



Pakistan hopes for positive outcome of next round of talks with Kabul: FO

Balochistan Faces Heightened Drought Risk in 12 Districts, Warns PMD



Staff Reporter: QUETTA: The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has issued an early warning to the Balochistan government, indicating an increased risk of drought across 12 districts of the province.

According to the PMD, these districts have been placed under drought monitoring as dry and semi-arid conditions continue to intensify. The department has advised the provincial authorities to take precautionary measures in areas likely to be affected.

Balochistan generally experiences an arid and semi-arid climate, with low and variable rainfall, high temperature fluctuations, and prolonged dry periods. The southern and southwestern parts of the province are particularly dry and less influenced by summer monsoon systems, relying mainly on winter rainfall that ranges annually between 71 and 231 millimeters.

From May to October 2025, rainfall in these regions was recorded at 79% below normal levels, accompanied by a significant increase in the number of dry days — a clear indication of prolonged drought conditions. This persistent lack of precipitation is likely to trigger drought across vast areas of the province. Based on the weather patterns and forecasts for November 2025 to January 2026, below-normal rainfall and above-normal temperatures are expected, which could further aggravate drought conditions, especially in western and southern Balochistan.

Districts placed under drought monitoring include Chagai, Gwadar, Kech, Kharan, Mastung, Nushki, Pishin, Panjgur, Qilla Abdullah, Quetta, and Washuk. The PMD has warned that the current dry conditions could lead to water shortages in agricultural zones, particularly affecting irrigation for Rabi crops. Authorities have been urged to take proactive measures to minimize the potential impacts on agriculture, livestock, and livelihoods.



Mobile Internet Suspended in Quetta for 24 Hours Due to Security Situation

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News Desk: QUETTA: The Balochistan government has temporarily suspended mobile internet services in Quetta for 24 hours amid rising security concerns, according to an official statement issued by the Home

Department of Balochistan. The department said the mobile data shutdown was implemented to maintain law and order in the provincial capital. The internet suspension in Quetta will continue until midnight tonight. The temporary internet black-

out has severely affected students, business owners, and professionals who rely on online services for work and education. Citizens have voiced frustration over recent public safety and prevented internet disruptions in Balochistan.

Officials added that the measure is part of precautionary steps taken to ensure public safety and prevent any untoward incidents.

FIA Gwadar Arrests Nine Suspects Attempting to Cross into Iran via Sea Route

NEWS DESK: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has arrested nine suspects involved in an attempt to illegally cross into Iran via sea routes from Balochistan's coastal area of Jiwan, according to an official statement issued by the Directorate of Public Relations, FIA Headquarters Islamabad. The FIA Composite Circle Gwadar launched major operations and successfully intercepted the suspects before they could depart Pakistan's territorial waters. According to FIA officials, six of the arrested individuals belong to Mandi Bahauddin, two to Gujranwala, and one to Sheikhupura. Preliminary investigations revealed that the suspects had planned to enter Iran illegally and then proceed further to other countries through human smuggling networks.



A case has been registered against the detainees, and a detailed investigation is underway. The FIA spokesperson emphasized that a nationwide crackdown

against human trafficking and illegal border crossings continues, with all available resources being used to dismantle such networks.

Inspector Lutf Ali Khoso fought bravely in the face of danger and did not abandon his post despite knowing the terrorists had entered the area," Bugti said.

SOHBAT PUR: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Friday visited Sohbat Pur district and offered Faizullah for Police Inspector Lutf Ali Khoso, who embraced martyrdom during a recent terrorist attack.

During his visit, the Chief Minister paid glowing tribute to the martyred officer, describing him as a symbol of courage, commitment, and dedication to duty.

Inspector Lutf Ali Khoso fought bravely in the face of danger and did not abandon his post despite knowing the terrorists had entered the area," Bugti said. He laid down his life to protect others — his sacrifice will always be remembered with pride," he added. Our police force continues to stand



as a frontline defense against terrorism, and the people of Balochistan salute their bravery," the Chief Minister remarked. It is our responsibility

to take care of the families of our martyrs who gave their lives for peace," Bugti emphasized. The Chief Minister also met the family members of the late in-

spector and assured them of full government support, reaffirming his government's commitment to honoring the sacrifices of the province's heroes.

Pakistan hopes for positive outcome of next round of talks with Kabul: FO

NEWS DESK: Foreign Office (FO) spokesperson Tahir Hussain Andarab said on Friday that Pakistan hoped for a "positive outcome" of the next round of talks with the Afghan Taliban set to begin on November 6.

"Pakistan will continue to remain engaged in the mediation process and hopes for a positive outcome for the November 6 talks," he said during a weekly FO briefing.

The talks were scheduled as Pakistan and Afghanistan agreed to continue a ceasefire between the two countries and following a rapid deterioration of ties and a brief conflict along their shared border earlier this month.

The agreement capped five days of a second round of tense negotiations — with the first one held in Doha on October 18 and 19 — in Islamabad mediated by Turkey and Qatar. The round, which had begun on Saturday, had reached a point of near-collapse on Wednesday, with Islamabad saying that its long-standing concern over terror attacks emanating from Afghanistan remained a major point of contention.

But a breakthrough in the stalemate came after Turkey and Qatar salvaged the dialogue process for the second time in less than a week.

Andarab recalled during today's briefing that the second round of talks between Pakistan and the Afghan Taliban regime in the presence of mediators concluded in Islamabad yesterday evening.

"Pakistan participated in the Islamabad talks, which started on October 25, in a good spirit and



with a positive intention," he added.

The FO spokesperson said the talks were initially scheduled for two days.

"However, in an effort to reach an amicable agreement with the Taliban regime, the Pakistan side, in earnest, continued the talks for four days. "Pakistan positively engaged with the Taliban regime without compromising on its clearly stated

position that Afghanistan soil should not be used for terrorism against Pakistan."

He asserted that Pakistan did not seek further escalation of hostilities but "expects the Afghan Taliban regime to honour its commitment to the international community and address Pakistan's legitimate security concerns by taking concrete and verifiable actions against terrorist entities, including Fitna-al-Khawarij and Fitna-al-Hindustan."

Fitna-al-Khawarij is a term designated by the state for the banned terror outfit Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan, and Fitna-al-Hindustan is a term that the state uses for Balochistan-based groups to highlight India's alleged role in terrorism and destabilisation across Pakistan.

Andarab said that Pakistan had been urging the Afghan Taliban for the past four years to take "decisive and effective measures" against terrorist outfits present on Afghanistan soil.

"We repeatedly shared credible information about the presence of top leadership of Fitna-al-Khawarij and Fitna-al-Hindustan on Afghan soil with the Taliban regime. However, despite repeated assurances in the past, there has been a surge in terrorist attacks in Pakistan from Afghanistan."

He said the "consistent and total disregard" of Pakistan's legitimate security concerns by the Afghan Taliban over the last four years and the "unprovoked aggression against Pakistan with the support of Fitna-al-Khawarij on Oct 11 and 12 and later Oct 14 and 15 led to violent exchanges across the international border."

DG ISPR vows strong response to any foreign aggression

RAWALPINDI (INP): DG ISPR Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Ch has categorically stated that any foreign aggression will be met with a strong and severe response.

During his interaction with teachers and

students of different educational institutions in Abbottabad, he reaffirmed Pakistan Army's determination to defend the homeland.

The DG ISPR said that Pakistan has taken effective measures against terrorism and

Fitnah al Khawarij. Teachers and students paid tribute to the martyrs and ghazis. Meanwhile, Vice Chancellor of Hazara University on the occasion stated Pakistan Army has always been on the front lines and

that we stand with them. The students said they are proud to be citizens of a country where institutions like the armed forces encourage and guide the youth. The army spokesperson clarified that Pa-

kistan has taken effective measures against terrorism and the fitna of the Khawarij. Teachers and students paid rich tribute to the martyrs and veterans of the armed forces. Vice-Chancellor of Hazara University, Dr.

Ikrumullah Khan, said that the Pakistan Army was the true symbol of love for the homeland. It always stood on the frontlines, and the nation stood shoulder to shoulder with it. The teachers stated that hostile elements

were increasingly active in trying to mislead the minds of our children, so it was essential to provide them with accurate and verified information. The students said they were proud to be

the citizens of a country where the Pakistan Army provides guidance and encouragement to the youth. "Today we learned the truth about the false propaganda being spread against the armed forces on social media."



CHITRAL: Prime Minister Muhammad Sharif addresses at performs groundbreaking ceremony of Daanish School, Chitral.

PA speaker proposes constitutional amendment to empower local bodies

LAHORE (INP): Punjab Assembly Speaker Malik Ahmad Khan has proposed that the Federal government introduce a constitutional amendment to ensure the empowerment and protection of local governments, suggesting that if the 27th Amendment is required, it should be enacted without delay.

Speaking to the media, Malik Ahmad Khan said that constitutional powers must reach the grassroots level, and that every government regardless of political affiliation should safeguard the local government system.

"I've have to bring the 27th Amendment to protect local bodies, then it must be done," he asserted. He said that an unanimous resolution on the issue had already been passed in the Punjab Assembly and

expressed hope that Parliament would give it due importance.

"Local governance is a separate track and it's time we discussed it openly," he said, adding that while the 18th Amendment resolved many administrative issues, ambiguity still exists regarding the constitutional status of local governments.

Malik Ahmad Khan emphasized that Article 140-A of the Constitution remains incomplete and called for clear legislation to define the establishment and tenure of local governments.

The Speaker also highlighted the inclusion of members in the Punjab Assembly, noting that 80 legislators — including 35 from the opposition — are part of the Local Government Caucus. He praised Ahmed Iqbal Chaudhry, Rana Muhammad

Arshad, and Ali Haider Gillani for their constructive role in building consensus.

He said the caucus is playing a proactive role in strengthening local governance and that all political parties have supported the resolution in a democratic spirit. Reflecting on his history, he pointed out that despite decades of debate, the local government system in Pakistan has yet to achieve stability. "Every new government dissolves local bodies as soon as it takes power, and it takes three years just to frame a new law," he remarked.

Referring to the Punjab Local Government Ordinance (PLGO), Malik Ahmad Khan called it "a revolutionary law" that unfortunately became a victim of political rivalry because it was introduced under a military regime.

He stressed that empowering local governments through fiscal decentralization and direct public participation is vital for solving community-level problems. "If citizens pay taxes, that money should be spent on local issues such as sanitation, drainage, and graveyards," he said.

Without functioning local governments, who will address people's problems? This is why public trust in the state is weakening."

The unanimously passed Punjab Assembly resolution urges the federal Parliament to amend the Constitution to grant full protection to local governments. "Just as the National Finance Commission (NFC) Award is constitutionally protected, the same guarantee should be extended to local governments," he stated.

Bugti chairs secretaries committee meeting, reviews performance of 38 departments

QUETTA (INP): Balochistan Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Thursday presided over a high-level meeting of the Secretaries Committee in Quetta, where quarterly performance reports of 38 provincial departments were presented and reviewed.

Chief Secretary Balochistan Shaukat Qadir Khan delivered a comprehensive briefing, noting that departmental performance was assessed against 644 indicators.

According to the briefing, the Livestock Department topped the ranking in terms of

performance. The Finance Department secured the second position, while the Urban Planning and Development Department came in third. The Law Department ranked fourth, and the Agriculture Department was fifth.

Among the departments with weaker performance, the Local Government Department was ranked first (lowest), the Women Development Department second, and the Inter-Provincial Coordination Department third. Labour and Manpower was fourth, and CMIT (Chief

Minister's Inspection Team) was fifth.

Chief Minister Bugti commended the heads of high-performing departments and issued directives to underperforming departments to improve their efficiency and service delivery. He emphasized that good governance is key to resolving public issues.

He said diligence, honesty, and consistency are essential to overcoming provincial challenges and transparency must be ensured in all administrative and decision-making processes.

"The province's

issues will not be resolved by outsiders; we ourselves must take responsibility," he added. The Chief Minister also stressed the need to accelerate development projects to deliver timely relief to citizens and build public trust.

"The development of Balochistan is only possible through good governance and effective policy implementation," he concluded. The meeting prayed for the eternal peace of SHO Latif Ali Khoso, martyred in a recent counter-terrorism operation in Bhag Nari.

Laure Crime Control Department (CCD) inspector arrested for kidnapping youth for ransom

LAHORE (INP): A shocking incident has surfaced in Lahore, where a Crime Control Department (CCD) inspector and his associates were arrested for allegedly kidnapping a young man for ransom. The suspects, including Inspector Javed Iqbal, were caught red-handed during a police raid while collecting ransom money.

According to officials, Kahna police conducted the raid near LOS and arrested three suspects, Inspector Javed Iqbal, Constable Tauseef, and a rented car driver, recovering weapons and ransom money from their

possession. Footage of the operation has gone viral, showing the suspects being taken into custody along with the cash. Another video shows the police van used in the kidnapping — confirming that the suspects had used official vehicles and uniforms to carry out the crime. Authorities said the case was registered on the CCD's complaint, though it did not mention the Operations Wing that actually arrested the accused.

The investigation revealed that on October 27, the suspects kidnapped a youth named

Waleed from his home in Kahna, posing as officials on an official raid. The victim, reportedly involved in Bitcoin trading, was handcuffed, and his laptop and three mobile phones were seized during the abduction. The kidnappers then demanded a ransom of Rs50 million from Waleed's family. They even took away the CCTV camera card from the house to erase evidence of the crime.

According to the Cell's investigation, the abduction was planned and executed in the style of an official CCD operation. The suspects were arrested while attempting to collect the ransom

amount. Weapons were seized from Inspector Javed Iqbal and Constable Tauseef, while further interrogation and recoveries are underway. Authorities said more revelations are expected as the investigation progresses.

A case has been registered against the arrested CCD officer and his associates. Officials said strict departmental action will follow once the inquiry is complete. The involvement of serving officers has raised serious concerns about misuse of police authority and internal accountability mechanisms.

APHC slams 'draconian' Indian laws, Says Kashmir's reality can not be suppressed

ISLAMABAD (INP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) asserted that the reality of Jammu and Kashmir's disputed status cannot be altered by New Delhi through coercive measures, harassment, or repressive legislation enforced in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK).

According to Kashmir Media Service, APHC spokesman Advocate Abdul Rashid Minhas, in a statement issued in Srinagar, said the Kashmir dispute must be resolved through the implementation of relevant United Nations resolutions.

Expressing serious concern over India's hegemonic and colonial policies, he warned that the unresolved Kashmir issue carries the potential to ignite a nuclear

conflict in South Asia. The APHC voiced deep concern over the deteriorating health conditions of thousands of political prisoners, including APHC Chairman Masarat Alam Butt, Shahab Ahmad Shah, Muhammad Yasin Malik, Aasiya Andrabi, Fahim, Dr. Muhammad Naseem, Nayem Ahmad Khan, Ayaz Akbar,

Pir Saifullah, Merajuddin Kalwal, Shahid-ul-Islam, Farooq Ahmed Dar, Syed Shahid Yousuf, Advocate Mian Abdul Qayoom, Mustaqul Islam, Bilal Siddiqi, Molvi Bashir Irfani, Dr. Hameed Fayaz, Abdul Ahmad Parra, Advocate Zahid Ali, Dr. Muhammad Qasim Fakhtori, Dr. Muhammad Shahi Shariati, Zafar Akbar Butt, Ghulam Qadir Butt, Rafiq Ahmad

Ganai, Umar Adil Dar, Saleem Nanaji, Muhammad Yasin Butt, Fayaz Hussain Jaferi, Firdous Ahmed Shah, Assadullah Parry, human rights defender Khuram Parvez, journalist Irfan Majeed, and others lodged in different Indian jails including Thar, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, and various prisons in IOJK.

The eyesight of Mustaqul Islam worsened to the extent that he cannot see anything even at an arm distance. What is more agonizing is that the detainees are not provided with any medical facility.

He said these prisoners are facing illegal detention under the black laws Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and Public Safety Act (PSA) and many of them are in

alarming health conditions, deprived of proper medical care and justice. The APHC spokesman cautioned the international community, particularly the United Nations, that ignoring the volatile situation in IOJK could prove as catastrophic as the crisis unfolding in the middle East due to the unresolved Palestine issue.

He stressed that a just and peaceful settlement of the Kashmir dispute is essential for lasting peace and stability in the territory.

Reaffirming the steadfast resolve of the Kashmiri people, the APHC said their morale remains high despite India's brutal tactics and military oppression aimed at suppressing their legitimate struggle for freedom.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Qasim Ahmed Sheikh, hosted a high-level meeting with a joint delegation of ASEAN Ambassadors and High Commissioners at the Board of Investment office.

27 new dengue cases reported in Information and communication technology (ICT)

ISLAMABAD (INP): The district administration has intensified its ongoing anti-dengue campaign across Islamabad, carrying out extensive field operations to control the spread of the virus.

According to the latest report, field teams inspected 42,734 sites and conducted fogging at 1,559 high-risk locations during the past 24 hours. The report stated that 27 new dengue cases were confirmed in the Federal capital during the same period 18 from rural areas and 9 from urban sectors. Current 68 patients are under treatment at various hospitals in the

city. During inspections, 274 sites were found at 274 sites while nine sites tested negative, indicating the presence of breeding hotspots that required immediate action. The administration said door-to-door inspections and larvae removal operations are being carried out daily in all union councils as part of the campaign.

The district administration emphasized that all anti-dengue teams have been instructed to respond immediately to any report of larvae breeding. Teams are also conducting regular surveillance in residential, commercial, and open areas, including under-

construction buildings and stagnant water sites. Officials said public cooperation is essential to ensure the city's protection from dengue. Residents have been urged to keep their homes and surroundings clean and avoid water accumulation in open containers, pots, or roof tops.

The administration highlighted that standing water is the main breeding source of dengue mosquitoes and needs continuous monitoring. To further strengthen prevention efforts, the administration has deployed special squads for fogging and spraying operations in dengue-prone

localities. These include rural zones, slum settlements, and areas with ongoing construction activities. Health teams are also conducting awareness drives, educating citizens on identifying mosquito breeding spots and preventive steps to protect their families.

The report reaffirmed that all anti-dengue measures will continue without interruption until the situation is completely under control. The administration said it is working closely with health departments, hospitals, and local bodies to track new cases and ensure prompt medical response.