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Editor: Asim Khan.

# QUETTA VOICE



## Pakistan invited to first 'Board of Peace' meeting, likely to attend, say sources

### NEWS DESK:

Pakistan has been invited to the first proposed meeting of US President Donald Trump's "Board of Peace" (BoP) on Gaza reported to be held in Washington on Feb 19, and is likely to attend, diplomatic sources told Dawn.

According to the sources, Islamabad received the invitation as part of the outreach to countries that have already joined the board, which was founded by Trump late last month. The meeting is expected to focus on giving formal shape to the board, including its structure, mandate and secretariat, the sources said.

"This will be a key meeting aimed at giving a shaped and structured board," one diplomatic source said. Asked whether Pakistan could be approached to contribute troops to a proposed in-

ternational stabilisation force for Gaza, the source said such discussions were still in the offing.

"That would come later. First, we have to give shape to the board, form a structure, set up a secretariat and define its direction," he added.

Another source also said it was still early to talk of a discussion on troop contributions.

Pakistan is among the 14 countries that signed the charter of the Board of Peace on January 22 on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum, Davos, becoming a founding member of the body.

The board was initially proposed in September 2025 and formally established last month. Under its charter, the US government, private sector officials, and US military, President Trump has designated the Donald J. Trump Institute of Peace in Washington as the board's headquarters.

While several Middle East-

ern allies of Washington have joined the first BoP meeting at the US Institute of Peace in Washington, according to an Axios report citing a US official and diplomats from four participating countries. The plans, which include a fundraising component for Gaza's reconstruction, remain at an early stage and could still change.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is scheduled to meet President Trump at the White House on Feb 18, a day before the planned board meeting.

A controversial initiative by Mr. Trump, who will chair the body, has the Board of Peace will aim to resolve global conflicts — a claim that has alarmed many experts, who fear the initiative could undermine the United Nations and existing multilateral mechanisms.

However, the ceasefire has

remained fragile, with repeated

violations. Since October, more than 550 Palestinian soldiers have been killed in Israeli soldiers' assaults on Gaza.

Israel's assaults on Gaza since October 2023 have killed more than 71,000 Palestinians, displaced the entire population and triggered a severe humanitarian crisis. Multiple rights groups and the UN inquiry have said the campaign amounts to genocide — an allegation Israel denies.

Under Trump's Gaza plan unveiled late last year, the Board of Peace was to be mandated to oversee Gaza's temporary governance before being expanded to address global conflicts.

Rights experts and scholars have criticised the concept, arguing that a US-led board overseen by the US military and US officials resembles a colonial structure. The absence of Palestinian representation on the board has further deepened these concerns.

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### ATC rejects plea for Imran's treatment by personal doctors

#### NEWS DESK:

An Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) in Rawalpindi on Saturday dismissed an application filed by PTI founder and former prime minister Imran Khan, seeking permission for a medical check-up by his personal doctors at Adiala jail.

After hearing the arguments from both sides, the court declined to grant access to Mr Khan's private physicians inside the jail.

Appearing for the PTI founder, his lawyer argued that as a former prime minister, his client deserved the same medical facilities previously extended to other ex-premiers, citing Nawaz Sharif as precedent. He contended that Mr Khan was an unwell prisoner and had the legal right to be examined by doctors of his choice. The lawyer also claimed that Adiala jail lacked adequate facilities for specialised eye treatment.

Referring to Pakistan Prison Rules 1975, the court required that a prisoner's family be informed before any medical treatment. He questioned why Mr Khan had been taken to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (Pims) late at night, stating that he had been taken on bail for three years. Denial of access to personal doctors, he argued, amounted to discriminatory treatment. Special Prosecutor Zaheer Shah opposed the plea, arguing that Mr Khan was on bail in the GHQ case, which followed the May 9 events and convicted in other cases, and therefore could not be treated as an undetained prisoner whose custody could be regulated by a criminal court. He further maintained that the ATC has no jurisdiction on questions regarding jail administration or medical arrangements. Under prison rules, he said, medical care was the responsibility of government-appointed doctors, with no provision for private physicians.

After hearing the arguments, the court dismissed the application.

Separately, Mr Khan's sister Aleema Khanum alleged on X that medical reports promised by the Supreme Court had not been provided to her family, urging the chief justice to take immediate action. Meanwhile, a Pims medical report confirmed that Mr Khan was diagnosed with right central retinal vein occlusion and received hospital-based treatment, which he completed. Jail authorities informed the court that Mr Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi were receiving medical care strictly under jail rules.

## Balochistan Government Imposes Section 144, Warns Against Protests: Shahid Rind



### NEWS DESK:

QUETTA: The Government of Balochistan has enforced Section 144 across the province to maintain law and order, banning illegal strikes, protests, public gatherings, and road blockades. This was

stated by Adviser to the Chief Minister Balochistan, Shahid Rind.

Quetta Business Directory He said that in line with Balochistan High Court directives, no highways or roads can be blocked under any circumstances. Law-enforcement agencies have been instructed to take strict action against

those disrupting traffic in the name of protest.

According to Rind, any violation of Section 144 will be arrested, emphasizing that the law applies equally to all. Police have received clear orders to ensure public order and security through impartial enforcement.

## Life Disrupted Across Balochistan as Strike, Roadblocks Paralyze Quetta

### Sardar Muhammad Khondai, Ayub Bhutto, News Desk:

Normal life came to a standstill across Quetta and several parts of Balochistan on Sunday as a shutter-down and wheel-jam strike was observed amid heavy police deployment, arrests, and widespread curfews.

Major markets, shops, and commercial centers in Quetta remained completely closed, while traffic on key arteries and highways was suspended due to blockades set up by protesters. Public transport was off the roads, leaving commuters stranded and daily life severely disrupted.

The strike was called by the Pakistan Constitution Protection Movement, also known as the Balochistan People's Alliance (TPAP), in protest against what it described as the alleged rigging in the February 8, 2024 general elections. Supporters of various component parties of the movement staged demonstra-

tions at multiple locations, blocking highways and main roads leading to and out of Quetta. Protesters also deployed sensitive points across the provincial capital and other districts to maintain law and order. Several protesters were reportedly arrested during clashes with law enforcement agencies, further escalating tensions.

The ongoing protests have disrupted educational activities, educational institutions, and essential services, adding to public inconvenience.

Authorities have urged protesters to remain peaceful while warning against any attempts to disturb public order.



## QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

## How Long Will Quetta Pay the Price for SSGC and Federal Negligence?

## Editorial:

Quetta is once again at the mercy of a winter crisis that has become all too familiar: low gas pressure, unannounced load shedding, and complete administrative silence. Every year, citizens are told to "bear with the situation" as temperatures fall and heaters, stoves, and geysers break down. Yet the authorities responsible — Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) and the federal energy managers — continue to operate without accountability.

A City Freezing While Authorities Look Away

The people of Balochistan are right to ask: Why must Quetta suffer the same crisis of winter while no structural reform is introduced? Why are consumers forced to pay heavy bills for a service that barely exists? And why do officials in Karachi and Islamabad continue to treat Balochistan's gas issues as a seasonal inconvenience rather than governance failure?

Despite Balochistan being an energy-producing region, its residents struggle every winter for the very resource extracted from their own soil. This contradiction reflects a deep-rooted policy imbalance in the federation,

where Balochistan remains last on the priority list — not because of a shortage of resources, but because of a shortage of political will.

SSGC's Repeated Excuses and Decades of Mismanagement

The SSGC's performance adds another layer of frustration. Each year, the company offers the same explanations — "excessive demand," "pipeline pressure issues," "technical challenges."

"Yet no one explains why these problems remain unresolved despite decades of complaints? Why have there been no significant infrastructure upgrades? Why has the company failed to implement a clear winter management plan for Quetta? Why is commercial accountability for SSGC. Most importantly, it needs the federal government to finally treat Balochistan as an equal stakeholder in national resource management."

The people of Quetta have endured enough. Their patience should not be mistaken for acceptance. The current winter crisis will continue to expose not only the inefficiencies of SSGC but also the federal government's unwillingness to address long-standing injustices.

Balochistan's energy-producing regions, its residents struggle every winter for the very resource extracted from their own soil. This contradiction reflects a deep-rooted policy imbalance in the federation,

just inconvenient — it is dangerous.

Federal Government's Weak Oversight and Balochistan's Low Priority

The federal government cannot escape responsibility either. Energy management is a national issue, and pattern of winter mismanagement in Balochistan reflects a oversight, poor planning and an unfair allocation of resources. The silence of policymakers during these crises sends a clear message: Quetta's suffering is not a priority.

What Quetta needs is not another round of hollow statements. It needs a transparent winter gas plan, proper infrastructure investment, honest communication with the public, and real accountability for SSGC. Most importantly, it needs the federal government to finally treat Balochistan as an equal stakeholder in national resource management.

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## The Looming threat of Climate Crisis in Pakistan



## Sardar Mengal:

Climate change is unleashing its worst effects in the form of heavy rainfalls and flooding. The government's lack of preparedness and communication with the public, and the lack of accountability for SSGC. Most importantly, it needs the federal government to finally treat Balochistan as an equal stakeholder in national resource management.

The people of Quetta have endured enough. Their patience should not be mistaken for acceptance. The current winter crisis will continue to expose not only the inefficiencies of SSGC but also the federal government's unwillingness to address long-standing injustices.

Balochistan's energy-producing regions, its residents struggle every winter for the very resource extracted from their own soil. This contradiction reflects a deep-rooted policy imbalance in the federation,

political crisis are currently drowning in a Natural disaster. Nushki, Khuzdar, Lasbela, Bolan and Jhal Magsi have faced much of the impact of flash floods. People were left stranded to flow with the waves as seen footages, circulating on social media. Unfortunately, disturbing pictures of drowning children covered with mud, who were sitting helplessly on debris of their houses and sinking valuable of the people couldn't awaken the government from its slumber. Similarly, the emerging waves of floods engulfing lives and property, converting everything into dust & debris and wreaking havoc all around.

Political parties need to

rise above the traditional politics and launch concerted efforts to help out the calamity stricken at the earliest. Social welfare organizations should come forward to heal the lesions of suffering humans. On national media, there should be special discourses and discussion on settlement and rehabilitation of the affected people.

In addition to ensuring re-building of eroded infrastructure, compensation for losses, clean water, adequate supply of food, there should be numer-

ous measures in pipeline to overcome the post-flood outcomes such as increased risk of infectious diseases. The environment can become a breeding ground for many health related problems. Supplying preventive medicines and upholding precautionary measures can half the onslaught of infectious diseases.

The state machinery in its all forms should come into play to navigate a safe passage out of this hurricane of climate emergency enveloping us now.

The author is a final year MBBS student at King Edward Medical University Lahore, Pakistan. He can be reached on twitter via @SardarMengal11.

## IRC reaches to 29,000 out of school girls in Balochistan

By Shaukat Khan: International Rescue Committee (IRC) under its Teach & Educate Adolescent Girls with Community Help (TEACH) project, reached out to 29,000 out-of-school girls in 5 districts of Balochistan including Pishin, Killi Abdullah, Nushki, Kharan and Chagai.

"IRC is striving hard to promote girl's education in Balochistan besides imparting vocational trainings on financial literacy and trades to make them financially independent," said Mr. Mervin, Head of IRC Balochistan during a policy dialogue titled "Improving future of girl's education in Balochistan" held in collaboration with UK aid at local hotel here.

Balochistan Education minister Naseebullah Mari was the chief guest while representatives from the Education ministry, Directorate of Special Education,

Literacy, Non-Human Rights Department, Balochistan Assessment and Examination Commission, S.S.I.O.N, Balochistan Textbook Board, Policy Planning Implementation Unit, Provincial Teachers Education, Education Sector, SAWA Program, Global Partnership of Education, German Agency for International Cooperation, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund and Society for Community Strengthening and Promotion of Education, Balochistan, Institute for Development Studies and Practices, Japan International Cooperation Agency also attended the event.

The event hosted conversations with mul-

tiple stakeholders including education experts and government officials on the barriers faced by girls in the province in pursuing their education and discussed possible solutions to combat those barriers.

## salient feature of the project IRC

was highlighting the salient feature of the project. IRC chief in Balochistan Shareef Mengal said under the 'Girls Learn' stream of the project, 22,000 girls received classroom training, 2,000 girls received vocational training, 800 girls received non-formal curriculum, of them 4000 enrolled in mainstream formal schooling system.

The event hosted conversations with mul-



stream of the project, 7000 girls completed Package A of the curriculum, out of these 7000 girls, 5000 received training on financial literacy and business development planning, 2400 girls received training on vocational subjects and 250 girls received financial grants to start a business.

Naseebullah Mari, Education Minister Balochistan, in his address noted that "We must do our part to remove the barriers faced by girls in the region so that every girl can pursue her education and become a valuable member of society."

The Government is making all out efforts to combat the low literacy rate which has affected

girls from all ethnic groups, and socio-economic backgrounds. The government committed to assist and contribute to building economically prosperous, and educated Balochistan, so every child has access to education.

He shared that education is a complex subject which cannot be discussed without WASH, health and other facilities.

This makes it a responsibility of all relevant departments and stakeholders who should play their role effectively.

Zain Ul Abedin Khan, Deputy Director of Girls' Education Program, IRC, in his remarks said that "We as a society need to be more informed and focus on Girls' Education through adequate resources. Girls' education in Balochistan is one of the biggest challenges faced by the country and to overcome this challenge, we need to use innovative methods like Non-Formal Education.

"He further added

that, "Over the years, we have realized that if girls are unable to reach school, then we need to fill the gap and provide access to lifelong learning opportunities like productive skills and life-skills within communities.

education by providing gender inclusive facilities and quality of education."

The event was a culmination of three sessions where the first was hosted to discuss the barriers faced by girls in pursuing their education. The second session of the first session classified the barriers into 3 categories: Cultural, Economic and Service Delivery. The panelists included Accelerated Learning Programmes (ALPs) as a viable option while integrated with skill-based trainings and digitalizing education.

Initiatives to combat the barriers to education

The third and final session gave the TEACH clients an opportunity to express their personalized strategies in overcoming the barriers to education.

Anan - client of TEACH project from Pishin shared that after joining TEACH ALP center,

she can read books and newspapers. Simra from the same district shared that her parents used to walk long distances to attend school but after opening of ALP center at doorsteps, she was able to join the classroom for the first time in her life. Haleemah from Nushki district shared that her mother is the only breadwinner of home and works at households of others to earn income. Haleemah's daughter is the only child of her family who can read, thanks to joining ALP center.

## Iran says right to enrich uranium is key to success of US nuclear talks

**NEWS DESK:** Recognition of Iran's right to enrich uranium is key for nuclear talks with the US to succeed, Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said on Sunday.

American and Iranian diplomats held indirect talks in Oman on Friday, aimed at reviving diplomacy amid a US naval buildup near Iran and Tehran's vows of a harsh response if attacked.

"Zero enrichment can never be accepted by us. Hence, we need to focus on discussions that accept enrichment inside Iran while building trust that enrichment is peaceful and will stay for peaceful purposes," Araqchi said.

Iran and the US held five rounds of nuclear talks last year, which stalled mainly due to disagreements over uranium enrichment inside Iran. In June, the US attacked



granted sanctions relieved in addition to military de-escalation.

"Iran's insistence on enrichment is not merely technical or economic (...) it is rooted in a desire for independence and dignity," Araqchi said. "No one has the right to tell another nation what it should or should not have."

The minister also said that Iran's missile programme, which the US would like to include in negotiations, had never been part of the agenda. President Masoud Pashayi said in a post on Sunday that talks with the US were a "step forward" and that Iran wanted its rights under the Non-Proliferation Treaty to be respected.

The date and venue of the next round of talks will be determined in consultation with Oman and might not be Muscat, Araqchi said.

### US pressing Ukraine and Russia to end war by June

**NEWS DESK:** The United States wants Ukraine and Russia to end the nearly year-long conflict in June, and has offered to host talks between the two sides in Florida next week. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said.

US-led efforts to end Europe's deadliest conflict since World War II have stepped up a gear in recent weeks, but Moscow and Kyiv remain at odds over the key issue of territory.

Russia, which occupies around 20 per cent of its neighbour, is pushing for full control of Ukraine's eastern Donbas region. In case of any deal and has threatened to take it by force if talks fail. But Ukraine says ceding ground will embolden Moscow and will not sign an agreement that fails to deter Russia from invading

Iranian nuclear facilities at the end of a 12-day Israeli bombing campaign.

Tehran has since said it has halted enrichment activity, which the US views

as a possible pathway to nuclear bombs. Iran says its nuclear programme is solely

for peaceful purposes.

A diplomat in the region briefed by Iran

referred Reuters on Friday

to discussing the "level

and purity" of enrichment as well as other

arrangements, as long as it was allowed to enrich uranium on its

soil and would be

### Indian refiners avoid Russian oil in push for US trade deal: sources

**NEWS DESK:** Indian refiners are avoiding Russian oil purchases

as they are expected to stay away from such trades for longer, refining and trade sources said.

That Tehran was open

to discussing the "level

and purity" of enrichment as well as other

arrangements, as long as it was allowed to enrich uranium on its

soil and would be

about Ukraine behind its back, Zelensky added.

Russia hits

Ukraine's grid

Throughout the negotiations, progress

Russia has pushed

2025 levels

Ukraine to convert the land it currently controls in the Donbas region into a "de-escalation zone" where neither side has military control.

"Even if we come to

announcing a trade

plan for India

Russia's

One regular Indian

operator of Ukraine's three operating nuclear power plants to throttle their generation capacity, creating a "deadlock" of a nuclear incident," Foreign Minister Andriy Sybiga said.

The US' atomic energy watchdog issued a statement calling for a "ceasefire" in Ukraine, which denies targeting civilians, accused

Ukraine on Friday of orchestrating the shooting of a top military intelligence general in Moscow, leaving him wounded. Kyiv has yet to comment.

Diversifying our energy sourcing in keeping with objective market conditions is a top priority of discounted

Russia's

Russian oil imports

Russia has proposed freezing the conflict along the current frontlines, Zelensky said.

But Russia has rejected this, and Washington has pushed for Kyiv to convert the land it currently controls in the Donbas region into a "de-escalation zone" where neither side has military control.

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### Gunmen kill three people and abduct Catholic priest in northern Nigeria

**NEWS DESK:** Gunmen killed three people and abducted a Catholic priest in Kaduna, Nigeria, on Sunday, and others during an early morning attack on the clergyman's residence in northern Nigeria's Kaduna state, church and police sources said on Sunday.

The Sambo's assault in Kaduna district highlights persistent insecurity in the region, and came days after security services rescued all 166 worshippers abducted in attacks by

gunmen elsewhere in Kaduna. Such attacks have drawn the attention of US President Donald Trump, who has accused Nigeria's government of failing to protect Christians, a charge Abuja denies.

The Catholic Diocese of Kafanchan named the kidnapped clergyman as Nathaniel Ajuwae, parish priest

of Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Karka, and said the three people were abducted separately, two clerics and a layman.

Three residents were killed during the attack, which began at about 3:20am (7:20 PKT), the diocese said in a statement.

A Kaduna police spokesperson said the bandits, killed some of them, and unmercifully, two clerics and a layman lost their lives," he said.

Rights group Amnesty International said in a statement on Sunday that Nigeria's security crisis was "increasingly" and "systematically" threatening the safety of the people, and that the three people killed were members of security forces.

"Security agents

exchanged gunfire with the bandits, killed some of them, and unmercifully, two clerics and a layman lost their lives," he said.

China mourns the loss of the three lost, and our hearts go to the injured and those who lost their loved ones," China said.

"China strongly condemns the attack, opposes any form of terrorism and firmly supports the Pakistani government in its efforts to maintain national security and stability and protecting the safety of the people, a statement by the Chinese foreign ministry said.

"Turkey FM offers condolences over loss of life," the statement said.

Separately, it was reported that the mastermind behind the suicide bombing at the mosque in the northern city of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Footage and photos from the blast site showed several bodies lying near the mosque's front gate, with people

and debris also strewn across the red-carpeted prayer hall overnight.

"I want to praise our agencies and the Counter-Terrorism Department in KP that all the people who were killed, including the mastermind, were arrested before 3am," he added.

The brazen attack elicited an outpouring of grief from across the country, and prompted condolences from the world's capitals, as well as local and religious groups.

Authorities have pointed fingers at Afghanistan and India as the investigation into the incident got under way.

Interior Minister Mohsin Navai said yesterday that four facilitators behind the suicide bombing, including the mastermind, had been arrested, saying the suspects

were detained in overnight raids in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He said multiple agencies launched an investigation immedi-





## Rain and Snowfall Expected from Sunday Across Balochistan



**NEWS DESK:** Rain and hailstorms are likely in Quetta and various parts of Balochistan as a new weather system is expected to affect the province from

Sunday to Wednesday, according to the Meteorological Department.

The Met Office said light rainfall is expected in Khuzdar,

Chagai, Washuk, Surab, Noshki and Mastung. The department

light rain. In some areas, including Khuzdar, Kala and Kharan, rain may be accompanied by hailstorms. The department

further warned that light snowfall is likely over mountainous regions of Chaman, Noshki, Qila Abdullah, Qila Saifullah and Ziarat.

## Bugti Calls BPSC Chairman's Appointment a Step Toward Merit

**NEWS DESK:** Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, has said that the appointment of Justice (retd) Mehta Kohli as Chairman of the Balochistan Public Service Commission is a significant step toward ensuring merit in the province.

Expressing his views on social media platform X, the chief minister stated that there is not a single person across Balochistan who can question Justice (retd) Mehta Kohli's character or integrity.

He emphasized that the provincial government is not merely making claims but is taking concrete steps

to establish good go-

ernance and enforce

merit in public institu-

tions.

tions.



## Matric Board Examinations to Begin from February 10 Across Balochistan: Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti

**QUETTA:** Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, has announced that matriculation board examinations will commence across the province from February 10.

The minister made it clear that no leniency will be shown against cheating during the examinations. He stated that strict implementation of the decisions taken to prevent cheating will be ensured.

Mir Sarfraz Bugti emphasized that to completely eradicate cheating, the police, deputy commission-



ers, and the education department will jointly

work together to main-

tain transparency and

discipline throughout

the examination pro-

cess.

He further said that the provincial government is fully committed to eliminating corruption at every level, including the education sector, and ensuring merit-based system across Balochistan.

The Chief Minister reiterated that fair and transparent examinations are essential for improving the quality of education and securing the future of students in the province.

The decision has been taken under the Balochistan Public Service Commission Act, 1989, read with Balochistan Ordinance No. 1 of 2026, after receiv-

ing approval from the competent authority. The notification confirms that the appointment has come into effect immediately.

The Balochistan Public Service Commission is responsible for conducting examinations and overseeing merit-based recruitment for provincial government departments.

The reappointment notification was issued by the Services and General Administration Department (S&GAD) and will be published in the next issue of the Balochistan Gazette.

## DC Chaman Reviews Progress of Anti-Polio Campaign on Sixth Day

**CHAMAN:** An evening review meeting of the ongoing anti-polio campaign in the district was held on the sixth day under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Chaman, Habib Ahmed Bangzul.

The meeting was attended by District Health Officer Chaman Dr. Naveed Badini, Deputy District Health Officer Dr. Abdul Rasheed, and other polio officers. Addressing the meeting, he emphasized that all teams must continue to perform their duties with hard work, dedication, honesty, and professional competence until the coverage and vaccination of polio is achieved.

He stated that every field and task comes with challenges and difficulties; however, committed, hardworking, and professional teams and staff are capable of achieving their targets efficiently and smoothly. During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner was



given a detailed briefing on the progress of the anti-polio campaign and related administrative matters. He said that all

available resources are

being utilized to ensure

the success of the polio

campaign.

Chaman Area.

CORRIGENDUM

Only Electronic Bid Will Be Submitted, No Physical Bid Required

With reference to the advertisement published in the National and Local Newspapers vide PRO No. 320912-01-2026 on dated 13th Jan. 2026 having TSE No. 252601937811, the following amendments are hereby made:

1. Date sheet.

2. Case schedule.

3. Date of submission of tenders: 17th Feb 2026 11:15pm

Note: The other terms and conditions of the tender shall remain same.

Director General Health Services

BALOCHISTAN, QUETTA

PRO No.364/B-06-02-2026

[www.dghs.gov.pk](http://www.dghs.gov.pk) [www.dghs.gov.pk](http://www.dghs.gov.pk) [www.dghs.gov.pk](http://www.dghs.gov.pk)

## Two People Shot Dead by Unidentified Motorcyclists in Sibi Balochistan

**News Desk:** Two young men were shot dead by unidentified motorcyclists on Allahabad Road in Sibi on Friday, triggering panic in the area.

According to police, the assailants opened fire and fled

the scene immediately after the attack.

Law enforcement officials rushed to the spot, cordoned off the area, and initiated an investigation into the incident.

The bodies of the victims were shifted to a hospital for identification and completion of legal formalities.

Police said further investigation is underway to trace the attackers and determine the motive behind the shooting.



## Mehta Kailash Nath Kohli Reappointed as BPSC Chairman for Another Term



Syed Ali Shah:

**QUETTA:** The Government of Balochistan has re-appointed Mehta Kailash Nath Kohli as the Chairman of the Balochistan Public Service Commission (BPSC), granting him one additional term of up to three years, according to an official notification issued on Wednesday.

The Chief Minister reiterated that fair and transparent examinations are essential for improving the quality of education and securing the future of students in the province.

The continuation of the appointment is considered crucial at a time when public sector recruitment is undergoing scrutiny and demands for transparency, efficiency, and fairness are growing across the province.

The reappointment notification was issued by the Services and General Administration Department (S&GAD) and will be published in the next issue of the Balochistan Gazette.

## HEADQUARTERS FRONTIER CORPS BALOCHISTAN (SOUTH) TURBAT

### JOB OPPORTUNITY

Applications are invited for appointment against 8x Specialists on contract basis for period upto 2 x years for FC Hospital Turbat. After enrollment in Frontier Corps Balochistan South, doctors will be given lucrative package, rebate on air tickets, free treatment at Frontier Corps Hospital Turbat (self & family), free accommodation and transport facilities in FC (S)AOA.

Name and number of the posts	Basic Pay Scale	Qualification/ Experience	Age
			Min Max
8 x Male/ Female	17-18	1. MBBS Qualification recognized by Pakistan Medical Commission	30-Yrs 40-Yrs
(Will work at Frontier Corps (South) Hospital Turbat).		2. MCPS/ FCPS	
1. Anaesthetist		3. Registered with Pakistan Medical Commission.	
2. Neurosurgeon			
3. Vascular Surgeon			
4. Thoracic Surgeon			
5. Rehab Specialist			
6. Eye Specialist			
7. ENT Specialist Psychiatrist			

### TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Candidates from all over Pakistan can apply. However, those having domicile of district of Balochistan will be preferred.
- Attested copies of educational qualification certificates (Matric, FSc, MBBS, FCPS/ MCPS along with transcript) experience certificate, two latest passport size photographs, domicile certificate and CNIC must be attached with application.
- Application must be addressed to Headquarters Frontier Corps Balochistan (South) Turbat and reach in the office of undersigned before 20 Feb 2026.
- Applications and necessary documents should be forward on following addresses: -ADMS, rear camp Frontier Corps Balochistan (South) Malir Cantt, near check post No. 4 Karachi. Soft copy of documents should be forwarded on following email addresses: -[admsfcbls@gmail.com](mailto:admsfcbls@gmail.com)
- The employees of government / semi government / autonomous bodies should apply through their respective department with No objection Certificate.
- The candidates are advised to bring their original certificate / documents at the time of interview.
- Only short listed candidates will be called for interview.
- No TA/ DA shall be allowed for interview.

Assistant Director Medical Services  
For Inspector General Frontier Corps Balochistan (South) Turbat  
(Headquarters Frontier Corps Balochistan (South) Turbat)

PGD/3325

## Bangladesh keen on buying rolling stocks

**NEWS DESK:** Bangladesh has expressed keen interest in procuring freight wagons and passenger coaches after Pakistan offered the rolling stock at prices lower than those in other countries.

A two-member delegation, headed by a senior Bangladeshi official, has also visited the Pakistan Railways (PR) carriage factory in Islamabad and the Mughalpura Workshop in Lahore to receive a briefing from the railway authorities and to witness the rolling stock manufacturing process, Dawn learnt.

According to the Lahore-based PR authorities, Mr Farhad Islam, the PR's secretary for International Organisations and Consular Affairs and Designate D-8 Commissioner and Mohammad Iqbal Hussain Khan, High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Pakistan visited the Mughalpura workshop on Friday.

Muhammad Nasir Khalil, Chief Mechanical Officer (Locomotives and Wagons), briefed the delegation on the overall functioning, technical capabilities, and ongoing projects of the PR's workshop. The delegation also highlighted the workshops' operational and working strengths was also



shown to the guests. Pakistan Railways offers attractive prices to seal end-to-end potential for cooperation between the two nations, particularly in the

countries sharing a common heritage, and there exists a sense of potential for cooperation between the two nations, particularly in the

railway sector. The delegation was subsequently given a detailed tour of the Mughalpura Locomotive Workshop, where they were briefed on the various stages of

locomotive maintenance, and manufacturing.

The delegation termed their visit informative, productive, and encouraging, and appreciated the technical expertise and professional experience of Pakistan Railways.

“Pakistan and Bangladesh stand as a clear testament to the strengthening bonds of friendship

and cooperation between Pakistan and Bangladesh,” said Mr. Khalil. On the other hand, Railways Minister Hanif Abbasi has expressed his resolve to

advance railway-to-rail

between the two countries,

emphasising that such

collaboration can yield

substantial benefits.

PR is currently supplying

coaches and wagons to

four countries with

broad-gauge rail networks — Sri Lanka,

Nepal, Chile and Argentina.

“It reflects that we

have achieved modern,

indigenous manufacturing

capability for

coaches and wagons,”

the minister said in a

statement. In the next

phase, according to Mr. Khalil, a delegation

from Bangladesh

will also visit Pakistan

for a detailed technical

evaluation. In the 1980s,

Pakistan Railways ex-

ported rolling stock to

Bangladesh, and pro-

vided freight wagons to

Sri Lanka in 1999 and

2000 and 2009.

In the current regional context, Pakistan

is emerging as a stable

and cost-effective alter-

native to other interna-

tional suppliers for

Bangladesh.

Bangladesh was

dealing with India re-

garding the purchase of

wagons and coaches.

But now Dhaka has

shown its interest in us

for this purpose,” Mr.

Khalil told Dawn when

he was asked if the

delegation also visited

the Islamabad carriage

factory a few days ago.

### Seed approval process streamlined to cut delays

**NEWS DESK:** The Ministry of National Food Security and Research has simplified and accelerated its pest risk analysis to ensure the timely availability of quality seeds, while maintaining strict regulatory controls.

According to official documents available with Wealth Pakistan, the National Seed Development and Regulatory Authority and the Federal Seed Certification and Registration Department have revised the composition of the Variety Evaluation Committee (VEC) and established a dedicated Variety Evaluation Committee to expedite seed approvals. Moreover, authorities are also digitising the committee's operations to improve transparency and minimise delays in the evaluation process.

The documents state that the timeline for completing a pest risk analysis for any commodity largely depends on how quickly exporting countries provide complete technical information. The risk assess-

ment process examines pest biology, ecology, host range and mitigation measures applied in the country of origin, while also assessing economic potential, economic and environmental impacts. According to the documents, plant and plant material imports are regulated under Rule 3 of PQR 2019 and the guidelines of the International Plant Protection Convention.

Imports are permitted for commercial and research purposes, including for re-export, under Rule 3 of PQR 2019.

The analysis is a scientific process designed to evaluate the introduction of regulated quarantine pests and to limit the spread of regu-

lated non-quarantine pests. The documents show that completion of a pest risk analysis can take several months and, in some cases, as long as two years, depending on the crop, commodity and exporting country.

Once market access is granted, consignments are released within one to two months. Once documents are finalised, imports are permitted for commercial and research purposes, including for re-export, under Rule 3 of PQR 2019.

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Once market access is

## England cling on to beat Nepal in last-ball T20 World Cup thriller

**NEWS DESK:** England clung on to beat Nepal by four runs in a last-ball thriller in Mumbai on Sunday and avoid one of the biggest upsets in the history of the T20 World Cup.

Chasing an imposing 185 to win, Nepal's Lokesha Bam (39 not out) needed a six off the final delivery of the match bowled by Sam Curran but could only club the ball to deep cover for a single.

It was an agonising end to a valiant run chase by the cricketing minnows, who put England's premier bowlers Jofra Archer and Adil Rashid to the sword. Jacob Bell (53) scored 50 not out for England but it was a late cameo by Will Jacks that took them to 184-7 in the Group C match, a total that proved just out of reach. Jacks smacked three sixes in four sixes off the final over from Karan KC to finish 39 not out off 18 balls.

Nepal fell just short at 180-6, despite being roared on by most of the



spectators in a three-quarters full Wankhede stadium. They got off to a fly-

ing start in their chase, Kushal Bhatrel crunching 29 of 17 balls before Jacks had him caught and bowled.

Captain Rohit

Paudel and Dipendra

Airee came to-

gether at 42-2 and brought up Nepal's 100 in the 12th over. Pace man Archer, conceding just six runs from his next two overs.

But the Nepali batsmen took to Rashid at

on.

### ICC, PCB officials meet in Lahore to discuss Pakistan's boycotted match with India on Feb 15

**NEWS DESK:** A meeting between the International Cricket Council (ICC) and the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) officials is underway in Lahore on Sunday to discuss Pakistan's boycotted T20 World Cup match with India on February 15.

Sources, however, say that the two sides will most likely announce the outcome of the meeting after receiving an endorsement from the Government of Pakistan.

ICC Deputy Chair Imran Khawaja landed in Lahore on Sunday to meet with Chairman Mohammad Naseem, while Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) President Aminul Islam also separately arrived in Lahore to partake in the meetings.

Confirming Khawaja's arrival in a post on X, the PCB said the ICC official was greeted by Amir Mir, an

adviser to the PCB chief, at the Lahore airport. According to an earlier report, the PCB president will also meet with Naqvi.

Islam was welcomed at the airport by Pakistan Super League (PSL) owner Nasser Hussain, also an adviser to the PCB chairman — and other officials.

The high-level visits come a day after the ICC's T20 World Cup commenced.

The 20-team tourna-

ment has been overshadowed by an acrimonious political build-up between Bangladesh, who refused to play in India due to security concerns, and the hosts were replaced by Scotland.

Bangladesh remained firm on not taking part in the event because the International Cricket Council (ICC) rejected their request to move their matches to Sri Lanka.

It expressed the hope that the PCB will consider the significant and long-term implications for cricket in our own country as this is likely to impact the global cricket ecosystem, which it is itself a mem-

ber and beneficiary of.

"The ICC's priority

remains the successful delivery of the Men's T20 World Cup which should also be the responsibility of all its members, including the PCB. It expects the PCB to explore all possible options to reach a mutually acceptable resolution which protects the interests of all stakeholders," the ICC stated.

A government source told Dawn on the condition of anonymity that India had refused to play again in India to express solidarity with Bangladesh, who had been dropped from the tournament after refusing to play in India, which is one of the hosts of the ICC T20 World Cup.

According to the government source, the primary reason for boycotting the match with India is the ICC's "biased decision" to award the tournament to South Africa.

"The government of

Pakistan wanted to

show solidarity with

Bangladesh. Therefore,

as a protest, the national

team was restricted

from playing its match with India scheduled for February 15," the source added.

"The clash between

arch-rivals India and

Pakistan is one of the most

lucrative in cricket,

worth millions of dollars

in broadcast, sponsor-

ship and advertising rev-

enue."

It was reported ear-

lier this week that ICC

Newsdesk: Colonial beaters were deployed along the perimeter of a specially erected stage lit up the evening sky on Saturday, visible from nearly half a kilometre away. Trainee remained suspended on a stretch of Thandi Sarak near the historic Niaz Stadium as the city prepared for a landmark moment in its cricketing history.

The moment was the unveiling of Hyderabad Kingsmen, the seventh franchise of the Pakistan Super League (PSL), acquired by Pakistani US national Fawad Khan.

Mr Sarwar, who hails from Hyderabad, received his early education at the city's well-known missionary school St. Stephen's and passed his matriculation examinations in 1995. Several of his former classmates were present at the ceremony.

He was specially invited along with other batch fellows by him," said Babar, a former classmate,

expressing excite-

ment. Another ex-classmate, Murtaza Malli, said they had gathered with Mr Sarwar at a farmhouse in the SITE area before proceeding to the stadium.

The crowd

Cheers erupted from the general enclosure when the Hyderabad franchise owner, dressed in a black polo shirt and trousers, appeared before spectators, raising his fists in acknowledgement.

Among those present was Mahrooz Khan, originally from Sialkot and currently residing in Hyderabad for work.

He recalled the 1997 One-Day International between Pakistan and

the crowd.

Others travelled from distant districts to attend the event. Afzal Kalhor arrived from Larkana, while Farhan Jakhria, from Kashmore district, welcomed Mr Sarwar and praised his decision to bring a PSL franchise to Hyderabad.

"We should have been allowed onto the outfield to enjoy the occasion more," as the ceremony drew closer,

more than two hours, as Mr Sarwar had yet to appear on stage to reveal the team's name and logo until 9:30pm, when this report was filed.

Mr Sarwar addressed the media, while Farhan Jakhria, from Kashmore district, welcomed Mr Sarwar and praised his decision to bring a PSL franchise to Hyderabad.

"We will jointly strive to assist the hosting of international tournaments and PSL matches here at Niaz Stadium," the mayor said.

Speaking briefly to

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He recalled the 1997 One-Day International between Pakistan and

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"I watched that match from this very enclosure," he said. "Javed [now a PCB director] was adjudged man of the match for taking

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Newsdesk: A large stage was set up at the Edgbaston end of the ground for the unveiling ceremony. Music blared at high volume, adding to the festive atmosphere as anticipation built among

spectators had filled the enclosure outside the stadium. At one point, some youths entered the outfit after breaking through the fencing.

The unveiling ceremony was delayed by

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The process has finally matured in this edition of the PSL," he explained.

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## 2 cops injured in separate attacks in KP's Bannu: police

**NEWS DESK:** Two cops were injured in two separate attacks targeting the police in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Bannu district on Saturday night, police sources told Dawn on Sunday. In the first incident, armed assailants opened fire at the Khonri Khel police check post in Bannu's Wazir sub-division, prompting the police to retaliate, the sources said, adding that the attack was carried out by terrorists.

**Cop Noor**  
Muhammad was injured in the exchange of fire, they said.

## Naval chief discusses coordinated responses to maritime security challenges with Malaysian navy leadership

**NEWS DESK:** Pakistan's naval chief has held discussions on aligning strategic perspectives and coordinated responses to maritime security challenges with the leadership of the Malaysian navy during an official visit to the southeast Asian country, a ministry's media affairs wing said on Sunday. "Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf paid an official visit to Malaysia and called on the leadership of the Royal Malaysian Navy. He was received at Royal Malaysian Navy Headquarters by Admiral

Tan Sri Zulhelmy bin Idris, chief of the Royal Malaysian Navy, and was accorded a Guard of Honour," a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations said.

It added that Admiral Idris also met officials during the visit focused on "aligning strategic perspectives and enhancing operational cooperation, capacity building, and coordinated responses to maritime security challenges." "Admiral Naveed Ashraf highlighted Pakistan Navy's contributions to regional stability through Regional

## Patient care at outsourced hospitals in KP suffers due to payment delay

**NEWS DESK:** Patient care at 13 outsourced government hospitals continues to suffer as the private organisations running these facilities haven't received due payments since last year due to the ongoing up-gradation work at the accountant general offices.

Officials told Dawn that the health department had received Rs413 million to the hospitals out-sourced to private organisations under the public-private partnership initiative but the amount had yet to reach the recipients, causing service at the hospitals to decline.

They said the department had been contracting out under-performing hospitals to private organisations through the Health Foundation (HF) to improve patient care.

The officials said the HF had so far outsourced 19 hospitals for which the government issued a budget on

a quarterly basis to a variety of private organisations by the committees comprising officials of health department, district administration and HF.

Health Foundation sources said "technical issues" caused problem; promises early clearance of dues.

They however, said 13 of the hospitals had been awaiting the July payment to the health department due to the leadership of employees. The officials also said another installment for the Oct-Dec period was overdue but the organization had sought consultants and that for the first time in Kohistan's history, 437 major and 9,256 minor surgeries in orthopaedic, general, ENT, gynaecology and ENT cases had been carried out. The NIDF claimed that all those payments and activities had been verified by the health department's Independent Monitoring Unit.



## Three Killed in Armed Attack Near Harnabo Dam in Khuzdar

### From Our

**KHUZDAR:** Three people were shot dead by unknown armed assailants near Harnabo Dam in the Nala area of Khuzdar district on Friday, police said.

According to police

officials, the victims —

all residents of Wadh town — had gone to the nearby dam for a picnic when they were attacked.

The deceased were identified as Abdul Saboor, son of Mola Bakhsh, Dr Abdul Rasheed, son of Ghaur Khan, and Dr Ghulam Lal, son of Chitao Mal.

Khuzdar Police Control confirmed that unidentified gunmen opened fire on the group at the dam site, killing all three before fleeing the area.

The motive behind the attack

could not be immediately ascertained.

Following the incident, police rushed to the scene to custody the bodies and shifted them to a nearby

hospital for medico-legal

procedures. After

completion of the

inquest, the bodies were

handed over to the vic-

tims' families.

Police have

launched an investiga-

tion into the incident

and are collecting evi-

dence to trace those re-

sponsible. No arrests

have been reported till

the filing of the report.

The incident has

sparked concern among local residents, high-  
lighting ongoing secu-  
rity challenges in parts  
of the district.



## Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) strike sees mixed response across K-P amid Feb 8 protest call



**NEWS DESK:** Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Sunday observed a province-wide wheel-jam and shutter-down strike across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including the capital Peshawar, to protest alleged rigging in the February 8, 2024, general elections. The strike produced a mixture of compliance with the mobilisation in some urban centres and limited disruption in others, with business activity continuing in many areas.

In the provincial capital, PTI workers staged protests and enforced stoppages on several major roads and highways. Public transport services suspended in parts of the city, although the government-run Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service remained operational. Taxi services were also reported to be functional in various areas.

Despite the strike, commercial activity continued in several parts of Peshawar. Services continued to operate in some markets, while food outlets and essential commodity stores operated in selected localities.

PTI-KP President Junaid Akbar, who along with other senior leaders, was expected to address workers upon reaching Charsadda, also remained open.

Simultaneous demonstrations were planned across the province, to be led by PTI MNAs and MPAs in their respective constituencies.

The strike's effect was uneven outside the capital. In Swabi, all markets, shopping centres and commercial hubs remained open, while a street was shut down normally throughout the district. Lower Dir likewise reported business centres

to press ahead with countrywide protests and strikes, describing February 8 as both a "Black Day" and a "Day of Mourning".

The administration moved to tighten security, imposed Section 144 in parts of Islamabad and launched measures intended to curb the strike. At the same time, several opposition figures condemned a recent deadly blast in Islamabad and urged peaceful demonstration against the government.

As tensions simmer in K-P, the administration in neighboring Punjab has moved to block any potential spread of the protests. The Deputy Commissioner of Rawalpindi, Dr Hassan Waqar Cheema, has imposed Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure across the district for 15 days, effective from February 7 to February 21, 2024.

An official notification issued by the Office of the Deputy Commissioner of Rawalpindi on February 7, 2024, imposing Section 144 across the district for 15 days to prohibit all rallies, protests, and gatherings of five or more people.

## Water supply to be suspended in many Karachi areas due to pipeline repair

**NEWS DESK:** The city is expected to face a daily water shortage of around 200 million gallons for at least four days as the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KWSC) begins repair work on a leaking 84-inch diameter main water line on Monday.

The leak was detected in Phase-I main water line in Block 19 of Gulshan-i-Iqbal. It prompted the utility to initiate urgent repair and maintenance work. The 96-hour operation will begin at 12 noon on Monday.

The Phase-I main pipeline project, particularly the University Road section near Block 19, is part of the high-priority K-4 water augmentation initiative aimed at improving supply reliability.

A KWSC spokesman said the repair work was being carried out to stabilise and strengthen the city's water supply system ahead of Ramazan. He said the decision was taken to ensure a smooth water supply during the holy month, adding that specialised teams would oversee the process to



minimise disruption. KWSC says leakages in 84-inch main in Gulshan to be plugged in four days.

Areas likely to be affected by the water shortage include Landhi, Korangi, Malir, Shah Faisal, Gulshan, Jinnah, Chanesar, Saddar, Lyari and Clifton.

The spokesman said water supply from the Dhaibari Pumping Station would be temporarily reduced, while supply from other pumping stations would remain unaffected. This, he

said, would ensure that residents continue to receive a significant portion of their daily water requirements.

He said the city would normally receive around 650 million gallons of water per day and, despite the temporary reduction, it would still receive about 450 million gallons daily.

The spokesman said the utility was making efforts to complete the repair work as quickly as possible to minimise inconvenience to residents. He added that the

Landhi and Sherpao hydrants would also remain temporarily closed during the repair period.

He said the repair work is expected to be completed within 60 hours, the deadline has been extended to 96 hours in case additional repairs are required.

The KWSC advised residents in the affected areas to store water in advance and use it judiciously during the repair period.

Meanwhile, sources in the water utility told Dawn that the 84-inch diameter

main line had developed

leaks at seven to

eight locations. They

said a major leak was

detected near the KE Power Station in Block 19, Gulshan-i-Iqbal, with another leak about 200 feet away.

Additional leaks were

also found in under-

ground sections of the

main line in areas where encroachments had been made above it.

The sources said

repair work would be

carried out inside the

84-inch diameter

encroached locations.