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PM Shehbaz directs NDMA to ensure immediate relief in rain-hit areas

Vows continued support for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to use all available resources to provide relief to people in rain-hit areas and maintain effective liaison with relevant provincial departments and Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs).

The prime minister, in a meeting with the NDMA Chairman Lt. General Inam Haider Malik, who called on him here, instructed relevant departments to enhance coordination to ensure the smooth flow of traffic on link roads and bridges, as well as the timely supply of relief goods during the rains.

During the meeting, the NDMA chairman briefed the prime minister on the expected pattern of the ongoing monsoon season and overall preparedness to cope with heavy rains and potential flood situations, through mutual cooperation between provinces and institutions.

He told the prime minister that, as per his directives, the proactive measures have been taken by the relevant departments to monitor the monsoon season more effectively.

He assured that all relevant departments across the country were fully prepared for rescue and relief operations to cope with any emergency weather conditions.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday reiterated the federal government's resolve to continue working for the development of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the welfare of its people.

He was talking to Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi, who called on him at the Prime Minister House.

During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to law and order and the overall political situation in the country.

The meeting also stressed the need to further promoting harmony between the provincial and federal governments and address public issues in the province. Federal Minister for Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan Affairs Engineer Ameer Muqam and Prime Minister's Adviser on Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah were also present.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari in a meeting with Ambassador-designate of Pakistan to China Dr. Syed Ali Asad Gilani at Aiwan-e-Sadr.



ISLAMABAD: Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Governor vows to provide basic facilities to public at doorsteps in Balochistan

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhel on Tuesday said that he was taking practical steps to provide basic facilities to public at their doorsteps in province.

He expressed these views while meeting various delegations at the Governor House, Quetta.

The Governor said that my forty-year political career has taught me that the real greatness of political leadership lies in the trust and service of the people rather than in power.

He said that we are those who consider the happiness of the people as our happiness and feel their sorrow as our sorrow, the focus of my politics has always been public service saying that instead of making politics a means of personal gain power,

"I have focused my full attention on improving the lives of people, providing opportunities to the new generation and making it a means of building society", he said.

Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhel said that it is a matter of satisfaction for me that in my political life, several such historic projects in the fields of education, health and public welfare have been completed by my hands, from which millions of people of different districts are benefiting today.

He said that according to me, the real success of a project is not its building but the human benefits generated by it, my greatest wish is that the shade of these tall trees and their fruits continue to reach our many generations to come.

Jaffar Khan Mandokhel said that education is my top priority and the main pillar of my political vision because roads, buildings and bridges could facilitate society, but education gives a person the power to change his destiny.

He said that the dozens of educational institutions that I have founded in my life have become tall trees with time, thousands of students coming out of these institutions are not only shaping the future of their families but are also playing their role in the construction and development of the country and nation.



QUETTA: A delegation led by Chairman Public Accounts Committee and MPA Asghar Khan Tareen meeting with Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhel.

BHC dismisses plea seeking continued medical education for Afghan nationals

QUETTA, (VoM Report): The Balochistan High Court has dismissed a constitutional petition seeking permission for Afghan citizens to continue medical and dental education and postgraduate training in Pakistan, observing that foreign nationals cannot claim a permanent entitlement to remain, study or receive professional training in the country in defiance of state policy.

A division bench comprising Justice Muhammad Amir Nawaz Rana and Justice Abdul Qayyum Lehri declined to intervene in directions issued by the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council concerning the admission, transfer and facilitation of Afghan nationals enrolled in medical institutions.

The court noted that issues concerning immigration, repatriation of foreign nationals and national security primarily fall within the authority of the executive branch. It therefore declined to interfere with the policy and administrative decisions relating to the status of Afghan citizens pursuing medical education and training in Pakistan.

At the same time, the bench emphasized that Afghan nationals must be treated with dignity, fairness and in accordance with the law. It clarified, however, that these legal and humanitarian protections do not confer an indefinite or permanent right upon foreign nationals to remain in Pakistan or pursue education contrary to the prevailing state policy.

The court dismissed the constitutional petition at the preliminary stage, directing the affected individuals to seek redress for their grievances through the Afghan Embassy.

The ruling underscores the distinction between the lawful and humane treatment of foreign nationals and any claimed entitlement to remain in Pakistan or continue professional education contrary to government policy.

Democracy legacy of our martyrs: Bilawal Bhutto

KARACHI (INP): Chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, has said that democracy is not merely a system of governance but the right of the people to choose their representatives, shape their future, and hold those in power accountable.

In his message on World Democracy Day, being observed on September 15, the PPP Chairman said that the sacrifices of countless democratic forces and political workers have kept the flame of democracy alive in Pakistan despite repeated attempts to extinguish it.

"Democracy is the legacy of our martyrs and the promise we owe to future generations. Quaid-e-Awam Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto devoted their lives to empowering the people and strengthening democratic institutions. Their struggle reminds us that no force can permanently silence the voice of the people, " he said. The PPP Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, said that PPP would continue its struggle for democracy.

Pakistan lambasts India over cross-border terrorism

GENEVA (APP): Pakistan, exercising its right of reply at United Nations, here, criticised India's position on cross-border terrorism, Jammu and Kashmir and the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT).

First Secretary, Adeel Mumtaz Khokhar said India's allegations of cross-border terrorism were contradicted by cases involving Indian nationals and officials accused by Pakistan of espionage and involvement in acts of terrorism or transnational crime. Khokhar referred to Indian naval officer Kulbhushan Jadhav, who was arrested by Pakistan and convicted by a Pakistani court on espionage and terrorism-related charges. He also cited allegations concerning Indian agents and nationals in cases involving alleged assassination plots abroad.

On the Indus Waters Treaty, Khokhar rejected India's position that it could suspend or terminate the agreement, saying international law and treaty obligations could not be applied selectively.

He referred to a August 31, decision by the Permanent Court of Arbitration, which affirmed that the Indus Waters Treaty remained in force and that India was required to comply with its obligations under the agreement.

Islamabad MoU best course to defuse tensions, Dar tells Grossi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) and Foreign Minister (FM) Ishaq Dar spoke with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General and candidate for UN Secretary-General Rafael Grossi about the evolving regional situation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) said on Tuesday.

According to the post on X, MoFA said, Dar and Grossi spoke late last night and agreed that implementation of the Islamabad memorandum of understanding (MoU) "remained the best course of action to defuse tensions".

"Grossi offered technical support should the need arise," the ministry added.

The ministry further added that Dar reaffirmed Pakistan's "enduring commitment" to advancing the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and respecting international law and treaties.

DPM Dar also highlighted "the crucial importance of the UN system" in realising the global peace and development agenda and also wished Ambassador Grossi well in his campaign for the office of UN secretary-general, the MoFA added.

QDP to transform Quetta into modern city: Commissioner

QUETTA (APP): Commissioner Zeeshan Lashari chaired a meeting to review the progress of ongoing and new projects under the Quetta Development Package (QDP), focusing on funding, implementation, and overcoming obstacles.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Quetta Mehrullah Badini, Deputy Commissioner Quetta West Munir Ahmed Durrani, Divisional Director Development Zahoor Ahmed, Deputy Project Director QDP Muhammad Abid, and other officials. The Deputy Project Director briefed the Commissioner on project progress, fund allocation, and challenges faced. Commissioner Zeeshan Lashari emphasized that the Quetta Development Package is a vital initiative aimed at resolving traffic congestion and providing citizens with improved travel facilities, ultimately transforming Quetta into a modern city.

He directed that in the next meeting, all projects should be clearly identified through Google Maps to better assess their location and progress. He instructed authorities to accelerate work and ensure timely completion of all ongoing projects. Special directives were issued to complete Zarghoon Road from Hockey Chowk to Akram Hospital within one month and the Sariab Service Road within two months.

Regarding mosque-related issues on Sariab Road, the Deputy Commissioner Quetta West was tasked with finding a practical and acceptable solution to avoid further delays.

Relationship with China most consequential aspect of Pakistan's foreign policy: President Zardari

Says Pakistan-China strategic mutual trust must be sustained and reinforced with continued high-level exchanges and deeper economic cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday said that Pakistan-China strategic mutual trust must be sustained and reinforced with continued high-level exchanges, stronger people-to-people contacts and deeper economic cooperation.

In a meeting with Dr Syed Ali Asad Gilani, Pakistan's ambassador-designate to China, who called on him at Aiwan-e-Sadr, the president stressed that the relationship with China remained the most consequential aspect of Pakistan's foreign policy.

He called for translating the strong political goodwill between the two countries into greater economic and industrial integration.

He welcomed the focus on Business-to-Business cooperation under CPEC 2.0 and emphasised cooperation in modern agriculture, artificial intelligence and new technologies, particularly for skills development and job creation for youth. President Zardari asked the ambassador-designate to maintain proactive engagement with Chinese government institutions, the CPC leadership, think tanks, academia and media, and to promote people-to-people ties, including student exchanges.

The president said that he also looked forward to President Xi Jinping's visit to Pakistan for the SCO Summit next year.

Senator Saleem Mandviwalla was also present during the meeting.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Constitutional Court of Pakistan commenced the Judicial Year 2026-27 with a formal ceremony, reaffirming its commitment to constitutional supremacy, judicial independence, protection of fundamental rights, timely and effective administration of justice, transparency, and strengthening public confidence in the justice system.

Access to justice right of every citizen: CJ FCCP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Justice of the Federal Constitutional Court (FCCP) Justice Aminuddin Khan on Tuesday stressed that the Constitution must be kept supreme in the exercise of powers, saying that adherence to the Constitution was essential for ensuring stability in society.

Addressing a ceremony marking the opening of the new judicial year of the Federal Constitutional Court, the Chief Justice said the Constitution clearly defined the powers and limits of state institutions.

He said the beginning of a new judicial year was an occasion to renew the commitment to dispensation of justice. The Federal Constitutional Court was effectively fulfilling its constitutional responsibilities and had decided several important cases in the short period since its establishment.

Justice Aminuddin said access to justice was the right of every citizen and that non-discriminatory constitutional justice should remain a fundamental priority. He said cases were assigned for hearing through a transparent process, while judicial independence was of fundamental importance to any society.

The Chief Justice also stressed the need for greater use of modern technology in judicial affairs, saying it enhanced institutional capacity and transparency. He said judicial cooperation was being strengthened through foreign visits and other activities, while visits by bar associations and other delegations to the Federal Constitutional Court were also important.

He reaffirmed that the FCCP would continue to discharge its constitutional responsibilities with commitment, promote cooperation between the bar and the bench, and work to further strengthen public confidence in the justice system.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chairman, Pakistan Bar Council, Masood Chishti said Justice Aminuddin Khan had performed his responsibilities as head of the Federal Constitutional Court in an exemplary manner. He said establishing the institutional structure of the FCCP had been a major challenge, but the court had discharged its constitutional responsibilities with seriousness, balance and constitutional insight.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister (DPM/FM), Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar in a meeting with U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Natalie A. Baker.

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Rough waters

Amongst the key potential triggers for fresh conflict in South Asia is water. The Indian state is behaving in an increasingly irresponsible manner in this regard, constantly testing Pakistan's patience. The latest provocation has come in the form of a statement given by the Indian water minister, who was reported as saying that "not a single drop of water" will flow to Pakistan, and that his country was "actively working" to achieve this sinister aim, as per the directives of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. While it is true that current Indian infrastructure may not have the capacity to block water, statements such as these are not mere rhetoric. New Delhi is actively pursuing projects that will affect Pakistan's water rights. The Chenab-Beas Link Tunnel Project, which will divert significant volumes of water, is a major example of India taking practical steps to deliver on its stated aims of choking Pakistan's water. The Foreign Office has noted that deliberate attempts to block Pakistan's water could amount to acts of war, adding that this country would "vigorously" defend its water rights.

The transboundary water-sharing regime that survived for over six decades between both countries in the shape of the Indus Waters Treaty was scuttled by India last year after the Pahalgam episode. New Delhi had been seeking to re-negotiate the treaty for some time, and India used the Pahalgam episode to withdraw from its commitments regarding shared waters. Pakistan has a legal and moral right as the lower riparian to defend its share of transboundary waters, while the IWT cannot be held in abeyance unilaterally. Instead of upholding an internationally recognised treaty, India is trying to wiggle out of its commitments, while at the same time intending to inflict maximum harm on Pakistan by blocking its share of water. If New Delhi continues on the current trajectory, renewed conflict in the subcontinent is a strong possibility as Pakistan cannot surrender its water rights. The more advisable path would require India to return to the table and discuss water and all other outstanding issues as a responsible state. But that does not seem likely in the near future, considering the combative rhetoric coming from New Delhi. As things stand, Pakistan must defend its water rights at all forums, and prevent India from delivering on its threats.

Enemy mine

Zarrar Khuhro

Every now and then there seems to emerge a vague if transient realisation in some small circles of American polity that Israel may not be their absolutely best buddy of all time ever. The issue of the Israeli attack on the USS Liberty in 1967 in which 34 US soldiers were killed — suppressed and spared from scrutiny as it was — pops up now and then, as it did a few days back on the anniversary of the attack when US Rep Thomas Massie brought up the attack on the floor of the US House of Representatives and spoke about how this was a deliberate and planned assault by the Israelis and not, as Israel has long argued, a case of 'mistaken identity'.'

Survivors of the attack have long argued this, with Richard Brooks, the Liberty's chief engineer echoing other survivors by saying "it was a deliberate attack. They knew who we were. They wanted to sink us". Naturally, the usual suspects popped up, calling it a conspiracy theory and accusing Massie and others of — you guessed it — antisemitism. After all, how could the self-declared Jewish state ever work against its greatest benefactor?

But just a week before Massie spoke came another report, this time purportedly from the US Department of Defence, warning that the threat of Israeli spying on the US had gone from 'high' to 'critical', which is the highest such level.

Israel, the report claimed, has been working overtime not only to collect information on US military personnel in the Gulf but also singled out high-level personnel such Steve Witkoff who was the lead negotiator in the nuclear talks along with the Pentagon's top policy official Elbridge Colby and his deputy Michael DiMino. As part of these efforts, attempts were also made by Israel's Shin Bet to plant listening devices of US secret service vehicles. US defence personnel working in Israel also reported discovering spyware on their phones.

It's by no means the first time Israel has tried to snoop on the US, despite a 1951 agreement to do nothing of the sort.

The report also states that Israeli spying was stepped up in late 2024 when the first reports of a rift between the Joe Biden administration and Israel began to emerge and only increased with the election of Donald Trump. Naturally, Israel denies all this.

This isn't an aberration, despite having agreed not to spy on each other, America has always been a prime target for Israeli espionage. Sometimes the secrets obtained were military, such as when Tel Aviv used the services of Jewish Hollywood producer Arnon Milchan to obtain nuclear secrets for Israel. Milchan wasn't shy about his involvement, having later said to Robert DeNiro: "Yeah I did that. Israel's my country."

Obtaining information about US policy towards Middle Eastern states, and especially Iran, has always been a priority; in 2006, Lawrence Franklin, a former Defence Department official, was sentenced to 13 years in prison for handing over classified documents related to US policy on Iran to two Jewish members of the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee which, apart from its main job of bribing US politicians, apparently also has a sideline in espionage.

Defeat is an orphan and AIPAC fired the two employees and the US government obediently dropped charges against them without even the token exercise of a plea bargain. As for Franklin, his sentence was commuted to 10 months of house arrest and 100 hours of community service. And everyone lived happily ever after.

The poster boy of Israeli espionage in the US remains Jonathan Pollard. Rejected by the CIA for extensive drug use, debt and lying on his resu--mé, Pollard beca--me an intelligence analyst for the US navy just two years later and promptly had his security clearance cancel-led for divulging classified information to South Afri--ca.

Still managing to keep his job, he agreed to provide US secrets to Israel for $1,500 a month and a diamond engagement ring for his fiancée.

The information he provided included, but was not limited to, US intelligence on Pakistan's nuclear programme, Soviet defence systems, and of course, the military readiness of Arab nations. Once caught, Pollard was tried and sentenced to life, with then US defence secretary Caspar Weinberger saying he could not "conceive of a greater harm to national security than that caused by [Pollard]". Pollard, to no one's surprise, was eventually paroled.

He returned to Israel which, after denying any links with him, gave him a hero's welcome with none other than Benjamin Netanyahu receiving him at the airport. It also seems that Israel tried to get him released during Bill Clinton's tenure by leveraging alleged recordings of Clinton and Monica Lewinsky in an attempt to blackmail a sitting US president. Epstein files, anyone? With friends like these, who needs enemies?.

100, not out…

F.S. Aijazuddin

This is not an obituary. Far from it. It is a tribute to someone who is completing the first 100 years of a crowded, productive life.

Syed Babar Ali was born on June 30, 1926. For the past few weeks, numerous relatives, friends, business associates and educationists have joined in celebrating his centenary. Eleven years ago, in 2015, he recounted his life in a published memoir Learning from Others. He compressed 89 years of his life into 237 succinct pages.

How does one compact 100 years of his life into 800 words? Yet, perhaps that is what he would wish — to have his life set down on a single sheet of paper. Every Pakistani — the living and the yet unborn — should read this memoir, if they wish to understand who was who, who did what and when, and how a single person has beneficially affected the lives of millions of us Pakistanis.

Syed Babar Ali was born into money. His father Syed Maratib Ali had a flourishing business in Ferozepur and post-1947 in Lahore. That enabled Babar to obtain the best education money could buy — Aitchison College, then Government College in Lahore, University of Michigan in the US, and in time Harvard Business School.

Could it have been the early slur of being "a contractor's son" at the elitist 'Chiefs' College that spurred him to achieve beyond the creditable? Was it being the youngest of four brothers that drove him to seek a separate path for himself in business? Was it the blessings of his parents — particularly his mother the formidable Syeda Mubarik Begum — that tapped him for greatness? All three certainly, and more.

Babar Ali's life runs parallel to the history of Pakistan. He belonged to an age when industrialisation and self-reliance were a national mission. He brought the Swedish Rausing group to Lahore where they established Packages Limited. His friendship with Ruben Rausing and his sons Hans and Gad spawned a number of profitable joint ventures like TetraPak.

Faced with the spectre of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's blunderbuss nationalisation of the 1970s, Babar Ali agreed to help the subsequent rationalisation by heading the National Fertiliser Corporation of Pakistan (NFC), the second largest corporation after the Pakistan Steel Mills. Between 1974 and 1977, he established three large fertiliser complexes — Pak-Arab Fertiliser expansion in Multan, the grassroots Pak-Saudi Fertilisers in Mirpur Mathelo and the Pak-China plant in Haripur Hazara.

To run them, he set up a training institute at Daudkhel. To handle the huge volume of fertilisers being produced daily for a seasonal offtake, he envisaged the establishment of intermediate storages and a marketing network across four provinces.

In 1977, Babar Ali returned to the private sector, where he applied his talents to social imperatives like the environment and education. He worked closely with and later succeeded Prince Philip as president WWF International. He established the Ali Institute of Education for the training of teachers, and in 1985 he obtained a charter to establish Lums. Over the past 40 years, Lums has provided a generation of managers and successful entrepreneurs who have become the 'steel frame' of organisations here and abroad. With great power comes great responsibility; with great wealth comes beneficence. Through the Babar Ali Foundation, he has amongst other benefactions endowed scholarships at Lums, established the Naqsh School of Art in his ancestral haveli, and at the seedling level, schools for underprivileged children in Syedanwala villa--ge outside Lahore.

Mr Babar Ali has spoken frequently of 'learning from others'. For him, every day is a classroom from which he emerges with newer insights, afresh with ideas. Visiting the milk cooperatives in Indian Gujarat, he felt inspired to develop Pakistan's huge but unorganised milk industry. [Pakistan is the world's 5th largest milk producer, with production of over 65 million tons annually.] He filled this lacuna through a joint venture with Nestlé Milkpak to provide long-life milk in germ-free cartons.

Syed Babar Ali and I worked together closely in the NFC. I recall a meeting in Islamabad to decide on the Pak-Saudi project. The government committee held one opinion, Babar sahib another. "What happens if the plant goes wrong?" they asked.

Babar sahib replied: "You can have my head!" I whispered to him: "You may think your head is worth $200 million. The government clearly does not." Babar sahib prevailed. The rest is fertiliser history.

Syed Babar Ali's contribution to Pakistan is worth multiples of $200m. He once asked me after his brief three-month tenure as interim finance minister in 1993: "Did I achieve anything?" I reassured him: "You showed how it should be done."

His long life is a lesson in how things should and can be done.

A year on, stalemate persists

Maleeha Lodhi

A Year after the May 2025 conflict, the India-Pakistan relationship remains volatile. Diplomacy is frozen. Neither side has sought to break the deadlock. A war of words erupts every so often. Last week, it was over the water dispute. Then it was on the Kashmir dispute at the UN. Bilateral relations are at one of the lowest points in their tortured history.

Last month saw speculation about the revival of dialogue. It was triggered by voices from India calling for talks. RSS general secretary Datta-treya Hosabale urged engagement. A former army chief and ex-head of RAW agreed. Leaders from occupied Kashmir chimed in. Pakistan's foreign ministry spokesman responded quickly but cautiously. Describing this as a "positive development" he said it was the official Indian line that mattered.

Speculation grew that Delhi may be testing the waters with its no-talks posture coming under increasing questioning at home. But it quickly died. There was no official Indian statement. The opposition Congress party attacked the government for "softening" on Pakistan.

India-Pakistan relations snapped back to their default mode of a tense stand-off. In fact, even track two engagement between former officials over the past year has seen no movement.

Just reiterations of familiar positions. Suggestions by the Pakistani side for backchannel communication found no traction from the Indians. The Modi government, they said, was averse to any formal or informal dialogue.

Meanwhile, water has emerged as the new arena of India-Pakistan confrontation. Delhi had suspended the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) in April 2025, in the immediate aftermath of the terrorist incident in Pahalgam in occupied Kashmir. After the four-day India-Pakistan military clash, Indian officials repeatedly declared Pakistan would not get a single drop from 'India's rivers'.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi vowed to make Pakistan "feel the heat" on the issue. For over six decades, the 1960 treaty had survived wars, confrontations and tensions to provide a framework for water-sharing between the two neighbours. Now its fate hung in the balance. India's weaponisation of water held serious long-term implications for Pakistan, posing an existential threat to its agricultural economy and water security. Its immediate impact was, however, limited. This was because India lacked the infrastructure or enough dams to halt the flow of water or significantly divert it.

Over the past year, Pakistan repeatedly protested against India's use of water as an instrument of coercion and warned any diversion of Indus river flows would be deemed an "act of war". It also sought to draw international attention to the issue. Islamabad pointed out that India's decision to put the treaty into "abeyance" had no legal basis.

The treaty does not allow either party to unilaterally suspend or abrogate it. But Delhi rejected Islamabad's protests and said the treaty would remain suspended "until Pakistan ends its support for cross-border terrorism".

More significantly, the Indian government now says it is "actively working" on Prime Minister Modi's directive to halt water flows to Pakistan. Last week, India's minister of water, C.R. Patil declared that it was being ensured that "not a single drop of water will go [to Pakistan] in coming years". This involves restoring and expanding the capacity of existing reservoirs and creation of new ones.

Delhi announced projects to build canals that will divert water from Pakistan's Chenab river system into the Beas basin. Islamabad called this interference in downstream flows a violation of both the IWT and broader principles of international water law.

The Indian government also unveiled plans for silt flushing from the Salal Dam reservoir on the Chenab river in occupied Kashmir. Islamabad has also objected to this plan which will enable India to increase effective storage and regulate flows in ways that could exceed the IWT's limits. This is not permissible under either the treaty or the 1978 Salal Agreement.

Putting the treaty in abeyance doesn't legally allow India to undertake these two river projects that can threaten irrigation supplies critical for Pakistan's agricultural heartland. But that hasn't stopped Delhi. The two countries also continue to clash over the IWT's dispute settlement mechanism.

For years, they have disagreed with India rejecting and boycotting the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague and ignoring its rulings. It called, instead, for a neutral expert. The IWT provides for both. But Delhi now rejects these mechanisms and has disassociated itself from both. This means there is no avenue or forum to resolve water disputes.

It is not just India's aims to weaponise water that concern Islamabad. Its post-May 2025 moves to rearm itself and upgrade its military capabilities are also consequential for Pakistan. The Modi government raised India's defence budget to a record $85billion this year. It has ordered over a 100 more Rafale fighter jets from France. It also plans to buy an unprecedented number of armed drones and additional S-400 air and missile defence systems.

Missile development and purchases have accelerated. More alarmingly, India is now mating nuclear warheads to missiles and deploying a small number with operational forces in peacetime, according to SIPRI's latest 2026 handbook. This is a dangerous departure from the posture of recessed deterrence adopted by both India and Pakistan, by which they have kept warheads and launchers de-mated.

The current phase of 'no war, no peace' is expected to continue. The Modi government is not interested in resuming any dialogue. In fact, its post-2019 approach to Pakistan is characterised by three key features.

One, that Kashmir is off the negotiating table. Two, the relationship will be seen through the narrow lens of terrorism with Delhi grading Pakistan's 'good behaviour'. And three, diplomatic engagement is a concession Pakistan will have to 'earn'. For Pakistan, these terms are unacceptable. This makes for dim prospects for resumption of formal dialogue anytime soon.

India and Pakistan can't afford another crisis. They have had five in the past 25 years, each one more dangerous than the last. They have to find a way — and mechanism — to prevent the next crisis and manage one if it breaks out.

This urges the need to revive the backchannel between the two countries. It worked between 2019 and 2024. This kept the line of communication open. Today, it is needed even more not just to manage crisis but also explore how old and new disputes can be resolved.

KP Govt, MoR sign agreement for cooperation in railway sector

PESHAWAR (APP): The Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Ministry of Railways (MoR) have signed a Framework Agreement for cooperation in the railway sector.

The agreement was signed at a ceremony held at Khyber Pakhtunkhwa House, Islamabad, by Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Sohail Afridi and Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to effective implementation of the agreement and to fast-tracking railway-related projects in the province. Under the Framework Agreement, the Federal Ministry of Railways will facilitate

the use of existing railway infrastructure in the province and provide technical support, while railway projects in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will be taken forward in phases.

The provincial government will undertake the restoration and rehabilitation of historic railway stations, for which Rs500 million has been allocated under the Annual Development Programme for the current fiscal year. Existing railway facilities of the federal government will also be utilised for the provision of a suburban railway service in the province.

As per briefing, the Nowshera-Jahangira railway route project will be taken forward on a priority basis, with the consultancy contract for preparation of the feasibility study scheduled to be awarded by August 30.

The railway link between Nowshera, Mardan and Dargai will also be developed in phases, while restoration of the province's historic railway heritage will form an integral part of the cooperation framework.

Speaking at the ceremony, Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Sohail Afridi said implementation of the Framework Agreement would support the restoration, expansion and modernisation of the railway system in the province. Under the Greater Peshawar Circular Railway project, Peshawar, Nowshera, Mardan and Charsadda will be connected through a modern railway network. Subsequent phases of the Peshawar Valley Railway will include the Nowshera-Mardan-Dargai link, while future phases will also incorporate railway connectivity from Mardan, Charsadda and Peshawar to Torkham.



A state funeral was held in Rome, the capital of Italy, following the death of Emma Bonino, leader of the Italian Radical Party, who passed away at the age of 78 on September 11. Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni also attended the ceremony, which was held at the Campidoglio City Hall.



People holding European Union flags attend a protest held against the government of Prime Minister Rumen Radev in front of the Council of Ministers in Sofia, Bulgaria

PM forms high-level committee to steer Pak-Iran gas pipeline out of arbitration impasse, NA told

ISLAMABAD (INP): Petroleum Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik told the Senate on Tuesday that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had constituted a high-level committee to work out a mutually acceptable solution to the long-stalled Pak-Iran gas pipeline project, balancing Pakistan's potential financial liability arising from arbitration with its future energy requirements,

Responding to a calling attention notice moved by Senator Talha Mahmood, the minister said the committee was examining the legal, financial and energy dimensions of the project to determine a way forward in Pakistan's national interest.

He said Iran was a "brotherly country" and the leadership of the two countries remained engaged in efforts to reach an amicable settlement acceptable to both sides.

Malik said Iran had already made substantial physical progress on its side of the project, bringing gas from the South Pars field to a major Iranian city near the Pakistani border.

The minister said the matter had gone into arbitration in Paris, making it necessary for Pakistan to assess the potential financial liability associated with the project carefully.

He said the government wanted to avoid further complications arising from litigation and was therefore pursuing a negotiated settlement with Iran.

"The committee is looking at the potential liability facing Pakistan, the implications of litigation and the country's future energy requirements," Malik said, adding that these factors would help determine the way forward on the project.

Responding to concerns over gas-related issues in Balochistan, the petroleum minister said the premier had directed him to engage with provincial stakeholders.

He said another high-level committee, headed by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, was examining Balochistan's gas-related problems, including technical and payment issues.

On August 14, Pakistan called on Iran to slash the price of gas by half for it to be supplied through the Iran-Pakistan (IP) pipeline project. It also asked it to lower the gas volume after different sectors in the country showed lack of interest in buying energy supplies at higher prices.

At present, the local distribution companies are providing gas to fertiliser plants and domestic consumers at Rs1,500, or $5.7, per million British thermal units (mmBtu) and Rs1,000, or $3.57, per mmBtu, respectively.

Power producers have expressed their inability to buy imported gas at a price of over Rs2,000/mmBtu, which in dollar terms stands at $7.14. The government has established it as a commercially sustainable market benchmark for the IP gas pipeline. Moreover, authorities said they would push ahead with the project if US President Donald Trump gives a waiver to Iran. The Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline, also known as the Peace Pipeline, was conceived to bring Iranian natural gas to Pakistan to help meet the country's growing energy needs. Iran has already built part of the pipeline inside its territory, while Pakistan failed to complete the project by December 2014. The project has remained stalled for more than a decade, with Pakistan unable to complete its portion.

German ambassador hails Pakistan's economic progress, Moody's rating upgrade

ISLAMABAD (APP): Germany's Ambassador to Pakistan, Ms. Ina Lepel, called on Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb here on Tuesday, congratulated Pakistan on the recent upgrade in its sovereign credit rating by Moody's, and appreciated the country's economic progress despite regional geopolitical challenges.

She appreciated the government's ongoing efforts towards economic stabilization and structural reforms, and reaffirmed Germany's continued interest in strengthening bilateral economic and business relations with Pakistan.

She also expressed support for sustained engagement and greater collaboration between German companies and their Pakistani counterparts, according to press release issued by finance ministry.

She also extended an invitation to the Finance Minister to the 19th Asia-Pacific Conference of German Business (APK), to be held in Seoul later this year. The Conference aims to provide a platform for dialogue between business and political leaders and to foster economic relations between Europe'.



TASHKENT: Bilal Bin Saqib, Minister of State and Chairman PVARA, participating in a high-level session at the Silk Road Finance and Technology Forum.

Pakistan to introduce more high-yield crop seeds from China

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan is moving to expand access to high-yield crop seeds from China as it seeks to raise agricultural productivity, strengthen food security and ease mounting pressure on food prices.

In the latest development, Pakistan's Federal Seed Analyst Waqas Amjad signed an agreement with a seed company in Chongqing, China, to facilitate the introduction of additional Chinese crop varieties, including rice, rapeseed, corn, soybeans and vegetables, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Tuesday.

The move came as Amjad concluded a training programme in China, where he explored cooperation in seed technology and agricultural development.

Pakistan is also considering a series of measures to make it easier for Chinese seed companies to enter the Pakistani market and accelerate the commercialisation of new varieties, Amjad told China Economic Net.

Under the proposed measures, the adaptation testing period for imported seed varieties could be reduced from two years to one, allowing new varieties to reach farmers more quickly.

2,125,296 smart meters installed across Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Ministry of Energy has informed the Senate that a total of 2,125,296 smart meters have been installed across Pakistan's power distribution companies (DISCOs).

According to a written reply submitted to the Senate, the Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) has installed the highest number of smart meters, with 1,153,556 units.

The Gujranwala Electric Power Company (GEPCO) has installed 348,135 smart meters, while the Multan Electric Power Company (MEPCO) has installed 229,719. The Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) has installed 119,372 smart meters, followed by the Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) with 111,948.

The Peshawar Electric Power Company (PESCO) has installed 60,685 smart meters, while K-Electric has installed 50,599.

According to the ministry's written response, the Hyderabad Electric Supply Company (HESCO) has installed 19,620 smart meters and the Sukkur Electric Power Company (SEPCO) has installed 13,432.

Read more: Smart meters to transform residential water usage The Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO).

FCCI hails Moody's upgrade of Pakistan's credit rating

FAISALABAD (APP): Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) President Farooq Yousuf Sheikh has welcomed Moody's improvement in Pakistan's credit rating and described it as a significant confidence-building development that could strengthen standing of the country among international financial institutions and attract greater foreign investment.

In a statement here on Tuesday, he said the improved rating would help enhance the confidence of global financial institutions and international investors in Pakistan's economy.

He said that foreign exchange reserves of the country had registered a substantial increase, which also reflected improvement in economic governance and overall management of financial affairs. He said that upward revision in the credit rating was an indication of greater economic stability and it could create a more favorable environment for investment and business activity.

The FCCI president particularly highlighted the potential benefits for foreign direct investment, saying that improved international credit standing could encourage foreign investors to explore opportunities in Pakistan with greater confidence. He expressed hope that the positive development would help Pakistan further strengthen its economic position.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb holding a meeting with German Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E. Ms. Ina Lepel, at Finance Division.

Senate food security committee reviews wheat, oilseed policies

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate Standing Committee on National Food Security & Research on Tuesday met under the chairmanship of Senator Syed Masroor Ahsan and reviewed irregularities in the recruitment process of the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) and National Wheat Policy.

The committee also reviewed National Oilseed Policy, tobacco cultivation and the issue of alleged bogus VRI vaccination in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, said a press release.

The meeting was attended by Senator Poonjo Bheel and Senator Sardar Al Haj Muhammad Umer Gorgaij.

The committee unanimously confirmed the minutes of its previous meeting. An agenda item regarding starred questions was deferred on the request of the movers.

While examining alleged irregularities in PARC's recruitment process, the committee expressed serious concern over the non-submission of the required written reply and relevant record.

The committee was informed that the matter is sub judice.

Adopting cashless economy

FPCCI conducted roundtable session with high-profile stakeholders

Independent Report

KARACHI: Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI), has expressed his satisfaction on FPCCI hosting a very well-attended and interactive roundtable session today with high-profile stakeholders from key federal and provincial government institutions, and multi-sectoral private-sector representatives.

Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh apprised that the roundtable focused on the transition to a cashless economy. The session, held at the FPCCI Head Office, Federation House Karachi, convened key stakeholders from the business community, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), and Sindh Revenue Board (SRB). The primary objective of the session was to develop coordinated incentives for digital payments; including possible tax incentives and cashbacks or discounts. Discussions centered on utilizing these measures to encourage documented transactions, improve tax compliance, and expand the formal economy, he added.

Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh explained that embracing a cashless economy is no longer optional; it is an urgent imperative for Pakistan's economic growth. Transitioning away from cash is the most effective way to ensure transparency, lower the cost of doing business, and integrate our markets globally.

Mr. Ghulam Muhammad Phul, Head of Financial Inclusion Support Department (FISD), emphasized the central bank's role; stating the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) is fully committed to facilitating a secure and robust digital payment infrastructure. We support initiatives that allow FinTech companies.



Issues in Milching Animal Tax collection to be resolved soon: Nasir

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Local Government Minister Nasir Hussain Shah Tuesday said the issues relating to the collection of the Milching Animal Tax between towns would be resolved at the earliest so that the tax collection mechanism could function more effectively and relevant municipal institutions could utilize their resources efficiently.



بعدالت اسپیشل جج انسداد دہشتگردی مستونگ

اشتہار بحکم احضار مخفی ملزمان زیر دفعہ (87 ض ف)(10) 19 انسداد دہشت گردی ایکٹ 1997

سرکار بنام:۔ کمانڈر بشیر زیب وغیرہ FIR نمبر 23/2026 ATC کیس نمبر 22/2026

OFFENCE UNDER 7 ATA , 7 (1) (b) 7 (1) (c) 7 (1) (d)

CTD بلوچستان کوئٹہ ممسیان سفیر احمد عرف جینکر بلوچ ولد عبدالغنی قوم سرپرہ ساکن کردگاپ مستونگ و بشیر زیب عرف کامریڈ بشیر ولد ڈاکٹر عبداللہ جان سکنہ احمد وال نوشکی جرم بالا کا مرتکب ہوئے ہیں یا ان کے ارتکاب پر جرم کا شبہ ہے ازروئے کیفیت تعمیل وارنٹ گرفتاری جو پہلے نالش جاری ہوا ہے کہ ممسیان مذکورہ دستیاب نہیں ہو سکتے اور ہرگاہ حسب اطمینان ہمارے ثابت ہوا ہے کہ ملزمان مذکورہ بالا فرار ہو گئے ہیں یا اس نے وارنٹ گرفتاری کی تعمیل سے گریز کرنے کیلئے اپنے تئیں روپوش کیا ہے لہذا اس اشتہار کی رو سے حکم دیا جاتا ہے کہ ممسیان بالا کو لازم ہے کہ وہ مقررہ تاریخ پیشی 24 ستمبر 2026 کو عدالت انسداد دہشتگردی بمقام مستونگ میں جواب دہی نالش کیلئے حاضر ہو جائے۔

اسپیشل جج انسداد دہشتگردی مستونگ

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بعدالت اسپیشل جج انسداد دہشتگردی مستونگ

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سرکار بنام:۔ دوستین بلوچ وغیرہ FIR نمبر 200/2025 ATC کیس نمبر 26/2026

Offence Under Section 7 (1) (a) -7 (1) (h) 7(1) (i) 7 (2) 11i ,11N,21i ATA

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SBP considering abolishing Rs10 currency note

ISLAMABAD (INP): State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Deputy Governor Dr Inayat Hussain on Friday told the Senate body that the central bank is considering discontinuing the Rs10 currency note due to its "rising production cost".

Briefing the Senate Standing Committee on Finance committee on the proposed new currency notes, Dr Hussain said the SBP had twice previously attempted to discontinue the Rs10 currency note.

He said the denomination would be abolished when the new currency notes are introduced.

The deputy governor said the existing currency series had been in circulation since printing began in 2005.

He added that new notes with enhanced security features were being planned, with the matter having been discussed twice by the federal cabinet.

Al Zarooni calls for expanding UAE-Pakistan trade and investment & tourism ties

KARACHI (APP): United Arab Emirates business magnate and Chairman of Al Zarooni Group, Suhail Muhammad Al Zarooni, has called for expanding trade and investment cooperation between Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates, saying the two countries have significant untapped potential in commerce, industry, real estate, technology, logistics and tourism.

He highlighted the need for joint initiatives to strengthen bilateral ties through increased trade, tourism and people-to-people exchanges.

Speaking during his visit to Pakistan, Suhail Al Zarooni said stronger business-to-business links, simplified investment procedures and greater facilitation for investors could help increase bilateral trade and promote joint ventures.

He emphasized that Emirati citizens hold Pakistan in high regard and share deep affection for the country, urging both sides to focus on fraternity and constructive diplomacy rather than being influenced by negative narratives or irresponsible social media content. "The UAE and Pakistan share decades of brotherhood, and it is vital to safeguard each other's interests, dignity and sentiments," he said.

He called for new avenues of collaboration in trade, industry, real estate, technology, logistics and tourism, stressing that easing investment procedures and encouraging joint ventures could significantly boost bilateral trade.

Suhail Al Zarooni stressed the need for Pakistan to intensify efforts to attract tourists from Arab countries.



ISLAMABAD: Labourers along with their tools sitting on the roadside waiting for clients to be hired for work at Khanna Pul.

We must turn regional connectivity into regional competitiveness: Ahsan

URUMQI (China) (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal said Pakistan was moving beyond the export of IT services towards technology products, digital platforms and technology-driven industries as part of its broader agenda for economic transformation.

Addressing the 2026 Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Digital Economy Forum in Urumqi, he said Pakistan's IT and ICT exports had reached a record $4.6 billion during the last fiscal year, while the country was focusing on exports, productivity, innovation, investment and human resources under Uraan Pakistan to achieve the target of a $1 trillion economy by 2035, a news release said on Tuesday.

"Pakistan's next goal is not merely the export of services, but the promotion of technology products, digital platforms and technology-driven industries," he said.

Ahsan said the digital economy was not merely a technology agenda for Pakistan but a comprehensive programme for economic transformation, with e-Pakistan, one of the five fundamental pillars of Uraan Pakistan, serving as an important component of economic development.

He said Pakistan's digital landscape had expanded significantly, with the number of digital users crossing 150 million and data usage increasing by around 25 per cent over the past two years.

Fibre connections had increased from around 3 million to more than 5 million, while Pakistan had set a target of extending wired broadband to 10 million households, he added.

The minister highlighted progress in closing the digital gender gap, saying the disparity in mobile internet usage had declined from 35 per cent to only 8 per cent, while women's mobile internet usage had increased from 33 per cent to 45 per cent.

"Such digital transformation that leaves women behind can neither be economically effective nor socially just," he said, stressing that women's participation was essential for inclusive digital development.

Ahsan said Pakistan was enhancing its capabilities in artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, cloud computing, semiconductors, advanced industry and emerging technologies.

He said seven AI centres were being established to connect research, skills, startups and industry, adding that the country was seeking to develop an ecosystem capable of translating technological capabilities into economic opportunities.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi shaking hands with Lebanon Interior Minister Ahmad Al- Hajjar during his visit to the Ministry of Interior.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman National Disaster Management Authority Lt. General Inam Haider Malik calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

DPM Dar underscores importance of dialogue, diplomacy for lasting peace

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Deputy Prime Minister/ Foreign Minister (DPM/ FM), Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Tuesday appreciated the positive trajectory in Pakistan-U.S. relations and stressed the need for regular engagement on issues of mutual interest, during a call on paid by U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Natalie A. Baker here. During the meeting, the discussions focused on Pakistan-U.S. bilateral cooperation and recent regional developments, a DPM's Office news release said.

The deputy prime minister underscored the importance of dialogue and diplomacy for lasting peace. Referring to the upcoming 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, the DPM/FM noted that Pakistan's delegation would be led by the prime minister.

Uzbek media delegation arrives to gain insight into Pakistan's media landscape

ISLAMABAD (APP): A 10 member Uzbek media delegation arrived in Pakistan on Tuesday for a seven day visit at the invitation of the Government of Pakistan to deepen Pak-Uzbek ties, strengthen media and people to people contacts, and gain first hand insight into Pakistan's media landscape, cultural heritage, tourism potential and progress in various fields.

The delegation comprises prominent Uzbek television personalities, digital content creators, YouTubers, influencers and social media personalities, who will interact with representatives of public and private sector institutions during their stay. The visit is aimed at promoting greater media cooperation and facilitating the exchange of content, professional experiences and expertise between the two brotherly countries.

The visiting media personalities will particularly explore Pakistan's evolving television, digital and social media landscape and the role of these platforms in shaping public discourse, promoting Pakistan's image and contributing to social and economic development.

They will also have an opportunity to share their observations and experiences with audiences in Uzbekistan through television, digital platforms and social media, helping build a deeper understanding of Pakistan.

As part of the visit, the delegation will tour major cultural, historical and tourist destinations in Islamabad, Murree, Taxila and Lahore. The visitors will explore Pakistan's rich cultural and historical heritage, including the ancient civilisation of Taxila and Lahore's distinctive architectural and historical legacy.



ISLAMABAD: Executive Director General, External Publicity Wing, Ms. Raisa Adil, with the visiting 10-member Media Delegation of Uzbekistan during their visit to Islamabad.

Climate-induced displacement emerging as increasingly serious challenge for Pakistan: Gilani

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani on Tuesday called for stronger parliamentary coordination, evidence-based legislation and sustained institutional dialogue to promote safe, orderly and regular migration while safeguarding the rights, dignity and legitimate interests of Pakistani migrants.

Addressing the First Parliamentary Dialogue on Migration Governance in Pakistan, Gilani welcomed the Chief of Mission of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Pakistan, Mio Sato and appreciated IOM's continued partnership with the Parliament of Pakistan in strengthening migration governance.

He also commended the Office of Special Initiatives and Parliamentary Development Unit of the Senate Secretariat for organising the parliamentary initiative.

The Chairman Senate said migration was a multidimensional issue closely linked with employment, economic opportunities, human development, security and regional cooperation.

He stressed that migration should not be viewed solely through a security lens but addressed through a humane, balanced, evidence-based and development-oriented approach.

Gilani emphasised the need to protect migrant workers, promote safe and legal pathways, ensure ethical recruitment, facilitate remittances and safeguard Pakistanis abroad against racism, Islamophobia and xenophobia.

He also highlighted the growing nexus between climate change and migration, noting that climate-induced displacement was emerging as an increasingly serious challenge for Pakistan.

He called for predictable, accessible and adequate international climate finance, particularly grants, to strengthen climate resilience, protect vulnerable communities and reduce the risk of forced displacement.

Referring to Pakistan's longstanding humanitarian contribution, Chairman Gilani said the country had hosted millions of Afghan refugees over several decades and provided them access to essential facilities and livelihood opportunities.

He said Pakistan had also made significant sacrifices in the fight against terrorism and continued to play a constructive role in promoting regional and global peace.

He stressed upon the importance of bipartisan parliamentary consensus on migration governance, saying the issue transcended political affiliations and directly affected families and communities across Pakistan.

KSA warns of 'firm' response as Houthi missile, drone attacks wound 13 civilians

JEDDAH, (Agencies): Saudi Arabia warned on Tuesday it would react "firmly" to Yemen's Houthis after a series of attacks using ballistic missiles and drones wounded 13 civilians in the country's south.

The Houthis have been engaged in renewed fighting with Saudi-backed government forces since Yemen's civil war reignited in July, when the group declared a maritime blockade on Riyadh and began targeting its ships in the Red Sea.

The group seized control of Yemen's Red Sea coast and the Bab al-Mandab Strait last week, which has become vital as the wider US-Iran war chokes the Strait of Hormuz, in a significant blow to Yemeni government forces.

It has also targeted the oil infrastructure of Saudi Arabia, the world's leading crude exporter, pushing oil prices above the $100 threshold. A Houthi strike in western Yemen on Monday killed eight soldiers from government forces, according to two military sources. The Houthis claimed a new "large-scale" attack using "dozens of ballistic missiles and drones" against the King Khalid airbase in Khamis Mushait, in southern Saudi Arabia.

A Khamis Mushait resident told AFP he heard "intense blasts" which left fires burning for a "long time".



URUMQI: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, speaking at the 2026 Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Digital Economy Forum in Urumqi, China.

Modernization plan of Gadani Shipbreaking Industry implemented

QUETTA (APP): The modernization project of the Gadani Shipbreaking Industry at a cost of 12 billion under the federal Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) is being successfully implemented.

These views were expressed on Tuesday by concerned officials in briefing to the Commissioner Lasbella Division Saira Atta during the inspection of the projects.

The officials said in the briefing that the government of Pakistan has started work on the Ship Recycling Green Yard project after ratifying the Hong Kong Convention.

Balochistan Development Authority (BDA) is monitoring each project as the regulatory authority of the project Commissioner Lasbela Division Saira Atta visited different sections of the 100-acre Gadani project site.



Palestinians mourn during a funeral prayer in the courtyard of Nasser Hospital for Rafat Abu Zemer and his wife, who lost their lives in an Israeli drone strike near a tent sheltering displaced Palestinians in the Al-Mawasi area west of Khan Yunis in southern Gaza, Palestine

Pakistan intensifies efforts to stop poliovirus transmission

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan is intensifying efforts to stop poliovirus transmission by the end of 2026, deploying all available resources and focusing on early detection, high vaccination coverage and mobile populations to achieve the final mile of eradication.

In a media briefing at the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC), Prime Minister's Focal Person for Polio Eradication Ayesha Raza Farooq said surveillance data showed that poliovirus was still present in the country, but the surveillance system was effectively detecting its circulation.

She said the government was making sincere efforts to interrupt transmission by the end of this year and make Pakistan polio-free, adding that early detection and repeated vaccination campaigns remained critical to targeting the remaining virus reservoirs.

"Despite a 96 per cent reduction in cases nationwide compared to 2024, positive environmental samples show that the virus is still circulating," she said.

Ayesha Raza Farooq said environmental surveillance had detected ongoing transmission, with 40 per cent of monitored districts reporting positive samples in 2026.

However, she said there had been a steady decline in positive detections, from 417 samples during January-July 2025 to 124 during the corresponding period of 2026.

She stressed that recurrent vaccination campaigns were essential to reaching children in remaining high-risk areas and ensuring that no child was missed, underscoring the importance of continued surveillance and vaccination.

Commissioner directs to achieve anti-polio drive's objectives in Naseerabad

NASEERABAD: Commissioner Naseerabad Division Salahuddin Noorzai has ordered district administrations and health authorities to ensure comprehensive coverage during the forthcoming anti-polio campaign, with 413,788 children across 126 union councils included in the vaccination target.

He issued the directives while presiding over a meeting of the Divisional Task Force on Polio Eradication, instructing officials to complete preparations and execute the campaign according to a comprehensive micro-plan.

The Commissioner stressed that accurate planning and effective field monitoring were essential to achieving the campaign's objectives.

He directed deputy commissioners to personally supervise vaccination activities, assess the performance of field teams and closely monitor coverage as well as security arrangements for vaccinators.

Noorzai warned that negligence or shortcomings would not be tolerated and called for strict implementation of the provincial government's directions throughout the campaign.



In Rotterdam, Netherlands, thousands of people participated in a silent march in memory of 51-year-old Alfredo Goeloe, who died shortly after being taken into police custody

Reforms should involve comprehensive review of DRAP's overall institutional structure: Ahad

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Establishment Division Senator Ahad Cheema on Tuesday called for comprehensive structural and policy reforms to transform the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) into a stronger, more independent and empowered regulatory and pricing authority, alongside a review of the existing pricing formula for imported medicines.

Chairing a high-level meeting on drug pricing, the minister emphasized the need to revisit DRAP's existing institutional and governance framework, including its relationship with the Ministry of National Health Services, its decision-making structure.

Commissioner Quetta Division directs to maintain updated records of terrorists

QUETTA, (VoM Report): Commissioner Quetta Division Zeeshan Lashari has directed deputy commissioners to maintain updated records and assessments concerning terrorists, suspected facilitators and other security-sensitive individuals, while strengthening oversight of persons listed under the Fourth Schedule and completing all outstanding security reports. He issued the directives while chairing a meeting of the Divisional Monitoring Committee, which examined the law and order situation, security measures, anti-narcotics operations, efforts to curb poppy cultivation and the functioning of educational and healthcare institutions. Deputy Commissioner Quetta Mehrullah Badini, Deputy Commissioner Quetta West Munir Ahmed Durrani, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Quetta Division Syed Kaleemullah and representatives of police, Excise, Customs, Frontier Corps, NADRA, Special Branch, Anti-Narcotics Force and other relevant agencies attended the meeting. Deputy Commissioner Mastung Bahram Khan participated through video link. Participants reviewed the holding of District Implementation Committee meetings, submission of their minutes and the uploading of complaints and action taken on the BISA dashboard. The meeting also examined district-level information relating to the profiling of terrorists and facilitators and monitoring of individuals placed on the Fourth Schedule. Zeeshan Lashari instructed deputy commissioners to convene District Intelligence Coordination Committee meetings regularly and ensure that reports concerning Fourth Schedule individuals, actions taken against them and subsequent developments were submitted in a timely manner. The Commissioner also reviewed the establishment and functioning of Joint Response Centers (JRCs). He sought detailed information on implementation hurdles, current progress and future plans in districts where the centers were yet to become operational. The meeting was informed that preliminary surveys were being conducted in relevant districts to assess poppy and cannabis cultivation. Officials were tasked with compiling updated information regarding cultivation sites, ownership or status of the land, cultivated areas and the prevailing situation at district, tehsil and mouza levels.

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