

# DAILY MIRROR

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## A Worker's Child Will Not Remain a Worker, They Will Become Doctors and Engineers: Sarfraz Bugti

By Staff Reporter

Quetta: Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, on the occasion of Labour Day, reaffirmed the government's unwavering commitment to the welfare of workers and the brighter future of their children.

He stated that a worker's child will not be confined to the hardships of the past but will rise to become doctors, engineers, and professionals contributing to the nation's progress. He emphasized that the government is determined to provide equal opportunities so that no child is left behind due to financial or social constraints.

The Chief Minister highlighted that under the ongoing reforms in the education sector, special initiatives have been launched to support the children of labourers and miners. These initiatives aim to



ensure access to quality education in leading institutions across the country, along with proper residential, training, and welfare facilities to nurture their talents in a conducive environment.

Mir Sarfraz Bugti noted that the government is focusing on merit-based scholarships and structured educational programs to empower students from underprivileged backgrounds. He said these efforts

are not only about education but about restoring dignity, confidence, and hope among working-class families. He further added that providing opportunities to the children of workers is a long-term investment in the province's future. When these children are educated and skilled, they will return as productive citizens, strengthening society and contributing to economic development.

The Chief Minister reiterated that the vision of the Government of Balochistan is to create an inclusive society where every individual, regardless of background, has the chance to grow and succeed. He assured that such initiatives will continue with transparency and dedication to ensure maximum benefit for deserving students.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Meets with Bilal Bin Saqib, Minister of State and Chairman Pakistan Virtual Assets Regulatory Authority, in Lahore.

## Labour Day a Reminder of Workers' Struggle and Sacrifices: Minister for Communications & Works Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa

Staff Reporter

Quetta: Provincial Minister for Communications and Works, Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa, in his message on the occasion of Labour Day, said that Labour Day reminds us of the great sacrifices and struggles of the working class who made history through their relentless efforts to secure their rights.

The Provincial Minister stated that today is a day to renew our commitment to ensuring dignified employment, safe working conditions, and the complete protection of rights for our labour brothers and sisters.

He further said that all workers engaged in the Communications and Works Department, as well as across the province, are a key pillar of development. Their tireless hard work makes the completion of development projects in the province possible. Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa added that the government is continuously taking all possible steps to resolve their issues, improve facilities, and ensure their welfare and well-being. Paying tribute to all workers on Labour Day, the Provincial Minister reiterated, "I assure that our efforts will continue for the protection of their rights and for securing a better and more prosperous future for them."

On Monday, the authority also stated that any agreement or pilot announced involving virtual assets required prior authorisation.

## Balochistan government delegation engages opposition in key talks

By Staff Reporter

QUETTA: A high-level government delegation led by Balochistan Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Langau met with opposition leaders in Quetta to discuss madrasa registration and broader political issues.

The delegation included provincial ministers Mir Ali Madad Jattak, Mir Barkat Rind, and other officials. On the opposition side, JUI-F provincial chief Senator Maulana Abdul Wasey, Opposition Leader in the Balochistan Assembly Mir Younus Aziz Zehri, PAC Chairman Asghar Tareen, MPA Syed

Zafar Agha, and MNA Usman Badini attended, alongside several other leaders.

Detailed discussions were held on madrasa registration and political affairs, with both sides agreeing to continue dialogue in the future to address issues collectively.

Speaking at the meeting, Home Minister Langau described madrasas as "strongholds of Islam" that have historically united the Muslim Ummah. He emphasized Balochistan's identity as a bouquet of diverse nations and faiths, and praised Maulana Abdul Wasey as a wise and respected politician.

Provincial Minister Mir Ali Madad Jattak stressed the importance of understanding the government's stance on madrasas, noting that the administration has consistently prioritized taking opposition and religious parties into confidence.

He added that the government delegation's visit itself reflected the seriousness of the authorities in engaging with the opposition.

The meeting concluded with a commitment to maintain dialogue and cooperation, signaling a joint effort to strengthen political harmony across the province.

## PM Shehbaz says regulatory system for virtual assets should be operationalised at the earliest

LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday directed that an effective regulatory system for virtual assets in line with international standards should be operationalised as soon as possible.

The remarks came as PM Shehbaz met with State Minister and Pakistan Virtual Assets Regulatory Authority (PVARA) Chairman Bilal Bin Saqib in Lahore, according to a handout by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

"PM Shehbaz directed that an effective regulatory system for virtual assets in line with international standards should be fully operationalised as soon as possible to promote the digital economy in Pakistan and enhance investor confidence," the handout said.

During the meeting, the prime minister said that special measures should

be taken to provide training to the youth in modern technologies, particularly in the fields of artificial intelligence and digital finance, so that the country's workforce can be aligned with future requirements.

Saqib also briefed PM Shehbaz on the PVARA's transition into an operational regulator and the launch of a regulatory sandbox, the statement said.

The premier was told that innovation was being introduced in areas such as AI-powered payments and regulated virtual asset services, the handout stated. He was also told that work was underway to prepare national institutions, the workforce, and the regulatory framework for the next wave of economic transformation, it added.

The briefing highlighted that inno-

vation is being introduced in areas such as AI-powered payments and regulated virtual asset services.

It was further informed that work is underway to prepare national institutions, human resources, and the regulatory framework for the next wave of economic transformation.

Earlier this month, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) had announced a significant policy change, legalising and encouraging the use of virtual assets through the enactment of the Virtual Assets Act 2026. Under the Act, PVARA is the statutory authority responsible for the licensing, regulation, supervision and oversight of virtual asset activities in Pakistan.

On Monday, the authority also stated that any agreement or pilot announced involving virtual assets required prior authorisation.



Balochistan government delegation led by Balochistan Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Langau met with JUI-F leaders in Quetta

## Pakistan, China sign an Agreement, two MoUs

APP

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani and Chinese organizations have signed a Joint Venture Agreement and two memorandums of understanding covering construction machinery, animal health and medical technology.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by President Asif Ali Zardari in Sanya, Hainan. A Joint Venture Agreement was concluded between the Livestock and Fisheries Department, Government of Sindh and Luoyang Modern Biology Group, China for the distribution and supply of animal vaccines in Pakistan, including Foot-and-Mouth Disease vaccines. A memorandum of understanding was signed among Al Hassan Trade Establishment, Sany International Development and Hainan Jialong International Technology on cooperation in high-end equipment, manufacturing and construction machinery. Another memorandum of understanding was signed between Dr. Ziauddin Hospital and Shenzhen Weibang Technology to develop a cooperation model in the field of medical technology.

and elevates societies from hardship to dignity. He lauded the sacrifices of workers and farmers whose hard work provides the foundations of the economy and society.

"Without their efforts, development would remain only a dream," the Governor emphasized, highlighting the central role of workers and farmers in driving growth.

Drawing on Islamic teachings, Mandokhail stressed the importance of respecting labour, treating workers with dignity, and ensuring fair

## Governor Balochistan pays tribute to workers on International Labour Day

By Staff Reporter

QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has paid tribute to workers and farmers on International Labour Day, recognizing their contributions as the backbone of national progress and sustainable economic growth.

In his Labour Day message, Mandokhail described the labour force as a proud strength that builds nations, meets community needs,

and elevates societies from hardship to dignity. He lauded the sacrifices of workers and farmers whose hard work provides the foundations of the economy and society.

"Without their efforts, development would remain only a dream," the Governor emphasized, highlighting the central role of workers and farmers in driving growth.

Drawing on Islamic teachings, Mandokhail stressed the importance of respecting labour,

treating workers with dignity, and ensuring fair

and timely wages. He pledged that the government remains committed to creating new employment opportunities, improving basic facilities, and empowering individuals to become economically self-reliant.

The Governor noted that real change requires collective effort, particularly in a rapidly evolving world where trade, industry, and innovation shape national

development.

"On this International Labour Day,

we reaffirm our commitment to recognize the cooperation of workers and to build a future where every worker and farmer can live with pride, security, and hope," Mandokhail said.

## Babar Yousafzai denies reports of internet shutdown

Staff Reporter

QUETTA: Aide to the Home Department, Balochistan, Babar Yousafzai has strongly refuted circulating news on social media regarding an alleged internet shutdown in the province.

Babar Yousafzai, Aide to the Home Department, clarified that no decision has been made to suspend internet services.

Babar Yousafzai emphasized that the reports of an impending disruption are baseless and urged citizens not to believe in unverified news or rumors. He assured the public that the government remains committed to providing timely and authentic information to avoid confusion.

"There is no truth to the news of internet suspension. The government has not taken any such decision," Yousafzai added, adding that official updates will continue to be shared with the public.

"The US president said that the Iranian leadership was 'disjointed', 'had a lot of problems' and 'were not getting along with each other'."

"But we have just had a conversation with Iran. But I will say I am not happy," he said.

Asked why he was unsatisfied with the Iranian offer, Trump said: "They're asking for things that I can't agree." He gave no details. Trump said Iran had "made strides" in negotiations, but added that there was "tremendous discord" in the Islamic republic's leadership and warned: "I'm not sure if they ever get there."

Trump was asked what he would do if there was no deal but refused to say whether he would launch more strikes.

"Do we want to go and just blast the hell out of them and finish them forever — or do we want to try and make a deal? I mean, those are the options," he said. Trump added that he would "prefer not" to launch a huge offensive but added: "That's the option: do we want to go in there heavy and just blast."

Service, describing it as a gift for the people of Balochistan.

Reaffirming the government's vision, Bakht Muhammad Kakar "We are committed to building a healthy Balochistan, and priority measures are being taken to achieve this goal."

## Tarar terms Operation Bunyan-un-Marsoos a defining moment in Pakistan's history

APP

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Friday said that Pakistan's success in "Operation Bunyan-un-Marsoos" (Iron Wall) established a new standing for the country and changed the course of history. Addressing a ceremony held in connection with the first anniversary of Marka-e-Haq, he said the month of May marked one year since the victory which, by the grace of Allah Almighty, had been bestowed upon the Pakistani nation.

He said the enthusiasm and passion of the students participating in the ceremony reflected that the future of Pakistan was in safe hands. The minister said Pakistan was a blessing of Allah, achieved after immense sacrifices by the Muslims of the subcontinent. He added that the vision of Allama Muhammad Iqbal was materialized under the leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, enabling the nation to live in freedom.

Referring to regional tensions, Tarar said Pakistan's enemies could not tolerate its independ-

ence and continued to conspire against it.

He said that during the Pahalgam "false flag operation," Pakistan had taken a clear and principled stance and offered an independent and transparent investigation.

He said Pakistan was actively fighting terrorism, while India was involved in promoting it, adding that the international community was increasingly recognizing this distinction. Highlighting leadership during the conflict, he said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif provided clear direction by demanding an investigation into the Pahalgam incident.

## Pakistan, UNICEF join hands to combat lead exposure hazards for children and mothers

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Khalid Hussain Magsi Friday met a high-level UNICEF delegation led by Abdullah A. Fodil, Director of the Partnership for a Lead-Free Future (PLF) to deliberate on urgent measures against lead exposure in

lead contamination, with participants expressing deep concern over its harmful effects on maternal health, childhood development, and the long-term well-being of citizens.

National priorities, preventive strategies, and the need for strong regulatory interventions were thor-

oughly discussed.

Among the key proposals was the establishment of a Lead-Free Testing Laboratory at PCSIR Karachi, with regional extensions in Lahore, Quetta, and Peshawar to support

research on lead prevalence, control, and mitigation. The meeting also stressed the need to strengthen regulatory frameworks under the Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA), particularly regarding permissible lead content in oil-based paints, cosmetics including antimony surma, food items, and other lead-containing products, alongside improved monitoring of industrial practices.

The importance of national conferences, policy dialogues, and public awareness campaigns was also highlighted. The federal minister assured that the Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) will launch a comprehensive series of awareness seminars on the environmental and health hazards of lead exposure.

Both the federal minister and federal secretary reaffirmed that this collaboration marks a significant step toward building a healthier, safer, and lead-free future for the children of Pakistan.

## Health Minister highlights significant reforms in Balochistan's healthcare system

By Staff Reporter

QUETTA: Balochistan Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar revealed that more than 345,000 patients have received treatment through the Health Card program, while 7,784 patients have

benefited from cardiac surgeries. He noted that among

them, 575 patients underwent free heart bypass surgeries, reflecting the government's commitment to accessible healthcare.

Bakht Muhammad Kakar said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, revolutionary reforms in the health sector are beginning to deliver tangible benefits to the people of Balochistan.

The minister emphasized that unlike past practices, the current government is implementing people-friendly policies to ensure better medical facilities.

He said that the government has committed to ensure the attendance of doctors, paramedics, nursing staff, and other medical personnel. He



Pakistan. The federal minister was also accompanied by Federal Secretary for a Science and Technology, Shahid Iqbal Baloch. The meeting focused on the serious public health challenges posed by



benefited from cardiac surgeries. He noted that among



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By Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi

## A Brighter Tomorrow Begins Today

**L**abour Day often comes with familiar words about hard work, sacrifice, and dignity. But every now and then, there are efforts that give those words real meaning. In Balochistan, something along those lines is beginning to take shape, and it deserves attention.

For a long time, the children of labourers and miners have grown up with limited choices. Many of them carried quiet ambitions but lacked the kind of support that could turn those ambitions into reality.

Their parents worked hard, often in difficult conditions, hoping their children would have a different life. That hope is now finding some direction. The initiative that stands out is Project Umeed-e-Nau. It may sound like just another program on paper, but for the families involved, it means much more. Around 1,100 children from different parts of the province have been given the chance to study in institutions outside Balochistan, including in cities like Islamabad and Lahore.

These students come from areas where quality education has not always been easy to access, places

like Dera Bugti, Duki, Loralai, Musakhel and Quetta.

What makes this effort meaningful is not just the number of students. It is the environment being created for them. They are not only getting an education but also living and learning in spaces that encourage discipline, confidence, and growth. Institutions like the American Lycetuff Boarding School System are providing them with a structured routine, exposure to new ideas, and opportunities to develop as individuals.

There is also a clear sense of direction behind all this. The vision of Mir Sarfraz Bugti reflects an understanding that real progress begins with people. Development is not only about infrastructure. It is about creating chances for those who have long been left behind.

Education has always had the power to change lives, but its impact goes beyond the individual.

When one child from a working family gets a proper education, it changes how an entire household looks at the future. It builds confidence. It creates belief. Others in the same community begin to think that maybe they can follow the same path.

Of course, challenges remain. Balochistan is vast, and many areas still need attention. One initiative alone cannot solve everything. But it can set a tone. It can show that things are moving in a better direction, even if slowly.

The important thing now is continuity. Programs like this need time, consistency, and careful oversight. Expanding their reach will also be important so that more families can benefit. At the same time, these students should be encouraged to stay connected to their roots.

Their education should not only change their own lives but also help improve the communities they come from.

There is something quietly powerful about what is happening. It is not loud or dramatic, but it carries weight. It tells a worker that their child's future does not have to look like their present. It tells a young student that effort can lead somewhere.

That is what makes this moment worth noticing. Because sometimes progress does not come through big headlines. It comes through small but meaningful steps that begin to change how people see their future.

## Investing in Dignity — A New Chapter for Workers' Children in Balochistan

**O**n the occasion of International Labour Day 2026, it is both timely and necessary to reflect not only on the enduring struggles of workers but also on meaningful efforts being made to transform their future. In this regard, the Government of Balochistan, under the leadership of Mir Sarfraz Bugti, has demonstrated a commendable commitment to uplifting one of the most overlooked segments of society — the children of labourers and miners.

For decades, Labour Day has served as a symbolic reminder of workers' rights, dignity, and economic justice. Yet symbolism alone cannot alter entrenched inequalities. Real change demands concrete policy actions, sustained political will, and institutional coordination. Encouragingly, Balochistan appears to be moving beyond rhetoric, embracing a model that places human development — particularly education — at the center of its labour welfare agenda.

One of the most significant initiatives in this regard is Project Umeed-e-Nau, launched under the supervision of the Workers Welfare Board Balochistan. Through its Phase I and Phase II, the project has enabled approximately 1,100 children of workers and miners from some of the province's most remote and underserved regions to access quality education in major urban centers such as Islamabad and Lahore.

This is not merely a numerical achievement; it represents a paradigm shift. The districts benefiting from this initiative — including Bolan, Duki, Dera Bugti, Sui, Loralai, Musakhel, Pishin, and Quetta — have historically struggled with limited access to quality education and social mobility. By targeting these regions, the government is addressing structural disparities that have persisted for generations.

What makes this initiative particularly noteworthy is its comprehensive approach. The selected students are not only provided access to quality education but are also facilitated with modern boarding, training, and welfare services. At institutions such as the American Lycetuff Boarding School System, these children are exposed to an environment that nurtures academic excellence, discipline, and character building. This holistic model ensures that students are not merely educated but are groomed to become confident, capable, and socially responsible citizens.

Critically, this initiative also underscores a deeper philosophical shift in governance — the recognition that the child of a labourer should not be destined to inherit the same economic hardships. As Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has emphasized through policy direction, the aim is to ensure that "a worker's child becomes a symbol of progress rather than a continuation of deprivation." This is a powerful narrative, one that aligns with global best practices in social mobility and inclusive development.

Moreover, the initiative carries significant long-term economic implications. By investing in human capital today, Balochistan is laying the foundation for a more skilled and productive workforce in the future. Education, particularly when combined with proper mentorship and exposure, has a multiplier effect — it enhances employability, fosters innovation, and ultimately contributes to economic stability and growth. In this sense, Project Umeed-e-Nau is not just a welfare program; it is a strategic investment in the province's future.

Another commendable aspect is the role of institutional collaboration. The Workers Welfare Board Balochistan, along with other relevant departments, has played a vital role in ensuring the implementation and monitoring of this initiative. Such coordination is essential for the success of large-scale social programs, especially in a province as geographically vast and administratively complex as Balochistan.

However, while acknowledging these achievements, it is equally important to emphasize the need for continuity and expansion. Initiatives like Project Umeed-e-Nau must not remain isolated success stories. They should evolve into sustained policy frameworks with increased outreach, enhanced funding, and broader inclusion criteria. There is also a need to ensure transparency, merit-based selection, and periodic evaluation to maintain public trust and maximize impact.

Furthermore, the government may consider integrating vocational training and digital education components into such programs. In an increasingly technology-driven world, equipping students with modern skills will further enhance their competitiveness and open new avenues of opportunity. Partnerships with private sector organizations and international educational institutions could also be explored to scale up the initiative.

Labour Day is ultimately about dignity — the dignity of work, the dignity of opportunity, and the dignity of hope. In this context, the Government of Balochistan's efforts represent a meaningful step forward. By focusing on the education and welfare of workers' children, the province is not only addressing immediate social needs but also reshaping its long-term developmental trajectory.

As Pakistan continues to grapple with socio-economic challenges, such initiatives offer a blueprint for inclusive governance. They remind us that real progress is measured not by grand declarations but by tangible improvements in the lives of ordinary citizens.

In conclusion, the efforts of the Government of Balochistan, under the leadership of Mir Sarfraz Bugti, deserve recognition and encouragement. Project Umeed-e-Nau stands as a testament to what can be achieved when political will aligns with social responsibility. On this Labour Day, it serves as a beacon of hope — a reminder that with the right policies and commitment, the cycle of poverty can indeed be broken, and a brighter future can be built for generations to come.

By Hina Naseem

## Expanding Horizons: A New Educational Path for Balochistan's Youth

**T**here are moments when a policy decision carries more weight than its official announcement. It begins to signal a shift in thinking, a change in priorities, and sometimes even a new direction for a society. The recent scholarship initiative by the Balochistan Education Endowment Fund is one such moment for Balochistan.

For years, conversations around education in Balochistan have circled around challenges. Distance, limited institutions, and financial hardship have often defined the narrative. Yet behind these challenges, there has always been a quiet determination among students who want to move forward. What they needed was a real opportunity. This new Out-of-Province Scholarship Scheme feels like an answer to that need.

The idea is simple but powerful. Talented students from Balochistan will now have the chance to study in some of the country's better institutions, particularly in cities like Islamabad and Lahore. For many families, this is more than an academic opportunity. It is a chance to break a cycle that has continued for generations.

What stands out is the clarity in the approach. The scheme focuses on merit, with clear academic requirements and a structured selection process. As explained by Khalid Mandai, students will be selected based on their perform-

ance, whether it is their FA and FSc results or their university CGPA. This matters because it builds trust. When young people believe that effort will be rewarded fairly, they are more likely to aim higher.

At the policy level, this also reflects the broader vision of Mir Sarfraz Bugti. There is a growing understanding that development is not just about roads or buildings. It is about people. And within that, education remains the most reliable path forward.

Studying outside the province can be a life changing experience. It exposes students to new ideas, different ways of thinking, and a more competitive environment. For a student coming from a remote district, this exposure can reshape ambitions entirely. It builds confidence and opens doors that once seemed out of reach.

But beyond individual success stories, there is a larger picture. When students from underrepresented areas move into mainstream academic spaces, it slowly begins to balance inequalities.

It sends a message back home that progress is possible. Younger students start to see a path for themselves. Families begin to value education in a new way. Of course, the real test lies ahead. Any such initiative depends on how consistently it is implemented. Transparency, timely support, and continued monitoring will be essential. It is

also important that these students remain connected to their roots. The goal should not only be to educate them but also to empower them to contribute back to Balochistan in whatever way they can.

There is also room to grow. Expanding the number of scholarships, introducing new fields of study, and building partnerships with more institutions could make the program even stronger over time. Small improvements can have a big impact when the foundation is already solid.

For now, though, it is important to acknowledge the significance of this step. In a place where opportunities have often been limited, even a single door opening can change many lives.

This initiative opens more than one door. It creates a pathway.

The real value of this effort will not be measured in numbers alone. It will be seen in the confidence of students who once doubted their chances, in the pride of parents who see their children move ahead, and in the gradual transformation of communities that begin to believe in education as a way forward.

If this direction is maintained, Balochistan's story in the coming years could be very different. And perhaps that is the most encouraging part.

Change may not always be loud, but sometimes it begins quietly, with decisions like this that carry hope far beyond the moment they are announced.

By Comrade Younus Zehri, President, Balochistan Civil Secretariat Staff Association

## Labour Day and the Plight of Workers in Pakistan

**I**nternational Workers' Day, observed globally on 1st May, is a day dedicated to honoring the sacrifices, struggles, and contributions of the working class. The purpose of this day is to raise awareness about workers' rights and to highlight the ongoing struggle for improved working conditions across the world. The origin of Labour Day dates back to the historic Haymarket Affair in Chicago, USA, in 1886. During this time, workers staged protests demanding an eight-hour working day. The movement resulted in the loss of several workers' lives, and in their memory, 1st May was later recognized as International Labour Day.

In Pakistan as well, Labour Day is officially observed; however, the condition of workers remains deeply concerning. Rising inflation, unemployment, low wages, and unsafe working environments have severely affected the labour class. A large number of workers con-



tinue to struggle to meet even their basic household needs despite working long and exhausting hours.

One of the major issues in Pakistan is the lack of implementation of labour laws. Although the government has announced a minimum wage, many institutions fail to comply with it. In addition, workers are often deprived of basic facilities such as healthcare, education, and proper housing. The absence of safety measures at factories

and construction sites frequently leads to accidents, putting workers' lives at constant risk.

Moreover, many workers remain unaware of their rights, making them vulnerable to exploitation. Weak trade unions and limited collective bargaining further worsen the situation, preventing workers from effectively raising their voices for justice.

Despite these challenges, Labour Day continues to serve as a symbol of hope and resilience. It reminds us that workers are the backbone of every society. True progress cannot be achieved without ensuring their dignity, protecting their rights, and providing them with better opportunities.

In conclusion, Labour Day is not merely a day of celebration; it is a commitment. A commitment to stand for workers' rights, to address their struggles, and to ensure them a dignified life. This is the true hallmark of a civilized and progressive society.

# DAILY MIRROR

## IMF official warns ME conflict to affect regional growth, asks Pakistan to implement continued reforms

**Press Release**

ISLAMABAD: Dr Mahir Binici, Resident Representative of International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Pakistan, has said that the ongoing Middle East conflict is likely to create a significant economic slowdown and heightened risks across the Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan and Pakistan (MENAP) region.

He was speaking at an outreach session here at Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), where he presented the IMF's April 2026 Regional Economic Outlook Update regarding the MENAP region. Dr Binici said the outbreak of war on February 28 had triggered a severe and multifaceted shock, disrupting energy markets, trade routes and financial

conditions, particularly around the Strait of Hormuz. These developments, he maintained, have also affected global logistics, as well as food and fertilizer prices, leading to a sharp slowdown in regional growth with downside risks.

Dr Binici said for oil-importing economies like Pakistan, the conflict had compounded the existing vulnerabilities through higher energy and food import costs, potential decline in remittances from Gulf-based workers and tighter financial conditions. He also emphasized for achieving macroeconomic stability, rebuilding fiscal and external buffers, in addition to protecting vulnerable segments through targeted and temporary support measures instead of giving broad-based subsidies.

Appreciating that Pakistan's performance under the

IMF's Extended Fund Facility (EFF) programme had remained broadly on track, he said a staff-level agreement on the third review under the EFF and the second review under the Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF) had been reached in March. He further said policy priorities for Pakistan included maintaining a prudent fiscal stance, ensuring a tight and data-driven monetary policy and advancing structural reforms.

Over the medium term, Dr Binici stressed the need for strengthening economic resilience through diversified trade routes, investment in critical infrastructure, enhanced regional cooperation and reforms to promote private sector-led inclusive growth. He added that continued implementation of reforms would be crucial for Pakistan to maintain stability and navigate

an increasingly volatile regional and global environment.

Earlier, welcoming the IMF Country Resident Representative, SDPI Executive Director Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri said the discussion aimed to assess evolving regional and global dynamics and their implications for Pakistan's economy. The next tranche under the IMF programme was pending due to review by the Fund's Executive Board, he added.

Dr Suleri said Pakistan remained vulnerable to regional and global shocks due to limited preparedness, urging a shift away from blanket subsidies towards targeted and anticipatory social protection policies. He also called for policy focus on energy sector reforms, including negotiations on capacity payments and greater reliance on renewable sources.



**Pakistan United Workers Federation Honors Chicago Martyrs on International Labour Day in Quetta Demonstration.**

### Awais Leghari announces end to power load-shedding

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Power Awais Leghari has announced an end to power load-shedding.

In his video message, he mentioned that the country received LNG yesterday and that electricity production from hydropower has now reached six thousand megawatts.

The Minister for Power recalled that the people started experiencing power outages about fifteen days ago. He stated that, at the time, it was clarified during a press conference that the load-shedding was neither due to any negligence on our part nor caused by a non-functional system or insufficient production capacity.

He said the reason for the load-shedding was gas shortage, which occurred because LNG supplies were not arriving due to the US-Iran war.

Awais Leghari said if we had produced electricity using diesel or furnace oil to completely eliminate load-shedding, the electricity would have become very expensive, emphasizing this would have put a burden on consumers.

The Minister for Power also clarified that our generation capacity is not forty-six thousand megawatts, but thirty-two thousand megawatts.

He said they will make every effort to protect the consumers from any rise in the prices of electricity.

"Furnace oil was used selectively to protect consumers from additional financial burden while also limiting loadshedding to 2-2.5 hours," the power minister said.

Leghari said the government had to buy "expensive gas on the spot market" to mitigate the situation, confirming that the first LNG cargo arrived in Pakistan a day earlier.

On April 24, the state-run Pakistan LNG Limited (PLL) had secured three bids at \$17.997 to \$18.88 per million British thermal units (mmBtu) for LNG cargoes, which were expected to be delivered between April 27 and May 8.

The minister promised that no further loadshedding would be carried out and expressed hope that the transmission system would withstand the peak summer season.

In his April 16 press conference, the power minister had apologised for excessive loadshedding.

explaining that the external factor of the fuel supply crisis due to the Middle East war was one of the main reasons.

Leghari said the required LNG "stopped coming from abroad after April 1".

### Balochistan government enrolled 1,100 children of workers and miners in educational institutions

**By Staff Reporter**

QUETTA: On International Workers' Day, the Balochistan government shared a significant progress under its flagship initiative Project Umeed-e-Nau, aimed at uplifting the children of labourers and miners from remote and underdeveloped regions of the province.

Under the patronage of Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, and the tireless efforts of officials from the Workers Welfare Board Balochistan, nearly 1,100 children of workers and miners have been

enrolled in prestigious educational institutions in Islamabad and Lahore.

These students hail from districts including Bolan, Duki, Dera Bugti, Sui, Loralai, Musakhail, Pishin, Quetta, and other less developed areas. The enrolled students are provided quality education, with residential, training, and welfare facilities to ensure a safe, dignified, and nurturing environment for their growth.

At the American Lycetuff Boarding School System, the children are receiving high-standard academic and residential services, structured training, extracurricular opportunities, and character-building programs designed to prepare them as capable, confident, and responsible citizens.

On this Workers' Day, the Balochistan government and the Workers Welfare Board reaffirmed their commitment to continue these efforts with the same spirit and dedication. Officials assured parents that their children will be given every opportunity to secure a bright future, that guarantees not only their personal success but also contributes meaningfully to country's overall progress, prosperity, and stability.

### District Status for Barshore a Fulfilment of a Dream; Public-Friendly Policies of CM Mir Sarfraz Bugti Driving Development: Asfandyar Khan Kakar

**By Staff Reporter**

Barshore: Parliamentary Secretary for Urban Planning and Chairman Quetta Development Authority, Asfandyar Khan Kakar, has said that the creation of Barshore as a district is the fulfilment of a long-standing dream, and that the public-friendly initiatives of Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti are steering the province towards a path of development.

He stated that granting district status to Tehsil Barshore marks a milestone in the administrative history of the province, while separating it from Pishin and establishing it as an independent administrative unit reflects a serious governmental commitment to transforming the fate of this underdeveloped region.

He expressed these views while inspecting various ongoing public

welfare development projects in Barshore and Toba Kakari, where he also interacted with officials, tribal elders, and members of the public. Deputy Commissioner Barshore, Flight Lieutenant (R) Khalid Shams, along with officers from line departments, accompanied him on the occasion.

Asfandyar Khan Kakar said that steps are being taken to accelerate monitoring mechanisms to ensure timely completion and quality of development projects. The core objective is to reduce public hardships in Barshore, improve education, health, and infrastructure, and complete development schemes on time and in accordance with standards for the benefit of the people.

He added that the biggest advantage of district status for Barshore is "close-to-home governance," as in the past residents had to travel long

distances to Pishin or Quetta for minor administrative tasks. Now, with the presence of the Deputy Commissioner's office, district administration, other departments including PDMA and the municipal committee, public issues will be resolved at their doorstep.

He further stated that the construction of administrative buildings will not only transform the landscape of Barshore but also create significant employment opportunities for local people.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Barshore, Flight Lieutenant (R) Khalid Shams, said that education, health, and basic facilities are the foundation of any society's development. Making schools functional and establishing new colleges in the district will help bring the younger generation out of ignorance.

### Firing incident in Kalat claims one dead, protest erupts on national highway

**By Staff Reporter**

KALAT: A man was killed in a firing incident in Kalat district of Balochistan when unidentified armed assailants opened fire near Khail. The attackers managed to escape after the shooting.

Police sources confirmed that the victim was Sattar Aziz, son of Babu Abdul Aziz of the Nichari tribe, a local resident. He died on the spot.

The body was shifted to the District Headquarters Hospital (DHQ) for necessary formalities before being handed over to the family. Following the incident, enraged relatives, accompanied by women and children, placed the body on the N-25 Quetta-Karachi National Highway and staged a protest. The demonstration led to the suspension of traffic in both directions, causing long queues of vehicles.

Protesters demanded the immediate arrest of those involved in the attack, warning that the protest would continue until justice was served.

Police officials said that a search operation has been launched to trace the culprits and that further investigation is underway.

### DPM reaffirms Pakistan's commitment to regional peace

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar has reaffirmed Pakistan's continued commitment to advancing lasting peace in the region.

He was talking to Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan Irfan Neziroglu, who called on him in Islamabad today.

The Ambassador conveyed President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's appreciation and support for Pakistan's ongoing efforts to promote peace and stability in the Middle East region.

Appreciating the close coordination and regular high-level exchanges, Ishaq Dar expressed Pakistan's resolve to further deepen Pakistan-Turkiye strategic partnership.

### BEEF announces scholarships for leading educational institutions outside Balochistan

**By Staff Reporter**

QUETTA: The Balochistan Education Endowment Fund (BEEF) has launched the Out-of-Province Scholarship Scheme 2025-26, offering merit-based scholarships to talented students from Balochistan for admission in leading educational institutions across the country.

Chief Executive Officer of BEEF, Khalid Mandai, said the initiative reflects the vision of Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, who has prioritized access to quality education for the province's youth.

He explained that scholarships will be awarded to students enrolled in BS (4-5 year), Master's (2 year), and MS/MPhil programs at public sector or BEEF-approved private institutions located outside Balochistan.

For BS programs, eligibility will be determined by FA/FSc annual results

(2023-2025) for first-year students, while higher semesters will be assessed based on CGPA. Master's students must provide results from their initial



already benefiting from other scholarships, as well as those in BS two-year, bridging, or lateral-entry programs, will not be eligible.

Candidates are required to submit complete documentation, including academic transcripts, domicile certificates, CNIC, and recent photographs. Applications must be routed through their respective institutions rather than sent directly to BEEF.

Khalid Mandai emphasized that under the Chief Minister's vision, revolutionary steps are being taken in the education sector to ensure equal opportunities for Balochistan's youth.

He said the scheme aims to provide students with access to quality education and a brighter future, enabling them to contribute effectively to country's development, prosperity, and stability.



**Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar Addressing a ceremony in Islamabad.**

### Minister for livestock directs immediate action on public grievances during meeting with tribal and political elders

**By Staff Reporter**

QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Livestock Sardarzada Faisal Khan Jamali on Tuesday met with tribal and political elders at his office in the Civil Secretariat, where a range of public issues and local concerns were discussed in detail.

During the meeting, the visiting delegation apprised the minister of various problems being faced in their respective areas, particularly relating to civic amenities and administrative matters. The elders stressed the need for timely intervention to address long-standing issues affecting the public.

Taking immediate notice of the concerns raised, the minister issued on-the-spot directives to the concerned

departments for prompt action.

He assured the delegation that all genuine public grievances would be resolved on a priority basis without delay.

Sardarzada Faisal Khan Jamali reiterated that

government. He emphasized that continuous engagement with public representatives and community elders is essential for responsive governance.

The delegation appreciated the minister's prompt



resolving public issues and ensuring effective service delivery across the province remains among the top priorities of the

response and expressed confidence in the government's commitment to addressing public concerns.

### Cancer Patient from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Appeals for Life-Saving Treatment; Seeks Support from Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti

**By Staff Reporter**

Pishawar: Zoheullah, a resident of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, has appealed through a video message to the people of Balochistan and particularly to Chief Minister Balochistan.

Mir Sarfraz Bugti, for urgent assistance in his cancer treatment.

In his appeal, he stated that he has been suffering from cancer for the past one year. Due to severe financial constraints, he is unable to continue or afford proper medical treatment.

He further shared that he had previously visited the Secretariat of the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in search of assistance;

however, the Chief Minister was not present at the time. He was attended by the staff, who recorded his video message and collected his contact details, but no follow-up or response was received thereafter.

Expressing his distress, Zoheullah has now appealed to Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, requesting that his treatment be

arranged at government expense so that his life can be saved.

His emotional appeal underscores the urgent need for timely medical assistance for patients suffering from life-threatening diseases and financial hardship.



**QUETTA: PPP provincial president Senator Sardar Muhammad Omer Gorage addressing on labour day ceremony.**