



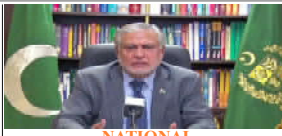
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Editor: Asim Khan.

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Email address: dquettavoices@gmail.com  
Website: www.quettavoices.com

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# QUETTA VOICE

## Balochistan Education Revolution: Chief Minister Abolishes Primary School Uniforms, Enforces 'Gender-Free' Classrooms

**QASEEM SHAH,  
EDUCATION DESK:**

**QUETTA**—In a groundbreaking move to overhaul Balochistan education, the provincial government has announced radical changes to public schools, completely eliminating primary school uniforms and shifting toward a universal co-education model.

The historic policy changes were made during a high-level development meeting chaired by the Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti.

Aimed at breaking down socio-economic barriers and rapidly boosting the literacy rate across the province, these directives represent the most aggressive modern reform agenda for government schools in recent years.

### Chief Minister Ends 'Taht Culture' with Strict Warning

A major highlight of the meeting was the Chief Minister's definitive crackdown on the archaic "taht culture" (Taht culture) that has plagued rural institutions for decades.

The Chief Minister of Balochistan expressed fierce frustration that students are still forced to sit on bare floors while the rest of the world utilizes modern facilities.

### No Child Will Sit On Floor

"No child in any Balochistan school will sit on a floor mat anymore, every single student will be provided a proper classroom desk," Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti stated.

"Nurturing the self-confidence and respecting the inner dignity of our children is the absolute need of the hour."

The Secretary of the Schools Education Department has been ordered to immediately mobilize and distribute desks to every active institution.

Setting a hard deadline, the



**A teenage student stands inside a school campus in Balochistan. Despite ongoing challenges in access to education, thousands of girls across the province continue to pursue their studies. Photo: UNICEF**

Chief Minister warned that if a single child is found sitting on a mat after the designated timeline, strict disciplinary action will be taken.

To guarantee compliance, the CM announced he will personally conduct unannounced aerial inspections via helicopter, landing in remote mountainous terrains and rural valleys to catch negligence first-hand.

### No More Uniforms:

### Breaking Financial Barriers for Families

To make entering the education system entirely frictionless for underprivileged families, the government has officially abolished the school uniform requirement at the primary level.

Parents will no longer face the financial strain of purchasing specific attire just to get their children into a classroom.

Furthermore, to maximize limited

rural infrastructure and bridge the severe gender literacy gap, the administration has decided to classify primary institutions as "gender-free."

Under this new co-education framework, young boys and girls will study alongside one another under a single roof. This proposed policy will be formally presented at the upcoming Balochistan Cabinet meeting for final approval.

### Infrastructure Expansion: 3,000 New Classrooms & Double Shifts

Additionally, the province has committed to constructing extra classrooms in 3,000 single-room schools across Balochistan by next year, effectively expanding the network's physical footprint.

To ensure standardized learning quality across all districts, a newly approved, uniform reading and writing curriculum will also be integrated across all public institutions.

## Quetta Internet Service Suspended Again Over Major Balochistan Security Concerns



**ALIHAMZA:**

**QUETTA**— Cellular mobile internet services have faced a fresh wave of disruptions across Quetta, the provincial capital of Balochistan, following updated security directives from regional administrative bodies.

According to high-level sources within the Balochistan Home Department, the preventative network suspension was enacted to protect public safety and minimize potential security vulnerabilities in the metropolitan area. Government officials confirmed that the decision to limit cellular data was essential for maintaining law and order amidst specific threats.

### Consecutive Days of Digital Blackout

The ongoing cellular data freeze marks a recurring challenge for the region, as internet networks also faced extensive blockages earlier in the week.

The Balochistan Home Department has advised the public to remain patient during the tem-

porary service halt, promising that networks will be fully restored by telecommunications companies the moment the threat level clears and security clearance is given. Authorities have also warned the population against relying on or spreading unverified information on social media while data lines are offline.

Severe Disruption for Citizens, Teachers, and Students  
The abrupt cellular internet suspension has triggered considerable friction within Quetta's commercial, institutional, and educational spheres.

The blockade has heavily impacted the city's academic landscape, leaving countless students and local school teachers cut off from virtual classrooms, remote curriculum management tools, and online educational resources. Beyond the education sector, digital freelance operations, e-commerce platforms, and app-based transport services remain completely gridlocked without steady cellular coverage, adding to growing public frustration over the security-driven shutdown.

## Balochistan High Court Suspends FIR Against Opposition Leader Mahmood Khan Achakzai

**Staff Reporter:**

**Quetta:** The Balochistan High Court has suspended the First Information Report (FIR) registered against opposition leader Mahmood Khan Achakzai, providing temporary legal relief to the veteran politician facing allegations of delivering provocative and hate-filled speeches.

A two-member bench of the Balochistan High Court, comprising Chief Justice

Kamran Mulakhail and Justice Gul Hassan Tareen, heard the petition filed by Achakzai challenging the case registered against him at Chaman Police Station.

The petition was argued by Advocate Kamran Murtaza and Advocate Habibullah Nasir, who appeared on behalf of the Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP) chief and opposition leader.

The FIR had been registered over allegations of inflammatory and hate speech,

prompting Achakzai to move the high court seeking legal intervention.

After conducting an initial hearing, the court ordered the suspension of the FIR, effectively halting further proceedings in the case for the time being.

According to legal sources, the court's order temporarily pauses the investigation and legal action linked to the FIR until further hearings are conducted.

Additional legal aspects of

the case are expected to be reviewed during the next hearing.

Speaking after the hearing, Achakzai's counsel, Advocate Habibullah Nasir, maintained that the case raised significant legal questions and argued that the petition warranted judicial review.

The development comes amid heightened political debate in Balochistan over governance, public security, and freedom of political expression.



QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Balochistan's Climate Fund - A Lifeline Against Growing Disasters



Editorial:

Balochistan has taken a historic and timely step by establishing its first-ever Climate Fund, a move that signals the province's recognition of the existential threat posed by global warming and climate change.

Floods In Būnair

The tragic flash floods in the Būnair area of Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa this month, which claimed precious human lives, are a grim reminder of Pakistan's extreme vulnerability.

Stop Deforestation

The Climate Fund, if implemented transparently and effectively, has the potential to become a lifeline for millions.

It can provide the financial base for disaster preparedness, early warning systems, reforestation, water management, and community resilience projects.

Equally important, it can build trust between the government and people by showing that saved resources - like the Rs. 14 billion curtailed from non-developmental expenditures - are being invested in protecting lives and livelihoods.

The Battle Cannot Be Fought Alone

However, climate change is not a battle that Balochistan can fight alone. Partnerships with international technical expertise, including solutions, and funding support. Training local institutions, particularly in areas like disaster management

and environmental governance, should be a top priority.

The provincial government's commitment to reforms in governance, education, and healthcare is commendable, but the climate emergency must remain at the center of its development agenda.

Balochistan has shown leadership by creating this Climate Fund.

The next step is to ensure that it does not become another underutilized policy initiative.

Effective monitoring, independent oversight, and community involvement will be key to making it a success.

In the face of global warming, every delay carries a cost in human lives and economic stability. The Chief Minister must now take all possible steps to translate the promise of the Climate Fund into tangible protections for the people of Balochistan.

Balochistan's Education Crisis: Beyond Numbers and Empty Promises

Syed Ali Shah Ali

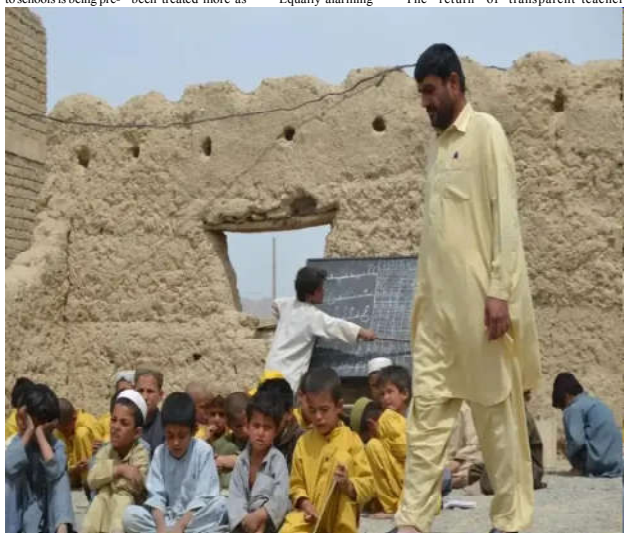
The Balochistan government's claim that around 45,000 children have returned to schools is being pre-

mismangement, and hollow commitments by successive provincial governments. For years, education in Balochistan has been treated more as

open skies or abandoned education altogether. Shelterless schools are not an exception but a norm across vast parts of the province. Equally alarming

important, but without strict monitoring and enforcement, such reviews risk becoming yet another bureaucratic exercise. The return of

government is serious about change, it must move beyond statements and statistics. Massive investment in school infrastructure, transparent teacher



sented as a major breakthrough in addressing the province's deep-rooted education crisis.

While any increase in enrollment deserves acknowledgment, this figure pales in comparison to the magnitude of the challenge. More than 3.1 million children in Balochistan remain out of school, a reality that exposes decades of neglect,

a slogan than a serious policy priority. Governments have consistently paid lip service to the issue, announcing plans, committees, and reforms that rarely translate into meaningful change on the ground.

The result is a broken system where thousands of schools remain without proper buildings, forcing children to study under

is the issue of so-called "ghost teachers" and ineffective staffing.

Despite repeated claims of reforms under the School Based Recruitment (SBK) system, absenteeism, political interference, and lack of accountability continue to cripple public education. Reviewing recruitment processes is

45,000 children to schools should not be used to mask the harsh truth: millions are still deprived of their fundamental right to education. Poverty, insecurity, poor infrastructure, and weak governance continue to push children out of classrooms and into labor, vulnerability, and hopelessness.

If the Balochistan management, community-based enrollment drives, and sustained political will are essential. Without tangible action, promises will remain empty, and another generation of Balochistan's children will be left behind. Education cannot survive on rhetoric alone; it demands urgent, honest, and decisive action.

Artificial Intelligence Just Taking Baby Steps

Syed Muhammad Qasem:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is the simulation of human intelligence in computer systems. In simple words, AI enables machines to perform tasks that require human intelligence. These tasks can be learning from past experiences, solving problems, and making predictions based on provided data.

Every invention had various positive and negative impacts on human civilization. According to Google's CEO, Sundar Pichai "AI will have a more profound impact on human beings than fire, electricity, and the internet". This innovation also has both positive and negative impacts on human beings.

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Using AI for the purpose of AI will have a major impact on AI. Negative impacts of AI: AI is a technological tool and its use can be both positive and negative, although it is in the hands of human beings on how to use it.

Following are some negative impacts of AI on humans. Deep Fakes Through Generative AI: In the age of information technology,

misinformation is a major issue. The introduction of generative AI into public space has further worsened the predicament of information flow. Through generative AI, deep fakes are generated. These deep fakes can be an image, a video, or a voice note. Recently, in Slovakia's 2023 elections, a fake voice of a party's leader and a journalist was shared on social media, in which they were talking about purchasing votes from the poor population.

AI is a Major Threat to Human Creativity. Creativity is a unique characteristic of human beings due to which they bring development, prosperity, modernization, and essence in their lives. But man-made intelligence is growing so

for the balance of power. Hence, like nuclear weapons, AI will further worsen security dilemmas if used for the purpose of war.

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AI's use in War: Using AI for the purpose of AI will have a major impact on AI. Negative impacts of AI: AI is a technological tool and its use can be both positive and negative, although it is in the hands of human beings on how to use it.

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AI is a Major Threat to Human Creativity. Creativity is a unique characteristic of human beings due to which they bring development, prosperity, modernization, and essence in their lives. But man-made intelligence is growing so



rapidly that it has posed a grave threat to the creativity of God's humankind. With only a few clicks and in some seconds, an AI program can write a book, a novel, a poem, an assignment and an article. Furthermore, it can sing a song, draw a painting, solve a problem, and make a prediction. On the other side, it takes much effort and time for a human to do

all these tasks. Due to the lazy and comfort-seeking nature of human beings, now they mostly rely on AI to perform these tasks.

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nor have sleep problems, consequently, companies are manufacturing AI-driven cars to avoid road accidents. Journalists and content writers demand huge salaries for their work, while ChatGPT is a free AI app that can do the same tasks freely and quickly. More interestingly, AI will replace its

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positively. AI can Revolutionize the Medical Field: AI can revolutionize the medical field. AI can transform the world shaped until now. AI and synthetic biology can eradicate debilitating diseases, and find treatments for pandemics, thus providing health benefits.

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curious to predict things or the outcome of events. If data is fed to an AI, it can find patterns in that data, and based on these patterns it can give predictions. For example, AI can predict election results, market demand for a product, predict weather etc. In the US 2020 presidential elections, an AI model was trained to predict the outcome of elections. Tweets and Facebook posts were fed to the model from which AI separated positive and negative sentiments about former US President Trump and current US President Joe Biden. Based on the high number of positive sentiments, the AI model predicted that Trump would win the elections, and he won. So, humans can take advantage of this feature of AI and can reap its benefits.

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needs. To sum up, equipping agriculture with AI systems will boost agricultural production and prevent heavy water losses. Recommendations for the Pakistani Government: The world has moved into the race of AI development. Fortunately, Pakistan has a huge human resource, but making them skilled in the field of AI is a hard task to do. All provincial governments should include AI in the school curriculum.

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PDMA Balochistan Reviews Monsoon Contingency Plan 2026, Emphasizes Coordinated Emergency Response

QUETTA: The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Balochistan held a consultative meeting to review preparedness for the upcoming Monsoon Contingency Plan 2026, focusing on preventive measures, emergency response mechanisms, and inter-departmental coordination ahead of the monsoon season.

The meeting was chaired by Director Planning, Coordination and Rescue, PDMA Balochistan, Naveed Ahmed, and attended by PDMA officials along with representatives from various government departments.

Focus on Preparedness and Risk Reduction Systems. During the discussion, participants reviewed several key operational components, including the assignment of responsibilities through the SW matrix (Who, What, Where, When, Why). Identification of high-risk and vulnerable districts across the province. Strengthening early warning systems for timely alerts. Protection strategies for at-risk communities. Officials emphasized that improved data-driven planning would help ensure more effective disaster preparedness and response.

Evacuation and Coordination Mechanisms. Detailed discussions were held on evacuation plans, emergency relief operations, and coordination mechanisms among various departments to ensure a swift and organized response during any potential disaster situation. Participants stressed the need for clear communication channels and well-defined operational roles to minimize delays during emergencies.



PDMA officials and government representatives during the Monsoon Contingency Plan 2026 review meeting.

Strong Interdepartmental Coordination. Emphasized in line with directives from the Chief Secretary Balochistan, the meeting highlighted the importance of inter-departmental cooperation, timely information sharing, and a unified response framework. Officials noted that a coordinated approach is essential to effectively manage monsoon-related challenges and reduce potential risks to life and infrastructure. The PDMA reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening disaster preparedness systems across Balochistan and ensuring that all relevant departments are fully prepared for the upcoming monsoon season.

PDMA Balochistan monsoon plan 2026, disaster management Balochistan, monsoon preparedness Pakistan, Naveed Ahmed PDMA, early warning system, Balochistan, flood preparedness Quetta, emergency response plan Balochistan, gender and child protection disaster management evacuation plan Balochistan, Chief Secretary Balochistan directives, climate disaster planning Pakistan, June 2026 Balochistan news.

Deputy Commissioner Kech Meets Former Provincial Adviser to Discuss Development and Public Issues in Dasht

Deputy Commissioner Kech Meets Former Provincial Adviser to Discuss Development and Public Issues in Dasht

TURBAT: Deputy Commissioner Kech, Yasir Iqbal Dashti, held an important meeting with former Provincial Adviser Lala Rasheed Dashti at his office in Turbat to discuss public welfare, security, and development matters in

various proposals aimed at strengthening sustainable peace in Dasht, improving the delivery of basic public services, and ensuring the timely resolution of citizens' grievances. Former Provincial Adviser Lala Rasheed

service delivery, and facilitate sustainable development in urban and rural areas alike. The participants reaffirmed their commitment to working collectively for peace, progress, and public service throughout



Deputy Commissioner Kech and former Provincial Adviser Lala Rasheed Dashti.

the district, particularly in Tehsil Dasht. The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Turbat Muhammad Hanif Kabzai, Deputy Director Industries Fahad Raheem, Advocate Majeed Shah, Chairman Ishaq Dashti, Abdul Baqi Baloch, Saeed Jan Gulzar, and other local representatives.

Dashti briefed the Deputy Commissioner on the challenges faced by local communities and highlighted priority needs at the grassroots level. He emphasized the importance of addressing public concerns and accelerating development efforts in the area.

Jehsil Dasht and other parts of Kech. They expressed confidence that stronger coordination between public representatives and the district administration would help provide better facilities and a more secure environment for local residents. Kech District news, Deputy Commissioner Yasir Iqbal Dashti, Lala Rasheed Dashti meeting, Turbat development projects, Dasht Tehsil public issues, Kech administration, law and order in Kech, public welfare Balochistan, development initiatives across Kech District. Turbat, district administration Kech, Balochistan local government news, Turbat latest news June 2026.

During the discussion, participants reviewed the overall situation in District Kech, with a special focus on Tehsil Dasht. Key issues related to law and order, public concerns, and ongoing development initiatives were discussed in detail. The meeting also examined

that the district administration is fully committed to promoting public welfare, maintaining peace and stability, and ensuring effective monitoring of development projects across Kech District. He stated that all available resources are being utilized to improve governance, enhance

He stated that all available resources are being utilized to improve governance, enhance

Nasirabad Commissioner Reviews EPI Performance, Calls for Stronger Vaccination Coverage Across Division

NASIRABAD: Commissioner Nasirabad Division, Salahuddin Noorzi, chaired a review meeting of the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) to assess vaccination coverage and child immunization efforts across the division.

The meeting was attended by District Health Officers (DHOs), Deputy District Health Officers (DDHOs), District Surveillance Monitors (DSMs), Assistant District Health Officers (ADHOs), and other relevant officials. Dr. Afab and deputy commissioners from various districts of the division participated via video link.

Focus on Child Immunization and Awareness Campaigns. During the meeting, participants conducted a comprehensive review of routine immunization activities and public awareness campaigns aimed at protecting children against vaccine-preventable diseases.

Addressing Challenges. Measures to Reduce Vaccination Drop-out Rates. The Commissioner directed Deputy



Commissioner Nasirabad Division, Salahuddin Noorzi, addressing a meeting.

ment is implementing effective and practical measures to safeguard children from infectious and life-threatening illnesses through expanded vaccination coverage.

Nasirabad Division is currently performing comparatively well in immunization indicators. He noted that progress to improve their performance and strengthen outreach efforts.

Divisional Dashboard Introduced for Monitoring Commissioner Noorzi informed the meeting that a divisional-level monitoring dashboard has been established to track EPI performance across all districts.

Quetta Administration Directs Uninterrupted Petrol Supply, Warns Against Unauthorized Closure of Fuel Stations

QUETTA: Deputy Commissioner Quetta, Mehruallah Badini, chaired a high-level meeting to review the supply and distribution of petrol across the city, directing all fuel stations and oil companies to ensure uninterrupted availability of petroleum products for the public.

The meeting was attended by representatives of major oil marketing companies, including Shell, Attock, Byco, Pakistan State Oil (PSO), Max, and operators of petrol pumps from across the district.

Oil Companies Brief Administration on Fuel Stocks. During the session, representatives of oil companies and fuel stations provided detailed briefings on the current status of petrol stocks, supply chains,



Deputy Commissioner Quetta, Mehruallah Badini, with officials in a meeting.

and fuel distribution operations. Officials informed the meeting about available inventories and ongoing efforts to maintain a smooth flow of petroleum products to filling stations throughout Quetta.

Deputy Commissioner Orders Continuous Fuel Supply. Addressing the participants, Deputy Commissioner Mehruallah Badini issued clear instructions that petrol supply to all registered fuel stations must continue without interruption and that citizens should not face any inconvenience in obtaining fuel.

He warned that legal action would be taken against any owner found shutting down operations without authorization. The administration emphasized that maintaining continuous fuel availability is essential to prevent public hardship and ensure smooth transportation and commercial activities across the city.

Balochistan Budget to Prioritize Health, Education, Irrigation and Infrastructure Development: Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani

QUETTA: Senior Minister of Balochistan, PPP Central Executive Committee member, Parliamentary leader, and Provincial Minister for Irrigation, Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani, has said that the coalition government in Balochistan is committed to resolving public issues on a priority basis and ensuring balanced development

across the province. Speaking during an interview with a private television channel, Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani stated that allocations in the upcoming provincial budget are being made according to the importance and utility of key sectors, including health, education, communications, irrigation, and public welfare, with the aim of

improving service delivery and creating economic opportunities for citizens. Coalition Government Focused on Public Welfare. The provincial minister said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, the coalition government is consulting all allied political parties to ensure that budgetary allocations and develop-

mental initiatives reflect the needs of different regions of the province. He emphasized that practical and ensure smooth proposals are being incorporated into the budget to address local challenges and promote equitable development throughout Balochistan. Limited Federal Support. Greater Provincial Responsibility. Referring to recent meetings

DHO Harnai Conducts Surprise Visit to THQ Hospital Shahrag, Orders Improvements in Healthcare Services

HARNAI: District Health Officer (DHO) Harnai, Dr. Shoaib Akram Mengal, conducted a detailed inspection of the THQ Hospital Shahrag to ensure the provision of quality healthcare services to residents, particularly those living in remote and underserved areas of the district.

Direct Interaction with Patients and Attendants. As part of the inspection, the DHO met with patients receiving treatment at the hospital and their attendants to obtain firsthand feedback regarding the quality of healthcare services and the availability of free medicines.

He emphasized the importance of patient all patients and stressed that individuals arriving in emergency situations must receive immediate and timely medical assistance. He reiterated that providing quality healthcare at the doorstep of people living in remote and underdeveloped areas remains one of the top priorities of the District Health Department.



DHO Harnai, Dr. Shoaib Akram Mengal, inspecting the THQ Hospital Shahrag.

thoroughly inspected various sections of the hospital, including the Outpatient Department (OPD), indoor wards, pharmacy, and emergency block.

He reviewed official records, staff attendance registers, and the availability of medicines to assess the hospital's operational performance and service delivery.

Instructions for Improved Emergency and Patient Care. Dr. Mengal directed the hospital administration and paramedical staff to ensure respectful treatment of

Authorities were instructed to strengthen monitoring mechanisms and improve security arrangements to effectively respond to any emergency situation. Deputy Commissioner Mehruallah Badini further directed administrative officers to conduct regular inspections of petrol pumps and

He reviewed official records, staff attendance registers, and the availability of medicines to assess the hospital's operational performance and service delivery.

Instructions for Improved Emergency and Patient Care. Dr. Mengal directed the hospital administration and paramedical staff to ensure respectful treatment of

Balochistan Government to Introduce Gender-Free Primary Schools, End Floor-Sitting Culture in Public Schools

QUETTA: The Government of Balochistan has approved in principle a financial budget reform that will remove the requirement for school uniforms in government primary schools and designate primary educational institutions as gender-free schools, allowing boys and girls to receive basic education in the same school. The decision was taken in view of the shortage of female teachers in remote areas, limited educational resources, and the financial burden that school uniforms place on low-income families.

The announcement was made during a high-level meeting chaired by Mir Sarfraz Bugti, where participants reviewed education, health, and law-and-order reforms alongside priority initiatives for the upcoming provincial budget. Major Education Reforms Approved. The meeting approved several measures aimed at increasing literacy rates, improving educational standards, and expanding access to schooling across the province. One of the key decisions was the introduction of a double-shift

teaching system in 900 government schools. Officials said the initiative would maximize the use of existing educational infrastructure and enable thousands of additional students to enroll without requiring immediate large-scale construction of new schools. The proposed policy to declare primary schools gender-free will be presented before the Balochistan Cabinet for formal approval. Officials informed the meeting that the initiative is expected to significantly improve school access and enrollment rates.

# FO rejects reports of Dar sharing information on Iran's nuclear programme during meeting with Rubio

**NEWS DESK:** The Foreign Office (FO) on Thursday refuted reports that Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar shared any information regarding Iran's nuclear programme during a meeting with United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio. Dar met with Rubio on May 29 during a brief visit to Washington, where the two discussed bilateral cooperation as well as regional security issues. Rubio had praised Islamabad's role in advancing peace in the Middle East.

Responding to queries during a weekly briefing on Thursday, FO Spokesperson Tahir Andrabi said Pakistan rejected reports of the deputy premier "exchanging any kind of information about Iran's nuclear programme".

"No such information was shared," he added. The spokesperson's remarks come after former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) analyst Larry Johnson, who was quoted in the war-torn region, had claimed that Dar had a conversation with Rubio that "revealed what Iran is pre-

pared to do to preserve its independence", which "allegedly alarmed" Rubio. Rubio had also responded to the claims during a congressional hearing on Wednesday. US Congressman Scott Perry asked him if Dar had delivered a message that Iran is "prepared to demonstrate a nuclear weapon should the current escalation continue".

"I have not seen that reporting and I am not aware of any such message," Rubio responded. Perry again referred to the reports, to which Rubio said that no such message had been delivered.

"I would be surprised if that message had been relayed. I would be aware of it if it was," he said.

The US-Iran conflict is currently stalemated in a shaky ceasefire struck in April, which was followed by historic direct talks between the warring parties hosted by Pakistan.

Though daily strikes throughout Iran and the Gulf have stopped since then, bursts of armed conflict have continued.

The US and Iran exchanged attacks on



each other's military targets on Monday. After the US military carried out strikes near the Strait of Hormuz, Iran responded with a missile attack on Wednesday, damaging Kuwait's airport and resulting in casualties.

Since the conflict began, Iran has repeatedly attacked targets in the Gulf region home to US military bases. Meanwhile, the FO also denounced

President Donald Trump to tell Israel's PM Benjamin Netanyahu to halt the attacks.

Nevertheless, diplomacy has continued with Trump under pressure to reach an agreement that would lift the US and Iranian competing blockades around the Strait of Hormuz, which have choked international oil supplies and threatened the global economy with rising prices.

India's plans to build a river-linking project to divert water from the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) and other international laws.

India's plans to build a river-linking project to divert water from the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) and other international laws.

Chenab forms at the confluence of the Chandra and Biaga rivers in Lahaul and Spiti, Himachal Pradesh. The IWT, brokered by the World Bank in 1960, allocates the three western rivers — Indus, Jhelum and Chenab — to Pakistan, and the three eastern rivers — Ravi, Beas and Sutlej

to India. According to Indian news outlet CNBC TV18, India will begin work on the proposed "Link-3 Project", located on Chenab in Himachal Pradesh, on August 1. The project aims to divert surplus water from the Chenab river to the Beas basin and is estimated to cost 26.2 billion Indian rupees, as per ANI.

Responding to a query, Andrabi said, "Yes, we have seen this report as well as the public tendered document issued by the government of India that

India has invited bids for the Chenab-Beas Link Tunnel project with the intention of transferring 1.9m acre feet of water annually from Chenab into the Beas system.

"Such an inter-basin diversion of water of the Chenab into the Beas system constitutes a grave violation of not just the IWT but also of the laws of treaty, particularly the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, as well as the broader framework of international water law, including the principles reflected in the 1977 UN convention on watercourses," he added.

The FO spokesperson also highlighted India's planned "silt flushing" of the Salal Dam in occupied Kashmir's Reasi district.

"This is a deeply concerning development. It would provide water control capability that is not permissible under either the Indus Waters Treaty or the 1978 Salal agreement," he pointed out.

Andrabi noted that India had neither officially communicated nor shared any notice of these projects nor has it sought consultations in this regard.

"These projects confirm that India seeks to weaponise water. This carries dangerous implications not only for Pakistan's economy but also for regional stability and international peace and security," he stressed.

Emphasising that Pakistan had "exercised restraint and responsibility" and remained committed to dialogue, Andrabi warned, "However, any illegal action, any illegal measure to endanger Pakistan's water, food and economic security, as well as the survival and well-being of its 250 million people, is unacceptable."

He stated that such actions amount to "further destabilisation of South Asia, with potential grave consequences" for the region.

"Under IWT, Pakistan is entitled to receive the unrestricted use of the water of the western rivers, and this is in lieu of the rights of the eastern rivers that were given to India," Andrabi noted.

The FO spokesperson asserted that Pakistan "retains all options necessary for safeguarding rights and entitlements under the

## Info minister reaffirms commitment to minority rights in talks with Christian delegation

**NEWS DESK:** Information Minister Attaullah Tarar on Thursday reaffirmed the government's commitment to protecting minority rights during a meeting with a delegation representing the Christian community. The meeting, held in Islamabad, was broadcasted on PTV reported.

The delegation met Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar and Information Minister Attaullah Tarar, where they held detailed discussions on minority rights, legal reforms and the welfare of the Christian community. The meeting included a comprehensive exchange of views on issues related to minority rights, legal reforms and welfare, with a special focus on matters concerning the Christian community. Both sides agreed to establish an effective mechanism for resolving issues related to Christian personal laws and other matters.

During the meeting, the information minister said that consultation with minority representatives en-

ured that "the needs of all citizens are considered in law and policymaking." He added that the government was committed to promoting interfaith harmony, equal citizenship and an inclusive society, stressing the vision of a country where "every Pakistani can contribute to national development without discrimination."

Azam said, "Comprehensive legal and policy reforms through consultation are of great importance," adding that the government remained committed to ensuring "equal rights and equal opportunities for all citizens." The delegation "appreciated the government's continued commitment to protecting the rights of minority communities." It also welcomed recent legislation, particularly the Child Marriage Restraint Act, and praised the government's efforts towards "the protection of minorities and the promotion of equal opportunities."

The delegation further acknowledged the government's initiatives for safeguarding minority rights and improving access to equal opportunities.

During the meeting, both sides reviewed issues faced by the Christian community and discussed solutions through relevant legal and policy frameworks.

## Dar congratulates countries elected as non-permanent United Nations Security Council (UNSC) members

**NEWS DESK:** Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Thursday congratulated the five newly elected non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the 2027-2028 term.

"We wish them every success in discharging this important responsibility," he said in a post on X.

"As Pakistan continues its tenure on the UNSC through 2026, we remain committed to advancing peace, security, dialogue, and multilateral cooperation," he added. Dar further stated, "We look forward to working closely with the incoming members in pursuit of our shared objectives and a more peaceful, secure, and equitable world."

## New internal security policy to centralise police operations

**NEWS DESK:** The federal government has sought input from all police departments on a new internal security policy for the next five years, which aims to centralise police operations, improve inter-provincial intelligence sharing, integrate crime data, and choke terror financing, among other measures.

The National Intelligence Policy 2026-30, which will be discussed at an "extraordinary meeting" of the National Police Management Board (NPMB) later this month, will include inputs from all provincial IGPs as well as the police chiefs of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan.

The interior ministry shared a set of proposals, furnished by some retired and serving police officers, with the police chiefs along with the agenda to be discussed at the NPMB meeting that will be held under the aegis of the National Police Bureau (NPB).

elections Austria, Kyrgyzstan, Portugal, Trinidad and Tobago and Zimbabwe to the council are elected, with no election for the five veto-wielding permanent members — Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States.

The United Nations General Assembly on Wednesday

enhanced the role of the NPB in restructuring the police functions across the country. Some important issues include raising a Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) in Gilgit-Baltistan, integration of police data at the national level, and centralisation of the International Driving Permit.

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## Naqvi, Memon agree on federal-provincial coordination to tackle national issues

**NEWS DESK:** Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Sindh Senior Minister Sharif Inam Memon agreed on Thursday that effective coordination and cooperation between the federation and provinces is the best way to address national challenges and solve public issues, according to an official statement.

The understanding was reached during a meeting in Islamabad, where the two leaders discussed a range of important matters, including law and order, inter-provincial cooperation, the eradication of narcotics, and improvements in public services.

The meeting also included detailed discussions on efforts to curb drug trafficking and

maintain law and order in Karachi and other major cities of Sindh. Speaking on the occasion, Memon said effective coordination and cooperation between the federal and provincial governments was the most effective means of dealing with national challenges. He added that all institutions and governments should work together on matters of national interest.

The senior minister said the Sindh government would further intensify its efforts to eliminate crime, maintain law and order, and ensure the protection of citizens. During the meeting, Naqvi congratulated the Sindh government for its successful operations against dacoits and



**TENDER NOTICE**

TSE-23306/984263 Only electronic bid will be submitted. No physical bid is required. 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 EPBPA GOB. The EXECUTIVE ENGINEER URBAN PLANNING & DEV. DEPARTMENT QUETTA DIVISION QUETTA invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2026 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates

S.No	Name of Works	Est/Co
1	ACCESS AND INTERNAL ROADS OF KILLI CHIRMITIAN PISHIN	79,200,000

Procurements shall be made under the Bidschedule Public Procurement Rule - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Taxpayer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Bid/contract Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 2. Assignment of similar nature of work. Turn over of at least 50,440,000 PKR Amount in subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-4 and above (Up to 200 million) in Relevant Category And Specialized Code is CE01-01 (Road and Pavements Design & Resolving Structure). Bidder must provide affidavit confirming no conflict of interest; not blacklisted nor declared no longer eligible for non-performance in last 5 years and no failure to sign contract in Pakistan or any international agency. Bidder must have completed at least 3 similar projects (25% similar activities), each costing 25% of the estimated cost, completed in the last 5 years. Subcontracting/contracting is not allowed. CSR and Green Chalan Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee/Deposit at Call of 5% specified above in the name of the under-logged from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from [www.epbpa.gov.pk](http://www.epbpa.gov.pk) at Release of Tender Documents. Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at [www.epbpa.gov.pk](http://www.epbpa.gov.pk). Last Date of bid submission: Bid can only be submitted electronically upto 19 June, 2026 09:00 AM through supplier dashboard. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 10:00 AM on EPBS System Address: New Zangoon Road Phone no: 0192119046 fax no: 0192119304 Email: [enq\\_memo11@epbpa.gov.pk](mailto:enq_memo11@epbpa.gov.pk)

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