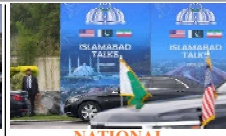




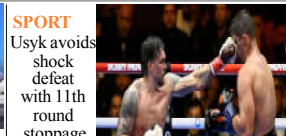
**BALUCHISTAN**  
CM Sarfraz Bugti Visits Chaman Phatak Blast...



**INTERNATIONAL**  
Australians returning from Gaza flotilla recount torture, sexual...



**NATIONAL**  
PM hopes to host Islamabad Talks 2.0 'very soon'



**SPORT**  
Usyk avoids shock defeat with 11th round stoppage of Verhoeven

First Digital, Print Daily of Balochistan

Editor: Asim Khan.

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Tuesday 26, May, 2026

# QUETTA VOICE

## Quetta Administration Establishes Special Committee to Evaluate Chaman Phatak Blast Damages

Qaseem Shah,  
Ali Hamza:

QUETTA, Pakistan — In the aftermath of the devastating explosion near Chaman Phatak, the Deputy Commissioner Quetta, who also chairs the District Compensation Committee, has formally constituted a special damage assessment committee to evaluate financial losses caused by the May 24, 2026 bomb blast.

According to an official statement issued by the district administration, the committee has been directed to immediately begin its work by visiting the affected locality and carrying out a detailed survey of the destruction.

The assessment will focus on damages to homes, shops, commercial establishments, vehicles, and other public and private properties impacted by the explosion.

The initiative aims to ensure a transparent, fair, and comprehensive evaluation process, allowing authorities to accurately determine the scale of losses suffered by residents and business owners.

Multi-Department Committee Formed

As outlined in the official notification, the Assistant Commissioner City Quetta has been appointed to lead the committee. The body also includes representatives from several departments to ensure a technically sound and impartial assessment.

Committee members include officials from the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Quetta, the Communication and Works Department, the Metropolitan Corporation Quetta, and the Agricultural Engineering Department.



**A fire fighter walks fast to extinguish flames of fire after the deadly bombing in Quetta: Photo Muhammad Ismail**

ultural Engineering Department.

Authorities said the inclusion of specialists from different sectors is intended to provide a complete and credible estimate of the destruction, ensuring that every category of damage is documented properly.

Detailed Report to Shape Relief and Compensation

Officials stated that the committee will conduct a comprehensive on-ground inspection of the blast site and compile separate records of damaged vehicles, af-

ected businesses, residential properties, and other financial losses.

Once completed, the findings will be submitted to the Deputy Commissioner Quetta to support decisions regarding government assistance, compensation packages, and future rehabilitation efforts for victims.

Extensive Damage Reported After Blast

The powerful blast near Chaman Phatak reportedly left multiple vehicles destroyed and caused significant structural

damage to nearby buildings, shops, and surrounding properties.

The incident triggered panic across the area, prompting an immediate response from security agencies and emergency responders, who secured the scene and launched relief operations shortly after the explosion.

Officials emphasized that the assessment committee's report will play a crucial role in ensuring that affected families and business owners receive appropriate support based on verified losses.

## Naqvi-PTI meeting sparks controversy

NEWS DESK:

A quietly held meeting between senior Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders and Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has triggered a debate of possible back channel contacts between the opposition party and powers that be and also raised questions over internal communication and coordination within the party after it emerged that party founding chairman Imran Khan's family had no prior knowledge of the engagement.

A post circulating on X on Sunday initially claimed that Imran Khan's family had no prior knowledge of the engagement. A post circulating on X on Sunday initially claimed that Imran Khan's family had no prior knowledge of the engagement.

Aleema Khan swiftly rejected the claim on X, clarifying that no member of Imran Khan's family was present at the meeting and that the family had not been informed beforehand.

Her denial, however, inadvertently confirmed the meeting's existence, setting off a chain of enquiries that brought the encounter into public focus.

Rumours regarding a meeting between Barrister Gohar Ali Khan and the interior minister at the former's residence had been circulating for several days, although neither PTI nor Barrister Gohar had confirmed it during that period.

The matter remained publicly unaddressed until Aleema Khan's statement brought it into the spotlight, after which Sohail Afridi's name also surfaced in connection with the meeting and was later acknowledged by PTI's senior leadership in response to queries.

quote-tweeting Aleema Khan, also confirmed that his meeting with Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi was held in relation to recent terrorist incidents in Bannu and the broader law and order situation in the province.

He categorically stated that no political discussion took place during the meeting, adding that reports suggesting otherwise were incorrect.

The Bannu security context cited by Afridi is grounded in a recent and serious incident. On the night of May 9,

five days before the meeting took place, a devastating attack struck a police outpost in Bannu district when an explosives-laden vehicle was rammed into the post, followed by a coordinated assault involving heavy weaponry and drones.

The attack was claimed by Ittehad-ul-Mujahideen Pakistan, a newly emerged armed group. In the days that followed, a joint operation by the Pakistan Army, police and Counter Terrorism Department was launched in the area, killing 16 terrorists including two commanders.

It is against this immediate backdrop that PTI representatives have described the May 14 meeting as being focused on law and order and security coordination.

While the K-P chief minister's clarification addressed the nature of the meeting, the development has nevertheless drawn attention in political circles due to questions surrounding its timing and the limited public awareness around it.

The development comes against the backdrop of prolonged concerns over Imran Khan's health during his incarceration at Adiala Jail.

Khan was taken to PIMS on

## Balochistan: Six Family Members Dead in Quetta Over Alleged Land Dispute



WEB DESK:

A horrific family tragedy unfolded in Quetta's Sariab Road area on Monday night when six members of a family were allegedly gunned down inside their home in what authorities believe may be linked to a land dispute.

According to preliminary reports, the suspect, reportedly the victims' maternal uncle, entered the residence at around 8:00 pm and opened indiscriminate fire, killing

Muhammad Yousaf Bangalzai, his sons Tahir, Asif, and Parvez, as well as two daughters. All six victims died on the spot, sending shockwaves across the provincial capital.

Initial findings suggest that the deadly shooting may have been the result of a long-running dispute over property ownership.

Police have launched an investigation and are working to determine the exact circumstances surrounding the massacre. In the aftermath of the incident, relatives of the

victims and local residents staged a large-scale protest by placing the bodies on Sariab Road. Protesters blocked the key thoroughfare for all traffic, causing major disruption and demanding the immediate arrest of the accused and his accomplices.

The demonstrators urged law enforcement agencies to ensure a transparent investigation and swift justice for the bereaved family.

They warned that the protest would continue until concrete action is taken against

those responsible.

Residents and members of the affected family have appealed to Mir Sarfraz Bugti, Chief Minister of Balochistan, to take immediate notice of the incident, order the arrest of the suspects, and provide justice and support to the victims' family.

The incident has once again highlighted concerns over violent property disputes in Balochistan, with citizens calling for stronger measures to prevent such tragedies and ensure the rule of law.



The Express Tribune reached out to Barrister Gohar Ali Khan for confirmation of the reported meeting and its agenda. He confirmed that the meeting had taken place and reiterated that no member of Imran Khan's family was present.

However, he did not respond to further questions regarding the agenda or detailed points of discussion.

Separately, PTI Information Secretary Sheikh Waqas, responding to The Express Tribune's queries, said he had personally contacted Barrister Gohar, who confirmed the meeting and the presence of Sohail Afridi.

He stated that the meeting took place on May 14 and was strictly related to law and order matters, including the Bannu security situation and broader public order concerns.

He further said that Imran Khan's family was not informed about the meeting as the matter did not concern them, adding that Barrister Gohar, as part of the party's senior leadership, was authorised to engage in such discussions.

According to him, meeting maintained that the discussion remained limited to security and public order issues.

The Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa chief minister, in a post on X while

a few occasions in recent months for treatment of a deteriorating eye condition, with his legal team filing petitions in the Islamabad High Court seeking access to specialist care and the presence of his personal physicians.

A follow-up examination by a joint medical board in March reported improvement in his condition, though the family disputed the government's assessment and insisted no medical decisions should be taken without their consent.

The episode has also drawn renewed attention to a recurring tension between the Khan family and the party's senior leadership over internal communication and consultation.

In February, Aleema Khan publicly rebuked the party leadership over its handling of the medical situation, objecting to what she described as decisions taken without the family's knowledge.

Gohar himself acknowledged a communication gap within the leadership at the time, while stressing that efforts for Imran Khan's release remained coordinated.

The latest episode in which a meeting with the interior minister was held and only came to light through a social media post appears to reflect that same unresolved tension.

# QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

## Purpose Over Profession

By: Asfandyar Khan

In a world often driven by titles and career choices, some stories remind us that true meaning lies not in what we become—but in how we serve.

This is a story of two individuals in very different settings, connected by a single thread: purpose.

The first moment unfolded in a hospital corridor. A visitor, on the way to see a relative in the ICU, noticed a woman lying still, her breathing faint and uncertain.

The atmosphere around her felt final. Yet, hours later, everything had changed. She was alive—stabilized—because a doctor chose persistence over surrender. It was a quiet but powerful reminder of the role healthcare professionals play every day: standing between life and loss.

Days later, in a completely different environment, that same sense of purpose appeared again—this time in a rural classroom.

In a small village school, Mr. Mumtaz, a former MIS Assistant, has been redefining what it means to be an educator since 2021. Teaching in a modest setup within a madrasa, he now



reaches more than 450 students, balancing multiple grade levels while also contributing to a UNICEF-supported Digital IT program.

### But beyond numbers lies a deeper impact

In 2026, for the first time in the village's history, 16 stu-

dents—10 girls and 6 boys—sat for their matriculation exams.

In a region where girls' education often faces barriers, this milestone carries par-

ticular significance. With no local high school available, stu-

dents rely heavily on his guidance. He conducts practice exams at home, ensures thor-

ough preparation, and emphasizes integrity in a system where short-

cuts are common. His approach is both practical and thoughtful. Aware of

cultural sensitivities around mixed classrooms, he has introduced simple arrangements to ensure girls

can continue their education without resis-

tance. Among his students are his own daughters—three of the girls appearing for exams this year.

His vision extends beyond the present. He hopes to see a high school, even a college, established in the village—an aspiration rooted in the belief that education can transform entire communities.

These two moments—one in a hospital, the other in a classroom—highlight a shared truth. Whether it is a doctor saving lives in critical moments or a teacher shaping futures over time, both reflect the same underlying force: commitment to others. In a country facing ongoing challenges in healthcare access and educational equity, such individuals represent more than personal dedication. They embody the kind of impact that drives real change at the community level.

Their stories raise a simple but important reflection: perhaps purpose is not defined by profession, but by intention. And in that realization lies something powerful—not regret for paths not taken, but clarity about how to move forward on the one we have.

## Balochistan: Qila Saifullah Hailstorm Destroys 7M Fruit Trees, 18,000 Farmers Hit

Atta Kakar:

A devastating hailstorm accompanied by powerful winds has caused widespread destruction across Qila Saifullah district in Balochistan, damaging more than 7 million fruit trees and affecting nearly 18,000 farmers and landowners.

The storm struck on April 18, severely impacting one of the province's most important horticultural regions and leaving thousands of rural families facing major economic uncertainty.

The disaster caused extensive damage to orchards, agricultural land, and seasonal crops, particularly apple, apricot, and grape farms that form the backbone of the local economy. Farmers say years of hard work and investment were wiped out within minutes as hail and strong winds tore through villages and farming areas across the district.

Local growers have described the situation as catastrophic, warning that many families may struggle to survive financially without immediate government assistance.

Agriculture remains the primary source of income for a large portion of Qila Saifullah's population, and the destruction of fruit orchards is expected to have long-term economic consequences for the region.

Residents and farming communities



have expressed frustration over delays in relief and compensation efforts.

Many affected farmers claim that official assessment and rehabilitation measures have been slow despite the scale of

destruction. Calls are growing for the provincial and federal governments

to announce emergency compensation packages, interest-free agricultural loans, and recovery support for affected commu-

nities. Farmers and local representatives are also demanding restoration of damaged irrigation systems and

the introduction of crop insurance mechanisms to help rural communities re-

cover from climate-related disasters.

They argue that without urgent intervention, the crisis could deepen poverty and unemployment across the district.

The Qila Saifullah hailstorm has once

again highlighted the vulnerability of Balochistan's agriculture sector to extreme weather events.

Experts warn that climate-related disasters, including hailstorms, droughts, and flash floods, are be-

coming increasingly frequent in the province, placing additional pressure on farmers

already struggling with limited infrastructure and rising production costs.

Analysts say stronger disaster man-

agement systems, climate-resilient agricultural policies, and faster emergency response mechanisms

are essential to protect rural livelihoods and ensure long-term stability in Balochistan's farming sector.

# China's Xi hails 'unbreakable' ties, praises Pakistan's role in Iran peace efforts as he meets PM Shehbaz

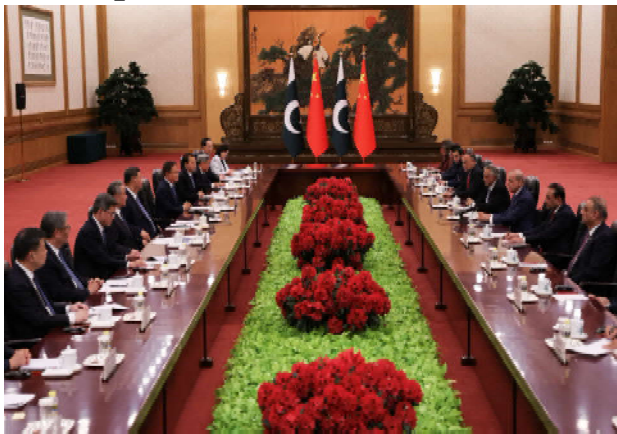
**NEWS DESK:** China's President Xi Jinping hailed Beijing's "unbreakable" friendship with Pakistan on Monday as he met Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Beijing, seeking to deepen the "all-weather" partnership between the two countries.

PM Shehbaz landed in China on Saturday on a four-day official visit, reaching Beijing yesterday after making a stop in Hangzhou.

Addressing bilateral talks at the Great Hall of the People, Xi said: "China is ready to work with Pakistan to move faster to build an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era, work for more results in our all-weather cooperation, [...] contribute to regional peace and stability and set an example for building a community with a shared future among neighbouring countries."

Xi called PM Shehbaz an "old friend" and said the two countries had "understood, trusted and supported each other" over decades, forging an "unbreakable" tradition of friendship.

"Despite international changes, China has always prioritised Pakistan relations in our neighbourhood diplomacy," Xi said.



Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of the Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir, who concluded his visit to Iran on Saturday, was also present on the occasion. "I know that you have just returned from Iran and made positive efforts to mediate for peace. We appreciate the constructive role of Pakistan," Xi said.

Following a rickety ceasefire achieved in the US-Israeli war in Iran in April, CDF Munir has been engaged in mediation efforts between Washington and Tehran. Weeks into Islamabad's diplomatic efforts, the US has reported progress in negotiations with Iran.

Xi said Pakistani students in China were "committed to be builders of cooperation, promoters of exchanges and upholders of friendship of China and Pakistan."

He added he was "truly encouraged to see that our friendship is being carried forward by the younger generation."

"Our strategic mutual trust and practical cooperation have greatly contributed to our respective development," the Chinese president said.

Pakistan-China ties "next to none," PM Shehbaz, in turn, called China and Pakistan two "iron brother" countries with a relationship that is "next to none."

He also hailed Xi as a "great friend of Pakistan and a great friend of peace-loving humanity."

## Trump says Iran deal will either be 'great, meaningful' or there will be 'no deal'

**NEWS DESK:** US President Donald Trump said on Monday that the deal with Iran "will either be a great and meaningful one, or there will be no deal."

He stated that it will be the opposite of the "CPOA disaster" that the Obama administration negotiated, claiming that that was a "direct and open path to a Nuclear Weapon for Iran."

"No, I don't do deals like that," Iran will not submit to enemy's excessive demands," Peshkian Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian slammed the enemy's insistence on imposing an economic war against Iran, saying the contract will not submit to the enemy's "excessive demands," according to Iranian state broadcaster IRNA.

In a meeting with members of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture on Monday, Pezeshkian said that negotiations with the US were planned to ensure that Iran's rights as a nation are fully secured, and that the nation will not submit to pressures and demands.

East, Chinese President Xi Jinping said on Monday when meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

PM Shehbaz said that Pakistan appreciated China's support for Pakistan in mediating the US-Iran negotiations.

Noting that President Xi's four propositions on the Middle East situation offer guidance for achieving peace, China on Monday urged the US and Iran to continue the "momentum of de-escalation" as potential signs emerged that the war between the two sides could wind down following recent diplomatic contacts.

"China's position on the Iranian situation is very clear," he said. "This is a conflict that should never have happened and there is no need for it to continue."

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning told reporters in Beijing. She was responding to questions about ongoing intense diplomatic efforts toward a potential pact between the US and Iran to permanently end the war, which began on February 28.

An earlier solution serves the interests of both the US and Iran, as well as regional countries and the world at large," said Mao.

The spokeswoman stressed it was "important to sustain the momentum of de-escalation, stay committed to the direction of political resolution, and seek a solution through dialogue and consultation that accommodates the concerns of all parties."

Iran says framework reached in US talks but final deal not imminent.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmat Baghaei said Tehran and Washington had reached a framework on several issues including ongoing negotiations, but cautioned that a final agreement between the two sides was not imminent.

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## Iran says progress on many issues with US but agreement not imminent

**NEWS DESK:** Iran said on Monday that Tehran and Washington had reached understandings on many issues in exchanges over a deal for ending the war, but warned an agreement was not imminent.

"It is correct to say that we have reached a conclusion on a large portion of the issues under discussion," foreign ministry spokesman Esmat Baghaei said, during a weekly news briefing. "But to say that this means the signing of an agreement is imminent — no one can make such a claim," he said, accusing Washington of "contradictions" and shifting its positions.

The remarks come after Iran said it was finalising a 14-point framework for a deal on ending the war. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said a deal to end the war with Iran could materialise on Monday as US President Donald Trump told his negotiators not to "rush".

During the press conference, Baghaei insisted that the framework being drafted "is focused on ending the war" across the region, including in Lebanon.

He reiterated that details on Iran's nuclear programme — a key sticking point for Washington — were not included and that the issue would only be discussed after the two sides agree on the framework. Clauses on ending the US naval blockade on Iranian ports, in place since April 13, and arrangements that vessels obtain permission from its armed forces before transiting the waterway.

US actions under the title of a naval blockade must be stopped, and at the same time, the Islamic Republic of Iran will take the necessary measures for safe transit in the Strait of Hormuz," he said.

Traffic through Hormuz, a vital global shipping route, has come under Iranian control since the outbreak of the war. Iran, which has only allowed a trickle of ships to pass through the strait, has insisted that vessels obtain permission from its armed forces before transiting the waterway.

Baqaei said Iran was not imposing tolls on ships transiting the strait but rather collecting fees for "navigational services."

The services that are provided — navigational services in addition to the measures necessary to protect the environment of the Strait of Hormuz, the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman — require the collection of certain fees," he said, adding that Iran was "not seeking to collect tolls".

Iran says progress on many issues with US but agreement not imminent.

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## Haj begins as Middle East war's trajectory hangs in the balance

**NEWS DESK:** Over 1.5 million Muslims began filling a vast tent city on Monday for the annual Haj pilgrimage carried out from abroad to participate in this year's Haj than in 2025.

But, amid the spiritual euphoria experienced by the pilgrims in the days ahead of the Haj, authorities in the kingdom signalled their readiness.

A video posted on social media by the Saudi defence ministry showed advanced air defence batteries positioned on the outskirts of Makkah.

Despite the uncertainty triggered by the conflict, Saudi officials noted over the weekend that more pilgrims had travelled from abroad to participate in this year's Haj than in 2025.

But, amid the spiritual euphoria experienced by the pilgrims in the days ahead of the Haj, authorities in the kingdom signalled their readiness.

A video posted on social media by the Saudi defence ministry showed advanced air defence batteries positioned on the outskirts of Makkah.

The air defence forces are responsible for protecting the skies over the holy sites and dealing with all aerial threats, ensuring the safety and peace of mind of the guests," read the post.

Many pilgrims who spoke to AFP expressed their hope that peace would prevail soon.

"The war in Iran has affected the entire world. Nobody wants wars or harm to countries and peoples," said Mohammed Chahada, an Egyptian in his 50s, as he walked through a crowd exiting the Grand Mosque.

The pilgrimage will be held against the backdrop of geopolitical tensions but also under punishing heat, with temperatures forecast to top 40 degrees Celsius for much of the week.

Despite the heat and the uncertainty over the war, pilgrims in Makkah were ecstatic.

"I have wanted to perform the pilgrimage my entire life, for 40 or 50 years," said Jreish Mohammed, a 68-year-old decked out in the traditional attire from his native Morocco.



## Australians returning from Gaza flotilla recount torture, sexual abuse during Israeli detention

**NEWS DESK:** Australian activists who took part in a flotilla attempting to deliver humanitarian aid to war-torn Gaza started arriving home, recounting torture and sexual abuse during Israeli detention, local media reported Monday.

Australians were among hundreds of international activists aboard the Global Sumud Flotilla when it was intercepted and attacked by Israeli forces last week in international waters, and they were detained. Many of the activists, including some Australians, said they suffered broken bones, being tasered in the face and being injected with unknown substances, local broadcaster SBS News reported.

Activist Violet Coco, who arrived at Melbourne Airport on Monday morning, said Israeli authorities beat, tortured and sexually assaulted activists detained during the flotilla operation. She added that some activists suffered fractures and head injuries, while some people went without insulin and blood pressure medication for several days. Coco said she was pushed through a dark room, groped and repeatedly struck while in detention.

Activist Violet Coco, who arrived at Melbourne Airport on Monday morning, said Israeli authorities beat, tortured and sexually assaulted activists detained during the flotilla operation. She added that some activists suffered fractures and head injuries, while some people went without insulin and blood pressure medication for several days. Coco said she was pushed through a dark room, groped and repeatedly struck while in detention.

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# Speaker condemns explosion near Chaman Railway crossing

ISLAMABAD (INP): Speaker of National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has strongly condemned the tragic explosion near the Chaman Railway crossing, which resulted in the loss of innocent lives.

He expressed profound grief and sorrow over the incident and extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.

The Speaker conveyed his deepest sympathies to the families of the victims and reaffirmed his solidarity with them in this hour of immense grief, saying that the entire nation stands united with those affected by this heartbreaking tragedy.

Ayaz Sadiq said that targeting innocent civilians is a shameful and cowardly act that stands in complete contradiction to the principles of humanity and the teachings of all religions.

He reiterated that such heinous acts of terrorism cannot undermine the resolve of the nation, which remains firmly committed to peace, stability and the complete eradication of terrorism from the country.

Ayaz Sadiq emphasized that the nation will continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with its armed forces in their efforts to eliminate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. He prayed to Allah Almighty for the el-

evation of the ranks of the departed souls, for the swift recovery of the injured and for strength, patience, and courage for the bereaved families to bear this irreparable loss.



BEIJING: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meeting with the Prime Minister of the People's Republic of China Mr Li Qiang receiving at the Great Hall of the People.

## Pakistan will soon move forward alongside China in region's journey of development, economic progress

BEIJING (INP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said Pakistan will soon move forward alongside China in the region's journey of economic progress.

Addressing a Pakistan-China Business-to-Business Forum in Hangzhou held to mark 75 years of Pakistan-China friendship, the prime minister said bilateral ties were 'deeper than the ocean, higher than the Himalayas, and now touching the sky'.

He praised Chinese President Xi Jinping for transforming China into a global economic and military power, describing Hangzhou as a reflection of Xi's vision and leadership. PM said around 30% of the memorandums of understanding (MoUs) signed between the two value-added industries had already been converted into agreements worth billions of dollars. He said Pakistan was focusing on providing IT training and international certifications to its young population, adding that agriculture, information technology, economic zones, and mines and minerals were the four major sectors of cooperation with China.

Shehbaz Sharif stressed the need to swiftly convert MoUs into practical agreements and invited foreign investors to explore Pakistan's vast mineral reserves and investment opportunities.

'Pakistan does not need modern seeds, machinery, and advanced farming techniques were essential to increasing agricultural production,' PM also announced plans to promote small businesses in rural areas and special economic zones across industries. The prime minister further said investors in special economic zones would receive one-win-

## Sindh CM takes strict notice of the severe water shortage in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has taken strict notice of the severe water shortage in Karachi and directed the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation to immediately restore water supply across the city.

The Chief Minister also sought a detailed report from the relevant authorities regarding the reasons behind the disruption in water supply. He instructed that repair and restoration work on the affected lines continue without interruption and that the public be kept regularly informed about the progress.

Syed Murad Ali Shah further emphasized the need for effective precautionary measures in the future to prevent such incidents from recurring. During a briefing, Water Board CEO Ahmed Ali Siddiqui stated that a power jerk (electrical surge) from K-Electric caused the 72-inch Line No. 5 at the Dhabaji pumping station to burst at three different locations.

According to him, due to the power disruption, two pumps at the pumping station suddenly shut down during the night between May 20 and 21.

This caused fluctuations in pressure, resulting in damage to the pipeline at three points. In addition, ongoing work on the BRT project partially disrupted water supply from the FTM line, causing the city to face a daily shortfall of approximately 48 million gallons of water. CEO Ahmed Ali Siddiqui said that both technical issues have now been successfully resolved. He clarified that it may take approximately 17 days to fully restore the water supply to fully return to normal.

In view of the situation, the Water Board administration has appealed to Karachi residents to use water carefully until full restoration of supply is achieved.

## Net Metering Delays: Power Minister Sets June 1 Deadline for DISCOs

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Power and Energy Awas Leghari has taken strict notice of the ongoing delays in processing net metering connections.

According to sources, the Energy Minister has directed all power distribution companies (DISCOs) to fast-track the provision of net metering connections. He has also decided to penalize DISCOs that deliberately delay the process.

During a briefing, the Minister was informed that as many as 1,355 net metering connections are currently pending across various DISCOs.

Furthermore, transformers have not been properly tagged with net metering consumers, leading to the rejection of several applications.

Earlier, the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) has amended the Solar Regulations 2026 and issued a fresh notification regarding net metering.

Expressing deep concern over the slow pace of installations, the Minister has directed all DISCOs to clear backlog and install the remaining net metering connections by June 1.

Minister Leghari explicitly stated that administrative action will be taken against the Superintending Engineers (SEs), Executive Engineers (XESs), and Sub-Divisional Officers (SDOs) of existing performing DISCOs.

He warned that officers who fail to improve their performance will have their bonuses withheld.

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He warned that officers who fail to improve their performance will have their bonuses withheld.

Earlier, the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) has amended the Solar Regulations 2026 and issued a fresh notification regarding net metering.

Expressing deep concern over the slow pace of installations, the Minister has directed all DISCOs to clear backlog and install the remaining net metering connections by June 1.

Minister Leghari explicitly stated that administrative action will be taken against the Superintending Engineers (SEs), Executive Engineers (XESs), and Sub-Divisional Officers (SDOs) of existing performing DISCOs.

He warned that officers who fail to improve their performance will have their bonuses withheld.

## Pakistan will continue sincere efforts for lasting peace, mutual respect: Ishaq Dar

ISLAMABAD (INP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar has said that Pakistan will continue its sincere efforts for lasting peace, mutual respect, and regional stability.

In a post on X, Dar thanked all stakeholders involved in the peace process, saying that recent diplomatic engagement marked an important step toward regional stability.

He noted that US President Donald Trump held telephone conversations with leaders of several Muslim countries, including Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, Qatar, Egypt, the UAE, and Jordan.

He described the initiative as a significant development for stability in the region.

Dar also expressed appreciation for U.S. Vice President JD Vance, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, and the broader American team, praising their commitment to dialogue and diplomacy.

He further thanked Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and other Iranian leadership figures, including Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, for their constructive role.

The deputy prime minister also acknowl-

edged the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres and regional partners, including Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, Egypt, and Qatar, for their contributions to the peace process.

Pakistan's leadership, he lauded Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for his vision and commitment to peace, and commended Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir for his key role in the process, including representing Pakistan in recent discussions.

He also highlighted the efforts of Pakistan's Foreign Ministry, saying sustained diplomatic en-

gagement had helped advance the dialogue and diplomacy must be prioritized over confrontation and conflict for shared prosperity and security.

## Motorway police issue important message for commuters

ISLAMABAD (INP): The National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP) has issued an important message for commuters to minimize disruption for travelers.

The NHMP also stated that further guidance and complaints should be submitted through its official social media handle, @NHMPofficial.

Officials said technical teams were working to resolve the issue and urged motorists to immediately contact the nearest motorway police unit if they require further assistance during travel.

The National Highways and Motorway Police is a federal law enforcement agency responsible for traffic regulation, commuter safety and crime prevention across Pakistan's motorways.

Zulfikar Ali Shah, as quoted by Radio Pakistan, said the development will play a key role in promoting Sindh's cultural heritage at the global level.

Sindh is home to some of South Asia's oldest civilizations, in-

## UNESCO adds three Sindh forts to tentative World Heritage list

KARACHI (INP): Three cultural and archaeological sites from Pakistan's southern Sindh province have been added to UNESCO's tentative list of World Heritage Sites, according to state media reports.

The sites include Kot Diji Fort, Naukot Fort, and Umerkot Fort, all recognized for their historical and cultural importance.

The inclusion on the tentative list is an initial step toward securing full World Heritage status from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), which designates sites of outstanding cultural or natural value.

Sindh Minister for Culture, Tourism and Antiquities Syed Zulfikar Ali Shah, as quoted by Radio Pakistan, said the development will play a key role in promoting Sindh's cultural heritage at the global level.

Sindh is home to some of South Asia's oldest civilizations, in-

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, it is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB.

Invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2026 on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates

S.No.	Name of Work's	Last Date and Time for Bid Submission	Estimated Cost	Tender Fee
1.	CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BUILDING FOR GEPIS ZAHRI SUK DISTRICT DERA BUGTI. TSE-252605189723	06 June, 2026 12:00 PM	18,462,996	2,000 PKR
2.	CONSTRUCTION OF NEW GEPIS HAJA SAHAR KHAN HELLAU SUK DISTRICT DERA BUGTI. TSE-252605189843	06 June, 2026 12:00 PM	18,462,996	2,000 PKR
3.	CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BUILDING FOR GEPIS AT KULLI MAZARI KHAN GAZI MATT DISTRICT DERA BUGTI. TSE-252605189803	06 June, 2026 12:00 PM	18,462,996	2,000 PKR
4.	CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BUILDING FOR GEPIS KILLI DIBHADI CANAL, DISTRICT DERA BUGTI. TSE-252605189787	06 June, 2026 12:00 PM	18,462,996	2,000 PKR

Documents shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Eligibility Criteria for bidders may be seen in the Bidding Documents. Bidding Procedure: Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure (TSE-252605190123, TSE-252605190043, TSE-252605190003, TSE-252605190974, TSE-252605190943, TSE-252605190903). Tender Documents: The Bidding document can be downloaded from [www.bppra.gov.pk](http://www.bppra.gov.pk) (New and old) and the same can also be obtained from the office of the under-ordered project officer/registered bidder. Address: Main Road, Dera Bugti. Phone No: 0834101912 Fax No: 0834101952 Email: [Mohammadqasim206@gmail.com](mailto:Mohammadqasim206@gmail.com)

**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER-BUILDING**  
CWP/PH Department  
District Dera Bugti

PRO No.5320/25-05-2026

**TENDER NOTICE**

TSE-252605190203 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, it is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The Executive Engineer-1 Provincial S&R District Dera Bugti invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2026 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates

Tender Fee 2000 PKR and Bid Security 2%

S.No.	Name of Work's	Estimate
1.	Providing and Laying of Tuff Tiles and Frang of Street Lights at Mohamud Colony suk	7,983,827

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Eligibility Criteria for bidders may be seen in the Bidding Documents. Bidding Procedure: Active Pay Fee List The bidding form must be backdated by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority registration is required. The bidder must have completed 2 Assignment of similar nature of work over of at least 574.078 PKR Amount in last subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Bid Security 2% of the Estimated Cost. 2 Assignment of similar nature of work over of at least 574.078 PKR Amount in last subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Bid Security 2% of the Estimated Cost. 2 Assignment of similar nature of work over of at least 574.078 PKR Amount in last subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Bid Security 2% of the Estimated Cost. 2 Assignment of similar nature of work over of at least 574.078 PKR Amount in last subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Bid Security 2% of the Estimated Cost.

Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-ordered 2,000 PKR issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to till 08 June, 2026 at 12:00 PM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on Saturday at the office of the under-ordered at 10:00 PM Address: Office of Executive Engineer-1 Provincial S&R District, Dera Bugti Phone No: 0834102605 Fax No: 0834101952 Email: [mohammadqasim2061@gmail.com](mailto:mohammadqasim2061@gmail.com)

**Executive Engineer-Roads**  
CWP/PH Department  
District Dera Bugti

PRO No.5321/25-05-2026

**TENDER NOTICE**

The Executive Engineer (Buildings), CWP/PH Department District Sibi, invites sealed percentage rates tenders based on CSR 2023 Government of Balochistan from eligible bidders who can give their eligibility and qualification as mentioned in the Bidding Documents for the work mentioned below. Earnest Money 2%, Completion Time Period 30-06-2027 and Tender Fee 1000/- for each work

S#	Name of Scheme	Estimate
1.	MAJOR REPAIR OF 143 LABOR ROOM IN BALUCHISTAN PDP No.2186 22025.1856 (2025-2026)	8,938,625/-
2.	Installation of Back Up Electricity for Labor Room (MCH Suk Marfati District Sibi) TSE-2526051909703	831,026/-

Bidding process of aforementioned work will be carried out in accordance with the relevant rules of Balochistan Public Procurement Rules 2014 & Pakistan Engineering Council By-Laws. PRELIMINARY / BASIC ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA: The contractors must have valid Registration form with PEC in category CE or above for the work with specialization code CE1, CE10 in relevant discipline with 90 date renewal and as well registration with Tax Authorities i.e. (NTN, Sales Tax Department and SRA with 90 date renewal), where applicable. The project bidders must meet the eligibility / qualifying criteria as mentioned in the bidding documents. METHOD OF PROCUREMENT: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure. BIDDING/TENDER DOCUMENTS ISSUANCE: The bidder(s) can obtain the bidding documents through BPPRA Website ([www.bppra.gov.pk](http://www.bppra.gov.pk)) under TSE No. given above, on production of green chalan form for an amount of Rs.1000/- (NON-REFUNDABLE) deposited in the head of account C-4278 through Government Treasury National Bank of Pakistan from the date of publication of the invitation to newspapers till the date of submission i.e. 15/06/2026. DEAD LINE OF SUBMISSION: Bid can be submitted latest by 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2026 09:11:00 AM. OPENING OF BIDS: Tender will be opened on same day at 12:00 PM. BID VALIDITY: ninety (90) days. OFFICE ADDRESS / INFO: Office of the Executive Engineer Buildings CWP/PH Department Balochistan at Sibi, Mobile No:0300-2589003. Email address: [Nuhammadqasim206@gmail.com](mailto:Nuhammadqasim206@gmail.com) TERMS & CONDITIONS: Bidding Documents are mentioned / incorporated in detail in Bidding Documents. The bidders providing unqualified and/or if incorrect information will be liable for disqualification and/or legal action.

**Executive Engineer (Buildings)**  
CWP/PH Department  
District Sibi

PRO No.5308/25-05-2026

CM Sarfraz Bugti Visits Chaman Phatak Blast Victims in Quetta, Reaffirms Resolve Against Terrorism

NEWS DESK QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti visited the Trauma Center in Quetta on Sunday to meet those injured in the Chaman Phatak bomb blast and review the medical care being provided to them.



Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti (center) visits the Trauma Centre in Quetta on Sunday to meet those injured in the Chaman Phatak bomb blast and review the medical care being provided to them.

terrorism is not only the responsibility of our security forces; it is a collective national effort that requires unity from every citizen," he said. Bugti noted that Pakistan, particularly Balochistan, has made immense sacrifices in the battle against terrorism and vowed that these sacrifices would not be in vain. He added that attacks targeting innocent civilians under the guise of ideology or freedom serve external agendas and would be defeated through national unity and public resilience. Reaffirming the government's commitment to lasting peace, the Chief Minister said that terrorists would be overcome through collective resolve and that the sacrifices would be rewarded with a peaceful and secure Balochistan would always be remembered.

Quetta Compensation Committee Reviews Relief Measures for Train Accident Victims

QUETTA: An emergency meeting of the District Compensation Committee was held in Quetta under the chairmanship of Multan-based Anwar Kakar to review the situation of the vic-

tim, martyrs, and injured individuals affected by the recent train accident. During the meeting, relevant departments were provided complete lists of the deceased and injured persons, while discussions

were also held regarding the medical treatment being provided to the injured and possible relief measures for the affected families. The committee was further briefed on



Members of the District Compensation Committee in Quetta reviewing relief measures for train accident victims.

Vice Chancellor of University of Gwadar and Two Others Safely Recovered After Abduction

NEWS DESK QUETTA / MASTUNG: Renowned Brahui-language scholar, educationist, and Vice Chancellor of University of Gwadar, Abdul Razaq Sabir Sarparah, has been safely recovered along with Pro Vice Chancellor Dr. Manzoor Dost and Vice Chancellor's Public Relations Officer Irshad Baloch.



Abdul Razaq Sabir Sarparah, Pro Vice Chancellor Dr. Manzoor Dost, and Vice Chancellor's Public Relations Officer Irshad Baloch after their safe recovery.

According to sources, the three officials were released by their abductors and later found near Mastung. The abductors reportedly left them in the area before fleeing. The recovery of the senior academic figures has brought relief to their families, colleagues, and the academic community across Balochistan. Authorities have not yet released an official statement regarding the circumstances surrounding the abduction or the recovery. Further investigations are expected to determine the details of the incident and identify those responsible.

Changez Marri Calls for Sarfaraz Bugti's Resignation as Balochistan CM

WEB DESK: Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) leader and member of the Balochistan Assembly Nawab Changez Marri has demanded the resignation of Mir Sarfraz Bugti, holding the provincial government responsible for the worsening security situation in Balochistan.



Nawab Changez Marri speaking at a public gathering, calling for the resignation of Sarfraz Bugti.

Speaking on the deteriorating law and order situation, Marri said the provincial administration had failed to fulfill its primary responsibility of protecting the lives and property of citizens. He argued that repeated incidents of violence and insecurity had eroded public confidence in the government's ability to maintain peace. The people of Balochistan deserve accountable leadership and effective governance," Marri said, adding that the chief minister should step down and accept responsibility for the province's security challenges. The PML-N lawmaker also criticized ineffective policies and a lack of tangible progress in addressing the root causes of unrest. He called for urgent measures to restore peace, strengthen governance, and rebuild public trust. Marri's remarks come amid increasing political debate over security, governance, and the government's performance in tackling law and order issues across Balochistan.

Pishin Police Tighten Security Measures Ahead of Eid-ul-Adha

PISHIN: Naved Alam has announced that a comprehensive security plan has been finalized to protect the lives and property of citizens during Eid-ul-Adha in Pishin. Speaking to a delegation of journalists led by Malik Mehran Tareen, the SSP said that snap checking has been intensified at the city's entry and exit points as well as other sensitive locations to maintain law and order during the Eid holidays. During the meeting, detailed discussions were held regarding the overall security situation in Pishin. SSP Captain (R) Naved Alam stated that additional security personnel have been deployed at Eidgahs, mosques, and markets, and cattle markets to ensure foolproof security. He added that police mobile patrols and motorcycle squads have also been increased to prevent street crimes and avoid

TENDER NOTICE: The Executive Engineer, Irrigation Division, Kohlu, invites B-Bidding through B-PPIRA Electronic Public Procurement. 1. REVIVAL & REHABILITATION OF STONE MASJID PROTECTION STRUCTURES MOUSAMARAKCHALI. TSE-2528451074993. 2. Additional Work of Police Line Hamal DPO. 35,654,577. 3. Additional Work of Police Line Hamal DPO. 35,654,577. Eligibility of Bidders: Registrations must be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Present in Active Register List (ARL) is mandatory. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency in Pakistan. Balochistan Revenue Authority (BRA) Registration is required. The bidder must have completed three assignments of a similar nature, each worth 100% of the estimated cost in the previous three years. The detailed technical specifications requirements are in the bidding documents. Turnover for each Scheme as per the bidding documents. Registrar with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) and all specialized codes as mentioned each holding documents COR and Green Card in original. Hard Copy must be reached before closing in the office of the Executive Engineer, Sub-Division Office Hamal. Method of Procurement Single Stage, Two Envelope Procurement. Bid Security: The bid must include a Call Deposit Receipt (CDR) in the amount specified, issued in the name of the undersigned, from a scheduled bank under the contractor's file account. Final Call Deposits will result in the forfeiture of the firm. Tender Documents: Can be obtained electronically from www.bppira.gov.pk. Last Date for Bid Submission: 09 June, 2020 11:00 AM. Tender Opening: 09 June, 2020 11:00 PM. The financial bid opening date will be announced later. Additional Documents: Bid security (CDR) for technically non-responsive bidders will be returned within 30 days. Bid Validity Period: 90 days. No affidavit on non-substant stamp paper (PFR 1000) must be attached. The firm has never been blacklisted. All documents and information submitted are true and correct. Documents will be verified from relevant authorities. Contractors who are in arrears of previous projects without valid reasons are ineligible to participate. For any queries, please contact the Executive Engineer, Building Construction Division, PPIRA, District Hamal Office through one of the following: Email: eac@urdu.gov.pk; 0324-2401195. EXECUTIVE ENGINEER-BUILDING Construction Division-PPIRA David Hamal. PRO No.530925-05-2020

VACANCY CONSOLIDATED ADVERTISEMENT NO.002020 Applications are invited for initial recruitment to the following posts in the Various Departments of Government of Balochistan. Don't wait for the last date, apply online today. IMPORTANT NOTES: Age: Age will be calculated on the closing date for receipt of applications. Local/Domicile Certificate: The candidate should submit local/domicile certificate of his/her district. A married female candidate, not already in Government Service and desirous to apply on the basis of local/domicile of her husband, is required to submit the local/domicile certificate of her husband containing her name. In case of female candidates, the local/domicile certificate endorsed in service record of department will be accepted. If The Government reserves the right not to fill any vacancy or to fill more or less than the number of vacancies advertised. Zone Allocation: The Government of Balochistan's Recruitment Policy of 1991 V. Experience: Unless otherwise prescribed in the recruitment rules, the requisite experience (with necessary valid documentary evidence) for post qualification experience gained in post qualification jobs and that of the on-job training acquired after obtaining the required qualification till closing date. Experience as part time, honorary, apprentice and intern will not be considered/courtesy as experience. Eligibility: Eligibility of the candidates in terms of Recruitment Rules and the advertised conditions shall be determined after the conduct of screening/professional test/examination. On-dated scrutiny of the applications. If they are found ineligible, their candidatures will be cancelled irrespective of the fact whether they have appeared in the examination or even qualified thereon. On rejection of application of candidates on the basis of their ineligibility, the Commission would inform the applicants. The candidates should therefore, make sure before applying that they are eligible in all respects for the post, they have applied for. Viva-Voce Test: The written/ICO test/qualified candidates will be called for Viva Voce Test and the same would be as follows: Current Affairs: (Last one or two months' important happenings/issues which are highlighted in Print (Electronic Media). General Knowledge: (Related to Balochistan, Pakistan and International). Islamic/Religious Studies: (Islamic questions regarding day to day issues as Muslim, Holy Prophet's life (P.L.H) and period of Khulafa-e-Rashideen). However, a candidate belonging to other region would be asked questions according to his/her region. Pakistan Studies: (1857 to 1947 and 1947 to till date). The candidates who qualify for viva-voce test will be intimated by post, sms and telephonically. Board's duty verified by the concerned Board/University and attested by Gazetted Officer i.e. four (04) photographs, Metric, Intermediate DMC/Certificate, Bachelor, Master, M.Phil., Ph.D. Transcript/Degrees, CNIC, Experience Certificate (where required) showing nature of job held department issued by an authorized officer of the Department concerned, Local/Domicile Certificate (duly verified by the competent authority), Departmental Permission Certificate (in case of government serving) etc. within Ten (10) days of the Notice from BPSC. The candidates who fail to furnish the requisite documents within stipulated time or furnish incorrect/incomplete information their candidatures shall be rejected straight away. Therefore, they are advised to keep their documents ready for submission to BPSC by the due date. HEALTH DEPARTMENT 01 One (01) Post of Assistant Professor Neonatology (B-18), Zonal Allocation Merit (All Balochistan) 01 Qualification/Experience: M.B.B.S or equivalent Medical qualification recognized/registered by the PMDC. AND ii. MD/MS/FMPS or equivalent qualifications in the specialty approved by SFC and recognized/registered by the PMDC. iii. Two (2) years' clinical experience in relevant subject in a recognized Institute after level-II qualification. iv. Two (2) research publications are required in relevant subject. Gender: Both (Male & Female) candidates are eligible. Age Limit: 25 to 35 years and general upper age relaxation up to 43 years granted by the Government of Balochistan in favour of fresh candidates of the Province as well as serving government servants. Mode of Test: MCQs test in the relevant specialty. AGRICULTURE & COOPERATIVES DEPARTMENT 02 One (01) Post of Assistant Accounts Officer (B-16) in Agricultural Engineering Department. Zonal Allocation Merit (All Balochistan) 01 Qualification: (a) Bachelor's Degree at least in Second Division in Commerce (B.Com) from a recognized University; OR (b) Bachelor's Degree at least in Second Division in Business Administration (BBA) from a recognized University. Age Limit: 18 to 28 years and general upper relaxation up to 43 years granted by the Government of Balochistan in favour of fresh candidates of the Province as well as serving government servants. Gender: Both Male & Female candidates are eligible. Syllabus: Subjective paper on the relevant subjects. LABOUR & MANPOWER DEPARTMENT 03 Three (03) Posts of Assistant (B-16) in the Directorate General of Labour Welfare Balochistan. Zonal Allocation Merit (All Balochistan) Kaley Zone Zohb Zone 01 01 01 01 01 01 04 Six (06) Posts of Assistant (B-16) in the Directorate of Manpower Training Balochistan. Zonal Allocation Merit Kaley Zone Zohb Zone Nawabshad Zone Makran Zone Quetta Zone 01 01 01 01 01 01 Qualification for Senior No. 03 & 04: Bachelor's Degree from a recognized University. AND ii. Having at least three months office Automation Certificate in Computer operations from a recognized Institute. Age Limit: 18 to 28 years and general upper age relaxation up to 43 years granted by the Government of Balochistan for fresh candidates as well as government servants. Gender: Both Male & Female candidates are eligible. Syllabus: Subjective Paper in: i) Essay Writing (20 Marks) ii) English (20 Marks) iii) Urdu (20 Marks) iv) Pakistan Affairs (20 Marks) Total: (80 Marks) 3. Practical Test of Office Automation on Computer (Only selected candidates of written test will be called). (20 Marks) Grand Total: (100 Marks) ADVERTISEMENT CLOSING DATE: 22nd JUNE, 2020 (Tuesday) GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS: All applications for initial recruitment in BPS-16 and above must be submitted online through BPSC's website www.bpsc.gov.pk. No hardcopy of online application is required from the applicants. It will be mandatory for the candidates to bring original CNIC and downloaded copy of Admission Certificate/No slip at the time of Screening/Written Test. The candidates should make their original CNIC available for submission as a valid document. Admission Certificate/No slip for Screening (MCQs Test/Written Test) for posts applied will be placed on the website of BPSC i.e. www.bpsc.gov.pk. Candidates are advised to frequently visit this website. They will be intimated through SMS as well. No withdrawal fee for candidates. APPLICATION FEE: The Candidates are required to deposit POST/Basic Pay Scale) AMOUNT(Fee) Rs. 1200 BPS-16 Posts Rs. 800. The amount should be deposited online through generic PSID via Link Banking Channels i.e. Mobile Banking (EasyPaisa, JazzCash etc. and Banking Mobile Apps), ATMS and Internet Banking or over the counter (OTC) at any reserved S.M.A. Member Bank Branches. (The guidelines are available at BPSC Official Website i.e. https://bpsc.gov.pk, under the Jobs List.) DEPUTY DIRECTOR RECRUITMENT BALUCHISTAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION Phone No. 081-82011601

# Pakistan importing cotton from US, Brazil even before local ginning season

**NEWS DESK:** In an unprecedented development in Pakistan's history, local textile mills have begun massive cotton imports from the United States even before the start of the new cotton ginning season, as the country has virtually run out of cotton stocks, triggering a sharp surge in domestic cotton and phutti prices.

Reports suggest that local textile mills have purchased an extraordinary 206,100 bales — around 95pc of the total 216,000 bales of the US 2026-27 cotton crop sold during the past week. The millers are also importing cotton on a large scale from Brazil.

During fiscal year 2026-27, the country may spend billions of dollars in foreign exchange on the import of cotton and edible oil, potentially the highest import bill in the country's history for these commodities.

Despite repeated announcements regarding cotton revival, the approval of another sugar mill in



Rahim Yar Khan, Pakistan's largest cotton-producing zone, is underpinning efforts to restore cotton cultivation. Sugar mills in cotton belt, other anti-cotton policies among the causes of production decline. The Karachi

Cotton Association (KCA), one of the two major institutions representing Pakistan's cotton sector globally, is sealed since Dec 12, 2025 due to an alleged ownership dispute, leaving the country without representation in international cotton markets.

Another worrying development is the construction of a gymkhana club at the Central Cotton Research Institute (CCRI) lands, once renowned for devel-

oping the subcontinent's first virus-free cotton variety. Cotton Ginners Forum Chairman Ihsanul Haq says the Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association (PCGA) has proposed abolition of sales tax

on cotton, cottonseed, cottonseed oil cake and oil dirt in the upcoming federal budget. Meanwhile, the All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) has sought the withdrawal of Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq

alongsides reductions in energy tariffs and markup rates. The textile industry also wants implementation of the cotton revival programme finalised under the leadership of Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq

Dar to increase cotton production and eliminate undocumented business practices in the cotton sector.

The new cotton year has started with record-high prices across the cotton value chain. Cotton prices have climbed to Rs23,000 per maund, phutti to Rs12,500 per 40kg, cottonseed to Rs5,200 per maund and oil cake to Rs4,800 per maund — all historic highs in Pakistan.

However, market observers believe prices may begin easing after Eidul Azha holidays as a large number of ginning factories in Punjab and Sindh are expected to become operational.

The partial arrivals of imported cotton have resumed after prolonged disruption caused by the Gulf conflict. Reports of improving Iran-US relations and Chinese mediation in easing Pakistan-Afghanistan tensions could reopen the Afghan border, potentially allowing around 300,000 cotton bales from Afghanistan into Pakistan.

## Amid Mideast conflict, Indian finance minister calls for focus on '3Fs' — fuel, fertiliser and forex

**NEWS DESK:** Indian Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman urged the country on Monday to focus on fuel, fertiliser and foreign exchange and underlined Prime Minister Narendra Modi's plea to conserve foreign exchange as far as possible, is very important," Sitharaman said, adding that the stress on '3Fs' — fuel, fertiliser and foreign exchange — should be viewed in this context.

Earlier this month, Modi called on Indians to conserve fuel and foreign exchange and

avoid gold purchases, among other austerity measures, to better manage the energy shock and economic headwinds.

The prime minister giving a call to conserve foreign exchange as far as possible, is very important," Sitharaman said, adding that the stress on '3Fs' — fuel, fertiliser and foreign exchange — should be viewed in this context.

India, the world's third-largest oil importer and consumer, raised prices of petrol and diesel again on Monday, the fourth increase in May in a bid to recoup some losses.

Sitharaman said that the Indian government's revenue is expected to be hit by one trillion rupees in FY27 due to a reduction in excise duties on fuel.

## Govt plans Wapda security force for water projects

**NEWS DESK:** The government has decided to create a new "Wapda Security Force" to provide dedicated security to major water sector infrastructure projects across the country and associated workers, particularly those from China.

The force is being created through the Wapda Security Force Act, 2026, which has already been forwarded to parliament.

The Wapda Security Force is being constituted to ensure the protection and security of critical infrastructure managed by the Water and Power Development Authority.

The decision to create a standalone force follows two terrorist attacks on engineers and workers of the over \$6 billion Dasu Hydro-power Project in November 2021 and March 2024, in which several Chinese and Pakistani workers were killed.

Initially, CPEC-related security was extended to the Dasu project.

An official explained that two special security divisions of the Pakistan Army (North and South) provided security to CPEC projects

in Balochistan and along the route up to Gilgit-Baltistan, but Wapda projects did not fall under the CPEC security arrangement.

He said a special arrangement was therefore needed, adding that Wapda's entire security system was being revamped.

The official recalled that an attack on Dasu project staff and the resultant loss of lives led to the suspension of the project by the Chinese side for well over a year. Work later resumed after top-level government engagement and payment of compensation, despite cost escalations and delays.

A CPEC-like security arrangement was later extended to other projects involving Chinese workers through a major outer security cover provided by the

Pakistan Army, in addition to Wapda's internal security, local police and Rangers or Frontier Constabulary in other provinces.

Following consultations with the Chinese side, the prime minister directed that CPEC-level security cover should be available to all projects, particularly those involving Chinese nationals and generally to other water sector projects of national importance.

The Wapda Security Force, to be led by a director general, most likely from the armed forces, will be responsible for the security of critical infrastructure, including dams and power plants essential for the country's economic stability and security.

The new force, with its own uniform, insignia and stamp, will operate

in notified areas across the country with specific responsibility for the security of water projects.

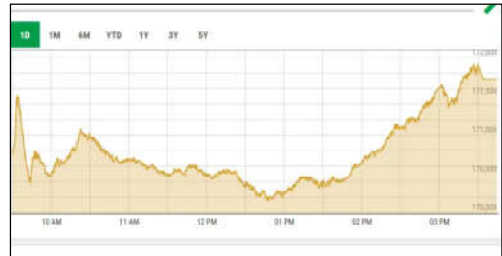
For example, it will provide security to the K-4 Greater Water Supply Scheme in Sindh in addition to Rangers and local police, and work alongside FC forces in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

The force will ensure the safety and security of installations, dams, powerhouses, machinery, equipment, offices, personnel and residences of personnel and prevent offences related to them. The superintendence of the Wapda Security Force will vest in the federal government, while its control will remain with Wapda.

The force will ensure adequate security arrangements in notified areas.



## PSX opens shortened trading week on bullish note; KSE-100 gains 4,000 points during intraday trade



**NEWS DESK:** The Pakistan Stock Exchange's (PSX) benchmark index began the week on a strong note on Monday, gaining over 4,000 points during intraday trading.

KSE-100 gained 4,013.17 points or 2.39 per cent to stand at 171,857.41 points at 3:24pm from the previous close of 167,844.24 points.

The price of North Sea Brent crude and West Texas Intermediate slipped close to 5pc to \$99.41 and \$92.49 a barrel, respectively.

Despite last-minute jitters, the stock market had closed last week in green territory amid improving diplomatic signals surrounding the Middle East conflict, which lifted investor sentiment and encouraged value-hunting across key sectors, pushing the benchmark KSE-100 index above the

167,000-point level. According to Arif Habib Ltd, the KSE-100 index gained 2,248 points, or 1.36 per cent week-on-week, to settle at 167,844.24 points.

The rally was largely driven by expectations of progress in US-Iran talks, with Pakistan reportedly playing a role in facilitating backchannel diplomacy.

The development eased concerns over possible oil supply disruptions and supported equity market performance.

## Oil slips to two-week low as US and Iran seem moving closer to deal

**NEWS DESK:** Oil prices fell more than 4% to two-week lows on Monday as optimism grew that the United States and Iran were moving closer to a peace deal, even though they remain at odds over key issues such as blockades on the Strait of Hormuz.

Brent crude futures were down \$4.44, or 4.3%, to \$99.10 a barrel (at 0822 GMT), while US West Texas Intermediate futures were at \$92.24 a barrel, down \$4.36, or 4.4%. Both "contracts touched their lowest since May 7 earlier in the session. On Saturday, United States President Donald Trump said Washington and Iran had "largely negotiated an understanding on a peace deal that would reopen the Strait of Hormuz, which carried a fifth of global shipments of oil and liquefied natural gas before the conflict."

However, the "two sides remain at odds over several difficult issues, with Trump saying on Sunday he had told his representatives not

to rush into any deal. "We've been at this stage before, only for talks to break down. Therefore, the market will likely be more cautious about 'overreacting,'" said Warren Patterson, head of commodities strategy at ING.

Both sides played down hopes for an imminent breakthrough on Monday, with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio saying there will either be a good agreement or Washington would deal with Iran "another way." Iran's

Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said on Monday that Iran was negotiating an end to the war and was not currently discussing nuclear issues. Meanwhile, analysts expect a return to normal oil flows through the Strait to take months, while damaged oil and gas facilities are repaired. "We continue to believe that the key factors for the oil market to watch should be the physical oil flows, and so far, flows through the Strait remain restricted,"

UBS analyst Giovanni Staunovo said. Two liquefied natural gas tankers were exiting the Strait on Monday, heading to Pakistan and China, "while a supertanker with Iraqi crude left the Gulf for China on Saturday" after being stranded "for nearly three months, shipping data showed. US energy firms responded to higher local energy prices by adding oil and natural gas rigs for the fifth week in a row, for the first time since February 2025.



# Spurs survive as Guardiola, Salah say Premier League farewells

**N E W S D E S K :** Tottenham secured Premier League survival on a dramatic final day of the season on Sunday as West Ham's 14-year stay in the top division came to an end.

Spurs kicked off against Everton needing, realistically, only a draw to avoid relegation for the first time since 1977 — as they secured two points clear of the Hammers with a significantly better goal difference.

Joao Paulo released the mounting pressure at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium just before half-time, poking home after his header thundered back off a post.

The Portuguese midfielder was mobbed by his teammates as head coach Roberto De Zerbi sprinted down the touchline, turning to celebrate with ecstatic fans in the London sunshine.

That goal left Nuno Espirito Santo's West Ham, then drawing 0-0 with Leeds, needing a favour from Everton even if they went on to win their match.

Just a few miles away, at the London Stadium, Valentin Castellanos gave West Ham some hope midway through the second half



as he fired the Irons in front of Jarrod Bowen and Callum Wilson made it 3-0 at the full-time whistle but it was too little too late for the Hammers as they were relegated.

Relegation would have been financially disastrous for the ninth-richest club in the world, who won the Europa League last season under former boss Ange Postecoglou.

The Hammers, who were promoted to the English top division in 2012, will join Burnley and Wolves in the Championship next season.

Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola walked out at the Etihad for the final time as manager after a decade of almost unbroken success, with newly

crowned Europa League winners Aston Villa the visitors. The Catalan on Friday confirmed reports that he was leaving the club after 10 years in charge, with six Premier League titles and the Champions League in

his huge collection of silverware. A huge banner rippled over the heads of the fans bearing a giant image of Guardiola, with the messages "Game Changer" and "History Maker".

There were smaller banners either side to mark the departures of long-serving defender John Stones and midfielder Bernardo Silva.

Antoine Semenyo gave the home side the lead but Ollie Watkins named this week in England's World Cup squad, scored twice to secure fourth spot in the table for Villa.

Elsewhere on a day of significant departures, Mohamed Salah and Andy Robertson revelled in a party atmosphere at Anfield as they said farewell to the club. Just a week ago Salah, 33, undermined Liverpool boss Arne Slot when he called for a return to the "heavy metal football" played under former boss Jurgen Klopp.

But Slot included the "Egyptian King" — third on the list of Liverpool's all-time goalscorers — in his starting line-up alongside Scotland defender Robertson.

Banners in the crowd celebrated both players, one saying "Thank you legends". Another said: "We Have Gone From Great To Glory. Salah Is Our King".

## Greek swimmer cashes in with 'world record' at Enhanced Games

**NEWS DESK:** Greek swimmer Kristian Gkolomeev earned a \$1 million bonus for beating a world record while sprinter Fred Kerley won a weak 100 metres as the drug-friendly Enhanced Games debut a hyper-bolic debate at a casino park in Las Vegas on Sunday.

Gkolomeev, who failed to make the podium in four Olympic events a time of 20.81 seconds in the 50 metres freestyle, 0.07 seconds faster than the Bulgarian world record held by Australia's Cameron McEvoy.

The time in the final event of the Enhanced programme will not make official record books because competitors' results are considered illegal by global sporting authorities.

The Enhanced Games endorses athletes who use substances banned by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), while the swimmers are also allowed to wear polyurethane "super-suits" banned in 2010.

That did not stop organisers from hailing Gkolomeev's "world record" swim.

He earned a \$1 million "world record" bonus last year for a swim of 20.89 seconds in a super-suit, organisers said at the time.

"This is going to change my life to the good, for sure. It's a big help for me and my family. And yeah, I'm going to continue next year. Maybe I'll break it again."

Global swimming body World Aquatics has condemned the Enhanced Games as a "circus, built on short-cuts".

McEvoy, who set his world record at a competition in China in March, did not receive a financial reward. World Aquatics only pays bonuses for records set in competitions they organise.

"I'm going to say it's not bad at all," he added of the prize money.

"It's crazy to think that to get a world record without a suit, and without any performance-enhancing drugs, as a clean athlete, the bonus is zero dollars," McEvoy said in March.

On the Enhanced track, American former world champion Kerley won the 100 metres in 9.97 seconds, well short of his personal best of 9.76.

## Travis Head and his wife suffer online abuse after cricketer's spat with India's Kohli during IPL match

**NEWS DESK:** Travis Head and his wife Jessica have been subjected to a barrage of online abuse after the Australian cricketer was embroiled in a spat with India great Virat Kohli during an Indian Premier League (IPL) match.

The players clashed during the T20 match between Head's Sunrisers Hyderabad and Kohli's Royal Challengers Bengaluru on Friday.

Headed words were exchanged between the two before Kohli was dismissed for 15 and his team slumped to a 55-run defeat.

As the two sets of players lined up for the post-game handshakes, Kohli ignored Head's outstretched arm but shook hands with the other players.

The Instagram accounts for Head and Jessica have since been flooded with abusive

comments, apparently from fans of the former India captain.

Jessica told Advertiser newspaper that her friends and family had also received hateful private messages.

"I woke up to my socials blasting me and I'm fine but they are attacking my friends and family," she said Monday, according to the reports. "Passion will always be part of sport,

but so is remembering there are real people and families behind the game."

"Hopefully, this encourages more kindness and support for one another."

She also said it felt like "a repeat of the abuse that happened after the World Cup", referring to the 2023 50-over tournament when Australia beat hosts India in the final in Ahmedabad.



## Usyk avoids shock defeat with 11th round stoppage of Verhoeven

**NEWS DESK:** Ukraine's unbeaten heavyweight world champion Oleksandr Usyk stopped Dutch former kickboxer Rico Verhoeven with one second left in the penultimate round of a WBC title fight on Saturday to avoid one of the greatest boxing upsets of all time.

The "Glory in Giza" fight at the Pyramids of Egypt was considered a mismatch, but Verhoeven, whose sole previous professional boxing fight was 12 years ago, tore up the script in mind-boggling fashion from the opening bell.

It took until the fourth for Usyk to have a round that was clear to him, but the champion was unable to capitalise on it with the bigger and heavier Verhoeven when taking the fight to him.

With Usyk tipping the scales heavier than ever before, and looking strangely lethargic at times, the 39-year-old Ukrainian went into the penultimate round needing to pull something out of the bag to be sure of a win most had taken for granted.



Scorecards published by The Ring magazine afterwards showed two of the three judges had the fight tied 95-95 going into the 11th of 12 rounds and the other had Verhoeven ahead 96-94.

Stopped at two minutes and 59 seconds The decisive moment came right at the end, with Usyk dropping Verhoeven with a right uppercut and the Dutchman beating the 10 count but not the referee, who stepped in to wave off further punishment.

"I thought it was an early stoppage, but in the end it's not up to me," Verhoeven, 37, told DAZN. "The referee knows that we are almost at the end of the round, so either let me go out on my shield or let the bell go."

"But you know... I was already super thankful for the opportunity as well," he added, pitching for a rematch. Verhoeven was fighting only for the WBC belt, with Usyk risking also the loss of his WBA and IBF ones, which would have been declared vacant titles had he been beaten.

In the end, the 39-year-old Ukrainian extended his record to 25 unbeaten fights and retained all three titles.

"Right now, in Ukraine, my people and my country — there is bombing. My people are sitting in bomb shelters. My family, My daughter sent me a message: Papa, I love you, you win. I'm afraid, I said, 'Oh my God'."

## Real end troubled La Liga season with victory; Mallorca, Girona relegated

**NEWS DESK:** Real Madrid ended a troubled La Liga campaign with a 4-2 win over Athletic Bilbao in Alvaro Arbeloa's last game at the helm, while Mallorca and Girona were relegated from the Spanish top flight on Saturday.

In the final round of fixtures, Mallorca defeated already-relegated Real Oviedo 3-0 to reach 42 points, but it was not enough to survive.

Girona were held to a 1-1 draw by Elche, which kept the visitors up and sent the Catalan side down, just one season after they played in the Champions League.

Veteran Polish striker Robert Lewandowski scored for champions Barcelona in his final match for the club but go-go-als from Javi Guerra, Luis Ri-o-ja and Guido Rodriguez snatched a 3-1 victory for Valencia.

Celta Vigo wrapped up Europa League qualification with a 1-0 win over Osasuna, while Getafe secured seventh and a Conference League berth with a 1-0 win over Osasuna.



Garcia to fire the second-place hosts ahead against Athletic.

England international Brahim Diaz scored a superb second, before Gorka Guruzeta slammed past Thibaut Courtois for Ernesto Valverde's visitors just before the break in the coach's last game at the helm.

La Liga's top goalscorer Kylian Mbappe swept home from outside the area for Real's third, his 25th goal of the season in the top flight.

When Carvajal was taken off with 10 minutes to go, both teams gave the 34-year-old a guard

of honour as he bid an emotional goodbye to the Santiago Bernabeu.

Morocco international Brahim Diaz tucked home a fourth late on as Madrid were at least able to sign off from a disappointing trophyless campaign on a high note, despite Urko Leta pulling another back for Athletic.

"We haven't had two easy seasons but I am sure we will come back to win, this is Real Madrid," said a tearful Carvajal, who won 27 trophies with Real.

The defender thanked his team-mates past and present, president Florentino Perez, his family and the fans

in an emotional speech on the pitch.

"I am very proud of being a Madridista, thank you for the impossible comebacks, being here in the good times and bad," he added.

"I just hope that when you remember me it is with pride and that I gave everything for this club."

Levante survived in 16th and Osasuna in 17th despite defeats and finishing on 42 points, the same tally as relegated Mallorca in 18th, because of head to head results between the three sides.

"I'm broken, I want to say sorry to everyone," said Mallorca midfielder Sergi Darder.

# PM hopes to host Islamabad Talks 2.0 'very soon'

**NEWS DESK:** After indications that Tehran and Washington will soon reach an understanding to end the weeks-long war in the Middle East, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday expressed hope for another round of peace talks between the US and Iran in Islamabad "very soon".

Background conversations with sources privy to developments suggested that while Islamabad may yet serve as the venue for another round of talks between the warring sides, there were no immediate signs of preparations for such a high-level event.

A source close to PM Shehbaz told Dawn that during his four-day visit to China, the premier had received "serious indications" from the US and Iran regarding delegation-level talks, which could be held soon in Pakistan.

However, another source claimed that not received any such indications. "The prime minister is currently in China and no such arrangements are being made here... It seems that next round of dialogue will not take place very soon," a senior PM Office official told Dawn.



Sources said the government will make necessary arrangements for the fresh round of dialogue once the PM returns from China, but there was no confirmation on when these talks might take place.

The first round of talks between the US and Iran in April, when US Vice President JD Vance arrived for indirect talks with Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf and Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi.

Earlier, in a tweet, the PM congratulated US President Donald Trump on his "extraordinary efforts" to pursue peace and for holding a "very useful and productive" telephone call with Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Turkey,

Egypt, the UAE, and Jordan. The US president, in a post on his Truth Social platform, revealed that he held a telephone call with world leaders from Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Turkey, Egypt, the UAE, Bahrain, Jordan and Pakistan to

discuss the matters related to Iran and a Memorandum of Understanding pertaining to peace.

Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir represented Pakistan in the telephone call and I greatly appreciate his tireless efforts during

the entire process," PM Shehbaz wrote, adding that the discussions provided a useful opportunity to exchange views on the current regional situation and how to move the ongoing peace efforts forward to bring lasting peace in the re-

gion. "Pakistan will continue its peace efforts with utmost sincerity and we hope to host the next round of talks very soon," he added.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar also lauded the US president's leadership and "commitment to dialogue and diplomacy", saying the call marked a "significant step closer toward the shared objective of regional peace, stability, and an early diplomatic outcome".

In a statement on X, Dar commended the US and Iranian leaders for their sustained engagement. He also praised the efforts of United Nations chief Antonio Guterres as well as "our brotherly regional partners and all other countries, with whom I remained closely engaged throughout this process".

## JI chief demands reopening of border with Afghanistan

**NEWS DESK:** Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) chief Hafiz Naemur Rehman has demanded reopening of border crossings with Afghanistan, legalisation of trade with Iran, and completion of the Pakistan-Iran gas pipeline project, saying these measures are essential for economic stability and public relief.

Speaking at a public meeting in Zhob under the slogan "Badal Do Nizam" (Change the System), Rehman announced that JI would launch a nationwide strike after Eid-ul-Fitr against unjust increases in petrol and electricity prices and appealed to the people and business community of Balochistan to fully support the strike.

He said the JI offered a solution to the problems being faced by Balochistan and the rest of the country, hoping people to support

the party's struggle for change of the system and an end to the rule of the "imposed elite class". Rehman proposed formation of a joint committee comprising tribesmen and traders from both sides of the Pakistan-Afghanistan border to facilitate the reopening of border crossings in Chaman and other areas.

He also called for the establishment of special border trade zones and suggested assigning tribes responsibility for maintaining peace and securing trade routes.

Criticising current border policies, he said the border was selectively opened at night for the benefit of a few individuals while the livelihoods of thousands remained affected. He stressed that trade with Iran, particularly petroleum products, should be regularised through le-

gal channels. Speaking on the occasion, JI Balochistan chief and MPA Maulana Hidayatullah Rehman Baloch said province's resources should be spent on the welfare of its people. He said the Jamaat could address issues such as missing persons, border closures, unemployment, insecurity, and corruption if given public support.

He strongly condemned the recent bomb blast in Quetta and questioned the failure of authorities to ensure public safety despite large allocations of funds for security institutions. He also expressed concern over reports of coal trucks being set on fire in Harnai and Loralai, calling on the Balochistan government to compensate affected traders and ensure the safety of commercial activities.

## Lashkari Raisani Slams Balochistan District Restructuring, Cites 1948 Agreement Violation



**Staff Reporter:** QUETTA: Senior politician and prominent tribal leader Nawabzada Haji Lashkari Raisani has strongly denounced the provincial government's restructuring of administrative boundaries, integrated into Quetta, while Kachhi has been absorbed into the Sibi division. According to Raisani, these administrative shifts are calculated efforts to erase local heritage. "These actions are designed to strip the public of their rights, fuel confusion, and ignite fresh conflicts," Raisani alleged.

He further claimed the moves aim to sustain a hybrid governance model by imposing compromised representatives on the populace. The veteran politician announced plans to mobilize political work-

ers and local communities to launch a democratic struggle against these changes. Furnishing his attention to the security situation, Raisani expressed deep grief over the recent blast in Quetta, lamenting that lawlessness has spread from volatile highways straight into urban hubs.

The former senator also accused successive governments of exploiting Balochistan's natural wealth without public endorsement. He pointed to recent legislative moves, including the Mines and Minerals Act and agreements surrounding the Reko Diq project, claiming they illegally shift provincial authority to the federal government in blatant violation of historical accords.

## Prince Aga Khan assures KP CM Sohail Afridi of investment in the province

**NEWS DESK:** At the Lower Chitral Airport, the chief minister was received by local leaders and government officials.

He added that he would attend a reception ceremony held in honour of Prince Rahim.

The Ismaili spiritual leader reached Gilgit-Baltistan on Friday, where he urged followers to strengthen unity, pursue education and remain steadfast in faith.

Addressing a large gathering of community members in the Passu area of Hunza on Friday, Prince Rahim emphasised the importance of harmony within families and society, stating that strong and united families form the foundation of a prosperous and happy community. "When families and communities remain united, they become stronger and happier — and the Imam will also be

happy," he told the gathering. Upon his arrival at Nur Khan Air Base on Wednesday, Prince Rahim was received by President Asif Ali Zardari.

He was presented with a guard of honour at Aiwan-i-Sadr, where he stood alongside the president as the national anthem was played.

He reaffirmed the Aga Khan Development Network's (AKDN) commitment

to supporting humanitarian and developmental efforts in Pakistan during a meeting with the president. A banquet was also held in the Aga Khan's honour, attended by high-level officials including Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of the Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir, and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, among others.

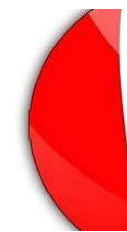
Prince Rahim assured him of investment in the province. He said the Jamaat could address issues such as missing persons, border closures, unemployment, insecurity, and corruption if given public support.

He strongly condemned the recent bomb blast in Quetta and questioned the failure of authorities to ensure public safety despite large allocations of funds for security institutions. He also expressed concern over reports of coal trucks being set on fire in Harnai and Loralai, calling on the Balochistan government to compensate affected traders and ensure the safety of commercial activities.

## PKMAP Rejects Proposed Balochistan District and Division Restructuring

**NEWS DESK:** QUETTA: The proposed restructuring of districts and divisions in Balochistan has sparked strong criticism from the Pakhunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP), which has expressed serious concerns over reports suggesting changes to the province's administrative boundaries.

In an official statement, the party said that any decision regarding the creation, merger, or reorganization of Balochistan districts and divisions must take into account the province's historical, geographical, and demographic realities. The party warned that altering administrative boundaries without broad public consultation could have far-reaching consequences for local communities.



**Concerns Over Administrative Changes in Balochistan**  
According to the statement, the existing administrative structure of Balochistan reflects historical developments and longstanding regional identities. PKMAP emphasized that any move to redraw district or divisional boundaries should be based on transparent criteria and public consensus rather than unilateral decisions. The party argued that administrative reforms should strengthen governance and public service delivery while preserving the social and cultural fabric of the province.



**Call to Respect Historical and Geographical Realities**  
The leadership highlighted the importance of considering the historical evolution of the region, including areas that were previously part of British Balochistan and former princely states. The statement stressed that the unique identities of various communities must be respected in any future administrative reforms. Political observ-

ers believe that discussions surrounding Balochistan administrative reforms, district reorganization, and divisional restructuring are likely to remain a key issue in provincial politics in the coming months.

**Demand for Consultation Before Any Decision**  
PKMAP urged the Balochistan government and relevant authorities to ensure that all stakeholders, including political parties, local representatives, and affected communities, are consulted before implementing any changes. The party maintained that decisions related to new districts in Balochistan, division boundaries, and broader governance reforms should be made through a transparent and inclusive process to avoid political and social tensions.