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dailyvomqta@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Abdul Wadood Shah

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Sacrifices of martyrs source of courage; determination for future generations: CM Bugti

QUETTA, (VoM Report): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has paid tribute to the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) personnel, martyrs and veterans, describing their services, sacrifices and professional excellence in defending the country's airspace as an enduring chapter of Pakistan's national history.

In a special message on Pakistan Air Force Day, the Chief Minister said the nation remained proud of the courage, commitment and devotion to duty demonstrated by its air warriors. He particularly paid tribute to Rashid Minhas Shaheed and other PAF personnel who, he said, had set lasting examples of bravery, patriotism and sacrifice in defence of the homeland.

Bugti said the sacrifices of the martyrs would continue to serve as a source of courage and determination for future generations, inspiring them to uphold the country's sovereignty and national interests.

Referring to "Marka-e-Haq" in May last year, the Chief Minister said the PAF had demonstrated a high level of professionalism, operational capability and courage, further reinforcing its longstanding role in safeguarding Pakistan's airspace.

He said the force's performance had strengthened national confidence and reflected the professional competence and preparedness of those entrusted with the country's aerial defence.

The Chief Minister said Air Force Day was more than a commemorative occasion, describing it as an opportunity to reaffirm the nation's commitment to unity, steadfastness and loyalty to the country.

He said the professionalism, courage and dedication of PAF personnel continued to command the respect and appreciation of the entire nation.

Bugti declared those who sacrificed their lives while defending the country as national heroes whose contributions would remain etched in the nation's memory. He also expressed solidarity with the families of the martyrs, acknowledging the profound sacrifices they had made.

The Chief Minister prayed for the elevated ranks of the PAF martyrs and sought patience and strength for their bereaved families.



ISLAMABAD: Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani attending a briefing at Islamabad Stock Exchange (ISE) Towers Limited.



QUETTA: MNA Nawabzada Jamal Raisani called on Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

BHC prohibits unauthorized excavation of Quetta's newly constructed roads

QUETTA (VoM Report): The Balochistan High Court has prohibited unauthorized excavation of newly constructed roads, footpaths and other urban infrastructure in Quetta, directing government, semi-government and private entities to obtain prior permission and a No Objection Certificate (NOC) before carrying out utility or other works.

The court warned that violations of its directions could lead to criminal proceedings, while failure to comply with judicial orders could also result in contempt proceedings. A two-member bench comprising Chief Justice Balochistan High Court Justice Muhammad Kamran Khan Mulakhail and Justice Muhammad Najmuddin Mengal issued the directives while hearing a constitutional petition concerning development projects in Quetta, particularly the Sariab Service Road and storm-water drainage system.

Additional Advocate General Balochistan Zahoor Ahmed Baloch, Additional Attorney General Muhammad Fareed Dogar, Project Director of the Chief Minister's Package for Quetta Development Muhammad Rafiq and other concerned officials appeared before the bench. The Project Director submitted a progress report on the Sariab Service Road and drainage scheme, informing the court that the asphaltic base course had been completed over 14,500 meters of the 15,140-metre road. Work remained pending at certain points because of existing obstructions. The report further stated that the asphaltic wearing course had been laid on around 6,500 meters, while the bridge had been completed and approximately 85 per cent of the storm-water drainage work had been finished. Installation of curbstones and pavers had reached about 30 per cent. The bench was informed that unidentified individuals linked with certain cable and communication companies had excavated sections of the newly developed Sariab Service Road without obtaining authorization from the relevant authorities.



QUETTA: Provincial Advisor for Sports and Youth Affairs Meena Majeed Baloch chairs a meeting.

Our Shuhada enduring symbols of courage, sacrifice, national resolve: Air Chief

PAF observes 7th September as Martyrs' Day across all Air Bases

RAWALPINDI, (APP): Pakistan Air Force observed 7th September as Martyrs' Day at all PAF Bases across the country to honour the supreme sacrifices of its martyrs and pay homage to their courage, valour and devotion to duty.

The day commenced with a special Du'aa and Quran Khawani for the Shuhada of the 1965 and 1971 Wars, the brave martyrs of Marka-e-Haq and all PAF personnel who



have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty since the inception of Pakistan, said a news release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR).

Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, NI (M), HJ, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force, was the Chief Guest at the Martyrs' Day ceremony held at Air Headquarters, Islamabad. The Air Chief paid rich tribute to PAF martyrs, underscoring that their sacrifices constitute the foundation of PAF's proud legacy of courage, professionalism and unwavering commitment to the defence of the motherland.

He said that the valiant deeds of our forefathers are not merely chapters of history but a living legacy that places a profound responsibility upon the present generation. Paying homage to the martyrs, Chief of the Air Staff said, "Our Shuhada are enduring symbols of courage, sacrifice and national resolve. Their legacy reminds us that the defence of our motherland is a sacred trust, which we shall continue to uphold with steadfast commitment."

President Zardari shortens UK visit amid growing debate over new provinces

LONDON, (Monitoring Desk): President Asif Ali Zardari will return to Pakistan on September 8 after deciding to end his London visit earlier than planned, private news channel has learnt.

Credible Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) sources said the president had initially planned to remain in London for another three to four days. However, he decided to return early to deal with the prevailing political situation and the growing debate over the creation of new provinces and administrative units.

The debate intensified after Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal proposed dividing the country into 12 to 15 provinces and called for a national political dialogue on restructuring Pakistan's administrative system.

The PPP, a key ally of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), has strongly opposed any move to divide Sindh and maintains that no new province can be created without constitutional procedures, political consensus and public support.

Iran vows to respond to strikes, says US energy companies' facilities 'exposed'

TEHRAN, (Monitoring Desk): Iran threatened on Monday to retaliate against any new US attacks on its assets, warning that the energy production chain in the region was "sprawling, accessible and exposed" and that US oil and gas companies there shared that exposure.

"Strike our assets and you get struck," Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said after US and Iranian strikes on shipping at the weekend that pushed oil prices up to six-week highs at one point on Monday.

On Sunday, senior Iranian security official Mohsen Rezaei said Iran would announce plans for a new restricted zone in the Gulf in the coming days, and that it would soon approve maps of a new shipping corridor through the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran has throttled traffic through the strait, a vital global oil and gas supply route, since the war with the United States began with US and Israeli strikes on February 28.

Rezaei said the new restricted zone would begin from where a US naval blockade of Iran starts and extend into areas of the Gulf. Any ship entering the new zone would be added to an Iranian sanctions list, he said.

Chief Secretary describes cotton as important cash crop for Balochistan

QUETTA, (VoM Report): Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan has directed the relevant authorities to accelerate measures for increasing cotton production and expanding the area under cultivation, emphasizing the adoption of modern farming techniques, quality seeds, efficient irrigation and timely sowing to improve crop yields and farmers' incomes.

He issued the directives while presiding over a meeting on cotton production and cultivation in the province, during which officials presented a detailed briefing on the Cotton Maximization initiative.

Agriculture Secretary Daud Khilji briefed the meeting on the existing cotton cultivation and production potential in Balochistan, challenges confronting growers and proposed interventions involving improved seed varieties, irrigation facilities, agricultural machinery and stronger marketing arrangements.

The Chief Secretary described cotton as an important cash crop for Balochistan.

Pakistan rejects India's "baseless" assertions on IIOJK status

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Pakistan on Monday categorically rejected India's assertions regarding the status of Jammu and Kashmir, calling them baseless and contrary to internationally recognised facts.

"India's unilateral actions and continued illegal occupation cannot alter the internationally recognised disputed status of Jammu and Kashmir," Foreign Office spokesperson Ambassador Sajjad Haider Khan said in a statement.

He said that the Jammu and Kashmir dispute remained one of the oldest unresolved, internationally recognised disputes on the agenda of the United Nations Security Council, as the relevant UN resolutions stipulated that its final disposition must be made in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions and the will of the Kashmiri people, expressed through a free and impartial plebiscite under UN auspices.

The spokesperson said that the official United Nations maps depicting Jammu and Kashmir as a disputed territory remained the only cartographic representation of its current legal status.

"India's so-called official maps and unilateral claims of sovereignty have no bearing on the status of the disputed territory," he remarked. Spokesperson Khan also urged the international community to ensure that India immediately stops human rights violations in the IIOJK.

Transforming Balochistan into developed; educated province requires coordinated efforts, says Governor

QUETTA, (VoM Report): Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has emphasized the need to broaden the concept of literacy in response to rapid advances in artificial intelligence, digital technology and robotics, saying young people must acquire digital competencies, scientific reasoning, research skills, creativity and problem-solving abilities to remain competitive in the evolving global economy.

In a message marking International Literacy Day, the Governor said the occasion offered an opportunity to reaffirm the collective commitment to education as the cornerstone of an empowered, prosperous and sustainable future. He maintained that transforming Balochistan into a developed and educated province required coordinated efforts by the government, educational institutions, teachers, parents, civil society and communities.

Mandokhail highlighted recent progress in the province's education sector, stating that Balochistan had registered a seven per cent improvement in its overall literacy rate, while 768,000 children had returned to schools. He described the developments as a significant achievement for the provincial Education Department and said they demonstrated that sustained efforts and effective policies could produce tangible improvements. The Governor noted that digital literacy had emerged as an essential component of education, enabling people to access information, develop modern competencies and participate effectively in an increasingly technology-driven society. He stressed that the education system needed to evolve in line with emerging technologies and the demands of the future.

He also called for a comprehensive, equitable and future-oriented national education policy grounded in scientific evidence and responsive to human needs. Such a policy, he said, was essential to help young people across Pakistan, particularly in Balochistan, adapt to rapid technological and economic changes.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister Mir Zahoor Ahmed Buledi listening the problems of students and different delegations.

Establishment of new provinces serious matter; should not be pursued in haste: Gohar

ISLAMABAD, (Monitoring Desk): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Khan has warned that dividing Sindh without the consent of its people would weaken the federation, calling for broad consultation before any decision on the creation of new provinces.

Speaking to the media outside the Supreme Court on Monday, Gohar said the establishment of new provinces was a serious matter and should not be pursued through controversial legislation or in haste. The debate over restructuring the country's administrative map has intensified in recent weeks, with ruling allies the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) appearing divided over the matter.

Last week, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said new administrative units will eventually be created, insisting that no one can stop the process, while reiterating his call for a "reset" of the country's system.

Similarly, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal had proposed creating 12 to 15 provinces and called for a national political debate, arguing that the country's four existing provinces have become increasingly centralised.

The issue has particularly sharpened in Sindh, where opposition to any division of the province has grown alongside competing calls for administrative devolution. In today's media interaction, Gohar said serious consultation, similar to that undertaken for the 18th Amendment, should precede any decision on creating new provinces.

"Without the consent of the people, if Sindh is divided, the federation will become weaker," he said.



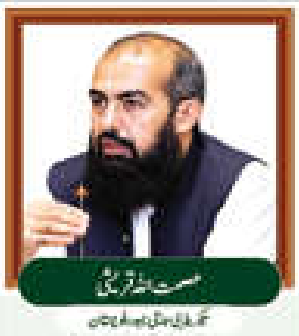
QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan chairs a meeting.

Regular engagement with citizens can improve development process, says Zahoor Buledi

QUETTA, (VoM Report): Balochistan Planning and Development Minister Mir Zahoor Ahmed Buledi has said the government is prioritizing the prompt resolution of public grievances and the creation of better opportunities for young people, stressing that regular engagement with citizens and their representatives can strengthen governance and improve the development process. He expressed these views during meetings with students and representatives of various delegations at the office of the Planning and Development Department, where the visitors discussed their concerns, proposals and other matters with the provincial minister. Buledi listened to the issues raised by the delegations and directed the relevant authorities to take necessary measures for their resolution. The minister said direct interaction with citizens was important for identifying public concerns at the grassroots level and ensuring their timely redressal.


Promoting Literacy
in the Digital Era
تعلیم اور ہنر سے
روشن ہوگا ہر بچے کا کل


محترمہ جانانہ کاکڑ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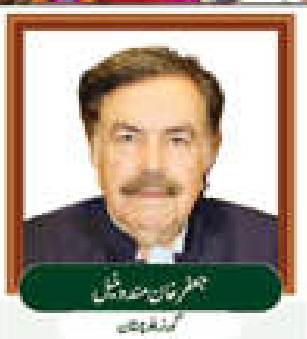
جعفر خان مندوخیل

بلوچستان کا روشن مستقبل: ہر بچے تک تعلیم اور ہر گھر میں خواندگی

رپورٹ: شہزاد احمد

"وزیر اعلیٰ بلوچستان میر سرفراز بگٹی کے وژن کے تحت تعلیم کو ترقی کا بنیادی ستون بنانے، اسکول سے باہر بچوں کو تعلیمی دھارے میں لانے اور خواندگی کے فروغ کے لیے عملی اقدامات"

تعلیم کسی بھی معاشرے کی ترقی، خوشحالی اور روشن مستقبل کی بنیادی طاقت ہے۔ ایک تعلیم یافتہ معاشرہ نہ صرف اپنے











وزیر اعلیٰ میر سرفراز بگٹی کا وژن واضح ہے:

"ہر بچہ اسکول میں، ہر نوجوان ہنرمند اور ہر گھر علم کی روشنی سے منور۔"


8 ستمبر عالمی یوم خواندگی
وزیر اعلیٰ بلوچستان، میر سرفراز بگٹی
کی زیر قیادت
بلوچستان میں نان فارمل
ایجوکیشن پالیسی کا اجراء
ناخواندگی کے خاتمے کی نئی امید
صوبہ بھر میں ناخواندگی کے خاتمے کے لئے اہم اقدامات

Tehran's new weapon not a bomb; it's an invoice

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: Iran is expanding the theater of war with an eye on the Strait of Hormuz. Last week, according to U.S. Central Command, more than 30 Iranian-directed drones attacked American forces and Saudi energy installations near Riyadh and the Eastern Province. On July 28, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) spread the battle to Jordan, firing a fresh volley of ballistic missiles at U.S. forces in the country.

American and Saudi aircraft answered in Iraq, striking targets across seven provinces, where the Popular Mobilization Forces—militias funded by, and loyal to Tehran—counted 20 dead. There were strikes on targets in Iran, too, and threats of more to come. President Donald Trump, who only four days earlier had called off a 13-day bombing campaign, promised that the Islamic Republic was "going to get a beating."

Oman's most recent attempt to find an off-ramp that would satisfy all the belligerents collapsed. Muscat had reportedly handed Tehran a Gulf-backed plan for joint management of the Strait of Hormuz, under which Iran would not exercise sole control and any fees would be voluntary. Iran's deputy foreign minister, Kazem Gharibabadi, rejected it. The Islamic Republic, he countered, should run one full lane through its own waters and part of the other—and Tehran would consider "any action" to keep control of the strait, including resuming the war.

And so, here we are: Iran has restarted its on-again, off-again war with the U.S. over the administrative terms of a shipping lane. The American-Saudi response, punitive in its immediate purpose, must also be understood as an effort to break Iran's grip on the strait. This is not where we began. When the U.S. and Israel struck Iran on Feb. 28, they had a list: regime change, elimination of the nuclear program, destruction of missile capabilities, dismantling of proxy militias. Tehran initially turned Hormuz into an instrument of defense, closing the strait to make the conflict unaffordable for everyone else. The U.S. answered with a naval blockade to make it unaffordable for Iran. Each was using the waterway to force the other to stop. Somewhere in the past five months, the instrument became the objective. In March, I argued in these pages that the strait was Iran's real nuclear option—a weapon cheaper than a nuclear bomb and immune to American or Israeli bunker-busting munitions.



Rescue personnel move residents from a flooded neighbourhood following heavy rain in Kakkodi, Kerala.



Japan's Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi meets evacuees as she visits an evacuation center in Hikawa, southern Japan.

Israel conveys 'concerns' to US on Gaza plan, keeps up strikes

Monitoring Desk

PALESTINE: Israel said on Monday that it had expressed concern to the United States about a plan to end the Gaza war hailed by President Donald Trump, as it kept up strikes on the Palestinian territory.

A political source said that Israel would not retreat from its current position in Gaza, despite the plan hinging on Hamas handing over its weapons and the gradual withdrawal of Israeli forces.

It was the latest sign of disconnect between Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who faces a tough re-election fight in October and has heavily promoted his relationship with the US leader, whom he met again in Washington last week.

Netanyahu's office demanded concrete disarmament by Hamas, which on Friday announced it would give up weapons under the Trump plan to a nascent Palestinian governing committee.

"Israel has conveyed its comments and concerns on the proposed framework to our American counterparts.

The version that has been made public does not reflect Israel's positions," Doron Spielman, spokesman for the prime minister's office, told AFP.

He said that Israeli intelligence had found that Hamas had been rearming and recruiting forces since a ceasefire announced by Trump in October.

The political source told AFP that "Israel will not retreat from its current position in the Gaza Strip and will continue to thwart any threat to our civilians and soldiers", reiterating a stance previously given on Friday that there would be "no withdrawal whatsoever... unless Hamas undergoes a genuine disarmament".

The ceasefire has reduced the level of violence, but Israel has kept up strikes and still controls more than 60 percent of the Gaza Strip. Since the truce went into force, more than 1,200 Palestinians have been killed, according to Gaza authorities.

Sudan army drone strike on court session kills 35: rights group

Monitoring Desk

SUDAN: Thirty-five people were killed in a drone strike by the Sudanese army on a traditional court session in the north of the Darfur region, a local rights organisation has said.

Dozens more were reported injured in Sunday afternoon's attack.

The Emergency Lawyers Group, which monitors violence against civilians, said the attack occurred in Ghara al-Zawiya village that is controlled by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF). The army has not commented.

The RSF holds most of Darfur, in the west of the country, as the two sides continue to fight in the three-year-long civil war that has devastated the country, killed tens of thousands of people and forced millions from their homes.

Sunday's "court session was being held under a tree with the participation of local community leaders," a witness is quoted by the AFP news agency as saying.

Four tribal leaders and two RSF commanders were among those killed in the attack, according to the witness.

The privately owned Darfur 24 website quoted a local resident who said that two drones flew over the town "before launching more than four missiles".

The Emergency Lawyers Group called for an investigation into the drone strike and condemned the targeting of the court saying that attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure are a "grave violation of international humanitarian law".

It also noted that drones are being increasingly used "to target civilian areas and gatherings, which exacerbates the risks faced by the population".

The RSF has also been accused of war crimes including drone attacks on civilians over the past three years. The paramilitary group's siege and attack on el-Fasher, one of Darfur's main cities.



A Palestinian child carries a little girl on his back as he walks past the rubble of destroyed buildings in the Jabalia camp for Palestinian refugees in the northern Gaza Strip.

A Putin critic leaves Russia after he is barred him from running for parli.

Monitoring Desk

MOSCOW: Opposition politician Boris Nadezhdin, who criticized Russia's war in Ukraine and tried to challenge President Vladimir Putin in the 2024 election, said Monday he has left Russia, a move that follows a crackdown that barred him from a race for parliament this year.

Nadezhdin, 63, shared a video on Telegram, showing him standing in front of the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

"Good news: I'm alive and free. Unfortunately, not in Russia for the time being," he said, adding that he needs "to look around and figure out life going forward."

In July, a Russian court fined Nadezhdin about $13 for displaying "extremist symbols," charges that he rejected as absurd. The accusations stemmed from a 2023 online video that briefly showed a picture of the late opposition leader Alexei Navalny, convicted of extremism in a case widely seen as politically motivated.

Earlier that month, Nadezhdin also was designated a "foreign agent" — a label that brings additional government scrutiny as well as stigmatizing connotations in Russia.

That and a fine on an extremism-related charge barred him from running in September's parliamentary vote, which is expected to be tightly controlled by the Kremlin. The ruling United Russia party is seeking to preserve its dominance in the lower house of parliament in a race against the Communist Party and a couple of other parties that vote in sync with the Kremlin on key issues. The campaign comes amid signs of growing public fatigue with the war in Ukraine as fuel shortages and economic pain increase.

Large forest fire breaks out in the Netherlands

Monitoring Desk

DUTCH: A fire has broken out in a wooded area in the east of the Netherlands, not far from the German border, emergency services said on Monday.

Firefighters have been deployed to the De Rosmolen nature reserve near the village of Oostrum to tackle the blaze and prevent it from spreading further, it said.

Huge plumes of smoke rose above the woodland area, which lies between Venlo and Nijmegen. A campsite with around 300 holidaymakers was evacuated due to poor air quality.

Rail services between Nijmegen and Venray have been suspended as firefighters were operating directly alongside the tracks.

Firefighters have created a firebreak in the forest, and the Dutch army has deployed a fire-fighting helicopter.

PM visits quake-hit southern Japan

Monitoring Desk

TOKYO: Residents in Japan's quake-hit southwestern prefecture of Kumamoto put out heaps of debris for collection as the region baked under intense heat.

The heat and a lack of water supplies have added to the challenges in the severely damaged areas where Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi briefly visited for the first time since a magnitude 7.1 quake hit Kumamoto Prefecture on Japan's southern main island of Kyushu on Tuesday. Thirty-eight people died during the quake, including one who died of apparent heat stroke while taking shelter in a car in hot weather and one other whose cause of death is still being investigated, prefectural officials said Monday.

Residents put out heaps of debris, broken furniture and damaged appliances for collection, while in the towns of Uki and Hikawa, construction of temporary housing began. Some hotels and inns are offering their rooms for evacuees. More than 46,000 households remained without water and many also faced fuel shortages as the region suffers sweltering heat, stoking fears of heat-related illness. Japan Meteorological Agency predicted that temperatures would rise close to 40 C (104 F) Monday.

Migrant border crush spikes tensions in Spain

Monitoring Desk

SPAIN: The short-lived intrusion of tens of thousands of Moroccans into Spanish territory last week highlighted a trend of risky migration expeditions by African youth seeking to escape difficult economic conditions at home.

Nearly all of the 50,000 or so people who crossed into Spanish-controlled Ceuta returned to Morocco over the two-day period of the rush, which Rabat blamed on misleading information online and human trafficking gangs. But about 400 travellers who had come from sub-Saharan Africa planned to remain on the border.



Migrants wait on the beach next to an immigrant center known as CETI (Centros de Estancia Temporal de Inmigrantes, in Ceuta.

Analysts says:

Threat to oil tankers in Middle East worst since start of Iran war

Monitoring Desk

STRAIT OF HORMUZ: The threat to ships carrying oil in the Middle East is at its worst since the Iran war started, experts have said, after a spate of attacks on another key route in the region.

The warning comes after a number of attacks on vessels in the Red Sea, an alternative waterway that some tankers had been using since Iran blocked the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran has denied Donald Trump's claim that it was in talks with the US over reopening the strait, but said it was speaking to Oman about securing the shipping lane.

"In terms of threat to the trade of crude, we're at the worst period that we've been in since this since this crisis began," said Matthew Wright, an analyst at ship-tracking firm Kpler. The number of ships passing through the Strait of Hormuz was just eight on Sunday and 11 on Saturday, compared with more than 100 per day before the war began, according to Kpler.

The temporary peace deal with the US struck in early June led to numbers rising again, but the resumption of strikes between the two countries roughly a month later have significantly reduced traffic.

Many ships have been "going dark" when crossing the strait, meaning they turn off their transponder to avoid detection.

For much of the war, some ships carrying oil from Saudi Arabia had instead passed through an alternative shipping lane in the Red Sea, between the kingdom and west Africa.

But a recent spate of attacks by Yemen's Houthi fighters on Saudi tankers using the alternative waterway has further heightened the risks. The Iranian-backed Houthi militia announced what it called a blockade on Saudi Arabia's Red Sea ports on 20 July and the UK Maritime Trade Operations ?agency has reported several attacks on ships in the past week.

At least 15 dead in India's south after landslides and floods

Monitoring Desk

KERALA: At least 15 people died and seven were missing in the southern Indian state of Kerala after days of torrential monsoon rain brought hillsides down onto homes and sent rivers over their banks.

Twenty seven houses were destroyed and around 200 damaged. Nearly 11,000 people were now sheltering in 316 relief camps, chief minister VD Satheesan said on Monday.

The death and devastation began in the hills of central Kerala, where the heaviest rain fell on Friday night and Saturday, and spread north towards the coast, with four people killed in Malappuram and three in Kottayam, among them a child who drowned in a water tank.

Rainfall in the worst-hit belt reached a level rarely recorded anywhere in a single day, with 302mm falling in under 24 hours on Vadasserikkara, a town in the hills about 60 miles inland from the coast, according to Sekhar Lukose Kuriakose, member secretary of the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority. Britain's wettest day on record, at Martinstown in Dorset in 1955, brought 279mm of rainfall.

"This was an exceptionally heavy spell of rain," Mr Kuriakose told reporters on Saturday, adding that the worst of the damage ran through a belt of three hill districts.

Wildfires raze neighborhoods in northwest US city of Spokane

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: Wildfires supercharged by drought and intense heat tore through the northwestern US city of Spokane, forcing the evacuation of 60,000 people as hundreds of buildings were reduced to cinders and firefighters raced Monday to contain the flames.Some 600 structures have been damaged or destroyed while none of the 7,708 acres (3,119 hectares) burned by three fires in the Spokane area in the state of Washington have been contained, according to InciWeb, a federal interagency information system.

Local officials said so far no one has been reported hurt.

Two executed in Iran accused of spying for Israel

Monitoring Desk

TEHRAN: Iran has executed two men on suspicion of spying for Israel, according to the judiciary-linked news agency Mizan.

The two had passed on coordinates and photographs of sensitive military and security sites to "channels linked to Israel's Mossad intelligence service" during the war with the US and Israel, Mizan reported. The country's Supreme Court had approved the death sentences, it said. The human rights organization Hengaw questioned the allegations against the men, given the extensive internet shutdowns during the conflict and the lack of publicly verifiable evidence.

It said the arrests, prosecution and executions had taken place behind closed doors and without independent legal review.

Two charged after hate crime attack on ship crew

Monitoring Desk

PHILIPPINE: Two people who were arrested on suspicion of attempted murder after a hate crime incident involving a ship's crew members have been charged.

Avon and Somerset Police said three men, all from the Philippines, were assaulted on 31 July during an attack involving a large group of people in Avonmouth, near Bristol.

One of the three men is in a critical condition in hospital, while another has been discharged. The third man did not need hospital treatment.

Kurtis Ranklin, 45 and from Southmead, has been accused of causing grievous bodily harm with intent, while a 17-year-old boy who cannot be named because of his age has been accused of wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm

The pair are expected to appear at Bristol Magistrates' Court on Monday.

Police said two other people who were arrested have been released on conditional bail while enquiries continue. Officers confirmed on Sunday that they received reports.

Three killed in Russian attack on Ukrainian petrol station

Monitoring Desk

KYIV: At least three people, including an eight-year-old boy, have been killed in a Russian attack on a petrol station in southeastern Ukraine, local authorities said on Monday.

Another six people aged 20 to 60 were injured in the attack in the Kryvyi Rih area, Oleksandr Hanzha, military administrator of the Dnipropetrovsk region, said on Telegram. The official said a fire had broken out at the site. He published a photo showing a severely damaged petrol station and an emergency worker trying to put out a burned out car. Russia has repeatedly attacked Ukrainian petrol stations in recent weeks, after Ukraine ramped up strikes on Russian oil facilities in a bid to disrupt supplies to Russian forces at the front line and reduce revenue used to fund the war.



Police said they received reports of racist language being used during the incident.

10 dead in Ukrainian attacks on Black Sea area

Monitoring Desk

MOSCOW: At least 10 people have been killed in the Black Sea region as a result of Ukrainian counter-attacks against Russian targets. Veniamin Kondratyev, governor of Russia's Krasnodar region, said on Monday that six people were killed in the small seaside resort of Arkhipo-Osipovka, including three minors. Around 40 others were injured, he said.

TENDER NOTICE

The BALOCHISTAN RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items. **TSE-2627091187161 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.** Tender Fee 1,000 PKR

S.No	Class of Object	Bid Security
1	Food Items (Total Item(s) Count: 23)	2 %

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** 3 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity 5,000,000 in Previous 3 Years Turn over of at least 4,000,000 PKR in 3 Subsequent Previous Years Presence in Active Tax Payer List Sales Tax Certificate The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan JV is not permissible Submission of the required Bid Security In case Bid Security is not found as required during financial evaluation the bidding firm shall be declared as in-eligible and non-responsive Submission of the required Bidding document Fee Provision of verified registration/licence **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at Call of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,000 PKR **Issuance of tender Documents:** From the date of publication of NIT to 02 October, 2026during office hours on working days **Last Date of bid submission:** The Tenders must be submitted latest by 02 October, 2026till 10:00 AM. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 10:30 AM Address: RDA COMPLEX NEAR JABLE-E-NOOR WESTERN BYPASS ROAD QUETTA Phone no: 3219018796 Fax no: 9213263Email: brdaquetta9@gmail.com

Director General
BALOCHISTAN RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY QUETTA

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People sitting on ' artificial mandates' can't make decisions of nation: Sharjeel

Says those lecturing us on the 18th Amendment are the products of Form-47

KARACHI, (Monitoring Desk): Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon on Monday criticised federal ministers who have been calling for the establishment of new provinces and administrative units as the products of "Form-47" rather than real "public representatives".

The debate over new provinces started in late July when Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi called for the creation of additional administrative units or provinces to overhaul the country's outdated governance system, stressing that meaningful structural reforms were essential to ensure justice and create opportunities for young people. This has resulted in a series of remarks thrown back and forth from major political parties in Sindh and various federal ministers.

Speaking in the Sindh Assembly, Memon described statements by federal ministers about the provinces and the 18th Amendment in recent days as "extremely regrettable".

Memon criticised Education Minister Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif and Health Minister Mustafa Kamal for making statements against the 18th Amendment, saying that if they had any objection to the amendment or the powers of the provinces, then they should "come to the parliament and speak".

"You can make statements in front of the media or in public gatherings, but if you really have an argument and a position, then come to the assembly and speak," Memon said.

He asked the federal ministers to first go among the people, get elected by securing votes from the people and then speak about the decisions of the nation. "People sitting on charitable or artificial mandates cannot make the decisions of the nation".

Memon stated that after the passage of the 18th Amendment, the provinces were autonomous and had made significant progress in health, education, energy and other sectors, further adding that it was a "matter of regret that today some ministers of the federal government are speaking against the same amendment".

He underlined that the federal ministers should first look at the benefits of this amendment and the performance of the provinces as a result of it.

Memon said that Sindh had made significant progress in the sectors of health, education and infrastructure after the 18th Amendment, adding that universities and modern medical facilities had been established in cities like Sukkur.

The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) on Saturday strongly condemned recent statements by federal ministers regarding the creation of new provinces and administrative units, warning that such remarks amounted to interference in the constitutional status of Sindh.



KARACHI: Sindh Information Minister Sharjeel Memon speaks during a Sindh Assembly session



ISLAMABAD: Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani in a group photograph with members of the Board of Directors of Islamabad Stock Exchange (ISE) Towers Limited.

Enabling women to achieve economic independence true manifestation of women's empowerment: Syedal

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Acting Chairman Senate, Syedal Khan Nasir, on Monday said that empowering women and youth was essential for Pakistan's development, economic prosperity and sustainable growth.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony of the 2WINSY Café in DHA Phase-II, Islamabad, as chief guest, he termed the entry of young women into the business sector on the occasion of Pakistan's Defence Day a highly encouraging and commendable initiative.

He said that the young twin sisters, who have embarked on their entrepreneurial journey at the age of 19, were not only securing their own future but also contributing to the national economy.

He emphasized that enabling women to achieve economic independence was a true manifestation of women's empowerment.

Govts should make laws and policies, not software: Shaza

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja has said Pakistan believes the 21st century belongs to emerging nations that can use digital technology to create wealth and shape their own future.

Addressing the LEAP 2026 conference on "How We Built a Digital Nation", she said Pakistan was building its national digital stack on open-source technology.

She said Pakistan would share the digital stack free of cost with frontier and emerging nations once it was completed. Digital technology should help countries move beyond modernisation towards wealth creation and greater economic independence, she added.

Ms Shaza said Pakistan had moved away from pursuing "fancy big projects" and was focusing instead on building strong digital foundations.

Over the past two years, she said, the government had introduced key legislation, including the Digital Nation Pakistan Act and the National AI Policy.

The measures aimed to support the technology ecosystem while ensuring ethical, security and sovereignty safeguards, she added. She said right-of-way reforms had also been introduced to promote fibre connectivity and broadband adoption.

"In a nutshell, what we did was the grunt work for very strong, solid foundations for a digital era," she said.

The minister said the government began its efforts by listening to the concerns of investors, industry, young people and international partners.

She identified digital connectivity as the first major challenge, saying digital development was impossible without reliable, high-speed internet across the country.

Spectrum availability had been a major bottleneck, she said, adding that Pakistan had conducted the world's largest spectrum auction, offering 480 megahertz.

The rollout was now well underway, she said. Pakistan had also landed two new submarine cables, while fibre reforms had been introduced and house passes had increased by almost 100 per cent. Shaza identified policy continuity as the second major challenge. She credited Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif with establishing the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), which she said had helped ensure policy continuity.

The council is headed by the prime minister and supported by Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir. It also includes the chief executives of the four provinces and cabinet members. Business competitiveness was the third major challenge, particularly for technology companies facing taxation-related difficulties, she said. "We've developed special technology zones for our companies that have tax-free status for the next 10 years," she said.

Pakistan was also working to introduce international payment gateways for its youth and expand sovereign computing, she added.

"These are two areas where we feel that any investor who comes in … has a huge opportunity to capture in a country like Pakistan," she said. The minister said digital transformation had become a priority across the government. "All our ministries now understand that tech is no longer a vertical, but an enabling sector that has to be woven into every single strategy," she said. Explaining the need for rapid digital transformation, Shaza said economies generally grew through an S-curve, moving from gradual development to rapid expansion before reaching a plateau.



QUETTA: Several delegations called on Parliamentary Secretary for Law, Tourism and Culture Nawabzada Mir Muhammad Zareen Khan Magsi

ATC grants 20-day physical remand of PTI leader Hammad Azhar

LAHORE, (Agencies): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Lahore handed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Hammad Azhar over to police on a 20-day physical remand.

Police presented the former federal minister before the court hours after confirming his arrest, while his mother approached the Lahore High Court (LHC) seeking his recovery a day after police reportedly detained him in Multan. A spokesperson for Lahore police said earlier that Azhar had been wanted by Lahore police in 18 cases, while he had remained absconding for three years.

The spokesperson said that the investigation police arrested the PTI leader and would produce him before a court to seek his remand.

A charge sheet would be presented before the Anti-Terrorism Court after completing the investigation, the spokesperson added.

Competition in power procurement can reduce inefficiencies across electricity value chain: Awais

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Federal Minister for Energy (Power Division), Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari on Monday welcomed the decision of the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on the determination of the Use of System Charge for open access users of the electricity network under the Competitive Trading Bilateral Contract Market (CTBCM) regime.

The minister said that the determination of the Use of System Charge is a historic milestone in the reform and modernization of Pakistan's power sector. It was the final critical regulatory step required for operationalizing open access under CTBCM, paving the way for the issuance of the RFP for Pakistan's first CTBCM auction process, said a press release. He said that establishing a competitive electricity market is a key component of the broader power sector reform agenda, under which the necessary institutional, regulatory, technical and market requirements have been addressed to move Pakistan from the traditional single-buyer electricity market towards a competitive and consumer-oriented electricity market.

With this development, eligible industrial consumers will, for the first time, be able to bilaterally procure electricity from their choice of power suppliers through a competitive market mechanism, rather than being restricted to purchasing electricity solely from their respective distribution companies, he added. Leghari said that the benefits of a competitive market will not be limited to industrial consumers but also have the potential to benefit ordinary consumers.



NATHIA GALI: A woman takes a selfie while others splash in the cool waters at the base of the magnificent Sabri Waterfall.

Sept 7 landmark day in country's history: Mohsin Naqvi

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi paid tribute to the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) on Air Force Day, saying that September 7 remains a landmark day in the country's history and reflects the courage and professional capability demonstrated by PAF personnel during the 1965 war.

In his message issued on Air Force Day, the minister said the Pakistan Air Force played a key role in defending the country during the war and successfully responded to enemy aggression. He noted that the performance of PAF pilots and personnel during the war became an important chapter in Pakistan's military history.

Mohsin Naqvi particularly remembered Squadron Leader Muhammad Mahmood Alam (M.M. Alam), describing his actions as one of the most notable events of the 1965 war. He said M.M. Alam achieved a historic feat by shooting down five enemy aircraft within a short span of time, a record that continues to be remembered in the history of aerial warfare. The minister stated that the nation takes pride in the professional standards, operational capability, and service of the Pakistan Air Force. He said PAF officers and personnel have consistently demonstrated commitment to the defense of the country and have fulfilled their responsibilities with dedication. Naqvi said the guardians of Pakistan's air frontiers remain prepared at all times to safeguard the nation's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Rubina Khalid, SBP Governor discuss way forward for social protection wallets

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid and the Governor State Bank of Pakistan Jameel Ahmad in a meeting held here Monday discussed various operational matters related to Social Protection Wallets (SPW) and making it more effective and transparent. During the meeting, matters relating to the effective implementation and smooth functioning of SPW operations. The Chairperson highlighted the challenges requiring coordination and facilitation from the State Bank of Pakistan.

The Governor State Bank of Pakistan assured Chairperson BISP full cooperation and support for smooth and transparent operation of SPW.

Pays tribute to PAF:

Nation stands with armed forces in safeguarding country's sovereignty, territorial integrity: Gilani

Acting President says the courage and professional record of the force remains a proud chapter in Pakistan's history

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Acting President, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, has paid tribute to the martyrs and veterans of the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) on Pakistan Air Force Day, saying the courage and professional record of the force remains a proud chapter in Pakistan's history. In a message on Pakistan Air Force Day, the Acting President said this marks the service of the men who defended Pakistan's airspace and its national security. He said the PAF has earned the nation's trust through its professionalism, discipline and commitment to the country's defence. Referring to the 1965 war, he said the courage and skill shown by PAF personnel during the conflict remain an example of service and sacrifice, and paid tribute to the martyrs and ghazis whose service continues to inspire. Gilani said PAF played a crucial role in Marka-e-Haq and Operation Bunyan-un-Marsoos, saying its readiness and professional capability helped protect Pakistan's sovereignty and airspace. He said the nation stands with its armed forces in safeguarding the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity. He prayed for the elevation of the ranks of the martyrs, the safety of the veterans, and the success of the officers and personnel of the PAF.



KARACHI: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi addressing a lawyers' convention.

Musadik seeks fast-track action for climate-vulnerable communities

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr Musadik Malik on Monday called for a shift from lengthy procedures and policy jargon towards practical, community-based action to address the challenges faced by climate-vulnerable cities and poor communities.

The minister made the remarks during a meeting with UN-Habitat Officer Oddy Angelo of Bolivia, where urban development, climate resilience, water and sanitation, flood management and interventions for vulnerable communities were discussed.

Dr Malik criticised delays in development projects, saying international cooperation and policy initiatives must ultimately translate into work on the ground. "We need impactful work. Bring effective policy input, we will collaborate and get it done," he said, urging stakeholders to reduce unnecessary delays and focus on implementation.

He said Pakistan needed practical solutions, particularly for communities affected by contaminated water, flooding, inadequate sanitation and poor urban infrastructure.

"One project can change the lives of many," the minister said, calling for community-based and self-sustaining projects that could be replicated across the country.



SOHBATPUR: Deputy Commissioner Fareeda Tareen visits DHQ Hospital.

Japan provides 2.6 billion yen grant for flood protection, dike improvement in Sindh

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Japan has extended a grant aid of 2.6 billion Japanese Yen to Pakistan for the Project for Flood Protection and Dike Improvement on the Indus River in Sindh province.

Notes to this effect were signed and exchanged between Japanese Ambassador to Pakistan AKAMATSU Shuichi and Secretary Ministry of Economic Affairs Muhammad Humair Karim at a ceremony held here on Monday.

Subsequently, the Grant Agreement for the project was also signed and exchanged between Senior Representative of the JICA Pakistan Office SUGAWARA Takayuki and Additional Secretary Ministry of Economic Affairs Sabina Qureshi.

The project aims to reduce the risk of dike breaches and associated economic losses through reinforcement of dikes in the targeted section of the Larkana region of Sindh.

Under the project, riverbank erosion protection works and dike reinforcement will be carried out using a stronger concrete-based embankment construction method, which remains relatively uncommon in Pakistan.

The enhanced design is expected to further mitigate the risk of embankment breaches and improve flood resilience in the targeted area.

Pakistan remains highly vulnerable to flooding, with the Larkana region among the areas facing significant risks of large-scale flood damage. The project is expected to reduce flood risks for approximately 790,000 residents and help minimize inundation areas and flood-related economic losses.

It will also contribute to protecting local communities, agricultural land and infrastructure from future flood disasters.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador AKAMATSU Shuichi said Pakistan had experienced the most devastating flood in its history in 2022, and Japan remained committed to supporting the country's recovery and reconstruction.

He said Japan placed strong emphasis on proactive disaster prevention measures based on its experience and expertise, adding that the project aimed to minimize the risk of dike breaches and protect the region from devastating flood damage.

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