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Türkiye, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia agree to further institutionalize cooperation under Mecca defense pact

Secretariat to be established in Saudi Arabia, initially headed by secretary general from Pakistan for 3-year term

ISTANBUL, (Monitoring Desk): Türkiye, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia agreed on Monday to take steps to further institutionalize their cooperation under the Mecca Agreement for Joint Defense, according to a joint statement issued after the first meeting of the Strategic Political and Defence Committee in Istanbul. "Acting with a sense of regional ownership, the three countries reiterate their determination to work together within the framework of the Mecca Agreement to achieve sustainable peace and stability in their region," the statement said.

"To that end, they will continue to support efforts towards de-escalation and restraint to encourage peaceful resolution of crises," it added. The three countries agreed to further institutionalize their cooperation "in a manner that would enhance their solidarity, ensure the credibility and effectiveness of their collective deterrence and defence, and contribute to the regional efforts and cooperative security towards a just, inclusive and lasting peace." The statement also announced the establishment of a secretariat in Saudi Arabia to support work carried out under the agreement.

"A Secretariat, headed by a Secretary General, will be established in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to support their work within the framework of the Mecca Agreement," it said.

The secretariat will initially be headed by a secretary general from Pakistan for a three-year term. The three countries also agreed to strengthen their defense capabilities and the cohesion of their armed forces through joint activities.

"Through joint activities, they will also work to strengthen their defence capabilities and cohesion of their armed forces through robust defence industry cooperation, joint technology development and production," the statement said. It added that through the "institutionalized and resolute implementation" of the Mecca Agreement, the three countries would "provide essential contributions to regional peace and stability."



ISTANBUL: Turkiye's Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan (centre), Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar (2nd left) and Saudi Arabia's Defence Minister Khalid Bin Salman (3rd right) attend the inaugural meeting of the Strategic Political and Defence Committee established under the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement



BISHKEK: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, on the sidelines of the SCO Council of Heads of State Meeting

Govt moving forward with all stakeholders for Balochistan's development: CM Bugti

QUETTA, (VoM Report): Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, emphasized the importance of inclusive governance and collective responsibility in driving the province's progress and prosperity. He made these remarks during a series of meetings with Provincial Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar, Member of Provincial Assembly Engineer Zamrak Khan Achakzai, Vice Chancellor of Mir Chakar Khan Rind University Sibi Dr. Mumtaz Ali Baloch, Ali Jan Bugti, tribal leaders Mir Shafqat Marri and Maqbool Marri, former Deputy Commissioner Dera Bugti Azhar Shehzad, Advocate Munir Kakar, Najeeb Kakar, and Malsk Ghafar Khan Nasar.

The discussions covered a wide range of issues including provincial development, public welfare, administrative affairs, higher education, and matters of mutual interest. Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti underscored that the provincial government is taking practical steps to resolve public grievances and ensure sustainable development. He added that the government's foremost priorities include providing basic facilities to citizens, timely completion of development projects, and strengthening governance mechanisms. Highlighting the role of consultation, Sarfraz Bugti noted that the views of public representatives, tribal elders, educationists, and diverse segments of society are given due importance. "We are moving forward with all stakeholders for the development and prosperity of Balochistan, and negligence in addressing public issues will not be tolerated," he asserted.



QUETTA: Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Yahya Khan Afridi and Chief Justice of Balochistan High Court Justice Muhammad Kamran Khan Malakhel addressing the inaugural ceremony of the newly constructed Public Facilitation Center in the premises of the Balochistan High Court Quetta.

Mutual unity, solidarity vital for development, prosperity of Balochistan: Governor

QUETTA, (APP): Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhel on Monday said that in the eyes of the Constitution of Pakistan, all citizens are equal and we have to play our role for the development of the country and nation with mutual unity, respect and solidarity. He expressed these views while talking to leaders of various minority areas of Quetta city of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) under the leadership of former Federal Minister Khalil George called on him here.

They congratulated him on his successful visit to the United States and his participation and address at the Youth and Artificial Intelligence Summit at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. While expressing his special gratitude to the representatives of the minority community for welcoming and congratulating him on his return home after his successful visit to the United States, Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhel, said that addressing the Youth and Artificial Intelligence Summit at the United Nations Headquarters in New York is an honor for Pakistan and Balochistan.

He said that whether it is addressing a global summit there or the events organized by the Pakistani community in the United States in connection with Pakistan's Independence Day, it is an honor for me to represent Pakistan and Balochistan on every occasion and highlight the voice of our youth on the global stage. On these occasions, he received a warm welcome and respect from the delegates who came from all over the world and the Pakistani community in the United States.

The Governor of Balochistan said that I was also happy to know that the hearts of Pakistanis living in the United States have unconditional love and commitment for their country and people.

He mentioned his participation in events organized by the Pakistani community in the American cities of Texas, Houston and Los Angeles and said that a large number of Pakistanis living in the United States are associated with trade and business and they are also playing an important role in the economy of Pakistan.

President Zardari felicitates Kyrgyz counterpart on Independence Day

ISLAMABAD, (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday conveyed his warm felicitations to President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Zhaparov and the brotherly people of Kyrgyzstan as they celebrate their Independence Day, annually observed on August 31.

In his letter to President Zhaparov, the president said that Pakistan highly valued its close and friendly relations with the Kyrgyz Republic, founded on shared history, cultural affinity, mutual trust and close cooperation.

Recalling his visit to Kyrgyzstan in July 2026, he said that the visit had revived cherished memories of his earlier visit to the country in 1995 and provided another valuable opportunity to further strengthen bilateral relations.

DPM hails Pakistan-KSA-Turkiye inaugural meeting after Makkah Joint Defence Agreement ratification

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Deputy Prime Minister/ Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, on Monday hailed the inaugural meeting of Pakistan, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) and Turkiye in Istanbul after signing of "Makkah Joint Defence Agreement" on August 7th in Makkah Mukaramma.

In a message written on his official X wall (erstwhile Twitter), the deputy prime minister wrote, "AlhamdoLilah, a great inaugural meeting today of Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkey in Istanbul after signing of 'Makkah Joint Defence Agreement' on 7th August 2026 in Makkah Mukaramma."

Earlier, the deputy prime minister attended the inaugural meeting of the Strategic Political and Defence Committee, established under the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement, in Istanbul, Turkiye. He attended the meeting alongside Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif and Chief of Defence Forces/Chief of Army Staff, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, with their Turkish and Saudi counterparts, the Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release issued here.

Sariab-Kuchlak railway project completed in Balochistan

ISLAMABAD, (APP): The Sariab-Kuchlak Railway Project in Balochistan has been completed at a cost of Rs3 billion within 120 days, marking a significant development in improving railway connectivity and passenger facilities in the province. Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi, in a post on X, said a new chapter in railway travel in Balochistan was about to begin. The project was completed through cooperation between Pakistan Railways and the Government of Balochistan.

Under the project, 32 kilometres of railway track between Sariab and Kuchlak were upgraded and rehabilitated. Necessary work was also carried out to strengthen and protect the railway track embankments. The construction, installation and commissioning of new turntables at Sariab and Kuchlak railway stations have also been completed.

Sariab Railway Station has been upgraded with improved passenger facilities, while Kuchlak Railway Station has also been equipped with modern facilities.

US to respond to Iranian attacks on forces in Middle East: Trump

WASHINGTON, (Agencies): US President Donald Trump said on Monday that the US would retaliate against Iran following missile and drone attacks on American forces in Jordan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

"We're going to hit them hard. There will be a response," Trump told Fox News.

He noted that US air defence systems intercepted most of the incoming fire. One missile was identified as "not going to hit anything significant," and US forces allowed it to pass through the airspace, Trump said.

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said early Monday it had struck the King Hussein and Azraq airbases in Jordan with ballistic missiles while also targeting Al Minhad Air Base in the UAE with explosive drones.

The IRGC said the operation was retaliation for a US strike on Larak Island on Sunday, which reportedly aimed to stop the placement of sea mines in the Strait of Hormuz, a critical oil transit point.

Trump also expressed scepticism regarding a diplomatic breakthrough, noting that while Tehran sought a meeting, current US sanctions were "kicking in strongly."

US President Donald Trump said on Monday that the Iranian leadership should face trial for crimes against humanity following allegations that it had killed over 100,000 protesters.

Pakistan to further strengthen strategic partnership with Uzbekistan: PM

BISHKEK, (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday met Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, on the sidelines of the SCO Council of Heads of State Meeting and discussed further strengthening cooperation in industry, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, textiles, mining, digital technologies, education, culture, defence and security.

Jam Kamal Khan, Minister for Commerce, Abdul Aleem Khan, Minister for Communications and Attaullah Tarar, Minister for Information and Broadcasting were also present. The Prime Minister conveyed warm felicitations to President Mirziyoyev and the brotherly people of Uzbekistan on the 35th anniversary of Uzbekistan's independence. Recalling President Mirziyoyev's State Visit to Pakistan in February 2026, the Prime Minister noted that the visit and the inaugural meeting of the High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council had imparted fresh momentum to the Pakistan-Uzbekistan Strategic Partnership.

The Prime Minister stressed the importance of timely implementation of decisions taken at the leadership level, particularly in trade, investment, connectivity and economic cooperation. He reiterated the shared objective of increasing bilateral trade to US$2 billion by 2029 and called for effective implementation of the expanded Preferential Trade Agreement, greater business-to-business engagement and promotion of mutually beneficial joint ventures. Highlighting regional connectivity as a shared strategic priority, the Prime Minister underscored the transformative potential of the Uzbekistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan Railway for linking Central and South Asia and facilitating Uzbekistan's access to Pakistan's seaports.



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

Inaugurates Public Facilitation Center at BHC

Justice must be accessible, fast, effective for every citizen: CJP

QUETTA, (APP):Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Yahya Khan Afridi on Monday said that the judiciary must move away from the traditional court-centric system and become citizen-centric, because the real standard of justice is that every citizen of the country has access to justice without discrimination, easy, fast and effective. He said that technology is the means of providing justice, while justice is the real goal, therefore the digital system would be effective only when it makes justice more fast, transparent and in line with human requirements.

The Chief Justice of Pakistan mentioned that the establishment of the Public Facilitation Center is not just the inauguration of a building or facility, but is a practical expression of the fundamental commitment that justice should be within the reach of every citizen. He expressed these views while addressing the inauguration of the newly constructed Public Facilitation Center in the premises of the Balochistan High Court Quetta. On this occasion, Fateha was also offered for the martyrdom of Shaheed District and Sessions Judge Abdul Hakeem Kakar and other martyred lawyers.

Earlier, the Chief Justice of Pakistan inaugurated the Facilitation Center and visited its various departments to review the facilities provided to litigants and lawyers.



QUETTA: MPA Shahida Rauf presenting a resolution during the assembly session.

Pakistan, Iran to work jointly for regional peace, de-escalation: PM

BISHKEK, (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said Pakistan and Iran, as brotherly and neighbouring countries, would continue working together to promote peace and de-escalate tensions in the region. Talking to Iranian media after his meeting with Iranian President, Masoud Pezeshkian, on the sidelines of the SCO Summit in Bishkek, the prime minister said meetings between the two countries' leadership were always a matter of great happiness and satisfaction.

"Pakistan and Iran are brotherly countries. We are neighbouring countries and whenever we meet, it is a matter of great happiness and satisfaction," he said.

Prime Minister Shehbaz described Pakistan and Iran as two brothers who exchanged views and notes on important regional and bilateral issues.

He expressed hope that the two countries would work together to promote peace in the region and contribute towards de-escalating the prevailing situation.

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Every cry that is silenced will return in future at a much greater cost

Bodies fused to their bones by phosphorus bombs, children pulled from the rubble in pieces and their limbs stuffed into bags, babies left to die and whose bodies were not allowed to be touched until they were devoured by vultures, bodies buried in mass graves by bulldozers, thirst, hunger...

We have witnessed unimaginable cruelty due to the genocide that has been ongoing in Gaza for nearly two years. The leader of these barbarians can attempt to legitimize an attack on Iran by beginning his speech with an address to the civilized world. The leaders of the U.K., the U.S., France and the EU can also invoke "Israel's right to self-defense."

The most aggressive actor in the Middle East, without a doubt, has been Israel since its inception. With its unilateral nuclear power advantage, it has acted with impunity in this region, both politically and militarily. Behind every bomb it drops and every execution it carries out lies the same confidence: the silent West.

The destruction Israel initiated in Gaza was not a military operation but a systematic campaign of annihilation. Since October 2023, over 55,000 people have lost their lives. At least 26,000 of them were civilians, thousands of whom were children. The bombardment Israel launched under the pretext of "fighting terrorism" targeted schools, hospitals and refugee camps. Gaza's infrastructure, water, electricity, roads and livelihoods were deliberately destroyed. This was not a war, but an extermination operation. In the West Bank, people were taken from their homes in night raids. Those arrested either disappeared forever or were shot in the streets. Official figures are insufficient, but the crackdowns, which resulted in hundreds of deaths and thousands of arrests, created an illegal occupation regime.

Attacks launched in Lebanon under the pretext of targeting Hezbollah rained down on civilians. More than 4,200 people lost their lives. More than 2,800 of them were civilians. Villages were razed to the ground. Even U.N. observation points were hit. Israel directly targeted civilian areas as well as military targets. It disregarded international law. Silence was also complicit in this crime.

The air operations carried out in Syria not only target military facilities. In 2024, Iran's Consulate in Damascus was hit. Diplomatic immunity was shattered by an airstrike. Revolutionary Guard commanders lost their lives in this attack. That year, approximately 390 people were killed in Israeli attacks across Syria. Some of them were Iranian soldiers, but dozens of civilians also lost their lives under the bombs.

The operations carried out in Iran were more insidious. Nuclear scientists were killed one by one. In the last two weeks alone, 14 Iranian scientists were murdered. Some were assassinated in their cars, others in their homes. In 2024 and 2025, Iran's territory was targeted by direct airstrikes. On June 13, 2025, alone, 78 civilians lost their lives. More than 300 people were injured. These attacks carried out in Iran amounted to a clear declaration of war.

Yemen was also targeted. In attacks on ports controlled by the Houthis, 14 civilians were killed in July 2024. Over 90 people were injured. Every blow to food and medicine supplies was aimed at punishing civilians. Israel turned hunger into a weapon.

Israel's five-year record of aggression includes tens of thousands of deaths, hundreds of thousands of injuries and millions of displaced people. Behind these numbers are children buried under rubble, young people taken from their homes in the middle of the night, fathers, mothers and doctors who never returned. Each one is a life, each one a violation of the law.

All these attacks took place under the shadow of a nuclear power. As the only nuclear state in the Middle East, Israel is not subject to any oversight. Its nuclear arsenal is not officially recognized but exists in practice. This advantage fuels its aggression. Every bomb, every assassination, every act of sabotage is protected by this shield of impunity. If international law were a reality, it would protect the victim, not the aggressor. This distorted rhetoric both undermines the law and renders the suffering of hundreds of thousands of civilians invisible.

Israel may be protected today, but this state of immunity is dragging it into an increasingly deep isolation and a more fragile future. Every cry that is silenced will return in the future at a much greater cost.

Fire and air

BY F.S. AIJAZUDDIN

One has to be either a fool or in government not to fear a nuclear conflict. Fools need not worry; they live in their own paradise. Governments make provision for their safety in case sirens blow. It is we — the citizenry of nuclear states — who are unprotected, when the doomsday button is pushed.

Modern tactics have taught nations that conventional civil defence preparations such as drills, blackouts and mass evacuation would be ineffective in the event of a nuclear attack. Every nuclear state, therefore, has developed its own strategy. In essence, it mirrors the priorities defined by the USSR in the 1960s: "to protect the leadership first, the essential work force second and the remainder of the population third". Contaminated survivors would nevertheless need to be fed, housed and medicated.

Unlike Hiroshima and Nagasaki which were city-specific, any future nuclear attack would be target-specific. No one would have time to relocate, only retaliate. Today, single bombs have been replaced by tactical nuclear weapons. These are "short-range nuclear weapons designed for more contained strikes".

Ever since India and Pakistan joined the macabre nuclear club in the 1990s, their strategies have hung, like fluttering pennants, for all to see.

India's nuclear doctrine was developed in the 2000s by K. Subrahmanyam, a former civil servant, regarded as "the doyen of India's strategic affairs community". It balances on three principles. One, no first use (NFU): India will not be the first to launch a nuclear attack. It will only retaliate. It will, however, use chemical or biological weapons, if need be. Two, credible minimum deterrence: India's nuclear weapons are to discourage others from attacking India. Three, massive retaliation: India's retaliation to a first-strike will be to 'annihilate' its enemy's capabilities.

The decision to approve a nuclear attack (or not) can be taken only by PM Modi, as head of the political council of India's Nuc-lear Command Authority. It is not (regardless of what the Indian foreign secretary was told to say) at the discretion of its DGMO.

And Pakistan's strategy? Responsibility for "the command, control, and operational decisions regarding Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme and strategic assets" is vested in its National Command Authority, a civilian-cum-military body. Pakistan's equivalent of Subrahmanyam is retired Lt-Gen K.A. Kidwai, adviser to the NCA.

He has identified four 'red lines' that could trigger a deployment of Pakistan's nuclear armoury: spatial threshold (loss of territory); military threshold (destruction of its land, sea or air forces); Economic threshold (any action that might choke Pakistan's economy, such as water terror — for example, the Indus Waters Treaty's suspension); and the political threshold (internal political destabilisation or disharmony, such as India's covert terrorism in Balochistan). Deterrence remains their capstone.

According to the CSIS, "India is currently estimated to have more than 180 nuclear warheads."] Pakistan's arsenal is said to have over 170. These warheads have "explosive yields of up to 300 kilotons, or 20 times that of the bomb that destroyed Hiroshima". India relies on Russian, Israeli and US technological support; Pakistan looks to China. India and Pakistan have enough missiles capable of delivering nuclear warheads that would leave both countries devastated, turning their citizens (as the dying Cleopatra said) into "fire and air".

'Disarmament' and 'non-proliferation' are two words erased from the blackboard of nuclear states. Less is no longer more. While India hides behind the fig leaf of its NFU policy, Pakistan flaunts a 'No NFU' posture. No more Mister Nice Guy. For the moment, both are in a state of suspen-ded animation. Their DGMOs continue to implement a withdrawal of their forces to a pre-Pahalgam situation.

The misguided missiles of Indian MPs propelled abroad to advocate India's cause have been received with polite incredulity and unexpected responses. Dr Shashi Tharoor took umbrage when his Colombian hosts condoled the deaths of Pakistani casualties, rather than Indian victims. In the US, Tharoor riled President Trump by comparing him unfavourably with former presidents Bush senior and junior, Clinton and Obama. Tharoor, a Francophone, should have heeded the French philosopher J.J. Rousseau's advice: "Insults are the arguments employed by those who are in the wrong." On his return, a bruised Tharoor may find the Congress door closed to him, and the BJP one locked from the inside.

As mentioned, K. Subrahmanyam was the ideological father of India's nuclear doctrine. Few know that S. Jaishankar, India's militant minister for external affairs, is his son. The son seems determined to test his father's nuclear strategy — on Pakistani soil.

Pension for all

BY NAEEM SADIQ

While slavery was officially abolished across the US in 1865, it did not die out. Instead, it mutated, taking on subtler but still lethal forms. Pakistan, too, became one of the practitioners of what is referred to as 'modern-day slavery' by either not registering 95 per cent of its workers with the Employees' Old-age Benefit Institution (EOBI) or not depositing their regular monthly pension contribution. This is large-scale cruelty and incompetence.

Here are a few basic facts to grasp the magnitude of this self-created chaos. Pakistan has a workforce of approximately 75 million workers. Only 11m of them are registered with the EOBI. Of the 11m registered workers, the monthly EOBI contribution is deposited only for 3.28m or 4.4pc of the total workforce (confirmed by the EOBI through a Right to Information request). Thus, 71.7m Pakistani workers have been deprived of their rightful pension and pushed towards a dependent and demeaning future.

An in-depth study of the EOBI reveals earth-shattering insights into our collective callousness. We are guilty of mandating the task of managing the pensions of 75m precious workers to a legally, functionally and professionally inadequate organisation. The EOBI department could not even produce a notification of its existential task, ie, the value of the 6pc amount that must be deposited by the employers. The EOBI website still refers to a 10-year-old monthly contribution of Rs780, while the verbal response by the EOBI management suggested a contribution of Rs2,220. Fifty random samples of 'proclaimed' EOBI registered workers were chosen to verify the true status of payments made by their employers. There was not a single employee whose payments were completely or correctly reflected on the EOBI website. The department had no answer to explain how it will ever know the amount deposited against a specific employee. A study based on several retired workers revealed that it took many months, reams of photocopies, endless runaround and numerous three-way disputes to determine the true amount contributed against any employee.

Pakistan could learn from a developing country like Uzbekistan whose entire workforce of 19.76m workers is registered in the national pension scheme. There are no inspectors or institutions for collecting pension contributions. All employers electronically contribute 12pc of the employees' gross salary bill, as 'social tax' along with other taxes, directly to the tax department. The distribution of pensions is subsequently implemented by the finance ministry.

Why has Pakistan allowed a known dysfunctional system to deprive 96pc of its workers of their legal right to pension? We have made a titanic blunder, and we must be willing to make amends by undertaking immediate, radical and forward-looking pension reforms. Start by completely shutting down the existing EOBI and repealing the Employees' Old-Age Benefits Act, 1976. This would immediately save about Rs2.7 billion of management expenses, recover 96 government vehicles, get back billions invested in buildings and plazas and relieve 657 employees currently engaged in further organisational decay. Declare that the state shall honour and provide for universal pension and social security for all citizens including unorganised workers and self-employed individuals.

De-link the existing 'impossible-to-manage' process of employers making payments against a small number (usually 10pc) of their workforce. Introduce mandatory 6pc social tax on the gross salary bill of every em--p-loyer — industrial, commercial or agricultural. Also introduce 1pc social tax on the taxable in--come of every tax-paying individual. The social tax for organisations as well as individuals should be collected by FBR as an element of the routine yearly income tax. Using CNIC, pensions could be linked to Nadra records and managed on similar lines as BISP for distribution to all workers of Pakistan. Also, pension is a form of income and like most other countries (including India), must be declared as 'taxable income' for those receiving a pension of more than Rs50,000 per month.

If a judge of the high court can be entitled to a pension that is 70pc of his last salary, why can the workers' pension not be pegged to 70pc of the latest notified minimum wage? Inability or inefficiency in collecting 6pc social tax from each employer ought to be the responsibility of the state for which workers cannot be penalised. Pakistan can become a reformed model state by simple acts of providing minimum legal wage and a decent pension to every citizen. Is that asking for too much?

Climate resilience facility

BY ALI TAUQEER SHEIKH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

War, Iran's denuclearisation and the region

INAM UL HAQUE

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

Trump announces agreement on disarmament of Hamas, Israeli withdrawal from Gaza

WASHINGTON, (Monitoring Desk): US President Donald Trump said that the Board of Peace reached an agreement for the "complete disarmament" of Hamas and other armed groups in Gaza, with Israeli forces set to withdraw as the process moves forward.

Trump said the deal, which he described as a "historic" step toward peace and security, would be carried out in phases.

"The agreement will be carried out in carefully structured phases. As disarmament is completed, Israeli forces will withdraw, and the International Stabilization Force will work with a new Palestinian police force to take responsibility for Gaza being safe for its residents and its neighbors," he wrote in a post on his social media platform Truth Social. He said the agreement represents a "major milestone" in implementing his 20-point plan for Gaza, adding the territory would eventually be governed by a "new Palestinian government that will work closely with the Board of Peace to help the Palestinian people."

Trump also thanked Egypt, Qatar and Türkiye for their mediation efforts, saying their work, along with his administration's team, helped make the "historic breakthrough" possible.

"One year ago there was a violent raging war, humanitarian crisis and hostages kept in brutal captivity. We have made historic progress and there is still much work to do," he said. Israel's genocidal war on Gaza, which started following an Oct. 7, 2023 cross-border attack by the Palestinian group Hamas, killed more than 73,000 Palestinians and injured over 174,000 others, most of them women and children, while destroying about 90% of the enclave's infrastructure.

The ceasefire was brokered under Trump's 20-point plan for Gaza that is being overseen by the Board of Peace, which is chaired by Trump. Despite the ceasefire, which took effect on Oct. 10, 2025, Israel has continued daily attacks across Gaza, killing 1,214 Palestinians and injuring 3,977 others, most of them women and children, while causing widespread destruction. In a post on the US social media platform X, the Board of Peace said Hamas has agreed to a "detailed Roadmap for implementing the next phases of the Gaza ceasefire." "Our focus now turns to implementation. The Board of Peace has worked closely with the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza (NCAG)," it said.



In Bogor, West Java province, Indonesia, the bed of the Ciliwung River has been revealed due to the drop in water levels.



Volunteers spray water on visitors to help them cool down as temperatures exceed 47 degrees Celsius in Najaf, Iraq

Putin under pressure as Ukraine war finally comes to Moscow and St Petersburg

Monitoring Desk

MOSCOW: The war in Ukraine may have slipped down the news agenda in recent months, but recent large-scale attacks deep inside Russia – including around St Petersburg – are a reminder that the conflict is entering a new and potentially decisive phase. Ukraine is demonstrating an increasing ability to strike targets once considered beyond its reach, suggesting that the initiative is shifting.

At the same time, Russia continues its campaign of missile strikes against Ukrainian cities and civilian infrastructure. Much has been made of Moscow's hypersonic missile capability, yet many of these weapons have proved far less decisive than advertised.

Modern Western air defence systems such as the US Patriot have shown a remarkable ability to counter threats billed as unstoppable, like the vaunted Russian Kinzhal and Zircon hypersonics. As with much of Russia's military capability, the reality on the battlefield has often failed to match the rhetoric emerging from the Kremlin. Ukrainian drone and missile technology is now bringing Moscow and St Petersburg within striking distance. For many wealthy Russians living in these cities, the war is no longer a distant conflict fought on the steppes of eastern Ukraine. It is beginning to touch their daily lives.

It may also now be touching their sons of military age. Until now, the burden of the war has fallen disproportionately on poorer regions, ethnic minorities and those recruited from prisons. However, after enormous losses over more than four years of conflict, concerns are growing among families in Russia's major cities that their young men may be rounded up and sent to the meat grinder too.

No disarmament before Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, says Hamas

DOHA, (Monitoring Desk): A senior Hamas official said that the Palestinian group will not take any steps toward disarmament before Israeli forces withdraw from the Gaza Strip. Ghazi Hamad, a member of Hamas' negotiating delegation, said the issue of disarmament is linked to Israel's withdrawal from Gaza and the territory's reconstruction.

In remarks to the Qatar-based media, Hamad said Israel would have no role in the disarmament process, which would instead be carried out by a Palestinian national committee. He stressed that Hamas would not implement any disarmament measures unless Israel first fulfills its obligations under the agreement. Hamad described the negotiations as "difficult and tough," saying Hamas sought to secure the best possible outcome while remaining committed to safeguarding the rights of the Palestinian people. He also thanked Egypt, Qatar and Türkiye for their mediation efforts in helping reach the agreement. Hamad's remarks came after US President Donald Trump announced that an agreement had been reached for the complete disarmament of Hamas and other armed groups in Gaza, with Israeli forces set to withdraw in phases as the process moves forward.

Trump also credited Egypt, Qatar and Türkiye for helping broker what he described as a "historic breakthrough," saying the agreement would be implemented gradually, with an International Stabilization Force working alongside a new Palestinian police force to assume responsibility for security in Gaza.

Israel's genocidal war on Gaza has killed more than 73,000 Palestinians and injured over 174,000 others, most of them women and children, while destroying about 90% of the enclave's infrastructure. The ceasefire was brokered under Trump's 20-point plan for Gaza, which is being overseen by the Board of Peace, which he chairs. Despite the ceasefire which took effect on Oct. 10, 2025, Israel has continued daily attacks across Gaza.



A woman uses her hands to have a drink of water as people queue to fill up their containers from a cistern at the Maghazi camp for Palestinian refugees in the central Gaza Strip.

N. Korea announces opening of new nuclear facility

Monitoring Desk

NORTH KOREA: North Korea on Thursday unveiled a new facility to produce nuclear bomb fuels, with leader Kim Jong Un announcing plans to bolster the country's nuclear forces "at an exponential rate."

The official Korean Central News Agency said the facility used "more sophisticated technology" but didn't provide further details, such as where it is located and when it began its operation. State media photos showed what appeared to be a large centrifuge hall, indicating the plant is likely used to enrich weapons-grade uranium.

The disclosure of the new factory is in line with Kim's repeated vows to expand its nuclear weapons program to cope with what he called escalating U.S.-led military threats.

KCNA said Kim visited the nuclear facility on Wednesday to learn about its operation indices and its long-term production plan.

KCNA quoted Kim as saying the urgency for bolstering up the country's nuclear war deterrent, both in quality and quantity, has grown because of confrontations with "the most ferocious enemies," an apparent reference to the United States and South Korea. Kim cited other unspecified threats and crises as a need to boost North Korea's nuclear capability, it said.

Kim claimed that North Korea's weapons-grade nuclear materials production capacity has more than doubled compared with five years ago, according to KCNA. There are virtually no ways to independently verify his claim.

IIT graduate Mishra posed as 'Sadhu' to exploit, blackmail women in UP

MATHURA (INP): Police have arrested Abhishek Mishra, an IIT Roorkee mechanical engineering graduate who posed as sadhu 'Adhikarta Narayan Das', for alleged sexual exploitation and blackmail of women in Govardhan area.

The case came to light after a B.Sc Nursing student's family complained that Mishra allegedly drugged the woman with "prasad" on May 15, sexually assaulted her while unconscious, then threatened to leak her photos and demanded Rs 5 lakh via video call.

The family filed the case on May 25 due to fear of social stigma. During the probe, police said Mishra lured educated women and students through online discourses and kirtans, secretly recorded objectionable videos, and used them to extort money.

Iran targets US vessel carrying a command center in Gulf waters

TEHRAN (INP): Iran has claimed that its naval forces targeted an American military vessel in the Sea of Oman, while the United States has strongly denied the allegation.

In a statement, the Islamic Republic of Iran Navy said it had targeted a US military ship carrying a command-and-control centre.

Iranian officials alleged that the vessel was moving towards Iranian territorial waters and had violated regulations governing navigation through the Strait of Hormuz.

According to the Iranian Navy statement, Iranian naval forces took action after identifying what they described as a breach of maritime rules by the American vessel.

However, the Iranian claim was swiftly rejected by United States Central Command, which described the Iranian account as false. In a statement posted on X, Centcom said Iran's allegations were untrue and insisted that US military aircraft and naval vessels were continuing their operations without interference.

The US military command maintained that its forces remained fully operational and dismissed Tehran's assertions regarding the reported incident. The conflicting claims could not be independently verified, and neither side provided immediate evidence to support its version of events.

Brazil may purchase 20 more fighter jets from Sweden

Monitoring Desk

SWEDEN: Brazil wants to acquire 20 additional Gripen fighter jets, made by Swedish defence company Saab, on top of the 36 it already has, Sweden's defence minister said Thursday.

Defence Minister Pal Jonson said that the countries had signed a declaration of intent.

"In the statement of intent, there is an interest also on the Brazilian side to go beyond the 36 that's been delivered and possibly also procuring another 20 Gripen," Jonson told a Stockholm press conference alongside his Brazilian counterpart Jose Mucio.Jonson added that the additional planes would be manufactured in Brazil.

Lebanon's PM stands by Israel talks despite Hezbollah rejection

Monitoring Desk

LEBANON: Lebanese Prime Minister Nawaf Salam on Thursday defended his government's negotiations with Israel as the "fastest and least costly path" for Lebanon, after the talks produced a new ceasefire initiative that was swiftly rejected by Hezbollah.

The Lebanese-Israeli negotiations led overnight to a US-backed agreement aimed at ending hostilities between Israel and the Iran-backed militant group and paving the way for Hezbollah's disarmament.

In a statement released by his office, Salam said the negotiations represented the best option available for the people of Lebanon.

"We could have stood by in the face of a reality and a war that we did not choose, but that was never an option for a single moment," he said, describing the talks as difficult and the Israeli position as "tough."

Under the agreement announced in Washington on Wednesday, Hezbollah militants would be disarmed.

Salam said the principle of a state monopoly on arms had already been established after the country's civil war ended in the early 1990s and that Lebanon should not miss another opportunity to enforce it.

As a next step, he announced the gradual deployment of the Lebanese Army in southern Lebanon, warning that any delay would come at the expense of the region and its residents.

However, Hezbollah rejected the agreement.

Secretary General Naim Qassem described the direct negotiations as a "farce" and a "humiliation."



More than 800 irregular migrants, who set off from the shores of Castillejos town in Morocco, swam to Ceuta, a Spanish territory in North Africa.

Hungary drops charges against organisers of banned Pride marches

Monitoring Desk

BUDAPEST: Hungarian prosecutors said Thursday they had dropped charges against organisers of last year's Pride marches, citing a landmark ruling from the EU's top court.

Budapest's progressive mayor, Gergely Karacsony, was charged in January for organising the city's 30th Pride parade despite an official ban ordered under the former prime minister, nationalist Viktor Orban.

But in April, the European Court of Justice found that Hungary's 2021 anti-LGBTQ legislation—which served as the basis for the ban—was in breach of EU rules.

Since the ban was based on "a provision that was later found to violate EU law, the facts described in the prosecutor's indictment no longer constitute a criminal offence," prosecutors said in a statement.

Mexican authorities arrest suspected gang leader accused of ordering mayor's assassination

MEXICO CITY, (Agencies): Mexico's Security Minister Omar Garcia announced that the alleged leader of a criminal cell linked to the country's powerful Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG) has been arrested for ordering the assassination of a mayor in Michoacan state.

Garcia said in a post on the US social media platform X that a joint operation between police, special forces and the military resulted in the apprehension of Ramon Angel, also known as "El R1." "Ramon Angel, alias 'El R1,' identified as the mastermind behind the cowardly murder of Uruapan Mayor Carlos Manzo, was arrested after months of intelligence and investigative work," Garcia said on social media. The killing of Manzo on Nov. 1, 2025 during Day of the Dead festivities outraged the entire country and an investigation was launched that resulted in 31 arrests, including of cartel members and the late mayor's own security detail. Angel is considered a high-ranking enforcer within the CJNG's criminal structure and the leader of a specialized armed cell. "'El R1' is identified as the main leader of 'Los Rs,' one of the most violent criminal cells linked to the CJNG, operating in Apatzingan, Uruapan and Morelia, Michoacan, as well as in Jalisco," said Garcia.

FBI warns of cyberattacks targeting US water systems after incidents in Minnesota

WASHINGTON DC, (Agencies): The FBI and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) warned that "malicious cyber actors" are targeting internet-facing operational technology used by US water and wastewater utilities after a series of cyberattacks disrupted facilities in at least seven states.

In a joint public service announcement, the agencies said attackers have targeted Rockwell Automation/Allen-Bradley programmable logic controllers (PLCs), remotely changing IP addresses and passwords, resulting in the loss of monitoring and control functions.

The reported operational effects include pressure loss and flooding, according to the statement.

The FBI and EPA urged operators to disconnect PLCs from direct internet exposure, strengthen authentication measures, "strictly control" network access and maintain the ability to operate systems manually in the event of cyber incidents.

The warning follows a coordinated cyberattack earlier this week that affected more than 30 community water systems in the midwestern US state of Minnesota.

According to media reports, US officials believe the campaign was likely carried out by Iranian hackers, though investigators have not reached a definitive conclusion and are also examining whether the attackers could have sought to disguise their identity.

Ex-national security adviser John Bolton will plead guilty in classified information case

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: Former Trump administration national security adviser John Bolton has agreed to plead guilty to a single count of retaining classified information under a deal with the Justice Department that could allow him to avoid prison time, a person familiar with the matter said Thursday.

The deal would resolve a criminal case filed in October that charged Bolton with 18 counts of either retaining or disseminating classified information, including diary-like notes from his time in government that officials say he shared with his family members as he was preparing a memoir about his time in office.

Under the agreement, Bolton would also face a $2.25 million fine, said the person, who insisted on anonymity to discuss a deal that had not been made public. Any prison sentence would be capped at five years, but the agreement allows for him to avoid time behind bars, though the punishment will ultimately be up to a judge.

Bolton is one of multiple adversaries of President Donald Trump who have been prosecuted over the past year by the Republican administration. An FBI investigation into Bolton burst into public view int August when FBI agents served warrants at his Maryland home and office.

He is a a longtime fixture in Republican foreign policy circles who became known for his hawkish views on American power. Bolton served for more than a year in Trump's first administration before being fired in 2019 and publishing a critical book about the president.

The administration fought unsuccessfully to block the publication of "The Room Where it Happened" on the grounds that the book risked disclosing classified information.

Heavy gunfire in Somali capital as row over election delay escalates

Monitoring Desk

MOGADISHU: Government forces and opposition fighters have exchanged heavy gunfire in Somalia's capital, Mogadishu, as a row over delays to elections has escalated. President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud's term in office ended on 15 May but was extended by a year. The opposition said this was unconstitutional and called for protests on Thursday. Gunfire was reported in several neighbourhoods of the capital and persisted throughout the night, according to accounts by residents. Police said they were conducting a "large-scale security operation" against "heavily armed militias who launched mortar attacks" in some areas. Somalia last held a one-person, one-vote election in 1969 and has been ravaged by civil war for more than 30 years. Former Prime Minister Hassan Ali Khaire said he had been attacked by government forces.

TENDER NOTICE

The **Assistant Director Local Govt & Rural Dev Dept Pishin** is pleased to invites sealed percentage based **Electronic bids** as per the prevailing rates by B-CSR 2026 (amended up-to-date) from interested firms/suppliers/contractors having valid registration with PEC, Income Tax and BRA for the following PSDP 2026-2027 scheme. **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 B-PPRA GOB.**

S.#	DESCRIPTION OF WORK	TENDER AMOUNT
01	CONSTRUCTION OF SOLARIZED WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES & SMALL COMMUNITY BORES AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS OF TEHSIL PISHIN, DISTRICT PISHIN **(TSE-2627081179753)**	173,990,000/-

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 02 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least Rs. 121,793,000 Pkr Amount in 01 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Bidder must provide affidavit confirming no conflict of interest not blacklisted not debarred no major litigation no nonperformance in last 05 years and no failure to sign contract in Pakistan or any international agency Bidder must have completed at least 02 similar projects in the last 5 years. Each project must have at least 80% similar work and cost at least 50% of the estimated cost. Maintenance, patchwork, rehabilitation and subcontracted works are not accepted. CDR and Green Challan Valid PEC having valid certification BC01, CE10, EE11 The Bidder must submit the tender processing fee of Rs. 2000 Pkr in **NBP AC 4157218156 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 **03 %** 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 **16th September, 2026** till **09:00 AM** through supplier dashboard. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at **10:00 AM on E-PPS System Address:** Assistant Director Pishin **Phone no:** 0826420300 **Email:** fazal.qadir7037@gmail.com

DPRQ/PRQ No.1135/31-8-2026

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Pakistan looks forward to continued coordination with Italy at UN: Gilani

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, Monday, called for further strengthening Pakistan-Italy relations, particularly in trade, investment, agriculture, labour mobility and people-to-people exchanges.

Talking to Ambassador of Italy Ugo Ciarlatani, who called on him at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Gilani said Pakistan attaches great importance to its longstanding and friendly relations with Italy, based on mutual respect and expanding cooperation in diverse fields.

He expressed confidence that Ambassador Ciarlatani would contribute to further strengthening bilateral relations during his tenure, President Secretariat Media Wing said in a press release.

Gilani said Pakistan looked forward to welcoming Italy's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs to Pakistan, noting that this visit would provide opportunities to further advance bilateral cooperation.

Highlighting the economic relationship, the acting president said there was considerable potential for further expanding bilateral trade and investment. He welcomed the presence of Italian companies in Pakistan and encouraged greater Italian investment in areas of mutual interest.

He also congratulated Ambassador Ciarlatani on the completion of Italy's new diplomatic mission in Islamabad.

Gilani acknowledged Italy's cooperation in technical and vocational fields, including the Pakistan-Italy Textile Centre in Faisalabad and the Footwear Centre in Lahore, as well as cooperation in scientific and environmental fields.

He welcomed the educational opportunities available to Pakistani students in Italy and highlighted the importance of the Pakistan-Italy MoU on workforce, labour migration and mobility in facilitating safe, orderly and legal migration.

He also welcomed the recruitment of 10,500 skilled workers from Pakistan by Italy over the next three years, saying that labour mobility would further strengthen people-to-people ties between the two countries.

He thanked Italy for its support for Pakistan's election as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for the 2025-26 term and said Pakistan looks forward to continued coordination with Italy at the United Nations and other multilateral fora.

Italian Ambassador Ugo Ciarlatani, who recently assumed his responsibilities in Islamabad, said that his priorities during his tenure would be to further improve bilateral relations and increase Italian investment in Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Italy Ugo Ciarlatani, called on Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani at Aiwan-e-Sadr



BISHKEK: Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of Kyrgyzstan H.E. Adylbek Kasymaliev welcomes Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif upon his arrival at Manas International Airport.

President Zardari felicitates Malaysia on Independence Day

ISLAMABAD, (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday conveyed his warm felicitations to the Government and people of Malaysia on the occasion of Merdeka Day, marking the country's 69th Independence Day. In his letter to Sultan Ibrahim, the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia, the President said that Merdeka Day marks the historic occasion of Malaysia's independence and reflected the vision of its founding fathers, the leadership of the nation and the dedication of its people.

The president said that Pakistan and Malaysia enjoy close and friendly relations founded on shared values, common faith, mutual trust and cooperation. He noted that bilateral collaboration has continued to strengthen in areas including trade and investment, education, defence, culture and people-to-people exchanges. President Asif Ali Zardari expressed confidence that cooperation between Pakistan and Malaysia would continue to deepen for the mutual benefit of the two countries.

Effective steps should be taken to resolve public issues: CM Bugti

Says all relevant institutions should work in coordination to improve the electricity supply system in Balochistan

QUETTA, (VoM Report): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Monday directed to resolve the public problems related to electricity in the province saying that all relevant institutions should work in coordination to improve the electricity supply system.

He said this while talking to Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) Chief Executive Officer Shaukat Khan Jogezai here. Provincial Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar and Member Provincial Assembly Asghar Tareen were also present in the meeting.

During the meeting, electricity supply in the province, public issues related to electricity and QESCO matters were discussed.

Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that providing basic amenities to the people is among the top priorities of the government and the relevant institutions would have to fulfill their responsibilities effectively for uninterrupted supply of electricity.

He also directed that effective steps should be taken to resolve the public problems related to electricity in the province and all relevant institutions should work in coordination to improve the electricity supply system.

Int'l embarrassment for India as Arbitration Court orders to uphold IWT

ISLAMABAD, (APP): In a significant diplomatic and legal victory for Pakistan, the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) at The Hague on Monday rejected India's unilateral and illegal attempt to place the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 in "abeyance," ruling unanimously that the treaty remains fully in force.

The Court of Arbitration delivered its decisive Award on Treaty Status alongside a binding Order on Interim Measures, delivering a direct blow to New Delhi's coercive water aggression.

The PCA ruled that India remains strictly bound by its international obligations and cannot unilaterally escape the treaty.

Following an attack in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir in April 2025, India unilaterally declared the Indus Waters Treaty in "abeyance" until Pakistan met its political conditions.

However, the PCA thoroughly dismantled New Delhi's arguments, ruling that the term "abeyance" carries no technical or legal weight under international law.

The tribunal concluded that India had no legal grounds under treaty law or customary international law—including claims of sovereignty, allegations of cross-border terrorism, or fundamental changes in circumstances—to unilaterally suspend or terminate the treaty.

The Court firmly reasserted the fundamental principle of pacta sunt servanda (agreements must be kept), emphasizing that India cannot bypass its binding commitments.

The PCA unanimously issued a binding Order on Interim Measures restraining Indian construction at the disputed Ratle Hydro-Electric Plant (RHEP). The Court barred India from concreting the RHEP dam wall and power intake structure above specified levels.

"India must observe its obligations under the Treaty, including those ` to the design and operation of its hydro-electric projects on the Western Rivers," the court said.

This legal prohibition remains in force until 90 days after the Neutral Expert delivers a final determination on whether the design complies with the treaty.

The Court also ordered India to submit regular reporting on its construction schedules to ensure compliance and transparency.

The Court's ruling invalidates India's boycotts and unilateral maneuvers, re-establishing that India must strictly respect Pakistan's rights over the Western Rivers and operate within the lawful mechanisms of the Indus Waters Treaty.



QUETTA: PML-N provincial leader Sana Intezaar presents a bouquet to Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhel



QUETTA: CEO, Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO), Shaukat Khan Jogezai called on Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti

DPM concludes Istanbul visit, departs for Bishkek alongside Turkish FM, National Defence Minister

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Deputy Prime Minister/ Foreign Minister (DPM/ FM), Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Monday concluded his one-day visit to Istanbul, where he participated in the inaugural meeting of the Strategic Political and Defence Committee, established under the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement, and departed from Istanbul to Bishkek alongside Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan and Minister of National Defence Yasar Güler to participate the SCO Council of Heads of State Meeting and the SCO Plus Summit.

During his visit to Istanbul, the deputy prime minister also held a bilateral meeting with the Foreign Minister of Türkiye, Hakan Fidan, a DPM's Office news release said. The deputy prime minister participated in the inaugural meeting of the Strategic Political and Defence Committee, established under the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement, alongside Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif and Chief of Army Staff & Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir.

Supreme Court continues consultations on standardised national e-filing framework

QUETTA, (VoM Report): Chief Justice of Pakistan, in his capacity as Chairman of the National Judicial (Policy Making) Committee (NJPMC), on Monday held a consultative meeting with a delegation of the Balochistan Bar Council at the Supreme Court Branch Registry, Quetta, as part of efforts to develop a standardised national e-filing framework. The delegation was led by the Vice Chairman of the Balochistan Bar Council and comprised members from various districts of the province. The meeting was part of the consultative process initiated earlier this month for developing a uniform and standardised e-filing system for the Supreme Court, High Courts and District Courts. The participants were briefed on the proposed National Standardised E-Filing System, envisaged as a structured, intelligent and rules-compliant platform aligned with the procedural and legal requirements governing judicial proceedings. The initiative aims to modernise court processes through technology, enhance efficiency and transparency, improve predictability, and make justice delivery more accessible and responsive to litigants and lawyers.

The Chief Justice underscored that the Bar, being the primary user of the proposed system, was a key partner in developing standardised e-filing templates and ensuring their effective implementation across all tiers of the judiciary. He urged the participants to provide practical input to make the system accessible, user-friendly and responsive to the professional requirements of lawyers and litigants.

Leghari attributes current gas supply constraints to ongoing US-Iran conflict

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Federal Minister for Power Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari on Monday said the government was making concerted efforts not only to provide immediate relief to consumers from the load shedding but also to protect them from an additional burden on electricity prices in the future.

Talking to media along with Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik, he said the government had taken all possible measures to provide relief to the people and meet the country's energy requirements.

Leghari attributed the current gas supply constraints to the ongoing US-Iran conflict and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, which had affected the availability of gas cargoes.

He said difficulties in the supply of gas and RLNG due to regional and global energy challenges had created difficulties in power generation and meeting electricity demand.

However, he added, the government was taking effective measures to improve power supply and minimize the transfer of additional energy costs to consumers.

The minister said efforts were under way to enhance the availability of local gas, arrange additional RLNG and address the situation through coordinated efforts among energy-sector institutions. The minister said reduced gas supplies were causing difficulties in meeting electricity demand during night-time hours.

He said gas-fired power plants generated around 5,000 MW and played a particularly important role in meeting electricity demand at night, when the national demand increased to 20,000–25,000 MW.

He clarified that there was currently no government-imposed reduction in electricity supply during daytime hours and that no reduction had been made during the day over the past week.

However, he said the sharp increase in electricity demand at night made it difficult to meet the requirement without gas-fired power plants, resulting in temporary load management.

Petroleum Division ensuring local gas supply to consumers for domestic needs: Ali Pervaiz

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik on Monday assured the Energy sector of full support from the Petroleum Division to help control load-shedding without placing an excessive burden on consumer tariffs.

Talking to the media along with Federal Minister for Energy Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari, he said efforts were being made to manage load-shedding as much as possible through a balanced approach while ensuring that its burden did not fall heavily on consumer tariffs.

He said the Ministry was ensuring local gas supply to consumers for their domestic needs and had also injected a significant quantity of gas that had remained shut in.

He said all fertiliser factories in Pakistan were currently operating at full capacity, helping ensure the availability of fertilizer at a reasonable cost.

Fertilizer was facing a major crisis globally, he added, but there had been no significant price fluctuation in Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: President's representatives former Chairman of the Senate, Syed Nayyar Bokhari and Murtaza Solangi in a meeting with Ambassador of Nepal to Pakistan Rita Dhital at the Embassy of Nepal.

Search for additional financing must remain centred on results for children

ISLAMABAD, (APP): With provincial fiscal space tightening and demand for essential services rising, government representatives and policy experts on Monday called for credible alternate and blended financing mechanisms to protect and expand investment in Pakistan's social sectors. Participants stressed that Zakat, philanthropy, corporate social responsibility, public-private partnerships, climate finance and social bonds should complement, not replace, public financing and should be integrated into government planning, budgeting and public financial management systems, said a press release. The discussion took place at a high-level policy roundtable titled "Financing the Future: Towards Integrated Financing for Pakistan's Social Sector.

Digitalisation can make social protection more efficient, accessible: NA Body

ISLAMABAD, (APP): The National Assembly Standing Committee on Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety (PA&SS) on Monday reviewed ongoing efforts to strengthen social protection through digitalisation, expand inclusion of beneficiaries and promote sustainable economic empowerment.

The 18th meeting of the committee, chaired by Mir Ghulam Ali Talpur, was held at the Trust for Voluntary Organization (TVO) office in Islamabad and discussed the ongoing digitalisation of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), including efforts to bring beneficiaries into the digital domain, improve access and address connectivity challenges in remote areas.

The measures are also aimed at strengthening transparency, controlling fraudulent activities and improving the efficiency of social protection delivery. The meeting was attended by Syed Imran Ahmed Shah, Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety; Naveed Ahmed Sheikh, Secretary, Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety; Mian Asad Hayaudin, Chairman TVO Board of Directors; and Sahebzada Ghulam Mohyudin, CEO TVO, along with senior officials and other stakeholders. The participants stressed the need to evolve poverty alleviation efforts beyond cash assistance towards skills development, entrepreneurship, economic empowerment and sustainable livelihoods, enabling beneficiaries to become self-reliant and contribute to economic activity in line with Pakistan's commitments towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



QUETTA: Provincial Advisor for Women Development Dr Rubaba Khan Buledi presenting several bills for approval in Balochistan Assembly.

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