Daily

THE VOICE OF MILLIONS

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Quetta

Muharram ul-Haram 16, 1448 AH | Vol: XIX No. 318 Thursday July 02, 2026 | Pages 4, Price Rs. 5 | Ph: 2823307

CM Sarfraz Bugti vows to empower Balochistan's daughters through education

QUETTA, (VoM Report): Chief Minister of Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti, accompanied by Balochistan Corps Commander Lieutenant General Rahat Naseem Ahmed Khan, visited Girls Cadet College Quetta, where they inspected various faculties, academic departments, educational facilities, and the training system in detail.

During the visit, the Chief Minister and the Corps Commander praised the college's modern education system, high standards of teaching, exemplary discipline, and the professional efforts of its administration.

Addressing the students, Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti said Girls Cadet College Quetta is one of Pakistan's exemplary educational institutions, and its students represent the country's bright future and serve as the best ambassadors of Pakistan.

He expressed confidence that graduates of the institution would excel in every field of life and play an effective role in the country's development and progress.

He urged the students to confidently promote the message of Pakistani identity wherever they go and fulfill their responsibilities as representatives of the State of Pakistan.

He said the State of Pakistan is above everything else for all citizens and that it has provided them with identity, dignity, and honor.

Mir Sarfraz Bugti said history bears witness that those who remained loyal to the state were honored and elevated, while those who betrayed it were ultimately disgraced.

He advised the students to distinguish between facts and propaganda, saying that organized false and misleading propaganda is currently being carried out against the State of Pakistan with the aim of influencing the minds of the younger generation.

He said that in some universities, certain councils operating under the banner of nationalism attempt to mislead innocent students under the guise of providing assistance and guidance. He stressed that young people should stay away from such elements and dedicate their abilities to Pakistan's development, stability, and prosperity.

The Chief Minister said the provincial government is taking practical steps to provide world-class education to young people



KARACHI: President Asif Ali Zardari in a meeting with Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah and Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti at Bilawal House.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs review meeting on preparedness for Monsoon Season and strategy to counter Climate Threats.

Coordinated action essential to mitigate risks posed by climate change: PM

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Wednesday, directed federal and provincial authorities to intensify preparations for the upcoming monsoon season, ordering the establishment of a national emergency response mechanism and stressing that coordinated action is essential to mitigate the growing risks posed by climate change. Chairing a high-level meeting to review monsoon preparedness and climate resilience, the prime minister said Pakistan remained among the countries most vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change and stressed that effective and comprehensive cooperation between the federation and the provinces was critical to address climate-related disasters. The prime minister also approved the formation of an 'Emergency Response Committee' which would be headed by the minister for Planning and Development. The committee, comprising the NDMA and representatives of relevant federal ministries, will work in close coordination with the provincial authorities and hold weekly meetings throughout the monsoon season to monitor preparedness and response efforts, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The prime minister also asked the minister for finance to complete advance arrangements for an emergency fund that could be mobilized in the event of severe monsoon-related disasters. As part of the preparedness measures, the prime minister directed the federal minister for Climate Change and the chairman of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to undertake emergency visits to all provinces, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan during the current week to assess and finalize monsoon preparedness.



Large numbers of Palestinians, including children, gather at the distribution point to receive hot meals distributed by a charity in the Al-Amal neighborhood, of Khan Yunis, Gaza, Palestine

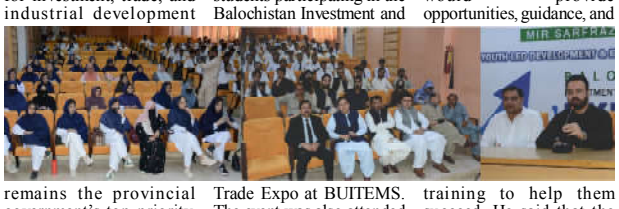
Balochistan govt taking effective measures to facilitate investors: Bilal Kakar

QUETTA, (VoM Report): Vice Chairman of the Balochistan Board of Investment and trade, Bilal Khan Kakar said that, in line with the vision of Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti, creating a conducive environment for investment, trade, and industrial development remains the provincial government's top priority.

He said that to translate this vision into reality, the Balochistan Board of Investment and Trade, in collaboration with BUITEMS, will organize the Balochistan Investment and Trade Expo next month. The expo is expected to serve as a major milestone in promoting economic growth, attracting investment, and creating new employment and business opportunities for the youth of the province.

He expressed these views while addressing volunteer students participating in the Balochistan Investment and Trade Expo at BUITEMS. The event was also attended by Chief Executive Officer (BBoIT) Qaim Lashari, BUITEMS Pro Vice Chancellor Dr. Merwais Kasi, Registrar Dr. Ahsan Achakzai, faculty members, and a large number of students. Bilal Khan Kakar said that it is not possible for the government to provide public-sector employment to every young person.

He encouraged the youth to pursue entrepreneurship and business ventures, assuring them that the provincial government would provide opportunities, guidance, and training to help them succeed. He said that the Government of Balochistan is taking effective measures to facilitate investors, simplify investment procedures, and encourage private-sector participation so that both local and international investors could invest in various sectors of the province with confidence.



President for greater inter-provincial harmony to boost national progress

KARACHI, (VoM Report): President Asif Ali Zardari met with Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, during which they held a detailed discussion on inter-provincial affairs and various matters of mutual interest.

During the meeting, they also discussed issues related to promoting inter-provincial harmony, enhancing cooperation, and strengthening national stability.

On the occasion, President Asif Ali Zardari said that promoting inter-provincial cooperation would further strengthen the ongoing efforts for the country's stability and development.

Pakistan rejects India's statement on counterterrorism actions in Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Pakistan on Wednesday rejected statement issued by India's Ministry of External Affairs regarding Pakistan's actions against terrorist infrastructure in Afghanistan and described it as baseless while reaffirming its commitment to safeguarding national security in accordance with international law.

Responding to a media query, Foreign Office Spokesperson, Ambassador, Tahir Andrabi said Pakistan's actions were legitimate, targeted and proportionate and dismissed India's allegations as preposterous, a Ministry of Foreign Affairs news release said. The spokesperson said the Indian statement had been issued by a country that, according to Pakistan, has historically interfered in and undermined the sovereignty and territorial integrity of its neighbouring states in violation of the UN Charter.

He further alleged that India continued to suppress the right to self-determination of the people of IIOJK in contravention of relevant United Nations resolutions.

Ambassador Tahir Andrabi also accused India of actively aiding and sponsoring terrorist groups operating from Afghan territory against Pakistan.

BEEF announces merit based scholarships for intermediate students

QUETTA, (VoM Report): The Balochistan Education Endowment Fund (BEEF) has formally announced the Merit List Scholarships Program for intermediate students under the Education Policy 2025-26. Under the vision of Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti, the provincial government has continued its practical measures to promote quality education across the province. This initiative reflects the government's commitment to ensuring that every talented student in Balochistan can pursue higher education without financial barriers.

The program aims to safeguard merit, provide equal opportunities, and secure a brighter future for the province's youth.

Led by CEO Khalid Mandai, BEEF has been supporting thousands of students through merit-based and effective scholarship policies, ensuring timely and organized access to educational facilities for deserving and capable youth.

Protection of legitimate rights of Balochistan's farmers top priority of provincial govt

NASEERABAD, (VoM Report): A meeting of the committee formed to resolve issues related to the canal systems of Sindh and Balochistan provinces was held. The meeting reviewed the overall agricultural water situation in detail, particularly the issue of Balochistan receiving less than its allocated share of water. During the meeting, Secretary for Inter-Provincial Coordination Balach Baloch was briefed by Balochistan Secretary of Irrigation Sohail-ur-Rehman Baloch on measures being taken to ensure the province receives its constitutional and legal share of agricultural water through the canal system. The briefing covered Balochistan's rightful water share, the canal system, and the current situation. Chief Engineer Canals Balochistan Nasir Majeed, Superintending Engineer Irrigation Circle Nasirabad Division Mudassar Zafar Khosa, and other relevant officials were also present. Speaking on the occasion, Secretary Irrigation Sohail-ur-Rehman Baloch said that, under the directives of the Chief Minister of Balochistan, the Chief Secretary, and the Provincial Minister for Irrigation, all possible measures are being taken to secure Balochistan's rightful share of agricultural water. He said coordination between Sindh and Balochistan is being strengthened and expedited.

Security forces neutralize four cross-border drones launched from Afghanistan in Balochistan

RAWALPINDI, (APP): Demonstrating a high state of operational readiness, security forces successfully neutralized all four rudimentary drones launched across the border from Afghanistan into Balochistan using sophisticated countermeasures.

The hostile aerial platforms were immediately picked up by Pakistan's robust air defence network and the swift and effective response foiled the malicious attempt, said a news release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR). "On 30 June, Afghan Taliban regime launched four rudimentary drones across the border in Balochistan as part of their patronisation and support of terrorists outfits operating from inside their controlled territories," it further said.

Such gimmicks of the Afghan Taliban regime are aimed at misleading the Afghan population suffering under their oppressive regime. The Afghan Taliban should realise that their irresponsible behaviour is only adding to the hardships of the Afghan people. Instead of trying to sedate their population through such antics and hollow rhetoric, they should eschew sponsorship of terrorism and adhere to the principle of peaceful coexistence. However, if the Afghan Taliban continue to provoke Pakistan, they would receive a befitting response which would cost them heavily, the news release said. "The Pakistan Armed Forces remain fully vigilant and capable of defending every inch of the motherland. Any misadventures or cross-border provocations threatening the sovereignty of Pakistan and endangering our people will continue to be met with swift, decisive, and overwhelming responses under Operation Ghazab-lil-Haq," it further said.



QUETTA: Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail chairs third senate meeting of University of Gwadar.

Promotion of higher education in Balochistan top priority: Governor

QUETTA, (VoM Report): Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhel on Wednesday said that the government is taking great interest in promoting higher education, our goal is to include the University of Gwadar in the list of the best coastal belt universities in the world.

He said that as a result of our wise planning and close supervision, we have been able to strike a balance between limited resources and unlimited problems in all public sector universities of the province, Gwadar University's score of 88.79 percent is an honor for all of us, for which the Vice Chancellor of the University of Gwadar, Prof. Dr. Abdul Razaq Sabir and his entire team deserve tribute.

He expressed these views while presiding over the third Senate meeting of the University of Gwadar.

The third Senate meeting of the University of Gwadar was attended by Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Abdul Razaq Sabir, Vice Chancellor of the University of Balochistan Dr. Zahoor Ahmed Bazai, Justice Najmuddin Mengal of the Balochistan High Court, Additional Secretary Higher Education Mandokhel, Principal Secretary to the Governor of Balochistan Abdul Nasir Dotani, Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Syed Manzoor Ahmed and Registrar Dr. Daulat Khan, including all the Senate members. Talking to the participants of the third Senate meeting, Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhel said that the government is taking great interest in promoting higher education.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal addresses the inaugural ceremony of the URAAN Pakistan "Mitti Ki Pukar " Overseas Pakistanis Summer Scholars Programme 2026.

Using water as weapon illegal, unacceptable: CM Bugti

QUETTA, (VoM Report): Chief Minister of Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that India's attempt to unilaterally suspend the Indus Waters Treaty poses a serious threat to international law, the sanctity of treaties, and regional peace. He said using water as a weapon is not only illegal but also contrary to humanitarian values and international norms and cannot be accepted under any circumstances. In a message posted on social media platform X, the Chief Minister said the Indus Waters Treaty is an internationally recognized and legally binding agreement that cannot be unilaterally suspended, revoked, or rendered ineffective by any party.

He said the spirit of the treaty is linked to international cooperation, mutual trust, and the promotion of lasting peace in the region, and that any violation is a matter of concern not only for South Asia but also for the international legal order.

THE VOICE OF MILLIONS

Thursday July 02, 2026

CM Mir Sarfraz Bugti lays foundation of Balochistan's long-term prosperity

Balochistan government is embracing innovation and best practices to improve service delivery and governance outcomes

Balochistan is witnessing a forward-looking and responsible approach to governance under the leadership of Mir Sarfraz Bugti, as the provincial government takes decisive steps to secure long-term financial stability and strengthen institutional performance.

In a clear demonstration of fiscal responsibility, the Chief Minister has rightly highlighted the importance of enhancing provincial revenue generation. His emphasis reflects a proactive strategy to address structural challenges, particularly the imbalance between rising non-development expenditures and limited development resources. Rather than deferring difficult decisions, the government is confronting these realities with clarity and purpose.

The recent meeting of the Advisory Council of the Balochistan Revenue Authority marked a significant milestone in this reform journey. The approval of modern audit rules, digitalization initiatives, and structural reforms signals a shift toward a more transparent, efficient, and accountable revenue system. These measures are not only aligned with contemporary governance standards but also demonstrate the administration's commitment to institutional modernization.

Encouragingly, the BRA's performance reflects growing momentum, with nearly half of its ambitious annual target already achieved. This progress underscores the effectiveness of current policies and the dedication of the team. It also highlights the government's ability to translate vision into tangible results.

Chief Minister Bugti's directive to strengthen field operations and invest in professional capacity-building further reinforces a culture of performance and accountability. By encouraging the inclusion of private sector expertise, the government is embracing innovation and best practices to improve service delivery and governance outcomes.

Importantly, the administration's focus on leveraging modern technology for tax collection reflects a broader commitment to transparency—an essential pillar for building public trust. This approach not only enhances efficiency but also ensures fairness in the system.

The collective resolve shown by senior leadership, including Mir Shoaib Nosherwani and Shakeel Qadir Khan, demonstrates a unified vision for a financially independent and resilient Balochistan.

Overall, the government's strategy represents a commendable blend of realism and reform. By prioritizing revenue enhancement, institutional strengthening, and transparency, Balochistan is laying a solid foundation for sustainable development and long-term prosperity.

Positive response to fuel crisis

MUHAMMAD ZAHID RIFAT

The recent escalation in the Middle East, triggered by the USA–Israel coalition strike on Iran, did not only raise tensions in an already volatile region; it also exposed the vulnerability of fuel-importing economies. The disruption of shipping routes, particularly around the Strait of Hormuz, sent shockwaves through global energy markets. For countries like Pakistan, heavily reliant on imported petroleum, the crisis translated into immediate economic pressure. Pakistan's response offers a notable case study in crisis management under constraint. Faced with a sudden external shock, the government chose not to pass on the immediate burden to consumers. Instead, it absorbed the initial impact, committing approximately Rs129 billion over a three-week period to stabilise domestic fuel prices. This decision helped cushion households and businesses at a time when global prices were surging sharply.

Equally significant was the administrative handling of the situation. While several countries experienced fuel shortages, rationing, and long queues, Pakistan's domestic supply remained largely uninterrupted. Fuel stations continued to operate normally, even during the high-demand Eid period. This relative stability was not incidental; it was the result of proactive supply chain management, close coordination with refineries and importers, and continuous monitoring at the highest levels of government.

However, such broad-based price shielding was never sustainable. With global prices continuing to fluctuate upwards, the government recalibrated its approach. Rather than abruptly withdrawing support, it transitioned towards a targeted subsidy framework aimed at protecting the most vulnerable segments of the economy. This shift was institutionalised through a national-level consultation led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, bringing together all provinces, as well as Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The outcome was a coordinated subsidy regime focused on transport operators, motorbike users, small farmers, and public transit systems—sectors most exposed to fuel price volatility and with the strongest knock-on effects on inflation. These measures were designed not merely as relief, but as economic stabilisers. By containing transport and agricultural costs, the government sought to limit second-round inflationary pressures, particularly on food prices and the urban cost of living. Provincial governments followed through by adopting and implementing the agreed framework, reinforcing a rare instance of effective intergovernmental coordination. Further relief came through a reduction of approximately Rs80 per litre in the petroleum levy, easing retail fuel prices at a critical moment when global rates had peaked and domestic absorption capacity was under strain. Taken together, the response reflects a phased and adaptive strategy: initial shock absorption, administrative stabilisation, targeted subsidies, coordinated execution, and eventual tax-based relief. In a resource-constrained environment, this approach underscores a model of governance that balances fiscal prudence with public protection, demonstrating that even under severe external pressures, calibrated policy can mitigate the worst effects of a global crisis.

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Brain drain through a teacher's eyes

DR INTIKHAB ULFAT

Nearly two decades ago, upon completing my PhD in Sweden and defending my dissertation, I was asked a question that seemed simple at the time: "Why do you want to go back to Pakistan?" The assumption behind the question was clear. Many professionals from developing countries prefer to stay abroad, where systems are efficient, research funding is abundant, and merit is not perpetually negotiating with influence.

I replied without hesitation, and with genuine enthusiasm: "There may be many like me here, but Pakistan needs me."

I believed it. I believed that returning home was not merely a personal decision but a moral one. A country struggling with educational gaps, institutional fragility and intellectual dependency required its trained minds to come back and build.

I returned with hope, armed with degrees, research exposure, and a conviction that classrooms could be transformed, that students could be mentored into confident thinkers, that institutions could slowly evolve through persistence and integrity. For years, I invested myself in teaching, supervising research and encouraging students to believe that merit and hard work would eventually find space in our national landscape. I often told them that change is incremental; that nations are not built by escape but by commitment. But something unsettling has changed over the years.

Today, when my students walk into my office seeking recommendation letters for graduate studies (often with a quiet but unmistakable resolve not to return) or for jobs abroad, I feel a subtle pause within myself, a moment of reflection that words seldom capture.

Outwardly, I smile and say, "Of course, you should apply." And I write strong letters - because they deserve an opportunity. Because talent should not be caged by geography. Because I cannot, in good conscience, ask them to sacrifice their future for an abstract ideal.

Yet inwardly, my thoughts are no longer as simple as they once were.

I see in them the same spark I once carried, i.e. the desire to contribute, to innovate, to serve. But I also see their fatigue. They speak of limited research funding, shrinking academic positions, delayed recruitments, opaque selection processes, and a job market that undervalues intellectual labour.

Many of them have watched seniors struggle for years despite impressive qualifications. For them, migration is no longer an adventure; it is risk management.

This is how brain drain becomes normalised, not through disloyalty, but through accumulated disillusionment.

It would be dishonest to romanticise the situation. When educated youth repeatedly encounter barriers unrelated to merit, when institutional inertia suffocates initiative, and when economic uncertainty overshadows aspiration, departure begins to look rational.

A country cannot rely solely on emotional appeals to retain its brightest minds; it must offer them dignity, structure, and a predictable professional path. As a university teacher, I now stand at a moral crossroads. Two decades ago, I returned because I felt needed. Today, when my students seek my endorsement to leave, I feel conflicted. I want them to stay and build. I also want them to thrive. The deeper tragedy is not that they want to leave. It is that I can no longer confidently promise them that staying will reward their talent.

Patriotism should not demand professional stagnation. Commitment to one's homeland should not require surrendering ambition. If Pakistan truly needs its educated youth, as I once declared with conviction, then it must create an environment where staying is not an act of sacrifice but a viable choice.

I still believe in this country. I still enter my classroom with hope. But hope, to survive, must be matched by reform. Otherwise, the day may come when even the most enthusiastic among us struggle to answer Sweden's question with the same certainty.

And that would be a loss far greater than migration statistics can measure.

Ye ek ishara hai aafat-e nagahani ka
Kissi jagha se parindon ka kooch kar jana

The writer is a Professor of Physics at the University of Karachi

Blaming parents: oversimplification of social deviance

M ZEB KHAN

I recently listened to a sermon on parenting in which a religious scholar spoke passionately about the moral decline of society. Disrespect for elders, drug use and other forms of antisocial behaviour, he argued, were largely the result of poor parenting.

While there was some truth in his concern, what struck me was the sweeping nature of the claim. It felt intuitively unsatisfying because such a claim overlooks the many other forces that shape who children become.

It also seemed that beneath the moral urgency of the message lay a subtle push towards religious schooling as the corrective path. A closer look reveals why such explanations, though persuasive, are incomplete. No serious body of knowledge - whether in Sociology, Psychology or Behavioural Genetics - supports the idea that parenting alone determines behaviour.

Human development is shaped by an intricate interplay of factors: biological predispositions, peer influences, schooling systems, media exposure, economic conditions and cultural norms.

The appeal of blaming parents lies partly in its clarity. It offers a neat cause-and-effect relationship in a world that often resists such simplicity and a quick fix. By locating the problem within the family, it creates a sense of control - fix the parents, and the children will follow.

But this clarity comes at a cost. It shifts attention away from structural issues such as inequality, weak educational systems and limited social support or community indifference.

Complex social problems are thus reframed as personal moral failures and a matter of individual concern.

There is also an institutional dimension to such narratives. By emphasising parental shortcomings, the sermon implicitly positioned religious education, particularly madrassas, as an effective and exclusive solution. This is not unusual. Institutions, whether religious or secular, often frame problems in ways that reinforce their own relevance.

The diagnosis of a problem and the proposed remedy are rarely neutral; they are shaped by underlying assumptions about authority, morality and social order. But this ignores structural factors which, research suggests, profoundly determine the way we think and behave.

Equally important is the reality that human behaviour does not follow predictable patterns. We often encounter individuals who defy expectations: children raised in stable, supportive homes who engage in destructive behaviours, and others who emerge from deeply troubled environments with remarkable resilience and ethical clarity.

These are reminders that human development is probabilistic rather than deterministic. Outcomes are shaped by multiple, interacting forces, many of which lie beyond any single actor's control.

Moreover, as insights from Criminology and Critical Theory suggest, societies have a tendency to amplify deviance in ways that construct a sense of crisis. By highlighting extreme cases, narratives of decline become more persuasive, often justifying particular forms of intervention. In such contexts, blaming parents becomes not just an explanation but a tool for shaping behaviour and directing social responses.

None of this is to deny the importance of parenting. Families remain foundational in shaping values, discipline and emotional development. But to treat parenting as the sole or even primary cause of social deviance is to oversimplify a deeply complex reality. If there is one lesson to draw from this, it is that complex problems demand nuanced and balanced solutions. Addressing social deviance requires looking beyond the family to the wider structures and cultures within which individuals live. It requires shared responsibility - between parents, schools, communities and institutions.

Most importantly, it requires a willingness to move beyond the comfort of simple explanations and engage with the complexity of the world as it is because the real challenge is not identifying someone to blame but understanding how multiple forces come together to shape human behaviour - and how, together, we might respond more wisely.

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Between play and pixels: children growing up in modern times

SAIRA BATADA

A digital transformation has been introduced to the quiet, bustling homes everywhere, replacing the sounds of children playing on the streets. If you visit a typical household today, it is likely to observe a child bent over a phone with headphones in, completely lost in a digital world.

At times, they are watching videos, at times, gaming, or just scrolling endlessly, or you'll find a toddler captivated by a rhythmic Coco melon rhyme while their older sibling battles in a virtual arena on a smartphone.

Millennials spent their childhood playing outside until evening, enjoying games like football, cricket and hide-and-seek. They climbed walls, rode bikes and came home sweaty and exhausted. Their boredom forced them to create games, use imagination and converse with others.

The crisis of screen addiction globally is unique and culturally specific, even though the world is grappling with technology. We created a supportive environment for it.

The smartphone is becoming the 'third parent' in many homes, and with the decline of the joint family system nowadays, the traditional support network of grandparents, aunts and cousins that once shared the burden of childcare has become weaker.

Screen time has changed drastically over the years. Earlier, children had very limited exposure. Mostly, they had very limited exposure to television for a short time each day, often with family. The use of smartphones, tablets and constant internet access has resulted in an increase in screen time.

Children are often exposed to screens for extended periods, often alone instead of with their elders or supervisors. While technology can aid in learning and staying connected, too much screen time can impact health, sleep and behaviour.

Previously, children spent their time playing outdoors, reading or interacting with others, but now the eradication of public space is a key reason for screen addiction that is yet to be fully understood. Playing outside has become a high-risk activity for many parents due to rising street crime and fears of kidnapping. Due to the normalisation of extreme heatwaves, outdoor play is often physically impossible for six months of the year, as per climate reality. If there is no safe or comfortable place in the physical world, the digital world, which has infinite 'green' landscapes like Minecraft or Roblox, becomes the sole accessible playground, unfortunately.

Universally, there's a cultural inclination towards 'getting ahead'. Numerous parents have introduced tablets at an early stage, believing they would provide their children with a 'digital dominance'. We misinterpreted a toddler's ability to swipe and unlock a phone as evidence of their intelligence, rather than an automatic behaviour shaped by repeated dopamine rewards from digital media.

The damage had already been done when we realised that the 'tech-savvy' was the Screen Dependency Disorder (SDD). Research does show that excessive screen or gadget use (around 3–4 hours or more daily) is associated with negative effects on children's mental health, like increased anxiety or mood problems, sleep disturbances, reduced attention span, and social activity.

A correlation between high screen time and obesity has been found in recent studies. Instead of learning the richness of their native languages, children are imitating the accents they hear on YouTube. Similarly, less sunlight exposure and almost no physical activities are adding to childhood health problems such as obesity and Vitamin D deficiency.

Even though they are connected, many teenagers have reported feeling more alone and anxious than previous generations.

We made the mistake of using technology to avoid our children instead of helping them. We gradually lost the warmth of our real communities because of our reliance on the online world. The internet's "global village" replaced social interaction that took place around us, where people talked, shared and grew together.

Telling a child to take their phone away can be tough when the father is scrolling through TikTok and the mother is constantly receiving WhatsApp group notifications. The child follows our actions, not our words!

The aim is not to eliminate technology, which is difficult to do nowadays, but to restore places for kids to grow, play, and connect in a healthier environment. It's vital to allow children to be bored, as it's a place where creativity and homemade play mode can be activated.

Using the phone like a medicine: beneficial in small doses, but harmful in excess. If our streets are no longer safe for children, then we must bring play closer to home. Children can enjoy the simple joy of being children once again by freely moving, playing happily and enjoying the small, safe corners of rooftops, courtyards and community spaces.

Our children's childhoods are very important, so let's not substitute the sounds of playing with the silence of scrolling. It's time to examine ourselves and discover what we're lacking.

Beginning on December 10, 2025, Australia has made it illegal for children under 16 to use major social media platforms like Instagram, TikTok, Facebook and Snapchat. By limiting their exposure to threats like cyberbullying, inappropriate content, and too much screen time, this step aims to ensure children's safety, making parents more aware and helping families build healthier tech habits, while also supervising their children's exposure to harmful online spaces.

Strategies should be taken, like elders should begin with simple, straightforward guidelines like avoiding screens at the dining table or before bedtime and adhere to them nicely instead of making it feel like a punishment.

Explain it in a calm way so children understand it's for their betterment. Involve them in the things they love to do, such as reading, swimming, playing outdoors, creating artwork or interacting with friends. They will naturally miss screens less when they feel involved and connected, and they will set an example for others to follow.

When they see you using mobile devices less, kids are more likely to imitate their parents. Maintain an honest and caring dialogue that makes them sense-guided as opposed to ruled.

The writer is a freelance journalist and also provides mentorship to startups. She can be reached at sairabatada.suggests@gmail.com

Trump touts new US-Iran technical talks in Qatar as 'very good'

WASHINGTON, (Agencies): President Donald Trump said Wednesday that the U.S. and Iran were getting along very well after they launched indirect talks with mediators in Doha aimed at advancing negotiations and easing tensions following recent exchanges of fire.

"The denuclearization of Iran is moving along well," Trump told reporters. "They've had very good meetings, and we'll see."

The talks are based on a 14-point interim accord signed last month that was meant to halt the war that began with U.S.-Israeli strikes on Iran in February and reopen the strait, while setting up 60 days of negotiations for a permanent peace deal.

However, the U.S. and Iran have sparred publicly over the meaning of the interim pact, leading to tit-for-tat military strikes over the past week and leaving little sign of progress on more complex issues, including on Iran's nuclear program. Iran is determined to win international recognition of its control over the Strait and its ability to levy fees on ships entering or leaving the Gulf, even if it has to do so by force, according to two senior Iranian sources.

Traffic has partially resumed through the waterway, which handled one-fifth of global oil and liquefied natural gas trade before the war.

President Trump, who has said removing Iran's highly enriched uranium is a top priority, told reporters Wednesday that "the denuclearization of Iran is moving along well," without giving details.

"They've had very good meetings and we'll see," he said of the talks in Doha, where there was no evidence the nuclear issue had yet been discussed.

Focus on Hormuz

The indirect talks, mediated by Qatar and Pakistan, began Tuesday night and were continuing Wednesday, the Iranian official said. They are structured as sessions between chief negotiators and specialists, the source with knowledge of the talks said, adding that Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner and envoy Steve Witkoff met Qatar's prime minister to lay groundwork for the talks but would not be attending.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi headed a delegation of representatives from Iran's Foreign Ministry, central bank and agriculture ministry, meeting Qatar's prime minister and holding talks with mediators.

Iran has stated publicly that its priorities include agreeing on management of the strait and the release of $6 billion in Iranian frozen assets and the Iranian official said the current round of discussions would focus on those two issues.

The stated priority of the U.S. is to ensure the free flow of traffic through the strait, the source with knowledge of the talks said. Iran's state media said Wednesday a foreign container ship had run aground in the Strait of Hormuz after entering shallow waters outside the shipping route designated by Iranian authorities.



U.S. President Donald Trump gestures as he speaks with reporters before boarding the new Air Force One, Maryland, U.S.



Relatives of the three Palestinians, including 9-year-old Tariq Sabah and his uncle Omar Sabah, who died as a result of the Israeli attack on the tents of displaced Palestinians in the Al-Mawasi area of ??Khan Yunis despite the ceasefire, mourn during the funeral ceremony in front of Nasser Hospital in Khan Yunis, Gaza

Germany in talks with partners on next-generation fighter jet: Pistorius

BERLIN, (Agencies): Germany is holding talks with various partners about developing a next-generation fighter jet, Defense Minister Boris Pistorius said Tuesday, after the long-troubled Franco-German Future Combat Air System (FCAS) project collapsed.

"The fact that FCAS has now been shut down came as no surprise. Signs had been pointing in that direction for quite some time," Pistorius told a press conference in Berlin, stressing that it was mainly due to disagreements between the companies Dassault and Airbus.

"As for the new jet, we shall see which path we take. We have been in discussions with various stakeholders about this for months—as you can well imagine. However, I am not going to speculate publicly here about which project it might turn out to be or who would lead it," the minister said.

With little to show, Trump touts Iran peace deal in final stages

WASHINGTON, (Agencies); U.S. President Donald Trump claimed Tuesday that negotiations for a peace deal to end the Middle East war are in their final stages, after Iran and Israel halted attacks that had threatened to reignite the months-long conflict. Iran fired missiles at Israel Sunday in response to strikes against Lebanon's Hezbollah in the southern suburbs of Beirut, before Israel struck back despite Trump's efforts to dissuade Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu from doing so. The Israeli leader said of Iran that the "fire on that front is contained" hours after Tehran said it had stopped its military action, while both sides warned they could resume hostilities despite diplomatic efforts gathering pace. Iran and Israel "were going back and forth and now they both agreed through me to stop and we're in the final throes of what will be a very, very good deal," the U.S. leader told reporters on his return from an NBA Finals game. When asked whether a deal would be a matter of days or weeks, he said it would take "two or three days."

The flare-up came after weeks of negotiations seeking to bring about a definitive end to the regional war sparked by U.S. and Israeli strikes on Iran, with Tehran insisting a halt to the conflict must include a truce in Lebanon. Trump, who has reportedly grown increasingly exasperated with Netanyahu, had earlier urged both sides to stop "shooting" and said that "final negotiations" toward peace would proceed "subject to ignorance or stupidity getting in its way."

Pakistan, Somalia enjoy longstanding ties based on mutual trust, shared values

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Pakistan and Somalia enjoy longstanding and cordial relations rooted in mutual trust, shared values and close people-to-people contacts, with both countries committed to expanding cooperation in trade, education, defence, maritime security and capacity building, speakers said on Wednesday.

They expressed these views at an event held to commemorate Somalia's Independence Day, organized by the Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East and Africa (CAMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) in collaboration with the Pakistan Africa Institute for Development and Research (PAIDAR).

The proceedings, began with the national anthems of Pakistan and Somalia. Speakers included Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman, BoG, ISSI; Ambassador Sheikhnur Mohamed Hassan, Ambassador of Somalia to Pakistan; Ambassador Aqsa Nawaz, Ambassador of Pakistan to Djibouti, accredited to Somalia, and Dr. Amina Khan Director CAMEA.

The Chief Guest on the occasion was Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, President PAIDAR.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, highlighted the longstanding and friendly relations between Pakistan and Somalia, based on mutual respect, shared values, and close people-to-people ties. He recalled Pakistan's important contributions to United Nations peacekeeping operations in Somalia, reflecting their shared commitment to international peace and security.

He also underlined the importance of expanding cooperation in education, trade, capacity building, and maritime security, and expressed the hope that engagement between institutions in the two countries would continue to grow.

In her remarks, Dr. Amina Khan said that Somalia's Independence Day honoured the resilience and determination of the Somali people and their efforts towards peace and development. She noted that, under Pakistan's "Engage Africa" policy, CAMEA remained committed to strengthening engagement with Africa through dialogue and institutional collaboration. Highlighting the longstanding friendship between Pakistan and Somalia, she underscored Pakistan's continued support for Somalia and the valuable contribution of the Somali community in Pakistan, including Somali interns at ISSI, in strengthening people-to-people ties. She expressed the hope that Pakistan-Somalia cooperation would continue to grow in the years ahead.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed said that Pakistan and Somalia enjoy longstanding and friendly relations based on mutual trust and shared values. He recalled Pakistan's early support for Somalia and its peacekeeping contributions, including the sacrifice of Pakistani peacekeepers in Somalia in 1993. Highlighting cooperation in defence, education, counter-terrorism, and capacity-building, he noted the presence of around 2,500 Somali students in Pakistan. He welcomed Somalia's progress towards peace and prosperity and expressed confidence that the longstanding friendship between the two countries would continue to grow.

Ambassador Sheikhnur Mohamed Hassan said that Somalia's strategic location at the crossroads of Africa and the Middle East gives it strong potential as a regional hub for trade and connectivity. He highlighted opportunities in the blue economy, livestock, agriculture, and fisheries, and noted Somalia's ongoing economic transformation. Expressing appreciation for Pakistan's longstanding friendship and support, he reaffirmed Somalia's commitment to further strengthening bilateral relations for the mutual benefit of both countries.

Ambassador Aqsa Nawaz underscored Somalia's importance as a key East African partner under Pakistan's "Engage Africa" policy and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to Somalia's peace, development, and sovereignty. She noted Pakistan's consistent support for Somalia's territorial integrity and highlighted close coordination between the two countries at the United Nations, the OIC, and the G-77. Referring to growing cooperation in trade, education, and people-to-people exchanges, she expressed confidence that Pakistan-Somalia relations would continue to deepen.



Tourists and residents in Rome are braving the heat as Western Europe continues to swelter under a heat wave in Rome, Italy

France opens war crimes probe over Israel's mistreatment of activists

PARIS, (Monitoring Desk): French prosecutors have opened an investigation into war crimes and torture linked to Israel's treatment of French nationals who participated in a Gaza-bound aid flotilla, as scrutiny grows over the mistreatment of activists intercepted during efforts to deliver humanitarian assistance to the blockaded Palestinian enclave.

The probe was opened at the government's request, the national counterterrorism prosecutor's office (PNAT) said, after activists accused Israeli authorities of mistreatment during their detention last month.

Israel detained more than 430 activists from countries around the world after intercepting them in international waters on May 18 as they made the latest in a string of attempts to break the blockade of the Palestinian territory.

Israel's far-right National Security Minister, Itamar Ben Gvir, sparked widespread condemnation after he posted a video mocking the flotilla activists while they were bound.

France banned Ben Gvir from entry over the incident.

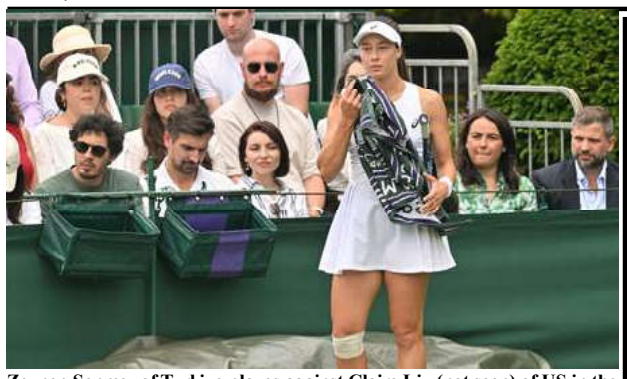
Several French activists described what they said was a violent and humiliating ordeal when eight of them returned to France on May 22.

Two of the more than 30 French people who were on board the flotilla were still in hospital in Türkiye, they told reporters.

One returnee described a soldier groping and slapping her in a dark container, and being terrified that she would be raped.

Another recounted detained activists being put in what she called a "stress position," on their knees with their foreheads on the ground for several hours, while the Israeli national anthem played on repeat.

Francesca Albanese, an outspoken U.N. expert on the Palestinian territories, has said the treatment of the flotilla activists "is a luxury compared to what is inflicted on Palestinians in Israeli prisons."



Zeynep Sonmez of Turkiye playes against Claire Liu (not seen) of US in the women's singles second round match during day three of The Wimbledon Tennis Championships at All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in London

Zelenskyy in Estonia to attend Nordic-Baltic summit

TALLINN, (Agencies): Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Tuesday arrived in Estonia, where he is expected to take part in a summit of Nordic and Baltic leaders.

TENDER NOTICE

TSE-2526061111733 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION DIV KHUZDAR invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2026 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates

Tender Fee 1000 PKR and bid Security 2%

S.No	Name of Work/s	E/Cost
1	CONSTRUCTION OF FLOOD PROTECTION BUND KILLI ALI AHMED DISTRICT KHUZDAR PSDP NO 2792	10,000,000

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 1 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 7,000,000 PKR Amount in1 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Registration with Pakistan Engineering council (PEC) C-6 and above (Upto 25 million)In Relevant Category And Specialized Code is CE04(ii) (Irrigation & Flood Control Systems). **Procedure Of Procurement**: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Gurantee,Deposit at Call of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The 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 20 July, 2026 during office hours on working days **Last Date of bid submission:** The Tenders must be submitted latest by 20 July,2026 till 11:00 AM . **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under signed at 12:00 PM Address: Irrigation Colony Old Karachi Road Khuzdar Phone no: 0848413278 Fax no: 0848413831 **Email: engg.saeed@yahoo.com**

DPRQ No.17/01-07-2026

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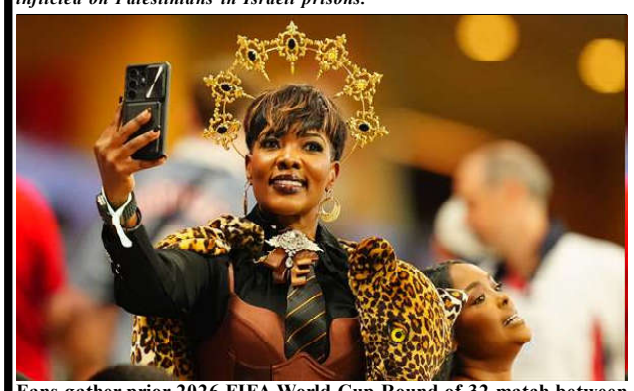


Fans gather prior 2026 FIFA World Cup Round of 32 match between England and DR Congo at Mercedes-Benz Stadium (Atlanta Stadium) in Atlanta, Georgia, United States

Palestinians subjected to 'mass atrocities' by Israel forces, settlers

GENEVA, (Agencies): A U.N.-mandated inquiry reported Tuesday that Palestinian civilians are facing "mass atrocities" committed by Israeli forces and settlers.

Civilians across war-ravaged Gaza and the occupied West Bank are being "systematically and deliberately" subjected to severe rights violations, the U.N.'s Independent International Commission of Inquiry said.

In the Gaza Strip, "ordinary Palestinians find themselves trapped between the structural violence and mass atrocities of Israeli forces ... ," the report said.

In the West Bank, which has seen soaring violence since Israel's genocidal Gaza war was launched in October 2023, the report described how Palestinian civilians were increasingly targeted by Israeli settler attacks. "Violence by settlers is the direct outcome of Israeli policies that support, enable and protect their actions," commission chair Srinivasan Muralidhar said in a statement. "What is alarmingly similar is the deliberate infliction of suffering on Palestinian civilians. While their origins and motivations differ, both operate within environments engineered by Israel," said Muralidhar, an Indian judge. The U.N. Human Rights Council established the three-person commission in May 2021 to investigate alleged rights violations in Israel and the Palestinian territories. Tuesday's report focused heavily on the situation in the West Bank, which has been occupied by Israel since 1967. In the territory, Israeli soldiers or settlers have killed at least 1,080 Palestinians since October 2023.

Syria says 235 terrorists detained, 7 ISIS operations foiled in 3 months

DAMASCUS, (Agencies): Syrian security forces have detained 235 terrorists and foiled seven ISIS/Daesh operations in three months, the Interior Ministry said on Tuesday.

Figures released by the ministry showed that 80 "terrorists" were detained in March, 99 in April and 56 in May. Security forces also foiled seven attacks and dismantled seven cells in Hama and Homs in central Syria, Deir ez-Zor in the east, Aleppo in the north and the capital Damascus, the ministry added.

Authorities also seized 22 explosive devices, 25 weapons, six vehicles and 67 electronic devices during the operations, according to the ministry. Those detained included 198 Syrians and 37 foreigners, the ministry said. Damascus joined the US-led coalition against ISIS in November 2025. The coalition was formed in 2014 and has carried out military operations against the terrorist group in Syria and Iraq with the participation of several countries.

Pakistan peace-loving nation:

Empowering women, minorities, youth central to Pakistan's democratic, social development, says Gilani

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani and Bulgaria's Ambassador to Pakistan, Irena Genadieva Gancheva, on Wednesday discussed bilateral relations, regional developments, parliamentary cooperation, and opportunities to enhance economic and people-to-people ties between Pakistan and Bulgaria.

During a meeting, Chairman Gilani congratulated Ambassador Gancheva on the successful completion of her diplomatic assignment in Pakistan and commended her efforts to strengthen the longstanding friendship between the two countries, said a news release.

He appreciated her contribution to promoting bilateral cooperation and fostering greater mutual understanding.

Highlighting the cordial relations between Pakistan and Bulgaria, Chairman Gilani said the two countries enjoyed a relationship based on mutual respect, goodwill, and cooperation on regional and international issues.

He described Bulgaria as an important partner of Pakistan in Europe and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening bilateral engagement.

The chairman congratulated Bulgaria on becoming a full member of the Schengen Area and extended his best wishes for its continued economic progress following the adoption of the euro.

He also reiterated Pakistan's support for Bulgaria's aspiration to join the OECD and welcomed the successful formation of the country's new government following recent parliamentary elections.

Recalling more than six decades of diplomatic relations, Chairman Gilani stressed the importance of enhancing political engagement through high-level visits and institutional dialogue. He emphasised the need to unlock the considerable potential for economic and commercial cooperation and expressed hope for the early convening of the third session of the Pakistan-Bulgaria Inter-Governmental Commission on Economic Cooperation.

The Chairman thanked Bulgaria for its support regarding Pakistan's GSP+ status and expressed confidence that such cooperation would continue as Pakistan prepares for the next phase of the European Union's GSP+ framework.

Underscoring the significance of parliamentary diplomacy, Chairman Gilani said Parliamentary Friendship Groups in both countries had played a valuable role in strengthening legislative cooperation and promoting closer people-to-people contacts.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani presenting souvenir to Ambassador Of Bulgaria to Pakistan Mrs. Irena Gancheva, at Parliament House.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Board of Governors OPF Syed Qamar Raza and Managing Director OPF Mohammed Afzaal Bhatti call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Pakistan highly values long-standing, friendly relations with Canada: President

President Zardari felicitates Canadian leadership on National Day

ISLAMABAD, (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday extended felicitations to the Governor General of Canada Louise Arbour, and the people of the country on their National Day, celebrated annually on July 1. The president, in a statement, said that Pakistan highly valued its long-standing and friendly relations with Canada which were founded on mutual respect, shared interests and strong people-to-people ties.

He expressed his confidence that bilateral cooperation between the two countries would continue to expand across areas of mutual interest including trade, investment, higher education and close collaboration in international forums.

Education initiatives major investment in country's future: PM Shehbaz

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Wednesday, directed the relevant authorities to expedite completion of Danish Schools across Pakistan and announced that a technology (Tech) campus of Danish University would be established in Muzaffarabad, describing the education initiatives as a major investment in the country's future.

Chairing a review meeting on the progress of Danish Schools and Danish University, the prime minister termed these institutions as among the country's most important national assets.

He directed the authorities to ensure the early completion of Danish Schools in all four provinces, Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and Islamabad, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

He also asked that the architectural design of the schools should reflect the cultural heritage of their respective regions.

The meeting was attended by Ministers Azam Nazeer Tarar, Ahsan Iqbal, Attaullah Tarar, Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, and senior officials of the relevant departments.

Emphasizing transparency, the prime minister said appointments of teaching faculty and other staff at both Danish Schools and Danish University must be made strictly on merit.

He also commended the Federal Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training for the pace of construction work on Danish schools.

During the meeting, officials briefed the prime minister on the progress of 27 Danish schools under construction in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Balochistan, Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and Islamabad, as well as the construction of Danish University in the federal capital.

According to the briefing, the Danish School in Kurri, Islamabad, had been completed and already started academic activities, while construction of Danish Schools in Bagh, Bhimber, Sultanabad, Ghanche, and Astore was in the final stages.

India using terrorism and unilateral actions regarding IWT as political tools: Mashhood

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP), Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan, on Wednesday said the federal government had presented the most balanced budget in Pakistan's history, with record allocations for youth development, education, sports, innovation and skills training.

Addressing a press conference at the Press Information Department (PID), he outlined the government's strategy to empower young Pakistanis through merit-based opportunities, technical education, digital innovation and overseas employment, while also addressing key national economic and security challenges.

Rana Mashhood said the government had provided a Rs125 billion subsidy to the people despite commitments under the International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme, reflecting Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's resolve to protect the public from economic hardship.

He said Pakistan would firmly safeguard its national interests and rights, alleging that India was using terrorism and unilateral actions regarding the Indus Waters Treaty as political tools. However, he added, Pakistan would counter such moves at every available international forum.

Highlighting the federal budget, he said the government had protected all major sectors despite serious fiscal challenges and succeeded in presenting what he described as the country's most balanced budget. He credited Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's leadership for ensuring substantial allocations for youth-focused initiatives.

The PMYP chairman said empowering young people with dignity, skills and self-reliance remained the government's foremost priority.

He recalled that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had launched Pakistan's first structured youth initiative during his first tenure as chief minister of Punjab in 1997, laying the foundation for the country's expanding youth development programmes.

He said more than 300,000 young people from across Pakistan participated in PMYP sports initiatives, with nine male and female athletes earning places in the Pakistan Super League (PSL) through merit-based talent identification.

Announcing a landmark initiative for the country's national sport, Rana Mashhood said Pakistan would launch its first-ever nationwide hockey talent hunt this year. Talented boys and girls would be identified from streets, neighbourhoods, towns and cities across the country, provided professional training and offered opportunities to compete in Pakistan's first hockey league.

He also announced the establishment of a nationwide Volunteer Corps to encourage youth participation in community service and nation-building.

Highlighting the government's digital agenda, Rana Mashhood said the federal cabinet had approved Pakistan's first National E-Sports Policy, paving the way for the establishment of the country's first E-Sports Federation within the next two months.



QUETTA: Vice Chancellor University of Gwadar Professor Dr Abdul Razzaq Sabir presenting shield to Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Dr. Musadik Malik Meets UN Assistant Secretary-General Mr. Mohamed Yahya.

Quetta Bar lauds establishment of FCCP Registry in Quetta

ISLAMABAD, (APP): The Quetta High Court Bar Association paid tribute to Judge of the Federal Constitutional Court Justice Rozi Khan Barrech at a reception, while hailing the establishment of the Federal Constitutional Court Registry in Quetta as a landmark step towards improving access to constitutional justice in Balochistan.

According to a press release issued here, the reception was attended by Judge of the Federal Constitutional Court Justice Syed Arshad Hussain Shah, Chief Justice of the Balochistan High Court Kamran Khan Malakhail, judges of the Balochistan High Court, senior lawyers, office-bearers of the bar and members of the legal fraternity.

Speaking on the occasion, representatives of the Quetta High Court Bar Association expressed gratitude to Chief Justice of the Federal Constitutional Court Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan for establishing the Federal Constitutional Court Registry in Quetta.

They described the initiative as a historic milestone that would provide substantial relief to the people of Balochistan.

Pakistan committed to strengthen cooperation with UN on climate resilience

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr Musadik Malik on Wednesday reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to strengthening cooperation with the United Nations on climate resilience, disaster preparedness and humanitarian response during a meeting with UN Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator Mohamed Yahya.

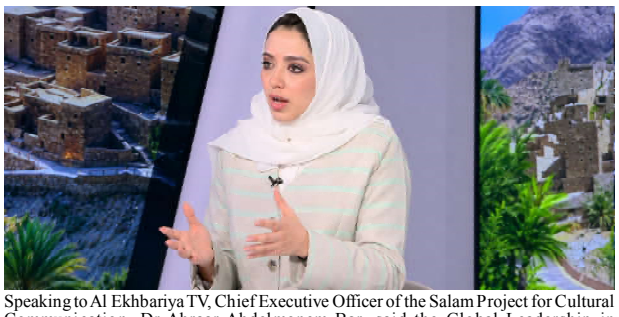
According to a statement issued by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, representatives of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) also attended the meeting.

Dr Malik congratulated Yahya on his appointment as Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator and acknowledged his previous tenure as the UN Resident Coordinator in Pakistan.

The minister said the United Nations' humanitarian work remained one of its most significant contributions globally and appreciated its support for countries affected by humanitarian emergencies and climate-related disasters.

Salam Project equips Saudi youth to become global ambassadors of Kingdom's values: CEO Dr Bar

ISLAMABAD, (APP): The Salam Project for Cultural Communication is equipping young Saudi men and women with the knowledge, practical skills and leadership capabilities needed to represent the Kingdom effectively on the global stage, helping strengthen Saudi Arabia's international image through intercultural dialogue and civilized communication.



Speaking to Al Ekhbariya TV, Chief Executive Officer of the Salam Project for Cultural Communication, Dr Abraar Abdelmonem Bar, said the Global Leadership in Communication Program is a unique initiative that focuses on cultural communication and enhancing the international perception of Saudi Arabia rather than serving as a conventional leadership training course.



QUETTA: Deputy Commissioner Quetta Mehrullah Badini talking to drug addicts during his visit to Milo Trust.

First Lady Asifa congratulates Han Seong-sook on becoming South Korea PM

ISLAMABAD, (APP): First Lady and Member of the National Assembly Bibi Asifa Bhutto Zardari on Wednesday extended congratulations to Han Seong-sook on her appointment as the Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea. The first lady, in a statement, said that Han Seong-sook's appointment reflected her distinguished record of leadership in the fields of technology, innovation and entrepreneurship. She noted that the appointment represented an important milestone for the advancement of women in leadership and public service. "As the First Lady of Pakistan and as the daughter of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, the first woman Prime Minister of Pakistan and the Muslim world, it is my singular honour and privilege to extend my heartfelt congratulations to you on your appointment as Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea. I wish you every success in the discharge of your important responsibilities," she said.

Dar reviews final arrangements for upcoming OIC moot on women

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Wednesday chaired the 6th meeting of the High-Level Committee for the 9th OIC Ministerial Conference on Women which will be hosted by Pakistan from July 12–13, 2026. The meeting reviewed the final phase of preparations, including the draft programme, conference agenda, protocol, security and logistical arrangements, media and communication strategy, inter-ministerial coordination, and other organizational matters. The committee discussed measures to ensure the seamless conduct and successful hosting of the conference, which will bring together 57 OIC Member States to strengthen cooperation on women's empowerment, inclusion, and sustainable development.



QUETTA: Director General Public Relations Balochistan, Askar Khan addressing a seminar regarding anti-terrorism in Balochistan.

Oral gift must be strictly proved before women can be deprived of inheritance rights: SC

ISLAMABAD, (APP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan has ruled that women cannot be deprived of their inheritance rights on the basis of an alleged oral gift unless the party claiming the gift proves all its essential legal ingredients through independent and reliable evidence.

According to the detailed judgment in the case of Noor Muhammad and others versus Ghulam Haider and others, the court held that revenue mutation entries, long possession of property or subsequent revenue proceedings, by themselves, do not constitute proof of an oral gift or ownership.

The two-member bench, comprising Justice Shahid Bilal Hassan and Justice Shakeel Ahmad, observed that the burden of proving an alleged oral gift rests on the party benefiting from it, particularly where the claim has the effect of depriving a widow and daughters of their Islamic and legal inheritance rights. The court noted that there was no evidence on record to show that the female heirs had been informed that the alleged oral gift would permanently extinguish their ownership rights, or that they had knowingly and voluntarily relinquished those rights.

The judgment held that the lower courts had erred in treating a 1955 gift mutation as conclusive proof of an oral gift. It emphasized that, under the law, a mutation serves only fiscal and revenue purposes and neither creates nor extinguishes title to property.

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