

# QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

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## Balochistan Assembly Passes Resolution Condemning Digari Honour Killing

QUETTA (NEWS DESK): The Balochistan Assembly has officially passed a condemnation resolution against the recent honour killing of a man and woman in the Sanjidi-Digari area near Quetta. The Digari double murder case has sparked public outrage and renewed calls for action against gender-based violence in the province.

The resolution, presented by Deputy Speaker Ghazala Gola and supported by female members of the provincial assembly, condemns the incident as a barbaric and illegal act that has no connection to cultural, religious, or national traditions.

"The murder of an unarmed man and woman in the name of honour is inhumane, unconstitutional, and morally unacceptable," the resolution stated.

### No Justification for Honour Killings, Says Assembly

The resolution affirms that honour killings have no legal, social, or ethical justification and that no private citizen has the authority to act as judge or executioner. It strongly reiterates that justice is the sole responsibility of the state, not individuals or informal bodies like jirgas.



### Call for Strict Punishment of the Accused

The Balochistan Assembly has urged the provincial government to take immediate and strict legal action against those involved in the Digari honour killing.

ing, demanding exemplary punishment for the perpetrators. This move is intended to serve as a deterrent against future crimes in the name of honour.

## Balochistan: 52 Women Killed in 2024, Alarming Rise in Honor Killings

**Special Correspondent**  
QUETTA — The latest report by Aurat Foundation highlights the alarming rise in violence against women in Balochistan. According to the report, between January and December 2024 alone, 73 serious incidents of violence against women were reported, including murder, honor killings, abduction, suicide, sexual assault, and domestic violence.

Key statistics from the report reveal that:

In 2024, 52 women were murdered. Of these, 19 were killed in the name of honor.

A total of 73 severe cases of violence were reported.

The most affected districts were Quetta, Loralai, Jaffarabad, and Naseebabad.

The report also includes data from 2019 to 2024, showing that:

Over the past six years, 248 cases of women being murdered were reported in Balochistan.

134 cases were classified as honor killings.

A total of 382 serious incidents involving violence against women were documented.

Experts and social activists stress that these figures only represent reported cases. In Balochistan's remote and tribal regions, many such incidents go unreported due to cultural norms and local traditions that

often suppress such issues. Civil society and human rights organizations have urged the government to take immediate action to curb violence against women by:

Enacting effective legislation

Ensuring swift and strict

implementation of existing laws

Launching awareness campaigns to educate the public on women's rights

This report serves as a wake-up call for women's safety, and without prompt intervention, the crisis could escalate further.

During today's proceedings, the SP of the Serious Crimes Investigation Wing and the investigating officer of the case also appeared before the Chief Justice. They presented a comprehensive report outlining the progress made in the

investigation, the arrests of suspects, and the exhumation process, which was conducted to strengthen forensic evidence.

Officials emphasized that the exhumation marked a critical turning point in the case and reflected the authorities' determination to ensure justice.

The Digari double murder case has shocked the residents of Quetta and drawn widespread public and media attention. Due to the sensitive nature of the crime and its social implications, the Balochistan High Court is closely monitoring the investigation.

Chief Justice Barech's intervention underscores the judiciary's commitment to transparency and swift justice. The case remains a top priority for the court and law enforcement agencies alike.

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"The terrorists want to sabotage the peace and stability in the country, which can never be allowed as the nation is united and the scourge of terrorism will be defeated at all costs," he said.

The president also reiterated the resolve that the security forces would continue their operations till complete eradication of terrorism.

Similarly, PM Shehbaz reaffirmed that the nefarious designs of terrorists, who were inflicting harm upon the lives and properties of innocent civilians, would be foiled. "The elements of Fitna al-Hindustan, who are enemies of the country's solidarity, will be rooted out," he said in a statement from the PM Office.

The prime minister further said that the government and security forces were committed to the complete elimination of terrorism from the country.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi also paid tribute to the security forces and praised their professionalism.

"Security forces, through timely action, thwarted the nefarious intentions of Indian-sponsored terrorists."

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for a cause and the future of the nation.

The May 9 riots erupted nationwide following the arrest of former prime minister Imran Khan, after which PTI leaders and workers staged protests targeting both civil and military installations, including Jinnah House and the General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi.

The military condemned the events as a "Black Day" and decided to try the protesters under the Army Act.

As a result of the unrest, many PTI members were arrested and tried in military courts. In December, a military court convicted 25 individuals, including Imran Khan's nephew, Hassan Khan Niazi, and later sentenced 60 more.

In January, 19 convicts had their sentences pardoned following successful mercy appeals, although PTI expressed dissatisfaction over the limited number of pardons.

The military trials had initially been halted following a Supreme Court ruling but were resumed following the court's instructions to finalise pending cases and announce judgments for those involved in the violent incidents.

Riaz Qureshi, termed the proceedings as a "black day of democracy," stating that lawmakers, including the opposition leader of the largest province,

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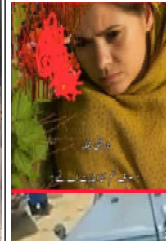
## Digari Murder Case: Top Officials Appear Before Balochistan CJ

News Desk

QUETTA: In a major development in the Digari double murder case, the Additional Chief Secretary for Home and Additional Inspector General of Police, Syed Wazir, appeared before Chief Justice of the Balochistan High Court, Jus-

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### Balochistan's Rs250 Billion Federal Allocation Must Drive Inclusive, Transparent Infrastructure Development

#### Editorial:

The federal government's allocation of Rs250 billion for Balochistan in the upcoming Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) is a significant step that, if properly implemented, can transform the province's economic future. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's announcement at the Balochistan Grand Tribal Jirga in Quetta reflects a welcome shift toward prioritizing infrastructure investment, socio-economic development, and regional connectivity in a province often overlooked.

However, we emphasize that this federal funding must be utilized for high-impact, long-term infrastructure projects — not short-term political schemes or small-scale, non-transparent initiatives. Balochistan requires mega projects that foster job creation, enhance public health systems, modernize education infrastructure, and develop transportation networks to uplift the Human Development Index (HDI) of the province.

For maximum return on investment and to ensure value for taxpayer money, funds must be directed toward projects like the dualization of the Quetta-Karachi Highway, smart road infrastructure, clean drinking water systems, renewable energy integration, and digital education access. These projects not only promote regional growth but also boost national economic indicators and reduce rural-urban disparities.

From a public finance and fiscal policy standpoint, transparency and accountability mechanisms must be enforced. We urge the government to establish an independent monitoring authority to ensure that every rupee is spent efficiently. Government transparency, financial accountability, and public-private partnerships should guide the implementation process to avoid corruption and misuse of development funds.

This is not just an economic opportunity; it is a national security imperative. Without addressing the root causes of underdevelopment — poverty, unemployment, and lack of education — extremism, insurgency, and foreign-sponsored sabotage will continue to find fertile ground. National security, economic resilience, and social cohesion are directly linked to how well we invest in the country's largest and most resource-rich province.

As a platform committed to investigative journalism, public interest reporting, and development policy, we insist that there be no individual projects, no ghost schemes, and no politically motivated allocations. Only inclusive economic development, guided by data-driven planning and evidence-based policy, can deliver the sustainable growth Balochistan needs.

This is a defining moment. The Rs250 billion fund should not be another missed opportunity. It must become the foundation for a new era of economic empowerment, smart city development, and infrastructure modernization in Balochistan. This will not only enhance the province's GDP contribution, but also attract foreign direct investment (FDI), boost e-commerce logistics, and reduce the digital and physical divide that isolates communities.

We call on the federal and provincial governments to act decisively, inclusively, and transparently. This is about nation-building, not narrow interests. The people of Balochistan deserve no less.

### Starting a Small Business in Balochistan: Funding & Growth Tips

Starting a small business in Balochistan is one of the most promising ways to generate income, create jobs, and uplift the local economy. With government-backed business loans, startup grants, and low-cost business ideas, Balochistan offers untapped opportunities for entrepreneurs. This guide explains step-by-step how to register, fund, and grow your business in the region.

**Why Start a Small Business in Balochistan?**

Balochistan has emerging markets, low competition, and a rising demand for basic and digital services. Entrepreneurs can benefit from:

• Low initial investment requirements

• Government incentives and grants for startups

• High demand for localized services and products

• Tax relief and SME support schemes

**Step-by-Step Guide to Launching a Business in Balochistan**

1. Choose a High-Profit Business Idea

Select a profitable business in Balochistan based on local market needs. Top ideas with high CPC potential:

• Solar energy installation business

• Organic farming or livestock trading

• Handicrafts export via e-commerce

• Freight, delivery, and logistics services

• Freelance digital services (graphic design, SEO, content writing)

These are low-risk and high-demand ventures suitable for the region.

2. Register Your Business Legally

To apply for business loans and government grants, you need to legalize your startup.

Register with SECP or local Chamber of Commerce

Apply for an NTN (National Tax Number) via FBR

Set up a business bank account

bank account

Ensure compliance with local business laws

Tip: Use the SECP eServices Portal for quick online registration

3. Apply for Small Business Grants in Pakistan (2025 Update)

Looking for free money to start a business in Balochistan? These grant programs can help:

• SMEDA Small Business Grants

• The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) offers:

• Capacity-building programs

• Matching grants for business improvement

• Free feasibility studies and training

Visit: [www.smeda.org](http://www.smeda.org)

Kamyab Jawan Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme (YES Loan 2025)

Loans up to PKR 5 million

No interest (Tier-1)

Priority for Balochistan youth and women

Apply now: [yes.kamyabjawan.gov.pk](http://yes.kamyabjawan.gov.pk)

4. Access Small Business Loans in Balochistan

Akhwat Islamic Microfinance

Interest-free loans (Qarz-e-Hasna)

Targeted at low-income and women entrepreneurs

National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) – SME Finance

Loan range: PKR 100,000 – 5 million

Grace period and flexible repayment terms

For registered startups in rural and urban areas

Balochistan Rural Support Program (BRSP) Community-led loan schemes

Enterprise development training

Ideal for agri-businesses and home-based work

Growth Strategies to Scale Your Startup in Balochistan

1. Digital Market-

ing for Local Businesses

Use local SEO techniques and social media platforms to get visibility.

Create a Google My Business listing

Use Facebook Ads with geo-targeting

Promote on WhatsApp Business and TikTok

2. Join Business Networks

Balochistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCCI)

Women Business Development Center (WBDC Quetta)

Trade shows and local SME expos

3. Reinvest Profits

Buy inventory in bulk

Invest in customer service and staff training

Explore B2B sales within Pakistan and abroad

Most Searched Questions (FAQs)

Can I get a government grant to start a business in Balochistan?

Yes. Programs like SMEDA and Kamyab Jawan offer grants and interest-free loans to qualified individuals, especially youth and women entrepreneurs.

What is the easiest business to start in Quetta?

Low-investment options include freelancing, handicrafts, mobile accessories, and home-based catering.

Is registration required for small businesses?

Yes. Legal registration opens access to government loans, grants, and tax incentives.

With the right knowledge, funding, and execution, starting a business in Balochistan can be both impactful and profitable.

By leveraging SME grants, low-interest loans, and digital tools, you can build a sustainable business that contributes to your community and secures your future.

## Israel and Iran Conflict and Its Impact on Middle East Stability

Syed Muhammad Waseem:

Israel and Iran are exchanging deadly attacks. Israeli strikes have hit homes, hospitals, and aid workers in Tehran. Iran responded with missile and drone attacks on cities like Tel Aviv and Haifa. Many civilians have been killed or injured on both sides.

The conflict is drawing global attention. President Trump left the G7 early due to the crisis. UK leaders warn against military action without approval. Tensions are rising, and the risk of a wider war is growing. Global powers are urging both sides to de-escalate.

The violence is shaking the region's stability. Political alliances are shifting, economies are under pressure, and millions fear what comes next. Behind the strikes and statements lies a deeper struggle for military power, especially between Iran and Israel. From the origins of their rivalry to current military actions, regional fallout, and global reactions, this article breaks down what you need to know.

### Historical Background

The Iran-Israel conflict history began intensifying after the 1979 Iranian Revolution, which transformed Iran from a close ally of Israel into one of its fiercest opponents. Iran's support for armed groups like Hezbollah and Hamas, along with Israel's targeted assassinations and airstrikes, deepened the divide.

The October 7 Hamas attack and Israel's retaliation marked a sharp escalation, pushing the conflict into more direct and dangerous territory. Over the years, the tensions have evolved through a timeline of provocative events. Iran's controversial nuclear program has drawn repeated warnings and attacks from Israel. Both nations have launched cyberattacks against each other, with

Israel's attacks have disrupted Iranian energy infrastructure, including the South Pars gas field. The violence has strengthened support for Iran's hardliners, with global concerns rising over the ongoing conflict.

Israel and Iran Conflict and Its Impact on Middle East Stability

Political Instability

The Israel-Iran conflict is deeply affecting nearby nations. Syria's new Sunni-led government has moved away from Iran. It sees Israel's strikes as helpful in reducing Iranian influence.

World from a bipolar to a multipolar world. Pakistan's predominant traditional security has seriously come under strain

Pakistan is cited as one of the countries blessed with strategic locations connecting extremely important geographical regions of Central and South Asia. Historically speaking, the dividends of geography did accrue and they included the fortification of security by enlarging the security apparatus with the help of western powers and economic progress of a few decades, albeit ephemeral in nature. The country was the cynosure of Western attention from its origin thanks to its location. In the decades of the sixties, eighties and later during the period of the so-called war against terrorism, Pakistan played a crucial role owing to the security compulsions of the western countries, led by America, turned out to be aligned with Pakistan's security concerns in the region, leading to trusted relations of cooperation.

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Balochistan is 43% of Pakistan and its tourism promotion will have an incredible impact on the country's image, attracting visitors from all over the world. Not only that Balochistan has a bigger landmass, but it is also badly affected by the war in Afghanistan and political alienation in the last several decades. Pakistan's tourism revival strategy must not only begin from Balochistan, the resource allocation for tourism must have this province as a priority, with the share equal to its size. Tourism promotion is not only vital for wider national development, the spectre of terrorism purveying the whole province, in particular in the coastal tourism potential region, can be tackled with the help of tourism promotion.

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Any disruption here could push oil prices above \$100, hurting both producers and consumers. Trade routes and airlines are also affected. Several carriers suspended flights to Iran, Iraq, and nearby nations. Jordan, Iraq, and Iran closed their air space, halting traffic on some of the world's busiest air corridors. These changes hurt tourism and slow cargo movement across continents.

Conflict-hit economies like Iran face added economic pressure. Sanctions, rising inflation, and oil infrastructure damage are worsening Tehran's financial crisis. Iraq and Lebanon may also suffer due to economic ties with Iran and ongoing instability.

Global inflation may rise if this war continues.

**Humanitarian and Social Consequences**

The human toll is rising fast. Over 220 Iranians, including women and children, have been killed. Israeli casualties are also growing. Missiles and airstrikes are displacing families, destroying homes, and leaving civilians trapped in unsafe areas.

Civilian lives have been lost, and public anger is growing. Global powers are taking sides, and some are also pushing for peace.

This conflict is not just about two nations; it affects the whole region and beyond. With rising deaths and economic damage, urgent diplomacy is needed.

Only strong regional cooperation and global mediation can stop the violence and bring long-term peace.

**Conclusion**

The Israel-Iran conflict has triggered political instability, military escalation, and economic shockwaves. Neighboring countries like Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq face serious risks, while oil prices and trade routes are under pressure. Civilian lives have been lost, and public anger is growing. Global powers are taking sides, and some are also pushing for peace.

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**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
GOVERNMENT & RURAL  
DEVELOPMENT QUETTA**  
e-mail: [info@aggr.gov.pk](mailto:info@aggr.gov.pk)

| NOTICE INVADING TENDER   |  |           |
|--|--|-----------|
| <p><b>Note:</b> In All Procurements of GOD Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, it is the responsibility of the Bidder to ensure that the Procurement System of BPPRA 2020, The Assistant Director General (Revenue &amp; Land Development) Quota is taken from Multiple Bidders. In case of violation works of the TUE 2020 based on Contractors schedule also 2020 on the basis of the TUE 2020. For more details, please refer to the TUE 2020.</p> |  |           |
| B.No.  | Name of Work   | Estimate  |
| 1  | SEWERAGE SYSTEM KANAKHAIKANDI QUETTA(PSD 3694)<br>TUE-PSD36708153  | 11,00,000 |
| 2  | CONSTRUCTION OF PAVEMENT AND DRAINAGE SYSTEM OF PAVEMENT SYSTEM OF BPPRA 2020<br>STOP AT NAWAKULI QUETTA CONTRA(PSD 3694) TUE-PSD36708153  | 20,00,000 |
| 3  | CONSTRUCTION OF PAVEMENT AND DRAINAGE SYSTEM OF PAVEMENT SYSTEM OF BPPRA 2020<br>STOP AT FOTRAL GROUND AT HAKKARFAM DAKA AREA PUBLIQUETTA<br>TUE-PSD36708153                         | 20,00,000 |
| 4  | CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD AND SEWERAGE SYSTEM KANAKHAIKANDI QUETTA(PSD 3694) TUE-PSD36708153  | 20,00,000 |
| 5  | CONSTRUCTION OF PAVEMENT AND DRAINAGE SYSTEM OF PAVEMENT SYSTEM OF BPPRA 2020<br>AT TAREEN SHEHRI KUTAI, MANTHAWAL ROAD NAWAKULI INDUSTRIAL<br>AREA QUETTA(PSD 3694) TUE-PSD36708153 | 40,00,000 |
| 6  | CONSTRUCTION OF PAVEMENT AND DRAINAGE SYSTEM OF PAVEMENT SYSTEM OF BPPRA 2020<br>QUETTA(PSD 3694) TUE-PSD36708153  | 20,00,000 |
| 7  | CONSTRUCTION OF PAVEMENT AND DRAINAGE SYSTEM OF PAVEMENT SYSTEM OF BPPRA 2020<br>QUETTA(PSD 3694) TUE-PSD36708153  | 20,00,000 |
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Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-6 and above [Up to \$10 million Relevant Category and Specialized Code is CEI(1)-(9)] Road and Pavements Drainage & Retaining Structure  
CEI(10) (Solar Energy). For work at S.No.6 Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-6 and above [Up to \$25 million Relevant Category and Specialized Code is CEIRH] (Sewerage Works)  
CEB I (1)-(9) (General Civil Engineering Works) For work at S.No.8 Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-6 and above [Up to \$10 million Relevant Category and Specialized Code is CEI(1)-(9)]  
CEB II (1)-(9) (General Civil Engineering Works) For work at S.No.9 Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-6 and above [Up to \$25 million Relevant Category and Specialized Code is CEIRH]  
CEB III (1)-(9) (General Civil Engineering Works) For work at S.No.10 Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-6 and above [Up to \$25 million Relevant Category and Specialized Code is CEIRH]

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**Tendering Information:** The Government of Karnataka has issued a tender for the supply of 2080 PKR Insurance of tender documents. From the date of publication of NIT to 7 August, 2022 during office hours on working days. Last Date of bid submission: The tenders must be submitted by 7 August, 2022 at 06:30 AM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the tender signed at 10:00 AM. Address: Senior Assistant Engineer, Road No.19, K. S. Narayana Industrial Estate, 2nd Floor, 1st Stage, 1G, Vittal, Procedure of Procurement: Single Stage Tender Envelope Bidding Procedure. Bid Security: The bids must accompany the security in the form of Bank Guarantee. Deposit on Call or % of specification above in the name of the undersigned from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 2080 PKR Insurance of tender documents. From the date of publication of NIT to 7 August, 2022 during office hours on working days. Last Date of bid submission: The tenders must be submitted by 7 August, 2022 at 06:30 AM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the tender signed at 10:00 AM. Address: Senior Assistant Engineer, Road No.19, K. S. Narayana Industrial Estate, 2nd Floor, 1st Stage, 1G, Vittal.

Phone no: 0061920239 Email: [adigndp@rediffmail.com](mailto:adigndp@rediffmail.com)

PRO No.210/22-07-2025

## Monsoon rains claim five more lives; death toll rises to 221: NDMA

ISLAMABAD (INP): Due to the recent monsoon rains in the country, five more people have lost their lives in the past 24 hours, bringing the total death toll to 221.

According to the latest report from the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), the dead included two men and three children. Ten people sustained injuries in rain-related incidents.

The report stated that more than 804 houses have been completely destroyed due to heavy rains.

According to the NDMA, Punjab is the most affected province, where 135 people have died and 470 injured, 168

houses were partially damaged and 24 were completely destroyed.

In Sindh, 22 people have died and 40 have been injured due to the rains. At least 54 houses were partially damaged, and 33 were completely destroyed.

In Balochistan, the intensity of the rains has claimed 16 lives, with four people injured. The rains partially damaged 56 houses and completely destroyed eight others.

In Gilgit-Baltistan, three

people were injured due to the recent rains, and 71 houses were partially damaged while 66 houses were completely destroyed.

In Azad Kashmir, one person died and 6 were injured due to the rains. 75 houses were partially damaged and 17 were completely destroyed.

In Islamabad, 1 person died as a result of the rains. 35 houses were partially damaged, and 1 house was completely destroyed.

According to NDMA's report, in the past 24 hours, 25 houses were destroyed, and five livestock were killed, raising the number of deaths to 200.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar, met with the Special Envoy for Global Affairs of the Austrian Chancellor, Peter Lamusky, on the sidelines of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development.

## Five tourists dead, three injured following devastating floods in Thak Babusar region

GILGIT-BALTISTAN (INP): At least five tourists have been confirmed dead, three injured, and 15 reported missing following devastating floods triggered by heavy rainfall in the Thak Babusar region of Diamer district, Gilgit-Baltistan.

The torrential downpour caused flash floods that swept away eight tourist vehicles and paralysed the area's road network.

According to Faizullah Faraq, the spokesperson for the Gilgit-Baltistan government, the worst-hit area is along the Thak-Babusar route, where floodwaters caused widespread destruction. The situation remains critical as rescue operations continue at a heightened pace with authorities racing against time to locate the missing.

Three bodies have been recovered so far, and four injured tourists have been shifted to hospital for urgent medical care. One of the injured is reported to be in critical condition. As rescue teams navigate through debris-strewn roads and challenging terrain, hun-

dreds of stranded tourists remain in temporary shelters.

Government sources revealed that Babusar Highway is blocked at several locations, isolating numerous villages and cutting off vital access routes.

Optical fiber communication lines have also been severely disrupted, hampering connectivity and coordination.

The Pakistan Army's rescue operation to evacuate stranded tourists in Deosai is successfully underway. Tourists are being airlifted to safer locations, including Babusar and nearby areas, via army helicopters.

Restoration work on the Skardu Road is also in progress, supported by army pilots and engineering teams. The landslide-affected section between Skardu and the Sadpara Mountaineering School has now been cleared, and the route from Deosai to Sadpara village has been reopened. Army personnel continue efforts to remove remaining debris.

In addition to rescue operations, the Pakistan Army is

providing food and essential supplies to those stranded. Around 150 ready-to-eat meal packets have been delivered to affected areas by helicopter.

Hundreds of tourists are stranded in the region, with many locals stepping in to provide shelter and support. While some stranded individuals have been successfully rescued by the authorities, dozens more have been accommodated by residents of nearby villages.

The Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan has instructed emergency teams to deploy all available resources for the evacuation and assistance of affected individuals. Floodwaters have destroyed roads, damaged farmlands, and severed links between multiple communities.

This disaster follows an earlier flood incident in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on 27th June, where more than 75 individuals, including women and children, were swept away in Swat River after torrential rains led to massive surges at seven different locations.

## Poverty, unemployment & illiteracy root causes of terrorism, extremism: Gillani

ISLAMABAD (INP): Senate Chairman Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Tuesday said that poverty, unemployment, and illiteracy are the root causes of terrorism and extremism, calling for a broad strategy to tackle these core issues and empower the youth for national progress.

He was addressing the inaugural session of the Senate of the Kalam Bibi International Women Institute, Bannu, held at the Parliament House. Gilani chaired the session on behalf of the President of Pakistan.

The session was attended by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, Chairman of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Vice Chancellor Dr. Aurangzeb Khan, MNA Shahida Akhtar Ali, MPA Engineer Ahmad Khan Kundi, and other senior officials.

Welcoming the establishment of the Kalam Bibi Interna-

tional Women's Institute, Gilani said the institute would open doors to higher and professional education for women in the southern districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He appreciated the efforts behind the project and urged for maximum facilities to be provided to ensure the institute's success. He said education and health have always been close to his heart, noting that both are closely linked. He stressed that women's welfare and the inclusion of minorities in the national mainstream remain among his top priorities.

He directed the HEC to urgently equip the institute with modern technology, internet access, and other essential resources, enabling it to operate efficiently.

Highlighting the challenges faced by backward areas in southern KP and Punjab, Gilani proposed establishing support

centres under the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) to help overcome regional issues.

He also mentioned that his daughter has served as a goodwill ambassador for women's empowerment.

Governor Faisal Karim Kundi also addressed the session, expressing his pleasure in attending and reaffirming his party's commitment to women's education.

He said the new institute would help integrate the underdeveloped southern districts into the national development framework.

Kundi praised the HEC's support and called for continued investment in institutions that address social inequality. He also proposed upgrading campus facilities, expanding the use of technology, and offering scholarships to deserving female students.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff, Royal Saudi Naval Forces, Vice Admiral Mohammed Bin Abdulrahman Al Ghuraybi called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf at Naval Headquarters.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding security arrangements for Chinese citizens in Pakistan.

## President, PM direct to accelerate rescue operation in flood-hit areas

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday condoning the loss of lives and property in rain and flood-related incidents directed the authorities concerned to accelerate the rescue operation in the affected areas.

President Asif Zardari expressed sorrow and grief over the loss of precious lives due to heavy rains and flash floods in various parts of the country.

In a statement issued by the Aiwan-e-Sadr in Islamabad, the president extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for the elevation of the ranks of those who lost their lives in the calamity.

President Zardari directed the relevant authorities to expedite relief and rescue opera-

tions in the affected regions. He emphasized the need to provide all possible assistance and rehabilitation support to the victims to help them recover from the disaster.

In his statement, PM Shehbaz Sharif while condoling the loss of lives and property in rain and flood-related incidents directed the authorities concerned to accelerate the rescue operation in the affected areas.

He also expressed grief over an incident of a car being swept away carrying a man and his daughter in floodwater in a housing society in Islamabad, and directed that all possible measures should be taken for their rescue.

The prime minister instructed the provision of urgent medical aid to those in-

jured in such incidents. He ordered the National Disaster Management Authority to ensure constant coordination with the provincial governments and relevant departments for their facilitation. He stated that immediate relief should be provided to the affected people and that all necessary preparations should be made in advance to deal with any untoward situation in the coming days.

Prime Minister Shehbaz also instructed the National Highway Authority and Frontier Works Organisation to expedite the restoration work of highways and link roads affected by floods. He prayed to Allah Almighty for peace for those who lost their lives in floods and other related incidents and expressed sympathies for the bereaved families.

## PMD issues flood and landslide alerts as more rains expected across country

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has issued a detailed weather forecast for Tuesday, warning of widespread rain, wind, and thundershowers in multiple regions, including Kashmir, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Islamabad, Punjab, and Gilgit-Baltistan.

While parts of the country will continue to experience hot and humid weather, several areas are likely to receive heavy to very heavy rainfall during the forecast period.

The PMD has cautioned that tonight and on July 22, intense rainfall may lead to flash flooding in local nullahs and streams. This risk is particularly high in northern and hilly regions such as Chitral, Dir, Swat, Shangla, Manshehra, Kohistan, Abbottabad, Buner, Charsadda, Nowshera, Swabi, Mardan, Murree, Galiyat, Islamabad, Rawalpindi, as well as in the hill torrents of Dera Ghazi Khan, Orakzai, Hangu, Kohat, Bannu, Karak, Dera Ismail Khan, and Waziristan. Isolated heavy rainfall is also likely, while other parts of the province will remain hot and humid.

In Punjab, most districts are likely to witness partly cloudy and humid weather. However,

rain-wind/thundershowers are expected in several areas including Rawalpindi, Murree, Galiyat, Chakwal, Attock, Sargodha, Khushab, Mianwali, Jhelum, Gujranwala, Gujrat, Sialkot, Narowal, Mandi Bahauddin, Hafizabad, Lahore, Sheikhupura, Kasur, Jhang, Toba Tek Singh, Multan, Khanewal, Faisalabad, Layyah, Bhakkar, Dera Ghazi Khan, Sahiwal, Rahim Yar Khan, Kot Addu, and Tanzeem Sharif. Isolated heavyfalls are also expected during this period.

In Sindh, most parts will experience hot and humid conditions. However, rain-wind/thundershowers are forecast for Karachi, Thatta, and Hyderabad. In Balochistan, similar hot and humid weather will dominate, although rain-wind/thundershowers are likely at isolated places, including Chitral, Dir, Swat, Kohistan, Bannu, Mardan, Nowshera, Swabi, Bajar, Mardan, Kurram, Gilgit-Baltistan, partly cloudy skies with isolated rain-thundershowers are expected. A few areas in Kashmir may receive heavy rainfall.

The public is advised to stay updated with weather advisories, avoid unnecessary travel to hilly areas, and take necessary precautions to protect life and property.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research, Mr. Rana Ishaq Hussain, chairing a high-level meeting with Pakistan Sugar Mills Association and provincial stakeholders.

## Time for negotiations with govt is over: Barrister Gohar

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar, on Tuesday declared that the time for negotiations is over, adding that only the instructions of incarcerated PTI founder Imran Khan will be followed.

While speaking to the media at the Judicial Complex, Barrister Gohar said the Senate elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were conducted smoothly.

He stated that PTI had finalized all its candidates well in advance, and not a single name was added without the consultation of the party founder.

He explained that the finalization process had been completed back in March 2024, but proceedings were delayed due to the is-

sue of reserved seats.

Once a decision on those seats was made, the party realized they wouldn't receive the number of seats they deserved. However, he added, receiving six seats was still a good outcome.

Responding to criticism, Gohar dismissed claims that individuals who held press conferences after May 9 were given tickets unjustly.

He pointed out that Mirza Afridi was personally chosen by Imran Khan, and that Afridi had never made any statements against the party.

"He has always remained aligned with PTI's narrative and interests," Gohar said.

He further emphasized that it's time to end political victimiza-

tion, as it's been two years now. He called for dialogue with PTI, stating everyone should now meet the party.

On the issue of meeting Imran Khan, Barrister Gohar said there are court orders permitting visits, but they are being violated. The last meeting with the PTI founder was held by Barrister Saif, followed by his sisters, but these meetings have sparked doubts and questions.

He concluded by saying, "We don't have to expel anyone from PTI — they leave on their own."

"He reiterated that Imran Khan will lead the protest from jail, and that the era of negotiations is over; from now on, everything will proceed as per Khan's directives."