Daily

THE VOICE OF MILLIONS

ABC Certified

www.voiceofmillionsqta.com Chief Editor: Syed Abdul Wadood Shah Quetta

Rabi-ul-Awwal 14, 1448 AH Vol: XX No. 15 Friday August 28, 2026 Pages 4, Price Rs. 5 Ph: 2823307

CM Bugti for effective implementation of decisions for Balochistan's progress

QUETTA, (VoM Report): The 28th Defense and Review Meeting regarding the overall situation in Balochistan, law and order, the development process, and public welfare was held in Quetta. The meeting was jointly chaired by Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti and the Corps Commander Quetta. The meeting conducted a detailed review of the overall situation in the province, peace and stability, progress on development projects, public welfare, and coordinated measures among various federal and provincial institutions.

The meeting also reaffirmed its commitment to the bright future of Balochistan, the timely completion of development projects, and the provision of better facilities to the people.

The participants considered further measures in the broader interest of the province, including making the joint efforts of provincial and federal institutions and security forces more effective and improving mutual communication and cooperation.

During the meeting, a decision was also taken in principle to gradually activate the Safe City Project in important areas of the province, including the provincial capital, Quetta. The participants described the project as an important step toward protecting citizens, improving the surveillance system, and effectively utilizing modern technology. Addressing the 28th Defense and Review Meeting, Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that the meeting is being held regularly, as a result of which positive results have emerged regarding peace and stability in the province.

The Chief Minister said that the basic purpose of the Defense and Review Meeting, held every three weeks, is to review the implementation of decisions taken in previous meetings, identify the problems being faced, and adopt a coordinated strategy to resolve them.

He said that regular meetings have improved coordination among institutions and brought continuity to measures being taken for peace and stability.

Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that sustainable peace, development, and public prosperity in Balochistan are interconnected. The government is committed to peace and stability in the province.



RAWALPINDI: A high-level delegation from Kuwait, led by Minister of Defence Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Saleem Al-Sabah, accompanied by Chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces of Kuwait Lieutenant General Khalid Darj Saad Al-Shriaan called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ here at General Headquarters (GHQ)



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti expressing his views during the 28th Defense and Review Meeting

US visit opens new avenues for investment in Balochistan, says Governor

QUETTA, (VoM Report): Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has returned to Pakistan after successfully completing his official visit to the United States.

During his visit to the United States, the Governor of Balochistan addressed the Global Summit on Youth and Artificial Intelligence, organized by the Youth International Organization at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, where he effectively highlighted at the global level the capabilities, problems, and future prospects of the youth of Pakistan, particularly Balochistan.

The Governor of Balochistan stressed that equipping the youth of Balochistan with artificial intelligence, modern technology, and quality education is an urgent need of the time. He said that the youth of Balochistan possess immense potential and, by providing them with opportunities in modern knowledge, technology, and skills, they can be enabled to play a significant role in the country's development and progress. He said that representing the youth of Pakistan and Balochistan at the global level during the visit to the United States was an important achievement. Highlighting the voice of Balochistan's youth in global discussions concerning young people is an acknowledgment that the province's youth also have the ability to play an effective role in the global journey of development, technology, and innovation.

Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhail also praised the Pakistani community living in the United States for celebrating Independence Day with enthusiasm and spirit. He said that Pakistanis living thousands of miles away in the United States are still filled with love for their homeland and are playing their role in the development and prosperity of Pakistan and in promoting its positive image.



QUETTA: A floral bouquet is being presented to Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail upon arrival at Quetta International Airport after successfully completing his official visit to the United States.

Pakistan, Kuwait ink new pact to expand military cooperation

RAWALPINDI, (APP): Pakistan and Kuwait on Thursday signed the "Protocol Agreement-2026," aimed at enhancing the existing military cooperation framework established under the "Defence Cooperation Agreement-2023."

Under the new agreement, the Armed Forces of Pakistan will extend assistance to the Armed Forces of Kuwait in diverse fields, including training, capacity building, border



release issued here. The agreement reflects the deep trust, mutual respect and shared strategic interests underpinning the longstanding defence relationship between the two brotherly countries. Both sides reaffirmed their resolve to further strengthen this partnership in support of mutual security and regional peace and stability, the news release said.

A high-level Kuwaiti delegation, led by Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Saleem Al-Sabah, Minister of Defence, accompanied by Lieutenant General Khalid Darj Saad Al-Shriaan, Chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces of Kuwait, called on Minister for Defence Mr. Khawaja Muhammad Asif.

High-level Kuwaiti defence delegation calls on Field Marshal Asim Munir

RAWALPINDI, Aug 27 (APP): A high-level delegation from Kuwait, led by Minister of Defence Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Saleem Al-Sabah, accompanied by Chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces of Kuwait Lieutenant General Khalid Darj Saad Al-Shriaan called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ here at General Headquarters (GHQ) on Thursday.

The meeting focused on matters of mutual interest, regional security and bilateral defence cooperation. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing institutional ties and expanding mutually beneficial defence collaboration between the two brotherly countries, said a news release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR).

The Kuwaiti delegation appreciated the professionalism, operational excellence and valuable contributions of the Pakistan Armed Forces towards regional peace and stability.

The engagement reaffirmed the resolve of Pakistan and Kuwait to further consolidate their historic and brotherly relations into a strong, enduring and mutually beneficial defence partnership, contributing to regional security and stability.

Mangi Dam attack: IGP submits detailed report to Inquiry Commission

QUETTA, (VoM Report): The Commission of Inquiry established to investigate the terrorist attack that took place at the Mangi Dam Pumping Station in District Ziarat, headed by Justice Muhammad Aamir Nawaz Rana, held a hearing in open court today.

The hearing was attended by Balochistan Advocate General Abdul Latif Kakar, Additional Advocate General Khalil ur Rehman, Assistant Advocate General Sultan Barich, Additional Attorney General Muhammad Fareed Dogar, Deputy Attorney General Anwar Naseem Kasi, Prosecutor General Balochistan Bahram Khan Tareen, Additional Prosecutors General Abdul Latif Kakar and Habibullah Gul, Deputy Prosecutor General Abdul Mateen, and other relevant officials and lawyers. Inspector General of Police Balochistan Muhammad Tahir, AIG Legal Shafiq ur Rehman, heirs and legal representatives of the martyrs, several lawyers, and the Registrar/Secretary of the Commission also participated in the proceedings. In compliance with the Commission's August 24, 2026 order, the Inspector General of Police Balochistan and the AIG Legal appeared personally before the Commission and submitted a detailed report regarding the attack.

Education, health foundations of development of society: Nosherwani

QUETTA, (VoM Report): Provincial Minister for Finance and Minerals Mir Shoaib Nosherwani has said that connecting various villages and rural areas of Kharan with blacktop roads is his longstanding vision. Multiple road construction projects for various villages of Kharan have been approved. He said that the people of Kharan have always supported us. Our relationship with them is not merely political; rather, it is a fundamental relationship based on affection, trust, service, and blood ties. "We are fully aware of the problems and basic needs of the people of our constituency, and all available resources are being utilized to resolve them."

Provincial Minister Mir Shoaib Jan Nosherwani said that approximately 2,500 young people have been provided employment without discrimination in Kharan district.

Practical steps have been taken to eliminate the politics of prejudice and injustice in the area, while various projects have been included in the master plan to transform Kharan into a developed, modern, and beautiful city.

Gilani for collective action to address global challenges

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, on Thursday called for greater parliamentary unity and collective action to address global challenges, including armed conflicts, terrorism, climate change and economic inequality.

Addressing the inaugural session of the 2nd Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC) in Phnom Penh, in the presence of Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet and President of the Senate of Cambodia Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei Hun Sen, he lauded the participation of Prime Minister Hun Manet as a strong symbol of Cambodia's commitment to parliamentary dialogue and cooperation.

Welcoming the Cambodian leadership, Chairman Gilani thanked the King of Cambodia for his message and expressed appreciation to the Senate and people of Cambodia for hosting the conference.

PM praises Saudi Arabia's steadfast support to Pakistan, role in regional peace

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday reaffirmed deep appreciation for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's steadfast support and generous assistance to Pakistan, and its pivotal role in promoting peace and stability in the region.

The prime minister said this as Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki paid a farewell call on him at the PM House here, after completion of his official tenure in Pakistan.

He congratulated the Saudi ambassador on the successful completion of his official assignment.

He lauded the outgoing ambassador for his outstanding contribution towards further strengthening the deep-rooted fraternal and strategic ties between Pakistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Prime Minister Shehbaz conveyed his warmest regards and best wishes for the health and well-being of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia.

Ambassador Al-Malki expressed his profound gratitude to the prime minister and the Government of Pakistan for the warmth, cooperation, and hospitality extended to him throughout his assignment. He described his stay in Pakistan as a deeply memorable and rewarding experience, and reaffirmed his personal commitment to the continued strengthening of Pakistan-Saudi Arabia relations.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki pays a farewell call on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif

DPM Dar, British Foreign Secretary discusses IWT; regional security situation

LONDON, (Monitoring Desk): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Thursday discussed the Indus Waters Treaty and the evolving regional security situation with British Foreign Secretary Ed Miliband, the Foreign Office (FO) said.

FM Dar is currently on a visit to the United Kingdom, where he met Miliband in London for delegation-level talks. The visit has assumed significance against the backdrop of Pakistan's increasingly visible diplomatic role in regional and international affairs, with Islamabad seeking to translate its recent diplomatic engagements into stronger relations with major powers.

In a post on X, the FO said the discussions centred on developments concerning the Indus Waters Treaty and the security situation in the region.

FM Dar highlighted India's "persistent violations" of its international obligations and stressed the importance of upholding international law and treaty commitments.

According to the FO, he also expressed "serious concern" about the terrorist threats emanating from Afghan soil and the threat posed by terrorist groups operating from Afghanistan to Pakistan's peace and security.

The two sides reviewed the "full spectrum of Pakistan-UK bilateral relations" and agreed to establish a "structured mechanism" for formal talks between the two foreign ministries to cover all areas of cooperation to further strengthen bilateral ties and regularly review progress in key areas.

"They underscored the importance of sustained high-level engagement and closer coordination on matters of mutual interest," the FO added.

It noted that the two ministers exchanged views on key regional and international developments, including the "evolving situation" in the Middle East, adding that FM Dar shared Pakistan's "diplomatic and mediation efforts" in the region and the progress achieved through these engagements.



LONDON: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar holds delegation-level talks with British Foreign Secretary Ed Miliband

THE VOICE OF MILLIONS

Friday August 28, 2026

No further sanctions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DR MUHAMMAD IBTESAM MAZAHIR

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

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

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

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

In Pakistan, however, the model appears inverted.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pakistan: The heart of Asia's destiny

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A changed world

ARIFA NOOR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The good times will not last forever.

Colombia's new president orders extradition of 5 former peace negotiators to US

Monitoring Desk

BOGOTA, (Agencies): Colombia's new president on Thursday ordered the extradition to the US of five criminal figures who took part as representatives or negotiators in peace processes with armed groups during the administration of former President Gustavo Petro.

US authorities are seeking the five over alleged involvement in drug trafficking, illegal weapons trafficking or possession, and narco-terrorism, according to Colombian media reports.

President Abelardo De la Espriella, who took office on Aug. 5, said the extraditions had already been authorized last year by the previous government but procedures had been suspended because the individuals were taking part in different dialogue processes under the Petro administration.

Among the figures slated for extradition are Geovany Andres Rojas, alias Arana, the alleged leader of the Comandos de Frontera criminal organization, who was arrested on Feb. 14, 2025 while participating in peace negotiations with the government, according to local media.

The extradition order also covers Willington Henao Gutierrez, alias Mocho Olmedo, described as a leader of FARC dissidents, and Carmen Evelio Castillo Carrillo, alias Muneca, a former leader of the Autodefensas Conquistadores de la Sierra Nevada, also known as Los Pachenca. Gabriel Yepes Mejia, alias HH, and Fredy Castillo Carrillo, alias Pinocho, are also slated for extradition but remain fugitives, local media reported.

Mocho Olmedo surrendered to authorities in February 2025 amid fighting between FARC dissidents and the National Liberation Army, or ELN, in the Catatumbo region, while Muneca was arrested in June 2024 during a police operation.

De la Espriella said his administration reviewed the cases and found no "verifiable contributions" or concrete results toward peace that would justify continuing suspending the extraditions.

"Peace negotiations cannot become shelters from justice," he said, adding that those seeking to move toward legality must demonstrate it through "concrete and verifiable facts."



Protesters try to remove a barricade as police hold it during clashes at an anti-government rally in Tirana, Albania.



France's President Emmanuel Macron welcomes Thailand's king and queen during their visit to Paris.

More than 400 dead in DR Congo's spreading Ebola outbreak

Monitoring Desk

CONGO: An Ebola outbreak in the DR Congo has killed more than 400 people and is still spreading, with a first case reported in the major city of Kisangani nearly 600 kilometres (370 miles) from its epicentre.

The highly infectious disease has claimed 438 lives among the 1,406 people confirmed infected—a fatality rate of just over 31 percent—since the outbreak was declared on May 15, the National Institute of Public Health (INSP) said in its latest report published on Thursday.

The centre of the outbreak—whose true scale remains difficult to assess—was in the northeastern Ituri province, where more than 83 percent of the deaths have occurred.

The province borders South Sudan and Uganda, which has reported 20 cases including two deaths.

The virus has also spread to the nearby provinces of North Kivu and South Kivu.

A case has also recently been reported in Kisangani, a northeastern city of 1.5 million residents and the capital of Tshopo province. A test on the body of a 24-year-old pregnant woman was positive for Ebola, the INSP said.

"The deceased's body was secretly transported by motorcycle to Kisangani" from the health zone of Nia Nia in Ituri, the health authorities said.

The body of a deceased Ebola victim remains highly infectious and in many cases the virus has been transmitted during burial rites. South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and the head of the African Union's health agency, Africa CDC, Jean Kaseya, were visiting the capital, Kinshasa, on Thursday.

In Haut-Uele province, which is next door to Ituri, a death and a case of infection were also reported at the start of the week. Health authorities said the infected person was "on the run" from the Nia Nia health zone. Nevertheless, health authorities continue to say that only three provinces in total are affected by the virus, as they say that the cases in Tshopo and Haut-Uele were "imported" from Ituri.

Gaza war's 1,000 days:

90% of strip 'destroyed', 80% 'seized' by Israel

Monitoring Desk

GAZA: More than 90 percent of the Gaza Strip has been destroyed, and Israeli forces are in control of 80 percent of the besieged territory, authorities in the enclave say, as the world marks 1,000 days since Israel's genocidal war on Gaza began.

Tallying up the extent of the damage since Israel launched its war on October 7, 2023, Gaza's Government Media Office said in a statement on Thursday that at least 73,066 Palestinians have been killed in the enclave.

More than 21,500 of those killed in Gaza were children, including 1,022 babies, it added. A further 9,500 people are missing, many believed to be buried under rubble, while 173,514 have been wounded. It added that about 223,000 tonnes of explosives have been dropped by Israel on Gaza during the war – 16 times more than what the United States dropped on Hiroshima, Japan, in 1945 with the atomic bomb.

With most of Gaza in ruins, the "ceasefire" framework meant to end the conflict is also faltering six months after its centrepiece body was established. The US-created Board of Peace, established in January to oversee the "ceasefire" and steer reconstruction under a three-phase plan endorsed by the United Nations Security Council, has failed to secure Israeli compliance, analysts said. Instead of a gradual withdrawal that the plan envisions, Israel has expanded its control of Gaza, and only a third of the aid trucks it committed to allow into the enclave daily are entering. Israeli forces have also killed more than 1,000 Palestinians since the October.



The highly infectious disease has claimed 438 lives among the 1,406 people confirmed infected since May 15, the National Institute of Public Health said.

Beijing says

China-EU trade talks set in the fall, to be held regularly each year

Monitoring Desk

HONG KONG: China and the European Union will hold ministerial-level trade talks once or twice a year, China's Commerce Ministry said Thursday, as the two sides work to increase and rebalance trade. The EU faces growing pressure to reduce its trade deficit with China, which widened to about 360 billion euros ($410 billion) last year, nearly 1 billion euros a day. Chinese cars and batteries are among items increasingly exported to Europe.

Under the newly agreed upon China-EU trade and investment consultation mechanism, Beijing has also invited the EU's trade commissioner, Maroš Šefčovič, to visit China this autumn, ministry spokesperson He Yadong told reporters.

He said the two sides intend to boost their collaboration in areas like artificial intelligence and the transition to renewable energy.

Beijing's remarks followed a meeting between Šefčovič and Wang Wentao, China's commerce minister, on Monday in Brussels. Šefčovič said after the meeting he would be travelling to Beijing in the fall. As the trade gap between China and the EU widens, Europe needs to "defend our industrial base and keep pushing for a level playing field globally," Šefčovič said.

Thailand denies viral claim Macron knelt before king

Monitoring Desk

FRANCE: Thailand's foreign ministry denied Thursday that French President Emmanuel Macron knelt before the country's king during his state visit to Paris this week, after an AI-generated picture circulated online. King Maha Vajiralongkorn and Queen Suthida's trip was the first official visit by a Thai monarch to France since 1960, marking the 170th anniversary of formal diplomatic relations between the two nations.

During a state dinner at the presidential palace, Macron presented the 73-year-old king with the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour—France's highest award—and Queen Suthida with the Grand Cross of the National Order of Merit.



A Palestinian child stands on the rubble of a destroyed building near the Shati refugee camp in western Gaza City.

'Most massive' Russian attack on Kyiv kills at least 20

Monitoring Desk

KYIV: Russian forces launched a major drone and missile attack on Kyiv overnight, killing 20 people, in what the city's mayor has described as the "most massive attack" on the Ukrainian capital.

Vitaly Klitschko said around 90 people were injured. He said an ambulance station was among the places hit in the strikes and declared Friday a day of mourning.

Although previous attacks have killed more people, this latest barrage deployed the largest number of weapons on the capital and hit locations over a very wide area of Kyiv. Several neighbourhoods were evacuated as strikes rocked buildings throughout the city, hours after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky warned Russia was preparing an attack.

Contains some scenes which some viewers may find upsetting. - Verified videos show large-scale Russian strikes on Kyiv

Moscow said its forces hit what it called military plants in retaliation against attacks on Russian civilian infrastructure.

South Africa and Ghana in diplomatic row over alleged killing of migrant

Monitoring Desk

GHANA: A diplomatic row has erupted between South Africa and Ghana, over claims that a Ghanaian man was killed during anti-migrant protests, which South African officials deny. Ghana's Foreign Affairs ministry said it had received with "profound shock" reports that Bashiru Isak, 40, had been shot dead on Tuesday in Cape Town's Khayelitsha's township. It said it had sent a formal protest note and filed a complaint with the police. South Africa's justice minister responded by expressing concern "that Ghanaian authorities continue to communicate false information about South Africa regarding developments on irregular migration". The police said they had "no record of the Khayelitsha murder".

They did say they were investigating the killing, a day earlier, of 35-year-old Ghanaian Kwabena Boagen allegedly in extortion-linked crime in a different Cape Town township, Nyanga.

South African police said Boagen lived in Khayelitsha area but worked in Nyanga, where the crime occurred. It said a post-mortem was being done in line with its protocols. The police had earlier told the BBC that suspects allegedly entered the barbershop where Boagen was working and demanded money from him before he was shot.

At least six killed in explosion inside central Damascus cafe

Monitoring Desk

DAMASCUS: An explosion at a cafe in central Damascus has killed at least six people and injured 22, according to Syria's Ministry of Health. The explosion was reported at around 3:24pm local time (12:24 GMT) inside a cafe on al-Nasser Street in the al-Marjah district, close to the Palace of Justice, according to Syrian state media.

Syrian state television said the blast was caused by an explosive device.

Footage from the site showed severe damage to the cafe with blood smeared on the floor.

An investigation into the cause of the explosion has been launched with a number of government and private surveillance cameras in the area., said Milad Fadl, Al Jazeera's Syria correspondent.

"Traces of blood are all over the ground; the Interior Ministry is trying to gather evidence to see who is responsible," Fadl said. "Residents in the area gave first aid to the injured until the ambulances arrived."

Security guard rescued from rubble 8 days after Venezuela earthquakes

Monitoring Desk

CATIA LA MAR: Hundreds of rescuers in Venezuela cheered and embraced Thursday after pulling a man alive from the ruins of a collapsed building eight days after deadly twin earthquakes, AFP journalists witnessed.

With the official death toll nearing 2,300 and huge numbers of people still missing, the rescue of security guard Hernan Gil after so long under the rubble was greeted as a miracle.

Gil was brought out on a stretcher after a painstaking operation to extract him from the collapsed seven-story building where he worked in Catia La Mar, a coastal area almost entirely razed to the ground in the June 24 catastrophe.

"This is truly a miracle," Gil's wife Gusbimar Gonzalez told AFP before his rescue.

"I'm completely amazed because it's the first time I've seen so many countries come together like this to save a single person," she said.

Rescue teams from seven countries—Venezuela, Chile, the United States, Portugal, Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Mexico—worked around the clock over the past three days to reach him.

Canadian court publication ban in Quebec militia case raises press-freedom concerns

Monitoring Desk

OTTAWA: A Canadian court has banned publication of facts related to an alleged plot to seize land for an anti-government militia, drawing criticism from press-freedom advocates and legal experts concerned the move could compromise citizens' understanding of threats to public safety.

The Quebec Superior Court ordered the ban in February, according to a copy of the order seen by Reuters. It came days after a lower-level court released more than a thousand pages of documents related to a police investigation of four men, including two active-duty soldiers, who were arrested last summer. Three of them were accused of taking "concrete actions to facilitate terrorist activity" and a fourth with weapons charges.

One legal expert said such bans commonly seek to restrict access to sensitive details that could jeopardize ongoing investigations or identify vulnerable victims. But he called the broad ban on information in this case unusual.

"Rights, including freedom of the press, are not absolute. But restrictions need to be reasonable," said Wayne MacKay, emeritus professor of law at Dalhousie University. "The broader the ban and the more sweeping it is, the harder it is to justify."

The judge's order gave no rationale for the ban, and a spokeswoman for Quebec Superior Court said the institution and its judges are prohibited from on any decision.

Thousands of Indians face severe hardship due to consular services closure in UAE

ABU DHABI (INP): Indian nationals in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are facing difficulties in obtaining passports, visas, document attestation and other consular services, making it difficult for Indians living abroad to carry out basic travel and legal matters.

The system of providing Indian consular services in the UAE has been affected due to a legal dispute. As a result of the court order, the new company has yet to formally take over the services, which has led to the suspension of passport renewals, visas, document verification and other consular services.

According to reports, Indian consular services in the UAE were previously being provided by BLS International and SGIVS, but the contracts of these companies expired on June 30, 2026. Under the new tender, Al Hind Tours and Travel was selected as the new service provider for the Indian Consular Application Centres and was to take over the services from July 1, but the transfer was stopped due to legal proceedings.

Two companies have challenged the technical review and scoring procedure of the tender in India's Delhi High Court.

Europeans fill most gaps left by US in NATO defence plans, top commander says

Monitoring Desk

BERLIN: European NATO allies have largely filled the gaps left by the United States in the alliance's defence plans, NATO's top commander said on Thursday, adding the bloc was looking at workarounds to address the remaining shortfalls in a few areas.

"In a matter weeks, European allies have largely filled the gaps left by U.S. reductions to the NATO Force Model," NATO's top commander, U.S. Air Force General Alexus Grynkewich, said in information provided to Reuters when asked for comment on the topic.

"And in those few areas where they haven't, where they do not currently have a like capability to replace, we are looking at alternate capabilities with matching effect."

The U.S. told its allies in May that it had decided to shrink the pool of capabilities committed to the transatlantic alliance in a crisis, raising urgent questions as leaders prepare for a NATO summit in Ankara on July 7-8.

The move is meant to gradually end an "unhealthy co-dependence" on U.S. forces as Washington faces the potential of simultaneous conflicts in multiple theatres, according to Grynkewich.

In mid-June, NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte said other allies were increasing their contributions and would fill "a lot" of the gaps but did not give any details.

Citing a NATO source, Reuters reported on Wednesday that NATO would announce at next week's Ankara summit that its European members have filled almost all the gaps left by the United States in the alliance's defence plans.

The main gap NATO is still struggling to plug is in strategic bombers, where the U.S. has said it will make only one aircraft available instead of two, said the source, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The U.S. did not publicly disclose details of its reductions, but they range from refuelling aircraft to fighter jets, drones and , according to figures provided to Reuters by a military source.

The number of U.S. F-15 and F-15E fighter jets available to NATO will fall by a third to 99 and the number of MQ-4 and MQ-9 Reaper drones by half to 12, according to source.

The number of KC-135 and KC-46 refuelling aircraft falls to 63 from 79.

TENDER NOTICE

Only electronic bid will be submitted, No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The Executive Engineer 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 2026 on Percentage Rates

Tender Fee 1000 PKR and Bid Security 2%

S.No	Name of Work/s	E/Cost
1.	Construction of IT Hub at Duki City under BSDI Program Phase-III **TSE-2627081178903**	52,000,000/-

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 36,400,000 PKR Amount in3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm CDR Green Challan **Procedure Of Procurement**: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure **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. **Tender Documents:** The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gob.pk **Issuance of tender Documents**: Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gob.pk **Last Date of bid submission:** Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 11 September, 2026 till 11:00 AM through supplier dashboard. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at 12:00 PM on EPPS System 9. Address: Executive Engineer Building CW PP&H Department District Duki Phone no: 0824660630 Email: malakasadkhantareen@gmail.com

Executive Engineer Building CW PP&H Department District Duki

DPRQ/PRQ No.1071/27-8-2026

www.dpr.gob.pk @dpr_gob dpr.gob @dgpr.balochistan

Firefighters battle blazes in southern France after European heatwave

Monitoring Desk

LANCON: Firefighters were battling several wildfires fanned by strong winds in southern France on Thursday, as the country grappled with parched conditions Europe's recent heatwave.

Interior Minister Laurent Nunez said three blazes, two of which broke on the western edge of the Mediterranean port city of Marseille, had scorched a combined area of 1,210 hectares (2,990 acres).

As Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu arrived on Thursday afternoon in Marseille to hold a new crisis meeting on the heatwave and the wildfires, a new blaze had just started near the city of Roquemaure in the Gard area, firefighters told Lecornu.

Lecornu, whose minority government faces a no-confidence vote in parliament on Monday that was put forward by Green Party lawmakers over its handling of the heatwave crisis, said on Thursday that 8,700 hectares had burned in France so far this season, including 1,200 on Wednesday alone, and that 2,000 firefighters had been mobilised. The World Meteorological Organization last week warned that the record temperatures that baked Western Europe for over a week in late June.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



ISLAMABAD: Civil society members hold a candlelight vigil outside the nursery of the Children's Hospital at Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), where 14 newborns lost their lives in a fire incident a day earlier



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar addresses the launch ceremony of FOSPAH's Complaint Management System, mobile app and revamped website at the FOSPAH headquarters

President, DPM extend condolences to China and Nepal over flood losses

ISLAMABAD, (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister (DPM/FM), Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Thursday extended their deepest condolences to the leadership and people of China and Nepal over the tragic loss of lives and destruction due to flash floods and landslides that struck their border region.

In a condolence message on the official X wall of the President of Pakistan, the president said the immense loss of precious lives and the many still missing were a tragedy of profound magnitude. "Pakistan shares the grief of its Chinese and Nepali brothers and sisters during this hour of sorrow," he said. He saluted the bravery and dedication of search and rescue teams operating under extreme conditions and said Pakistan stands ready to extend every possible support to assist the relief efforts. The president said his thoughts and prayers are with all those who have lost loved ones, and he prayed for the safe return of the missing.

Pakistan more important; sacred than personal interests: Aleem

ISLAMABAD, (APP): President of the Istihkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP), Abdul Aleem Khan, on Thursday reiterated the party's strong support for the creation of new provinces, stressing that Pakistan's national interests must take precedence over personal and political considerations.

"Pakistan is more important and sacred than personal interests and politics. The creation of new provinces has become indispensable to move the country forward," he said this while presiding over a party meeting, said a press release. He said that providing effective relief to the people would not be possible without the creation of new provinces and smaller administrative units. "Whether anyone likes it or not, whether it is politically convenient or not, new provinces will have to be created," he stated. The meeting was attended by IPP Secretary General Mian Khalid Mahmood, Provincial President Rana Nazir Ahmed Khan, Gilgit-Baltistan Provincial Minister Haji Anwar Ali and GB Assembly Member Imam Maalik.

The participants reaffirmed the IPP's commitment to supporting the creation of new provinces and agreed on the need for a concrete party-level strategy to advance the issue.

Abdul Aleem Khan said that no government, office, power or position could be more important than the integrity and national interests of Pakistan. He emphasized that personal or political interests could never be placed above the country's interests.

Pakistan's energy policies, regulatory frameworks must reflect rapid growth of solar power

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Barrister Danyal Chaudhry, Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting and Secretary of the Parliamentary Forum on Energy and Economy, on Thursday called for a rethink of Pakistan's long term energy contracts, saying the country must integrate solar power, LNG, the national grid and emerging technologies to ensure affordable, reliable and secure energy.

Speaking at a dialogue titled "The Sun and the Pipeline: Energy Contracts in an Era of Solar Disruption in Pakistan", organised by the Parliamentary Forum on Energy and Economy at Islamabad, he said the debate should move beyond treating solar and gas as competing alternatives.

"We should not ask whether Pakistan chooses the sun or the pipeline. We should ask how the sun, the pipeline, the grid and emerging technologies can work together to provide Pakistan with affordable, reliable and secure energy," he said. The dialogue brought together parliamentarians and energy experts to discuss Pakistan's changing RLNG requirements, geopolitical risks, global market volatility and policy options for protecting consumers while maintaining energy security.

Speakers called for greater flexibility in LNG and fuel imports, warning that rigid long term take or pay contracts could burden consumers with costly energy commitments and contribute to circular debt.

Pakistan has deployed an estimated 50 GW of solar capacity across utility scale, net metered, agricultural, off grid and behind the meter systems in just a few years, largely without public subsidy. The capacity is estimated to generate around 54.75 TWh annually, equivalent on a gross energy basis to nearly 1,279 MMCFD of gas fired generation. Dr Nafisa Shah, Convener of the Parliamentary Forum on Energy and Economy and Member of the National Assembly, said Pakistan's energy policies and regulatory frameworks must reflect the rapid growth of solar power. Muhammad Arif, former Member Gas at OGRA and petroleum law, policy and regulatory adviser, called for integrated energy governance and mechanisms to monetise surplus solar generation during periods of high output. Asim Riaz, Energy Adviser at the All Pakistan Textile Mills Association, said Pakistan's LNG challenge is increasingly about demand, flexibility, affordability and market design rather than simply securing supplies.

Energy journalist and Energy Flux founder Seb Kennedy said Pakistan is experiencing a consumer led energy transition faster than the state's planning system could adapt, driven by high tariffs, unreliable supply and falling solar costs.



ISLAMABAD: Mahesh Kumar Malani, head of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health, leads a committee delegation on a visit to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) following the deaths of 14 newborns in a fire incident at the hospital

Pakistan to launch China-Style law enforcement investigation centre

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

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



KARACHI: Free food are being distributing among the people participating in main procession of Eid Milad-un-Nabi, the birth anniversary of Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) at M.A Jinnah Road near Numaish Chowrangi

Authorities urged to ensure immediate assistance, safe shelter for AJK's rain affected people

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Chairman Tehreek-e-Jawanan Pakistan (TJP) Muhammad Abdullah Hamid Gul has expressed deep grief over the loss of lives and property caused by torrential rains in various parts of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

In a statement, he offered condolences to the families of those who lost their lives in rain-related incidents and prayed for the departed souls. He also expressed solidarity with the affected families.

Muhammad Abdullah Hamid Gul urged the authorities to speed up relief and rescue operations and ensure immediate assistance, safe shelter and medical facilities for affected people.

He called on the relevant departments to remain alert in view of possible further rainfall and take all necessary emergency measures to prevent further loss of life and property. The Chairman also directed the office-bearers and workers of Tehreek-e-Jawanan Pakistan to fully cooperate with relief activities and help the affected people.



DHAKA: The fight against dengue fever continues in Bangladesh.

Government spends Rs163bn on Balochistan CPEC roads

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

IHC moved for judicial commission to probe PIMS tragedy

ISLAMABAD, (APP): A petition has been filed before the Islamabad High Court (IHC) seeking an inquiry into the PIMS tragedy through a judicial commission headed by a high court judge.

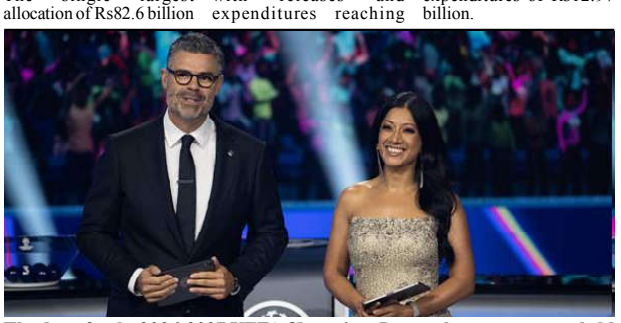
The petition, filed by Advocate Qasim Iqbal Jalali. The petitioner stated that a tragic incident occurred at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) on August 26, and sought orders for a forensic investigation into the incident. He also requested the court to direct a comprehensive audit of the fire alarm system at PIMS and constitute a judicial commission comprising an IHC judge or the Sessions Judge (West) to investigate the incident. The petitioner contended that it was a fundamental principle of justice and law that no person could act as investigator and judge in his own matter. The Federation, Secretary Interior, Secretary Health, Chief Commissioner and Inspector General of Islamabad Police have been made respondents in the petition.

Rana Mashhood chairs first meeting on youth employment policy

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan on Thursday chaired the first meeting of the National Coordination Committee on National Youth Employment Policy (NYEP) at the Prime Minister's Office. During the meeting, senior federal and provincial officials, public sector



institutions, academia and development partners reviewed the policy's implementation plan and coordination mechanism to expand employment and economic opportunities for Pakistan's youth. The meeting focused on defining responsibilities, strengthening inter provincial coordination and establishing an effective monitoring framework to ensure timely and result oriented implementation of the policy. The NYEP is aimed at creating sustainable employment opportunities by aligning youth skills with market demand and high growth sectors. The policy targets 100 per cent absorption of new labour force entrants by 2030, an increase in female labour force participation to 35 per cent, and addresses the challenge of 32.4 million young people not in employment, education or training (NEET). It identifies 10 priority sectors, including information technology, e commerce, agriculture, construction, health, logistics and overseas employment, as key areas for generating jobs and improving youth participation in the economy.



The draw for the 2026-2027 UEFA Champions League league stage was held at the Grimaldi Forum in the Principality of Monaco.

NHA wins landmark court case, saves national exchequer trillions

ISLAMABAD, (APP): The National Highway Authority (NHA) has secured a major legal victory in the Federal Constitutional Court of Pakistan, saving the national treasury trillions of rupees. The court ruled in favor of NHA in a long-standing land compensation case (Civil Review No. 95 & 96/2010: Chairman NHA vs. Amir Khan Afridi etc.). The judgment clarifies that landowners who did not go to court cannot claim the higher compensation rates awarded to those who did, said a press release issued on Thursday

This decision changes a 2010 ruling. The issue began in 2007 when a landowner from Nowshera, Amir Afridi, successfully asked the court for higher land payment rates that had been given to other landowners in separate court cases.

Chief Editor: Syed Abdul Wadood Shah printed at Shah Printing Press, Quetta and Published from Al-Syed Building M.A. Jinnah Road Quetta Ph. 2843190 E.mail: dailyvomqta@gmail.com.