

# QUETTA VOICE

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**Punjab information minister terms PTI's existence a threat to Pakistan's integrity, sovereignty.**

## Govt blames PTI for violence in Bannu peace march

**NEWS DESK:** Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Atta Tarar, on Sunday accused the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) of orchestrating violence during the Bannu peace march. "PTI has a history of violent politics. They seek casualties to blame on security forces, acting more like a terrorist organisation than a political party. I call them TTP-PTI," Tarar said during a press conference in Islamabad.

The minister stated that creating instability in the country is part of PTI's manifesto, as evidenced by the attack on the Pakistan Television building in Islamabad by its workers in 2014.

He remarked that the party has consistently promoted the politics of violence and used abusive language against political opponents.

Attaullah Tarar claimed that PTI always seeks to exploit dead bodies to propagate against the government, police, and security forces. He alleged that the incidents of May 9 last year were orchestrated in search of 50 to 60 dead bodies, with the aim of derailing the entire system and spreading anarchy in the country.

"PTI elements infiltrated the traders' peace march in Bannu, instigating chaos and firing near the attack site. One person died, and 22 were injured. Thankfully, a major disaster was averted."

Responding to reports about former prime minister Imran Khan's imprisonment conditions, Tarar denied he was being held in a death row cell.

"The Sharif family endured harsh conditions, but Imran Khan enjoys presidential suites at Adiala Jail, with access to a gym, kitchen, walking gallery, and luxurious meals." The minister also mentioned ongoing investigations into the attack on the Pakistani consulate in Germany. "We are identifying involved Pakistani citizens through video footage. Their ID cards and passports will be revoked, and severe action will follow. If political elements are involved, Imran Khan won't be able to save them."

## Chaman Protesters Demands Accepted: Former Balochistan Minister

Hafiz Ullah Sherani, Sardar Muhammad Khondai :

**CHAMAN:** The ten-month protest at the Pakistan-Afghanistan Chaman Border has concluded with the Pakistani government accepting the demands of the Chaman sign.

The protest began on November 21, 2023, over new travel restrictions requiring passports and visas for crossing, citing security concerns. The restrictions were met with criticism, as they disrupted daily life and trade.

After eight rounds of negotiations, former Balochistan Minister

Inayatullah Kasi announced that the government agreed to allow travel with ID cards and Afghan Tazkira,

restoring previous protocols. Olas Yar Khan from the Perlit Committee confirmed that cross-border movement resumed, and detained protest leaders were released.

Local businessman and former president of the Pakistan Chamber of Commerce, Daru Khan Achakzai, emphasized the economic impact of the closure, highlighting increased

thefts due to financial hardships.

He stressed the importance of maintaining open borders to support the regional economy.

While the decision was welcomed, Afghan Taliban officials have not yet confirmed their stance, indicating travel to Boldak remains pending. Efforts to reach Balochistan's Interior Minister and government spokesperson for comments were unsuccessful.

The resolution is a positive step towards improved bilateral relations and economic stability.



## Deputy Commissioner Chaghi Visits Gardi Jungle Refugee Camp

Riaz Baloch:

Deputy Commissioner Chaghi recently visited the Afghan refugee camp, Gardi Jungle, where he held a special meeting with their leaders.

During the discussion, the leaders highlighted pressing social issues such as access to drinking water, education, and healthcare.

In response, DC Chaghi promised swift action, assuring

that schools for both boys and girls would be constructed soon, along with a basic health centre. He urged the leaders to maintain a positive environment and report any illegal activities to the authorities.

Additionally, the leaders were briefed on the Apex Committee's decisions, emphasizing not to shelter any foreigners. They were also encouraged

to support the government's efforts when the next phase of migrant returns begins, which the leaders agreed to do.

The meeting concluded with the leaders expressing heartfelt gratitude to the Government of Pakistan for its longstanding support, providing Afghan refugees with dignity and employment opportunities over the decades.

## PDMA Report: 10 dead and 1799 people affected in Balochistan

Syed Muhammad Qasem :

**QUETTA:** The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Balochistan reports severe impacts from the recent monsoon rains across several districts.

Since June 7, ten people have lost their lives, with incidents involving collapsing roofs and walls causing injuries to 31 others, including children. The rains have completely

destroyed 89 houses and partially damaged 170 more, affecting a total of 1,799 people. Infrastructure damage includes 17 kilometres of roads and 310 acres of agricultural land.

Despite the heavy rains, dams in the region remain stable. PDMA and district administrations are actively conducting relief operations to assist affected areas.



## Water Shortages Impact Balochistan Farmers: Provincial Ministers Take Action

News Desk:

**Quetta:** Farmers in Balochistan are facing difficulties due to insufficient water supply from the Kirthar Canal. In response, Provincial Health Minister Sardarzada Faisal Khan Jamali and Sindh Irrigation Minister Jam Khan Shoro visited the Sukkur Barrage to address the issue. During the visit, Chief Engineer Mansoor Memon provided a briefing on the water supply situation. The ministers were accompanied by local leaders, including Sardar Muhammad Haroon Khan Jamali and Mir Nadeem Khan Jamali.

Minister Sardarzada Faisal

Khan Jamali highlighted the urgent need for Balochistan to receive its fair share of water to alleviate the struggles faced by farmers and landlords. Ensuring water supply could lead to agricultural prosperity and boost the country's foreign exchange.

Minister Jam Khan Shoro assured that Balochistan will receive its rightful water allocation, with third-party monitoring to ensure compliance.

The Sindh government is committed to resolving the water shortage and supporting Balochistan's agricultural community.

## PM Shehbaz Sharif vows state-of-the-art free healthcare for deserving patients

**ISLAMABAD:** Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif announced on Sunday the government's commitment to providing state-of-the-art free healthcare facilities to deserving patients nationwide. Addressing the groundbreaking ceremony of the Jinnah Medical Complex, the prime minister stated that the complex would be one of the region's premier medical centres, offering 100% free medical treatment to the needy.

"This is the gift of the coalition government not only for the residents of Rawalpindi and Islamabad but for the people from Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Azad Jammu & Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan as well," PM Shehbaz Sharif said. The premier highlighted that the completed medical complex would offer world-class healthcare facilities, including specialised departments for heart, kidney, lung, and cancer treatments.

Additionally, a modern first aid emergency section with air ambulance services for remote areas will be established. Nursing schools and laboratories will be integrated into the hospital, ensuring deserving patients receive 100% free lab tests. The Prime Minister stressed that this model aligns with PMI-N President Muhammad

Nawaz Sharif's vision of providing free medical services to the poor while offering paid services to wealthier patients.

PM Shehbaz Sharif expressed his gratitude to Chairman HBL Sultan Ali Allana and Prime Minister Imran Khan for their free technical consultancy support for the project. He acknowledged the Aga Khan Foundation's longstanding contributions to the country.

He directed the authorities to complete the project within one year, despite the challenging timeline, emphasising determination and continuous work. The prime minister assured that government funding would not be an issue.

He also thanked Islamabad Chief Commissioner Ali Randhawa for providing land for the project and expressed his appreciation for the support from the Finance Minister, finance secretary, and planning minister. Regarding compensation for those affected by the land acquisition, the premier instructed the provision of a one-window facility to expedite their issues. Health Coordinator Dr Mukhtar Ahmed, MNAs Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry,

Hanif Abbasi, and Raja Khurrum Nawaz also spoke at the event. Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar was in attendance. **NEWS DESK.**

## Solarization in Balochistan: A Boon or a Looming Crisis?

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## Lebanon state media says Israeli strike 'targeted ammunition depot'

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## Rainfall expected across Pakistan over next 24 hours

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Balochistan rains leave nine dead, seven injured: PDMA

QUETTA (INP): Heavy rainfall in Balochistan has resulted in nine deaths and seven injuries since June 7, PDMA said on Sunday.

The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) said, the incidents occurred during rainfall, with multiple cases of roof/wall collapses resulting in over 25 injuries.

Earlier an 8-year-old child drowned in water relay at Katti Pahari in Karachi's North Nazimabad area.

The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) forecast more rains-wind/thundershowers in various parts of the country with occasional gales during the next week.



QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretary Social Welfare Hajji Wali Muhammad Noorzi is giving Fath Khwani to late Khan Muhammad Aslam Khan Sanjrani, father-in-law of former chairman of the Senate MPA Chaghi Sadiq Sanjrani.

New rift in PTI: Leaders and workers express reservations over nominees for reserved seats

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders and workers have expressed reservations regarding certain nominations for reserved seats in the Punjab Assembly.

These figures are well-known and have been instrumental in various capacities, making them strong contenders for reserved seats in the Punjab Assembly.

Concerns were raised over the nominations of Falak Javed Khan and Rabia Bajwa for the Punjab Assembly.

Assembly members have expressed reservations regarding certain nominations for reserved seats in the Punjab Assembly.

Lebanon state media says Israeli strike 'targeted ammunition depot'

BEIRUT (INP): Lebanese official media said an Israeli strike on a town deep in the country's south Saturday evening targeted an ammunition depot, lightly injuring three people and causing rockets to explode.

The raid on the town of Adloun targeted an ammunition depot, Lebanon's National News Agency said, after earlier reporting the Israeli enemy launched a raid on the area, with "rocket still exploding" and the blasts "lightly injuring three citizens".

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QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretary Population Welfare Hadia Nawaz and Secretary Population Welfare Balochistan Abdullah Khan are walking in connection with World Population Day.



QUETTA: Activates of Pashunkhwa National Awami Party and ANP hold protest outside Quetta Press Club (QPC).

'I took a bullet for democracy,' Trump tells first rally since shooting

MICHIGAN, Aug 21 (INP): Donald Trump, holding his first campaign rally Saturday since surviving an assassination attempt, rejected concerns that he is a threat to America's democratic system, triumphantly telling the crowd: "I took a bullet for democracy."

He expressed admiration for foreign autocrats, including China's "brilliant" Xi Jinping, whom he praised for controlling "1.4 billion people with an iron fist."

He hurled insults and invective, calling Biden "stupid" and a "feeble old" man, and branding Harris "crazy" and "nuts."

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Soaring Inflation hits country: Prices of fruits, vegetables skyrocket

MULTAN (INP): The wave of inflation continues to sweep across Pakistan, pushing the prices of everyday essentials to unprecedented levels.

The cost of fruits and vegetables reaches alarming heights, the public is feeling the strain on their household budgets.

Official flour set at Rs 90 per kilogram now being available only at Rs 110.

The price of tea has also seen a substantial increase, compounding the challenges faced by consumers.

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TENDER NOTICE: Chief Officer District Council Khuzdar invites bids from eligible bidders for supply of following items. Includes list of items and contact information.

### Complaint filed against CEC in Supreme Judicial Council

ISLAMABAD (INP): A complaint has been filed in the Supreme Judicial Council against Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja and other members.

The complaint was jointly filed by Haleem Adil Sheikh, Justice (Retd) Noorul Haq Qureshi, and Shabbir Ahmed. The complaint alleges that the Chief Election Commissioner and members failed to fulfill their constitutional responsibilities and attempted to undermine PTT's mandate and judicial decisions.

The complainants accuse the Chief Election Commissioner and members of misconduct, alleging that they politically appointed bureaucrats as Returning Officers (ROs) and District Returning Officers (DROs).

They claim that former Rawalpindi Commissioner Liaquat Chatta revealed that 70,000 votes were fraudulently cast for PML-N in each constituency in Rawalpindi, implicating the Chief Election Commissioner and Chief Justice in the process.

The complaint further asserts that the Election Commission deprived PTI of its election symbol and its nominated members of their party affiliation, affecting over 120 million voters.

The complainants have requested an inquiry into the allegations and recommended the removal of the Chief Election Commissioner and members if the charges are proven.



ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to PM on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam chairing Second Review Meeting of PM's Committee to establish maintaining a school in Gilgit-Baltistan held here in the Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Ministry.

### KP govt to form commission for 'transparent' probe into outbreak of violence at Bannu rally

Meanwhile, the PTI core committee strongly condemned the violence in Bannu and "directed" its provincial government in KP to hold a transparent inquiry and punish those involved in the deaths of innocent people.

In a statement on X today, KP government spokespersons Baristaer Mohammad Ali Saif said the situation in Bannu was under control while security was on high alert in "sensitive areas".

He further stated that KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur had announced the formation of a commission to probe the incident.

"The commission will conduct an impartial investigation and submit a report. Legal action will be taken after determining the role of the accused," Saif said.

He also requested the public to exercise extreme caution in the wake of the "rising wave of terrorism", adding that anti-state elements should not be given a chance to spoil peace in the province.

Moreover, Saif urged the people to wait for the commission's report and avoid spreading unverified information or indulging in "negative propaganda".

Meanwhile, residents staged a sit-in outside the Bannu Police Line Chowk — located opposite the main entrance of the cantonment — to press the government to investigate the firing incident.

Organisers of the sit-in, Maulana Abdul Ghaffar Khan, Nasir Khan Bangash, Ghulam Qibz Khan and Abdul Rauf Qureshi, delivered speeches at the gathering.

Residents stage sit-in outside the Police Line Chowk in Bannu on Saturday. — Photo provided by Tahir Khan

"We had staged a rally for peace yesterday and will do the same again and again," one of the speakers said. "We do not accept the office of any armed group in Bannu," he added.

Another speaker said those responsible for maintaining peace should fulfil their responsibilities.

The participants of the sit-in also complained that local authorities had shut down mobile networks and internet services after the firing. They added that Wi-Fi and landline phone systems were also suspended on Friday, causing problems for the public.

In a post on X, Jamaat-i-Islami Senior Mushtaq Ahmad Khan said thousands of people participated in the sit-in and waved white flags.

"They have just one demand: 'We don't want unrest or bombing, but only peace in our land,'" he stressed.

He added that mobile phone services were suspended in Bannu since yesterday and roads were blocked with containers.

A terrorist attack earlier this week on the Bannu Cantonment had left eight military personnel martyred. The attack was attributed to the Hafiz Gul Bahadur group operating from Afghanistan.

In the aftermath of the attack, the Foreign Office had issued a statement demanding "immediate, robust and effective action" by the interim Afghan government against the perpetrators of the attack.

### Rainfall expected across Pakistan over next 24 hours

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Meteorological Department on Saturday forecast rain in various parts of the country over the next 24 hours.

It stated that scattered rain, windstorms and thunder-showers were predicted in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, central/southern Punjab, Sindh, north-east/south Balochistan, Islamabad, Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan and the Pothohar region.

"Heavy falls are likely in isolated places in south Punjab, northeast Balochistan and southeast upper Sindh during the period," the report said.

According to the synoptic situation, light to moderate monsoon currents from the Arabian Sea were penetrating central/southern parts of the country.

On the other hand, a westerly wave was affecting the upper parts of the country.

During the last 24 hours, rain-windstorms/thundershowers were reported in upper KP, Sindh, Punjab and northeast Balochistan while hot and humid weather prevailed in other parts of the country.

The highest rainfall was recorded in KP's Parachinar (63 millimeters) followed by Mirkhan (12mm), Dir (10mm), Drosah (6mm), Kalam (2mm) and Balakot (1mm).

In Sindh, Tando Jam recorded 34mm of rainfall, Hyderabad (Airport) 24mm, City 19mm, Badin (17mm), Thatta (15mm), Mirpurkhas (9mm) and Karachi (University Road) 15mm, Hasan Square (7mm).

Khanewal (22mm) received the highest rainfall in Punjab.

Earlier, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) said flash floods and urban flooding were feared in many parts of the country due to heavy rainfall, which could lead to urban flooding and increased water levels in local nullahs.

Likewise, Met Office Director General Mehar Sahibzada Khan said the spell would continue till July 21 and asked the public to take precautionary measures to avoid any untoward incident during the rain spell.

He said all four provinces, as well as the AJK and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) regions, would experience a new spell of rain. Landslides may disrupt roads in the hilly areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Murree, Galiyat, Azad Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan during the spell, he added.

Meanwhile, the National Emergencies Operation Centre (NEOC) has warned of a possible Glof in the mountainous regions of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan due to rising temperatures and expected heavy rainfall from July 17 to 23.



NASERABAD: Deputy Commissioner Batul Asadi Co-Executive Engineer PHE Bhag Chand Rajput is providing information on the occasion of the visit.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif receives briefing regarding the construction of Jinnah Medical Complex.

### Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz emphasizes technical education to reduce unemployment

LAHORE (INP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz said on Sunday that technical training courses should be started for the youth so that unemployment could be reduced and the country could become economically prosperous.

Chairing a meeting convened to discuss recommendations to give finishing touches to the Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA) Mapping Plan, Maryam expressed the hope that the provincial government would be able to introduce a robust model of technical education in the province.

She, on the occasion, okayed the construction of 45 welding workshops in nine cities of the province.

It was decided that modern labs of welding and construction would be built in Gujranwala, Sahiwal, Bahawalpur, Multan, Attock, Taxila, Layyah and Mianwali.

The meeting also agreed on a suggestion to set up the Punjab Overseas Employment Promoting Authority so that the youth could get skill-based jobs overseas.

The chief minister ordered the promotion of public-private partnerships in TEVTA projects.

It was concluded that modern courses should be introduced in the institutions administered by the TEVTA keeping in view the market demand.

The meeting also approved the introduction of Korean, Japanese, German, Chinese and Arabic languages courses in these institutions.

Those who were present on the occasion were Senator Pervaiz Rashid, Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb, Chief Minister's Taskforce for Skilled Development for Skills Development Chairman Adnan Afzal Chatta, Secretary Industry Ihsan Bhutta, Principal Secretary to the CM Sajid Zafar Dal and other senior officials of the Punjab government.

CM Maryam tweets on first Virtual Women's Police Station — Also on Sunday, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz said that since its inception on April 22, 2024, over 50,000 women from across the province had lodged their complaints with the first Virtual Women's Police Station. In a tweet, she said that so far 3,172 FIRs had been registered at the station on the complaints of women about domestic violence, child abuse, rape, attempt to murder, acid throwing, harassment and other crimes of heinous nature. "An investigation was underway in 3,092 cases," she informed.

### Finleap and Khazana Cloud collaborate on nano-lending in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): Finleap Financial Services, a subsidiary of the Shanghai-based Chinese Finvolution Group, secured a partnership here with Khazana Cloud to launch their Digital Nano Lending app, Daira.

Daira leverages Khazana Cloud's robust infrastructure for a seamless and secure loan application experience for Pakistani users.

This partnership strengthens Finleap's position in the Pakistani market by providing a reliable and trusted cloud solution, Gwadar Pro reported.

"We're proud to announce a strategic partnership with Finleap, Pakistan's innovative digital lending platform. This MOU signifies Khazana Cloud's commitment to supporting the FinTech revolution in Pakistan."

Our secure and scalable cloud platform will be the foundation for Daira's continued growth and success," said Khazana Cloud in an official notification.

Sheikh Omer Nasim, Country Manager at Finleap while talking to Gwadar Pro, said that Finleap Financial Services (Private) Limited, is a nano-lending startup based in Pakistan and is in the process of obtaining a license from the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), to operate as a digital-only non-deposit taking Non-Banking Finance Company in Pakistan.

He said, our parent Chinese company, Finvolution Technology, is a renowned financial technology firm and is listed on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) and has a rich history of establishing successful nano-lending businesses in various countries, including Indonesia and the Philippines.

Omer Nasim also highlighted that his company aims to significantly enhance financial inclusion in Pakistan by focusing on digital nano-lending, thereby offering affordable credit to the underserved population.

"Finvolution Group also plans to make substantial foreign direct investments (FDI) in digital nano-lending in Pakistan," he said.

Over the last two years, Pakistan's nano lending industry grew from scratch to a user base of millions, with over a hundred billion rupees in disbursed loans.

The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has introduced guidelines to regulate this sector. Nano lending in Pakistan has seen significant growth, especially with the rise of instant credit apps.

Cloud's apps provide small loans, sometimes as low as Rs50, to individuals for short durations. The process is highly automated, using artificial intelligence to determine creditworthiness and disburse funds quickly.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Food Noor Muhammad Dumar is offering condolence and fatiha on the death of Sikim Khan, son of Azim B&R, Abdul Salsam Ghazal.

### Karachi weather: Drizzle, light rain forecast

KARACHI (INP): The Met Department has forecast partly cloudy skies for Karachi, with a slight restoration of the sea breeze. There is also a possibility of drizzle and light rain, providing some relief to the residents.

Meanwhile, dark clouds are hovering over different areas of the city where rainfall is also being reported. These areas include Gulshan-e-Hadid, Landhi, Quaidabad and Clifton among others.

However, the maximum temperature is expected to be between 35 and 37 degrees Celsius, with the current temperature recorded at 32 degrees Celsius. The intensity of heat is being felt up to 50 degrees Celsius.

The reduced sea breezes are causing a significant increase in the felt intensity of the heat. The humidity level in the air is quite high, standing at 79%, contributing to the discomfort. Winds are blowing from the northwest direction at a speed of 7km per hour, according to the Met Department.

Meanwhile, Lahore continues to experience intense heat. The weather in the city is expected to remain hot and dry throughout the day. The current temperature is 34 degrees Celsius, but it feels like a scorching 44 degrees due to the high humidity and heat index.

The maximum temperature in Lahore could climb up to 40 degrees Celsius, as reported by the Met Department. The air's humidity level is at 65%, adding to the oppressive weather conditions.

The Met Office has also indicated that there is no chance of rain in Lahore for the next 24 hours.

Residents in both cities are advised to stay hydrated and take necessary precautions to cope with the extreme heat and humidity.