of automation bias where military personnel start to rely on it without care for mistranslations, faulty pattern-making and other data problems. Further, there are few opportunities for companies to withdraw the provision of technology and services when humanitarian and human rights laws are violated, provided that is a priority for companies other than profits.

The mistreatment of whistle-blowers and workers protesting against the rights violations their labour was contributing to within these companies is indicative of their policies and priorities. After media reports that exposed Microsoft's dangerous partnership with the Israeli government, Microsoft only ended one of many contracts. This shows the lack of adequate and meaningful hu--man rights due diligence in the practices of these companies, and little oversight of the human rights risks and impact that the technology of these companies has on civilian populations.

It is not rare for companies to end their presence and work with governments due to their questionable human rights record. Google shelved its Dragonfly project in China after concerns were raised about the censorship it would build into its search engine. Tech companies also withdrew from Russia after its invasion of Ukraine, and banned Russian media pages. However, in the case of Israel, tech companies have raced to partner with the government despite credible determination of the genocide being carried out by them. This points to a clear inconsistency in the policies of US tech companies that have blatant double standards.

Like governments, companies cannot function with impunity. They are bound by international human rights law and international humanitarian law. The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights outline the responsibilities of companies, including human rights due diligence, as well as states' responsibility to ensure that companies functioning from their territories are not complicit in human rights violations.

The Global Network Initiative principles also bind companies to carry out human rights due diligence and protect freedom of expression and privacy rights in their business practices. But regulations like the EU AI Act make an exception for the military use of AI when it comes to AI regulation and oversight, and this is a problem.

AI enabled America's killing of 'military age men' in Pakistan in 2008, and more than 200 schoolgirls in Iran in 2026. Governments, regional and international bodies and companies must ensure that AI and associated technologies are not complicit in taking civilian lives.

Banning the dead

Muna Khan

FOR once, the headlines about us are not about instability, extremism or economic collapse. They are about a country that opened its doors to two adversaries and said: talk here, we will make it work. Pakistan, for a brief and genuinely remarkable moment, looked like a grown-up. And then Pemra, the electronic media regulator, issued a show-cause notice to Geo for airing content related to Asha Bhosle. Let that sit for a moment.

Asha Bhosle passed away last Sunday. When Geo reported her death and aired her songs, it was honouring her. It was giving audiences context, memory and meaning. It was journalism. Pemra looked at that and decided it was a regulatory violation worth pursuing.

This is not regulation. It is cultural vandalism.

Vandalism is not always loud. It does not always arrive with hammers and broken glass. Sometimes it arrives with paperwork. With a show-cause notice. With the quiet, bureaucratic erasure of something that connected people across lines that institutions have spent generations deepening. Art is often the last bridge left standing when everything else has collapsed. Pemra has chosen to burn it and call the act responsible governance. It is hiding behind the India content ban. That ban was not born out of cultural conviction but geopolitical anger. It was a reaction to whatever idiocy was coming out of India. Emotion dressed up as law.

There is an argument that gets deployed every time something like this happens. India bans Pakistani artists. India pulls our films, our music, our cultural presence from its platforms. Why should we be any different?

This is not an argument. It is a surrender.

If your benchmark for national policy is matching the worst behaviour of your rival, you have already conceded the moral ground. Tit for tat is not a strategy. It is a reflex. And reflexes require no thought. The moment you say, we will do what they do, you have handed them the power to define you. You become a mirror of your enemy's worst instincts rather than a country capable of charting its own course. Banning Asha Bhosle's songs does not make Pakistan stronger. It does not improve a single life, resolve a single dispute, or advance a single national interest. She was not an Indian artist — she called Noor Jahan her elder sister, sang with Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, and gave voice to our poets, like Nasir Kazmi. She was subcontinental. What Pemra banned was part of our own soul.

Pemra's logic, if you can call it that, is that Indian content threatens our identity and values. That airing Indian songs during an obituary report is somehow cultural subversion. That Pakistanis must be protected from a woman who spent 70 years singing. This is the same Pemra that issued a show-cause notice recently to Channel 24 — not for anything dangerous, but because the morning show host's husband lifted her over his shoulder in what she described as a playful moment. Pemra called it a code of conduct violation, summoned the channel, and congratulated itself on protecting the nation from a married couple being affectionate on TV. If a couple's playful moment and a 92-year-old singer's voice are both national security concerns, we need to ask who is doing the threatening — the content or the regulator.

The subcontinent's musical heritage does not stop at Wagah. It never did. No notice from Pemra will change that. All it does is remind us how small the regulator's imagination is. Regulation exists to protect the public, not to manage the feelings.

Energy crisis unplugged

Atif Mehmood

If you were to ask people across the country what they are frustrated with most, the answer is quite easy and, most importantly, unanimous: electricity. Not only are they frustrated with the load-shedding they are going through these days, but they are also frustrated with the bills. It is a strange sort of unfairness, but one must understand that this is not how it is supposed to be.

There are a number of statistics that explain why people are frustrated with the situation. For instance, Pakistan has crossed 42,000 megawatts installed electric generation capacity; however, we are not able to meet even half of this due to fuel, circular debt and transmission losses. The circular debt has crossed 2.6 trillion rupees; it continues to increase every day.

And then, of course, there are the prices, which have risen many times over in recent months, and have led to an increase of over 30 per cent in the average cost of electricity being sent to people across the country in the last year or so. This, for a middle-income family, essentially translates into a choice between keeping their house cool during the scorching summer or not being able to buy food and other essentials.

Some of the government policies are also geared towards electricity conservation; while some of these policies make sense, others are simply a joke. For instance, the early closure of markets and office hours is geared towards electricity conservation; so is the electricity conservation drive we are witnessing these days. But when the temperature crosses 45 degrees or so in Sindh and south Punjab, it is simply a joke to ask people to conserve electricity to the extent they are already doing so.

Then there is the issue of the drive towards solar power, which is becoming impossible to ignore. For instance, if you walk through neighbourhoods in Islamabad or Faisalabad, you will see rooftops covered in solar panels. It is estimated that Pakistan imported over 10 gigawatts of solar panels in 2025 alone. The cost of a small installation for a household can be anywhere between 700,000 to 1.5 million rupees. That's clearly not something everyone can afford, yet people are opting for solar panels simply because they are tired of the uncertainty of the situation.

Of course, solar power is not the complete solution to the situation. For instance, the national grid is still unstable and net-metering policies are starting to change, yet this is not giving people pause for thought before opting for solar power. Those who cannot afford solar power are then forced to bear the burden of increasing tariffs; and the divide between the rich and the poor is visible for all to see.

However, there are solutions to the situation, and none of them is easy or quick fixes. This can start from reduction of transmission and distribution losses, which still remain at 17 to 18 per cent, and would go a long way in solving the situation without the need to build new power plants.

Second, ensuring that the policies regarding solar power remain stable. People would invest if they knew the rules of the game are not likely to change overnight. Then there is the solution of targeted subsidies rather than across-the-board subsidies to ensure the poor get the subsidies they need.

And perhaps just as importantly, there needs to be a more honest conversation. People know the system is strained. People want reassurance that the plan is solid and progress is evident. The main challenge, however, is unpredictability: lights may be on one day and off the next, with no discernible rhythm or reason.

The burden of taxes

Sakib Sherani

THE unwarranted and illegal war imposed on Iran represents an extraordinary exogenous shock for developing countries. Pakistan is particularly vulnerable on this front. It has an outsized import dependency on a wide range of products, from energy to food, and from industrial raw materials to finished goods. Remittances from non-resident Pakistanis keep not just the external account afloat, but also provide a vital lifeline to 30 to 40 million family members at home. Amplifying Pakistan's exposure to the conflict in the neighbourhood is the fact that the central node for both trade flows and capital flows that the country so heavily depends on is the Gulf region. Compounding our vulnerability even further is the fact that we have virtually no, or limited, buffers in all critical areas of economic security — energy, foreign exchange reserves, food or fiscal space.

The absence of fiscal buffers is illustrated not just by the high levels of public debt and the large share of interest payments in the budget, on the one hand, but also by the still-narrow and weak tax revenue base. Despite the extraordinary increase in tax collection by FBR over the past four years, most of it has come from the same base — corporate taxpayers, imports, salaried individuals and ordinary Pakistanis paying via regressive indirect taxation.

The recent resort by the government to increasing petroleum levies yet again to plug a gaping shortfall in FBR's tax collection target aptly demonstrates the unresolved taxation dilemma. Due to its failure to broaden the tax base, the government saw it appropriate instead to nearly double the petroleum levy on petrol from Rs84 per litre before the start of the Iran war to Rs161 per litre as of April 3. As a result, the 54 per cent increase in the reference price of crude oil imported by Pakistan ballooned overnight to a 72pc increase paid by Pakistanis at the petrol pump. It is worth noting that the petroleum levy, along with the newly imposed carbon levy, is the visible part of the taxation structure on this essential commodity. The ex-refinery price incorporates the customs duty and general sales tax (GST) levied by the government at the import stage. Combined, at its April 3 peak, the incidence of tax on a litre of petrol had shot up to 41pc.

While this decision was reversed quickly after the massive uproar across the country, bringing the tax incidence down to 28pc currently, petroleum taxation still remains excessive by virtue of the fact that it is an important input in virtually all economic activity, and the fact that it is inherently extremely regressive in nature once its indirect effects are accounted for.

While petrol and diesel constitute a lower proportion of direct expenditure for poorer households, the cascading effect of price increases on transportation, food and electricity bills means that they end up with a higher net burden relative to income and expenditure.

To put the burden in perspective, an interesting comparison of the international retail price of petrol in various countries versus their per capita income was done recently. It showed that Pakistan had the highest retail price of petrol relative to per capita income in the world after Ethiopia.

Increasing reliance on taxation of petroleum products is demonstrated by the fact that the tax incidence on a litre of petrol was as low as under 10pc in 2022. With projected collection at around Rs1.5 trillion in FY26, this revenue source is now the second-largest base of indirect taxation for the government, providing the equivalent of 16pc of total tax collected by FBR.

In conjunction with the increase in GST coverage and the recent introduction of fixed charges in electricity bills for even lifeline consumers, the heavy reliance on petroleum taxation marks increased regressivity in the tax structure over the past few years.

The inequity of the country's tax regime, in vertical as well as horizontal terms (i.e., between different income groups as well as across the same income group, or among similar businesses), is mirrored across the tax spectrum. According to FBR, only around 5,000 companies out of approximately 125,000 registered firms are tax compliant, accounting for 90pc of corporate income tax paid. Out of these tax-compliant firms, a narrow base of approximately 300 companies in the five main taxpaying sectors accounts for the bulk of tax paid. The situation with regard to sales tax is even more skewed towards a small base of compliant corporates.

Efforts to control fuel prices underway with priority; says Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Petroleum, Ali Pervaiz Malik, on Sunday thanked the Prime Minister for backing the petroleum sector, stating that efforts were in progress to stabilize the prices and maintain balance, asserting that Pakistan's situation was relatively stronger than many countries under global war-related economic stress.

While speaking to a local media channel, Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik said that the government was prioritizing the common man as efforts continue to ease fuel price pressure. He stated that steps were being taken to ensure stability in the petroleum sector while keeping public relief at the center of policy decisions.

He added that ongoing measures aimed to balance economic challenges with public needs and expressed confidence that continued reforms and support from the leadership would help maintain price stability and provide relief to consumers across the country.

He further stated that the country's civil and military leadership, including the Field Marshal, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, merit recognition for their sustained diplomatic engagements and efforts to strengthen Pakistan's international standing. He added that such coordinated efforts were helping strengthen Pakistan's position and contribute to overall national stability.

Ali further stated that Pakistan's mediator role in the Middle East crisis had been widely appreciated across the world, adding that the entire nation was taking pride in the country's diplomatic efforts. He noted that both the United States and Iran had shown some flexibility in their positions, which was a positive development.

The minister added that, however, both sides still needed to move towards a comprehensive and lasting peace agreement. Expressing optimism, and hoped that the matter would be resolved soon through continued dialogue and diplomatic engagement.

He pointed out that countries like India, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka had gone through tough economic challenges amid global and regional pressures, whereas Pakistan was currently maintaining a relatively stable position. He added that continued efforts and upcoming policy initiatives were expected to bring more relief to the public and improve overall economic conditions.



Palestinian and Israeli human rights activists gather outside Damon Prison near Haifa, Israel,to protest the ongoing administrative detention and reported mistreatment of Palestinian female political prisoners.

Romania has open doors to Washington; political stability is essential for maintaining investments

BUCHAREST (AGERPRES/APP): Romania has 'open doors' in Washington to attract investments in energy, infrastructure and technology, but political stability and the country's clear direction are essential for maintaining the trust of American partners and avoiding higher financing costs, argues Finance Minister Alexandru Nazare.

'Open doors for Romania in Washington. It depends only on us how we move forward. I concluded a meeting tour this week, together with my colleagues in the Government, with key institutions in the US economic and influential architecture, where the major global investment directions are decided and supported. At the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), the institution that finances strategic projects globally, I discussed nuclear energy, gas, infrastructure and technology with Investment Director Connor Coleman. At the US Department of Commerce - one of the pillars of American trade and industrial policy - I had discussions with Undersecretary for International Trade William Kimmitt and Undersecretary for Industry and Security, Jeffrey Kessler, about attracting American companies and cooperation in sensitive areas for economic security,' Finance Minister Alexandru Nazare wrote on Saturday in a Facebook post .

According to him, Romania has resumed collaboration with the World Bank Group for investments in energy and infrastructure and has strengthened dialogue with the US administration on strategic energy projects.

'Together with the World Bank Group, through MIGA and IFC - essential institutions for financing major projects - we have resumed important collaborations for investments in energy and infrastructure, from the gas network to the nuclear projects at Cernavoda.

In parallel, we have strengthened direct dialogue on energy with the US administration, including with the US Secretary of Energy, Chris Wright. All these doors and windows of opportunity are not opened to Romania by chance. They are the result of the last months of constant dialogue and previous visits to the United States, in which we have built, step by step, trust and partnerships with key people in the US administration.'

Ashiq Kirmani visits Sadiqabad, RY Khan

MULTAN (APP): Minister for Agriculture & Livestock Punjab, Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani, visited Sadiqabad and Rahim Yar Khan on Sunday. On this occasion, a compartment for the eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease was formally inaugurated at Dawood Dairy Farm in Sadiqabad.

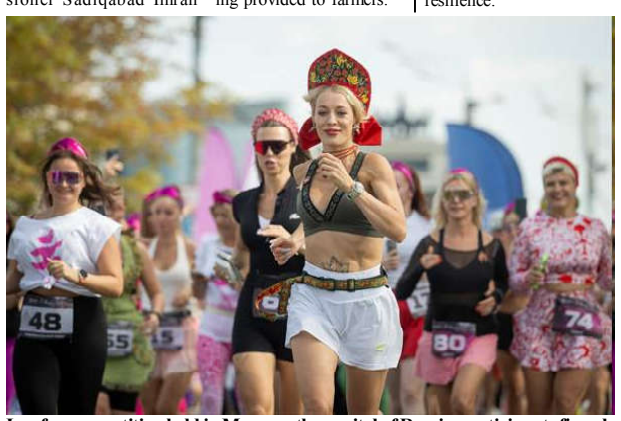
Later, a detailed briefing was given regarding ongoing activities of Agriculture and Livestock Departments in Bahawalpur Division, as well as the wheat procurement.The meeting was attended by Chaudhry Irtaza Dawood, Director Generals Agriculture Punjab Chaudhry Abdul Hameed and Naveed Asmat Kahloon, Director General Livestock Dr Nadeem Badar, Assistant Commissioner Sadiqabad Imran Rasool, Director Agriculture Extension Muhammad Jameel Ghouri, and officers from the Agriculture, Livestock, and Food Departments. During the briefing, it was informed that out of 900,000 Kisan Card holders in Punjab, 127,000 farmers belong to Bahawalpur Division. It was further shared that out of 233 wheat procurement centers established across the province, 34 centers were operational in Bahawalpur Division, where registration of 9,000 farmers had been completed regarding wheat procurement in the division.

Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani stated that under directions of the Chief Minister Punjab, free of cost bags for wheat procurement worth Rs 6 billion were being provided to farmers.

UK delegation visits SCCI to boost trade ties

SIALKOTE (APP): A delegation from the British High Commission Pakistan visited the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI) for a strategic meeting chaired by Muhammad Murad Arshad, Senior Vice President, SCCI accompanied by Salman Sheikh, Vice President, SCCI. The discussions focused on bolstering bilateral trade relations and expanding UK market access for Sialkot's world-renowned surgical, leather, and sporting goods industries.

Highlighting the city's vital export contributions, the SCCI leadership underscored the need for streamlined trade procedures and mutual capacity-building initiatives. The British delegates commended Sialkot's entrepreneurial resilience.



In a fun competition held in Moscow, the capital of Russia, participants fiercely competed while wearing the 'kokoshnik', a symbolic traditional women's headdress of Russian culture.



In Kazakhstan, voting has begun for the first election of the 145-member unicameral Kurultay, which will replace the bicameral parliament consisting of the Assembly and the Senate.

Pakistan expands research to develop high-yield hybrid wheat

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan has expanded its research efforts to develop high-yield hybrid wheat, joining the global race to produce more productive and climate-resilient crop varieties, as leading agricultural institutions in Punjab collaborate under a unified programme with technical support from Australian experts.

"Hybrid wheat research is a joint project launched by various research institutes in Punjab to develop a variety with sufficient yield potential to meet the growing future demand for this cereal," said Dr Javed Ahmad, Chief Scientist at the Wheat Research Institute (WRI), Faisalabad.

Talking to Wealth Pakistan, he said the initiative is being led by experts from Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of Agriculture, Multan, with active participation from the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, and WRI Faisalabad.

"This joint effort reflects a significant step toward strengthening Pakistan's food security and adapting its agriculture sector to the challenges of climate change," he added.

Dr Ahmad noted that Pakistani scientists can develop both genetically modified (GMO) and hybrid crop varieties, but environmental laws do not permit this in the country.

Under the joint project, MNS University of Agriculture, Multan, is leading research on hybrid wheat using Australian Blue Aleurone (BLA) technology, which involves introducing a gene to control specific breeding traits.

He said Prof Richard Trethowan of the University of Sydney has been providing technical support. Trethowan has developed a breakthrough non-GMO hybrid wheat technology after three decades of research. Often described as a "biologically perfect system," it prevents self-pollination, enabling cross-breeding for yields exceeding 20%, along with improved disease resistance and tolerance to heat and drought.

Despite ongoing research in multiple institutions, Dr Ahmad acknowledged that Pakistan has yet to develop a commercially viable hybrid wheat variety.

He said hybrid wheat, once developed, would be less susceptible to diseases and pests and deliver higher yields. He added that China leads global research in hybrid wheat, followed by the United States, Australia and France. "These countries have made significant progress, but no country has yet introduced hybrid wheat for large-scale commercial cultivation," he said.

However, he stressed that commercialisation is only a matter of time. "Several global companies are preparing to introduce hybrid wheat commercially, which could set a precedent for others," he said.

Dr Ahmad also highlighted the need for continuous innovation in crop development. "Any variety cultivated over a long period becomes more vulnerable to diseases and pests, while its yield potential declines, making the development of new varieties essential," he said. He added that agriculture remains a constant contest between scientists and evolving pests that adapt to overcome new crop varieties.

Biotechnologists have welcomed Pakistani scientists' efforts and expressed optimism that hybrid wheat could prove transformative for the country's agriculture sector.

"The development of crops like rice, cotton and maize has already contributed significantly to the prosperity of Pakistan's farming community," said Dr Kausar Abdullah Malik, a leading biotechnologist and former interim federal minister for food security and national research.

Talking to Wealth Pakistan, he said researchers worldwide are at various stages of hybrid wheat development, but they have not yet succeeded in launching a commercial variety. He said that whenever hybrid wheat is commercialised, it would mark a breakthrough comparable to the introduction of short-statured.



Students giving entry test 2026-27 for Various Art and Design Degree Programs at University of Art & Design and Heritage, Jamshoro

Cars' sale, production surge 45.43%, 51.29%

ISLAMABAD (APP): The sale and production of cars in the country increased by 45.43 percent and 51.29 percent, respectively, during the first nine months of the current fiscal year 2025–26 compared to the same period last year, demonstrating a revival in economic activity and growing consumer confidence in the automobile market.

During July–March (2025-26), as many as 109,655 cars were sold as against 75,397 units during the corresponding months of last year, while production rose to 115,495 units from 76,339 units, according to official data of the Pakistan Automobile Manufacturing Association (PAMA).

Among different models, the sale of Honda cars increased by 52.16 percent, rising from 11,460 units last year to 17,438 units during the period under review.

Similarly, the combined sale of Toyota Corolla and Toyota Yaris grew by 70.20 percent to reach 27,045 units compared to 15,890 units sold during the same period of the previous fiscal year.

The sale of Suzuki Swift also recorded a substantial growth of 96.01 percent, increasing from 5,891 units to 11,547 units. Hyundai Elantra sales also climbed to 1,961 units from 1,177 units.

Meanwhile, Suzuki Cultus sales rose to 3,717 units from 1,984 units during the corresponding months of last year. Suzuki Alto remained the top-selling model in the country, with sales increasing to 41,265 units compared to 31,284 units in the same period last year, reflecting strong demand in the small car segment.

The sale of Suzuki Every also witnessed a sharp increase of 206.21 percent, rising from 1,930 units to 5,910 units during the months under review, largely driven by higher demand in the light commercial and small transport segments.

Meanwhile, the country's transition towards cleaner transportation also gained momentum as 263 units of the newly launched Dewan Honri-VE electric vehicle were sold during July–March of the current fiscal year.

On the production side, Honda cars' output increased by 60.95 percent from 11,005 units to 17,713 units during the nine-month period.

Similarly, the production of Toyota Corolla and Toyota Yaris also grew by 69.42 percent, increasing from 16,094 units to 27,268 units during the period under review.

Suzuki Swift production also rose significantly by 101.12 percent, increasing from 5,958 units to 11,983 units, while Hyundai Elantra production increased to 2,307 units from 1,510 units.

Leads 2026 with 52,000 registrations

PE Rawalpindi contributes record 26.45% to national manpower export

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Protectorate of Emigrants (PE) Rawalpindi has emerged as a key contributor to Pakistan's overseas workforce, accounting for 26.45 percent of the total 763,526 citizens who proceeded abroad for employment in 2025.

Deputy Director PE Rawalpindi, Abdul Shakoor Soomro, while talking to media persons here on Saturday, revealed that the region's significant share underscores its pivotal role in providing manpower for the international job market. He noted that while 2025 saw a 5 percent overall increase in national emigrations, the Rawalpindi office's jurisdiction remained a major hub for workers from across Northern Pakistan, AJK, and Gilgit-Baltistan.

Updating the figures for the current year, Soomro informed that until mid-April 2026, a total of 221,525 workers have already been registered nationwide, with the Rawalpindi office maintaining its lead by processing 52,000 registrations.

He stated that under the direct supervision of Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis Chaudhry Salik Hussain, Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, and DG BEOE Javed Zia, the office is facilitating candidates with a streamlined process. "Protector clearance is now issued within two to three hours, with data immediately integrated with embassies and the FIA," he added.

Detailing the 2025 regional statistics, Abdul Shakoor Soomro informed that 25,743 individuals were from Rawalpindi, 13,769 from Attock, 8,712 from Chakwal, 12,037 from Mandi Bahauddin, 8,092 from Islamabad, 27,422 from AJK, and 1,626 from Gilgit-Baltistan.

Regarding professional categories, he said the labor category led with 465,138 workers, followed by 163,718 drivers, technicians (12,703), and other skilled professionals including engineers and doctors.

The Deputy Director emphasized the importance of mandatory briefing sessions to educate emigrants on host country laws and culture. He urged workers to use only legal banking channels for remittances and advised citizens to process cases only through registered Overseas Employment Promoters (OEPs).



RAWALPINDI: A woodworker guides a slab of raw timber through a surface planer in a local carpentry shop, where raw materials are transformed into finished products for the domestic market.

'Public-private collaboration unlocks development potential'

LAHORE (APP): Public-private collaboration is a prerequisite to unlock the true potential of a development landscape, particularly in emerging economies including Pakistan.

Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) Coordinator Saif Ur Rehman stated this while addressing a session on "Public-private sector Investment" here Sunday. He opined that sustainable growth can be achieved at a much faster pace by combining state-led infrastructure initiatives with private sector efficiency and innovation. He said, when investments in infrastructure and natural resources align with private capital come together produce far-reaching economic benefits. Such partnerships can create employment opportunities, improve service delivery, and enhance export potential. Sectors such as energy, mining, transportation, and water management hold immense opportunities for investors, provided there is a transparent regulatory framework and policy consistency, he maintained. He was of the view that encouraging private sector participation not only brings in much-needed financial resources but also introduces modern technology, managerial expertise, and global best practices. He concluded that a balanced approach, where government support meets private sector's initiative, is the key to achieving inclusive and long-term economic prosperity.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders toGet Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The Executive Engineer Building CW PP&H Department District Duki invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2026 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates

S. No	Name of Work	E/Cost	Tender Fee	Bid Security
1	Construction of Class Room GBPS Killi Ali Muhammad TSE-2627081173363	3,000,000/-	1000/-	2%
2	Repair of BHU Malik Ali Muhammad TSE-2627081173223	15,00,000/-	1000/-	2%
3	Repair of BHU Muhammad Khan TSE-2627081173193	15,00,000/-	1000/-	2%
4	Repair of BHU Nasar Abad Washroom & Boundary wall TSE-2627081173273	3,000,000/-	1000/-	2%
5	Construction of Boundary wall and Repair of BHU Bugat, Repair of RHC Wahvi, BHU Mala Shaho, BHU Marjanzai and Repair of Labor Room BHU Murghazai TSE-2627081173613	10,000,000/-	1000/-	2%
6	Repair of Degree College Academic building and Electrical work Govt Boys Degree College Duki TSE-2627081173643	4,000,000/-	1000/-	2%
7	Cricket and Football ground Nana Sahib Ziarat TSE-2627081173653	5,000,000/-	1000/-	2%
8	Repair of DHO Office and House at DHQ Duki TSE-2627081173173	5,000,000/-	1000/-	2%
9	Rehabilitation of Futsal ground at Killi Rabat TSE-2627081173633	5,000,000/-	1000/-	2%
10	Repair and Additional Class Room of GBHS Killi Duki TSE-2627081173443	6,000,000/-	1000/-	2%
11	Repair of GGMS Duki TSE-2627081173393	2,000,000/-	1000/-	2%
12	Construction of Room GGPS New Nasar Abad TSE-2627081173553	2,000,000/-	1000/-	2%
13	Repair & Const: of B/wall GMS Killi Karim Khan Nasir TSE-2627081173533	3,000,000/-	1000/-	2%
14	Rehabilitation of Cricket Ground at Duki City TSE-2627081173593	5,000,000/-	1000/-	2%
15	Repair of Regional Mines Office and Rest House TSE-2627081173623	3,000,000/-	1000/-	2%
16	Construction of Staff Room MNCH Centre Moin Shah TSE-2627081173333	1,000,000/-	1000/-	2%
17	Parking shed raising of Boundary wall drainage system in DHQ Hospital Duki TSE-2627081173303	5,000,000/-	1000/-	2%
18	Repair of GPS Qila Jan Muhammad Duki TSE-2627081173423	3,000,000/-	1000/-	2%
19	Repair of GPS Killi Malik Safar Kamal Khail Nasir TSE-2627081173583	1,500,000/-	1000/-	2%
20	Repair of BHU Tajan Kochi Nana Sahib Ziarat, CD Bani Kot, CD Hosri, BHU Nana Sahib Ziarat TSE-2627081173603	4,500,000/-	1000/-	2%

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. 2. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 1,050,000 PKR Amount in3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm 3. Procedure Of Procurement:Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure 4. Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Gurantee,Deposit at Call of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. 5. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,000 PKR 6. Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 07 September, 2026 during office hours on working days 7. Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 07 September, 2026 till 11:00 AM . 8. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under signed at 12:00 PM 9. Address: Executive Engineer Building CW PP&H Department District Duki Phone no: 0824660630 Fax no: Email: Executive Engineer malakasadkhantareen@gmail.com Executive Engineer Building CW PP&H Department District Duki

Executive Engineer Building CW PP&H Department District Duki

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Govt regularly presenting clear, transparent picture of country's economic position: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal said Pakistan's economy had entered a phase of greater stability, with exports, industrial activity and remittances showing encouraging growth.

However, he stressed that the next priority was to translate macroeconomic stability into sustainable economic transformation under URAAN Pakistan initiative.

Presenting the Monthly Development Update for August, the minister said the government was committed to regularly presenting a clear and transparent picture of the country's economic position, progress achieved and challenges requiring continued attention.

He said Pakistan had passed through a difficult period of economic adjustment and the stability achieved over the past few years had been hard-earned.

"Through URAAN Pakistan, our focus is now to translate this stability into sustainable economic transformation, with exports as a key driver, leading to more jobs, better incomes, greater opportunities for our youth and an improved quality of life for the people of Pakistan," he said.

Ahsan said the beginning of FY2026-27 had provided encouraging economic signals, with Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation easing to 9.2 per cent in July 2026 from 11.7 per cent in May 2026.

He said the government was continuously monitoring markets and prices through regular meetings of the National Price Monitoring Committee (NPMC), with particular focus on strengthening supply chains, monitoring the quality of essential commodities and taking timely administrative measures to keep essential items affordable.

Workers' remittances remained a major source of external-sector resilience, reaching US$3.6 billion in July 2026, up 13 per cent from US$3.2 billion in July 2025. The strong start to FY2026-27 followed record remittances of US$41.6 billion during the previous fiscal year, with the inflows strengthening the country's foreign exchange position while directly supporting millions of Pakistani households. Industrial activity also showed a significant recovery, with Large-Scale Manufacturing (LSM) recording average growth of 5.0 per cent in FY2025-26 against a contraction of 0.7 per cent in the previous year.

The recovery was broad-based, with 16 out of 22 sectors posting positive growth. Automobiles recorded the highest growth of 57.8 per cent, followed by transport equipment 42.4 per cent, electrical equipment 14.3 per cent, tobacco 12.6 per cent and food 7.0 per cent.



ISLAMABAD: Managing Director Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal, Senator Capt. Shaheen Khalid Butt inaugurating two-day exhibition showcasing a diverse range of products prepared and manufactured by trainees of PBM's Women Empowerment Centres, at F-9 Park.



LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting regarding reforms in the agriculture sector.

BA Speaker expresses gratitude for condolences over son's demise

QUETTA, (VoM Report): Balochistan Assembly Speaker and Acting Governor Capt. Abdul Khaliq Khan Achakzai has expressed gratitude to political leaders, public representatives, officials and citizens who conveyed condolences and offered prayers following the death of his son, Sanaullah Khan Achakzai. In a statement, Achakzai thanked President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif and other national and provincial leaders for sharing the family's sorrow.

He also acknowledged the support extended by members of the judiciary, senior civil and military officials, Balochistan Assembly members, political leaders and workers, lawyers, doctors, business representatives, tribal elders, religious and minority communities, civil society representatives and law-enforcement personnel.

Certified companies must ensure provision of quality seeds to farmers: PM Shehbaz

LAHORE (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif directed the greater activation of agricultural research institutions to promote the development of the country's agriculture sector and bring research activities in line with international standards.

The prime minister chaired a meeting to review agricultural sector reforms and progress on government policy measures aimed at increasing agricultural productivity and supporting farmers.

Shehbaz Sharif said providing all possible support to small and medium-scale farmers to increase per-acre productivity was among the government's top priorities. He directed that certified companies ensure the provision of quality seeds to farmers.

He also ordered the preparation of a comprehensive national system for estimating crop production in consultation with all stakeholders. He stressed that small and medium-scale farmers should fully benefit from government reforms aimed at introducing innovation in agriculture.

The prime minister directed authorities to make full use of the experience of students who returned last year after receiving agricultural training in China. He further directed that merit and transparency be given the highest priority in selecting students for agricultural training in China this year.

The prime minister approved reforms at the National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC).

Syedaal for collective efforts to promote Pakistan's development, prosperity

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Deputy Chairman Senate, Syedal Khan held separate meetings at Parliament House with parliamentarians, civil society and business representative.

The deputy chairman met with Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Finance, Senator Saleem Mandviwalla, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Cabinet Secretariat, Senator Rana Mahmood-ul-Hassan, Senator Nadeem Bhutto, former provincial minister Sardar Asad Nasir, Member Balochistan Assembly and former Provincial Minister, Ameer Ghulam Dastgir Badini, as well as various delegations from the four provinces, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan, representatives of civil society, and business and trade communities.

The meetings covered a wide range of issues, including the country's overall political and economic situation, challenges faced by the people, legislation, public relief, federal and provincial matters, regional issues, and other matters of mutual interest, said a news release issued here on Sunday.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Chairman Senate, Syedal Khan said that the Senate was a symbol of the federation and a constitutional forum representing all federating units on an equal basis.

He said the Upper House effectively represented the voices of all regions of the country, including the four provinces, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan.

He said the fundamental objective of legislation in the Senate was to address public issues, safeguard the national interest and provide maximum relief to the people.

Parliament was playing its constitutional and democratic role in addressing public concerns, while the Senate continues to raise issues affecting the people and different regions of the country in an effective manner.

Talking to the various delegations, the Deputy Chairman said that the proposals and concerns presented by representatives and delegations from the four provinces, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan were accorded special importance. He said the Senate served as an important constitutional platform for promoting coordination, harmony and cooperation among all federating units, where issues concerning the people and different regions were highlighted and possible solutions were deliberated upon.

Syedaal Khan said that, in line with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's vision, special attention was being given to creating employment opportunities for young people and equipping them with market-oriented skills so that their potential and energy could be fully harnessed for the country's development and prosperity. He emphasized that the prevailing situation in the country and the region demanded that all political affiliations be set aside and the national interest be given the highest priority. He called for collective efforts to promote Pakistan's development, prosperity and the well-being of its people.



LAHORE: Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Emir Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman addresses women participants of sit-in outside Punjab CM House.

DC Naseerabad says:

Supervision of public development schemes vital to ensure effective utilization of govt funds

NASEERABAD, (VoM Report): Deputy Commissioner Varender Lal has directed the departments concerned to maintain construction standards, accelerate work on development schemes and ensure transparency in their execution, saying public projects must be completed within the prescribed timeframe. The directives were issued during his inspection of several ongoing and recently completed schemes in different parts of the district, accompanied by officials of the Buildings and Roads Department.

During the field visit, the deputy commissioner examined various blacktop road projects, assessing the quality of construction, pace of work and their relevance to the requirements of local communities. He also sought details from officials regarding project costs, specifications of construction materials and expected completion dates.

Lal instructed the concerned authorities to intensify field inspections and ensure that contractors complied fully with approved designs, specifications and quality standards.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani inaugrating the Islamabad edition of Pakistan interiors furniture expo.

Heavy rain forecast raises flood risk in northeastern Balochistan

QUETTA (APP): The Regional Meteorological Center (RMC) Quetta has issued a weather forecast warning of heavy rainfall over the next 24–48 hours, which may trigger flash flooding in local streams, nullahs, and hill torrents across northeastern districts of Balochistan. According to the forecast, areas including Ziarat, Sherani, Zhob, Harnai, Musakhail, Barkhan, Loralai, Duki, Killa Saifullah, Kohlu, and Dera Bugti are likely to be affected during the wet spell. The advisory cautioned that windstorms, lightning, and heavy rains could damage weak structures such as solar panels, billboards, and electric poles.

Meanwhile, mainly hot weather is expected in most districts of the province, with very hot conditions prevailing in Nokkundi (46°C), Dalbandin (45.5°C), Washuk, Kharan, Noshki, Panjgur, Kech, Awaran, parts of Khuzdar, Sibi, and Dera Bugti.

Pakistan Railways records historic Rs 115bn revenue

KHANEWAL (APP): Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi on Saturday inaugurated newly constructed, modern running rooms for loco pilots and guards, announcing that Pakistan Railways has turned into a profitable enterprise for the first time in its 79-year history.

Speaking to loco pilots following the inauguration, the minister stated that transparent open auctions replaced the past practice of leasing railway land at nominal rates, doubling annual profits from Rs 8 billion to Rs 16 billion. He added that Pakistan Railways recorded a total income of Rs 115.157 billion for the 2025–26 fiscal year. Accompanied by Member of National Assembly Muhammad Khan Daha and senior railway officials, the minister inspected the solar-powered facility, which features fully air-conditioned rooms, a dining hall, a mosque, and a kitchen designed to offer five-star hotel-level comfort to operational staff during duty hours. Abbasi also shared a meal with the pilots, directing them to perform their duties with dedication and ensure timely maintenance and servicing of locomotives to minimize engine failures. Expressing gratitude for the new facilities, the loco pilots and guards praised the initiative as a major step toward employee welfare. Meanwhile, Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi has announced the restoration of two more train services on the directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. According to a statement issued on Saturday the minister said the Mohenjo Daro Express will be restored on September 15, while a new train service between Sialkot and Rawalpindi will commence on October 15.

Khuzdar administration encourages citizens to report problems in their localities

KHUZDAR, (VoM Report): Assistant Commissioner Abdul Hafeez Kakar has assured residents that complaints concerning basic civic facilities and administrative matters will be taken up promptly with the relevant departments, saying effective resolution of public grievances remains a priority of the district administration. He gave the assurance during meetings with delegations representing different areas of Khuzdar at his office, where residents presented a number of issues affecting daily life in their respective localities.

The visiting delegations drew attention to water shortages, sanitation conditions, traffic management and encroachments in markets, with some residents pointing out that certain problems had persisted for an extended period. Kakar listened to the concerns and said the complaints would be referred to the departments concerned for necessary action. He directed that matters requiring immediate attention be dealt with on a priority basis. The assistant commissioner said improving essential civic services and easing difficulties faced by citizens required regular administrative engagement and effective coordination among the relevant departments. He stressed that public complaints should result in practical measures and not merely remain part of official correspondence, .



Ahiska Turks, who were evacuated from Ukraine in 2022 due to the Russia-Ukraine War and brought to Türkiye, are experiencing the joy of moving into the houses built for them in Ahlat district of Bitlis.



Palestinian patients and injured people gather outside Nasser Hospital to protest and demand permission to leave the Gaza Strip for medical treatment abroad in Khan Yunis, southern Gaza, Palestine

Hub police introduces daily public hearing mechanism

HUB, (VoM Report): Hub Police have introduced a daily public hearing mechanism under which DSPs and SHOs will remain available from 2pm to 4pm to receive complaints from citizens and ensure timely action on police-related issues.

According to a district police statement, the SP Hub has issued written directives requiring all concerned officers to remain present in their offices during the specified hours and personally listen to grievances brought by members of the public.

Citizens facing police-related problems or seeking assistance in matters under the jurisdiction of the respective officers can approach the relevant Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) or Station House Officer (SHO) during the designated two-hour period.

Pakistani rice exports to China surge 200% in Jan–July 2026

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan's rice exports to China surged in the first seven months of the current year to US$ 122.99 million, according to the latest trade statistics released by the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC).

This represents a remarkable 200.49 percent year-on-year increase compared to the US $ 40.93 million recorded during the same period in 2025. In terms of volume, total shipments grew by 265.55%, leaping from 98,723 metric tons in Jan–July 2025 to 360,887 metric tons in Jan–July this year, solidifying Pakistan's position as a premier grain supplier to the Chinese market.

The export basket demand across both whole grain and industrial broken rice categories. Semi or wholly milled long-grain rice (HS 1006.3020) remained the cornerstone of the trade, generating $58.10 million, accounting for over 47% of total rice exports on shipments of 157,329 metric tons, up 76.48% year-on-year. Simultaneously, long-grain broken rice (HS 1006.4020) emerged as the fastest-growing segment, surging by 607.89% to US$ 41.50 million (130,110 metric tons), while short and medium grain broken rice (HS 1006.4080) expanded by 988.07% to reach US $ 23.40 million (73,448 metric tons), China Economic Net reported.

Geographically, Guangdong Province stood out as the leading destination across China, absorbing US$ 41.64 million, or nearly 34% of Pakistan's total rice shipments to the country. Beijing Municipality ranked second with US$ 37.57 million (30.55% share), followed by Jiangxi Province at US$ 18.82 million (15.30% share), and Jiangsu Province at US$ 8.38 million. A significant catalyst behind the expansion in the southern provinces was a targeted trade mission undertaken by a high-level delegation from Pakistan's Rice Exporters Association to Guangzhou and organized several webinars Facilitated and coordinated by Pakistan's Commercial and Trade Counsellor in Guangzhou.

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