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QUETTA VOICE

Pakistan Army Mi-17 Helicopter Crash Near Muzaffarabad Martyrs All On Board: ISPR



File photo of a military helicopter, there was no survivor after the tragic crash.

Haseeb Khan:

An Mi-17 helicopter belonging to Pakistan Army Aviation crashed near Muzaffarabad on Wednesday shortly after take-off, resulting in the martyrdom of all personnel on board,

according to the military's media wing. The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said the helicopter went down due to a suspected technical fault. Rescue and recovery teams were immediately dispatched to the crash site, but no survivors were found.

The military confirmed that all occupants embraced martyrdom in the tragic accident. Authorities have launched a board of inquiry to determine the exact cause of the crash and investigate the technical circumstances surrounding the incident.

Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir, along with all ranks of the Pakistan Army, expressed deep sorrow over the loss of lives and extended condolences to the bereaved families. Pakistan has also witnessed several other helicopter accidents in recent years, including crashes in Gilgit-Baltistan, and Siachen, highlighting the challenges faced by military aviation operations in difficult terrain and demanding weather conditions.

SC overturns convictions of two MQM workers in Karachi's Baldia factory fire case

NEWS DESK:

The Supreme Court on Wednesday overturned the convictions of two Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) workers — Abdul Rehman alias Bhola and Zubair alias Chariya — for their alleged involvement in the deadly 2012 Baldia factory fire in Karachi.

Over 260 workers, including 16 who could not be identified, were burnt alive when the multi-storey Ali Enterprises garment factory was set on fire in Baldia Town on Sept 11, 2012, in what became the deadliest industrial blaze in Pakistan's history.

On Wednesday, a three-judge SC bench, headed by Justice Malik Shahzad Ahmed and including Justice Aqeel Ahmed Abbasi and Justice Shakeel Ahmad, set aside the death sentences awarded to the two accused by an anti-terrorism court (ATC) on charges of murder, extortion, arson and terrorism, granting them the benefit of the doubt.

Abdul Rehman alias Bhola, a former sector in-charge in the party's organisational structure, and Zubair alias Chariya were sentenced to death in September 2020 for allegedly setting the multi-storey Ali Enterprises garment factory on fire in Baldia Town.

It should be mentioned that in 2023, the Sindh High Court (SHC) had upheld the death penalty handed down to the two workers and also set aside the life term of four employees of the factory. Later, both the convicts had challenged the verdict in the SC.

Dr. Mah Noor Nasar's Family Denies Reports of Marriage Proposal from Acid Attack Suspect

NEWS DESK:

The family of Dr. Mah Noor Nasar has strongly denied circulating reports claiming that a marriage proposal was sent to the doctor by accused Humayun Shah, describing such claims as completely false and fabricated.

Speaking to the media, Dr. Mah Noor Nasar's father, Habibullah Nasser, clarified that neither he nor any member of the family had received any marriage proposal from Humayun Shah.



He said reports linking his daughter to the accused were baseless and had no connection to reality. Habibullah Nasser criticized the spread of unverified information, stating that publishing or broadcasting claims without proper verification was an irresponsible practice that could cause unnecessary harm to individuals and families.

He urged media organiza-

tions to uphold professional journalistic standards by seeking comments from relevant parties and verifying facts before reporting sensitive matters. He added that attempts were being made to drag the family's name into an unnecessary controversy through misinformation. Referring to claims circulating on social media, he said there was no truth whatsoever in the rumors being spread regarding Dr. Mah Noor Nasar. He categorically rejected all such allegations and appealed to the public not to believe or

share unconfirmed reports. Habibullah Nasser further stated that the family reserves the right to pursue legal action against those responsible for disseminating false information that damages their reputation. He emphasized that responsible journalism requires obtaining the position of all concerned parties before publishing any report, particularly in matters involving personal and family affairs.

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Pakistan strikes terrorist hideouts along Afghan border, kills 26 militants: minister

NEWS DESK:

Pakistan has carried out strikes on terrorist hideouts along its border with Afghanistan and killed 26 terrorists, Information Minister Attaullah Tarar said on Wednesday.

"In the aftermath of recent terrorist incidents in Pakistan [...], precise and calibrated strikes were carried out along Pakistan-Afghanistan border areas on hideouts and safe havens of masterminds and planners belonging to Fina-al-Khawarij, killing 26 India-sponsored khawarij," the minister said in a post on X.

"Based on credible intelligence, selective targeting of camps and hideouts was carried out with precision and accuracy," Tarar said.

He elaborated that "four targets were completely destroyed, including a training centre, a hideout, and an ammunition cache and marakiz (centres) belonging to Fina-al-Khawarij Commander Aleem Khan Khushali and Commander Akhtar Muhammad Jani Khel".

The Pakistani government uses the term 'Fina-al-Khawarij' to refer to the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and its affiliates.

Tarar affirmed that Pakistan had "always strived for maintaining peace and stability in the region, but at the same time, the safety and security of our citizens remains our top priority".

"Our relentless counterterrorism campaign under vision 'Azmi-istehkam' (as approved by Federal Apex Committee on National Action Plan) by security forces and law enforcement agencies of Pakistan will continue at full pace to wipe out the menace of foreign-sponsored and supported terrorism from the country," Tarar stated.

He noted that the strikes were carried out in the aftermath of recent terrorist incidents in Pakistan, including Tuesday's attack on a Federal Constabulary (FC) post in Musa Dara in Peshawar. Six FC personnel were

martyred and four received injuries while responding to an attempt by terrorists to capture the post, which was thwarted by security forces.

The forces killed eight terrorists in retaliatory action, sources said, adding that three personnel had been abducted by the attackers.

Tarar also mentioned "vehicle-borne suicide attacks on a military post in North Waziristan" on June 2, which was foiled, and the May 9 suicide attack on a

claim made by the Afghan Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid alleging civilian casualties from Pakistan's strikes.

The post stated that the Afghan Taliban spokesperson and associated accounts were "habitual propagandists known for fabricating civilian casualty narratives".

"It is well known that Afghan Taliban and Fina-al-Khawarij allow terrorists to co-locate families and other civilians with ter-



ministry's fact-check-

er's infrastructure as collateral insurance," the post said. It added that the narrative of collateral damage "cannot prevent defensive measures by Pakistan", which it said were eliminating "safe havens and logistic support" for terrorists responsible for terrorist activity in Pakistan.

"Pakistan's targeting is precise and based on confirmed intelligence," it said.

The post also mentioned that the latest precision strikes by Pakistan targeted two terrorist

launched Operation Ghazab Il-Haq, following unprovoked firing by the Afghan Taliban from across the border.

During the operation, Pakistan has said it targeted terrorist infrastructure, including ammunition and equipment storage sites.

The operation was paused briefly in March during Eidul Fitr. Islamabad has also denied Afghan claims of targeting civilian facilities.

Meanwhile, China has been mediating between the two sides.

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QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Green Pakistan Initiative Must Put Transparency and Merit First



Editorial:

The Balochistan government's decision to disburse Rs3.2 billion in interest-free agricultural loans to 847 farmers under Phase II of the Green Pakistan Initiative marks a significant policy intervention at a time when the province's rural economy is under pressure.

Announced by Mir Sarfraz Bugti, the initiative aims to bring more than 35,600 acres of land under cultivation, an ambition that, if realized in both letter and spirit, could meaningfully transform agricultural productivity and rural livelihoods.

There is no doubt that interest-free credit is a powerful tool for farmers who have long remained dependent on expensive informal borrowing. By reducing this burden, the government is not only easing immediate financial stress but also encouraging farmers to invest in better inputs, improved practices, and sustainable cultivation. In a province where agriculture remains the backbone of

rural employment, such measures can strengthen food security and contribute to long-term economic stability.

The success of Phase I, during which Rs6.85 billion was extended to 257 farmers, has rightly been cited as the foundation for expanding the program. Positive outcomes from the initial phase demonstrate that well-designed public financing can yield tangible results. However, scaling up also brings new challenges, chief among them transparency, accountability, and equitable access.

As Phase II unfolds, it is essential that the loan distribution process remains fully transparent and insulated from favoritism. Public confidence in such initiatives depends on clear criteria, open verification mechanisms, and timely disclosure of beneficiaries. Deserving candidates, particularly smallholders and genuinely low-income farmers, must remain the central focus, rather than politically connected or influential

individuals. The introduction of the Kissan Card for small and poor farmers is a step in the right direction, offering a structured and traceable way to access financial support.

Yet even this mechanism must be continuously monitored to ensure that it serves its intended purpose and does not become another bureaucratic hurdle or conduit for misuse.

Ultimately, the Green Pakistan Initiative has the potential to reshape Balochistan's agricultural landscape. But its long-term success will be judged not only by the amount of money disbursed or acreage brought under cultivation, but by how fairly, transparently, and merit-based these resources are allocated.

If transparency is institutionalized and deserving farmers are kept at the center, this initiative can become a genuine catalyst for inclusive rural development rather than just another well-intentioned policy headline.

Balochistan in the Eye of Climate Change Storm: Calls for Resilient Climate Policies Surface

Chandni Kakar:



In the global battle against climate change, Balochistan, Pakistan, serves as a stark reminder of the urgent need for climate resilience. The province is experiencing increasingly severe weather events, a consequence of human-induced climate change. However, many residents mistake these extreme weather occurrences for regular fluctuations, hindering recognition of the escalating climate crisis.

Balochistan becoming unbearably hot

Balochistan is becoming unbearably hot, with rising temperatures transforming heatwaves into a year-round threat. These heatwaves pose severe health risks, including heat stress, dehydration, and even fatalities. In

2017, Turbat recorded a scorching 53.5°C (128.3°F), setting a record for Pakistan. Unfortunately, forecasts suggest that temperatures will continue to rise.

However, the climate challenges in Balochistan extend beyond relentless heat waves. The province grapples with devastating droughts and floods, both of which wreak havoc on homes and infrastructure. The floods of 2010 and 2022 left nearly 4 million people displaced, disrupting lives and triggering food shortages and price spikes due to their impact on the agriculture sector.

The 2022 flood in Balochistan underscores the looming climate change threat

The 2022 flood underscored the looming threat of climate

change over Balochistan. Driven by intensified and increasingly frequent monsoon rains, the full extent of the damage is yet to be comprehended. However, it exposed the province's vulnerabilities and highlighted the urgent need for effective management strategies.

Balochistan's annual rainfall of just 200 mm barely meets the needs of its parched population. This water scarcity adversely affects food production, access to drinking water, and livestock numbers, exacerbated by climate change. The severe droughts of 1997-2003 and 2014-2017 forced migrations to water-rich areas.

CC affects economy

Climate change also decimated the economy

through the loss of livestock. Between 2010 and 2022, over 1.5 million livestock were lost, costing over \$1 billion and displacing over 100,000 people, particularly in districts like Quetta, Pishin, Turbat, Pajjunge, and Khuzdar.

However, Balochistan need not accept this grim fate. It requires comprehensive strategies tailored to its unique challenges. The provincial government must implement robust climate change policies, emphasizing water resource management and disaster preparedness. Learning from the tragic dam collapses of 2022, preventive measures, such as effective water reservoirs and early warning systems, are imperative. Spreading awareness about climate change and promoting sustainable agricultural practices are

Tree plantations could mitigate sweltering temperatures

In a province where tree planting could mitigate sweltering temperatures and climate change impacts, government initiatives should engage younger generations in green initiatives. Achieving a resilient future necessitates a collaborative effort involving government, local communities, civil society, and the commercial sector. Balochistan's path towards resilience begins with a symphony of collective action.

By addressing these critical issues, Balochistan can better adapt to the challenges posed by climate change, ensuring a more secure and sustainable future for its residents.

Quetta City, Proposed Master Plan

Abdul Latif Kakar : QUETTA: The mountain-ringed, Quetta city needs a comprehensive master plan to ensure the solution of problems faced by citizens and address the mega question of climate change.

Through the proposed plan, scarce resources would be transparently and rationally utilized to make it a better living city in the country.

For the first in the history of the province, the Urban Planning Development (UPD) under the leadership of chief minister Balochistan, Jam Kamal Khan has started the preparation of the master plan.

Geographical location, looming threat of natural calamities including earthquakes, drought, and floods, the need for making a comprehensive master plan for Quetta city is growing. Rather, it is now indispensable to make this plan, before it is already late.

Geography and Soil

Four main units may describe the soils of Quetta i.e. (1) piedmont plains (very deep and well-drained soil) (2) piedmont basins (3) salinity and alkalinity (4) gravelly piedmont fans and aprons bordering the mountains and plains.

The central part of the Quetta valley is covered by a soil that ranges from sandy loam to silt loam. This hills, the soil consists of sandy loam, mixed



with pebbles and rock fragments and is suitable for vegetation.

In the Hanna valley, the greater part of the valley floor is covered by barren rock

about crops of low relief and dry mala bed.

The soil is restricted to the narrow banks and low ter-

aces along the main stream. However, the nature of the soil in Belli

is silty clay which is not suitable for cultivation. Similarly, the

Chiltan surface has soils that are predominantly gravelly loams.

The vegetation on these soils is mainly Haloxylon which provides poor grazing for livestock.

Soil erosion As far as soil erosion is concerned, both stream erosion of soil and wind erosion is occurring in the district.

The stream erosion takes place in the piedmont plain along the banks and beds of streams.

Such streams are Sariah Lora, Hanna river, Habib Nallah near Hudda. Wind erosion occurs in the valley.

This all requires a review of the existing plans and documents and preparation of the digitized base map of Quetta with a protocol for its updating.

A review of existing policies, procedures, plans studies conducted by donor agencies, and other relevant data. Current and future population trends need to be reviewed.

Transportation, mass transit, and city traffic management and monitoring system, housing commercial, and industrial land use evaluation of the existing condition of buildings and housing schemes should be thoroughly reviewed.

To be precise, the city needs a master plan on an emergency basis to address the looming threat of climate change and natural disasters.

Balochistan Finance Minister Reviews Budget Preparations for Fiscal Year 2026-27

QUETTA: Balochistan Finance and Minerals Minister Mir Shoaib Noshervani held an important meeting with Finance Secretary Jahangir Kakar to review preparations for the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget and discuss key financial and development priorities for the province.

During the meeting, both officials conducted a detailed assessment of budget priorities, ongoing and proposed development projects, and the financial requirements of various sectors.

Discussions focused on formulating a budget that supports sustainable economic growth, strengthens public services, and addresses the needs of the people of Balochistan.

Focus on Development and Public Welfare: The meeting emphasized the importance of further strengthening the development sector in the upcoming budget.

Both sides agreed that effective measures would be taken to accelerate development activities across the province and improve the delivery of essential services to citizens.

Finance Minister Mir Shoaib Noshervani stated that the government is committed to promoting inclusive development and ensuring that budget allocations support long-term socio-economic progress.

Education and Healthcare to Remain Top Priorities: The Finance Minister highlighted that education and healthcare would receive special attention in the 2026-27 budget.

He stressed that adequate resources would be allocated to these sectors to enhance access to quality education and modern healthcare facilities throughout the province.

Our goal is to strengthen human development and improve public welfare by investing in sectors that directly impact the lives of citizens," he said.

Noshervani reiterated the government's commitment to implementing policies that improve educational opportunities, healthcare services, and overall living standards.

Emphasis on Fiscal Discipline and Efficient Spending: The meeting also included discussions on maintaining financial discipline and implementing austerity measures to ensure the efficient use of public resources.

Officials agreed on the need to reduce unnecessary expenditures and allocate available funds on a priority basis toward development projects and public welfare initiatives that generate maximum benefits for the population.

Budget Progress Briefing: Finance Secretary Jahangir Kakar briefed the minister on the progress of budget preparations and provided updates on various financial matters related to revenue management, expenditure planning, and fiscal policy.

Both officials reaffirmed their commitment to preparing a balanced and responsible budget that reflects public needs, development priorities, and sound financial management principles.

They emphasized that innovative and practical financial measures are essential for promoting fiscal stability, achieving sustainable development, and securing a prosperous future for Balochistan.



Finance Minister Mir Shoaib Noshervani (left) and Finance Secretary Jahangir Kakar (right) are seen in a meeting reviewing budget preparations for the Fiscal Year 2026-27. The meeting focused on development projects and financial requirements.

BUIITEMS VC Dr. Khalid Hafeez Joins HEC National Quality Assurance Committee

Syed Dara Shikoh Amir: QUETTA: In a major win for the higher education sector of Balochistan, the Vice Chancellor of Balochistan University of Information

democratic standards across the country. A Lone Voice for Balochistan's Academic Future: Dr. Hafeez joins a select group of top-tier educators, university executives, and academic

opportunities facing universities in the province. "Dr. Hafeez's inclusion isn't just an honor for BUIITEMS—it's a crucial milestone for the entire higher edu-



Dr. Khalid Hafeez, Vice Chancellor of Balochistan University of Information, is seen at a meeting with the National Quality Assurance Committee (NQAC). He is the sole representative from Balochistan on this prestigious national body. Local academic circles view his appointment as a massive breakthrough. The high-profile committee was formed by the Chairman of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) Pakistan to revolutionize ac-

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Quetta Holds High-Level Security Meeting for Muharram 2026 Arrangements

QUETTA: High-level security meeting was held in Quetta under the chairmanship of DIG Quetta Imran Shahid at the Police Lines Hamid Shakeel Multipurpose Hall to review security and administrative arrangements for Muharram-ul-Haram.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Quetta Meherullah Badini, Commandant Chiltan Rifles FC North Balochistan, SSP Operations Quetta Muhammad Asif, FC security commanders, area SPs, Sunni and Shia religious scholars, DSP Security Asif Hussain, traders' representatives, and other officials from law enforcement agencies and civil society.

Security Plan for Muharram Processions and Gatherings: DIG Quetta stated that the

live monitoring will be carried out during Ashura processions and other key locations of the city.

Multi-Agency Coordination for Safety: According to the DIG, representatives from all relevant departments including Health, PDMA, WASA, and Sui Southern Gas, Fire Brigade, and Quetta Safe City will remain present at the Deputy Commissioner's office along with necessary equipment, machinery, and medicines to respond to emergencies.

Call for Unity and Religious Harmony: Religious scholars at the meeting highlighted the significance of the Ashura and Hussain (RA) and the martyrs of Karbala, describing them as a guiding example for humanity.

They emphasized that Muharram promotes unity, brotherhood, patience, and peace.

They urged all communities to prevent sectarianism and discourage elements spreading hatred or misinformation. Scholars also stressed maintaining close coordination with law enforcement agencies to ensure peace and stability during Muharram processions and gatherings.

The scholars further announced their commitment to fully cooperate with authorities for the peaceful conduct and completion of Muharram-ul-Haram events.

They also proposed a joint press conference representing all sects to promote unity and harmony.

Traders' Assurance of Cooperation: President of the Central Traders Association Abdul Rahim Kakar assured full cooperation from the business community, stating that traders will support security arrangements by closing shops along procession routes and assisting authorities during Muharram events.

Law and Order Situation Reviewed: During the session, participants conducted an in-depth review of the security situation across the district. The performance of law enforcement agencies is essential to ensure

the timely and uninterrupted completion of development projects.

Protecting public infrastructure and development investments was identified as a key factor in sustaining economic and social progress in the district.

Deputy Commissioner Farida Farooq called for stronger coordination addressing challenges and to maintain a peaceful environment throughout the district.

Security of Development Projects Discussed: The committee also reviewed security arrangements for ongoing development projects and public welfare schemes being implemented across Sohatapur. Participants emphasized that effective security measures are essential to ensure

stable law and order environment. She stressed that ensuring public safety and protecting development projects must remain top administrative priorities.

Participants also discussed the importance of maintaining peace and stability during Muharram events.

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Deputy Commissioner Quetta Meherullah Badini (center) chairs a high-level security meeting for Muharram 2026 arrangements. Officials and community representatives are seen discussing security and administrative plans.

Quetta Petrol Supply Update: No Fuel Crisis, Stocks Sufficient, Says Administration

QUETTA: Deputy Commissioner Quetta Meherullah Badini met with representatives of the All Balochistan Petroleum Pump Association to review the city's petrol supply situation and current stock levels.

During the meeting, association members and petrol pump owners provided a detailed briefing, stating that there is currently more than sufficient petrol stock available in Quetta.

They confirmed that all petrol pumps across the city are fully operational and there is no risk of any fuel shortage or crisis.

The representatives further said that due to the continuous efforts of the Deputy Commissioner, an adequate supply of petrol

has been ensured in the city, and additional stock has been de-allocated beyond demand requirements.

Strict Instructions on Illegal Fuel Supply: Deputy Commissioner Meherullah Badini directed that petrol must not be provided in cans, containers, or any

other unauthorized storage items at petrol pumps. He emphasized that such practices are strictly prohibited under OGRA regulations and must be fully complied with.

Administration on High Alert: He also stated that the district administration remains vigilant to handle any emergency situation and will not allow any petrol crisis to develop under any circumstances.

The administration is ensuring maximum relief for the public and continuous monitoring of fuel supply across the city.

Key Highlights: High-level meeting held on electricity issues in Harnai. Focus on load shedding, low voltage, and feeder problems. Public representatives highlighted severe impact on daily life and economy. QESCO CEO meeting to discuss resolution of electricity-related issues in District Harnai and to provide maximum relief to the public.

Key Highlights: High-level meeting held on electricity issues in Harnai. Focus on load shedding, low voltage, and feeder problems. Public representatives highlighted severe impact on daily life and economy. QESCO CEO meeting to discuss resolution of electricity-related issues in District Harnai and to provide maximum relief to the public.

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Deputy Commissioner Meherullah Badini (center) meets with representatives of the All Balochistan Petroleum Pump Association to discuss petrol supply and stock levels in Quetta.

Meeting Held on Harnai Electricity Issues: Efforts Promised to Improve Power Supply and Reduce Load Shedding

QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Community Management Department and Chairman Balochistan Food Authority, Haji Noor Muhammad Khan Dumar, held an important meeting with Chief Executive Officer (CEO) QESCO Yousaf Shah to discuss serious electricity-related issues in District Harnai.

The meeting was attended by the focal person for District Harnai Haji Baz Muhammad Dumar, tribal and political leaders Malik Israr Iareen, Malik Raza Iareen, Mir Murad Baloch, Union Chairman Syed Najeebullah Shah, PML-N District Harnai President Malik Manan Tareen, Councillor Syed Nasrullah Shah, PS, Musa Kakakhel, Haji Habibullah, Ash Khan Iareen Malik, and Syed Nazeer Shah.

During the meeting, participants discussed in detail the issues of unannounced load shedding, low voltage, and operational challenges related to Harnai and Shahrag feeders. The worsening electricity situation in the district and its impact on daily life was also highlighted.

Harnai has been facing prolonged power shortages and low voltage issues, which have severely affected domestic life, business activities, education, and the agricultural sector. He emphasized that immediate and sustainable solutions are essential to address public life grievances.

CEO QESCO Yousaf Shah assured the delegation that concrete steps would be taken on a priority ba-

sis to improve the situation of Harnai and Shahrag feeders, reduce unannounced load shedding, and stabilize voltage levels. He reaffirmed that providing uninterrupted and improved electricity supply to consumers remains a top priority of QESCO.

The meeting also agreed on strengthening coordination between QESCO and local public representatives to ensure timely



Provincial Minister Haji Noor Muhammad Khan Dumar (center) meets with QESCO CEO Yousaf Shah to discuss electricity issues in District Harnai. Other officials and community representatives are also present.

District Coordination Committee Reviews Security and Development Progress in Sohatapur

SOHATAPUR: A comprehensive meeting of the District Coordination Committee (DCC) was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Farida Farooq to review the district's overall law and order situation and assess the progress of ongoing development initiatives. The meeting was attended by district officers from all relevant departments, including Law and Order Sit-

uation Reviewed: During the session, participants conducted an in-depth review of the security situation across the district. The performance of law enforcement agencies is essential to ensure

the timely and uninterrupted completion of development projects.

Protecting public infrastructure and development investments was identified as a key factor in sustaining economic and social progress in the district.

Deputy Commissioner Farida Farooq called for stronger coordination addressing challenges and to maintain a peaceful environment throughout the district.

Security of Development Projects Discussed: The committee also reviewed security arrangements for ongoing development projects and public welfare schemes being implemented across Sohatapur. Participants emphasized that effective security measures are essential to ensure

stable law and order environment. She stressed that ensuring public safety and protecting development projects must remain top administrative priorities.

Participants also discussed the importance of maintaining peace and stability during Muharram events.

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Government of Pakistan Procurement Directorate Invites Bids Through EPADS

Worldwide tenders are invited from the OEM/Manufacturers for the supply of following material according to Two Stage-Two Envelope bidding procedure vide Rule 36(1) of PPRA Rules-2004:

S. No. Tender/Bid Number Description of Material Tender Closing date and time Tender Opening date & time

1. DP/CGMA-A/2026 Supply, Installation and Commissioning of CNC Gantry Milling Machine 21.07.2026 11:00 hrs 21.07.2026 11:30 hrs

1. Pre-Bid conference will be held in the office of Director Procurement, Pakistan Railways, Admn Block, Carriage Factory, Islamabad on 01.07.2026 at 10:00 hrs.

2. Bid only through EPADS as per schedule mentioned in the table above. Bid security will be submitted before closing of tender physically in tender box in the office of Director Procurement, Pakistan Railways, Carriage Factory, Islamabad. Bidder will also upload the complete scanned copy of their bid in EPADS.

3. Bidding Documents, containing detailed terms and conditions, can be downloaded from https://eprocure.gov.pk free of cost.

4. The bids, prepared in accordance with the instructions in bidding documents, must be submitted on EPADS as per schedule mentioned in the table above.

5. Tenders are invited on FOB basis.

6. This advertisement is also available on following websites: (www.pakrail.gov.pk) (www.ppra.gov.pk)

PID/19905/25

(Rizwan Sayeed Khan) Director Procurement Phone No. 051-9278051, 051-9278346, E-mail: dirproc@yahoo.com

Finance Minister Aurangzeb to present budget for FY2026-27 on June 12

NEWS DESK: Finance Minister Aurangzeb will present the federal budget for the next fiscal year (FY26-27) in the National Assembly on June 12, an adviser to the minister has confirmed.

Adviser to the Finance Minister Khurram Schehzad shared the revised budget schedule in a post on X.

He added that the Pakistan Economic Survey for the outgoing FY2025-26 would be launched at 2:20 PM on Thursday by Aurangzeb.

Budget sessions of the National Assembly and Senate have already been summoned by President Asif Ali Zardari.

The National Economic Council (NEC), the highest economic decision-making forum of the federation, met earlier on Wednesday to finalise federal and provincial development plans ahead of the budget presentation.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who chaired the meeting, said the Centre held consultations with the provinces on all matters "with extreme se-



rioussness, and we made decisions in the best interest of Pakistan". The NEC finally met after being delayed three times, as negotiations over the freezing of provincial shares in the federal divisible pool under the National Finance Commission (NFC) award.

The budget presentation in the parliament had earlier been set for June 10. They reached a broad agreement on cutting development and other expenditures at all tiers of the federation to cover around Rs800 billion revenue shortfall this year and jointly create similar, but higher, fiscal space next year for additional "strategic needs".

Under the agreement, provincial shares from the federal divisible pool would stay frozen at the current fiscal year's position. Any increase in the targeted revenue next year on top of the Federal Board of Revenue's (FBR) collection in the current year would be retained by the Centre, informed sources said. The sources said the additional amount being discussed for

development programme of Rs4,715tr.

The overall development portfolio comprises the largest share of provincial annual development plans (ADPs) at Rs3,138tr (up 9.6pc), followed by the federal Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) of Rs1,126tr, up 12.6pc from the current year, and Rs451bn from state-owned enterprises (SOEs), up 27pc from Rs355bn in the current fiscal year.

PM Shehbaz has said that the government was taking measures to bring the informal economy into the tax net.

The government last week unveiled the 'Fixed Tax Asaan Scheme' to bring small traders and shopkeepers into the tax net, with an annual turnover of up to Rs200 million.

The government is also considering relaxing the remittance cap in the upcoming budget as overseas Pakistanis in several countries face difficulties in protecting their investments and liquid assets abroad, according to sources in the financial industry.

Armed Assailants Torched and Demolished Police Facilities in Twin Balochistan Attacks

Sardar Muhammad Khondai: CHAMAN: More than 50 armed men on motorcycles attacked a police station and a security post in northern Balochistan, setting fire to the installations and seizing weapons and vehicles, police sources confirmed. The coordinated incidents took place in the districts of Pishin and Qilla Abdullah, which border Quetta's northwestern mountain ranges.

According to police sources, the armed men

launched a simultaneous assault on the Sultan Police Station in the Dinar area of Pishin district, and the Gilo checkpoint in the Doolangi area of Gwiltan tehsil, Qilla Abdullah district.

The attackers overpowered the police personnel on duty, took their service weapons, and drove away with official vehicles. The assailants then set fire to the police station, the checkpoint, and the adjacent residential quarters. Before fleeing the scene, the men also used

an excavator to demolish the structure of the Gilo checkpoint.

Soon after the incident, security forces reached the affected areas, cordoned off the region, and initiated a thorough investigation.

Security has been significantly heightened across both districts, with strict monitoring established at all key transit points. Local residents expressed panic and concern following the attacks. No group has claimed responsibility for the incident.



At least 10 killed, 13 injured as fire erupts in van on Islamabad-Murree Expressway: highway police

NEWS DESK: At least 10 people were killed and 13 were injured when a fire broke out in a van after it fell into a nullah while taking a turn on the Islamabad-Murree Expressway near Khajut on Wednesday, police sources said.

The NHMP statement said the Hiace van had fallen in such a manner that it was not possible for the passengers to open its door.

"The victims are from the same family and were travelling from Multan to Murree," it said.

The bodies and the injured were taken to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences in Islamabad, the statement said, adding that relief and rescue efforts

were initiated after contacting the district administration reached the site.

National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq expressed deep sorrow and grief over the loss of life, extending his heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the affected families.

"I share the grief of the families of the deceased in the accident," Sadiq said.

He directed the concerned authorities to provide the best medical facilities to the injured.

Last month, a heavy rush was reported on the Murree Expressway as traffic from the Murree Road was diverted there due to reconstruction work.

Dar-led committee decides to extend closing time for standalone grocery, kiriyana stores to 10pm

NEWS DESK: The committee for monitoring austerity measures and fuel conservation on Wednesday decided to extend the closing time for standalone grocery and kiriyana stores by an hour to 10pm.

Pakistan had initially announced austerity measures on March 9 to deal with the impacts of the ongoing war in the Middle East. Last month, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had approved the extension of the austerity measures till June 13.

In a meeting chaired by Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, the committee also recommended extending the application of these

austerity measures till June 30, according to a statement by the DPM's office.

The measures include a 50 per cent reduction in fuel allowance for official vehicles, with the exemption of operational vehicles such as ambulances and public buses. Other steps include the curbing of

60pc of official vehicles and a complete ban on foreign visits by ministers and government officials, excluding those deemed essential for the country's interests, as specified the last time.

The Dar-led committee on Wednesday also reviewed several cases by different ministries "seeking ex-

emptions from applicability of certain austerity measures and finalised recommendations accordingly".

"It was also decided that consular attestation services at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Mofa) and its liaison offices in Quetta, Karachi, Peshawar, Gujrat, and Lahore would remain

operational on Fridays as well for public facilitation," the statement read.

This decision comes after previously announced austerity measures reduced the working week for all government offices to four days — Monday to Thursday.

In attendance at the meeting were ministers for petroleum, climate change, and IT & Telecom; the special assistant to the prime minister (SAPM) on finance; the secretaries of cabinet, commerce, petroleum, and IT & Telecom; as well as senior officials from Mofa and other relevant ministries and divisions.



Diabetes affects 10m children in Pakistan

NEWS DESK: Health Minister Mustafa Kamal said on Tuesday that nearly 10 million Pakistani children aged between five and 15 are living with diabetes, warning that the country continues to struggle with preventive healthcare, primary health services and a trained medical workforce.

He pointed out that while nearly 10 million children are affected by diabetes, effective steps to reduce the consumption of sugary beverages have yet to be implemented.

Speaking at the inauguration of the School of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the Health Services Academy (HSA), the minister called for a fundamental shift from a treatment-based healthcare model to one focused on disease prevention.

He argued that Pakistan's growing burden of diabetes, hepatitis, heart disease and maternal mortality had turned public health into a national security concern and underscored the need for stronger preventive policies.

Kamal said the healthcare system could not be improved without reducing the

number of patients entering it, stressing the importance of preventive healthcare, primary health services and a trained medical workforce.

He pointed out that while nearly 10 million children are affected by diabetes, effective steps to reduce the consumption of sugary beverages have yet to be implemented.

Addressing the ceremony, the minister said Pakistan needed a healthcare system centred on disease prevention rather than treatment. He main-

tained that improving the healthcare system required reducing the overall disease burden on society.

He also emphasised the need for broader social reform, saying that a good human being was more likely to become a good doctor, officer or minister.

Kamal noted that around 6.2 million children are born in Pakistan every year and said rapid population growth was placing increasing pressure on healthcare and other sectors.

Highlighting key

health indicators, he said approximately 11,000 women die annually from pregnancy-related complications, while 11 million hepatitis patients are registered across the country. He added that one person dies from a heart attack every minute in Pakistan.

The minister criticised what he described as policy inconsistencies, noting that contraceptive medicines are subject to an 18 per cent tax while efforts to increase taxes on sugary drinks have not

succeeded. He argued that Pakistan's challenges stemmed not from a shortage of resources but from administrative shortcomings and ineffective governance.

According to Kamal, provinces received Rs8.6 trillion for development projects last year, but the real challenge lies in ensuring those resources are utilised efficiently.

He said the health sector had become a matter of national security and reiterated that the government was

focusing on disease prevention, strengthening primary healthcare services and developing a skilled medical workforce.

Speaking on the occasion, Health Services Academy Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Shehzad Ali Khan said the newly established School of Pharmaceutical Sciences would play an important role in advancing pharmacy education, research and public health.

