

 <p><b>FRONT PAGE</b> Trump says Iran deal not final, will 'go back to...' Page No 1</p>	 <p><b>EDITORIAL</b> Balochistan's Child Marriage Prohibition Bill: A Long-Awaited... Page No 2</p>	 <p><b>BALUCHISTAN</b> Governor Balochistan Extends Muharram Greetings,.... Page No 3</p>	 <p><b>NATIONAL</b> Balochistan Government Employees Strike: Indefinite Shutdown... Page No 4</p>
---	--	---	--

First Digital, Print Daily of Balochistan

Editor: Asim Khan.

Rs. 10.00 Vol. VII: No. 236

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

Thursday 18, June, 2026

# QUETTA VOICE

## Balochistan Unveils Rs 1.09 Trillion Surplus Budget for FY 2026-27, Prioritizing Health, Education, and Digital Transformation

Syed Ali Shah, Ali Hamza, News Desk:

**QUETTA:** The Government of Balochistan has presented a historic Rs 1.089 trillion surplus budget for the fiscal year 2026-27, focusing on healthcare, education, digital governance, infrastructure development, and fiscal reforms aimed at strengthening the province's economy.

Presenting the Balochistan Budget 2026-27 in the Provincial Assembly on Wednesday, Finance Minister Mir Shoaib Noshervani announced total estimated revenue receipts of Rs 1.134 trillion, resulting in a fiscal surplus of Rs 45.56 billion.

### Balochistan Budget 2026-27: Key Highlights

The provincial government has introduced a people-centric budget designed to enhance public services, improve governance, and accelerate economic growth. Key relief measures include:

- 7% increase in salaries and pensions for government employees
- Creation of 5,000 new government jobs
- Expanded investments in healthcare and education
- Introduction of digital revenue collection systems
- Adoption of Zero-Based Budgeting (ZBB)
- Climate and gender-focused development planning

### Budget Outlay and Revenue Details

The total budget allocation of Rs 1,089.26 billion has been distributed across operational and development sectors as follows:

- Total Revenue Receipts: Rs 1,134.92 billion
- Total Budget Outlay: Rs 1,089.26 billion
- Current & Non-Development Expenditure: Rs 797.82 billion
- Provincial PSDP: Rs 206 billion
- Federal Development Grants: Rs 44.56 billion
- Foreign Project Assistance (FPA): Rs 40.38 billion
- Budget Surplus: Rs 45.56 billion



**Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti and Other Provincial Ministers Signing a Key Document Regarding Budget FY 2026-27: Photo by DGPR.**

### Digital Governance Reforms and AI-Based Budgeting

Under Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, the provincial government is introducing major governance reforms aimed at enhancing transparency and reducing corruption. A new digital payment platform, "Balochistan E-Pay," has been launched to eliminate manual tax collection.

All provincial taxes, duties, and service fees will now be collected online and deposited directly into the provincial treasury.

The government is also implementing Zero-Based Budgeting (ZBB), requiring departments to justify every expenditure from the ground up.

Following a successful AI-based recruitment initiative, authorities aim to further improve transparency and efficiency in public administration.

For the first time, development projects will undergo climate and gender tagging, ensuring sustainable and inclusive growth across the province.

### Healthcare Budget Increased by 30%

The health sector budget has received a substantial boost, increasing by 30% to Rs 90 billion, compared to Rs 71 billion in the previous fiscal year.

Major healthcare allocations include:

- Rs 6 billion for the

### Balochistan Health Card Program

- Rs 8.5 billion for essential medicines

- Rs 1.3 billion for the New Trauma Center in Quetta

- Rs 735 million for Mastung Memorial Hospital

- New Thalassemia Centers in Gwadar and Kech

The enhanced healthcare spending aims to improve access to quality medical services across Balochistan.

### Education Budget Reaches Rs 144 Billion

The provincial government has allocated Rs 144 billion for education, marking a 15% increase from the previous year.

Major education initiatives include:

- Rs 115 billion for primary and secondary education
- Rs 8 billion for upgrading schools
- Rs 8 billion in grants for public universities
- Rs 2 billion performance-based funding linked to institutional KPIs
- Fiber-optic internet connectivity for schools and colleges

### Agriculture and Food Security Initiatives

The government has announced:

- Rs 1 billion for the Kisan

### Card Program

- Rs 3.8 billion for solarization of agricultural tube wells

- Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model for commodity storage management

- Maintenance of a 100,000-metric-ton strategic wheat reserve

These measures are designed to reduce farming costs and enhance agricultural productivity.

### Safe City Projects and Judicial Modernization

The government has allocated significant funding for law enforcement and judicial reforms.

Key allocations include:

- Rs 1 billion for Phase-II of the Balochistan Forensic Science Agency (BFSA)
- Expansion of Safe City surveillance systems across major cities
- Rs 1.2 billion for modernization of courts through E-Courts technology

The initiatives aim to improve public safety, forensic capabilities, and judicial efficiency.

### Record Development Spending Achieved

Finance Minister Shoaib Noshervani highlighted that Balochistan achieved a record 115% utilization of development funds during the outgoing fiscal year, compared to historical utilization rates of approximately 53%.

According to the government, a total of 2,966 development projects were completed or initiated under the current administration, reflecting improved project execution and financial management.

### Toward a Digital and Self-Reliant Economy

Despite continued dependence on federal transfers under the National Finance Commission (NFC) Award, the Balochistan Budget 2026-27 represents a major shift toward digital governance, fiscal discipline, transparent budgeting, and sustainable development.

With a projected Rs 45.56 billion surplus, the provincial government aims to strengthen economic stability, improve public services, and lay the foundation for a more self-reliant and technology-driven future.

## Trump says Iran deal not final, will 'go back to shooting, dropping bombs' if he 'doesn't like it'

### NEWSDESK:

US President Donald Trump said on Wednesday that the memorandum of understanding on Iran was not final, and that he could resume a bombing campaign if he did not like it.

He made the remarks as he and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi addressed reporters at the G7 summit in France with comments focusing on the US-Iran negotiations.

"It's a memorandum of understanding. And if I don't like it, we'll go back to shooting at them, dropping bombs on their head. If I don't like it, if they don't behave, we'll go right back to dropping bombs right smack in the middle of their head, OK?" he said.

Trump also claimed that he had spoken with the Syrian leader about combating Hezbollah.

Additionally, Trump said there was a 99.99% chance that Iran will never have a nuclear weapon.

"What is really happy is the [stock] market that has gone wild. It's gone through the roof. And oil has tumbled down," the US president said. "That speaks louder than words."

The US president reiterated his view that the US-Iran framework deal was "very strong."

"Nobody knows what it is, but it's very strong," he said.

Trump added that the Strait of Hormuz would be fully open in the next "day or two."

Trump said news reports that the US-Iran deal includes provisions for \$300 billion in reconstruction funds to go to Tehran are false.

"We're not putting up 10 cents," Trump said. "We are not investing, and we do not have a fund."

Trump said he's not asking Gulf countries to invest in Iran but "if they do it, fine."

"I would say they won't be doing it for a while until they find out the behaviour of [the Iranians]," he added.

Opening Hormuz will be 'massive step forward', NATO chief

NATO chief Mark Rutte on Wednesday hailed the US-Iran deal to end the Middle East war, saying the planned reopening of the Strait of Hormuz would be a "massive step forward."

"The restoration of free passage through the Strait of Hormuz will be a massive step forward, and I know that many allies, through the initiative led by France and the United Kingdom, are ready to support," Rutte told a press conference in Brussels.



**US President Donald Trump attends a bilateral meeting with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in Evian-les-Bains, France. Source: REUTERS**

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Majid Takht-Ravanchi said on Wednesday that the US-Iran memorandum of understanding,

which contains an explicit clause requiring an end to military operations across all fronts, including Lebanon, also includes a

mechanism to address Israeli violations of the agreement.

The deputy FM said the mechanism would be activated if

Israel breaches the ceasefire, including through attacks on Lebanon, according to Drop Site News.

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi separately said any further Israeli military action in Lebanon, or continued occupation of Lebanese territory,

would constitute a violation of the MoU, adding that ending the war on Lebanon is inseparable from a broader end to regional hostilities.

Hezbollah secretary-general, Lebanese parliament speaker credit Iranian efforts to end war in Lebanon

Hezbollah Secretary-General Naim Qassem and Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri have publicly credited Iran and Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Ghalibaf for helping secure an agreement to end Israeli hostilities towards Lebanon.

In a letter released by Hezbollah's media office and shared by Drop Site News, Qassem thanked Iran for making a halt to the war on Lebanon a "first and fundamental clause" of the US-Iran agreement.

He said that Iran had turned "the only effective glimmer of hope in stopping the Israeli-American aggression against Lebanon into a reality" and described Iran as an "icon of dignity and honor."

# QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

## Balochistan's Child Marriage Prohibition Bill: A Long-Awaited Step in the Right Direction



**Editorial:** The recent passage of the Child Marriage Prohibition Bill by the Balochistan Provincial Assembly is a landmark moment in the province's journey toward protecting children and promoting social justice. While many have long awaited this legislation, its adoption now is a cause for immense satisfaction, reflecting the government's commitment to addressing a critical social issue.

Under the leadership of Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti, the provincial government has demonstrated professionalism, transparency, and determination in ensuring that this bill was enacted through proper legislative procedures. The thorough review by assembly committees over the past six months shows a deliberate and consultative approach, pri-

oritizing consensus-driven lawmaking. This methodical process ensures that laws are not only enacted but are sustainable, widely supported, and rooted in the public interest.

While opposition voices, including those from JUI-F, have criticized the bill on religious grounds, their dissent is part of a healthy democratic debate. However, it is crucial to note that protecting children from early and forced marriages is a universally recognized human rights concern.

The government's decision to move forward, despite protests and a walkout by opposition lawmakers, underscores its dedication to the welfare of Balochistan's younger generations. Indeed, the enactment of this bill, though delayed, is a step in the right direction.

It signals a commitment to ending

harmful traditional practices that compromise children's health, education, and future prospects.

By taking this decisive action, the Balochistan government has set a precedent for social reform, human rights advocacy, and legislative responsibility in Pakistan.

In conclusion, the passage of the Child Marriage Prohibition Bill is more than just a legal milestone—it is a moral and social imperative.

The government deserves praise for prioritizing the welfare of children, implementing professional legislative processes, and taking a bold step that will benefit countless lives across the province. While dialogue and debate will always be part of democracy, today marks a day when governance acted in favor of justice, progress, and the future of Balochistan.

## 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 sea-

sonal 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 communities.

Farmers and local representatives are also demanding restoration of damaged irrigation systems and the introduction of crop insurance mechanisms to help rural communities recover 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 becoming increasingly frequent in the province,

placing additional pressure on farmers already struggling with limited infrastructure and rising production costs.

Analysts say stronger disaster management 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.

## Hypertension: The Silent Threat We Continue to Ignore

By Dr Rubaba Khan Buledi:

Every year, World Hypertension Day reminds us of a health crisis that continues to grow quietly across the globe. Unlike many diseases that arrive with immediate warning signs, hypertension often develops silently. A person may appear healthy, continue daily routines, and feel physically normal while high blood pressure gradually damages the heart, kidneys, brain, and blood vessels. This is why medical experts across the world describe hypertension as the silent killer.

In Pakistan, the burden of hypertension is increasing at an alarming pace. Rapid urbanisation, unhealthy eating habits, physical inactivity, smoking, stress, and lack of routine medical checkups have created conditions where cardiovascular diseases are becoming more common among both older and younger populations. Unfortunately, many individuals only discover they have high blood pressure after suffering from serious complications such as stroke, heart disease, or kidney failure.

Women Neglect Their Own Health, Prioritise Family. What makes hypertension particularly dangerous is the lack of awareness surrounding it. In many households, people still consider blood pressure problems to be



temporary conditions caused only by stress or fatigue. Self-medication and delayed medical consultation remain common practices.

A large number of patients discontinue medicines once they start feeling better, without understanding that hypertension often requires lifelong management and regular monitoring.

The challenge becomes even more serious in developing regions where access to healthcare facilities remains limited. In rural and remote areas, many people are unable to undergo routine health screenings due to economic diffi-

culties, long travel distances, or lack of awareness. Women, especially in conservative societies, frequently neglect their own health while prioritising family responsibilities.

As a result, hypertension often remains undiagnosed until it reaches dangerous stages.

Another worrying trend is the increasing prevalence of hypertension among younger people. Fast food consumption, excessive use of digital devices, reduced physical activity, and rising mental stress are contributing significantly to this issue. The modern lifestyle

has distanced many people from healthy daily habits that once naturally supported physical wellbeing. Walking has been replaced by prolonged sitting, home-cooked meals by processed food, and social interaction by constant digital engagement.

Public Awareness Campaigns are Essential.

Mental health also plays an important role in blood pressure related illnesses. Economic uncertainty, unemployment, work-related pressure, and social stress contribute heavily to anxiety and chronic tension. When stress becomes a permanent part of life, it

directly affects the cardiovascular system. Unfortunately, mental health awareness remains weak in many societies, where emotional wellbeing is often ignored or misunderstood.

Preventing hypertension does not always require expensive treatment. In many cases, small but consistent lifestyle changes can significantly reduce health risks. Balanced diets, reduced salt intake, regular exercise, and avoidance of smoking can greatly improve cardiovascular health. Even simple daily habits such as walking for thirty minutes, drinking

enough water, and managing stress levels can make a noticeable difference.

Public awareness campaigns are essential in this regard. Governments, healthcare institutions, educational organizations, and media platforms must work together to educate people about the dangers of uncontrolled blood pressure.

Schools and colleges should also encourage health education programs that teach young people the importance of nutrition, physical activity, and preventive healthcare.

Technology can also become an effective tool in tackling hypertension.

Telemedicine, mobile health applications, and digital awareness campaigns can help reach communities that lack direct access to medical professionals. Shared meals with balanced nutrition, reduced dependence on unhealthy food, and encouragement for physical activity can create healthier communities within households themselves.

World Hypertension Day should not remain a symbolic observance marked only through seminars and official statements. It should encourage serious reflection on how modern lifestyles are affecting public health.

Hypertension is no longer a disease affecting only the elderly. It is becoming a widespread societal challenge that requires collective responsibility and long-term commitment.

A healthier society cannot be built through seminars and official statements. It requires awareness, discipline, preventive care, and responsible choices at both individual and community levels. The fight against hypertension begins not in emergency rooms but in our homes, schools, workplaces, and daily routines.

If societies truly wish to reduce the growing burden of cardiovascular disease, they must recognize one simple reality: Prevention is always more powerful than cure.

Governor Balochistan Extends Muharram Greetings, Directs Strict Security Measures Across Province

QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has extended heartfelt greetings and best wishes to the entire Muslim Ummah on the commencement of Muharram-ul-Haram, praying that the new Islamic year brings lasting peace, economic prosperity, and progress for all.

In his message, Governor Mandokhail stated that the sacred month of Muharram reminds Muslims of the historic migration (Hijrah) of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and the unparalleled sacrifice of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) and his loyal companions in Karbala.

He said these events continue to inspire humanity with timeless lessons of courage, justice, steadfastness, and standing against oppression.

Keeping in view the



significance of the holy month, the Governor directed all district administrations, across Balochistan to ensure foolproof security arrangements during Muharram-ul-Haram. He particularly emphasized strengthening security around mosques, Imambaras, and procession routes, especially in the provincial capital, Quetta.

He directed Deputy Commissioners and police officers to remain vigilant, respond promptly to any emerging issues, and personally supervise security arrangements for Muharram gatherings and Ashura processions.

The Governor also called upon religious scholars and prayer leaders to promote the values of tolerance, unity, brotherhood, and mutual respect during solemn and religious gatherings. He stressed that fostering harmony and peaceful coexistence is essential during these sensitive days.

Addressing media professionals and journalists, Governor Mandokhail urged them to play a responsible role by avoiding sensationalism, verifying information before publication, and promoting messages of peace, patience, and interfaith harmony.

He noted that responsible journalism can contribute significantly to maintaining social cohesion and public confidence during Muharram.

Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail reaffirmed the provincial government's commitment to ensuring peace, security, and religious harmony throughout Muharram-ul-Haram, while calling upon all segments of society to work together in upholding the values of unity and mutual respect.

Key Highlights Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail extended Muharram-ul-Haram greetings to the Muslim Ummah.

Quetta Administration Unveils Major Traffic Management Plan to Ease Congestion

QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta Division Shahzaib Khan Kakar chaired a high-level meeting to review traffic management challenges faced by residents and commuters and finalize measures aimed at improving traffic flow and reducing congestion across the

range of proposals and practical solutions to improve traffic flow and address the transportation challenges faced by residents and commuters in Quetta.

Abdul Sattar Road to Reopen for Public Traffic One of the key



provincial capital. The meeting was attended by the Director General of the Traffic Engineering Bureau, Deputy Commissioner Quetta, Director Development Quetta Division, SSI Traffic Quetta, Regional Transport Authority (RTA), officials of the Metropolitan Corporation, and representatives of the business community, including Central Anjuman-e-Tajirah Balochistan President Rahim Kakar.

During the meeting, participants discussed a

decisions taken during the meeting was to reopen Abdul Sattar Road for general traffic.

However, the road will be designated as a No-Parking Zone to prevent congestion and ensure smooth traffic movement.

Authorities also decided to obtain written commitments from shopkeepers and business owners to ensure that no encroachments are established along the road, helping maintain traffic discipline and pedestrian accessibility.

Prince Road Masjid Road Kandhari Bazaar The proposed system will regulate parking through designated time slots and hourly parking arrangements, helping reduce roadside congestion and improve traffic circulation in crowded market areas.

Serena Chowk Traffic Relief Measures Under Review Officials also reviewed a proposal to reduce traffic pressure at Serena Chowk by relocating the main entrance gate of Serena Hotel further inside the premises.

Discussions covered the reopening of Abdul Sattar Road, the proposed system to regulate parking through designated time slots and hourly parking arrangements, helping reduce roadside congestion and improve traffic circulation in crowded market areas. Serena Chowk Traffic Relief Measures Under Review Officials also reviewed a proposal to reduce traffic pressure at Serena Chowk by relocating the main entrance gate of Serena Hotel further inside the premises.

Communications and Works Secretary Babar Khan Directs Timely Completion of Strategic Development Projects Across Balochistan

QUETTA: Secretary Communications and Works Babar Khan has emphasized that the Communications and Works (C&W) Department plays a vital role in the development and prosperity of Balochistan, stating that the province's infrastructure growth and sustainable development largely depend on the department's effective performance.

He expressed these views while chairing a high-level review meeting on the progress of ongoing strategic development projects across the province.

The meeting was attended virtually by Chief Engineers, Superintending Engineers, and Executive Engineers from all six zones of Balochistan.

During the session, engineers from various districts provided detailed briefings on the status of strategic



projects under implementation and highlighted the financial and technical challenges affecting their progress.

He noted that while the available time is limited, the challenges are significant, making it essential for all engineering teams to prioritize the timely completion of projects. He directed the concerned officials to resolve all technical issues immediately to prevent disruptions and en-

sure the smooth continuation of development work. According to him, maintaining project momentum is crucial for achieving infrastructure goals and delivering public benefits on schedule.

The Secretary also issued a strong warning to Executive Engineers of the Buildings Department, directing them to ensure the completion of assigned projects within the stipulated timeframe.

He stated that failure to meet deadlines could result in strict action against the responsible officials. Babar Khan further emphasized that there should be no

compromise on construction quality, safety standards, or technical specifications.

He instructed engineers to uphold the highest standards of workmanship to ensure that development projects provide long-term benefits to communities.

To strengthen oversight and accountability, the Secretary directed Chief Engineers and Superintending Engineers to conduct regular field visits and personally monitor project implementation.

He also instructed them to submit progress reports every two weeks, including details of technical challenges and recommendations for resolving them. He said that continuous monitoring and timely reporting would help prevent delays, address obstacles promptly, and ensure that strategic development projects are completed efficiently and in accordance with approved timelines.

Key Highlights Secretary Communications and Works Babar Khan emphasized the importance of strategic development projects across the province. Chief Engineers, Superintending Engineers, and Executive Engineers from all six zones participated via Zoom.

Quetta Education Review Meeting Focuses on Non-Functional Schools and Teacher Attendance

QUETTA: Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Muhammad Anwar Kakar chaired a meeting of the District Education Group to re-

view educational affairs across the district and assess the performance of schools and education management system.

Discussions covered the reopening of Abdul Sattar Road, the proposed system to regulate parking through designated time slots and hourly parking arrangements, helping reduce roadside congestion and improve traffic circulation in crowded market areas. Serena Chowk Traffic Relief Measures Under Review Officials also reviewed a proposal to reduce traffic pressure at Serena Chowk by relocating the main entrance gate of Serena Hotel further inside the premises.

view educational affairs across the district and assess the performance of schools and education management system. The meeting examined a wide range of issues, including non-functional schools, chronic absenteeism among teachers and staff, educational administration, and the overall performance of educational institutions.

The session was attended by District Education Officers (Male and Female), RTCM officials, representative Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs), representatives of PTMC, and other concerned authorities.

During the meeting, officials presented de-

tailed reports on disciplinary actions taken against continuously absent teachers, including salary deductions and the issuance of

show-cause notices. The RTCM also submitted a report based on visits to 228 schools, highlighting cases of teacher absenteeism and other administrative challenges affecting educational performance.

Expressing concern over the unavailability of complete records regarding non-functional schools, Additional Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Anwar Kakar directed the relevant authorities to submit a comprehensive report without delay. He emphasized the need for immediate measures to restore and activate schools that are currently not operational.

The meeting also

received detailed briefings on development projects being implemented under the Parent-Teacher School Management Committee (PTMC) framework.

Discussions covered classroom renovation and beautification, the provision of essential facilities, infrastructure improvements, and issues related to encroachments affecting school premises.

Addressing the participants, the Additional Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of accountability, effective monitoring, and improved educational governance.

He noted that ensuring regular teacher attendance and the functionality of schools is critical to enhancing educational standards and providing quality learning opportunities for students.

Joint Flag March Held in Loralai to Strengthen Security and Public Confidence

LORALAI: In a significant move to reinforce law and order, ensure the protection of citizens, and demonstrate the commitment of security institutions against criminal and anti-social elements, a large-scale joint flag march was conducted in Loralai by the district police, Frontier Corps (FC) 53 Wing, Anti-Terrorist Force (ATF), and Security Operations Wing (SOW).

The flag march was led by SDPO Duzdaka Circle-Ikbal Langa FC 53 Wing Major Kamran, and SDPO Sarki Jungle Circle Haider Sherani.

A large number of officers and personnel from the Police, FC, ATF, and SOW participated in the procession.

The procession passed through major roads, commercial centers, markets, sensitive installations, and key entry and exit points across the city.



The visible presence of security forces and coordinated patrol activities enhanced the sense of safety, confidence, and reassurance among residents.

Speaking on the occasion, officials stated that protecting the lives and property of citizens and maintaining a peaceful environment remain the foremost responsibilities of state institutions.

They reiterated that indiscriminate action against criminals, drug traffickers, anti-social elements, and anyone at-

tempting to disrupt peace would continue without exception.

Officials further emphasized that, in view of the prevailing security environment, all law enforcement agencies are working in close coordination through integrated strategies and effective intelligence sharing to ensure peace and stability throughout the district.

Special attention is being given to strengthening security arrangements at public places, educational institutions, marketplaces, and other

sensitive locations to prevent any untoward incidents and ensure a swift response to potential threats.

The officers appealed to citizens to cooperate with law enforcement agencies by promptly reporting suspicious individuals, and incidents of lawbreaking.

They stressed that sustainable peace cannot be achieved without public participation and that every member of society has a role to play in promoting law and order.

These efforts, he said, are intended to provide the people of Loralai with a secure and fear-free environment.

The DSP noted that the latest security initiative demonstrates the administration's determination to uphold the

Quetta District Health Committee Reviews Healthcare Services, Emphasizes Improved Medical Facilities

QUETTA: Deputy Commissioner Mehruallah Badmi chaired a review meeting of the District Health Committee to assess the performance of healthcare facilities and

Basic Health Units across the district. The District Health Officer briefed participants on the performance and operational status of Rural Health Centers (RHCs),

Centers, while the Drug Controller presented a monthly report regarding medicines, pharmaceuticals, and pharmaceutical regulations throughout the district.

review the delivery of medical services across Quetta district. The meeting focused on the monthly performance of Basic Health Units (BHUs), Rural Health Centers (RHCs),

Mufti Mahmood Hospital, and Balochistan Medical Complex (BMC) Hospital, along with a comprehensive evaluation of healthcare services being provided to the public.

The session was attended by the District Health Officer (DHO), District Manager PPH, Drug Controller, Medical Superintendent of Mufti Mahmood Hospital, Deputy Medical Superintendent of BMC Hospital, and other relevant officials.

During the meeting, the District Manager of PPH presented a detailed report on the availability of health care staff, the supply of medicines, and the provision of essential services at



Harnai Police Intensify Security Measures to Maintain Law and Order

HARNAI: Hamai Police have heightened security measures across the district as part of ongoing efforts to protect citizens and maintain a peaceful environment.

The announcement was made by DSP Malik Habibullah Tareen, who reaffirmed the police department's commitment to ensuring public safety and combating criminal activities.

Speaking to the media, DSP Malik Habibullah Tareen stated that the protection of lives and property remains the top priority of the police.

He emphasized that indiscriminate action against suspicious elements will continue and that no effort will be spared in making Harnai a model of peace and security.

Acting on the special directives of SP Harnai Engineer Abdul Hafeez Jakhrani, security across the city has been placed on high alert. Under the supervision of DSP Malik Habibullah Tareen, a large contingent of police personnel launched a comprehensive security operation, establishing checkpoints at all major and minor entry and exit points of the

city, as well as along key highways and roads.

During the operation, police officers conducted thorough inspections of vehicles, motorbikes, and individuals entering or leaving the city. The intensified security measures are aimed at deterring anti-social elements and preventing any attempts to disrupt peace and stability in the district.

DSP Tareen stated that safeguarding citizens is both the responsibility and duty of the police force.

He announced that strict checking, roadblocks, and security pa-

trols will continue on a daily basis without interruption to ensure that law and order remain firmly under control.

He further explained that the primary objective of the campaign is to monitor the movement of suspicious individuals, prevent criminal activities, and eliminate crime at its roots.

These efforts, he said, are intended to provide the people of Harnai with a secure and fear-free environment.

Local community members have welcomed the police action and praised the proactive approach of law enforcement agencies.

They expressed optimism that the ongoing security measures will further improve the law-and-order situation and contribute to lasting peace in Harnai.

He added that enhanced monitoring and regular inspections are required to significantly reduce criminal activity while strengthening the sense of safety among residents.

They expressed optimism that the ongoing security measures will further improve the law-and-order situation and contribute to lasting peace in Harnai.

They expressed optimism that the ongoing security measures will further improve the law-and-order situation and contribute to lasting peace in Harnai.

# Prime Minister (PM) vows to pass economic gains to public once regional peace is fully restored

**NEWS DESK:** Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said the government had presented a people-friendly budget despite difficult economic conditions and vowed to pass on the benefits of its economic policies to the public once peace was fully restored in the region.

The prime minister made the remarks during a meeting with women parliamentarians belonging to the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) in Islamabad. He welcomed the lawmakers and thanked them for their active participation in the ongoing budget session.

Speaking on the occasion, the prime minister said the government had made every possible effort to provide relief to the public through the budget, adding that it included measures aimed at empowering women and increasing their participation in national life.

"Empowering Pakistani women to play a full role in national development is among the government's top priorities," he said.

Referring to the recent agreement between Iran and the United States that ended more than three months of conflict, the prime minister said tensions in the region had eased, and efforts aimed at establishing peace had borne



fruit, while thanking friendly countries for supporting mediation efforts.

"We are grateful to friendly countries that provided full support in the efforts for establishing peace from the outset of the tensions."

PM Shehbaz particularly praised the role of Field Marshal Asim Munir, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Interior Minister Mohsin

Naqvi, and other members of the government team in the mediation process.

He said Pakistan made every possible effort to protect the public from the global wave of inflation."

He said, adding that, by the grace of God, the country had avoided major disruptions and fuel shortages seen elsewhere.

The premier said the federation and provinces had worked

together to maintain economic stability during the recent crisis and thanked provincial governments for their cooperation.

"A people-friendly budget was presented in the difficult economic situation, which will accelerate the wheel of industry and promote an export-based economy," he said.

The premier reiterated the government's commitment to pass the

benefits of economic stability to the people once conditions normalised.

"After peace in the region and the situation returning to normal, positive economic impacts will be passed on to the public," he said.

Discussing priorities for the next budget, PM Shehbaz said the government's focus would remain on national interests, particularly increasing water

reservoirs and promoting the information technology, agriculture, and minerals sectors to strengthen the economy.

He also thanked provincial governments for their support during the crisis, saying improved planning by the government team had helped minimise public hardship and enabled the launch of major relief packages for middle-

income and economically vulnerable groups.

"It is not possible for the people of this country to make sacrifices while the elite continue to enjoy privileges," he said, while mentioning that austerity measures had begun with the cabinet and government institutions.

According to the prime minister, the government sought to reduce public hardship through a Rs128 billion subsidy programme and a broad austerity campaign.

"All these efforts are the result of the collective struggle of Team Pakistan, and Inshallah, this Team Pakistan will place Pakistan among the ranks of the world's developed countries," he said.

The women parliamentarians paid tribute to efforts aimed at promoting peace at the regional and global levels and appreciated the prime minister and the government's economic team for including measures in the budget to empower women and expand access to education and development opportunities.

The lawmakers also presented suggestions regarding ongoing public welfare projects in their constituencies and proposed measures related to education, health, youth employment, industry, communications, food security, and other sectors.

## Pakistan, UK agree to expand cooperation on counterterrorism, illegal migration

**NEWS DESK:** Pakistan and the United Kingdom on Wednesday agreed to enhance cooperation in counterterrorism, combating illegal migration and human smuggling, institutional collaboration and police training.

The understanding was reached as Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi met British Minister of State for the Middle East, South Asia and the UN Hamish Falconer.

According to the interior ministry, Falconer appreciated Pakistan's "positive and significant" role in facilitating the US-Iran peace deal.

"Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Asim Munir played a historic role for peace," it quoted

Falconer as saying. "The US-Iran peace deal has projected Pakistan as a flag-bearer of global peace," he added.

According to the statement, the two leaders also agreed on "enhancing cooperation between the two countries in various fields, including counterterrorism, combating illegal migration, institutional collaboration, and police training."

"Positive results are emerging from the UPSCALE Project and the capacity of Pakistani institutions has improved significantly," the ministry quoted Naqvi as saying.

During the meeting, the interior minister assured that "indiscriminate action was being taken against illegal mi-

gration and human smuggling in Pakistan," it stated.

Meanwhile, the two leaders also discussed Pakistan-UK relations and the overall regional situation, the ministry said.

"Naqvi reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening relations with the UK," the statement said.

"Both leaders agreed to work together to address the issue of fake student visas," the statement said.

"Naqvi also emphasised that several terrorist organisations were operating from Afghanistan, and the Afghan government must prevent its territory from being used against Pakistan," the ministry said.

A separate press release said that the Mardan CTD received information that a "group of Fata al-Khawarij terrorists was moving from Mohmand district into Charsadda for carrying out terrorist activities."

"Taking immediate action on this information, teams were deployed to arrest the terrorists by laying an ambush at Shabqadar, Charsadda," the statement said.

However, the terrorists opened fire on CTD personnel, leading to an "intense exchange of fire," the statement said.

## Balochistan Government Employees Strike: Indefinite Shutdown Announced Across Province From June 18

**By News Desk:** The Balochistan government employees strike is set to intensify as the All Government Employees Grand Alliance (AGEGA) announced an indefinite province-wide shutdown from June 18, warning that government offices, educational institutions, and public departments across the province will remain closed until their demands are met.

The announcement came during a press conference in Quetta, where AGEGA leaders Abdul Qados Kakar and Younas Kakar condemned the

use of force against government workers during recent protests and demanded the immediate release of arrested employees.

Under the protest plan, the Balochistan strike will affect government offices, schools, colleges, and other public institutions throughout the province.

The leadership also declared that a Quetta sit-in and hunger strike will begin on June 19, describing it as a "sit-in until death" if authorities fail to address their grievances.

Speaking at the press conference, the Grand Alliance stated that the protest movement would continue and expand across Balochistan until all detained employees

are released, those responsible for the alleged violence are held accountable, and the demands of government workers are accepted.

The announcement has raised concerns about the disruption of public services, as the Balochistan government employees strike is expected

to affect administrative work, educational activities, and essential government operations across the province.

With tensions mounting, all eyes are now on possible negotiations between the provincial government and employee representatives to avert a prolonged indefinite strike in Balochistan.



## 6 suspected terrorists killed by KP CTD in 2 separate operations

**NEWS DESK:** Six suspected terrorists were killed by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) in two separate intelligence-based operations.

According to two separate press releases issued by the CTD late Tuesday night, the suspected terrorists belonged to Fata al-Khawarij — a terrorist date uses for terrorists belonging to the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan.

The first statement said the Kohat CTD received information from sources indicating that terrorists were hatching a

plot and had established a checkpoint on the Shakardara Road in an attempt to obstruct the movement of law enforcement personnel.

The statement said that upon receiving the information, a Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team reached the location, at which the "terrorists opened indiscriminate fire on the CTD personnel."

"In the ensuing exchange of fire, three Fata al-Khawarij terrorists were killed. Three Kalashnikovs, nine magazines and multiple rounds of ammunition from their possession," the statement said, adding that other accom-

plished had managed to flee the scene.

A separate press release said that the Mardan CTD received information that a "group of Fata al-Khawarij terrorists was moving from Mohmand district into Charsadda for carrying out terrorist activities."

"Taking immediate action on this information, teams were deployed to arrest the terrorists by laying an ambush at Shabqadar, Charsadda," the statement said.

However, the terrorists opened fire on CTD personnel, leading to an "intense exchange of fire," the statement said.

## Pakistan facilitates repatriation of 30 Iranian nationals: FM Dar

**NEWS DESK:** Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Wednesday said Pakistan facilitated the repatriation of 30 Iranian nationals, including eight fishermen rescued at sea by a British vessel and 22 crew members from a vessel recently interdicted by US authorities.

In a post on X, FM Dar said the group included eight Iranian fishermen rescued by the British vessel MMA Valour after their boat ran aground, and 22 Iranian crew members from the vessel Lenore/Davin.

He said both groups were expected to transit through Karachi in the coming days.

FM Dar said Pakistan remained in close coordination with the Iranian, US and UK authorities to ensure the safe transit and early return of the Iranian nationals to their homeland.

"Pakistan is pleased to facilitate the repatriation of 30 Iranian nationals," Dar wrote on X.

He added that Pakistan remained committed to humanitarian cooperation and to extending "every possible assistance to our Iranian brothers".

A day earlier, Law Minister Azam Naezer informed the National Assembly that DPM Dar had already contacted his Somali counterpart to discuss the issue, adding that the Foreign Office remained

fully engaged and issued statements regarding the situation.

Dar held a phone call last week with his Somali counterpart Abdisalam Abdi Ali to convey Pakistan's "grave" concern over the situation and underscored the importance of

ensuring the hostages' well-being, their early release, and safe repatriation.

Ali had assured Dar of Somalia's "continued and sincere efforts" to secure the hostages' release at the earliest opportunity.

Egyptian FM Separately on Wednesday, Dar held a telephone conversation with Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelaty, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a post on X.

According to the statement, the two sides exchanged views on recent understandings reached between the United States and Iran, as well as the upcoming Memorandum of Understanding in Burgenstock, Switzerland, scheduled for Friday.

They also discussed preparations for the forthcoming Regional Four (R-4) Foreign Ministers'

