

# QUETTA VOICE

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DG ISPR, Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry addressing the media

## Senate unanimously passes resolution on Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh's martyrdom

**News desk:** The Senate, chaired by Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, convened on Monday to address the martyrdom of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran. Senator Palwasha Khan presented a resolution, which was unanimously approved. The Senate expressed deep sorrow over Haniyeh's death in an Israeli Zionist attack and condemned the ongoing killings of Palestinians and violations of human rights by Israeli forces. The resolution stated that Israel is transforming into an international criminal and terrorist state. It called upon the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Pakistan, and all Islamic nations to unite against Israel's terrorist activities. The Senate urged Islamic countries to lift the blockade of Gaza to deliver emergency aid to the besieged Palestinians and to collectively work to halt the bombardment of Gaza immediately.

PPP parliamentary leader Senator Sherry Rehman shared her thoughts on the resolution. "International bodies are also speaking out against Israel's brutality. We need to address Israeli aggression in every session," said Rehman. "Israel and India have been given a free hand to perpetrate atrocities worldwide. Children, the elderly, and women are being indiscriminately targeted by Israeli attacks."

Senator Palwasha, speaking on the occasion, said, "Israel is openly violating war laws. This move by Israel has once again thwarted peace efforts. Two genocide projects are running in the 21st century: one in Kashmir and the other in Israel." Speaking on ongoing turmoil in Bangladesh, she said, "Today, Pakistan's enemy Hasina Wajid is forced to take refuge in India. Soon, Netanyahu might have to seek Modi's refuge as well." She continued, "Innocent children are being oppressed in both Kashmir and Palestine. When Zulfikar Ali Bhutto called the Islamic Summit Conference in 1974, he made historic statements that are still remembered. Similarly, during Benazir Bhutto's government in 1994, she intended to visit Gaza in solidarity. Although the Israeli prime minister tried to stop her, Benazir Bhutto went to Palestine. We expect today's rulers to exhibit the same courage."

## DG ISPR: Legal Measures Against Digital Terrorism Insufficient

**Dawood Ahmed:**

**ISLAMABAD:** In a press conference on Monday, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director General (DG) Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry expressed concerns about the inadequate legal measures against 'digital terrorism' which has allowed the spread of fake news and propaganda in Pakistan. During his address, Lt Gen Chaudhry emphasized the role of the country's law as the first line of defense against digital terrorism. He lamented the ongoing spread of lies, propaganda, fake news, and doctored images, particularly on social media, which create public confusion. "It is the country's law that has to control and curb digital terrorism, [but] unfortunately, the law is not taking its course against [digital terrorism] the way it should," he stated. Lt Gen Chaudhry stressed that the

Pakistan Army is taking the issue seriously. He warned that any individual, regardless of their position or location, who is found spreading propaganda against the Pakistan Army or creating a divide between the army and the people, will face necessary legal action. "There is a whole process for it," he explained. Shifting focus, Lt Gen Chaudhry also addressed the recent Baloch National Gathering, which he described as a "drama" orchestrated in Qowad. He accused the Baloch Yakshti Committee (BYC) and its leadership of being proxies for terrorist organizations and criminal mafias, alleging they receive foreign funding to spread propaganda against law enforcement and disrupt development projects in the province. He claimed that the group's methods include gath-

ering mobs, challenging the state's authority, and feigning innocence when the state responds. Regarding reports of ongoing talks with the army, signaled a willingness to engage in talks with the military establishment. Lt Gen Chaudhry also provided an update on the country's security situation, highlighting the Pakistan Army's counter-terrorism efforts. He reported that security forces conducted 23,622 intelligence-based operations in 2024, showcasing the army's commitment to combating terrorism and ensuring national security.



## Bangladesh PM Hasina Wajid resigns in response to protestors' demands

**NEWS DESK:** Bangladesh's Sheikh Hasina has stepped down from the post of Prime Minister in the face of mass protests demanding her resignation. Earlier reports had said that the prime minister had left the capital Dhaka, a source close to the embattled leader told AFP on Monday. "She and her sister have left Ganabhaban (the premier's official residence) for a safer place," the

source told AFP. "She wanted to record a speech. But she could not get an opportunity to do that." The development was followed by Bangladesh's army chief Wakeel-Uz-Zaman address the nation during which he announced that the deaths during the anti-government protest would be investigated. The army chief added that an interim government would be formed in the country and that talks in this regard were under

way. Meanwhile, Indian media alleged Hasina had left Bangladesh by military helicopter, reportedly bound for India after the protestors stormed the Prime Minister's House in Dhaka. Bangladeshi student leaders on Saturday said they would carry on a planned nationwide civil disobedience campaign until Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigned following last month's deadly police crackdown on protestors.

## Systemic Failures in Balochistan's Polio Eradication Demand Accountability and Local Solutions

**Syed Ali Shah Analysis:**

**QUETTA:** The recent emergence of two new polio cases in the Balochistan districts of Jhal Magsi and Qila Abdullah starkly underscores the systemic failures and inadequacies in the fight against this debilitating virus. With the total number of polio cases in Pakistan rising to 11 this year, it is evident that the current strategies and efforts are grossly insufficient. It is high time we hold all stakeholders accountable and call for local, indigenous strategies to effectively combat polio in Balochistan. The National Health Organization's (WHO) and other international bodies have highlighted the need for sustained efforts and accountability. Yet, the government's response remains reactionary rather than proactive. It is a tragedy that in this day and age, we are still battling a disease that should have been eradicated decades ago. Dr. Ayesha Khan, a public health specialist, aptly states, "Continued to page 4"



## SBK Committees to Scrutinize Recruitment Processes, Verify Candidates' Credentials

**Manan Mandokhail, Syed Ali Shah:**

**QUETTA:** In a bid to ensure transparency and fairness in the recruitment process, the Balochistan government has set up Interview and Scrutinizing Committees to thoroughly review the credentials and backgrounds of candidates who have passed the written tests conducted by the Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University. The provincial government has announced plans to recruit over 9,000 teachers for schools across the province. These steps are intended to maintain the integrity of the recruitment process for the School Education Department under the Government of Balochistan, according to a notification obtained by the Daily Quetta Voice.

**Ghulam Ali Baloch, Saboor Kakar Leading Committees** Ghulam Ali Baloch, Saboor Kakar, Asfandyar Khan Kakar, Dostan Jamaludini, and Noor ul Haq Baloch, the committees will verify candidates' family trees with NADRA records to confirm their connections with education authorities, testing service providers, and any alleged brokers involved in the recruitment process. A significant part of their task involves conducting forensic audits of 5-10% of randomly selected answer sheets. These audits will determine the date and time of the attempted papers, analyze the handwriting of candidates, and verify the results issued to both failed and passed candidates.

**Complainants Be Heard** The committees will also conduct informal interviews with complainants regarding the screening tests and the conduct of officials and staff associated with the process. They will review individual and total bank deposits, disbursement receipts, and any relevant records to verify the distribution of fee amounts. To ensure a comprehensive review, the committees will gather and examine records of applications, roll number slips, date sheets, attendance sheets, answer sheets, and both individual and consolidated results. These records will be cross-checked using scientific methods and in line with the recruitment policy of 2019. Minorities, Transgender, Women And Disabled Quota To Be Ensured



## Systemic Failures in Balochistan's Polio Eradication Demand Accountability and Local Solutions

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## Balochistan Officials Mobilize to Tackle Severe Flooding Crisis

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## Ayesha Raza Farooq Meets Balochistan CM to Intensify Polio Eradication Efforts

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## EDITORIAL

Editor: Asim Khan

### Quetta Green Bus Promise: Govt Urged to Turn Commitments into Action

Editorial:

In a seemingly promising move to uplift transportation standards, the Balochistan government has unfolded plans for an extensive expansion of the green bus fleet. The visionary initiative, spearheaded by Dr. Faisal Ahmed Khan, CEO of Balochistan Public Private Partnership (BPPP), aims to introduce 25 additional eco-friendly buses to the streets of Quetta. However, as the government unveils plans, the pressing question looms — will these promises translate into tangible improvements for the provincial capital's long-suffering commuters?

#### Green Bus Expansion Now A Long Standing Demand

Originally sanctioned by former Chief Minister Jam Kamal Khan, the plan now gaining momentum under the current administration, underscores the government's commitment to sustainable and accessible transportation. With an ambitious target of deploying 100 green buses across Quetta in the imminent months, the expansion spans beyond the city center, promising relief to residents in areas like Hazara Town, Marriahad, Samungil Road, Sariab Custom, Nawam Killi, and other vital parts of Quetta.

#### Expansion Of Project Directly Responds To Public Demand: Dr. Faisal

Dr. Faisal Ahmed Khan asserts that this expansion directly responds to the persistent public demand for improved facilities. The merit reality, however, reveals that currently, a meager eight buses operate from Balochistan University to Belli Airport Road, laying bare the glaring inadequacy in green bus availability.

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar ul Haq Kakar's recent proclamation, vowing an additional 100 green buses for Balochistan, signifies the government's purported dedication to elevating public transportation standards in the region. While commendable in words, the onus now falls on Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan to translate these verbal commitments into swift and substantive action.

#### CS Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan Can Play A Key Role

Recommendations for the government's seemingly progressive approach must be met with an urgent plea for Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan's decisive leadership in ensuring efficient execution. Quetta's residents, long fatigued by the lack of a dependable public transportation system, now demand more than promises — they demand a concrete reality. The introduction of green buses holds the potential to alleviate the longstanding commuting challenges, creating a pathway to a more sustainable and accessible future for the people of Balochistan.

The call for action is not merely a suggestion; it is a critical imperative, and the responsibility lies with Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan to lead the way in turning promises into tangible, transformative actions.

### Girls Pulled from Schools Due to Poverty in Balochistan

Chandni Kakar:

Like many others, they grappled with the harsh realities of poverty, their dreams shattered by the chains of economic hardship. As the sole breadwinners, Muhammad and Fatima Ahmed toiled tirelessly to put food on the table and roof over their children's heads. Their eldest daughter, Ayesha, had always possessed a discernible thirst for knowledge. With dreams of becoming a teacher, she pursued her studies, her eyes alight with hope.

But as the family's financial situation deteriorated, Muhammad and Fatima faced an agonizing choice to prioritize her brother's education over hers. With each passing day, the cost of education loomed like a dark cloud, threatening to engulf their hopes and aspirations. Reluctantly, they made the heart-wrenching choice to pull Ayesha out of school, casting a shadow over her dreams.

Through their unwavering determination and collective action, they sparked a revolution that swept across the regions of Killa Abdullah, Kachi, and Jaffarabad, illuminating the path towards a brighter future for generations to come. And as the sun set on the horizon, casting a golden glow upon the rugged landscapes, Ayesha, Nasreen, and their fellow girls, their spirits unbroken, their dreams soaring high against the backdrop of adversity. For in their hearts, they knew that no amount of poverty could ever extinguish the flame of knowledge burning within them.

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### Lack of implementation hampers efforts to end Child Marriages in Balochistan

Asim Khan:

Sadar Police Station, citing violations of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act of 1929, as well as Sections 420, 342, and 34 of the Pakistan Penal Code.

The Station House Officer (SHO) stated that following the arrest of the accused, the girl was rescued and reunited with her parents. A few days following the marriage of five-year-old Mah Bibi, the Federal Sharia Court took cognizance of the situation and requested a report from the provincial government.

The court directed the law officer of Balochistan to outline the measures being taken by the provincial government to prevent child and forced marriages.

In response, the court ordered the provincial government to submit the draft law on child marriages within 20 days of the law officer's report.

Despite being presented multiple times in the Provincial Assembly of Balochistan, this law has faced obstacles. Former Member of the Provincial Assembly Yasmin Lahri recalled that in 2014, when she introduced the bill to establish an age limit for marriage in the Balochistan Assembly, it faced staunch opposition from religious parties. They demanded that any legislation should adhere to Sharia principles.

In 2016, MPA Dr. Shama Ishaq once again presented the bill in the

assembly, only to have it rejected on grounds of being 'un-Islamic'.

Although the media and civil society raised considerable outcry, the bill failed to be reintroduced in the assembly. According to Balochistan's Secretary Law and Parliamentary Affairs Department, Babar Kaleem Ullah, the last time the bill was presented to the Balochistan Cabinet, objections were raised regarding setting the age limit at 18 years and declaring it invalid despite having a child marriage law on the books.

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court may order a medical examination.

— Parents or guardians who marry off children at a young age or bridegrooms above 18 years old may face punishment, including imprisonment for up to one month or a fine of Rs.1000.

Following the Eighteenth Amendment to the Constitution in 2010, marriage and family matters became a provincial subject.

In 2014, Sindh enacted a new provincial law to prohibit child marriage, setting the minimum marriage age at 18 for both girls and boys.

Under this legislation, parents, guardians, and accomplices can face imprisonment for up to three years and fines for arranging underage marriages. Adulterous marriage is not only a cognizable police offense under this law but also non-bailable and non-compoundable offense.

In 2015, Punjab amended the 1929 law. According to the amendment, any individual suspecting that a girl or boy is being married at an early age can lodge a complaint with the concerned Union Council. Subsequently, the Chairman of the Union Council will file a case in the family court.

This amendment increased the punishment for violations to up to six months imprisonment and a fine of 50,000 rupees.

In Islamabad, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Balochistan, numerous attempts have been made to enact new legislation, but none have been successful thus far.

Therefore, only the 1929 law remains in force in these regions. Samreen Mengal, a

social activist based in Quetta, advocates for the necessity of legislation to prohibit child marriages. According to her, the minimum age for marriage should be 18 years.

Zia Baloch, a member of a welfare organization, has been actively involved in preventing numerous underage marriages by taking timely action. Zia stated that last year, they not only intervened to halt such a marriage but also filed a legal case.

Sara Zaman, a feminist activist and researcher hailing from Karachi, also holds a teaching position at a private university. She has dedicated the past fifteen years to working with various national and international organizations on women's issues. "The marriage of young girls is also seen as advantageous to parents, as they need not incur significant expenses for their daughter's wedding nor provide dowry."

Their research has uncovered that such marriages are often arranged to settle family debts, resolve blood feuds, or simply address household financial burdens.

Professor Dr. Najma Ghaifar, Head of the Gynecology Unit at Bolan Medical College, Quetta, asserts that early marriages often result in various complications during pregnancy. According to her, addressing this issue necessitates the training of law enforcement officials and the establishment of a system to ensure that cases are handled effectively.

Such short-sightedness on the part of the ruling parties, which had themselves been victims of judicial manipulation, is unfortunate. The political divide

on this critical matter will further embolden those responsible for manipulating the judicial process to their vested interests.

Meanwhile, the role of the PTI in the controversy is not very helpful either. When in power, the party went along with the establishment game plan that at the time was targeting its political opponents. Instead of focusing on the broader issue of stopping undue interference in judicial matters and the increasing role of the security establishment in the rule of law, some party leaders are using the matter for political posturing. Indeed, the alleged intervention of judicial matters shows the increasing role of the security establishment in the country's power structure.

What has been an auspicious of the allegations, the ruling alliance that had also been complaining about such manipulation in the past, has now seemingly become the biggest definer of the military's actions. Some PML-N leaders even see a conspiracy behind the allegations and have questioned the integrity of the judges who signed the letter. While opposing the formation of the commission to probe the allegations, they criticised the letter as inappropriate. Some ministers have questioned the timing of the release of the letter, implying that it might have been written at the behest of the opposition.

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By Zahid Hussain:

The rot is much deeper than it seems. What the six brave members of the Islamabad High Court have penned is just the tip of the iceberg. The shadow of the deep state looms large over the entire system. The letter detailing incidents of intimidation of judges is an indictment of the ubiquitous security establishment. It has triggered a chain reaction threatening the entire edifice.

This may not be the first time that allegations about the interference of intelligence agencies in judicial matters have been made — a former judge had even named names. But the detailed account of harassment from the letter sent by the IHC judges is more damning, and hailing an already volatile political situation.

Unsurprisingly, the legal fraternity rejected the government's decision to form a single-member commission by a former chief justice, to investigate the charges in an attempt to whitewash the scandal. Now with former justice Tasaddug Jillani recusing himself, there was no option but for the chief justice to take suo motu notice. As seven-member benches have been formed to hear the case, the IHC has spoken and now it is up to the apex court to uphold the sanctity of the institution.

At stake is not only the independence of the judiciary but also the future of an already tottering democratic process. It is apparent from the letter that the intervention of the intelligence agencies is far more pronounced in such cases. Manipulation

through the judiciary has been a major instrument used by the security establishment to perpetuate its political control. While the establishment's interference is obvious, the judiciary's credibility has also been hit.

While the letter may have referred to the intervention of the executive in recent cases against the PTI leaders, the victims of judicial manipulation have varied and kept pace with changing political alignments.

The successive convictions of Imran Khan in three cases in less than a week on the eve of the Feb 8 elections leave nothing to the imagination. It was obvious from the main objective was to keep the former prime minister out of the electoral process. These convictions were the former prime minister

from holding public office. As mentioned in the letter, a judge was hospitalized in the ICU under blood pressure shot up under stress. Non-compliance can cost dearly. According to the letter, the brother-in-law of a judge was kidnapped and tortured. The game plan changed with the brother-in-law of a judge was kidnapped and tortured. The game plan changed with the brother-in-law of a judge was kidnapped and tortured.

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It was the same story just a few years back when former prime minister Nawaz Sharif found himself on the wrong side of the establishment. He was also convicted on several corruption charges in quick succession. There is no doubt that the objective was to keep the former prime minister out of the electoral process. These convictions were the former prime minister

## The judges have spoken

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## Nigeria's president calls for end to protests against economic hardship

ABUJA (NP): Nigeria's President Bola Tinubu called for a suspension of protests against a cost of living crisis, saying this would create an opportunity for dialogue, his first public comments since frustrated citizens took to the streets last week.

Amnesty International has said at least 13 people were killed in clashes with security forces on the first day of protests on Thursday. Police denied using excessive force and said seven people had died as of Saturday — four from an explosive device

during a march in north-east Borno state, two who were hit by a car and another who was shot by a guard when protesters looted a shop.

In a televised broadcast, Tinubu called for an end to violence in several states since the protests started, saying he was always open for dialogue.

"My dear Nigerians, especially our youth, I have heard you loud and clear. I understand the pain and frustration that drive these protests, and I want to assure you that our government is committed to listening and

addressing the concerns of our citizens," he said. Nigerians have been mobilising online to organise protests against economic hardship and bad governance and have called for a cut in petrol prices and electricity tariffs, among several demands.

Tinubu, in office since May 2023, defended his economic reforms, which have included a partial end to petrol and electricity subsidies and devaluation of the naira, as necessary to reverse years of economic mismanagement.

He said government revenues had more than doubled to 9.1 trillion naira (\$5.65 billion) in the first half of this year while 68% of revenue now went to debt servicing, down from 97% before he took office in May last year. The government was also ramping up spending on infrastructure projects, started a loan scheme for university students and was building thousands of housing units across Nigeria's 36 states, the president said. "But we must not let violence and destruction tear our nation apart," said Tinubu.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar addresses the Youm-e-Istehsal Rally in D-Chowk.

## Youm-e-Istehsal: Pakistan stands with Kashmiri brethren against India's atrocities

ISLAMABAD (NP): President Asif Ali Zardari said India took illegal steps to undermine the recognized disputed status of Occupied Kashmir and continuous campaign to change the demographic structure and political landscape of Held Valley.

"Indian actions are a violation of international laws, including the resolutions of the Security Council, the 4th Geneva Convention," the President said.

President Asif Ali Zardari said India's internal legislation and court decisions cannot defeat the just struggle of the Kashmiri people.

"For 7 decades, the people of Kashmir have been waiting for the fulfilment of the promises made by the United Nations," the President said.

Peace in South Asia depends on resolving Jammu & Kashmir conflict.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a message on Youm-e-Istehsal said that August 5 reminded him of the dark day of exploitation when India illegally abolished the independent status of Occupied Kashmir.

He saluted the unparalleled courage, courage, and bravery of the Kashmiri people fighting against the atrocities of the Indian Army.

"Kashmiri brothers and sisters are resisting every Indian attempt to convert legally," he said.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that lasting peace in South Asia depends on resolving the Jammu and Kashmir conflict.

"Instead of denying the conflicts, India has to move towards solving these conflicts," said the Prime Minister.

"Pakistan will continue to provide moral, political, and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri people until they achieve their right to self-determination," said the Prime Minister.

"Kashmir issue will remain alive until Kashmiris get their rights and people from all four provinces are present in the rally.

The Kashmiris are condemning a unilateral Indian action," he said.

Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar said: "Five years ago today, India did an unconstitutional act by amending its constitution. Indian action is against UN resolutions and interna-

tional laws. Abolishing the rights of Kashmiris by amending the constitution is a crude fantasy of India," Dar said.

"Pakistan's ties with Occupied Kashmir are very deep and any such action of India is unacceptable," he added.

"India claimed to be the champion of democracy. India should announce an immediate referendum in Occupied Kashmir. India should allow international organizations to observe atrocities in Kashmir," he said.

"Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is fighting for Kashmir worldwide. We have raised the issue of Kashmir at every international forum," he said.

"Israel martyred 40,000 Muslim brothers and sisters in Palestine. Ishaq Dar raised the issue of Palestine and Islamophobia all over the world."

India ended the special status of Kashmir to change the map. Pakistan will take every moral and diplomatic step for Kashmiris," he said.

Ishaq Dar said India has decided to escape from India and could never silence the voice of Kashmiris.

Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions, Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Amir Muqam said: "Thousands of people were martyred in Kashmir. India has put thousands of Kashmiris in jail. India took this step to change the population ratio. Today, there will be ceremonies in foreign missions as well."

India violates human rights in Kashmir, says Abdul Aleem Khan Privatization Minister Abdul Aleem Khan said on August 5, 2019, a heinous act of obstinacy and oppression was carried out on Held Kashmir as India has been violating human rights in Kashmir contrary to international law. President of the Istehsal-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) said any attempt to stop the right of Kashmiris to self-determination will not be succeeded. "Pakistan will continue to provide all possible moral and diplomatic support to Kashmiris.

Modi government created the whole drama to destroy the identity of Muslims in Kashmir," he said.

Abdul Aleem Khan said for its nefarious purposes, the Indian Army is breaking mountains of oppression in Kashmir and no power can defeat the historical status of

Jammu and Kashmir and the freedom struggle of Kashmiris.

Radio Pakistan, PTV, and other media organizations are broadcasting special transmissions, highlighting leaders of Kashmir's freedom struggle, sacrifices of Kashmiris, and Indian atrocities against innocent civilians in Indian government's illegal action of August 5, 2019, and to highlight the atrocities on the innocent Kashmiris living in the Occupied Kashmir.

The Hinduva-influenced BJP-led Indian regime had illegally and unilaterally abrogated Articles 370 and 35-A of the Indian constitution, revoking the Special Status of Kashmir, five years ago.

A special walk from the Foreign Office to D-Chowk, Islamabad is underway to express solidarity with Kashmiris.

Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar is leading the walk while federal ministers, lawmakers, political leaders of various parties, members of civil society, academia, students, and media persons are joining the event.

One-minute silence was observed at nine in the morning and all the moving traffic came to a halt. National anthems of Pakistan and Azad



ISLAMABAD: Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan, called on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## After deadly protests, Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina flees palace; army chief expected to address nation

DHAKA (NP): Jubilant-looking crowds waved flags, peacefully celebrating including some dancing on top of a tank, as a source close to the embattled leader said she had left her palace in the capital for a "safe place".

Hasina's son urged the country's security forces to block any takeover from her rule, while a senior advisor told that her resignation was a "possibility" after being questioned as to whether she would quit. "She wanted to record a speech, but she could not do that," the source close to Hasina told.

Bangladesh has been engulfed by protests and violence that began last month after student groups demanded the scrapping of a controversial quota system in government jobs.

The campaign to seek the ouster of Hasina, who won a fourth straight term in January in an election boycotted by the opposition. Earlier today, protesting students in Bangladesh called for a march to Dhaka in defiance of a nationwide curfew, a day after deadly clashes in the country killed nearly 100 people.

Kashmir was also played. Radio Pakistan, PTV, and other media organizations are broadcasting special transmissions, highlighting leaders of Kashmir's freedom struggle, sacrifices of Kashmiris, and Indian atrocities against innocent civilians in Indian government's illegal action of August 5, 2019, and to highlight the atrocities on the innocent Kashmiris living in the Occupied Kashmir.

Law Minister Azam Nazir Tarrar said India violated UN resolutions on August 5, 2019.

"India aimed to change the status of the disputed area. Pakistan has strongly raised its voice against these violations by India. Azam Nazir Tarrar has approached international forums to highlight the plight of the Kashmiri people," he said.

Tarrar said Pakistan categorically rejected all the steps taken by India and Pakistan will not rest until the freedom and justice of the Kashmiri people is achieved.

India will have to adopt pathway of dialogue, Ayaz Sadiq, National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq message on the occasion of Youm-e-Istehsal to mark the Kashmir Day said 5th August 2019 will always be remembered as a black day in history.

Starting Sunday evening, a nationwide curfew has been imposed, the railways have suspended services and the country's huge garments industry has closed.

Bangladesh has been engulfed by protests and violence that began last month after student groups demanded the scrapping of a controversial quota system in government jobs.

That escalated into a campaign to seek the ouster of Hasina, who won a fourth straight term in January in an election boycotted by the opposition.

Sunday's death toll, which included at least 13 policemen, was the highest for a single day among any protests in Bangladesh's recent history, surpassing the 67 deaths reported on July 19 when students took to the streets against the quotas.

Speaking at a webinar of regional connectivity, Vice President PBF Ahmad Jawad said that BJP government's actions in the political domain directly impacted the trade relations between the two countries as it has adopted an inflexible and hardening stance towards Pakistan. The Pakistan Business Forum believes that India and Pakistan should consider resumption of trade and restoring the upgrade of diplomatic ties.

The PBF official considered trade to be a vital stop on the re-engagement plan and also benefits for the trading and business communities on both sides. We have even seen that the Lok Sabha candidates from Amritsar are de-

manding to reopen trade and even facilitating tourism with Pakistan through the Attari-Wagha land route and to reconsider India-Pakistan trade policy.

Jawad also thinks that the view in India on trade with Pakistan remains marked by suspicion owing to prejudice towards Pakistan in trade matters. Modi's India, including India considers itself in a much-strengthened position as compared to Pakistan due to its economic size and evidently wishes to dictate its terms of engagement on trade matters. However we believed to be in an advantageous position as it could be a gateway for transit trade from India to Afghanistan, as Iran and Central Asia, areas that are rich in energy.

Despite this, Pakistan did not retaliate to these Indian measures. It was only after New Delhi's unilateral and illegal actions of 5th August 2019 with regard to the Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) that Pakistan decided to suspend bilateral trade.

India announced two withdraw 'Most Favoured Nation (MFN)' status from Pa-

kistan and imposed 200 per cent customs duties on all Pakistani imports in February 2019. New Delhi's actions created significant obstacles for the access and viability of Pakistani products in the Indian market. In April 2019, India also unilaterally suspended the cross-LoC trade, alleging that it was being 'misused'.

At the end of the BJP's first term, India's exports to Pakistan hiked to about USD 1,930 million. During the BJP's first term (2014-19), the trade ties with Pakistan took a dip, but during the BJP's second term (2019-24), trade only saw a declining graph moving from USD 1,930 million to USD 0.121 million in 2022.

India announced two withdraw 'Most Favoured Nation (MFN)' status from Pa-



## JOIN BALOCHISTAN REVENUE AUTHORITY AS INTERN

The following positions of Interests in Balochistan Revenue Authority (BRA), in Head Office and Regional Offices are available:-

Sr.#	Interests for following wings/disciplines	Qualification
1.	Taxation/Finance/Accounts	Masters/Bachelors (4 years) Degree in Business Administration, Finance, Accounts, Commerce, Economics, Statistics.
2.	Audit	Chartered Accountants (CA), Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), Master's/Bachelors (4 years) Degree in Accounting, Certificate in Accounting & Finance (CAF).
3.	Information Technology	Masters/Bachelors (4 years) Degree in Computer Science, Software Engineering, Computer Engineering, Information Technology.
4.	Legal	Masters/Bachelors Degree in Law.

Instructions:-

1. Submit your application online at <https://apply.bra.com.pk>.
2. Candidates who are less than 28 years of age on 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2024 and have acquired requisite educational qualification / degree (minimum 16 years of education) within the last three (3) years are eligible to apply.
3. Candidates who meet the eligibility criteria, are required to submit attested copies of the degrees, CNIC, two recent passport size photographs and the certificate of working experience, if any, at the time of interview. Original documents will also be seen and returned by the interviewing committee. Candidates with incomplete form/documents will not be entertained.
4. Applicants can only apply in one of the above four disciplines/categories.
5. Interviews will be conducted at Balochistan Revenue Authority office, Head Office, Quetta.
6. No TA/DA will be paid for the purpose.
7. Duration of internship is 6 months (extendable). Monthly stipend @ Rs. 40,000/- will be paid (taxes shall apply).
8. The Internship is neither offer of appointment nor it shall confer any right of employment/regularization etc.
9. Placement, assigning of duties, and terminations etc. of internship shall be the discretion of Balochistan Revenue Authority.
10. Short-listed candidates will be informed through their e-mail addresses/B.R.A. Website.
11. Last date for submission of application is 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2024.

Member (HR)  
Balochistan Revenue Authority, Head Office, Quetta

## Balochistan Officials Mobilize to Tackle Severe Flooding Crisis

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: In light of the escalating flood situation, Provincial Minister of Irrigation, Mir Sadu Umrani, and Provincial Minister of Communications and Construction, Mir Salim Ahmed Khosa, held an urgent meeting to strategize response measures.

The meeting, attended by key officials, focused on immediate actions to mitigate the impact of the floods across various regions in the province.

Provincial Secretary Irrigation, Hafiz Abdul Majid, emphasized the implementation of all necessary measures as directed by Upper Balochistan's Mir Sarfraz Bugti and Minister Umrani.

He stressed the importance of maintaining a robust presence of irrigation department officers and personnel at their respective duty stations. "No officer or official will leave their duty station without my permission."

Those on leave must report back immediately, Majid declared.

In response to the crisis, Chief Engineer Canal Naseerabad will provide daily updates on the flood situation, ensuring timely



Balochistan Minister Mir Sadu Umrani and Saleem Khan Khoso held a meeting to discuss flooding situation

and informed decision-making. Additionally, Chief Engineer Quetta is set to visit Sibi today to assess the conditions and will report back tonight. "SE Quetta will also monitor their jurisdiction closely and update me daily."

Majid added. Further measures include directives for the Chief Engineer and SE Gwadar to report from their stations tonight, followed by a critical meeting with

the district administration tomorrow.

Majid underscored the importance of diligent duty performance, warning that any negligence will not be tolerated.

This coordinated effort aims to enhance the province's resilience against the ongoing floods, safeguarding communities and infrastructure through vigilant monitoring and swift action.

## Ayesha Raza Farooq Meets Balochistan CM to Intensify Polio Eradication Efforts

Syed Ali Shah:



QUETTA: Ayesha Raza Farooq, the Prime Minister's special person for anti-polio, met with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti at the Chief Minister's Secretariat to discuss the ongoing battle against polio in the province.

Also in attendance were Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafaq and Coordinator Emergency Operation Center, Inam Khan Mandokhel.

During the meeting, they addressed the prevention of polio, the successful implementation of the anti-polio campaign, and related challenges.

Ayesha expressed concern over the recent reports of polio cases in Balochistan, announcing that a special anti-polio campaign would be launched over the next three months.

The intensified campaign is scheduled to be executed in October and November to curb the spread of the disease.

Chief Minister Bugti assured full administrative support to the anti-polio teams to ensure the smooth execution of the campaign.

She emphasized the importance of strict action against any breaches of protocol within

the polio program. "Administrative negligence will not be tolerated,"

Bugti stated firmly, advocating for frequent implementation of the Extended Program of Immunization (EPI) in high-risk districts over the coming months.

The Chief Minister highlighted the potential to completely eradicate polio from the region

with concerted efforts and unwavering commitment.

The meeting concluded with a strong resolve to tackle polio with enhanced vigor and collaborative strategies.

## Systemic Failures in Balochistan's Polio Eradication Demand Accountability and Local Solutions

"The authorities must prioritize health infrastructure and ensure that every child is vaccinated. Anything less is a dereliction of duty."

Political instability and security issues in Balochistan are often cited as excuses for the failure to conduct effective vaccination drives. However, these challenges, while significant, should not absolve the authorities of their responsibility.

The continuous emergence of new cases points to a lack of engagement with local communities, inadequate logistical planning, and insufficient protection and support for health workers.

The international community and organizations pumping

money into polio eradication efforts must also bear responsibility. It is imperative that they reassess their strategies and advocate for approaches that are tailored to the unique challenges of Balochistan. This means investing in local and indigenous strategies that engage community leaders, address cultural sensitivities, and ensure that resources are used efficiently and effectively.

The recurrence of polio cases is not just a health issue; it is a stark reminder of the government's inefficacy in safeguarding the well-being of its citizens.

The people of Balochistan, and indeed the entire country, deserve better.

They deserve a government that prioritizes their health and well-being, that engages with local communities, and that is committed to eradicating polio once and for all.

We call upon all stakeholders, from government authorities to international organizations, to acknowledge these failures and take immediate, effective measures.

The fight against polio cannot be won with half-hearted efforts and disconnected strategies. It requires a concerted, cohesive approach that puts the health and future of our children at the forefront. The time for action is now. The people of Balochistan cannot afford to wait any longer.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb in a meeting with the Managing Director of Jacobs, Cordova and Associates Mr. Scott Jacobs.



LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addresses the Groundbreaking ceremony of revamping of Gaddafi Stadium.

## President, PM & armed forces reaffirm solidarity with Kashmiris

ISLAMABAD (INP): In their messages on Youm-e-Istehsal, President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and forces chiefs have reaffirmed

their steadfast solidarity with courageous and resilient people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

In his message on Youm-e-Istehsal, President Asif Ali Zardari said that India's actions since 5 August 2019 have demonstrated complete disregard for international law, aspirations of Kashmiri people and the UN Security Council resolutions regarding Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

He said it is crucial that the international community urges India to end its human rights violations in Kashmir and implement the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

In his message, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that Pakistan will continue to extend its strong moral, political and diplomatic support to Kashmiri people till realization of their inalienable right to self-determination.

He said that on August 5,

2019, the Indian government took a unilateral, unconstitutional and illegal action by abrogating Article 370 and 35A,

ending the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

Likewise, Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori stressed international community to extend all possible support to Kashmir people of IIOJK for the fullest realization of their legitimate rights.

On the occasion of Youm-e-Istehsal, the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, Services Chiefs and the Pakistan Armed Forces paid tribute to the martyrs of

IIOJK for their extraordinary sacrifices and reaffirmed their unwavering commitment to supporting the Kashmiri people in their righteous struggle against oppression and tyranny, on political, moral and humanitarian grounds.

In his message on Youm-e-Istehsal, Punjab Governor Sardar

Saleem Haider Khan has said that today is the day to express solidarity with the Kashmiri people.

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## Govt forms task force to reform power sector

ISLAMABAD (INP): The federal government has approved the formation of a task force to address the issue of capacity payments to Independent Power Producers (IPPs) and implement power sector reforms.

The task force will be chaired by Federal Minister for Power Awaiz Leghari, with newly appointed Special Assistant Muhammad Ali serving as the co-chairman.

The sources said Lieutenant General Muhammad Zafar Iqbal will act as the National Coordinator, while members from the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA), Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA-G), Private Power and Infrastructure Board (PPIB), and Secu-

rities & Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) will also be included in the task force.

The task force is expected to present its recommendations to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif within a month regarding the reduction of capacity payments to IPPs.

Additionally, the task force will prepare recommendations on other IPP-related issues and provide suggestions to ensure the financial sustainability of the power sector.

NEPRA was established under Section 3 of the Regulation of Generation, Transmission, and Distribution of Electric Power Act, 1997, to exclusively regulate the provision of electric power services in Pakistan.

CPPA-G is a company in-

corporated under the Companies Ordinance, 1984, and wholly owned by the Government of Pakistan.

PPIB was created in 1994 to promote private investments in the power sector.

The role of PPIB has been further expanded by the GoP by allowing it to facilitate public sector power and related infrastructure projects in IPP mode, for which PPIB's Act was amended in November 2015.

SECP deals with the regulation of the corporate sector and the capital market. Supervision and regulation of insurance companies.

Supervised and regulated non-banking finance companies and private pension schemes.



Islamabad: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with the Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Chaudhary Anwar-ul-Haq.

## So called World largest democratic state violating human rights in IIOJK: Amir Muqam

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan and SAFRON Engineer Amir Muqam, on Monday, said that so called world

largest democratic state India violating human rights continuously since August 5, 2019 adding that international community should put pressure on India to curb state terrorism, continued military siege from last five years and other atrocities in IIOJK.

Pakistan will not allow India to succeed in its nefarious designs of turning the Muslim majority into the minority in the IIOJK.

Addressing the participants of the rally, he said that abrogation of 370 and 35A was a mistake of India it could not be succeeded in their nefarious

designs.

The minister said that like other parts of the World Kashmiris being observed. Youm-e-Istehsal in Pakistan and Azad Jammu Kashmir. Without solution of Kashmir issue there is peaceful environment not possible in the region.

He said that incumbent regime highlighting Kashmir issue at all appropriate global forums effectively.

A protest rally was taken out from Foreign office led by foreign secretary to D Chowk.

Monday o Youm-e-Istehsaal, being observed every year on August 5, a large number of women, child, men and youth were arrested and killed.

The rally was led by Adviser to Prime Minister on Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan Affairs Qamar Zaman Kara which was participated by large number of people particularly officials and students of various educational institutions.

Addressing the participants, Qamar Zaman Kara thanked the people for expressing solidarity with their Kashmiri brethren and urged the international community to put pressure on India to curb state terrorism, continued military siege since 5th August 2019 and other atrocities in IIOJK.