

# QUETTA VOICE

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Thursday 21



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## Harnai Rains Claim Three Lives, Child's Body Recovered After Flash Floods in Balochistan

## PM Shehbaz visits KP's flood-affected areas as 14 more bodies recovered

**NEWS DESK:** Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday visited the flood-affected districts of Swat, Buner, Shangla, and Swabi in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, as 14 more bodies were recovered from debris in Swabi's Dalori.

Record rains in KP which started on August 15, have wreaked havoc across the province. Last week, the provincial government declared an emergency as torrential rains ravaged homes, displaced families, and left a trail of destruction across Buner, Swat, Shangla, Manshera, and beyond.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, accompanied by federal ministers and Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, visited the flood-affected districts of Swat, Buner, Shangla, and Swabi, the Press Information Department said in a press release.

PTI Chairman Barister Gohar, while speaking to the media in Peshawar, also expressed gratitude to the federal and provincial governments, Pakistan Army, political parties, and their organisations, as well as all individuals and institutions that came forward to provide aid during the floods.

Fourteen bodies

were recovered from the debris in Dalori, a cloud-burst-hit region in KP's Swabi district, bringing the number of recovered bodies to 37 according to rescue officials.

The prime minister and COAS also received a comprehensive briefing on ongoing rescue and relief operations in KP, the PID added.

Information Minister Attaullah Tarar, Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Amir Muqam, and Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal accompanied PM Shehbaz.

During their interaction with flood victims, the prime minister assured them of the government and the army's

unwavering commitment to extending maximum support to them "in this critical hour".

PM Shehbaz appreciated the tireless dedication of the armed forces and civil administration, reaffirmed solidarity with the flood-affected population and assured them of all possible assistance, according to the PID.

The prime minister emphasised that every available national resource will be mobilised to accelerate recovery efforts and restore normalcy in the affected areas.

Speaking on the occasion, the prime minister also drew attention to illegal encroachments, the timber mafia, and

stone crushing activities, especially in the region's waterways, which have contributed greatly to the loss of lives and damages.

After the 2022 floods, I saw with my own eyes that on the sides of nullahs, rivers — In fact, even inside the rivers — that hotels and houses had been made.

There is no law in the entire world that allows you to construct dangerous hotels in such places," he regretted.

He said Pakistan must act as a 'hard state' where no one is above the law and necessary actions are taken against violators without distinction, according to the PID.

## KPK Flash Floods & Balochistan Internet Outage: Students Seek Extension in MDCAT 2025 Registration

## Harnai Rains Claim Three Lives, Child's Body Recovered After Flash Floods in Balochistan

**HARNAI:** At least three people lost their lives and three others were injured in rain-triggered incidents in the Harnai district of Balochistan.

In the Akhtarabad area, the roof of a house collapsed during heavy rainfall, killing two women and injuring another person.

Separately, in Gochina, rescue teams recovered the body of a nine-year-old boy who was swept away by floodwaters.

Earlier, four individuals carried away



by floodwaters were pulled out alive, two from the Gochina stream and two from

the Harnai Ploesen stream. So far, Harnai is the only district in

Balochistan to have reported casualties during the ongoing spell of monsoon rains.

## Imran Khan nominates Mahmood Achakzai as NA opposition leader, Swati for Senate

**NEWS DESK:** Incarcerated PTI founder Imran Khan has nominated Pashunkhwa Milli Awami Party Chairman Mahmood Achakzai for the post of Opposition Leader in the National Assembly. PTI Secretary-General Salman Akram Raja said on Wednesday.

"Azam Khan Swati has been nominated as Leader of the Opposition in the Senate," Raja added. He also said Imran has asked for five names to decide on his nominee for the opposition leader in the Punjab Assembly.

The announcement comes after the Election Commission of Pakistan earlier this month disqualified PTI's Omar Ayub Khan as the NA opposition leader and Shibli Faraz from the same role in the Senate, along with other opposition MNAs and MPs, following their convictions in May 9 cases. Both PTI opposition leaders were formally removed from their posts on August 8.

Speaking to reporters outside the Supreme Court, Raja said that Imran nominated had nominated Achakzai, who currently leads the Tehreek-i-Istehadad Ayeen-i-Pakistan (TIAP), to take Ayub's place.

The PTI founder has entrusted the matter of by-elections (to seats vacated after recent con-

victions of lawmakers in May 9 cases) to the party's political committee," he said.

"A political committee meeting will be held later today, where a decision will be made in this regard."

In a separate address in Lahore, Raja highlighted that the people need to come together and stand up against oppression, adding that they need to fight for their rights as enshrined in the Constitution.

son, warning that nobody has freedom.

"There is only one law in this country, its name is fear," he emphasised.

"We will take your struggle to every stage we can," Raja said, indirectly addressing party supporters.

"We are all part of one big struggle for human rights. What does the supremacy of law and the Constitution mean? It means having the right to stand up and protest, as in Article 17.

place."

Raja emphasised that "we all have rights and we are all human", adding that the people need to stand up for a common agenda.

"We can see in these floods, they are not purely natural disasters; there is a human hand and greed involved," Raja declared. "We need to eradicate this greed in the same way as our forests are being cut down. If we do not stand up, we will not be able to raise our



"It doesn't matter where you're from or what party you belong to, if you have empathy, we are all together," he said. "For the permanence of humanity and dignity, we need to fight this war." The PTI general secretary highlighted that anyone can be detained for any rea-

Article 15 allows free movement. Article 19 says we can raise and spread our voice together. "We have to fight for the farmers and the downtrodden," he added. "I listened to people in Sindh, it brought tears to my eyes, but this is not only in Sindh, it is common-

voices again." Last week, the Peshawar High Court had issued a stay order for the appointments of new opposition leaders in the NA and the Senate. The bench also issued notices to the ECP, seeking its response to two separate petitions filed by Ayub and Faraz.

## Quetta: Probe Widens After Key Arrest, Says Balochistan Govt Spokesperson

**NEWS DESK:** QUETTA: Following a recent significant arrest in Quetta, the Balochistan government announced that the scope of investigations has been expanded to dismantle networks of target killers.

Government spokesperson Shahid Rind said that actionable intelligence regarding some target killers led to multiple raids across different locations, resulting in the detention of several suspects.

"During one of the raids, Advocate Zameer was also taken into custody along with other suspects, but after preliminary investigations,



he was released," the spokesperson clarified.

Rind stressed that security operations are part of ongoing efforts to ensure lasting peace in Balochistan. He added that law enforcement agencies are operating in "grey

areas" where distinguishing between friend and foe is a complex process.

He further emphasized the need for collective efforts and public cooperation to achieve sustainable peace, assuring that "no innocent individual will be

wronged, as interrogation is a lawful process."

The spokesperson reiterated that targeted operations will continue across the province to restore stability and protect citizens from violence.

## KPK Flash Floods & Balochistan Internet Outage: Students Seek Extension in MDCAT 2025 Registration

**Syed Muhammad Yaseen**  
**QUETTA/PESHAWAR:** As floods continue wreaking havoc across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) and mobile internet services remain suspended province-wide in Balochistan due to security measures, thousands of aspiring medical students are urging the Pakistan Medical & Dental Council (PMDC) to extend the MDCAT 2025 registration deadline with the normal fee.

**Flash Floods in KPK**

KPK has been battered by relentless monsoon rainfall, triggering dangerous flash floods and widespread devastation. These conditions have severely impacted infrastructure and internet connectivity in affected areas, directly hampering students' ability to register for the MDCAT exam. (While no single article explicitly links KPK floods to MDCAT delays, monsoon and flood conditions are widely reported.)

**Mobile Internet Shutdown in Balochistan**

Since early August, the Balochistan government has suspended mobile internet across all 36 districts, citing heightened security risks amid independence Day tensions. The blackout, slated until



August 31, has left students in the province disconnected and unable to attend critical online classes or register for exams.

The shutdown affects districts including Quetta, Kohlu, Chaman, Pishin, Loralai, Ziarat, Qila Saifullah, Nushki, and Harnai.

Local students report that they "cannot prepare for the fast-approaching examinations" due to the blackout.

Authorities warn that internet is suspended to curb terrorist threats.

The Balochistan High Court has instructed the government to reconsider the blanket ban and restore services where there is no specific threat.

**Student Voices and Appeals**

Amid these dual crises, student bodies and parents have strongly appealed to the PMDC and federal authorities for an immediate extension of the MDCAT registration deadline under the normal (non-late) fee to ensure that students in KPK and Balochistan are not penalized for circumstances beyond their control.

"We cannot prepare for the fast-approaching examinations because of the internet suspension," said Saqiba Ali, an MDCAT aspirant from Quetta.

**Why an Extension Matters**

Equal access: Without an extension, many students in disaster- and security-affected zones face exclusion from medical college entry.

Fairness: Adding late fees to students already battling infrastructure collapse and digital blackouts compounds inequity.

Urgency: With registration deadlines approaching, immediate relief is necessary for thousands of affected candidates.

## QUETTA VOICE

### Editor: Asim Khan

# 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 Tribunal 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.

By Arifa Noor

## Normal abnormal

**T**HE humidity hangs heavily in the air but doesn't deter the quiet protest by a small group of women. They sit silently, their heads bowed, a small splash of colour against the grey concrete. With their old-fashioned hand fans, they occupy a sheet of plastic in the middle of the road.

The nearby green areas, which once allowed Pakistanis to witness problems to Islamabad by holding protests there, is closed to these women. The earth and grass are far too comfortable for them to be allowed there. They have to sit on the road, close to a busy commercial area, but away from the business in the area, as traffic barriers create a boundary, separating them from life in the capital. They have been here for a month but have not managed to disturb the life of the city or the government. How can they when even the doors of the waistcoats of the press club close by are closed to them? Those who should be the flag-bearers of freedom of information are now a part of a system which bears down on citizens rather than standing up for the oppressed.

So it's not just the waistcoats but also coverage which is denied. These protesters are ignored, blacked out. There was a time, when such a gathering would have galvanised enough opinion to put any government on the back foot. Not anymore. The women's steadfastness in this heat and in these circumstances move no one. Perhaps partly because most people do not even know they are here and partly because this government has no space to even pretend to care about human rights.

The protest has been rendered invisible.

But then the political suffering of women has been normalised in the abnormal times we live in — the women in Islamabad who are not even allowed to sit on grass lest it prove too comfortable, or Mahrang Baluch who has been imprisoned with little chance of any relief in the near future. In Lahore, Yasmin Rashid has been behind bars for two years, with little concern for anyone outside of her party (which can barely do more than pay lip service to the matter). Her age moves no one; neither do the elderly women sitting on the road in this heat in a corner of Islamabad, carrying pictures of their missing loved ones in their heavily wrinkled hands. Their endless wait is for closure as well as some compassion from those in charge.

Ask the government about anything upward and they simply shrug it off.

But suffering and lack of compassion have been normalised in the abnormal times we live in. As has been the indifference of political parties, which can no longer even pretend to care. Not even those who continue to bask in the glory of a woman who was once the lone symbol of suffering and the target of the powerful ones.

This is not all that has been normalised.

Consider journalism. Arrests,

FIIs, disappearances — temporary arrests — are part of what journalists signed up for. What it meant was that only the brave ones would continue down certain paths (most opened the door and walked through to the compound where awards adorn one's resumé). But despite this, we have seen a fair share of brave souls who continued to face the dangers. Here too, though, there is an effort to remind them that this may not prove enough.

In recent times, at least two journalists have spoken about how the bank accounts of family and even acquaintances have been blocked. Parents, siblings and even vendors who made the mistake of selling to pesky journalists have been affected. The only recourse left to them were the courts, which, too, are now enveloping themselves in the mantle of indifference. But the message is that collective punishment is the fate of those who will not heed more specific messages about falling in line. Or that the element of surprise will always be their fate. When blocked bank accounts did not prove enough, one of them was stopped from flying out of the country recently. Since then, a PTI politician's daughter has also found her way to the list.

Her father is neither in power nor in parliament and is perhaps not in a position to make any decision but still had to be sent a message. And for this, a university student was stopped from leaving the country, putting her education at risk.

In all of these random, seemingly disconnected incidents, there is a commonality — no one can be asked about them or even shamed. The government has moved beyond this — ask them about anything upward and they simply shrug it off. There must be a reason, a valid reason, is the only answer. If it's a journalist, he or she must have done something wrong to attract the "long arm of the law". And if there is a story involving a politician from the opposition, the easiest response is to either hint at the former's non-patriotic credentials or feign ignorance and move on.

Indifference has been normalised in these abnormal times. And while some of us do express horror and grief and shock, it amounts to little more than a second such incident is taken in its stride. It has already happened to others and if the previous incident was accepted, so should the new one. The shock and horror turns into acceptance.

But then, these are abnormal times, we tell ourselves. And they might not last and neither will these stories. However, this provides little comfort for I can remember when we first began to hear of "missing people", when stories about the missing were told avidly because it was news. Or when suicide bombings first happened in Pakistan. Then the times changed, leaders changed but we learnt to live with the missing and the suicide bombers. Times don't last necessarily but the abnormal soon becomes normal.

### War on truth

AS Israel's military onslaught on Gaza intensifies, targeting and assassinating journalists is part of its genocidal campaign. Last week, four Al Jazeera journalists were killed in cold blood, among them Anas al-Sharif, the most prominent face on the global television network who had courageously been reporting on the conflict, the war and famine conditions in Gaza. The journalists were killed in a drone attack on a makeshift media tent outside Al-Shifa hospital. Targeting journalists is a war crime but Israel has acted with impunity and has long shown contempt for international humanitarian law or norms.

The Israeli military has been carrying out deliberate assaults on journalists since its war on Gaza began nearly two years ago. According to the UN, 242 journalists have been killed in that period, which is described as the highest number in any conflict. Israel's military claimed responsibility for the murder of Anas al-Sharif, saying he was a "Hamas terrorist" — a patently false allegation that Al Jazeera vehemently denied. Labelling journalists as militants is a disingenuous tactic Israel has always used. According to the Israel-Palestine news outlet "972 magazine", Israel's military has a special unit charged with identifying journalists to "smear" as Hamas members and target them.

The killings of journalists sparked global outrage. UN Secretary General António Guterres denounced it and the UN's Human Rights Office called it a grave breach of international law. Journalists' bodies are human rights organisations, including Reporters without Borders, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and the Committee for the Protection of Journalists all issued strong condemnations of these extrajudicial murders and called for accountability and international action to stop Israel.

By Malecha Lodhi

### On a wing and a prayer

**W**HEN most European leaders were praying for themselves, more than 60,000 Palestinians killed, including over 18,000 children, that is 28 children every single day. Nearly 270 journalists targeted and silenced, leaving Gaza blindfolded before the world. Sixty-nine per cent of Gaza's structures damaged or destroyed, including 245,000 homes with the UN estimating 350 years to rebuild under current conditions. Eighty-four per cent of health facilities destroyed. Famine engineered so deliberately

that women cannot produce milk for their infants, while children collapse from starvation before aid trucks that never reach them. Gaza's environment too has been assaulted; orchards uprooted, farmland razed, olive trees reduced to dust, seas poisoned with sewage, soil contaminated with munitions. The UNEP reports 100,000 cubic metres of sewage pumped daily into the sea after Israel cut off Gaza's fuel.

Years before Oct 7, Israel's deputy prime minister spoke words that now echo in the rubble of Gaza: "We must blow Gaza back to the Middle Ages, destroying all the infrastructure, including roads and water."

Now Netanyahu proclaims there is "no space" for a Palestinian state, the implication is

clear: for there to be no Palestine, Palestinians must either be destroyed or expelled. If this is not genocide, what is?

Raphael Lemkin, who coined the term "genocide", foresaw this very problem. For him, genocide was never limited to mass killings.

It was the destruction of a people's way of life, their families, culture, environment and capacity to exist as a nation. Lemkin's broad and accurate conception was narrowed by the colonial powers that shaped the Genocide Convention.

Lemkin prepared the first draft of the Genocide Convention and he explicitly included cultural genocide alongside physical and biological destruction.

By Hamidah Tabriz

The figures speak for themselves.

Under Lemkin's systemic starvation of Gaza, its destruction of its environment, its targeting of journalists, professors and poets like Rafiq Alaier, its destruction of schools, its poisoning of land and sea,

its uprooting of orchards, its bombing of hospitals and homes, all amount unmistakably to genocide.

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## Tourism: The Neglected Sector

**P**akistan 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 its location. 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.

Pakistan's predominant traditional security predilection has seriously come under strain. More distinctly, one of Pakistan's neighbours and most trusted ally has turned into the second most robust economy of the world, challenging the traditional sole power of the world.

While another neighbour, although not friendly, is shaping itself into one of the 'top five world economies'.

A country's power is now measured with different yardsticks; compelling the internal power repositories to share the power cake

With the end of the last Afghan war in the neighbourhood and seismic political changes at

the border, with Tora Bora the most popular of the cave complexes. Soon after, by the mid-2000s, the Pakistani Taliban, or other militant groups, had taken control of most of Fata in Pakistan. A new great game took root in this

belt that decimated the local culture, economy and lifestyle of its people. Unfortunately, lying in the wrong conclusions were drawn. The tribal nature of this area and its people, it was concluded, was the root cause for the spread of militancy and the area's underdevelop-

ment. So, it was decided by the then powers that they have come to a 'mainstream' Fata.

National security experts saw it as a means to counter militancy while West-influenced development specialists viewed it as the great liberalisation — freeing the barbaric tribesmen from their 'past', if you will.

Others decided it was time for Fata to cease to exist. Without any genuine consensus building, and on the illusion of a demand from a group of pseudo tribal youth, all major political parties of Pakistan, other

than the JUI-F, voted for Fata to be merged with KP, with the promise of peace, prosperity, legal rights and development.

It's safe to say the merger has not gone as planned.

It has failed to: secure the merited districts' share in the NFC award, deliver functioning judicial services, provide promised government jobs or quota seats to residents, promote businesses or industry production, create employment opportunities.

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## Dr Farooq urges Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab to resign after rain havoc

KARACHI (INP): Senior MQM-Pakistan leader Dr Farooq Sattar has demanded that Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab resign from his post after rain havoc.

During a late-night visit to rain-affected areas of Surjani Town, Sattar expressed anger over the failure to drain rainwater, saying that the claims of local representatives had been

washed away in the streets of Karachi.

"We can afford the salaries and perks, but we cannot carry the burden of this mayor," he remarked, criticizing the city's administration.

Farooq Sattar further said it appears there is a "national consensus to destroy Karachi," urging the federal government to change its attitude. He suggested that

while Karachi may not be declared a disaster-hit zone, the city should at least be given tax relief in this difficult time.

The MQM leader also lashed out at the PPP, Jamaat-e-Islami, and PTI for failing to manage the post-rain situation, questioning how many storm drains had been cleaned and whether any effective rain emergency was put in

place.

He praised Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori, noting that despite having no official resources or public funds, he had turned his largely ceremonial office into a practical and exemplary role.

"We have been out since morning and have now completed our visit of Karachi. MQM has fulfilled yet another promise," Sattar added.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Health, Balochistan, Bakht Muhammad Kakar visiting Civil Hospital.

## Internet services restored across Pakistan after heavy rains

ISLAMABAD (INP): Internet services have been restored across Pakistan which were disrupted after heavy rains, Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) said.

According to PTCL spokesperson, internet services have been fully restored nationwide.

PTCL services had faced disruption since yesterday evening, but the issue has now been resolved and operations are back to normal, the reports from major cit-

ies of Pakistan, including Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad and Peshawar, slow or no browsing speed, connection disruptions and outage in online services have been frequently highlighted.

Online workers and business personnel expressed frustration over the unavailability of essential online applications and platforms.

IT and Telecom Minister, Shaza Fatima accepted the issue, stating that professional officials are

investigating are working to fix the root cause.

"We will inform the public as soon as the reasons are identified and solutions are given," she assured.

The internet outage during the severe weather conditions, and rains has raised the concerns over Pakistan's IT infrastructure, especially most of the individuals use internet for their remote work, education, communicating their relatives abroad or e-commerce.

LAHORE (INP): The 54th martyrdom anniversary of Pakistan's national hero, Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas Shaheed, is being marked across the country today (Wednesday).

Rashid, who was born on February 17, 1951, remains the youngest officer to receive the Nishan-e-Haider award and was the first recipient of the highest honour of gallantry for the Pakistan Air Force (PAF).

He got his early education from Karachi and upon reaching the tender age of 17, he joined Pakistan Air Force Academy in Rwalpur as a cadet. In 1971, Rashid graduated from the academy as a general duty pilot and was posted to PAF base Masoor in Karachi's

## PHC extends stay order preventing appointment of new opposition leaders in NA, Senate

PESHAWAR, Aug 20 (INP): The Peshawar High Court on Wednesday extended its stay order preventing the appointment of new opposition leaders in the National Assembly and Senate.

The court was hearing separate petitions submitted by PTI leaders Amir Ayub and Shibli Faraz, challenging their denotification from the positions of opposition leader in both houses, respectively.

A two-member bench comprising Justice Waqar Ahmad and Justice Dr. Kamran Hayat Mian Khel presided over the hearing. During the proceedings, the petitioners' counsel, Advocate Basheer Khan Wazir, argued that both the speaker of the National Assembly and the chairman of the Senate had denotified his clients in violation of the courts' earlier directives.

He further contended that while the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) had previously disqualified the petitioners.

## Sexual violence used as 'weapon of war' in Palestine, Kashmir, UN told

NEW YORK (INP): Pakistan told the United Nations on Tuesday sexual violence was employed as a "weapon of war" under foreign occupation, as well as exploitation of natural resources," Ahmad said in his statement. "The perpetrators must face justice, because impunity only emboldens abuse." Focusing on Palestine, he said thousands are facing violence, forced displacement and starvation at the hands of the occupying power.

"Despite the limited access granted to UN monitors, the perpetrators and action centered approach, prioritization of speech of occupation, accountability for perpetrators and action to address the root causes of unresolved conflicts.

ing used as a weapon of war, torture, terrorism, political repression and as a tool to consolidate illegal occupation of territories, as well as exploitation of natural resources," Ahmad said in his statement. "The perpetrators must face justice, because impunity only emboldens abuse." Focusing on Palestine, he said thousands are facing violence, forced displacement and starvation at the hands of the occupying power.

Speaking at the UN Security Council's annual open debate on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, Pakistan's Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad said the international community SG's [Secretary General's] report has documented incidents of rape,

sexual violence, prolonged forced nudity and repeated strip searches inflicted in degrading ways," he continued.

"This Council cannot turn away from such a systematic abuse. Accountability is imperative," Ahmad also drew parallels with Indian-administered Kashmir, where he said sexual violence has been sys-

tematically used by security forces to punish and intimidate those demanding self-determination.

He urged the UN to take a comprehensive approach to addressing conflict-related sexual violence, especially in contexts of foreign occupation, where abuse is harder to monitor or report.

He called for greater participation of women in peacebuilding, the adoption of a survivor-centered approach, prioritization of speech of occupation, accountability for perpetrators and action to address the root causes of unresolved conflicts.

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## SITUATION VACANT

Job Title: Project Director Balochistan Water Resource Development Sector Project (BWDRDP)

Appointment Authority: Irrigation Department  
Mode of Appointment: Contract Appointment for a period of one (01) years, extendable on yearly basis subject to satisfactory performance and as per approved P.C.I.

Pay Package: Project Pay Scale (B-16), in terms of Government of Pakistan Finance Division (Regulation) Wages under No. F-408-2023 dated 15-04-2023.

Qualification/Experience: B.E. Civil must have valid PEC Registration & Minimum at least 12 years experience in water resources, relevant field and in with the recent years implementation Project Management / implementation Particularly, Government of Pakistan Project Planning and Management Process and Procedures.

Age Limit: Minimum age 25 and Maximum age 60 years as the date submission of applications.

Term of Reference of the Project Director: The Project Director (PD) in responsible to execute the Balochistan Water Resources Development Sector Project (BWDRDP) and strategically oversee the planning, design, development and implementation of an integrated solution to meet the vision of the sector project.

How to Apply: Applications along with CV two passport size photographs, attested copies of CNIC, Local / Domestic, educational and experience certificate will be received by the undersigned, at First Floor Block No. 7 Civil Secretariat Zarghoun Road Quetta, latest 10-09-2025. Government employees should submit their application through their concerned Departments. No application will be entertained after 10-09-2025. Only short listed candidate will be called for interview and date of interview will be announced later.

Section Officer (Admin.) Irrigation Department Government of Balochistan

PRO No. 855/19-9-2025

For more information, please visit the website: [www.gob.gov.pk](http://www.gob.gov.pk)



QUETTA: Pakistan Medical Association President Dr Aftab Kalar addressing a press conference.

## At UN, Pakistan debunks India's allegations of human rights abuses as 'fallacious'

UNITED NATIONS (INP): A Pakistani diplomat Tuesday hit back at India for accusing Pakistan, during a UN Security Council debate on conflict-related sexual violence, of carrying out human rights abuses, calling New Delhi's charges "fallacious".

These falsehoods are nothing more than an attempt to deflect attention from India's well-documented record of grave violations of international law, particularly in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, as well as its systemic persecution, discrimination, and violence against minorities and

marginalized communities within India," Sarfraz Ghohar, first secretary at the Pakistan Mission, told the 15-member Council.

The Pakistani delegate was exercising his right of reply to the Indian representative, Eldos Mathew Punnose, who alleged that a series of rights abuses was taking place in Pakistan with "impunity".

The Indian representative was reacting to a sharp statement made earlier in day by Pakistan's UN Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, who highlighted the suffering and abuses of the Kashmiri women and girls at the hands of Indian military in occupied Kashmir.

In his remarks,

Gohar, the Pakistani delegate, rejected his Indian counterpart's accusations as "entirely baseless and politically motivated". The reference to 1971, he said, was a "distortion of history", adding, "India's own military intervention in East Pakistan was a blatant violation of the UN Charter, and it is ironic that a country responsible for such actions now seeks to malign others."

The BJP-RSS government, which has ruled India since 2014, was guilty of imposing a reign of terror, not only against the people of Kashmir, but also its own over 200 million Muslims, 2 million Christians and millions of Dalits and other 'low-caste' Hindus, the Pakistani delegate said.

"India's crimes are well-documented, including the pogroms in Gujarat, Mumbai and Delhi; the frequent lynching of Muslims by 'cow vigilantes'; the bulldozing of Muslim houses and shops; hate speech, including calls by political leaders and Hinduva priests for genocide against Muslims," he said.

"In orgy of Islamophobia, Muslims are forcibly converted, or disenfranchised; the campaign to obliterate Muslims and their cultural heritage, the legacy of India."

## China shares waste paper recycling solutions with Pakistan and other BR partners

SHANGHAI (INP): China shared waste paper recycling solutions with Pakistan and other BR partners at the International Training Workshop on Waste Paper Recycling Technology.

The workshop was hosted by the International Cooperation Department of China's Ministry of Science and Technology and undertaken by the National Pulp and Paper Research Institute, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Wednesday.

During the 15-day workshop, China's advanced technologies, engineering design, production and equipment of the pulp and paper industry were shared with professionals from 11

countries including Pakistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, and Nepal.

The workshop comprised thematic lectures, factory internships, exhibition visits, and academic exchanges. Held successively in Beijing, Longyou (Zhejiang), and Shanghai, it invited nearly 20 industry experts to deliver systematic lectures on pulp and paper making as well as waste paper recycling technologies.

Overseas participants visited leading Chinese enterprises in specialty paper, household paper, papermaking machinery, and engineering design, such as China Haisum Engineering Co., Ltd., Shanghai Qingling Industrial Co., Ltd., Kingdecor (Zhejiang) Co., Ltd., Vinda International Holdings Limited, Zhejiang Hengda New Material Co., Ltd., and Zhejiang Huabang Special Paper Co., Ltd.

They also attended the 2025 China International Paper Technology Exhibition and Conference to further deepen their understanding of the cutting-edge achievements and development trends in China's papermaking industry. Notably, a platform for exchanges in the papermaking industry among Belt and Road countries was established during the workshop, aiming to enhance cooperation in papermaking, resource recycling and green development.

## NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Note: To All Procurement of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, it is Mandatory for All Bidders to Get Registered at Electronic Public Procurement System of PPPRA GOB. The Assistant Director Local Govt Khuzdar invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2025 based on Composite schedule in value 2025 in the following rates:

Tender Fee Rs 2000 PKR and Bid Security 2% for each work

S.No	Name of Work's	Estimate
1	SOLAR HOME SYSTEM UCHADRI KASHMIRGH-ZEHRI DISTRICT	29,708,777
2	SOLAR HOME SYSTEM UCHADRI KASHMIRGH-ZEHRI DISTRICT	29,708,777
3	SOLAR HOME SYSTEM TALAWAN SAMAWAN YAMODI TEHSIL ZEHRI	29,708,777
4	SOLAR HOME SYSTEM SARAP KAND KASHMIRGH SARAP TEHSIL ZEHRI	29,708,777
5	SOLAR WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES FOR KILLI SUMAN, KILLI BASHIR ZEHRI	9,900,936
6	SOLAR WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES FOR KILLI SAGHER MUHAMMAD SHAH, KHALID MARDYQI & GARI SHAKIR DISTRICT KHUZDART	11,877,718
7	CONST. OF PCC DRAIN TUFF TILES & SEWERAGE FOR FAGERABAD, KHUZDART DISTRICT KHUZDART	9,901,698
8	CONST. OF PCC DRAIN TUFF TILES & SEWERAGE FOR KILLI HUSAINABAD, KHUZDART DISTRICT KHUZDART	9,901,698
9	CONST. OF PCC DRAIN TUFF TILES & SEWERAGE FOR KILLI SALEMABAD, KHUZDART DISTRICT KHUZDART	12,875,769
10	CONST. OF PCC DRAIN TUFF TILES & SEWERAGE FOR KILLI ZODI COLONY, KHUZDART DISTRICT KHUZDART	9,900,670
11	CONST. OF PCC DRAIN TUFF TILES & SEWERAGE FOR KILLI MIR MEERAN, KHUZDART DISTRICT KHUZDART	9,903,138
12	CONST. OF PCC DRAIN TUFF TILES & SEWERAGE FOR KILLI SALEMABAD, KHUZDART DISTRICT KHUZDART	9,900,231
13	CONST. OF PCC DRAIN TUFF TILES & SEWERAGE FOR KILLI MIR MEERAN, KHUZDART DISTRICT KHUZDART	9,903,138
14	CONST. OF PCC DRAIN TUFF TILES & SEWERAGE FOR KILLI MIR MEERAN, KHUZDART DISTRICT KHUZDART	9,900,660

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Eligibility Criteria can be seen in bidding documents. Procedure of Procurement: Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure. Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee. Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the under-siged from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-siged. Tender Fee: 2,000 PKR (Two thousand Rupees). From the date of publication of NIT to 09 September 2025 during office hours on working days. Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted to the office of the under-siged latest by 05 September 2025 at 11:00 AM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-siged at 12:00 PM. Address: Assistant Director Office Khuzdar. Phone no: 0848412571. Email: kashifamir@yahoo.com

PRO No. 71320-20-2025

Senior Assistant Director Local Government & PD Department Khuzdar

For more information, please visit the website: [www.gob.gov.pk](http://www.gob.gov.pk)

ISLAMABAD: MD Pakistan Baft-ul-Mal Senator Captain (R) Shaheen Khalid Butt and MD Overseas Pakistanis Foundation Mohammad Afzal Bhatti pose for a group photo with students of OFF girls College.

## RPO unveils comprehensive plan for stronger policing, enhanced public safety

DI KHAN (INP): Regional Police Officer (RPO) Dera Syed Asghar Anwar has unveiled a comprehensive plan for stronger policing and enhanced public safety, including the installation of 800 surveillance cameras under the Safe City Project.

Talking to media persons here at his office, he said 350 cameras are already operational across the district, while an additional 450 are being installed to ensure round-the-clock monitoring of key areas. He informed that similar security upgrades are underway in the Tank district.

The RPO emphasized that

terrorism is a curse and that police are working day and night to combat militancy and crime across the region.

He revealed that six new check posts are being set up on the Dera-Tank road and four on the Darazinda road, while police facilities, including the DPO office,

RPO office, and Traffic Headquarters, are under renovation.

New Police Lines in Dera will soon be launched, and the Tank Police Lines project is in its final stages.

Highlighting manpower expansion, the RPO said the provincial government has

agreed to increase the force, with 600 additional personnel proposed for Dera and 200 for Tank.

He stressed that this step will directly strengthen efforts against crime and terrorism.

He also announced recent promotions, welfare measures for police families, and parity of salaries with the Punjab police.

The RPO urged upon citizens to support law enforcement by reporting criminal and terrorist activities, saying: "Peace is only possible with the people's cooperation. Where there is peace, there is prosperity."



KABUL: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar arrived in Kabul on an official visit. He was received by Afghan Deputy FM Dr. Mohammad Naeem, other Afghan officials, and Pakistan's Ambassador to Afghanistan, Ubaidur Rehman Nizami.

## Mian Amer for creating new provinces in country

LAHORE (INP): Punjab Group Chairman Mian Amer Mahmood has said that the Constitution is not being fully implemented. Provinces collectively form the federation, and countries are run by government policies, adding that every division should be made a province.

Speaking at a seminar organised by the representative body of Pakistan's private universities "APSU", he thanked the participants and acknowledged the key role of Chaudhry Abdul Rehman in the education movement.

He stated that Pakistan is a federation of four units, similar to other federations in the world like the United States, where provinces collectively make the country rather than the country creating provinces.

Referring to India's independence, he noted that it was a few provinces and 600 states, and highlighted that in countries with strong local governments, there is no need to frequently ap-

proach the federation. Mian Amer emphasised that the federal government undertakes major responsibilities, while provinces and local governments are meant to address people's problems.

"Governments are formed for public welfare, not for the happiness of rulers as in monarchies," he said.

He pointed out that smaller administrative issues are resolved at the local level, and government policies determine whether a country becomes prosperous or poor. "Every policy impacts future generations, and the real purpose of creating a country is public welfare," he remarked, adding that true leaders will emerge from within society.

Commenting on the economy, he said Pakistan faces a deficit with higher imports and lower exports. "The government must focus on what we are giving back to the state rather than what the state is giving us," he urged. He also criticised poor governance in

Karachi where drains remain uncared, worsening the city's condition during rains.

Highlighting Punjab's size, he said it is larger than many countries with a population of 130 million alone.

He lamented that Pakistan has not seen a single year without borrowing and that local governments in Punjab and Balochistan are inconsistent—sometimes formed, sometimes dissolved.

"We have three pillars: federal, provincial, and local governments. Local governments exist to resolve issues of daily life," he stressed.

Mian Amer Mahmood said that in provinces with functioning local governments, there is less need to rely on the federation. "Unfortunately, we are deprived of strong local government. The government believes that mere accession to power is democracy, whereas in past monarchies rulers prospered, not the people," he added.

## KSrelief dispatches emergency relief convoy to assist flash floods victims of KP

ISLAMABAD (INP): The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSrelief) on Wednesday dispatched a large-scale emergency relief convoy to assist families devastated by recent flash floods and cloudbursts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

The send-off ceremony was attended by the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan, Nawaf Bin Said Al-Maliki; Federal Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination Rana Sana Ullah Khan; KSrelief Pakistan Director Abdullah Al-Baqami; officials from the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa representatives, and members of the national and international media.

The convoy includes 10,000 Shelter NF1 Kits and 10,000 Food Packages. Each shelter kit is equipped with essential relief items, including a shelter unit, solar panels with LED lights, two thermal blankets, plastic mats, durable kitchen sets, water coolers, and antibacterial soap. Each food package, weighing 95 kilograms, contains wheat flour, sugar, lentils, and cooking oil.

The dispatch of this convoy marks another milestone in Saudi Arabia's ongoing humanitarian partnership with Pakistan, offering urgent relief to families affected by the devastating floods in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The initiative highlights the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's enduring commitment to humanitarian support in Pakistan. KSrelief has implemented numerous projects in food security, health, shelter, education, and disaster response across the country, strengthening the bonds of brotherhood between the two nations.

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ISLAMABAD: Danyal Chaudhry, Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting, presenting a souvenir to Her Excellency, Ms. Jane Marriott.



BUNER: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Cabinet Ministers, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, and senior officials receiving a briefing about the damages during the recent torrential rains and floods in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and ongoing relief activities in Buner.

## Every resource will be mobilized to restore normalcy in flood-affected areas: PM

BUNER (INP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday visited the flood-affected districts of Swat, Buner, Shangla, and Swabi, where he emphasized that every available national resource will be mobilized to accelerate recovery efforts and restore normalcy in the affected areas.

The prime minister was accompanied by the federal ministers and Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, a press statement issued by the PM Office said.

The prime minister and COAS received a comprehensive briefing on the ongoing rescue and relief operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

During their interaction with flood victims, the prime minister assured them of the

Federal Government's and Pakistan Army's unwavering commitment to extending maximum support in this critical hour. The prime minister, while appreciating the tireless dedication of the Armed Forces and civil administration, reaffirmed solidarity with the flood-affected population and assured them of all possible assistance.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also drew attention towards the illegal encroachments, timber mafia and mining/crushing activities, especially in waterways which contribute greatly towards loss of lives and damages. He directed that Pakistan must act as a hard state where no one is above law and necessary

actions be taken against defaulters without distinction.

Upon arrival, the prime minister was received by Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir.

He underscored that the safety and relief of fellow citizens remain the foremost priority, commending the forces and civil administration for their untiring service.

Earlier, the prime minister and participants also offered Fateha for those who lost their lives in this catastrophe.

Upon arrival, the prime minister was received by Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir.

## Senate committee concerned about closure of Neelum-Jhelum Hydropower Project

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Senate Standing Committee on Water Resources, on Wednesday, expressed serious concerns over decades-long pending legal cases and disputes worth trillions of rupees, and the closure of the Neelum-Jhelum Hydropower Project.

The committee, which met with Shahadat Awan in the chair, reviewed compliance reports on the audit paras of WAPDA.

Senator Shahadat Awan highlighted that some of the WAPDA cases have been pending for 21 years and the authority has not paid attention to these cases for the last sixteen years.

He further pointed out that WAPDA is occupying land worth Rs. 10 billion, while cases worth over Rs. 298.48 billion are pending in the courts, primarily related to Mangla Dam lands.

The Chairman Committee also raised alarm over the illegal contract of Nai Gaj Dam worth Rs. 30 billion, which remains under investigation by NAB. "WAPDA Chairman should call an immediate meeting on all these audit cases. Report on the progress of these cases should be presented to the committee," Senator Awan directed.

Members of the Committee expressed similar concerns. Senator Faisal Rahman remarked that it

seems that WAPDA's legal team is not working, questioning the lack of progress on longstanding disputes.

In response, WAPDA Chairman Lt Gen (Retd) Muhammad Saeed informed the Committee, "I have been in office for only ten days, yet I have already convened three meetings to address these issues. WAPDA has many cases for which there is no record, but we are trying to reduce the backlog."

He admitted that WAPDA's records are not digitized, but assured that digitization efforts were underway.

He said compensation had already been paid to the affectedees of Mangla Dam and now they are pursuing cases in court.

On the issue of NAB references, the WAPDA officials confirmed that six cases are currently under NAB's purview, including two each of the Kachhi Canal and Nai Gaj Dam projects.

The Secretary Ministry of Water Resources said that these are NAB cases against individuals, not WAPDA.

The Chairman Committee summoned FIA and NAB officials to the next meeting, directing WAPDA and the Ministry of Water Resources to present complete details of all cases. "If any

government agency has taken responsibility, then it is our job to enforce. Senator Awan emphasised.

Turning to the Neelum-Jhelum Hydropower Project, members voiced concern over its closure following the collapse of the head-rise tunnel.

The Officials briefed that the project had earlier faced a tail-rise tunnel collapse, which was repaired, allowing operations for nine months before the new break-down. Senator Shahadat Awan, however, deferred a detailed briefing, stating, "The Prime Minister has already formed a committee to inquire into the project. We should wait for the inquiry report before further discussion."

The Committee recommended that WAPDA's legal team immediately coordinate with the Auditor General and the Ministry of Law to resolve audit-related cases from 2015-16, while urging that all criminal and PAC-related cases be reported in detail in the next sitting.

The meeting was attended by Senators Qurat ul Ain Marri, Faisal Saleh Rahman, Dr. Humayun Mohmand, Saeed Ahmed Hashmi and Saeed Ahmad Hashmi. Chairman WAPDA Lt General (Retd) Muhammad Saeed, Secretary Ministry of Water Resources, and senior officials of relevant departments.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik held a meeting with Natalie A. Baker, the US Charge d'Affaires to Pakistan.

## Pakistan, Turkey vow to strengthen educational ties

ISLAMABAD (INP): In a significant step towards enhancing educational and cultural cooperation between Pakistan and Turkey, the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) and the Turkish Maarif Foundation are set to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The agreement aims to foster cultural exchanges and educational collaborations between the two nations, promoting mutual understanding and cooperation. According to an official, the MoU is expected to provide a platform for students and youth from both countries to engage in shared learning, cultural exchange programs, and collabor-

ative projects. This initiative is part of a broader effort to strengthen the bond between Pakistan and Turkey, with a focus on education, culture and youth development. The Turkish Maarif Foundation, established by the Turkish Parliament, is committed to providing educational services abroad and fostering global cultural and educational exchanges. With a presence in 67 countries and a network of 332 institutions, the foundation serves over 40,000 students and offers programs ranging from preschool to higher education. The planned MoU is a testament to the growing cooperation be-

tween Pakistan and Turkey in the fields of education and culture. It is expected to open up new opportunities for students, youth, and educators from both countries, promoting people-to-people contact and mutual understanding. The signing of the MoU is expected to further strengthen the relations between Pakistan and Turkey, building on the existing cultural and historical ties between the two nations. This landmark agreement is set to pave the way for a new era of educational cooperation and cultural exchange between Pakistan and Turkey, benefiting students, youth, and communities in both countries.