

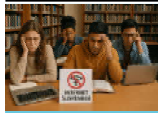
QUETTA VOICE


<https://www.quettavoice@gmail.com>

ABC Certified



Quetta voice.



Cut Off and Left Behind: Internet Blackouts Cripple Balochistan's Students

Azerbaijan Army Chief Meets COAS Asim Munir, Awards Patriotic War Medal for Defence Cooperation



NEWS DESK: RAWALPINDI: Colonel General Karim Valiyev, First Deputy Minister of Defence and Chief of the General Staff of the Azerbaijan Army, called on Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), at General Headquarters (GHQ) on Wednesday.

The meeting encompassed discussions on matters of mutual interest, with particular focus on the prevailing global and regional security landscape. COAS reaffirmed Pakistan's deep fraternal bonds with Azerbaijan and reiterated the resolve

to further consolidate bilateral relations. COAS also congratulated the visiting dignitary on the successful conclusion of the peace agreement between Azerbaijan and Armenia. The visiting dignitary praised Pakistan Armed Forces for their professionalism and success in Maarka-e-Haq, Operation Bunyanum Marsoos. The delegation also extended best wishes for the upcoming Independence Day and Victory Celebrations. COAS thanked Azerbaijan's leadership and people for standing together with the people of Pakistan during Maarka-e-Haq and also for sending

the Azeri Contingent for participating in the Independence Day ceremony. Both military leaders expressed a shared commitment to advancing defence co-operation and promoting joint efforts for regional peace and stability. On the occasion, Colonel General Karim Valiyev conferred upon Field Marshal Asim Munir, Azerbaijan's prestigious Patriotic War Medal for 'Services in the Field of Military Cooperation', on behalf of President Ilham Aliyev, in recognition of his exceptional contributions in Azerbaijan-Pakistan

bilateral military cooperation. He commended Pakistan's unwavering efforts in combating terrorism and reaffirmed commitment to enhance collaboration in defence and security. The visiting dignitary conveyed gratitude for Pakistan's warm hospitality and steadfast support for Azerbaijan. Earlier, upon arrival at GHQ, Colonel General Karim Valiyev was presented with the guard of honour by a smartly turned-out contingent of the Pakistan Army. He also laid a floral wreath at the Yadgar-e-Shuhada.



50 terrorists killed in 4-day Balochistan operation: ISPR

Balochistan High Court Summons Federal and Provincial Authorities Over Mobile Internet Ban

Syed Ali Shah: QUETTA: The Balochistan High Court has issued notices to the Advocate General of Balochistan and the Attorney General of Pakistan,

directing them to file detailed replies on the ongoing suspension of mobile internet services across the province. The directives came during a hearing of a petition filed by Khair Muhammad, Chairman of the Consumer Civil Society of Balochistan. In his petition, he argued that mobile internet is now a basic mode of communication for businesses, students, educational institutions, and daily life.

He contended that the indefinite suspension of services has severely disrupted education, halted business activities, and violated the fundamental rights guaranteed under Articles 9, 15, 18, 19-A, and 25 of the Constitution of Pakistan.

Internet Is The Basic Right



Khair Muhammad told the court that the provincial government had suspended mobile network and internet services without providing any plausible justification.

He emphasized that the shutdown has not only affected the business community and freelancers but has also deprived students and educational institutions of essential learning tools.

The court noted the seriousness of the matter and ordered the respondents to submit para-wise comments before the next hearing. It warned that if no replies were submitted, the

Secretary of the Ministry of Interior and the Secretary of Information Technology and Telecommunication, Government of Pakistan, would be required to appear in person on the next date.

The case is scheduled for further proceedings on 15 August 2025.

The ongoing suspension, which began on 6 August 2025 due to reported security concerns, has left millions in Balochistan without access to mobile internet, sparking frustration among citizens and raising concerns about its economic and social impact.

FIA awaits Ulema's opinion before proceeding against Dr Alvi on blasphemy allegations

NEWS DESK: Ad District court judge in Lahore directed the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to proceed under the law if any cognisable offence was made out after receiving the opinion of the Ulema Board on a petition seeking an FIR against former president Dr Arif Alvi over his alleged blasphemous remarks in a video that circulated on social media.

However, Additional District and Sessions Judge Shafiqat Shahbaz Raja disposed of the petition, filed by Shiekh Zada Adnan through advocate Mudassir Chaudhry, contending that former president Alvi had not made any blasphemous language in a video circulated on the internet.

The FIA, in its reply



to the petition, stated that a regular inquiry had been registered and marked to Abdul Basti, Sub-Inspector of the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA). The petitioner joined the inquiry proceedings and submitted evidence regarding his complaint.

The subject video

The petitioner's counsel opposed the FIA's stance, contending that the Ulema's fatwa had no relevance to the registration of the FIR.

He further argued that not everything in the video clip was audible.

However, Judge Raja disposed of the petition, directing the FIA to conclude the proceedings after receiving the reply of the Ulema Board and, if a cognisable offence was made out, to proceed under the law.

Earlier, another court had dismissed the petition because the petitioner had approached an inappropriate forum. That court noted that the government had established the NCCIA to deal with social media-related matters.

Cut Off and Left Behind: Internet Blackouts Cripple Balochistan's Students

Syed Muhammad Yaseen

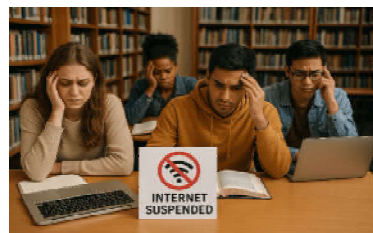
QUETTA: For thousands of students across Balochistan, August was supposed to be a month of preparation and hard work. With the Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT) and other university entry exams just around the corner, every hour counts. Instead, their studies have come to a grinding halt.

A sudden internet suspension — enforced for what authorities vaguely describe as "security reasons" in the lead-up to Pakistan's Independence Day on 14th August — has left students cut off from online classes, study materials, and test preparation platforms.

"It's like someone pulled the rug from under us," says Sanaulah, a political science student from Turbat. "We had online mock tests scheduled. Now there's nothing — just wasted days."

MDCAT Dreams on Hold

The timing could not be worse. Thousands of aspiring doctors, engineers, and professionals in Balochistan rely on internet-based coaching services, recorded lectures, and past papers to prepare



for high-stakes entrance exams.

Among them is Bibi Saqiba, a young student from Pishin. "I couldn't prepare for my MDCAT because all my lectures and tests are online," she says. "Worse, I haven't even been able to register for the exam because the registration portal won't open without internet."

For many like Saqiba, the MDCAT is more than just a test — it's a gateway to a medical career and a chance to lift their families out of financial hardship. Losing precious preparation time, or missing the registration entirely, could be that dream before it starts.

When Education Depends on a Signal

In much of

Balochistan, the internet is not just a convenience; it is the classroom itself. Universities post assignments on their websites. Teachers conduct lectures on video platforms. Students exchange notes via messaging apps.

"People think we just use it for social media," says Fatima Baloch, who is on a scholarship for an online IT course. "But for us, internet access is like electricity — without it, everything stops."

A Pattern of Disruption

Balochistan has suffered over 45 internet shutdowns in the past five years, according to digital rights groups. Many happen in August, often linked to security measures during national celebrations or

political events.

This recurring disruption has left students in the province constantly playing catch-up compared to peers in other parts of Pakistan.

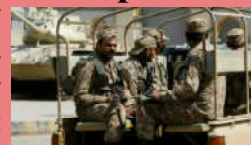
The Cost of Disconnection

The blackout's impact reaches beyond academics. Freelancers lose clients, small businesses can't process online payments, and patients miss telemedicine consultations. But for students, the loss feels deeply personal. Balochistan already has the country's lowest literacy rate — about 40% — and the gender gap in education remains stark. Every week without internet makes it harder for young people here to compete for university seats, scholarships, or job opportunities.

50 terrorists killed in 4-day Balochistan operation: ISPR

NEWS DESK: Security forces have gunned down 50 terrorists over the past four days, as they killed an attempt by militants to cross over from Afghanistan into Balochistan's Zibo district, said Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) in a statement on Tuesday.

In the Sambaza area of Zibo district, 47 terrorists were killed following a "successful engagement" by security forces from Aug 7 to 9, it said. In the same area along the Pak-Afghan border, three more "Indian-sponsored" terrorists were killed during a "sanitisation operation" on the night of Aug 10-11, it said, adding that arms and ammunition were seized from their possession. The statement referred to these militants as "khawarij", a term used to describe the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban militants. The number of TTP



terrorists killed in the four-day operation has risen to fifty, the ISPR added. Nine soldiers martyred. On the other hand, a convoy of security forces was ambushed in the southern Washuk district board-e-ring. Iran on Monday night, leading to the martyrdom of nine persons on the night, including an officer. The ISPR did not issue a statement by the time this report went to print. Six soldiers were also injured in the gun battle between the militants and the security forces in the Basima area of Washuk. Sources

a police station in Basima recently handed over to the police, but the policemen deployed there repulsed it successfully, the official said, adding that the fight continued for half an hour. Three policemen were injured. "Blood marks on the ground and a motorcycle confirm casualties on the other side," he claimed.

President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday commended the security forces for carrying out a successful operation against terrorists in the Sambaza area near the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. APP reported. The president and prime minister, in their separately issued statements, "appreciated the security forces for killing 50 Indian-sponsored terrorists in the last four days as a testament to their professionalism, bravery, and determination".



Mir Sarfaraz Bugti Chief Minister of Balochistan



**Mir Sadiq Umrani
Minister of Irrigation**



**Saleh Muhammad Nasar
Secretary Irrigation, Balochistan**

"On this Independence Day, we are not just celebrating freedom — we are ensuring its fruits reach every farmer. The remodeling of Pat Feeder Canal is a promise to turn Balochistan's water into prosperity, boosting agriculture, livelihoods, and hope across the province."

"This project is a landmark in our journey towards sustainable water management. By restoring the Pat Feeder Canal's full capacity, we will secure Balochistan's rightful share of Indus water, protect our fields, and empower our farming communities for decades to come."

"With advanced technology, stronger infrastructure, and climate-resilient planning, the Pat Feeder Canal remodeling will maximize every drop of water. This is an investment in our food security, economic growth, and the future of our people."

This 14th August, We Celebrate Not Just Freedom... But the Flow of Prosperity: **• Water Security • Agricultural Growth • A Stronger Pakistan**



Remodeling of Pat Feeder Canal

On this Independence Day, we honour Pakistan's journey by investing in the lifeblood of Balochistan's agriculture — the Pat Feeder Canal. Spanning 208 km through Naseerabad, Jaffarabad, Jhal Magsi, and Suhbatpur, this vital irrigation system is being reborn to deliver prosperity for generations to come



The Promise of Plenty

- Before: 304,528 acres irrigated due to siltation & capacity loss.
- After Remodeling: 616,659 acres will receive reliable irrigation.
- Balochistan's Full Water Share Restored: 8,587 cusecs flowing to every farm.



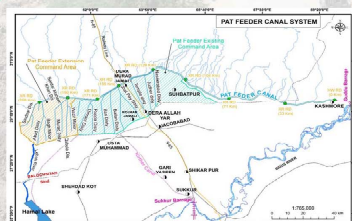
Independence Day Commitments

- Lining & De-silting to save every drop
- Upgraded Head Regulators for full delivery
- SCADA Telemetry Systems for fair distribution
- Combating Salinity & Waterlogging for healthy soils



Our Independence, Our Strength

- Boosting food security in the Kachhi Plain
- Protecting land & livelihoods
- Ensuring climate-resilient water supply
- Empowering rural communities





Mir Sarfaraz Bugti Chief Minister of Balochistan

"On this 14th August, we reaffirm our commitment to building a stronger and more self-reliant Balochistan. The Panjgur Storage Dam is not just an infrastructure project — it is a promise of prosperity, security, and opportunity for our people."



**Mir Sadiq Umrani
Minister of Irrigation**

"This dam will transform the agricultural landscape of our region, providing water security for thousands of farmers, protecting communities from floods, and unlocking new avenues for economic growth."



**Saleh Muhammad Nasar
Secretary Irrigation, Balochistan**

"The Panjgur Storage Dam is a milestone in our water resource management strategy. It will ensure sustainable irrigation, boost productivity, and improve the lives of countless families across Balochistan."

14th August Special – Panjgur Storage Dam Project A Landmark of Progress for a Prosperous Balochistan Water for Growth, Power for the Nation – Prosperous Balochistan, Stronger Pakistan



A Gift to the Nation on 14th August

On this Independence Day, the Government of Balochistan proudly presents the Panjgur Storage Dam Project in District Panjgur — a historic initiative worth Rs. 22,340.593 million that reflects our commitment to self-reliance, development, and the well-being of our people.



Key Objectives of the Project

- Irrigation for 10,000 hectares (24,711 acres) of agricultural land – 100% coverage (50% Kharif, 50% Rabi).
- Supply of 91,250 cubic meters (20,072,171 gallons) of clean drinking water.
- 36,500 cubic meters (8,028,869 gallons) of water for livestock.
- Significant reduction in flood damages and increase in crop yield.



Major Construction Features

- ECRD-type Storage Dam: 5,152 meters in length and 33 meters in height.
- 111.22 million cubic meters of water storage capacity – capable of irrigating 10,000 hectares of cultivable land.
- 64 outlets, 5,479 hectares of greenbelt development, and 118 check dams.
- Modern spillways, control structures, roads, housing, and other essential facilities.



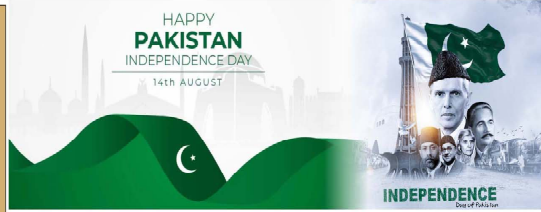
Independence Day Message:

On this 14th August, we reaffirm our promise to build a stronger, greener, and more prosperous Pakistan. Panjgur Storage Dam – Water for Growth, Strength for the Nation





Mir Sarfaraz Bugti Chief Minister of Balochistan



Mir Sadiq Umrani
Minister of Irrigation



Saleh Muhammad Nasar
Secretary Irrigation, Balochistan

The Awaran Dam is not just an infrastructure project — it is a lifeline for our people. It will turn barren land into fertile fields and bring prosperity to remote areas. This project reflects our commitment to water security and agricultural growth. By harnessing our natural resources, we will ensure a better future for Balochistan. It is a promise of progress, sustainability, and hope for generations to come."

"Water is the foundation of life and progress, and the Awaran Dam delivers both. With its modern design, it will store precious seasonal flows for year-round use. Thousands of farmers will benefit from reliable irrigation and higher crop yields. Livestock and rural communities will enjoy steady water supply for the first time. This is a turning point for agriculture and livelihoods in Awaran and beyond."

"The Awaran Dam is an engineering solution to decades of water scarcity in the region. It will provide irrigation to nearly 30,000 acres, boosting cropping intensity by 82%. Drinking water and livestock supply will improve living standards for local families. We are committed to completing this project with quality, efficiency, and transparency. This dam will stand as a symbol of sustainable development in Balochistan."

This 14th August, Awaran Dam brings the promise of water, prosperity, and a greener, stronger Pakistan for generations to come.



Key Objectives Store rainwater and seasonal flows of the Mashkai River. Support food security and long-term economic growth. Provide reliable irrigation to 29,652 acres of farmland.

Technical Specifications Type: Earth Core Rockfill Dam (ERCD) Storage Capacity: Gross 197.23 MCM | Live 115.80 MCM | Dead 81.43 MCM
Crest Length: 1,321.6 m Reservoir Area: 12.22 sq. km Reservoir Life: 30 years



Water Supply & Agricultural Benefits Irrigation Supply: 136.176 MCM/year Cropping Intensity Increase: Up to 82%
Irrigated Area: 29,652 acres Livestock Water Supply: 2,000,000 m³/year
Drinking Water Supply: 3,650,000 m³/year



14th August Special Building the Nation, One Drop at a Time Awaran Dam Water, Growth, and a Prosperous Balochistan

- On Independence Day, we renew our pledge to serve the people and the land.
- From the Mashkai River to every farm, prosperity will flow.
- Strengthening agriculture, securing water, and empowering communities.
- This Independence Day, we build for tomorrow together.

"Turning arid land into productive farmland"

