

# QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

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## Violent Attacks Claim 38 Lives In Balochistan

Manan Mandokhail, Syed Ali Shah, Abdul Rehman Musakhail, Nashad Baloch, Abdullah Lehrri:

**QUETTA, MUSAKHAIL, MASTUNG, SIBI:** Balochistan was rocked by a wave of violent incidents on Monday, resulting in the tragic loss of 38 lives. Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti, confirmed the death toll during a press conference, revealing that 21 terrorists were killed by security forces, who also thwarted a major terror attack in the Lasbela district.

Already struggling with instability, Balochistan has faced one of its most challenging periods in recent memory, with multiple attacks spread across various districts.

One of the most horrific incidents occurred in the Musakhail district, where 23 passengers were forcibly removed from their vehicles and executed. The violence extended to the Kalat district, where an assault on security forces resulted in the deaths of 10 people, including five security personnel and five civilians. Senior police officer Ayub Achakzai informed quettavoice.com that the armed assailants offloaded the passengers and methodically killed them after verifying their identities.

### Railway Bridge Blown Up

The series of attacks began with the destruction of the Dozan railway bridge in the mountainous Bolan Valley. This vital piece of infrastructure, which connected



A levies station was attacked in the Mastung district of Balochistan

Balochistan to Sindh and Punjab via rail, was obliterated, further isolating the province. In Noshki, militants launched an attack near the Frontier Corps fort, injuring five civilians.

In the southern part of the province, six bodies were discovered in a targeted attack, adding to the grim tally of casualties.

Mastung's Daringarh police station was also targeted by militants, but fortunately, there were no casualties. Meanwhile, in the Pishin district, a grenade attack left two people injured, with a government office being the target. In Lasbela, three security officials were murdered in a targeted assault was successfully repelled by security forces.

### CM Bugti Vows To Bring Perpetrators To Book

Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti condemned the wave of violence and reiterated the government's commitment to

Bugti delivered a stern message to those sympathizing with the militants: "Sympathizers have no answer. This is genocide and brutality. Terrorists have no ethnicity or religion. You cannot impose your ideology through force." He urged the public to reject violence, adding, "Don't glorify terrorism; instead, support a peaceful Balochistan."

### Drop Your Weapons, Then Talk: Bugti

The Balochistan Assembly has officially labeled these incidents as acts of terrorism. Expressing his frustration, Bugti said, "You take to the streets, kill innocent people, and then vanish. This is an intelligence-driven war, we will not spare anyone."

He also extended a hand to those involved in the violence, encouraging them to surrender their weapons and join the peace process.

"Drop your weapons and join the peace process. We refuse to be silent spectators to this terrorism. Labourers and barbers are being killed."

As Balochistan remains on high alert, the government maintains a firm stance against the violence while offering a path to peace for those willing to lay down their arms. The resolve of Balochistan's leadership and the resilience of its people will be critical in navigating this turbulent period.

### Sadiq Umrani Strongly Condemns Killing Of Passengers

Staff Reporter:

**QUETTA:** Balochistan's Minister for Irrigation, Mir Sadiq Umrani, has expressed strong condemnation following the tragic incident in Musakhail district.

Armed assailants halted buses and trucks along the inter-provincial highway, offloading passengers and opening fire.



The brutal attack claimed at least 23 lives, with victims reportedly from Punjab.

As investigations continue, Minister Umrani emphasizes the need for swift justice and improved security measures.

### Ayub demands immediate announcement of new CJP amid extension rumours

**NEWS DESK:** Opposition leader in National Assembly and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Secretary General, Omar Ayub Khan, has called on the government to immediately announce the name of the new chief justice, replacing CJP Qazi Faez Isa, amid speculations of a possible tenure extension.

Addressing the National Assembly on Monday, Ayub stressed that the government should promptly reveal the new chief justice's name in the current circumstances. He warned of strong protests if any legislation on this matter is introduced.

Ayub demanded that the law minister clarify the situation regarding the appointment of the Chief Justice of Pakistan. In response, Federal Minister for Law, Azam Nazeer Tarar, provided an explanation to the assembly.

Minister Tarar stated that, under the existing Constitution and laws, a senior judge from the high courts could be appointed as chief justice by the Judicial Commission and Parliamentary Committee.

### CM Bugti Vows To Bring Perpetrators To Book

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**QUETTA:** Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti condemned the wave of violence and reiterated the government's commitment to eradicating terrorism. "Thirty-eight innocent lives were taken, and they were innocent Pakistanis," Bugti declared. He emphasized the gravity of the situation, saying, "Highways, innocent passengers—murdered. Twenty-one terrorists were killed, and more will follow. This is the state's war."

Bugti delivered a stern message to those sympathizing with the militants: "Sympathizers have no answer. This is genocide and brutality. Terrorists have no ethnicity or religion. You cannot impose your ideology through force." He urged the public to reject violence, adding, "Don't glorify terrorism; instead, support a peaceful Balochistan."

### Drop Your Weapons, Then Talk: Bugti

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Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti addressing a news conference: Photo: Ismail Khan

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### 21 terrorists killed in Balochistan operations after deadly attacks: ISPR

**NEWS DESK:** At least 21 terrorists were killed in clearance operations across Balochistan after a series of deadly attacks on civilians and security forces, the military said on Monday.

The attacks, which took place on Sunday night, resulted in the deaths of 14 security personnel, including ten soldiers and four law enforcement officers.

"Fourteen brave sons of the soil, including ten soldiers of the security forces and four law enforcement personnel, embraced shahadat after fighting gallantly," the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement.

The ISPR further stated that the attacks were conducted on the behest of "inimical and hostile forces" aiming to disrupt the peace and development of Balochistan. The attacks were focused on targeting innocent civilians, particularly in Musakhail, Kalat, and Lasbela districts, where numerous civilians lost their lives.

In Musakhail district, terrorists intercepted a bus in the Rara Sham area and targeted innocent



citizens who were working in Balochistan to earn their livelihood. The militants forced the bus to stop after checking their identity cards, according to Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Ayub Achakzai. Twenty-three people, mostly from Punjab province, were killed in the Musakhail massacre. The assailants set fire to 35 vehicles before fleeing the scene. The Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) claimed responsibility for the attacks in a statement emailed to journalists, alleging it was responsible for numerous other attacks, including one on a major paramilitary base. However, the claim has not been independently verified. Security forces and law enforcement agencies immediately responded to the Musakhail incident, launching clearance operations that resulted in the deaths of 21 terrorists.

### Utility stores shutdown: Employees protest outside Islamabad head office

**NEWS DESK:** Utility Stores employees have launched a sit-in outside the head office, protesting against the government's decision to close utility stores nationwide, which is expected to significantly impact millions of low-income families who rely on discounted essential goods.

This decision follows the discontinuation of a Rs50 billion subsidy that previously offered relief to around 26 million households. During a recent Senate Standing Committee meeting, the Secretary of Industry confirmed that the government is considering shutting down utility stores as part of a right-sizing initiative.

The funds saved from the subsidy will be redirected to address the energy crisis, particularly in offering relief on electricity bills. The subsidy, which provided up to 25% discounts on essentials like flour, ghee, sugar, and pulses, has already been halted, meaning these items will now be sold at regular market prices.

### 23 Passengers Brutally Murdered In Musakhail Balochistan

Abdul Rehman Musakhail:

**MUSAKHAIL, BALOCHISTAN:**

In a horrifying incident, armed assailants targeted passengers in Balochistan's Musakhail district. The attackers halted trucks and buses along the inter-provincial highway in the Rarasham area, systematically offloading passengers. Ayub Achakzai, a senior police officer told quettavoice.com via phone and termed the attack a targeted assault. Most of the victims were labourers returning to their homes, he mentioned. He informed the passengers were travelling from Balochistan to Punjab province when the tragedy struck.

After verifying their identities, they opened fire, resulting in the loss of at least 23 lives. The victims, reportedly from Punjab, faced a grim fate as the assailants also set ablaze ten vehicles. Authorities are investigating this brutal act, and the community



mourns the lives cut short by this senseless violence. Our thoughts are with the affected families during this difficult time. Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti strongly condemned the attack and vowed to bring the perpetrators to book. In a condemnation statement, Mr. Bugti stated that the terrorists behind the attack would be brought to justice. The dead bodies of the victims were shifted to the district headquarters hospital Musakhail. A large number of people also reached the hospital when the dead bodies reached the hospital.

Ziarat Juniper Forest in Peril: Ancient Trees Face Deforestation Threat

Upholding Parliamentary Decorum in the Balochistan Assembly

Bolan railway blast leaves two dead, train service 'suspended'

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## QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

### Restoring Quetta to Its Former Glory

Editorial:

The completion of the Quetta Solid Waste Management Project in a record time of just three months stands as a testament to the power of effective leadership and public-private collaboration. Under the directives of Chief Minister Balochistan,

Mir Sarfraz Bugti, this initiative has set a new standard for swift and impactful governance.

Yet, as we celebrate this achievement, it is essential to acknowledge the individuals who played a pivotal role in turning this vision into reality.

Dr. Faisal Ahmed Khan, the Chief of the Public Private Partnership (PPP) Balochistan, has emerged as a central figure in this success. His leadership in navigating the intricate dynamics of the partnership between the municipal corporation and a private company was instrumental in ensuring the project's timely completion. In an era where public projects are often marred by delays and inefficiencies, Dr. Faisal's approach offers a blueprint for future endeavors across the province and the country.

However, the work is far from over. The citizens of Quetta, once affectionately known as "Little Paris," now look forward to seeing their city restored to its former charm and cleanliness.

The success of the Solid Waste Management Project must be sustained through continued commitment and vigilance.

This means not just maintaining the infrastructure but also fostering a culture of cleanliness and responsibility among the residents.

The government's pledge to keep Quetta clean must be more than just a statement; it must translate into sustained action. As citizens, we too have a role to play in this transformation.

The vision of a neat and clean Quetta is within reach, but it will require the collective efforts of both the government and the people.

As we look ahead, the partnership model championed by Dr. Faisal Ahmed Khan could serve as a catalyst for other essential services across Balochistan, including the newly expanded NADRA registration centers and mobile vans.

The commitment shown in these projects is commendable, and with continued collaboration and dedication, Quetta can indeed reclaim its title as "Little Paris," a city of beauty, culture, and cleanliness.

## A timeless classic

By Syed Fahim:

**T**O be generally agreed upon as a classic, works should meet some common high standards for quality, appeal, longevity, and influence. Such a work must be of high artistic quality, at least for the time in which it was written. It should not only represent that era but also should stand the test of time. It should have universal appeal, spark intellectual debates, shape societal attitudes, and be able to inspire generations to relate to its message. While the Holy Quran is a religious scripture, let us examine how at the same time it is a timeless classic. Every time one reads the Quran, one gets the maximum benefit from even short spurts of reading the text, instead of just learning about one topic. One can always find all verses on a particular topic, which have been assembled and published widely.

Alternatively, one can look up a word or a topic in any modern Quran app if that is the intention. This is, in fact, a higher degree of reading the Quran, a sort of consulting the book. And this is a more apt term should be the "discoverer" of its message. The Quran is a grand sum of stories of the past, rumblings of the future, rhetorical questions aimed at unbelievers, answers to the ridiculing questions of the disbelievers, description of nature and supernatural sections, a teaser for what is yet to be discovered,

herein lies the beauty of the scheme of assembly. For a curious reader, this is the start of an exhaustive yet exhilarating quest to figure out the nuzzle. Often, one finds nuggets of wisdom on a course, and then the trail may seem to disappear. Periodically, commissions, committees, and reports are engaged to suggest reforms. Yet, their recommendations typically end up being superficially implemented, and are ultimately consigned to the archives.

Even when reforms are introduced, they're often not taken seriously. If their implementation challenges arbitrary government decisions, they're reversed or abandoned. It's a cycle where change is promised, but meaningful progress remains elusive, leaving the police system stagnant and ineffectual. This approach has had a destructive impact on the police force. Resultantly, successive governments, instead of considering this central aspect of governance when facing law-and-order challenges, often resort to quick-fix solutions. The way out is to call in the civil armed forces that were created for the specific function of protecting the borders and enforcing the law in areas governed under special laws that have a predetermined period.

This option has so frequently been applied that it has practically become a regular feature of law enforcement, resulting in the overlap of the spheres of responsibility of two forces. Karachi is a classic example of such an arrangement that has continued for many years. According to the law, the responsibility of crime control and maintenance of peace lies with the police. The civil armed forces support the police to play an enforcement role.

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Summan Ismail:

The Ziarat Juniper Forest, nestled in Pakistan's Balochistan territory, stands as a testament to nature's splendor and history's embrace. This ancient forest is renowned for its towering, thousand-year-old Juniper trees, which rank among the world's oldest and tallest. This article explores the profound significance of the Ziarat Juniper Forest, its historical roots, ecological importance, and the pressing need for conservation efforts.

### A Glimpse into History

The story of the Ziarat Juniper Forest is a journey through time. Once inhabited by nomadic tribes, these Juniper trees served as versatile resources. They provided fuel, construction materials, and medicinal remedies, ingrain-

ing themselves in the local culture. Over generations, the forest became a cherished asset, safeguarded by tribal elders. A Global Ecological Gem

### The Dark Side of Progress

While the past decade has brought comfort and progress to the region, it has come at a steep price. One industry that has thrived

at the expense of the forest is the furniture sector, leading to extensive deforestation. These ancient woodlands, found mostly at altitudes above 2000 meters, are under severe threat. The Ziarat region, home to approximately 5000-year-old Juniper species, faces rampant deforestation due to domestic fuel consumption, agricultural expansion, construction, medicinal use, and furniture production.

### Alarming Trends: A Deforestation Study

A recent report titled "Observing Carbon Stock and Land-Use Change in 5000-Year-Old Juniper Woods Stand of Ziarat, Balochistan, through a Synergistic Methodology" conducted a comprehen-

sive analysis of the forest. The study revealed a substantial reduction in the Juniperus tree population from 71,005 hectares to 50,311 hectares between 1988 and 2018, alongside a decline in agricultural land in the same period. This academic publication also noted a decrease in the forest's carbon supply, primarily due to deforestation.

### Protecting Wildlife and Promoting Sustainable Tourism

Conservation efforts are underway to protect the diverse wildlife within the Ziarat Juniper Forest. Endangered species such as the Asiatic Mountain Bear, Snow Leopard, and Markhor call this forest home, and preserving their habitat is paramount. Simultaneously, initiatives aim to promote sustainable tourism, allowing visitors from around the world to appreciate the forest's natural beauty and ecological significance.

### The Call to Action

The allure of the valuable Juniper wood has led to its exploitation, with reports even implicating authorities in the illegal trade. To secure the future of this ancient forest, immediate action is essential. It's imperative that we collectively embrace sustainable practices, raise awareness, and curb deforestation. Only by doing so can we ensure the preservation of this unique species and its vital role in our nation's ecological world. Together, we must act responsibly to safeguard the Ziarat Juniper Forest for generations to come.

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By Faisal Bari:

**A** YOUNG man cheated on one of his assignments. His professor referred the case to the relevant committee for investigation and adjudication. I was at the department chair. The mother of the young man called and said she wanted to see me even though I explained to her that the case was with the relevant committee in the army and I could not intervene in the process. When she came, accompanied by one of her brothers, she started out by saying that she had lost her husband and the young man's father. I offered my condolences but did point out that since her husband had passed away many years ago, this could not really explain why the young man had cheated.

By my response, The next thing she said was: "It was just cheating. What is the big deal?" It happens all the time in Pakistan. Do you not live in Pakistan? When this outburst was not so helpful, she went on to tell me that one of her brothers was a senior civil servant while another was a senior officer in the army and I should be aware of the consequences if we insisted on taking the case to court. I had to say that I had to ask her for my office.

Recently, I had a reminder of this way of thinking from a very different domain. We have some renovation going

I do live in Pakistan and have lived here most of my life. Two hundred and forty million-plus people also live in Pakistan and they come in all shapes and sizes. However, normalised or institutionalised cheating might become, why should we accept it as normal?

And if some people, I am sure it is not just some people, do not accept cheating as normal, why does that leave a question mark on their citizenship or their ability to live, survive and thrive in this society? It seems that such arguments are the refuge of those who do not have an argument.

This is not how things happen here. Where do you think you

live? Are you sure you have been living in Pakistan?"

How is not coming up at the end of the acter trait? How is asking for quality in work an issue in the current context? The underlying issue seems to be different. If a tailor does not deliver your clothes on time, what can you do? If the breach of a verbal promise or contract, and in many cases in Pakistan even on written contracts, has no consequences for the party breaching the agreement, they will not take delivery of your clothes on time, what can you do? If the mason comes late, what can you do? If you can shout at him, and if he is smart he will say 'sorry' but continue doing what is convenient

for him. You can fire the mason and change your tailor, but the cost of doing so for you can be significant in terms of finding an alternative and/or developing a new relationship with the mason or tailor.

If the mason or tailor has a big enough clientele and he/she knows the mason or tailor, he/she will continue to be an alternative for you. If the breach of a verbal promise or contract, and in many cases in Pakistan even on written contracts, has no consequences for the party breaching the agreement, they will not take delivery of your clothes on time, what can you do? If the mason comes late, what can you do? If you can shout at him, and if he is smart he will say 'sorry' but continue doing what is convenient

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less the mather is grave and involves a significant money or other loss, invoking the law for such matters seems impractical and an overkill. It has to be through potential loss of business due to reputational impacts.

This will not make the system work well in every case, but it will make things better, just as the ratings on Airbnb or Uber etc work — with some margin of unresolved issues but better than when there is no reputational impact of poor delivery.

It will cure this right-toe attitude of asking about the other person's citizenship, and saying this is how things are done in Pakistan and implying the other person is not fit to survive. Live and thrive in Pakistan.



## PT, JUI-F leaders to meet at Asad Qaiser's residence in Islamabad tomorrow

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam Fazlur Rehman Group (JUI-F) have decided that their sub-committees will meet on Tuesday at 2 PM at the residence of Asad Qaiser in Parliament Lodges.

PTI will be represented by Barrister Gohar and Shibli Faraz, while JUI-F will have Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri and Kamran Murtaza on their side.

The decision for the sub-committees meeting was finalised after a consultation between JUI-F's negotiation committee and party head Maulana Fazlur Rehman.

During this meeting with the JUI-F chief, which included Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri, Aslam Ghauri, and Kamran

Murtaza, the discussions also covered Maulana Fazlur Rehman's recent meeting with President Asif Zardari.

It is worth mentioning that despite PTI's efforts, the sub-committees of both parties could not meet on Sunday as initially planned.

Last Friday, PTI delegation was called on Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam-Fazlur (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur-Rehman to discuss mutual cooperation in the parliament.

PTI delegation comprised PTI chief Barrister Gohar Ali, Asad Qaiser, Shibli Faraz and Rauf Hasan while JUI-F Secretary General Maulana Ghafoor Haideri, Maulana Latif-Ur-Rehman, Aslam Ghori and Maulana Amjad Khan attended the meeting.

During the meeting two sides



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Speaker National Assembly Murtaza Javed Abbasi called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

## Bolan railway blast leaves two dead, train service 'suspended'

BOLAN (INP): At least two dead and several others injured in a blast near a railway bridge in Bolan, Balochistan on Monday.

As per details, Kachhi SSP Dost Muhammad Bugti stated that six dead bodies were found in the mountains near Bolan including two bodies from the debris of the destroyed railway bridge and four others near the highway.

According to railway sources, the blast occurred last night in the Dozan area of Bolan, destroying a railway bridge which resulted in the suspension of train service.

The railway bridge collapse has halted train movement, and trains from Karachi and

Rawalpindi to Quetta and other parts of the country have been stopped, sources added.

Additionally, the Quetta section of the National Highway was also blocked by armed individuals last night, further disrupting transportation in the region.

In another horrific incident, armed men killed at least 23 passengers in Balochistan's Musakhel district after flooding them from trucks and buses.

According to SP Ayub Achakzai, armed men stopped the vehicles on the national highway in the Rarab Sham area of Musa Khel and killed at least 23 passengers hailing from different parts of Punjab.

During the action, the armed men also set 10 vehicles on fire.

SP Ayub Achakzai said the Frontier Corps (FC), police, and Levies currently in the process of transferring the bodies to the hospital.

Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfaraz Bugti strongly condemned the incident of terrorism. He expressed heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the families of those who died in the cowardly act of terrorists.

The terrorists and their facilitators will not be able to escape an exemplary end, he said, adding that the Balochistan government will pursue the terrorists.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb chaired the Steering Committee Meeting on the Pakistan Raises Revenue Program (PRRP) at the Finance Division.

## Pakistan's loan from International Monetary Fund (IMF) not on schedule again till Sept 4

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has released its schedule of meetings up to September 4, with Pakistan's name absent from the list once again.

Despite this, the Finance Ministry remains optimistic about securing approval for the \$7 billion bailout package from the IMF in September.

According to sources, the government is actively working to secure a rollover of \$12 billion in debt from China, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Additionally, Pakistan has reportedly requested another \$1.2 billion loan from Saudi Arabia to cover a \$2 billion financing gap. Pakistan already holds \$5 billion in cash deposits from Saudi Arabia, \$4 billion from China, and \$3 billion from the UAE.

Moreover, Pakistan faces an additional commercial debt burden

of \$4.5 billion, including obligations to China.

On August 23, Federal Minister for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb had said that the IMF Executive Board would approve the new loan program in September. Speaking to media in Islamabad, he had mentioned that discussions were ongoing with the IMF every second day, and China, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates had also given a positive response. He added that the friendly countries would take the international lender into confidence through executive directors.

The minister went on to say that Pakistan needed external financing of \$2 billion for the current fiscal year and \$3 billion during the next 37 months.

This is the third time that the IMF Executive Board has excluded Pakistan from its meeting schedule, when earlier it was expected that the global lender

## Online training on "Procurement Regulatory Framework" for procurement professionals

ISLAMABAD (INP): A day-long online training on "Procurement Regulatory Framework" for procurement professionals working in the higher education sector was organized by the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Division of Higher Education Commission (HEC) in collaboration with Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA).

Chairman HEC Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed was chief guest of the ceremony and the training was attended by over 130 officials of Higher Education.

Institutions (HEIs) from across the country through smart classrooms besides HEC officials from different divisions.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Mukhtar highlighted the roadmap of this initiative, out-

lining its objectives and potential impact on Pakistan's higher education landscape within the procurement domain.

He emphasized the importance of such programmes to improve the procurement system within the higher education sector through understanding of rules and to avoid inaccuracies.

Senior officials from PPRA delivered extensive lectures on procurement rules and demonstrated the advanced e-procurement process.

The workshop explored roles, key activities and methods used to drive value from the procurement process.

The interactive sessions focused upon the efficient and effective tendering strategy, including the completion of pre-qualification questionnaires, invitation to tender documents and evaluation methodologies under PPRA.

The training course provided the participants with an understanding of public sector procurement.

Providing an overview of key areas such as the legislative environment, rules, and documentation.

The forum also enabled the participants to discuss concepts and issues pertaining to procurement and audit through learning the key control issues in dealing with government resources and identifying the financial controls to prevent fraud, corruption and misprocurement.

HEC was committed to promote excellence in governmental and institutional procurement through education and professional development of professionals.

## Monsoon system to bring heavy rains to Pakistan

PESHAWAR (INP): A powerful new monsoon system is set to enter Pakistan, bringing heavy rains across Punjab and Sindh until August 29.

Heavy rainfall is expected across Sindh, including Karachi, Hyderabad, Dadu, Thatta, Badin, Sajawal, Shaheed Benazirabad, Jamshoro, Tando Allahyar, Tando Muhammad Khan, Tharparkar, Nagarparkar, Islamkot, Mithi, Mirpurkhas, Umerkot, Matiari, Sanghar, and Sukkur, accompanied by thunderstorms.

Ghotki, Shikarpur, Kashmore, Khairpur, Larkana, Jacobabad, and Naushahro Feroze may experience strong winds, intermittent showers, and possibly severe thunderstorms, according to the Pakistan Meteorological Department.

In Southeast Sindh, heavy rainfall could lead to flooding in

low-lying areas, disrupt daily life, and cause damage to weak infrastructure such as mud houses, walls, electric poles, billboards, vehicles, and solar panels, with potential road closures.

The Pakistan Meteorological Department has also warned fishermen to avoid venturing into the sea between August 27 and 30 due to the possibility of rough waters. In anticipation of the heavy rainfall, Karachi has declared a state of emergency, cancelled all municipal staff leaves, and Mayor Murtaza Wahab has instructed municipal services to remain on high alert.

Meanwhile, the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) has issued a fresh alert for more monsoon rains in Punjab from today. Heavy rains are expected in Murree, Galiyat, Attock, Chakwal, Talagang, Mianwali, Sargodha, Jhelum, Sialkot, Narowal, Bahawalpur,



ISLAMABAD: General Li Qiangming, PLA Ground Forces Commander of China, called on Federal Minister for Defence & Defence Production, Khawaja Mohammad Asif.

## Islamabad High Court (IHC) adjourns internet slowdown case till Sept 03

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) adjourned the case pertaining to internet slowdown and installation of a firewall until September 03.

The government failed to provide a satisfactory reply about the reason behind slowdown of the internet speed, to the high court.

The bench adjourned the case and summoned a detailed report by the next hearing on September 03. The court also summoned the Member Technical in person.

Chief Justice Aamir Farooq remarked that the ministers' issuing contradictory statements, they are saying at a time it is firewall or denying

it next time.

"The case has also been pending in Lahore High Court but no one taking responsibility here," chief justice said. "Submit report if it is the issue of security or national interest. The court wants to know what is ongoing," the bench observed. "The issue is not the result of our any installation," deputy attorney general told the court.

PTA's lawyer clarified that the internet is running but the WhatsApp has been affected and not sending audios and videos properly. Chairman PTA has said that the web operating system being upgraded, he said.

The business community and everyone complaining for more than 10 days, the issue comes for a night but this problem continuing for 12 to 14 days, the bench remarked.

Pakistan Telecommunications Authority (PTA) and the Ministry for Human Rights have been made respondents in the petition challenging internet slowdown and installation of a firewall on the Islamabad High Court.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Energy, Awais Ahmed Khan Laghari, chairing a meeting at FESCO Headquarters.