

# QUETTA VOICE

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Screenshot: President Asif Ali Zardari signs Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (Peca) bill.

## DUKI: IED Blast Near Yaro City on Ziarat Road, No Casualties Reported

From Our Correspondent:

**DUKI:** An improvised explosive device (IED) blast occurred near Yaro City on Ziarat Road, Levis sources confirmed. Fortunately, no casualties or damage were reported.



According to Levis officials, the IED was placed inside a black plastic bag on the roadside. The explosion took place as a pickup vehicle heading towards Loni passed by, but both the vehicle and passengers remained unharmed.

Security forces have launched an investigation into the incident. Authorities are on high alert to prevent further such attacks in the area.

## Weather system to bring rain and temperature drop across Pakistan this weekend

**NEWS DESK:** A rain-bearing weather system is expected to enter Pakistan between January 31 and February 1, bringing cooler temperatures and relief from the ongoing dry spell. The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has forecasted. According to the PMD, dry weather has prevailed across Punjab, leading to gradually rising temperatures. Lahore and several upper Punjab districts are likely to receive light rainfall in the coming days, which could temporarily lower the temperature. The approaching rain system is expected to restore some winter chill, reducing day-time warmth. However, meteorologists warn that climate change has shortened the duration of winter this year, leading to unseasonably warm afternoons and colder nights. Lahore recorded a minimum temperature of 7°C today, with a maximum expected to reach 24°C. The dry weather has caused a gradual increase in temperatures, and experts say rainfall will be necessary to maintain a seasonal balance. Authorities advise residents to prepare for fluctuating weather conditions as rain showers could impact daily activities in some regions.

## President Zardari Signs PECA Amendments Despite Widespread Opposition

From Our Correspondent:

**ISLAMABAD:** President Asif Ali Zardari has approved the controversial amendments to the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) 2016, despite strong opposition from journalists, media organizations, and human rights groups. The amendments were passed by the Senate just a day earlier, triggering nationwide protests. Critics argue that the changes restrict freedom of expression, with media professionals calling it a direct threat to press freedom. The opposition PTI has strongly condemned the move, accusing the government of rushing the bill through parliament. Meanwhile, the PPP, facing backlash for supporting the amendments, has hinted at possible revisions to address concerns raised by journalists. International rights groups, including Amnesty International and the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, have also raised alarms over the law's impact on digital freedoms. The amendments are expected to

bring significant changes to Pakistan's cyber laws, with concerns that they could be used to curb dissent and tighten control over online content. "The president, at the request of Maulana Fazlur Rehman, has halted the bill for some time till PRA Pakistan sends its suggestions," the statement said. As per the Constitution, the president can return the bill once to the parliament but when sent to him again, assent will be deemed as granted even if he does not sign it within ten days. According to the statement, a delegation of the PRA met with Fazl, chief of the Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F), following which the seasoned politician contacted the president. The PRA said Fazl expressed his complete solidarity with the association on their reservations against the Peca bill's "approval without consultations". The JUI-F supreme relayed the concerns voiced by the PRA delegation and its president Usman

Khan, the press release added. Fazl strongly urged President Zardari not to immediately sign the Peca amendment bill, highlighting that "journalists across the country have objected to certain sections of it" and calling for those concerns to be alleviated. The PRA statement further said the president had assured the JUI-F leader of "full cooperation". It claimed that Zardari also promised the association that consultations would be held between the PRA and Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi. JUI-F Senator Kamran Murtaza told Dawn.com following the president's assent that Zardari had assured the party that he would not sign the bill immediately. "Asif Zardari should have kept the commitment he made with us," Murtaza added. He claimed that the president had said that the matter would be discussed in a meeting with Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi. Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ).

## Quetta's Kasi Road Birds Market | A Haven for Bird Lovers

Manan Mandokhail:

**QUETTA:** The ancient birds market on Kasi Road, located in the heart of Quetta's commercial hub, continues to attract bird lovers from across Balochistan and beyond. Known for its rich variety, the market offers everything from exotic parrots to common sparrows and rabbits.

The market, deeply rooted in Quetta's history, remains a major attraction, particularly for children fascinated by the chirping sounds of birds in cages.



Visitors often stop by as they pass through the bustling area, captivated by the colorful display of birds. Traders and bird enthusiasts from different parts of Balochistan frequently visit to buy and sell birds, making it a key marketplace in the region.

As a bird lover, I come here often to buy parrots and pigeons. This market has a unique collection, said Nisar, a visitor browsing outside a

bird shop. Another bird enthusiast, Salam, shared his experience: "I've been coming here for years. The sounds of birds and the variety available make this place special."

Despite modernization, the Kasi Road Birds Market retains its traditional charm, offering a glimpse into Quetta's heritage. With its unique collection and vibrant atmosphere, it remains a must-visit destination for bird lovers and traders alike.

## PTI meets Fazlur Rehman, invites JUI-F to join opposition alliance

**NEWS DESK:** A delegation of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) met with Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman at his residence on Tuesday, extending an invitation to join the opposition's grand alliance against the government. According to Express News, the PTI delegation included Opposition Leader Omar Ayub, Salman Akram Raja, Asad Qaiser, Hamid Raza, and Akhunda Yousofzai. During the meeting, the PTI leaders proposed JUI-F's participation in the formation of a government-opposing alliance. To facilitate discussions, a joint committee was also formed, comprising Senator Kamran Murtaza from JUI-F and Asad Qaiser from PTI. Speaking to the media after the meeting, Ayub expressed concerns about the government's lack of transparency. He stated, "The government promised an unmonitored meeting with the founding chairman, but failed to fulfill that commitment. Additionally, a raid was conducted at Hamid Raza's residence. Our efforts here are aimed at promoting democracy." PTI General Secretary Salman Akram Raja revealed that the delegation briefed Rehman about the opposition's stance on key



issues, including the reconstruction of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). "We informed Maulana about the government's intentions and emphasized the significance of restructuring the ECP. Letters regarding these concerns have been sent, and Maulana attentively listened to our perspective. There is significant potential for progress," he added. JUI-F's Senator Murtaza, while addressing the media, shared details of the discussions. "We welcomed PTI leaders, and Maulana Fazlur Rehman listened to their points attentively. The primary focus was on the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and two ECP members, alongside broader issues such as ending interference in elections. As a step forward, we have formed a two-member provisional committee to oversee these matters, with Asad Qaiser and myself as members."

## 15-Year-Old Girl Killed for Using TikTok in Quetta: Investigation Underway

Staff Reporter:

**QUETTA:** A 15-year-old girl tragically lost her life in Quetta after being targeted for her activity on TikTok. The authorities have launched an investigation to uncover the circumstances behind the incident. The young teenager, known for her Tik Tok videos, was reportedly killed in an isolated area. The girl had arrived from America and reportedly she was a US national. Preliminary reports suggest that the incident may have been linked to her social media presence, though law enforcement officials are still gathering evidence. The incident has sparked wide-

spread shock and condemnation, particularly on social media, where many expressed concerns over the safety of young individuals involved in online platforms. Balochistan's Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, has vowed to ensure a thorough investigation and bring those responsible to justice. As investigations continue, the authorities have asked the public to refrain from speculation and to cooperate with law enforcement. The tragic death has raised serious concerns about the safety and security of minors using social media in the region.



## FIA DG, K-P-IG removed over administrative failures

**NEWS DESK:** The federal government has removed Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Director General Ahmed Ishaque Jehangir and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) Inspector General of Police Akhtar Hayat, citing administrative failures, officials confirmed on Monday. Jehangir has been reassigned as an Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the Establishment Division, Express News reported. His removal comes amid growing concerns over human trafficking, with sources linking the decision to the FIA's slow response to migrant boat tragedies. Pakistan has witnessed multiple deadly migrant incidents in recent months, including the capsizing of a boat off the Moroccan coast earlier this month, which killed at least 50 people, most of them Pakistanis. The FIA has faced criticism over its handling of such cases, with reports suggesting the prime minister approved Jehangir's dismissal due to the slow pace of investigations. Meanwhile, the government

has also removed KP police chief Akhtar Hayat, appointing Zulfiqar Hameed in his place.

Officials cited the deteriorating security situation in the province, particularly rising violence in Kurram and law enforcement's failure to maintain order. Hayat had also instructed police officers in November 2024 to refrain from participating in political activities amid Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protests.

His removal follows months of federal criticism over K-P's handling of law and order. The Establishment Division has begun shortlisting candidates for the new FIA chief, while a formal notification confirming Hameed's appointment as K-P-IG has been issued.



**School Meal Program in Balochistan – A Step Towards Better Education and Nutrition** Continued to page 2

**UNDP Empowers Balochistan: Education, Climate, and Healthcare Initiatives** Continued to page 2

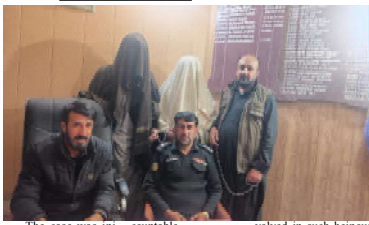
**Suspects Arrested in Double Murder Case, Weapons Recovered: DPO Zhob** Continued to page 3





Suspects Arrested in Double Murder Case, Weapons Recovered: DPO Zhob

ZHOBB: Police have arrested suspects involved in the murder of two individuals in connection with FIR No. 18/2025, registered under Sections 302 and 34 of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) in Zhob.



Ali Khan Mandokhail: The case was initially registered against unidentified assailants, but diligent police efforts led to the breakthrough.

According to DPO Agha, the suspects were traced and apprehended using advanced investigative techniques and scientific methods. During the operation, law enforcement recovered two Kalashnikov rifles and the vehicle used in the crime.



ISLAMABAD: A European Union (EU) delegation led by H.E. Ambassador Olof Skoog, the EU Special Representative for Human Rights, along with H.E. Dr. Rina Kinoka, the EU Ambassador to Pakistan, met with Senator Azam Naezer Tarar, Federal Minister for Law, Justice, and Human Rights, at the Ministry of Human Rights.

Gandhara Cultural Festival brings Pakistan's rich cultural heritage to life

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Gandhara Cultural Festival, held at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) on Wednesday, brought Pakistan's rich cultural heritage to life, celebrating the ancient Gandhara civilization and promoting eco-tourism.

European Union issues quality alerts on Pakistan's rice exports

News Desk: A recent revelation has brought to light that substandard and counterfeit rice has been exported from Pakistan to the European Union (EU).



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, welcomed a delegation from BGI Group, led by Dr. Wang Jian, Chairman BGI South Asia, to discuss enhanced cooperation in food security, agricultural genomics, and research.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of leading US Investors led by Mr. Gentry Beach called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Govt decides to give fuming Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) a little more leeway

NEWS DESK: The government has decided to give one more chance to the PTI to re-join the dialogue after the opposition party did not turn up for the fourth round of talks on Tuesday, in which the government had promised to share its response with its charter of demands.

Punjab CM decides to establish PSPA to tackle illegal housing societies

LAHORE (INP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has decided to establish the Punjab Special Planning Authority (PSPA) to tackle illegal housing societies.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan presents a commemorative souvenir to US Charge d'Affaires Natalie A. Baker at the conclusion of their meeting, highlighting the strengthening of Pakistan-US trade and investment ties.

(HEC) through its NCRC updates Commerce degree curricula

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Higher Education Commission (HEC), through its National Curriculum Review Committee (NCRC), has updated the Commerce degree curricula to align with contemporary business challenges.

TENDER NOTICE: The Deputy Director, Agriculture On Farm Water Management, Karachi, invites sealed Tenders for installation of various development works under the PSPDP 2024-25 schemes.



# TRANSFORMING EDUCATION IN BALOCHISTAN: A VISION FOR THE FUTURE



Secretary Education, Saleh Muhammad Nasar

"The Education Department of Balochistan is dedicated to implementing sustainable reforms that enhance learning outcomes and school environments. With initiatives like financial management training for head teachers, infrastructure improvement, and assessment programs, we are raising the bar for education in the province. Our focus remains on ensuring that every child has access to quality education, supported by well-trained teachers and modern facilities. These measures reflect the government's commitment to fostering education as a means of social and economic upliftment. Education is the key to unlocking the potential of our future generations."



Education Minister, Rahila Hameed Khan Durrani

"Education is the cornerstone of development, and we are proud to launch transformative initiatives that empower both students and teachers in Balochistan. From teacher training to introducing smart technologies, we are equipping our schools to meet modern educational standards. The reopening of 900 schools and support for student well-being showcase our commitment to inclusive education. We believe in fostering a culture of learning that benefits not only individuals but also communities and the province as a whole. These efforts will pave the way for a progressive and educated Balochistan."



Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti

"Our government is unwavering in its commitment to revolutionizing education across Balochistan. These initiatives reflect our vision to provide quality learning environments and ensure access to education for all children, even in the remotest areas. By empowering teachers, improving infrastructure, and launching innovative programs like the School Meal Program, we are investing in our youth and securing a brighter future. Education is not just a priority; it is the foundation for the progress of Balochistan. Together, let us continue to build a knowledge-driven and prosperous society."

## SUBTITLES:

- 1- Empowering Teachers for Quality Education**
  - 2,170 Primary Teachers trained in General Pedagogy
  - 1,197 Teachers upskilled in Numeracy
  - Specialized Training for 166 Teachers in English and 1,000 in Mental Health Support
  - 600 Head Teachers equipped with Financial Management expertise
- 2- Advancing Curriculum and Learning Materials**
  - Curriculum & Textbook Review Mechanisms Established
  - Focus on Foundational Literacy & Numeracy (Grades 1-5)
  - Feedback Units operational at BoC & BTBB levels
- 3- Strengthening Student Assessment**
  - Provincial Assessment of Student Learning (PASL) Launched
  - Baseline Assessment Study for Remedial Program (BASRP-2024)
- 4- School Development and Infrastructure**
  - 3,000 Schools receive grants under the School Development Plan (SDP)
  - Needs identified and supervised by Parent-Teacher Committee
  - Significant improvements in school environments
- 5- Appointments, Promotions, and Reopening of Schools**
  - 2,309 Teachers appointed; process ongoing for 3,891 advertised posts
  - 1,863 Officers and Teachers promoted to higher grades
  - 900 non-functional schools reopened since March 2024
- 6- Initiatives for Student Well-being and Access**
  - School Meal Program: 13,600 students in 39 schools receive meals and financial aid
  - Rehabilitation of playgrounds and promotion of sports activities
  - Smart Boards, Science, and IT Labs introduced in schools
- 7- Commitment to Inclusive Education**
  - Missing facilities provided for better access
  - Transport services to ensure education in remote areas
  - Visual Elements:
    - Top Banner: Smiling children in classrooms showcasing empowerment and education.
    - Middle Section: Photos of teachers in training sessions, school playgrounds, and students with smart boards.
    - Bottom Section: Happy families benefiting from the School Meal Program and revamped school environments.

