

# QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

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dquettavoice@gmail.com

## Honour Killing in Balochistan: Victims Identified, One Arrested, CM Confirms Terror Charges

Staff Reporter,

News Desk:

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has confirmed that the harrowing video of a man and woman being murdered—allegedly in the name of honour—has been officially acknowledged by provincial authorities. In a statement released via social media, the Chief Minister said that law enforcement was immediately directed to take action after the video surfaced online.

According to the Chief Minister, the victims have been identified, and the incident took place a few days before Eid-ul-Adha. Crucially, the government has become the complainant in the case, which has been registered under anti-terrorism laws. One suspected perpetrator has already been arrested.

"This horrific crime will not go unanswered," Bugti stated. "The law will take its course, and all those involved will be brought to justice."



The state's decision to register the case under the Anti-Terrorism Act underscores the gravity of the crime and signals zero tolerance for such brutal acts. The Chief

Minister's swift response has been welcomed by rights activists and civil society members who are calling for public justice and institutional reform. The viral video has ignited

national outrage, once again highlighting the persistent threat of honour-based violence in parts of Pakistan and the urgent need for systemic accountability.

## Brutal 'Honour Killing' in Balochistan Sparks National Outrage: PM, CM Urged to Deliver Swift Justice

Syed Ali Shah,

News Desk:

QUETTA: A deeply disturbing video showing the cold-blooded murder of a young man and woman—allegedly in the name of honour—has gone viral on social media, triggering shockwaves across Pakistan. The barbaric killing, reportedly filmed in a remote area of Balochistan, has ignited widespread condemnation and renewed calls for urgent action against honour-based violence.

The footage, which shows the victims being executed at point-blank range, has horrified viewers and drawn strong condemnation from civil society, religious scholars, and political leaders alike.

In response, Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti took immediate notice and ordered the swift arrest of all individuals involved. He termed the incident "utterly unacceptable" and instructed law enforcement agencies to conduct a thorough investigation and present a detailed report without delay.

Government spokesperson Shahid Rind called the double murder an "unforgivable act of brutality." He emphasized, "Such barbaric behavior has no place in

our society. The killers will face the full force of the law—no one is above the Constitution or the courts."

Rind added that the Chief Minister had issued firm instructions: all culprits must be arrested immediately, and no tribal or familial pressure will be allowed to influence the course of justice.

Meanwhile, Pakistan Ulama Council Chairman Hafiz Tahir Mehmood Ashraf strongly condemned the murders and demanded justice. "We call on the

Prime Minister, Governor of Balochistan, and the IG Police to ensure that the perpetrators are arrested without delay," Ashraf said. "They should be tried in anti-terrorism courts and punished in accordance with the law."

He also emphasized the Islamic prohibition of honour killings. A woman's right to choose her life partner is fully protected in Shariah. No one has the right to murder in the name of false honour."

The horrifying incident has intensified public pressure on the federal and provincial governments to take concrete action against honour-based crimes, which continue to plague many parts of rural and tribal Pakistan.

Rights activists and legal experts have demanded immediate reforms, including strict implementation of existing laws, protection for vulnerable women, and education campaigns to challenge toxic tribal norms disguised as honour.



## FC personnel martyred as unknown gunmen open fire at checkpoint in GB's Diamer: police

NEWS DESK: A Federal Constabulary soldier was killed when unidentified gunmen opened fire at a forest checkpoint along the Karakoram Highway in Gilgit-Baltistan's Diamer district, police said on Sunday. Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Diamer Farukh Rasheed said in a statement, "The deceased has been identified as Muhammad Gul Sher from Dera Ismail Khan."

"The motive behind the attack is not yet known, and the police are investigating the case."

The suspects fled with the gun of the deceased."

Senior Superintendent of Police Abdul Hamid told Dawn.com, "Unknown assailants opened fire at the checkpoint while the deceased was on duty and his colleagues were asleep."

He added that police teams were raiding nearby areas to look for the suspects. In his statement, he speculated that the case appeared to be related to terrorism, ruling out personal enmity or a timber smuggling attempt.

The forest checkpoint was situated at the Thore Road, primarily to inspect vehicles for wood smuggling via the road, which connects the KKH with forest areas in the district.

GB Chief Minister Haji Gulbar Khan condemned the attack, saying, "Firing by terrorists on state personnel is an unacceptable act."

According to a statement, he directed the police to bring the perpetrators to justice and sought a report on the incident from the

home department.

GB government spokesman Faizullah Faraq said in a separate statement that funeral prayers for the martyred soldier were offered at the Police Lines in Chilas, and preparations were underway to send the body to his hometown.

In 2023, at least nine people lost their lives and 21 passengers received injuries after an Islamabad-bound bus came under fire in a terrorist attack near Chilas in Diamer district of Gilgit-Baltistan.

## Afghan refugees risk billions in losses

NEWS DESK: As the status of over one million Afghan citizens holding Proof of Registration (PoR) cards hangs in the balance after expiry of their stay limit last month, the refugees are worried about economic losses due to possible disposal of their assets in haste that they built in the past five decades. Although there is slow implementation of the Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan, the refugees are concerned that they may be forced to sell their valuable assets at throwaway prices in case the validity of their cards is not extended further. Due to security and economic considerations, the Pakistani authorities decided to repatriate all illegal foreign immigrants in November 2023. Pakistan has so far repatriated approximately 1.3 million Afghans and still there are about 1.6 million staying back, according to



the data compiled by a United Nations entity. These include over one million refugees who have PoR cards but these documents expired on June 30, 2025. The government is considering two options, either giving a temporary extension or offering these PoR card holders a long-term visa, ac-

cording to officials dealing with the subject. So far, no decision has been taken to extend the PoR cards but the government is working on a new visa policy for foreigners, said Chaudhry Talal, the Minister of State for Interior, while talking to The Express Tribune. The matter to give an extension had also

been discussed in the federal cabinet but no decision was taken.

Talal said that the new visa policy would offer incentives for foreign investment in Pakistan and the Afghan citizens can also take advantage of that. Beyond Borders, an initiative of the Centre for Research and Security Studies, has been working for the resolution of the Afghan refugees' issue. It is advocating a permanent solution to the problem so that the refugees who came to Pakistan after 1979 are not forced to sell their assets at discounted prices and these people can also positively contribute to the local economy. Only Deshtkhail tribe people are holding approximately Rs52 billion in assets in Peshawar in the shape of movable and immovable properties in other names, said Ahmad Shah, a trader from the tribe.

## 4 terrorists killed in Balochistan's Kalat operation: ISPR

NEWS DESK: Security forces killed four terrorists during an operation in Balochistan's Kalat district, the military's media wing said in a statement on Sunday.

There has been an increase in the frequency of attacks against security forces in Balochistan in recent times. Earlier this week, three people were killed and seven others were injured as a passenger bus was fired upon in Kalat.

The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement that the intelligence-based operation took place on the night of July 19-20, upon the "reported presence of terrorists belonging to Indian proxy, Fitna Al Hindustan." In May this year, the government designated all terrorist organisations in Balochistan as Fitna-Al-Hindustan.

"During the conduct of [the]

operation, [our] own forces effectively engaged the terrorists' location, and after an intense fire exchange, four Indian sponsored terrorists were sent to hell," the statement read. According to the ISPR, weapons, ammunition and explosives were recovered from the dead terrorists, who were reportedly involved in numerous terrorist activities in the area.

Meanwhile, PTV News reported that security forces seized a Fitna Al Hindustan flag as well.

"[A] sanitisation operation is being conducted to eliminate any other terrorist found in the area, as the security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of Indian sponsored terrorism from the country, and reaffirm the nation's unwavering resolve to bring the perpetrators of terrorism to justice," the statement concluded.

President Asif Ali Zardari paid tribute to security forces for killing the four terrorists in a statement from his office.

"The security forces are always determined to eradicate terrorism," the president was quoted as saying. "Terrorism will be defeated at all costs with national unity." The statement added that operations against terrorism will continue.

"Fitna Al Hindustan will be pursued till the end," the president was quoted as saying.

On Saturday, a senior officer belonging to the security forces was martyred in a bomb attack at the Western Bypass area, according to officials.

Police said a magnetic explosive device was attached to the officer's vehicle, which exploded in the Jabi-i-Noor area, a locality

on the outskirts of Quetta.

CCTV footage from a nearby camera showed a motorcyclist passing close to the vehicle moments before the explosion. He reportedly attached the explosive device to the driver's side door. A few seconds later, the blast took place. Pakistan ranked second in the Global Terrorism Index 2025, with the number of deaths in terrorist attacks rising by 45 per cent over the past year to 1,081. KP has seen an increasing trend of terrorism-related incidents.

Meanwhile, on Friday, a Balochistan Constabulary acting deputy superintendent of police (DSP) and a constable were martyred and two others suffered injuries when unidentified gunmen opened fire on their vehicle on the National Highway in the Mastung district.

## 9 terrorists killed, 8 captured in Malakand joint action by military, LEAs during four days

NEWS DESK: Security forces killed nine terrorists and captured another eight during a four-day joint operation with police, the Counter Terrorism Department, paramilitary organisations and the federal administration in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Malakand district, the military's media wing said in a statement on Sunday.

Pakistan has witnessed an uptick in terror activities over the past year, especially in KP and Balochistan, after the proscribed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) ended its ceasefire with the government in November 2022.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations, the joint intelligence-based operation was conducted on the reported presence of terrorists belonging to Fitna Al Khwarij — a term used to designate members of the banned TTP. "During the conduct of operation, spread over four days, [our] own forces skillfully surrounded and effectively engaged the khwarij location, and after intense multiple fire exchanges, nine Indian-sponsored khwarij were sent to hell, while eight [others] were apprehended," the ISPR said.

The statement added that

two hideouts used by terrorists were destroyed and a large quantity of weapons, ammunition and explosives were recovered.

"Locals of the area appreciated the operation and expressed their full support for the state's counter-terrorism efforts," the military's media wing said.

"[A] sanitisation operation is being conducted to eliminate any other khwarij found in the area, as the security forces and law enforcement agencies of Pakistan, in step with the nation, are determined to wipe out the menace of Indian sponsored terrorism from the country," the statement read.

Faced with increasing attacks by militants, security forces have also intensified counterterrorism operations in KP and Balochistan.

Eleven terrorists were killed, five were injured and seven were arrested during joint operations conducted in the Hangu and Malakand districts on Saturday.

A senior army officer and two police officials were also wounded during the clash.

In a separate incident, Bannu police claimed to have shot down two explosive-laden quadcopters intended to target police stations.



**Reko Diq Copper-Gold Project: A Chance to Empower Local Talent**

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Nawaz Sharif Continued to page 4

## THE VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

### Reko Diq Copper-Gold Project: A Chance to Empower Local Talent

Editorial:

The Reko Diq copper and gold project in Balochistan is more than just a mining venture—it is a national opportunity to empower local communities, boost Pakistan's economy, and ensure long-term regional development.

Company officials recently briefed the media in Quetta and shared that production at Reko Diq is expected to begin by 2028. In the lead-up to this, around 7,500–8,000 temporary jobs will be created during the construction phase, while 4,500 permanent positions will be maintained once the mine becomes operational. In total, over 25,000 indirect job opportunities are expected to arise through supply chains, vendors, and local contractors.

While these numbers are promising, the true success of Reko Diq depends on how deeply local talent is integrated into the project. Officials highlighted a positive initiative—Balochistan-based engineers recently received international mining training through Barrick Gold's development program.

These trained professionals have now returned to serve in the project.

This initiative must be expanded. There is a vast pool of youth in Reko Diq, Chaghi, and surrounding districts with the right technical education and training—both locally and abroad—this local workforce can be transformed into the backbone of Pakistan's mineral economy.

The government and company must jointly ensure that investment in education, healthcare, and connectivity becomes part of the project's long-term goals. Training centers, scholarships, and technical institutes should be prioritized in Balochistan.

Reko Diq is a national asset, but its real value will only be realized when the people of Balochistan are treated as equal stakeholders—not just as workers, but as partners in progress.

### Addressing Poverty and Inequality: A Call for Sincere Leadership and Perpetual Reforms

By Amjad Rashid:

**P**overty and inequality, much like man-made disasters, afflict societies worldwide, including Pakistan. These are not natural phenomena but rather systemic issues rooted in human actions and policies. To eradicate this disease, national governments must craft comprehensive strategies aimed at safeguarding future generations from its scourge.

In Pakistan, the onus lies heavily on our political elite, spanning all parties, to recognize the gravity of the situation and redirect their efforts towards combating these issues. However, reliance on the failing neoliberal order is futile; instead, a paradigm shift towards sustainable solutions is imperative.

In Pakistan, the establishment of robust local governance structures with financial decentralization is paramount. Political elites possess a window of opportunity to empower local bodies and enact pro-poor policies. The Chinese model serves as a beacon of inspiration, demonstrating the efficacy of such strategies when implemented effectively.

Regional connectivity, undermined by long-term vision, emerges as a viable solution. It necessitates addressing these issues. However, reliance on the failing neoliberal order is futile; instead, a paradigm shift towards sustainable solutions is imperative.

### Balochistan in the Eye of Climate Change Storm: Calls for Resilient Climate Policies Surface

Chandni Kakar:

**I**n the global battle against climate change, Balochistan, Pakistan, serves as a stark reminder of the urgent need for climate resilience. The province is experiencing increasingly severe weather events as a consequence of human-induced climate change. However, many residents mistake these for extreme weather occurrences, hindering recognition of the escalating climate crisis.

**Balochistan becoming unbearably hot**  
Balochistan is becoming unbearably hot, with rising temperatures transforming heatwaves into a year-round threat. These heatwaves pose severe health risks, including heat stress, dehydration, and even fatalities. In 2017, Turbat recorded a scorching 53.5°C (128.3°F), setting a record for Pakistan. Unfortunately, forecasts suggest that temperatures will continue to rise.

However, the climate challenges in Balochistan extend beyond relentless heatwaves. The province grapples with devastating droughts and floods, both of which have wreaked havoc on homes and infrastructure. The floods of 2010 and 2022 left nearly 4 million people displaced, disrupting lives and triggering food shortages and price spikes due to their impact on the agriculture sector.

**The 2022 flood in Balochistan underscores the looming climate change threat**

The 2022 flood underscored the looming threat of climate change over Balochistan. Driven by intensified and increasingly frequent monsoon rains, the full extent of the damage is yet to be comprehended. However, it exposed the province's vulnerabilities and highlighted the urgent need for effective management strategies.

Balochistan's annual rainfall of just 200 mm barely meets the needs of its parched population. This water scarcity adversely affects food production, access to drinking water, and livestock numbers, exacerbated by climate change. The severe droughts of 1997-2003 and 2014-2017 forced migrations to water-rich areas.

**CC affects economy**

Climate change also decimated the region's economy through the loss of livestock. Between 2010 and 2022, over 1.5 million livestock were lost, costing over \$1 billion and displacing over 100,000 people, particularly in districts like Quetta, Pishin, Turbat, Pajura, and Khuzdar.

The province's government must implement robust climate change policies, emphasizing water resource management and disaster preparedness. Learning from the tragic dam collapses of 2022, preventive measures, such as effective water reservoirs and early warning systems, are imperative. Spreading awareness about climate change and promoting sustainable agricultural practices are equally crucial.

**Tree plantations could mitigate sweltering temperatures**

In a province where tree plantations could mitigate sweltering temperatures and climate change impacts, government initiatives should engage younger generations in green initiatives. Achieving a resilient future necessitates a collaborative effort involving government, local communities, civil society, and the commercial sector. Balochistan's path towards resilience begins with a symphony of collective action.

By addressing these critical issues, Balochistan can better adapt to the challenges posed by climate change, ensuring a more secure and sustainable future for its residents. The writer is a Balochistan-based journalist, she can be reached at @KakarChand97707

## Quetta's Traffic Chaos: Urgent Reforms Needed to Fix the Crisis

Anjeela Kaynati:

**Q**uetta, once a city known for its peaceful ambience, now faces an escalating traffic crisis. Every day, thousands of commuters endure hours of gridlock, navigating congested roads, reckless drivers, and deteriorating infrastructure. From rickshaws and motorcycles to private cars, the overwhelming number of vehicles clogs major roads, while encroachments and illegal parking worsen the situation.

The city's transport system is on the brink of collapse, demanding immediate intervention from both authorities and residents. This article explores the root causes of Quetta's traffic woes, identifies the most affected areas, and outlines urgent solutions to restore order to the roads.

**The Surge of Non-Custom Paid (NCP) and Unregistered Vehicles**

The unchecked influx of non-custom paid (NCP) and unregistered vehicles has compounded the traffic crisis.

A 2010 report estimated over 50,000 NCP vehicles on Balochistan's roads, causing an annual revenue loss of Rs 15 billion to the national exchequer.

By 2024, this number has surged to nearly 80,000, with a significant concentration in Quetta (Excise and Taxation Department, 2024).

Despite periodic crackdowns, including the 2023 seizure of 115 NCP vehicles worth Rs 982 million (ARY News, 2023), enforcement efforts have failed to stem the tide.

Quetta's traffic police estimate that 40% of vehicles in the city are either unregistered or NCP (Think Transportation, 2023), worsening congestion and lawlessness on the roads.

**Lack of a Proper Public Transport System**

Unlike other major cities in Pakistan, Quetta lacks an organized public transport system. With no buses or mass transit options, residents rely on rickshaws,

motorcycles, and private cars, further clogging the roads. Over 50,000 rickshaws operate within the city, creating congestion in already packed areas like Masjid Road and Liaquat Bazaar (Traffic Survey: Quetta Smart and Safe City, 2023).

Although the government has revisited the Quetta Mass Transit Train project, financial constraints have delayed its execution, leaving residents without an efficient alternative to private transport.

**Encroachments and Illegal Parking Worsen Congestion**

Unauthorized stalls and illegal parking occupy nearly 30% of road space in busy commercial zones such as Prince Road and Jinnah Road (Think Transportation, 2023). Street vendors set up shop on sidewalks, forcing pedestrians onto the roads, while shopkeepers extend their businesses into public spaces, further restricting traffic flow.

**Deteriorating Road Conditions**

Over 60% of Quetta's roads are in disrepair, riddled with potholes, cracks, and poor drainage systems (INRIX, 2024). Roads such as Joint Road, Sarhab Road, and Nawa Kili are among the worst affected. During rainfall, flooding exacerbates the problem, making navigation nearly impossible.

A tragic reminder of Balochistan's road infrastructure crisis occurred in 2024, when a bus plunged into a ravine in Washuk district due to poor road conditions. Despite promises of road improvements, delays in infrastructure projects continue to endanger commuters.

**Weak Traffic Management and Enforcement**

With no dedicated traffic management units, enforcement is sporadic. Traffic police are often overwhelmed by the sheer volume of vehicles, leading to inconsistent enforcement of traffic rules.

## Millions in Balochistan to Gain Flood Protection, Housing, and Essential Services Through Major Resilience Drive

Syed Ali Shah:

**H**istoric Recovery

Effort in Balochistan

Balochistan is set to witness a major transformation as millions of residents across 32 flood-affected districts benefit from new flood protection measures, housing reconstruction, and sustainable livelihoods for communities that were pushed into extreme vulnerability.

Local officials stress that the real success will not be measured by the number of projects completed, but by the resilience of families who will be able to rebuild their lives with dignity, security, and opportunity.

"This is about making

sure that the people of Balochistan never again have to endure the same level of devastation," a senior government representative said.

**Building Resilience, Not Just Rebuilding**

Rather than simply repairing what was lost, the Integrated Flood Resilience and Adaptation Project (IFRAP) focuses on making Balochistan stronger against future climate shocks. Key elements of the project include constructing resilient housing, building embankments and flood channels, restoring health and education services, and supporting farmers and small businesses to revive local economies.

Every project is guided by community input, ensuring that local needs shape the recovery.

By prioritizing marginalized groups, especially women and vulnerable populations, IFRAP aims to create an inclusive and sustainable recovery.

**A Lifeline for Millions**

In addition to physical reconstruction, the project is improving early warning systems, providing better water management solutions, and investing

in skills development programs so communities can respond faster and better to future disasters. Over 100,000 sub-projects are being initiated to address the diverse needs of the flood-affected population.

The ultimate goal is to break the cycle of destruction and vulnerability. Through smart investments today, Balochistan is building a safer, more prosperous tomorrow for its people.

Officials emphasize that the road to full recovery will take time, but the determination to protect lives, livelihoods, and dignity has never been stronger.

## Heatwave Threatens Lives and Crops in Balochistan

By Ghalib Nehad:

**A**s temperatures soar across Pakistan, several districts of Balochistan are bracing for an intense heatwave.

According to the Balochistan Meteorological Department, Sibi is expected to record temperatures as high as 47°C in the coming days. Turbat may reach 46°C, Lasbela 44°C, Nokundi 43°C, Dalbandin 41°C, and Quetta could experience highs of up to

55°C. The Met Office has issued heatwave alerts for Sibi, Kachhi, Sohatpur, Lehri, Naseerabad, Thal Magsi, Turbat, Lasbela, Washuk, Khara, and Chaghi, warning of dry and extreme weather conditions.

The heat is not only endangering human health but also threatening agricultural productivity. Khalid Hussain, a farmer, said that the heat has exacerbated the risks. He urged the

government to introduce heat-resistant crop varieties to prevent billions in agricultural losses and potential food shortages.

Meanwhile, Dr. Mahmood Ahmed warned that rising temperatures could lead to an increase in heat-related illnesses. He advised citizens to stay hydrated, avoid sun exposure between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m., and wear light-colored, loose-fitting clothing. Reducing meat consumption and eating

A lack of proper traffic regulation has led to frequent violations, reckless driving, and rising accidents.

With an inadequate number of traffic police officers on the roads, many drivers ignore basic rules—running red lights, driving on the wrong side, and engaging in dangerous maneuvers.

Although the Balochistan government announced plans to build flyovers and underpasses in 2024 to ease congestion, financial setbacks have stalled these projects (Balochistan Express, 2024).

**Practical Solutions to Fix Quetta's Traffic Woes**

To address Quetta's worsening traffic crisis, a multi-faceted approach is needed, combining road expansion, better enforcement, and public transport development. Here are some key solutions:

**1. Road Expansion and Maintenance**

• Widen key roads such as Masjid Road, Jinnah Road, and Zarghoon Road to accommodate growing traffic.

• Improve drainage systems to prevent road damage and flooding.

2. Regulating Non-Custom Paid Vehicles

• Enforce stricter measures to curb the influx of NCP vehicles.

• Introduce policies to register or phase out unregistered vehicles.

3. Establishing a Public Transport System

• Launch a city bus service to provide an affordable alternative to private cars.

• Develop dedicated bus lanes to improve efficiency and reduce congestion.

4. Regulating Rickshaws and Motorcycles

• Implement route-based restrictions for rickshaws to prevent

congestion in commercial hubs.

• Create designated parking areas for rickshaws and motorcycles.

5. Strengthening Traffic Law Enforcement

• Deploy more traffic police officers to ensure compliance with traffic rules.

• Impose heavier fines and penalties on reckless drivers.

6. Removing Encroachments and Illegal Parking

• Conduct regular operations to clear roads of unauthorized stalls and illegally parked vehicles.

7. Traffic Awareness

• Launch awareness campaigns to educate citizens on traffic rules and road safety.

• Integrate basic traffic education into school curriculums to instill discipline in future generations.

**Call to Action: A Collective Responsibility**

Every day, Quetta's residents face the frustration of endless traffic jams, reckless drivers, and poorly managed roads.

Yet, the problem persists—not just because of weak governance, but because of collective negligence.

Authorities must act swiftly to expand roads, enforce traffic laws, and implement public transport reforms.

Citizens, too, have a role to play—by obeying traffic rules, avoiding illegal parking, and discouraging encroachments. Without a united effort, Quetta's traffic woes will only worsen.

jeopardizing the city's economy, safety, and quality of life. Quetta stands at a turning point. The time to act is now—before the crisis spirals beyond control.

QUETTA: Chairman Central Chairman Tehreek Ittehad Al-Sadat Pakistan, Syed Altaf Hussain Shah addressing the 2nd annual Shuhada-e-Karbala Conference organized by Ittehad Bain Ul-Sadat Welfare Organization at OPC.

## KP Senate polls uncertain after reserved seats oath-taking defers

PESHAWAR (INP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Assembly session called for the oath-taking of members on reserved seats was postponed until July 24 due to an incomplete quorum.

The session, chaired by Speaker Babar Saleem Swati, began after a delay of 2 hours and 24 minutes. However, PTI's Sher Ali Afrab pointed out the quorum, prompting the Speaker to order a headcount. Upon confirmation of insufficient attendance, the session was adjourned.

Law Minister Aftab Alam revealed that the PTI parliamentary party had decided to boycott the session, citing internal dissatisfaction among members. "Our lawmakers are unhappy and have chosen not to attend today's session," he stated.

The assembly meeting was initially scheduled for 9 AM, and failure to meet quorum now puts the scheduled oath-taking of 25 members on reserved seats in jeopardy. These include 21 women and 4 minority representatives. Among those expected to take oath were 7 women each from JUI-F and PML-N, 4 from PPP, 2 from ANP, and one from PTI-F. Minority members

Askar Parvez and Gural Singh (JUI-F), Suresh Kumar (PML-N), and Bhanu Lal (PPP) were also on the list.

Guest attendance at the assembly session had already been restricted in anticipation of the event. It is noteworthy that the upcoming KP Senate polls, scheduled for July 21 (Monday), have become uncertain after the latest development.

Speaking to media before the start of session, KP Assembly Opposition Leader Dr. Ibadullah stated that if quorum is pointed out, the opposition has options. "The oath-taking will happen — if not today, then soon — unless PTI disrupts the process," he said.

He added that a formula has already been agreed upon between the opposition and government for the upcoming Senate elections. "If the oath is not administered today or tomorrow, we will approach the court," he warned.

Dr. Ibadullah further stated that the opposition held discussions with the government regarding the Senate polls, and internal PTI issues with disgruntled members are not their concern. "We remain

firm on our stance regarding the Senate elections," he concluded.

Meanwhile, the Senate election in KP has become a major challenge for PTI, as several dissident candidates — Irfan Saleem, Waqas Orakzai, Khuram Zeeshan, Irfan Hussain, and Ayesha Bano — have refused to withdraw their nominations. Internal rifts have surfaced within the PTI parliamentary party, with Mardan MPA Tariq Mahmood and former provincial minister Shakeel Khan publicly backing Irfan Saleem.

PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali ruled out any further negotiations with the dissidents, calling it shocking that some PTI MPs are supporting them. "The party's decision is final, and there's no confusion left. The Senate election will be held on July 21 without fail," he asserted.

PTI has decided to take strict disciplinary action against dissenting party members over the upcoming Senate elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. According to sources, the party has made it clear that any member defying party decisions will face immediate consequences, including expulsion from PTI.



LAHORE: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain addressing an agriculture-focused event at a local hotel.

## Fourth spell of monsoon to begin across country tomorrow amid flood-like conditions

ISLAMABAD (INP): The fourth spell of monsoon rains across the country is set to begin tomorrow, with heavy rains and storms expected in many areas of Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, and Balochistan.

According to the Meteorological Department, rain is also expected today in some parts of Punjab, Sindh, Gilgit-Baltistan, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Punjab issues high alert.

The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Punjab has issued a high alert to all district administrations. Meanwhile, flood-like conditions have developed at several points along the River Indus.

According to the spokesperson of PDMA Punjab, heavy rain is expected between July 20 and 25 in Lahore, Rawalpindi, Murree, Galyat, Attock, Chakwal, Mandi Bahauddin, Gujrat, Jhelum, Gujranwala, Faisalabad, Sialkot, Narawal, Jhang, Sargodha, Mianwali, Dera Ghazi Khan, Bahawalpur, Bahawalnagar, and Multan.

PDMA Director General Irfan

Ali Khattia stated that, due to the rains, flood conditions have developed at the lower and middle points of the River Indus at Jhelum, Kalabagh, and Chashma. Additionally, high flood is expected at the Chashma point.

At Kalabagh, the river's water has entered nearby areas, including Kamar Mashani, Muddat Wala, Cheena Pora, Kacha Gurat, and Dhengana. Thousands of acres of standing crops have been submerged. Rescue teams have so far evacuated 223 people and 162 livestock to safer locations. The water inflow at Jinnah Barge has been recorded at 296,629 cusecs, with an outflow of 289,079 cusecs.

Karachi is experiencing cloudy weather with light rain expected today. According to the Meteorological Department, the current temperature in the city is 31°C, with humidity at 72%. The maximum temperature is likely to rise to 35°C, with sea breezes blowing from the southwest at 11 kmi/h.

The Meteorological Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has predicted rain in Chitral, Dir, Swat, Buner, Malakand, Abbottabad, Battagram, Shangla, Haripur, Kohistan, Torghar, and

Mansehra. Yesterday, 14mm of rain was recorded in Kakul, and 3mm in Balakot. The lowest temperature was recorded in Malam Jabba at 13°C and in Kalam at 17°C.

Most districts of Balochistan are experiencing hot and humid weather, with heavy rain expected in Barkhan, Sibi, Musa Khel, Zhob, Loralai, Dera Bugti, Awaran, and other areas.

The highest temperatures recorded were 41°C in Sibi and Turbat, 46°C in Nokundi, 36°C in Chaman, and 33°C in Gwadar and Jwani.

According to the PDMA Director General, 123 people have lost their lives, 462 have been injured, and 150 buildings have been affected in Punjab during the ongoing monsoon season. The causes of death include lightning strikes, electrocution, drowning while bathing, and collapsing unsafe buildings.

The PDMA and other relevant authorities have appealed to the public to avoid going near rivers, streams, and dangerous areas during the rains. In case of any emergency, people are urged to immediately contact Rescue 1122.

## Interior Minister Naqvi launches online women police and One Infor app

ISLAMABAD, July 20 (INP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Sunday visited the Islamabad Safe City Headquarters, where he inaugurated the Online Women Police Station and the "One Infor" mobile application, marking a major step in the digital modernisation of urban policing.

During his visit, the minister praised IG Islamabad Ali Nasir Rizvi and his team for their latest tech-driven initiatives. Standing before the digital monitoring wall, Naqvi observed the city's live surveillance process and appreciated the ongoing efforts to strengthen law enforcement using cutting-edge tools. Speaking to officials, he said the new app will allow citi-

zens to register emergency complaints easily. He also issued directives to further activate online platforms for the protection of women and vulnerable segments of society.

Naqvi emphasised that both the mobile application and the Online Women Police Station represent Pakistan's commitment to leveraging modern technology in public service and crime prevention. The interior minister also chaired an important meeting at the headquarters.

He lauded the role of the Safe City Project in crime deterrence and improving emergency response times and called for further enhancement of monitoring

systems using artificial intelligence and advanced technology. Naqvi declared that the Islamabad Safe City model will be replicated across the country to make Islamabad the safest city in Pakistan. The interior minister also ordered work to begin on connecting Islamabad's Safe City system with other provinces to improve intercity data sharing. "Linking all Safe Cities will boost coordination and real-time intelligence exchange," said Naqvi.

He appreciated the performance of the Safe City staff and encouraged them to work with greater dedication, urging them to place public service as their top priority.



HYDERABAD: President PPP Sindhi, Nasir Ahmed Khoro addressing a press conference at Latifaabad.



KARACHI: Balochistan Government's spokesman Shahid Rind addressing a press conference at Karachi Press Club.

## PM Shehbaz discuss overall political situation with PML-N President Nawaz Sharif

MURREE (INP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday discussed overall political situation with PML-N President Nawaz Sharif during a meeting held in Murree.

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz also attended the key huddle of Sharif family.

According to sources, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif briefed the party leader on his recent meeting with President Asif Ali Zardari.

The two leaders discussed legislation on a proposed constitutional amendment bill, as well as the potential nomination for the new Chief Election

Commissioner.

PM Shehbaz also informed Nawaz Sharif about the reservations raised by PPP over certain clauses of the proposed constitutional package.

Prime Minister also briefed the elder Sharif regarding his recent meetings with Maulana Fazlur Rehman aimed at maintaining good working relationship in the federal government and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Meanwhile, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz briefed the party's federal-level damages, steps being taken to maintain law and order, and

efforts to control inflation.

During the meeting, Nawaz Sharif emphasized the importance of keeping coalition partners on board and giving weight to their opinions in managing the country's political, administrative, and constitutional affairs.

He said that a survey should be conducted to assess the human and financial losses of flood-affected poor communities, and that they should be compensated.

Both leaders also paid tribute to armed forces for their efforts in combating terrorism in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

## 21st National Children's Mountain Conservation Meet Concludes

ISLAMABAD (INP): The 21st National Children's Mountain Conservation Meet which was organized by Adventure Foundation Pakistan from 11th to 20th July 2025 concluded in Islamabad.

One hundred children and staff members participated in this year's camp which was held in the beautiful Siran Valley of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

On this occasion a Children Mountain Forum was held at Margala Hotel Islamabad in which young participants of the moot were presented on the theme "Climate Change and its Impact on the Mountain Environment". Her Excellency Marilina Amellin, Ambassador of the Italian Republic to Pakistan, was chief guest of this event.

Ali Hasan Habib, President of Adventure Foundation Pakistan welcomed all the participants and guests and congratulated the young participants and staff on successful completion of this year project.

Aftab Rana, National Coordinator of NCME Meet Project informed that this flagship programme of AFP was launched on the occasion of International Year of Mountains-2002 with a view to create awareness among young people about the mountain

ecosystems and involve them in meaningful activities using mountains' environment as an open classroom. Under this programme each year around one hundred children are selected from all parts of Pakistan to attend a 10 day environment education camp in one of the mountain areas of Pakistan.

He further informed that this educational programme involves young children in an action-oriented form of learning about the natural environment and its related problems.

Participation in this meet makes them conscious enough to do something practical for the conservation and preservation of natural environment by undertaking micro level projects in their communities and schools.

The children who attend this Meet are given the title of "Eco-Guards" which gives them confidence to play an active role in their day to day life to create awareness about protection of natural environment and its important role in our daily life.

Based on the first hand exposure, the young speakers in their presentations highlighted issues faced by the natural environment in mountains areas with the audience. They

also made recommendations to the concerned government departments to address the environmental issues of mountain areas especially issue related with climate change.

At the end of the forum a joint petition was presented by the young representative of NCME Meet 2025.

The Italian Ambassador H.E. Marilina Amellin, in her closing comments appreciated the efforts of Adventure Foundation Pakistan to create awareness among the young people about the conservation of natural environment. She said, "In today's world of digital technologies and over consumption, it has become more important that we should make an effort to keep young people in touch with Mother Earth".

Italian Ambassador emphasized the long-standing cooperation between Italy and Pakistan in the fields of mountain and glacier conservation and research, which has been ongoing for over a century. She shared that the very first Italian expedition arrived in the region in 1909, with the objective of mapping a land route to K2.

In 1954, K2 was successfully summited for the first time by two Italian climbers, Lino Lacedelli and Achille Compagnoni.



HYDERABAD: PPP (SB) leader Zulfiqar Bhutto Junior addressing a press conference at Qasimabad.

## 6 killed, 12 injured as bus overturns in Sindh's Thatta

THATTA, July 20 (INP): At least six people were killed and 12 others were injured when a bus overturned and fell into a ditch near Makhi in Sindh's Thatta district today morning, rescue officials said.

According to the Edhi rescue service, the bus overturned near Thatta Bypass, following which a rescue team reached the site of the incident and transported the injured to a hospital.

The bodies of the six victims were initially taken to a mortuary in Orangi Town, "the service said in a statement, adding that they were later transported to Edhi morgue in Karachi's Sohrah Goth.

The bus was carrying a group of picnicers from Karachi to Keenjhar Lake when it overturned while taking a sharp turn, killing six passengers and injuring dozens others, state-owned Associated Press of Pakistan reported.

"Local authorities and rescue

teams were quick to respond, reaching the crash site within minutes. The injured were rushed to Karachi hospitals, with several reported to be in critical condition," it said.

In another incident, at least one person was killed and several others, including women and children, were critically injured when a passenger bus overturned on the Gambhat National Highway in Sindh's Khairpur district.

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah expressed deep sorrow over the loss of lives in the bus accidents, according to a statement issued by his spokesperson Abdul Rashid Channa.

Expressing sympathy with the Makhi incident victims, he issued directives to the Thatta deputy commissioner (DC) to ensure the provision of immediate medical assistance to the injured. The chief minister further told him to immediately contact

their families and fully cooperate.

South Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Syed Asad Raza said the family was returning from the Hawke's Bay beach, and the accident most likely happened as a result of speeding.

In an incident on July 15, a collision between a trailer and a truck left one dead and three injured near Karachi's New Sahbi Mandi on the Super Highway.

On June 19, a speeding dumper truck overturned on a 4x4 vehicle on Rashid Minhas Road, killing a woman and an accompanying five-year-old girl.

On June 11, a young man was killed and his wife injured in an accident after an unknown vehicle hit their bike on the Super Highway. The same day, two boys were killed after a water tanker hit them near Abdullah College in North Nazimabad.

President Lauds Security Forces For Eliminating Khwarij in Malakand