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PM directs fast-track OGRA reforms, digital monitoring of fuel supply chain



ANI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday directed the implementation of comprehensive reforms in the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA), stressing the need for greater transparency, stronger oversight, and enhanced institutional capacity to ensure an efficient and accountable petroleum sector.

Chairing a high-level meeting on revamping and digitization of OGRA, the prime minister said the government's reform agenda must be implemented uniformly across all public institutions. He instructed authorities to develop

a robust nationwide fuel movement monitoring system by adopting the Federal Board of Revenue's (FBR) modern tracking mechanism as a model.

The prime minister also called for the use of advanced technology and software to digitally monitor the entire petroleum supply chain, from ports and refineries to petrol pumps, to improve transparency and curb irregularities. To strengthen OGRA's institutional capacity, he directed that reputable experts from the private sector be recruited through a transparent, merit-based process as part of the authority's restructuring. He assured that the government would provide all neces-

sary professional expertise to support the reform process. Reiterating the government's commitment to protecting public resources, the prime minister said every penny of taxpayers' money would be safeguarded and warned that no one would be allowed to exploit consumers or manipulate the system.

He also instructed all regulatory authorities to establish formal coordination mechanisms with their respective ministries and directed that work on upgrading the country's oil refineries under the approved policy be expedited. During the meeting, OGRA Chairman briefed participants on the authority's current

performance, key challenges, and a comprehensive reform programme.

The meeting was informed that OGRA has made significant progress in digitally monitoring the petroleum supply chain through the activation of several systems, including the National Monitoring Dashboard, Tanker Track and Trace System, Depot Tank Telemetry, Rahguzar Mobile Application, Digital Sales Entry System at petrol pumps, and a Central Monitoring Cell.

Officials said these digital platforms are enabling more effective monitoring of petroleum products from transportation and storage to retail sales.

If reset is needed for good governance, then it should happen: DG ISPR



ANI

RAWALPINDI: Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director General Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry on Friday said an administrative reset, if required, should be undertaken to ensure good governance, stressing that any such change must be carried out through constitutional and legal means and in accordance with the will of the people. He addressed a press conference, where he primarily spoke about Balochistan and AJK and briefed the media on the overall security situation in the country.

Responding to a question on protests in AJK and the way forward, the DG ISPR said the will of the people would be reflected through the political process.

"The will of the people will be decided by the politicians, and we believe that our respected politicians also desire good governance and administration. Stagnation is not the solution to anything. Even still water begins to stink after a while," he said. "The state acted with generosity by offering them the opportunity to participate in the election process as per the Constitution. But they have instead opted for violence. But do remember that only the state has the monopoly on violence and we cannot allow a mob to have its way." He said the state had responded "very wisely and prudently" and remained restrained despite what he described as an agenda surrounding the 12 seats.

DG ISPR also said an administrative reset should take place if it was required to ensure good governance, adding that any such changes must be carried out through constitutional and legal means and in accordance with the will of the people.

On Thursday, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said that Pakistan's existing governance system had collapsed and was no longer capable of addressing the country's challenges, calling for administrative reforms, including the creation of new administrative units, echoing the demand put forward by several political parties to create more provinces for better governance. Responding to a question on whether he agreed with the remarks that the governance system in Balochistan had failed, the DG ISPR said he would not comment on the minister's statement.

However, he stated that good governance was essential for Pakistan's security and stability. "As a primary stakeholder in security, we would like to say that good governance is the key to security and stability. Without that, your issues cannot be solved," he said.

The DG ISPR referred to the National Action Plan (NAP), saying it reflected a consensus among political parties over the past 12 years. "There is a National Action Plan that is an agreed consensus, which has 14 points, on which all political parties over the last 12 years have had consensus, whether they are in power or not," he said.

Naqvi promises visits to Peshawar, Quetta to address business security issues



ANI

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Friday said he would soon visit Peshawar and Quetta to hold detailed meetings with traders and provincial authorities aimed at finding lasting solutions to the business community's security-related concerns, according to a statement issued by the Ministry of Interior on X.

The assurance came during a meeting with a delegation of traders and industrialists from Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) and Balochistan, including representatives of chambers of commerce from both provinces. According to the statement, the business leaders briefed the interior minister on the prevailing security situation in their provinces and the challenges affecting trade and industry.

Naqvi, in turn, updated the delegation on the overall security situation in the country, particularly in K-P and Balochistan, as well as the government's ongoing measures to improve law and order. He assured the delegation of the government's full support, saying all available resources would be utilised to address the problems faced by traders and industrialists and to ensure their protection. The interior minister said his planned visits to Peshawar and Quetta would include meetings with senior provincial government officials and representatives of the business community to work out practical and sustainable solutions to their concerns. Naqvi said providing a safe and business-friendly environment remained a government priority, adding that the private

sector played a vital role in strengthening Pakistan's economy. "The progress of the business community is the progress of Pakistan," he said, assuring traders that the government stood by them and would resolve all their legitimate concerns. Naqvi held a similar meeting with President Asif Ali Zardari a day earlier,

reviewing the country's overall law and order situation, with particular focus on the security situation in K-P and Balochistan at a meeting held at Bilawal House.

The meeting also featured a detailed exchange of views on the country's prevailing political situation, besides discussions on other matters of mutual national interest. Terrorism has significantly increased in Pakistan, particularly in K-P and Balochistan, in recent weeks. The rise in terrorist activity has led to growing concerns over the security situation in these regions. In response, security forces have been conducting intensive operations to counter the threat, targeting terrorist groups. The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) in a report released in February also drew attention to a series of attacks by the banned Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) against Pakistani security forces and projects linked to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). According to Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Pakistan has recorded 560 civilian deaths in more than 2,000 terror incidents this year. It must be remembered that multi-billion-dollar projects such as CASA-1000, TAPI, the BRI and several transnational railway initiatives remain in limbo owing to the instability in Afghanistan. This has squarely hampered the progression of geo-economics for a combined populace of around two billion people. Also yesterday, six labourers abducted from the Kalatak area of Balochistan's Kech district two days ago were found dead in Nasirabad.

121 killed in Pakistan since monsoon season began, says NDMA

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has released updated figures on the human and material losses caused by the ongoing monsoon rains across Pakistan, reporting 121 deaths since the start of the season on June 26.

According to the NDMA, eight people were killed and 17 injured during the past 24 hours, bringing the nationwide death toll to 121. A total of 381 people have been injured in rain-related incidents.

The fatalities include 55 children, 41 men and 25 women, the authority said.

Provincial data showed that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa recorded the highest number of deaths with 55, followed by Punjab with 45, Azad Jammu and Kashmir with 10, Balochistan with eight, Sindh with two, and Gilgit-Baltistan with one. The NDMA said Punjab reported the highest number of injuries at 279, followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with 80, Balochistan with 15, Azad Jammu and Kashmir with five, and Sindh with two. The report added that the monsoon rains have damaged 901 houses, swept away 459 livestock, and caused damage to 36 bridges and 25 kilometres of roads across the country.

President approves Nishan-e-Imtiaz for newly appointed national strategic commander

ANI

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday approved the conferment of the Nishan-e-Imtiaz (Military) on the newly appointed Commander of the National Strategic Command, General Syed Aamer Raza, according to a statement posted by the President on X. In a post on X, the President said, "The president has approved conferring Nishan-e-Imtiaz (Military) on Gen Syed Aamer Raza, the commander of the National Strategic Command." General Aamer Raza was appointed as Pakistan's first Commander National Strategic Command (CNSC) after Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif promoted him from lieutenant general to the rank of four-star general on July 24. According to the Prime Minister's Office, he was serving as the Chief of the General Staff of the Pakistan



Army before assuming command of the country's newly established National Strategic Command. General Raza has previously been awarded the Hilal-e-Imtiaz (Military) and Sitara-e-Basalat (Star of Valour). The position was created under the 27th Constitutional Amendment, which rewrote Article 243. The amendment abolished the longstanding

office of the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJSC) and established the posts of Chief of Defence Forces and Commander National Strategic Command. It also expanded the constitutional powers of the country's senior military leadership and introduced constitutional protections for five-star generals.

Under the amendment, the prime minister appoints the Commander National Strategic Command on the recommendation of the Chief of Army Staff and the Chief of Defence Forces. The appointment is for a three-year term, while the prime minister is authorised to determine the terms, conditions and rules governing the office. The amendment also allows the prime minister to reappoint the Commander for one additional three-year term on the recommendation of the Chief of Defence Forces.

President, PM express deep grief over coal mine explosion near Quetta

ANI

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the loss of lives in a coal mine explosion in the Sorange area of Quetta, where several workers were killed.

In separate statements, the president and the prime minister directed the relevant authorities to rescue all workers trapped in the mine and ensure the provision of the best possible medical treatment to the injured. They extended their heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for the elevation of the ranks of those who lost their lives in the incident.

They also prayed for grant of strength to the bereaved families to bear the loss with patience. They emphasized the need for strict implementation of safety measures in coal mines to protect the lives of workers and prevent such tragic incidents in the future. President Asif Ali Zardari said the contribution of workers to the country's development was invaluable and that ensuring their safety was a shared responsibility of the state.

Maryam seeks five-day plan for province-wide clean water supply

ANI

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has directed officials to submit a foolproof plan within five days to ensure the supply of safe drinking water across the province.

Chairing a meeting of the Punjab Clean Water Authority, the chief minister approved plans to restructure and modernize the authority on the lines of the Suthra Punjab initiative. The authority will be strengthened administratively and technically to improve service delivery.

Officials informed the meeting that the Clean Water Authority



would be equipped with modern technology, additional human resources and transport facilities. All water tankers and filtration plants will be monitored, while RO plants and advanced filtration systems will be installed according to regional requirements. Plant identification

details, operator names, contact numbers and operating hours will also be displayed at every filtration and RO plant. The meeting also agreed to hire an international consultancy to improve the province's clean water supply system and decided to introduce advanced Japanese and Chinese water filtration technologies. The chief minister directed authorities to accelerate efforts to provide safe drinking water across Punjab. During the briefing, officials said mobile bottling plants had been deployed in remote areas, with operational units currently supplying clean drinking water to more than 2,400 families daily.



Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Khazar Farhadov, paid a farewell call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Jam calls for transparent, well-monitored trade bodies’ electoral process

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Friday directed the Director General Trade Organizations (DGTO) to ensure that the upcoming nationwide elections of Chambers of Commerce and trade associations are conducted in a transparent, fair and credible manner through strengthened monitoring, digitalization and institutional reforms.

Addressing the media in his video message after receiving a detailed briefing from Director General Trade Organizations (DGTO) Bilal Khan Pasha on preparations for the 2026-28 trade bodies’ elections, the Minister said the Government remains committed to strengthening the institutional framework governing trade organizations and ensuring that the electoral process reflects the highest standards of transparency, accountability and fairness.

Jam Kamal Khan said that following Parliament’s approval of amendments to the Trade Organizations Act, significant reforms have been introduced to streamline the regulatory framework and improve the functioning of trade organizations.

He added that the Ministry of Commerce

is extending full institutional support to the DGTO to modernize and digitalize its operations so that it can facilitate Chambers and Trade Associations more effectively, both during the elections and beyond.

The Minister directed the DGTO to accelerate the digital transformation of election management by establishing a dedicated elections portal on the Ministry’s website carrying election schedules, applicable laws and rules, notifications, voter lists, election results and other relevant information for stakeholders.

He also instructed the DGTO to develop a digital dashboard for real-time monitoring of election activities across the country and directed all trade organizations to submit election schedules, voter lists and election results in soft-copy format to facilitate efficient digital management and oversight.

Emphasizing transparency and equal access to information, the Minister directed that final voter lists be published in accordance with the Trade Organizations Act and Rules and that comprehensive Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) be issued to ensure uniform implementation of election procedures across all trade organizations. Jam Kamal Khan further highlighted that, for the first time, the DGTO has been



strengthened with additional human resources to support election monitoring.

Officers from the Ministry of Commerce, Trade Development Authority Pakistan, State Life Insurance Corporation and other government organizations will serve as independent observers and witnesses during the elections to enhance transparency and provide credible documentation for any subsequent complaints or appeals.

The Minister also said that the Ministry is coordinating with provincial authorities to ensure appropriate administrative and security support at larger polling venues where high voter turnout is expected, to maintain a peaceful and orderly election

environment.

He encouraged Chambers and Trade Associations to modernize their own internal election management systems by adopting stronger monitoring mechanisms and greater use of digital tools, noting that transparent and well-documented processes would significantly reduce post-election disputes and appeals.

Earlier, DGTO Bilal Khan Pasha briefed the Minister that the election process for Chambers of Commerce and Trade Associations has commenced and will continue until 30 September 2026, while elections of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) will begin on 1 October and conclude by 31 December 2026. He informed the Minister that around 380 registered trade organizations fall under the DGTO’s regulatory framework, of which 320 organizations are scheduled to hold elections this year.

The DGTO further briefed the Minister on the complete election process, including preparation of voter lists, scrutiny of nominations, constitution of election commissions, ballot paper management, polling arrangements, monitoring mechanisms, dispute resolution procedures and post-election appeals.

PPP should respect people’s mandate, says Amir Muqam

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON Engineer Amir Muqam on Friday urged the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) to respect the outcome of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) elections instead of questioning the results, saying the party should examine why voters rejected it despite its influence in the region’s government and administrative structure.

Addressing a large public rally in Khawra, Muzaffarabad, in support of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) candidate for LA-31 Saqib Majeed Raja, the minister said the high voter turnout reflected the victory of democracy and the political maturity of the Kashmiri people.

“Rather than raising objections to the election results, the PPP should review the reasons behind its defeat,” he said, adding that the party’s allegations were unfounded as the AJK government and administrative machinery were already under its influence.

Mr Muqam said parties should avoid creating unnecessary political disputes and instead respect the public mandate. He noted that PML-N also had reservations regarding results in certain constituencies but chose to uphold the democratic process.

Highlighting PML-N’s electoral performance, he said the party’s organisational efforts over the past two years had begun yielding results and expressed confidence that voters in Muzaffarabad Division would place even greater trust in the party after Mirpur.

Family caregivers: Pakistan’s overlooked second patients

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Not every hero wears a white coat. Some spend years quietly caring for a child with autism, a parent with dementia, or a loved one living with a disability or mental illness. Their days begin before sunrise and end long after everyone else has gone to bed. They give their time, energy, and love without expecting anything in return. Yet while everyone asks about the patient, very few ask a simple question: How is the caregiver?

For many families in Pakistan, caregiving is a lifelong responsibility. Mrs. Nadia, a resident of Rawalpindi, who is caring for her daughter with a mental disorder for the past 30 years, said every day demands patience, strength, and sacrifice. “Looking after her daughter is emotionally and physically exhausting, but she continues because her child depends entirely on her.” Kamran, a 40-year-old another Rawalpindi resident caring for his father who lives with dementia, told APP that the challenges extend beyond the home. He said caregivers often face social misunderstanding, with people staring, asking insensitive questions and failing to recognise the realities of the condition.

Morocco Marks Throne Day, Strengthens Pakistan Ties

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco celebrated Throne Day in Islamabad with a graceful reception commemorating the anniversary of the accession of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, bringing together senior government officials, parliamentarians, diplomats, members of the diplomatic community, business leaders, academics, and representatives of civil society.

The ceremony highlighted Morocco’s national achievements and reaffirmed the warm and longstanding friendship between Pakistan and the Kingdom of Morocco, which have enjoyed cordial diplomatic relations since 1957. Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Mohamed Karmoune paid tribute to the visionary



leadership of King Mohammed VI and outlined Morocco’s remarkable progress in economic development, infrastructure, renewable energy, industrial growth, social welfare, and regional connectivity.

He also highlighted Morocco’s increasing role as a gateway linking Africa, Europe, and the Arab world while emphasizing the country’s commitment to sustainable and inclusive development.

The ambassador noted that Pakistan and Morocco share strong bonds rooted in mutual respect, common values, and close cooperation within regional and international organizations. He expressed optimism that bilateral relations would continue to expand through greater collaboration in trade, investment, tourism, education, agriculture, and cultural exchanges. Pakistani dignitaries attending the event congratulated the Government and people of Morocco on the national occasion and reaffirmed Pakistan’s desire to further strengthen bilateral ties. They praised Morocco’s socio-economic achievements and acknowledged the important role played by the Moroccan Embassy in promoting closer people-to-people contacts between the two countries.

Pakistan Envoy Promotes Trade, Investment, Tourism in Russia



ANI

MOSCOW: The Embassy of Pakistan in Moscow hosted an interactive engagement between Ambassador Faisal Niaz Tirmizi and representatives of leading Russian media organizations, highlighting the growing importance of media diplomacy in advancing Pakistan-Russia relations. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss the expanding scope of bilateral cooperation, with particular focus on trade, investment, economic connectivity, tourism, and cultural exchanges. Ambassador Tirmizi briefed journalists on Pakistan’s improving economic landscape and ongoing reforms, emphasizing the country’s strategic location, investment-friendly policies, and growing potential as a destination for international business and tourism.

The ambassador noted that Pakistan and Russia have witnessed increasing engagement in recent years across economic, diplomatic, and regional cooperation, creating

new opportunities for collaboration in areas of mutual interest. He stressed that stronger media engagement can play a vital role in presenting an accurate picture of both countries and encouraging greater public awareness of the evolving bilateral relationship. Journalists and embassy officials also exchanged views on the importance of responsible journalism, enhanced information sharing, and stronger communication between media institutions of Pakistan and Russia. The discussion highlighted the media’s role in promoting mutual understanding, countering misconceptions, and encouraging closer people-to-people ties.

The Embassy described the interaction as part of its broader public diplomacy efforts aimed at strengthening communication with Russian media and fostering deeper engagement with influential opinion makers. Participants expressed their commitment to maintaining regular dialogue and exploring new avenues of cooperation in media, culture, tourism, and economic outreach.

MG JW Automobile, Bangladesh’s RANCON sing MoU to boost vehicle exports

ANI

ISLAMABAD: MG JW Automobile Pakistan and Bangladesh’s RANCON Group signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Thursday to boost vehicle exports and enhance automotive sector cooperation between the two countries.

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Industries and Production, Haroon Akhtar Khan, witnessed the signing ceremony, which marks a step toward expanding Pakistan’s automotive exports in line with the government’s export-oriented economic vision. The agreement marks a significant milestone for Pakistan’s automotive industry and reflects the growing international confidence in the country’s manufacturing capabilities, said a press release issued by Ministry of Industry and Production. It said, under the agreement, MG JW Automobile Pakistan will export 100 locally assembled vehicles to Bangladesh during the current year, while total exports are projected to reach 5,800 vehicles over the next four years.

High-Level Meeting Held on Encroachments Affecting Workers’ Housing Colony and Land at Regi Lalma Peshawar

ANI

In line with the directions of the Governing Body of the Workers Welfare Fund (WWF), Secretary Workers Welfare Fund, Mr. Zulfiqar Ahmad accompanied by Governing Body Members Mr. Farrukh Shehzad and *Mr. Umar Masood*, participated in a high-level meeting to review matters relating to encroachments on the Workers’ Housing Colony and the associated land at Regi Lalma.

The meeting was chaired by *Captain (Retd.) Mian Adil Iqbal*, Secretary Labour, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Detailed deliberations were held on the Workers’ Housing Colony at Regi Lalma, encroachments on the project land, the progress of the housing scheme, and other related matters. Participants reaffirmed their commitment to working in close coordination with all relevant departments to eliminate encroachments, safeguard



the project land, and resolve all pending issues on a priority basis, ensuring that the benefits of this important housing project are delivered to the workers’ community at the earliest. Following the meeting, Secretary Workers Welfare Fund *Mr. Zulfiqar Ahmad, along with Governing Body Members *Mr. Farrukh Shehzad* and *Mr. Umar Masood*, visited the office of *Mr. Sohail Idris*, Managing Director, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Highways Authority. During the visit, both sides held formal and informal discussions on a range of matters of mutual interest.

The Workers Welfare Fund remains firmly committed to the welfare of workers, the protection of workers’ housing projects, and fostering effective inter-agency collaboration to ensure the timely and sustainable resolution of issues affecting the labour community.

Pakistani Students Enhance Turkish Skills at Maarif Summer School

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani students participating in the Turkish Maarif Foundation Turkish Language Summer School Program 2026 are enriching their language abilities through an immersive educational and cultural experience that extends well beyond the classroom. The program combines Turkish language instruction with interactive cultural activities, including pottery painting and other hands-on creative workshops, allowing students to practice their communication skills in a real-life Turkish-speaking environment.

By engaging in everyday conversations and cultural exchanges, participants are building greater confidence in speaking Turkish while developing a deeper understanding of Türkiye’s history, traditions, and



way of life. The initiative reflects the Turkish Maarif Foundation’s commitment to promoting educational excellence and strengthening people-to-people ties between Pakistan and Türkiye. It also highlights the growing educational cooperation between the two countries, creating opportunities for young Pakistanis to broaden their academic, linguistic, and cultural horizons.

Organisers noted that each activity is designed to reinforce classroom learning through practical experience, ensuring that students not only improve their language proficiency but also gain firsthand exposure to Turkish culture. The Turkish Language Summer School Program continues to serve as an important platform for fostering mutual understanding.

Islamabad Police recruitment enters fourth day as senior officers oversee multi-city testing

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The fourth day of the Islamabad Police Recruitment 2026 physical endurance and running tests continued on Friday under the close supervision of senior police officers at test centres in Islamabad, Karachi and Peshawar, with officials reviewing security, administrative arrangements and candidate facilitation to ensure a transparent and merit-based recruitment process. An ICT Police spokesperson told APP that DG Safe City/DIG Traffic Muhammad Haroon Joiya visited the

Police Lines Headquarters recruitment centre in Islamabad, where he inspected various stages of the physical endurance test and directed the officers concerned to ensure its smooth, transparent and well-organised conduct. DIG Headquarters Muhammad Ateeq Tahir and DIG Islamabad Muhammad Jawad Tariq jointly supervised the ongoing physical endurance and running tests at the Police Lines Headquarters test centre. They reviewed security and overall administrative arrangements and directed the staff to maintain strict merit, transparency.

SC delegation concludes working visit to China

ANI

ISLAMABAD: A technical delegation of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, led by Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Judge, Supreme Court of Pakistan, and Chairman of the National Judicial Automation Committee concluded official visit to the Supreme People’s Court of the People’s Republic of China from 26 to 30 July 2026.

The delegation comprised officers of the Court’s Information Technology Section. SC delegation concludes working visit to China

The visit formed part of the continuing institutional engagement between the Supreme Court of Pakistan and the Supreme People’s Court of China under the judicial cooperation framework between the two institutions.

It was undertaken in furtherance of the Chief Justice of Pakistan’s digital reform vision for an efficient, technology-enabled, and citizen-centric justice system. During the visit, the delegation held meetings with senior officials of



the Supreme People’s Court of China, including Mr. Liu Guixiang, Justice and Standing Member of the Adjudication Committee, and Mr. Duan Nonggen, Director of the International Cooperation Department. The delegation also held detailed discussions with Mr. He Fan, Director General of the Adjudication Management Office, and Mr. Chen Qiwei, Deputy Director General of the Information Technology

Service Center, and received practical demonstrations of technology-enabled adjudication, case management, and court administration systems. Further engagements were held with Mr. Yu Maoyu, President of the Publishing House; Mr. Zhang Chengbing, Assistant Editor-in-Chief of the Publishing House and General Manager of Faxin Digital Technology Co. Ltd.; Mr. Yuan Dingho.

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Opinion

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The AI bubble’s shaky math

CARL BENEDIKT FREY

When OpenAI recently committed \$1.4 trillion to securing future computing capacity, it was merely the latest indication of irrational exuberance in 2025. By some estimates, US gross domestic product growth in the first half of this year came almost entirely from data centers, prompting a flood of commentary about when the bubble will burst and what it may leave behind. While the late-1990s dot-com party ended with a hangover for Wall Street, Main Street kept what mattered: the infrastructure. Productivity rose and the fiber laid during the boom years still works today. US President Bill Clinton’s vow to build a “bridge to the 21st century” was one of those rare campaign promises that was actually fulfilled. Today’s artificial intelligence investments could well pay off like the internet did. For now, though, the gains look more muted, and the macro downsides larger, than in the case of the dot-com bubble. Consider the potential benefits. In the late 1990s, the internet’s payoff showed up while the bubble was still inflat-

ing: US labor productivity growth averaged about 2.8 percent from 1995 to 2004, roughly double the previous two decades’ pace, before fading in the mid-2000s. You could see the gains in the national accounts even as Pets.com was buying up its ill-fated Super Bowl ads. This time, US labor productivity growth has picked up after two sluggish decades — reaching around 2.7 percent last year — but it is too soon to say that AI is the reason. In fact, AI adoption is slipping, with a recent US Census Bureau survey showing lower use among large firms. If the recent uptick in productivity was mostly an AI story, it could be expected to fade as adoption ebbs — another reminder of how fleeting these waves can be. As visible as the 1990s information technology boom was in real time, it petered out within a decade or so. It is tempting to think that large language models will speed up innovation and discovery itself, such as by surfacing hidden links in academic literature, writing code and drafting protocols. New tools — from Robert Hooke’s microscope to Galileo’s telescope — have

sparked such leaps before. This time, however, we have already had the ultimate research tool in the form of the internet-connected PC. While the late-1990s dot-com party ended with a hangover for Wall Street, Main Street kept what mattered: the infrastructure. Yet, even with instant access to the world’s accumulated knowledge and top talent, measures of research productivity and breakthrough innovation have declined. Keeping alive Moore’s Law — the observation that computer processing power doubles every two years — now takes orders of magnitude more researchers than it did in the early 1970s. Nor is it clear that the current capital expenditures boom will leave much in the way of durable digital infrastructure. Like the railroads in the 19th century, the dot-com era poured money into long-lived assets — especially fiber-optic cable and backbone networks — that could be “lit” and relit as electronics improved. Much of that still carries traffic today. One tranche of capital expenditure supported multiple generations of technology and business models. By contrast, AI is not laying track; it is run-

ning a treadmill. Chips and memory degrade or become obsolete in the space of years, not decades. Each server rack used to train a large language model now requires 120 kilowatts of power, up from about 5 kW to 10 kW a decade ago. And though each new generation of graphics processing units slashes cost per watt, this means that so-called hyperscalers churn through fleets faster as older gear becomes economically obsolete. Whereas fiber endures while you swap endpoints, the AI technology stack depreciates fast, requiring constant reinvestment. This treadmill could be manageable if the macroeconomic picture looked like the one in 1999. But it doesn’t. Although real interest rates were higher then, Clinton-era budget surpluses and a falling debt-to-GDP ratio eased pressure on capital markets and kept the government’s interest bill smaller, limiting a crowding-out effect. This time, the situation has been reversed. Not only have persistent US government deficits neared 6 percent of GDP (about \$1.8 trillion) and net interest payments approaching \$1 trillion reduced fiscal space, but the same pool of savings is now expected to finance clean energy

build-outs, rising defense budgets and a power-hungry data center boom. In practice, this demand shows up as higher borrowing costs, which slow new housing construction and push long-gestation infrastructure to the back of the line. AI is not laying track; it is running a treadmill. Chips and memory degrade or become obsolete in the space of years, not decades. Public finances also feel the pinch. A larger debt stock means positive real rates feed quickly into a higher interest bill, crowding out programs that households rely on. During the late-1990s surplus, debt fell and the Treasury even bought back bonds, which meant that the state could invest alongside a private boom without elbowing it aside. Today, more borrowing and a heavier interest tab leave less room for maneuver when growth slows. If AI’s payoff does arrive, but only slowly, the arithmetic will be even more difficult. We would see more dollars going to bondholders and fewer to Social Security, healthcare and core services; and if the business cycle goes south, the trade-offs would be even sharper. Financing has changed, too. —Arab News

Azerbaijan a strategic addition to the C5

LUKE COFFEY

At a meeting in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, last Sunday, the leaders of the five Central Asian states — Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan — made an important decision that could have geopolitical ramifications for Eurasia. At the Seventh Consultative Meeting of the Heads of State of Central Asia, also referred to as the C5, the leaders agreed to formally add Azerbaijan to the format. Going forward, this body will be known as the C6. The C5 format has helped the five countries of Central Asia facilitate deeper cooperation, especially in the fields of trade, economics, culture and energy. It was created after these states regained their independence following the collapse of the Soviet Union and has served as the major platform for regional cooperation in Central Asia. It has also been used for the region’s external relations. For example, just last week, US President Donald Trump hosted a summit marking the 10th anniversary of the C5+1 format, which is the platform that brings Washington into regular engagement with the region. Bringing Azerbaijan formally into the format was the logical next step in the evolution of this grouping. One only has to look at a map to understand why. Azerbaijan is in a strategic location. Situated on the western shore of the Caspian Sea, it serves as one of the primary gateways for Central Asia to reach European and global markets. In recent years, Azerbaijan and the countries of Central Asia have significantly increased their bilateral relations. Over the past three years, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev has made 14 visits to Central Asian countries, while his Central Asian counterparts have paid 23 visits to Azerbaijan. This is a reminder that old-school diplomacy can have a big impact. With this growing level of engagement, it makes sense that the countries would formalize a more regional grouping into the C6. There are three main reasons why closer cooperation on both sides of the Caspian Sea makes sense for the region. The first is geopolitical reality. The Central Asian states are trying to diversify away from an overreliance on the Russian and Chinese markets. While they do not seek to replace their engagement with these countries, they are always looking for alternative and additional markets as part of their broader balancing approach to foreign policy and their need to grow eco-

nomically. Looking south, the uncertainty in Afghanistan and the continued tension between India and Pakistan make that route an unrealistic option. For Central Asian states, looking westward offers far greater opportunities, especially as they seek reliable access to global markets. The second reason is the existence of well-established transport and trade links that run from Azerbaijan through the South Caucasus to Europe and beyond. This route is referred to as the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route, commonly known as the Middle Corridor. It includes many of the region’s major oil and gas pipelines, rail connections, motorways, fiber-optic cables and air corridors that bypass both Russia and Iran through the heart of the South Caucasus. Azerbaijan is a key hub for this route, so bringing Baku into the fold makes sense for the Central Asian states. This is especially true as Trump’s efforts to bring peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan, and the possibility of normalization between Turkiye and Armenia, create new transportation, trade and energy opportunities that Central Asian states could benefit from. Finally, Azerbaijan shares a common Turkic heritage with most of the Central Asian republics. Other than Tajikistan, the other four are linguistically, culturally and ethnically Turkic-majority countries. And with the rise of the Organization of Turkic States, a body founded to increase cooperation among the ethnically Turkic countries of Eurasia, connecting Azerbaijan and Central Asia in another important format such as the C6 makes perfect sense. The implications of the newly established C6 and the trade, transit and energy opportunities it will provide are not limited to the region. There could also be a positive impact in the Middle East, especially in the Gulf. Turkiye is leading an ambitious project called the Dry Canal corridor, intended to link Iraq’s southern coast and the Gulf to Turkish ports on the Mediterranean by the late 2030s. This plan includes construction of a new rail line and road network spanning Iraq and linking to Turkiye. There are also plans to reconstruct a rail link that once connected Mosul in northern Iraq with the Turkish city of Gaziantep. It is not unrealistic to assume that the road and rail networks of the Dry Canal could eventually link up with those currently used by the Middle Corridor and the South Caucasus as they converge into Turkiye. —Arab News

Why Turkiye opposes a separate EU defense union

DR. SINEM CENGIZ

Russia’s 2022 invasion of Ukraine marked a major turning point for European security. US President Donald Trump’s stance on reducing support for the continent has put European states in an even more difficult position, pushing them to seek alternative ways to strengthen their security. This is why Turkiye is today being seen as a potential partner. Turkiye’s relations with the EU, NATO and the broader Western world have never been a bed of roses. Despite numerous issues testing these relationships, Turkiye has consistently framed itself as an indispensable actor for the West. Now, Europe’s doubts about long-term US security commitments have left the EU with little choice but to develop a new approach toward Turkiye. This was not necessarily the EU’s preferred choice, but rather the result of certain realities. Turkiye, for its part, has taken advantage of this indispensability given its geo-strategic position, balanced ties with Russia despite EU sanctions, growing defense industry, and status as NATO’s second-largest military force and third-largest contributor to the alliance’s missions and operations. For months, there has been a closeness between Ankara and several Western capitals. Turkiye was even described as a “like-minded” non-EU partner by the bloc, which led many to describe this as bringing new momentum to Turkiye-EU relations. Also, this momentum has been interpreted as a pragmatic approach toward Turkiye by Brussels. So, hopes were high that this would not become yet another failed attempt to further their relations. However, the EU is a fragmented bloc, lacking a unified stance among its members despite facing the same security challenges. This fragmentation has led to missed opportunities in the past and seems to be leading to more in the future of

EU-Turkiye relations. A statement made on Monday by Turkish Ambassador to NATO Basat Ozturk supports this argument. Ozturk, speaking at a gathering in Brussels, criticized the idea of an independent EU defense union. He said it risks dividing the NATO alliance at a time when unity remains essential for collective security. “No alliance within an alliance,” he noted, arguing that creating a separate military alliance within the existing transatlantic framework would discriminate against non-EU NATO members such as Turkiye. Ozturk emphasized that Turkiye’s exclusion from the EU’s Permanent Structured Cooperation Military Mobility project reflected clear discrimination and that, under current EU rules, Turkish forces would be unable to transit EU territory. This is despite the fact Turkiye would be expected to provide reinforcements in a worst-case scenario. Ankara has long insisted on being a part of Europe’s defense programs and having a say in how the bloc shapes its security. On several occasions, Turkiye has also expressed its willingness to assume an active role in EU defense procurement. But the EU views Turkiye mostly through the lens of its membership bid and political disagreements. It is now even more puzzling that such an idea is being discussed at a time when there has been no progress on Ukraine-Russia negotiations and the Trump administration is signaling a pivot away from Europe. While these developments heighten the EU’s sense of insecurity, excluding Turkiye would be yet another example of the bloc’s irrational decision-making. In the absence of US support, it is crystal clear that the EU would not be able to deter Russia effectively without closer cooperation with Ankara. However, some EU states apparently seem to not be comfortable with the idea of overreliance on Turkiye, which is perceived by them as being opportunistic rather than a

Kashmir is often described as the “jugular vein” of Pakistan, underscoring its critical importance to the nation’s survival.

BY:Asghar Ali Mubarak:Published by ANI News Agency

The armed forces of Pakistan regard the Kashmir cause as a fundamental pillar of the country’s foreign and security policy, consistently providing moral, diplomatic, and political support to the Kashmiri population. The top leadership of the Pakistan Army categorically rejects India’s illegal and unilateral actions (abrogation of Article 370) of August 5, 2019. It has been reiterating its unwavering commitment to the Kashmir cause in every important meeting. The Kashmiris are given a clear message that the Pakistani nation and its army stand with them at every step in this struggle for freedom. Remember that the stance of our military leadership on Kashmir has been firm. In the Corps Commanders’ Conference, we have always declared Kashmir as the jugular vein of Pakistan and have reiterated our continued moral and diplomatic support for the Kashmiris in accordance with the UN resolutions. According to the ISPR, while reviewing the situation in the region, the forum appreciated Pakistan’s positive role for dialogue and regional stability. Taking note of Indian rhetoric regarding the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), the forum expressed its resolve to take all necessary steps to ensure Pakistan’s legitimate share of water, in line with the directives of the National Security Committee. Furthermore, the forum rejected human rights violations and Indian attempts to change the demographic balance in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), termed Kashmir as Pakistan’s jugular vein and reiterated its continued moral and diplomatic support to the Kashmiris in accordance with the UN resolutions. DG ISPR Lt. Gen. Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry has also made it clear in his media briefings that the resolution of the Kashmir issue in accordance with UN resolutions is essential for sustainable peace in the region. ISPR exposes the grave human rights violations, military siege and illegal detention of Kashmiri leadership in occupied Jammu and Kashmir to the world. Qauid-e-Azam’s calling Kashmir “the jugular vein” was not just an emotional statement, but it is a matter of Pakistan’s water security, geographical defense and survival. Pakistan’s military and diplomatic stance on the Kashmir issue in the United Nations (UN) is very solid, principled and in line with international laws. Pakistan’s Foreign Ministry and Pakistani Missions to the UN have consistently emphasized that sustainable peace in South Asia is not possible without granting the Kashmiris their right to self-determination. Pakistan has also



Charter take precedence over any bilateral agreement. (Demand for revocation of unilateral measures of 5 August 2019) Pakistan has termed India’s move to abrogate the special status of occupied Kashmir (Article 370) as illegal at all UN forums. Pakistan has made a strong case against the demographic changes in the occupied valley and Indian conspiracies to convert the local Muslim majority into a minority before the UN Human Rights Council and special observers. (Defending the presence of UN observers) Pakistan welcomes the United Nations Military Observer Group (UNMOGIP) along the Line of Control (LoC) and grants them full access. India, for its part, has imposed restrictions on the movement of UN observers, which Pakistan terms an attempt by India to conceal the facts at international forums. Pakistan maintains that the presence of UNMOGIP is proof that Kashmir is a globally recognized disputed issue. (Response to aggression and strategic balance of the region, Military Position) The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) and the defense leadership of Pakistan are clear in their stance under the UN Charter that Pakistan has the full right to defend its territorial integrity. Pakistan has termed the threats made by Indian defense ministers regarding Azad Kashmir as an attempt to sabotage the agenda of the UN Security Council. Pakistan rejects Indian allegations and calls the ongoing struggle in occupied Kashmir not external terrorism but “internal and local resistance” (Homegrown Resistance), which is the



strongly reiterated this stance recently on the occasion of the annual report of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). The most important military and diplomatic aspects of this long-standing position are as follows: (Right to Self-Determination and UN Resolutions) Pakistan’s basic position is that Jammu and Kashmir is a disputed territory. Its resolution should be through a free and fair plebiscite under UN Security Council resolutions. (Reference to Article 25) Pakistan has made it clear in the UN Security Council that India is violating Article 25 of the UN Charter, which obliges all member states to accept and implement the decisions of the Security Council. (Shimla Agreement vs. UN Charter) India often claims that this is a bilateral issue after the Simla Agreement. Pakistan, in response, cites Article 103 of the UN Charter, which states that obligations under the UN

legitimate right of the Kashmiris against decades of Indian occupation. Pakistani forces and diplomatic missions present the Kashmir cause with full force every year in General Assembly meetings, Security Council briefings, and on the platform of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). The roots of the current movement in Indian-administered Kashmir are linked to the struggle of the people for the exercise of the right to self-determination. New Delhi’s allegations of Pakistan’s assistance to the Kashmiris are baseless. Objective reports in foreign media bear witness to the fact that the Kashmiri protest is local. Pakistan upholds the right of the people of Jammu and Kashmir to self-determination as per the UN Security Council resolutions. These resolutions of 1948 and 1949 provided for a free and impartial plebiscite to be held by the people of Jammu and Kashmir to determine the future of the state. The Kashmir complaint was initiated by India in the Security Council. The

Council, both explicitly and implicitly, rejected India’s claim that Kashmir is legally Indian territory. The resolutions established self-determination as the governing principle for the resolution of the Kashmir issue. This is the commitment of the world body to the people of Kashmir. The resolutions endorsed a binding agreement between India and Pakistan, brokered by the UNCIP, that the plebiscite would be held under mutually agreed and specified conditions. The Security Council rejected India’s claim that the Kashmiri people have exercised their right to self-determination by participating in “elections” that India has held from time to time in occupied Kashmir. Pakistan is abiding by UN resolutions. These are also binding on India. The Simla Agreement of July 2, 1972, to which Pakistan is also abiding, did not change the status of Jammu and Kashmir as a disputed territory: Para 6 of the Agreement lists “the final settlement of Jammu and Kashmir” as one of the questions awaiting settlement. Para 4 (ii) speaks of the “Line of Control” as distinct from the international boundary. Furthermore, it expressly protects “the recognized position of any party”. Pakistan’s recognized position is that which is generally recognized by the UN and the international community. Article 1(iv) clearly refers to the Kashmir issue when it speaks of the “fundamental problems and causes of conflict which have deteriorated the relations between the two countries”. The Simla Agreement does not prevent the Kashmir issue from being raised in the United Nations. Paragraph 1(i) specifically provides that the Charter of the United Nations “shall govern” the relations between the parties. Paragraph 1(ii) provides for the settlement of differences by peaceful means and does not exclude the means of pacific settlement of disputes and differences provided for in the Charter of the United Nations. The issue of Kashmir continues to be a matter of concern to the Security Council of the United Nations, which is on the agenda of the Council. Articles 34 and 35 of the Charter of the United Nations specifically empower the Security Council to investigate any dispute independently or at the request of a Member State. These provisions cannot be made subordinate to any bilateral agreement. According to Article 103 of the Charter of the United Nations, the obligations of Member States under the Charter take precedence over obligations under a bilateral agreement. The presence of the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) on the Line of Control in Kashmir is a clear indication of the UN’s involvement in the Kashmir issue. Jammu and Kashmir is a disputed territory. It does not include the principle of respect for the unity and territorial integrity of states to which Pakistan adheres. Attempts to suppress the legitimate demands of the people of Jammu and Kashmir by force have failed. Similarly, threats of use of force have not affected Pakistan’s determination to uphold its principled position. Since the signing of the Simla Agreement, India has insisted that the issue is purely bilateral and should be resolved without any external intervention or mediation. India is so allergic to the issue in any international forum that it is necessary to recall India’s bitter reaction to Nelson Mandela’s mention of “Kashmir” at the 1998 NAM conference in South Africa. The issue came to the fore in May 1998, following nuclear explosions first by India and then by Pakistan, after which many had real hopes that international pressure would be brought to bear on India for a meaningful resolution of the Kashmir issue that has troubled both nations of the subcontinent and consumed their meager resources. One thing is clear: without the active interest of major powers in saving Kashmiris, India will never agree to any meaningful negotiations on Kashmir.

Chairman Senate Gilani, British High Commissioner Jane Marriott Visit Eidgah Sharif; Stress Unity and Peace



BY: Hurish Shah:

ISLAMABAD-- Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, accompanied by British High Commissioner to Pakistan Jane Marriott, Federal Education Minister Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, and the Prime Minister's Adviser on Cryptocurrency Bilal Bin Saqib, visited Eidgah Sharif in Rawalpindi on Friday.

The delegation was received by the Custodian of Eidgah Sharif, Pir Syed Muhammad Hassan Haseeb-

ur-Rehman, who briefed the guests on the shrine's spiritual heritage and its longstanding contributions to religious education, social welfare, and the promotion of Islamic values.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman Senate Gilani praised the services of Eidgah Sharif and said the teachings of Sufi saints promote peace, tolerance, compassion, and interfaith harmony. He stressed that terrorism and extremism have no place in Islam and called for national

unity, political stability, constitutional supremacy, and stronger democratic values.

Gilani said Parliament would continue to promote national consensus and constructive dialogue, while emphasizing economic stability, investment, employment generation, and public relief as national priorities. He expressed confidence that with unity and institutional cooperation, Pakistan would overcome its challenges and achieve sustainable progress.

NA Speaker Ayaz Sadiq Grieved Over Loss of Lives in Sorange Coal Mine Accident

BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD--- Speaker of the National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has expressed deep sorrow and grief over the loss of precious lives in the coal mine accident in Sorange, describing the incident as

extremely tragic.

He extended heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the bereaved families, saying he shares their grief during this difficult time. He remarked that hardworking labourers are a valuable asset to the country and their loss is deeply painful.

The Speaker directed the relevant authorities to ensure the best possible medical treatment for those injured in the accident. He also prayed for the eternal peace of the deceased, patience and strength for their families, and the speedy recovery of the injured.

Dr. Jamal Nasir Honoured at National Press Club; 50% Lab Test Discount Announced for Journalists

BY: Hurish Shah:

ISLAMABAD--- A special ceremony titled "Masiha" was held at the National Press Club (NPC) to honour former Punjab Minister and renowned physician Dr. Jamal Nasir for his contributions to healthcare and social welfare.

During the event, the National Press Club and City Lab signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) under which NPC members, staff, and their immediate family members will receive up to 50% discount on laboratory tests and 40% discount on radiology services. NPC Secretary Dr. Furqan Rao said around 3,349 members would benefit from the initiative. Speaking as the chief guest, Dr. Jamal Nasir said journalists work tirelessly for the rights of others despite facing numerous professional challenges



themselves. NPC President Abdul Razzaq Sial and other speakers paid tribute to Dr. Jamal Nasir's humanitarian services and emphasized the need to expand healthcare facilities for journalists. At the end of the ceremony, the National Press Club presented commemorative shields to Dr. Jamal Nasir and Tahir Hussain Hashmi, President of the Gujranwala Union of Journalists (Dastoor), in recognition of their services.

Export-Led Growth Vital for Economic Stability ICCI President

BY: Hurish Shah:

ISLAMABAD--- ICCI President Sardar Tahir Mehmood has urged the government to adopt a comprehensive export-led growth strategy, saying higher exports are essential for sustainable economic growth, job creation and macroeconomic stability.

Speaking to business delegations, he said high business costs, expen-



sive energy, complex taxation and regulatory hurdles are restricting exports. He called for a long-term, business-friendly policy to boost industrial growth and diversify export markets.

Senior Vice President Tahir Ayub and Vice President Mohammad Irfan Chaudhry also stressed reducing the cost of doing business and supporting export-oriented industries to strengthen the economy.

Mohsin Naqvi Should Resign After Admitting Systemic Failure: Chaudhry Shabbir Balochistani

BY: ANI Correspondent:

QUETTA--- Pakistan Muslim League (N) Balochistan Secretary Information Chaudhry Shabbir Balochistani has said that Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi's remarks about the failure of the administrative system amount to an admission of his own failure and warrant his immediate resignation.

He said that if the Interior Minister believes the state's administrative system and law and order have deteriorated, the responsibility



ity lies primarily with the Ministry of Interior. He also criticized Naqvi for previously downplaying the security situation in Balochistan while now acknowledging systemic failure.

Balochistani maintained that while the PML-N leadership remains committed to strengthening state institutions, every minister is individually accountable for his performance. He urged Mohsin Naqvi to accept responsibility for his shortcomings and step down instead of issuing statements.

35 Bodies Recovered After Blast in Quetta Coal Mine

BY: ANI Reporter:

QUETTA--- All 35 bodies of the miners who were trapped due to an accident in a coal mine in the Sorange area of Quetta district, Balochistan, have been recovered.

The incident in the mine was very severe.

According to government officials, the accident took place in a coal mine in the Sorange area of Quetta district.

A senior government official said that he had spoken to the mine owners, who said that more than 35 miners were present in the mine. The bodies were immediately recovered and sent to their native areas.

The official did not rule out the possibility of an increase in casualties due to the intensity of the blast and the lack of modern rescue facilities.



Sorange is located about 40 kilometers east of Quetta, the capital of Balochistan. It is a mountainous area where a large number of coal mines are located.

Accidents in coal mines have occurred in the past as well in Sorange and its surrounding areas.

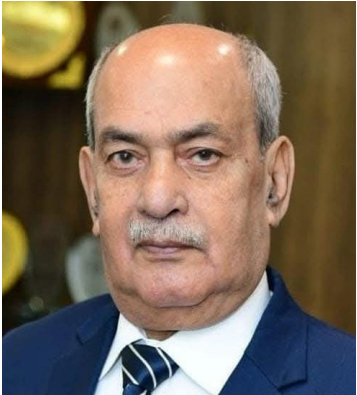
Due to the absence of other modern industries, coal mining is a major industry in Balochistan. The coal mines are mostly located in the districts of Quetta, Kachhi, Harnai and Dukki, where thousands of miners directly and indirectly consider it as a source of livelihood.

Ajmal Baloch, Khalid Chaudhry and Traders Demand Simpler FBR Tax Return Forms

BY: Hurish Shah:

ISLAMABAD--- All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajran and Traders Action Committee Islamabad President Ajmal Baloch, Secretary Khalid Chaudhry, Kamran Kakakhel, Ahmad Khan, Akhtar Abbasi and other traders' leaders, in a joint statement, urged the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to further simplify the new income tax return forms to encourage greater compliance.

They called on traders to file their tax returns on time and seek guidance from their respective market associations where needed. The leaders also demanded that previous income tax returns be accepted without objection and



that traders joining the new scheme be exempted from POS and TR-1 requirements.

They said the new scheme is a pos-



itive step but stressed that any hurdles in its implementation would be strongly opposed by the business community.

NAHE-HEC Concludes National Faculty Development Programme for Fresh PhD Fellows



BY: Hurish Shah:

ISLAMABAD--- The National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE) of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) concluded the National Faculty Development Programme (NFDP) Cohort-IX for Interim Placement of Fresh PhDs (IPFP) Fellows with a certificate distribution ceremony held at the HEC Secretariat.

HEC Chairman Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad Akhtar attended the ceremony as the chief guest and awarded certificates to participants after the successful completion of the three-

week professional development programme.

Addressing the fellows, the HEC Chairman congratulated them on completing the training and urged them to uphold professionalism, integrity, and academic excellence. He emphasized the need for competent and innovative faculty members capable of inspiring students, promoting quality research, and contributing to Pakistan's socio-economic development. He also stressed strengthening the IPFP initiative with a greater focus on entrepreneurship.

NAHE Managing Director Dr.

Noor Amna Malik highlighted the academy's commitment to preparing future faculty through high-quality professional development, encouraging participants to apply their newly acquired knowledge and teaching skills in their academic careers.

During the ceremony, NAHE Director Dr. Muneer Ahmed administered the professional oath to the fellows, reaffirming their commitment to academic integrity, ethical conduct, excellence in teaching and research, lifelong learning, and dedicated service to Pakistan's higher education sector.

Mohsin Naqvi's Admission Validates Farmers' Longstanding Concerns: PTI Farmers' Wing

BY:ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD--- Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Farmers' Wing Central Information Secretary Khalid Nawaz Sadhraich has said that Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi's recent acknowledgment of systemic failure confirms what Pakistan's farming community has been warning the government about for years.

In a statement issued on Friday, Sadhraich said farmers had repeatedly highlighted the collapse of agricultural policies, unfair marketing practices, rising production costs, and the growing influence of middlemen and commission mafias. However, he alleged that successive governments ignored these concerns while protecting vested interests.

He said farmers had lost confidence in the existing system due to anti-farmer policies, delayed wheat procurement, inconsistent pricing, expensive agricultural inputs, and weak market regulation, leaving cul-



tivators to sell crops below production costs while consumers continued to pay high prices.

Sadhraich maintained that Mohsin Naqvi's remarks should be viewed as an acknowledgment of deep structural flaws in governance, particularly in the agriculture sector. He urged policymakers to accept responsibility and implement meaningful reforms instead of offering

temporary solutions.

The PTI Farmers' Wing spokesman called for comprehensive agricultural reforms, including transparent policies, timely procurement, cost-based support prices, strict action against market manipulation, affordable farm inputs, and greater investment in agricultural research.

He warned that Pakistan could not achieve sustainable economic growth while neglecting agriculture, which supports rural livelihoods, provides raw materials to industry, and contributes significantly to exports.

Sadhraich urged the government to treat the Interior Minister's statement as an opportunity for immediate corrective action, saying the real tragedy was that millions of farmers had warned of the crisis for years but were ignored. He stressed that restoring farmers' confidence would require justice, transparency, and policies that prioritize growers over vested interests.

DPO Dr. Ammara Shirazi Holds Open Court at Noorpur Police Station

BY: FT Correspondent:

SARGODHA--- District Police Officer (DPO) Khushab, Dr. Ammara Shirazi, held an open court at Noorpur Police Station, where she heard public complaints and issued on-the-spot directions for their resolution. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Shirazi said resolving citizens' issues on a priority basis is the top priority of Khushab Police. She added that open courts help strengthen trust between the police and the public by providing people with direct access to police officials.

DSP Noorpur Thal Circle Chaudhry Muhammad Akram, SHO Noorpur Malik Ilyas Awan, and SHO Jora Kalan Saleem Ullah Khan also attended the session.

