

# QUETTA VOICE

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## Pandemonium Erupts in Balochistan Assembly During Women Harassment Bill Presentation

Manan Mandokhail,

Qasem Shah:

QUETTA: A heated debate and pandemonium gripped the Balochistan Assembly on Monday as Parliamentary Secretary for Women Development, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi, presented a bill aimed at curbing harassment against women in the province.

While tabling the anti-women harassment bill, Dr. Buledi passionately urged lawmakers to pass the legislation, stating that several harassment cases were pending due to the absence of a legal framework. "Without this law, the victims are left without justice, and the accused cannot be prosecuted," she told the house.

However, as she continued presenting the bill, opposition members, including Zabi Ali Reki of JUI-F and others, stood up in protest. They accused the government of ignoring the opposi-



tion during the drafting process.

"We respect women and support their rights, but our voices must also be heard. Why does the committee on this critical issue consist only of male members?" one opposition lawmaker questioned.

The situation quickly escalated into a shouting match, disrupting the proceedings and forcing the chair to intervene. Due to the uproar, the assembly session could not continue, and the bill's tabling was postponed once again.

This is not the first time the bill has been delayed, raising concerns among women's rights advocates and civil society members who demand swift legislative action against harassment in the province.

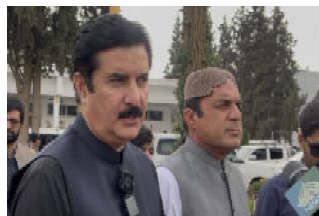
## KP Governor Accuses PTI Govt of Corruption, Says Province Handed Over to Terrorists

Syed Ali Shah:

QUETTA: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi has levelled serious corruption allegations against the PTI-led provincial government, accusing it of handing over the province to terrorists and failing to address public grievances.

Speaking to reporters outside the Balochistan Assembly, Governor Kundi said the PTI government had completely failed to deliver and accused the provincial cabinet, including the Chief Minister, of massive embezzlement involving billions of rupees. "The people are crying for help, but this government is not responding. The province is at the mercy of terrorists," he said.

He strongly condemned the



recent bomb blast that claimed the lives of innocent children, stating that this was not the first time such an attack had occurred. "A similar

bombing happened in Khyber, and now terrorists have targeted children again in Balochistan. This is unacceptable," he said.

Governor Kundi vowed that the perpetrators would be brought to justice and that the provincial government would take strong action against those responsible.

He also praised the efforts of the Pakistan Peoples Party-led provincial government, saying Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti was committed to restoring peace and responding effectively to terrorist threats.

"These terrorist attacks are being orchestrated by agents of the Indian government and intelligence agencies," he claimed.

Governor Kundi reiterated his resolve to protect the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and hold accountable those endangering their lives.

He also stated that the inter-

## Upcoming budget to feature 'bold measures': Aurangzeb

NEWS DESK: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb said on Monday that Pakistan's upcoming federal budget for fiscal year 2025-26 will introduce bold measures and provide a strategic direction for the country's economy.

Addressing an event organised by Karandaaz Pakistan and the Pakistan Banks Association (PBA) in Islamabad,

According to a report by Business Recorder, Aurangzeb said the budget will not only focus on revenue and expenditure but will also outline the broader

national community recognises Pakistan's economic turnaround and the macroeconomic stability the country has achieved.

However, Aurangzeb cautioned against repeating past mistakes, saying previous macroeconomic stability efforts had faltered due to "consumption-led growth" which triggered balance of payment and foreign exchange problems.

"To break away from the boom and bust cycle, Pakistan needs to stay the course on structural reforms," he said.



economic path ahead.

"We are going to bring some bold measures during the budget for FY2025-26," he said, stressing the importance of making the budget document "more strategic" rather than simply "making the math work."

The federal budget is scheduled to be presented on June 10, 2025, while the Pakistan Economic Survey 2024-25 will be released a day earlier, on June 9.

Aurangzeb emphasised the need for export-led growth and expressed satisfaction that Pakistan's economy has surpassed the \$400 billion mark, signalling positive progress.

He also stated that the inter-

The minister underlined the government's commitment to ongoing reforms in taxation, energy, and State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs), along with the right-sizing of the federal government to ensure sustainable growth.

He admitted that progress on SOE reforms lagged last year but promised the government would accelerate efforts, including the relaunch of the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) privatisation transaction, which he expressed optimism about.

Aurangzeb highlighted plans to simplify the tax return filing process for salaried taxpayers, aiming to reduce the number of required measures from 140-150 to

## Thunderstorms, strong winds forecast for upper and central Pakistan

NEWS DESK: The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has issued a weather alert for widespread wind-thunderstorms across the upper and central parts of the country from the night of May 27 to May 31.

The department said that most currents are entering the upper and central regions, and a westerly wave is expected to move into northern areas by May 28, triggering active weather patterns.

Areas likely to be affected include Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan, Islamabad, Balawapora, Rajpur, Dera Ghazi Attock, Chakwal, Jhelum, Mianwali, Sargodha, Hafizabad, Mandi Bahauddin, Sialkot,

Narawal, Okara, Lahore, Faisalabad, Jhang, Toba Tek Singh, Gujranwala, Gujrat, Sheikhupura, Chitral, Dir, Swat, Malakand, Mansehra, Battagram, Shangla, Kohistan, Abbottabad, Haripur, Peshawar, Mardan, Swabi, Nowshera, Mohmand, Khyber, Orakzi, Kurram, Bannu, Lakki Marwat, Kohat, Karak and Waziristan.

Isolated heavy rainfall, hailstorms, and lightning are also forecast.

Light to moderate rain and windstorms are also expected in parts of Balochistan and southern Punjab including Multan, Bahawalpur, Rajpur, Dera Ghazi Khan, and Zhob between May 27 and May 30, with breaks in between.

## Justice Mandokhail questions PTI joining Sunni Ittehad Council as SC live-streams reserved seats case

NEWS DESK: Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail questioned the PTI's decision to merge with the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) during last year's elections as the Supreme Court's constitutional bench (CB) heard review pleas against a ruling that had declared the main opposition party eligible for reserved seats. In its July 12, 2024 short order, eight out of 13 judges ruled that 39 out of a list of 80 MNAs were and are the returned candidates of the PTI, setting it to emerge as the single largest party in the National Assembly.

However, the ruling had not been implemented by the National Assembly, while the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) had raised some objections. The review petitions against the SC order had been filed by the PML-N, the PPP and the ECP.

An 11-member CB led by Justice Aminuddin Khan resumed the hearing today after Justices Ayesha A. Malik and Aqeel Ahmed Abbasi had dismissed the review petitions on the first day of hearings. The CB live-streamed its proceedings for the first time today, after accepting the SIC's application for its last week. The hearing was live-streamed on the SC's YouTube channel.

The other 10 members of the bench were Justices Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi, Musarat Hilali, Naqem Akhter Afghan, Shahid Bilal Hassan, Muhammad Hashim Khan Kakar, Salahuddin Panwar, Aamer Farooq and Ali Bagar Najafi.

During today's hearing, Justice Mandokhail observed that it was not a political party that con-

tested the elections but rather its candidates.

He further noted that the problem of reserved seats would not have arisen had the review petitions on the first day of hearings. The CB live-streamed its proceedings for the first time today, after accepting the SIC's application for its last week. The hearing was live-streamed on the SC's YouTube channel.

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## 'Ready to talk with India', PM Shehbaz says during meeting with Iranian President in Tehran

NEWS DESK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday expressed his willingness to talk with India to resolve ongoing disputes between the two countries, including the Kashmir issue and water security, during his visit to Iran.

The PM is currently on a four-nation tour to friendly countries, where he will express his gratitude for supporting Pakistan during the recent military escalation with India.

Earlier on Monday, PM Shehbaz was received Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian at Saadabad Palace in the Iranian capital, where he received a guard of honour.

Addressing a joint press conference with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, PM Shehbaz said that the two countries' delegations had a "very productive and useful meeting" which covered all areas of our mutual interests and cooperation.

"There was total agreement that our two brotherly and neighbourly countries must enhance our cooperation in the field of trade, investments, commerce, in fact, every walk of life," he said.

The prime minister said that he thanked Pezeshkian for his



support during the military conflict with India and emphasised that both nations have deep-rooted cultural ties and historical relations, adding that they decided to turn these relations into a "very productive cooperation in various fields of life". "My dear brother, I deeply appreciate your sense of concern and brotherly feelings for the people of Pakistan and your ardent desire that this crisis comes to a grinding halt before it, God forbid, escalates," Shehbaz said,

addressing the Iranian president.

The PM also lauded Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi for visiting Pakistan during the military escalation, calling him an "outstanding diplomat" and stating that they had a "heart to heart discussion". "Pakistan came out of this conflict victorious, through our brave actions, through our outstanding armed forces," Shehbaz said.

"We wanted peace, we want peace and we will work for peace in the region, but we need to take the initiative to resolve our outstanding issues, including the Kashmir problem, according to the resolutions passed by the (United Nations) Security Council ... and even by Indian Lok Sabha (parliament) back in 1954," he added, speaking about when then-Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru committed to a plebiscite in the disputed territory. "We are ready to talk, for the sake of peace on water is-

sues with our neighbour," he continued. "We are ready to talk to promote trade and also, counter-terrorism if they're serious."

"But if they choose to remain aggressors, then we shall defend our territory ... like we have done a few days ago," he added. "But if they accept my offer of peace, then we will show that we really want peace, seriously and sincerely." According to PTV News, the PM touched down at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport on Monday afternoon, where he was received by Iranian Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni, Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan Reza Amiri Moqadam, Pakistani Ambassador to Iran Mudassar Tipu, and senior diplomatic officials.

"Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir, Interior Minister Mohsin Raza Naqvi, Federal Information Minister Attaullah Tarar, and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Syed Tariq Fatemi are part of the delegation accompanying the Prime Minister on his visit to Iran," the broadcaster wrote in a post on X.

The PM and his delegation will also meet Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali

Khamenei "to discuss bilateral matters as well as important regional issues".

During a two-day visit to Turkey on Sunday, he had a delegation-level meeting with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, where he thanked Turkey for their support during the recent conflict and discussed bilateral trade and investment between the two nations.

PTV News reported that PM Shehbaz was seen off by senior Turkish officials at Istanbul Airport today. "Turkish Defense Minister Yashar Guler, Deputy Governor of Istanbul Ilker Haktan Kacmaz, Burhan Kayatürk, President of the Pakistan-Turkey Cultural Association, Yousaf Junaid, Pakistan's Ambassador to Turkey, Numan Aslam, Consul General in Istanbul, senior Turkish government officials, and Pakistani diplomats stationed in Turkey saw off the Prime Minister at Istanbul Airport," PTV News said in a post on X. "The purpose of the Prime Minister's visit was to thank the people of Turkey, and especially President Erdogan, for their strong cooperation and support in the recent tensions between Pakistan and India," the post added.

**Polio Crisis Worsens in Balochistan: 23 Cases, Flawed Strategy Under Fire**

Continued to page 2

**Kashmiris will never compromise on demand for self-determination: Dr. Fai**

Continued to page 3

**Sindh CM urges MPs to take active ownership of polio eradication campaign**

Continued to page 4





## London house fire claims lives of four Pakistani-origin family members

LONDON (INP): A devastating fire in the northwest London borough of Brent has claimed the lives of four members of a British family of Pakistani origin, according to UK media reports.

Emergency services were called to Tillet Close in Stonebridge, Brent, at 1.22am on Saturday after the blaze broke out at a residential

property. A 43-year-old woman and three children — a 15-year-old girl, an eight-year-old boy, and a four-year-old boy — were pronounced dead at the scene.

British media also reported that a man has been arrested on suspicion of murder, as authorities treat the fire as a potential arson attack. While investigations continue,

no further details about the arrested individual have been released. Two additional victims, a 70-year-old woman and a young girl were rescued and transported to a

nearby hospital in injured condition. Their medical status has not yet been disclosed. The victims' next of kin have been informed, and police are appealing for any-

one with information to contact them. The affected family had reportedly moved to the United Kingdom from Pakistan nearly two decades ago. The tragedy has sent shockwaves through the local community, with authorities continuing to investigate the cause of the fire and any possible criminal motive.



QUETTA: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi meeting with Acting Governor Balochistan Captain (R) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai.

## Kashmiris will never compromise on demand for self-determination: Dr. Fai

BALTIMORE (INP): Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, Chairman, World Forum for Peace & Justice citing international policy making experts and agencies has warned that the Kashmir dispute has the potential of large-scale international conflict with the possibility of nuclear confrontation.

According to Kashmir Media Service, speaking during the 50th Annual Convention of Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA) on the topic of "The Struggle of Kashmir: Justice and Freedom of a Forgotten People", Dr. Fai cautioned that Kashmir has produced two wars between India and Pakistan and a third cannot be ruled out unless a resolution is sought to the satisfaction of all parties concerned.

He emphasized that recent nuclear tension between India and Pakistan is a proof that although paused so that sanity shall prevail, but it has not ended altogether.

The timely intervention by President Donald J. Trump persuaded both India and Pakistan to have an immediate ceasefire, otherwise the world would

have witnessed the dangerous war games between two nuclear armed countries with devastating consequences and tens of millions of people would have been absorbed and destroyed by war and coming generations would have suffered from the ramifications of nuclear disaster.

"Global initiative, like the one initiated by President Trump in Kashmir will not only end the bloodshed and suffering in Kashmir, but also have a direct positive effect on international security by eliminating regional fighting, and national tensions."

It is in everyone's interest to settle the Kashmir conflict peacefully without further delay," Fai added. Fai remarked that there is a threat to fundamental human rights in Kashmir of expression and freedom of opinion. If you dare to speak out against Indian army in Kashmir, you will be immediately put behind the bars or even eliminated.

One prime example is that of Khuram Parvez, Chairman of Philippines-based 'Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances' who documented 550 pages report on The Structure of Violence in Kashmir, (TSOV). Khuram delivered the hard copies of the report to the office of 'UN High Commissioner on Human Rights' Office of the 'UN Secretary General', many international NGO's and various dignitaries. Although Khuram Parvez was recognized as one of the 100 most influential people of the world by 'US-based' Time Magazine in 2022 but he can no longer present this report to anybody anymore because he was arrested by the National Investigative Agency (NIA) of India on November 21, 2021, under terror law, Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA). Mary Lawlor, the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defender tweeted: "Khuram Parvez is not a terrorist. He is a Human Rights Defender."

Another example is that of Mohammad Yasin Malik, one of the most recognizable leaders of Kashmiri political resistance movement who was arrested on August 8, 2024. The plan and intentions of the current fascist regime are more sinister

when it comes to the case of Yasin Malik. The international community must take cognizance of the historical behavior of India. By eliminating peace-loving leaders like Yasin Malik, the Indian regime is closing any avenue of peace in the region and pushing the youth of Kashmir towards actions that can be detrimental to the peaceful resolution of Kashmir conflict.

"The situation in Kashmir is a living proof that the people of Kashmir will not compromise, far less abandon, their demand for self-determination which is their birthright and for which they have paid a price unparalleled in the history of South Asia," Dr. Fai concluded.

Sardar Zarf Khan, Advisor to the President of Azad Kashmir, Sardar Shouh Ishaq, General Secretary, Kashmir American Welfare Association (KAWA), Sardar Zeeshan Khan, young human rights activist, and a delegation of Kashmiri Americans from Boston, including, Choudhary Irfan Ul Hassan, Choudhary Ejaz Ul Hassan, Choudhary Imran Ul Hassan, Hamza Irfan Choudhary traveled from long distances to attend the session.

Framework 2025, which offers tax incentives, expedited licensing under the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC). "Our goal is to transform mineral wealth into industrial growth and human development," he asserted.

Shaikh Muhammad Sharif, Vice President of the National Bank of Pakistan, echoed these sentiments, stressing the financial sector's commitment to supporting mining ventures. "CPEC-driven projects are unlocking new avenues for sustainable financing, ensuring that the future and energy initiatives align with long-term economic resilience," he remarked.



QUETTA: Deputy Commissioner Quetta Captain (R) Mehrullah Badini checking worksheets during a five-day anti-polio campaign.



QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretary Mir Muhammad Khan Lehtri talking to Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti during the assembly session

## World's most expensive purple mango now grown in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): The cultivation of the world's most expensive mango, the rare Japanese-origin Miyazaki — has begun in Karachi's Malir Memon Goth, where it is being sold at a staggering rate of Rs 300,000 per kilogram.

It is known for its striking purple color and unmatched sweetness. The Miyazaki mango was first grown in Japan's Miyazaki city. On in-

ternational markets, its price ranges from \$800 to \$900 per kilogram, making it one of the costliest fruits globally.

Now, this exotic mango is being harvested successfully in Pakistan and fetching up to Rs 250,000 to Rs 300,000 locally.

The remarkable journey of this fruit to Pakistan soil began six years ago when Ghulam Hashim Noorani imported its sapling from Japan.

Since then, he has been cultivating the mango in Malir with notable success. According to Faheem, the gardener responsible for nurturing the tree, the mangoes are primarily prepared for export. "This is the first and only Miyazaki mango tree in Pakistan, and it's right here in Malir," he said. What makes the Miyazaki mango extraordinary is its deep purple hue, lus-

cious pulp, and unmatched taste. It is ultra-sweet, juicy, aromatic, and melts in the mouth like cream. Remarkably, the fruit is fiberless and has an exceptionally soft texture when sliced. Owing to its premium quality and rarity, the mango has earned nicknames such as "Eggs of Sunshine" and "Dinosaur's Egg" due to its radiant colouring and unique shape.

## Keacy Carly 170 headlines West Indies' massive series-leveelling win

LONDON (INP): Keacy Carly's career-best 170 and supporting acts from Shah Hope and Justin Greaves helped West Indies hammer Ireland by 197 runs in the DLS method in the third over of Ireland's first innings.

Carty hit his second hundred in as many games while Hope and Greaves scored half-centuries to power West Indies to their second-highest ODI total before a fiery opening spell from Jaferul Seale and the third wicket of West Indies in the first eight overs of Ireland's first innings.

Barry McCarthy was once again the star

couple of overs before the rain broke during his debut start.

When play resumed after a short rain delay, Harry Tector was brought into the attack and Hope welcomed him with a six over square leg.

Liam McCarthy created a few chances with his extra bounce. Carty's cut off him went low to Tector at backward point but he was slow to react. Two balls later, Hope got an outside edge through the vacant slips cordon.

Hope kept the tempo up during his run-bail 75 before he tried to pull one that wasn't short enough from an arm ball from George Dockrell and held out to long-off.

But Jango's struggles came to an end as he tried to take on a Doakrell and held out to long-off.

## Mysterious deaths in Rajouri, Udhampur trigger public outcry; foul play feared

JAMMU (INP): Two separate incidents of mysterious deaths involving a young woman in Rajouri and a man in Udhampur districts of Jammu region within a gap of hours, have raised serious concerns among locals, prompting demands for fair investigations into both cases.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the body of a young woman, identified as Sonia Akhtar of Kewal Upper, was found near Haya bridge in Budhal under unexplained circumstances. A passerby first noticed the body and alerted Budhal Police, who rushed to the scene and took the deceased into custody for medico-legal formalities.

The sudden nature of Sonia's death and the location of the body raised suspicions among locals, who gathered at the site and staged a protest demanding a thorough and impartial probe. The protest was led by senior PDP leader Mohammad Farooq Ingolabi. Protesters alleged that Sonia may have been murdered and demanded swift justice, voicing fears of a possible cover-up if prompt action was not taken. In response to the public outcry,

SP Operations Budhal, Wajahat Hussain, visited the protest site and held talks with the aggrieved family and community members. He assured them that a case had already been registered at Police Station Budhal and that the investigation would proceed transparently and comprehensively.

Meanwhile, in a separate incident in Udhampur district, a 40-year-old man reportedly died under mysterious circumstances. Police said Rishabh Singh was found hanging in Shiv Nagar, Udhampur.

Police were informed and a team from Police Station Udhampur shifted the body to District Hospital Udhampur for post-mortem examination. Authorities have registered a case and launched an investigation to ascertain the cause behind the extreme heat and a team from Police Station Udhampur shifted the body to District Hospital Udhampur for post-mortem examination.

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**TENDER NOTICE**

Sealed bids for work on Form 1/1 & 1/2 as per schedule 2 are invited from the approved Government Contractors/Firms of Public Health Engineering Department Balochistan registered with BPRA who are entitled to remove their name for the current financial year 2024-25 for the following works. E-money 2% in shape of CDD, Time Limit 15 days for each work

S.No.	Name of Work	Qty	Est
1.	CONSTRUCTION OF WATER SUPPLY SCHEME AT DIFFERENT VILLAGES OF DISTRICT JAFFARABAD NASEERABAD (PSS SUBAHWAH) (RE-TENDER)		
1)	DO OF BORE TSE-24250572603	1 job	837,771/-
2)	CONSTR OF PUMP HOUSE TSE-24250572713	1 job	1,636,318/-
3)	CIVIL WORK TSE-24250572723	1 job	944,371/-
4)	CONSTR OF USTAF 10000G TSE-24250572733	1 job	2,900,889/-

The office of the Executive Engineer PHE District Uda Muhammad invites technical proposal of Contractors/Firms along with sealed financial proposals (Single Stage-One Envelope) for above mentioned works. All interested bidders are required to submit documents as per following briefs in support of their technical/financial proposal. The procurement shall be carried out in accordance with Balochistan Public Procurement Regulations, Rules 2014 and Pakistan Engineering Council in required Category in relevant disciplinary code and fresh registration with tax authorities in NTN sales tax Department and BPRA as well as with BPRA where applicable. The bidder must complete similar nature CNE assignment mention in the bidding documents. METHOD OF PROCUREMENT: (Single Stage - One Envelope) Bidding Procedure will adopted. BIDDING / TENDER DOCUMENTS: Issuance: The bidders can obtain the bidding document from the address mention above on production of green Chalan form for an amount of Rs 500/- (Non-refundable) for each work shown against each deposited in the head of account: C-027252 Civil works through Govt. Treasury National Bank of Pakistan Uda Muhammad or can be obtained from the website of BPRA (www.bpra.gov.pk) during working hours, from the date of publication of this invitation in newspapers till one day prior to the last date of submission. The contractors/firms who obtain bidding documents by downloading them from BPRA website will also be required to procure deposited green Chalan form of above mentioned fee. The bids must be accompanied by security "Technical Bid" for each work in the form of call deposit or bank guarantee of amount specified above in the office name of the under signed from a scheduled bank. No any Bank Drafts & Banker Check will be acceptable. Deadline of submission: Technical and financial proposals from intending contractors/firms sealed in one separate envelope clearly marked with Work title & type of proposal must be delivered by hand or through registered post to the address mentioned above on or before 11 June 2025, at 11:00 AM Opening: The envelope containing "Technical Bid" will be opened on the same day 11 June 2025, at 12:00 PM before procurement committee in the presence of bidders or their authorized representatives who choose to attend with authority letter. Bids Validity: Ninety (90) days. Place: The place of issuance, submission, inquiries and opening will be - The office of the Executive Engineer PHE District Uda Muhammad. Encl. Contact No. 0333-354-1191 Email: 11445529@gmail.com. CONDITIONS: All the terms and conditions can be seen/btain in the Office of the undersigned in any office hours.

Executive Engineer, Public Health Engineering, Division Uda Muhammad

PRQ No. 4603/26-5-2025

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## PMD forecast windstorms, rain-thunderstorms across country from May 27-31

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has forecast windstorm and rain-thunderstorm activity in upper and central parts of the country from May 27 (night) to May 31, with occasional gales.

The department stated that moist currents are continuously penetrating the upper and central regions, while a westerly wave is likely to enter the upper parts of the country on May 28, triggering widespread weather activity.

Under the influence of this weather system, windstorm and rain-thunderstorms with isolated heavy falls and hailstorms are expected in Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan, Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Murree, Galliat, Attock, Chakwal, Jhelum,

Mianwali, Sargodha, Hafizabad, Mandi Bahauddin, Sialkot, Narowal, Okara, Lahore, Faisalabad, Thang, Toba Tek Singh, Gujranwala, Gujrat, Sheikhupura, Chitral, Dir, Swat, Malakand, Mansehra, Battagram, Shangla, Kohistan, Abbottabad, Haripur, Peshawar, Mardan, Swabi, Nowshera, Mohmand, Khyber, Orakzai, Kurram, Bannu, Lakki Marwat, Kohat, Karak, and Waziristan.

In addition, windstorm with light to moderate rain-thunder is also expected in parts of Balochistan and South Punjab including Zhob, Ziarat, Barkhan, Dera Ghazi Khan, Rajapur, Multan, Bhakkar, Layyah, Bahawalpur, Sahiwal, Pakpattan, Vehari, and Dera Ismail Khan from May 27

(evening/night) to May 30, with occasional gales.

The PMD has warned that windstorm, dust-thunderstorm, hailstorms, and lightning may damage loose structures such as electric poles, trees, vehicles, and solar panels, particularly in upper and central regions including Islamabad. The farmers have been advised to manage their crop-related activities keeping in view the predicted weather conditions. The general public, travelers, and tourists are advised to take precautionary measures during the active weather period.

All concerned authorities have been advised to remain alert and take necessary measures to prevent any untoward situation.



QUETTA: Provincial Finance Minister Mir Shoaib Noshirwani is presiding over the budget preparations for the financial year 2025/26.

## SC constitutional bench goes live, resumes hearing review pleas on reserved seats

ISLAMABAD (INP): A constitutional bench (CB) of the Supreme Court on Monday resumed hearing a set of review pleas against the top court's ruling that had declared the PTI eligible for reserved seats.

In its July 12, 2024 short order, eight out of 13 judges ruled that 39 out of a list of 80 MNAs were and are the returned candidates of the PTI, setting it to emerge as the single largest party in the National Assembly.

However, the ruling had not been implemented by the National Assembly, while the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) had raised some objections. The review petitions against the SC order had been filed by the PML-N, the PPP and the ECP.

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The proceedings are being live-streamed on the SC's

YouTube channel.

The other 10 members of the bench are Justices Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi, Musarrat Hilali, Naem Akhter Afghan, Shahid Bilal Hassan, Muhammad Hashim Khan Kakar, Salahuddin Panhwar, Aamer Farooq and Ali Baqar Najafi.

During Monday's hearing, Justice Mandokhail observed that it was not a political party that contested the elections but rather its candidates. Senior counsel Makhdoom Ali Khan appeared on behalf of PML-N and PPP women candidates affected by the July 2024 ruling and concluded his arguments. The ECP and PML-N lawyers also informed the court that they had submitted their written responses. Subsequently, the hearing was adjourned till tomorrow (Tuesday).

Initially, a full-strength 13-member CB led by Justice Aminuddin took up the review pleas on May 6. However, Justices Ayesha and Abbasi declared the applications as inadmissible and were not part

of the subsequent proceedings, with the CB head judge noting they had stepped back voluntarily.

Justice Ayesha had formally complained to Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Yahya Afridi about her dissenting order not being uploaded to the SC's website.

In her judgement, she had criticised the ECP for not implementing the earlier order, observing that it would "not only undermine the authority of the Supreme Court but also erode the foundational values of democracy itself".

The Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC), which allied with the PTI during the 2024 elections and was a party in the reserved seats case, had requested the bench to put off the hearing until challenges to the 26th Amendment were decided and to include judges who had heard the original case.

However, the CB dismissed those pleas, with Justice Aminuddin observing that review petitions could be heard even by a bench smaller than the original bench after the 26th Amendment.

## Pakistan launches third national Polio vaccination drive of 2025

ISLAMABAD (INP): In a renewed push toward a polio-free Pakistan, the Pakistan Polio Programme has officially launched its third National Immunisation Days (NIDs) campaign. The inauguration ceremony was held at the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) in Islamabad.

It was led by the Prime Minister's Focal Person for Polio Eradication, Ayesha Raza Farooq, along with key partners and officials. Ms. Farooq personally administered oral polio vaccine and Vitamin A drops to children under five, reaffirming the government's steadfast commitment to eradicating the disease from every part of the country.

Set to begin on May 26, the week-long campaign aims to immunize over 45 million children

under five years of age. This effort is seen as a decisive step in the country's final push to stop poliovirus transmission and achieve eradication by the end of 2025.

"Polio eradication is more than a public health goal—it's a national mission," said Ms. Farooq. "This campaign is a pivotal part of our 2-4-6 roadmap. The rounds we've held from September 2024 through May 2025 have been designed to strategically close immunity gaps and disrupt virus circulation before high transmission season begins."

While challenges persist in traditional hotspots such as Karachi, South KP, and the Quetta Block, Ms. Farooq highlighted encouraging progress in reaching underserved communities.

She also extended deep grati-

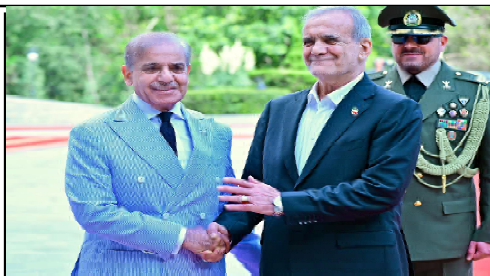
tude to the 400,000 frontline workers driving this campaign—including 225,000 female vaccinators—and acknowledged the support of civil and military law enforcement in ensuring secure access to children.

Despite major gains, the threat of wild poliovirus remains. So far in 2025, Pakistan has confirmed 10 polio cases. Moreover, environmental surveillance has detected the virus in 272 sewage samples across 68 districts—a clear indication of continued transmission.

UNICEF Representative in Pakistan, Abdullah Fadil, praised the programme's direction during his remarks at the launch. As he concludes his tenure in the country, he lauded Pakistan's leadership and Ms. Farooq for their unwavering resolve.



ISLAMABAD: The Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi delivering the concluding remarks at the Symposium "Use of Technology in Judicial System in Pakistan: Prospect and Promises" held at the Supreme Court of Pakistan.



TEHRAN: President of Iran Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian receives Prime Minister Muhammad Shهباز Sharif upon his arrival at Sa'dabad Palace.

## Sindh CM urges MPs to take active ownership of polio eradication campaign

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has called upon all elected representatives, including Members of the National Assembly, Provincial Assembly, and local government representatives, to take active ownership of the polio eradication campaign and spearhead efforts to protect future generations from this crippling yet preventable disease.

Addressing lawmakers from both the treasury and opposition benches in a detailed letter, the Chief Minister emphasised the urgent need for unified and intensified action ahead of the upcoming National Immunisation Day, scheduled for May 26, 2025.

"Polio eradication is not merely a health priority; it is a moral imperative," the letter underscored. "The future of our children and the well-being of our communities depend on our collective resolve to rid

our land of this crippling disease once and for all."

Shah highlighted that Pakistan remains one of only two countries worldwide where wild poliovirus continues to be endemic. Alarmingly, 74 cases of wild poliovirus were reported nationwide in 2024, a significant increase compared to previous years. Sindh province, particularly Karachi and its northern districts, accounted for a substantial portion of these cases.

Despite ongoing immunisation campaigns, persistent challenges remain. Many children are still missing vaccinations due to parental refusals, limited access in remote or underserved areas, and unregistered births.

The CM urged elected representatives to lead community engagement efforts, raise awareness, and support comprehensive health initiatives to overcome these obstacles.

Major actions outlined by Murad Ali Shah included ensuring complete and accurate birth registrations to identify all eligible children, enforce rigorous routine immunisation schedules at all levels, addressing parental refusals through targeted community engagement and education, reaching missed children through innovative outreach methods, including mobile teams and local volunteers, and striving for 100 per cent immunisation coverage during every vaccination drive.

The letter also highlighted the upcoming Sub-National Immunisation Day in July, calling for sustained momentum and vigilance in the fight against polio.

"This is a moment for unity and leadership," the Chief Minister said adding, "Together, we can make history by eradicating polio from Pakistan once and for all."

## 19 killed, 92 wounded in different rain-related incidents in Punjab

LAHORE (INP): A violent windstorm accompanied by rain wreaked havoc in Punjab on Saturday, resulting in the deaths of 19 people and injuries to 92 people.

While the national media put the death toll from the storm in Punjab at 19, confirmed that 13 people were killed in rain-related incidents. Three deaths were reported only from Lahore where six people were also injured as strong winds blew across the city and caused damage to people's properties.

According to rescue officials, six storm-related incidents were reported in Lahore. Two labourers were injured when the roof of

an under-construction house caved in in Park View City near Chuhung.

Rescue personnel shifted the injured Naveed (38) and Ramzan (45) to Jinnah Hospital for treatment.

Twenty-year-old Ali Hassan fell from the rooftop of his house near LDA Signal on Rawwind Road during the windstorm and received injuries. A labourer fell from the rooftop of an under-construction house in Lazak City on Multan Road and passed away. He was identified as Zahid (40) and his body was handed over to the police to fulfil the medico-legal formalities.

On Burki Road, 16-year-old

Umari fell from the rooftop of his house and received injuries. On Rawwind Road, 55 years old Kubra was injured when the wall of her house collapsed near Indus Hospital.

In Chungi Amar Sidhu, an elderly man was killed and another was injured when they fell from the rooftop of a house. The deceased was identified as 60 years old Nazeer. The injured man, 50 years old Ramzan was taken to Lahore General Hospital for treatment. In Jhelum, three persons, including a woman, were killed after walls collapsed and a tree fell on them. One person was killed in Sheikhupura where the roof of a factory caved in.

## Bill for making mother tongue compulsory subject tabled in Punjab Assembly

LAHORE (INP): A legislation has been tabled in the Punjab Assembly for making mother tongue a compulsory subject in the province.

A treasury member Amjad Ali Javed tabled the bill in the house.

The proposed legislation seeks to make Punjabi, Seraiki and other local languages part of the education to ensure

transmission of the cultural heritage to children.

"Mother tongues should be taught to children as a compulsory subject in all schools and Madaris at primary level," the bill suggests.

The legislation also suggests to designate the language spoken in a particular district by the official gazette notification. Legislation also pro-

poses preparation of the school curricula by the government for all districts and free distribution of books.

The bill also suggests special training of teachers on the subject.

The legislation was referred to the concerned standing committee, which will present its report within two months.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aramzeb delivering the keynote address at the Impact Financing event organized by Karimnagar Pakistan and Pakistan Banks Association (PBA).

## Pakistan Railways to be transformed into modern, passenger-friendly mode of transport: Minister

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi Sunday reaffirmed the government's commitment to transforming Pakistan Railways into a modern, reliable and passenger-friendly mode of transport.

"Efforts are underway to make the railway a reliable and preferred mode of travel," he said while paying an unannounced visit to Margalla Railway Station.

The minister assessed the overall facilities and engaged directly with passengers and staff.

During his visit, Hanif Abbasi conducted a detailed inspection of cleanliness arrangements across the station premises and expressed satisfaction over the efforts of the staff. He instructed station authorities to ensure that high standards of hygiene and sanitation are consistently maintained.

Hanif Abbasi personally inspected each coach of the train stationed at the platform, evaluating onboard conditions and facilities provided to passengers.

He also took time to interact with travelers, listening at-

tentively to their complaints and suggestions regarding railway services.

The minister held discussions with railway personnel about the quality of service and various operational challenges.

He also reviewed the progress of ongoing development projects aimed at upgrading the Margalla Station infrastructure.

The minister announced plans to introduce recreational facilities at Margalla Station and said that specially designed public restaurants are also under consideration as part of the station's future development.