



FRONT PAGE
NA lauds Pakistan's mediation in US-Iran...

Page No 1



EDITORIAL
Call for Pink Bus Expansion of Pink Bus Service in Quetta

Page No 2



BALUCHISTAN
Balochistan Moving Towards an Educational Revolution...

Page No 3



NATIONAL
PMDC Announces MDCAT 2026 Schedule

Page No 4

First Digital, Print Daily of Balochistan

Editor: Asim Khan.

Rs. 10.00 Vol. VII: No. 238

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

Saturday 20, June, 2026

QUETTA VOICE

Balochistan Government to Send Dr. Mah Noor Nasar Abroad for Treatment

Syed Ali Shah:

Quetta: The Government of Balochistan has approved sending Dr. Mah Noor Nasser, a young doctor who survived a severe acid attack, to the United States for further specialized medical treatment and recovery care.

The decision was made on the direction of Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti, with officials stating that the priority is to ensure the best possible medical support for her long-term recovery and rehabilitation.

According to the Chief Minister's Secretariat, a formal letter has already been issued to the relevant departments to begin arrangements for her treatment abroad.

This step marks the start of the official process for her transfer to the United States.

At present, Dr. Mah Noor Nasar is under treatment at the Aga Khan University Hospital in Karachi, where she has been receiving continuous medical care.

Doctors expect her treatment at the hospital to continue for about another week, depending on her condition and recovery progress.

Officials confirmed that once the initial phase of treatment in Karachi is completed, she will be shifted abroad for more advanced care, including



File Photo: Dr. Mah Noor Nasser, a young doctor who survived a severe acid attack.

specialized reconstructive procedures and long-term burn management.

Adviser to the Chief Minister, Shahid Rind, said the provincial government is committed to providing every possible facility and support, ensuring that no resource is left unused in her treatment.

The government reiterated that it remains fully focused on

her recovery and is working closely with medical experts to arrange the most suitable treatment plan abroad.

This decision highlights the broader need for advanced

burn care and reconstructive surgery facilities for acid attack victims in Pakistan, especially in severe cases requiring international-level medical intervention.

Finmin to discuss extension of Fata tax exemptions with IMF, says Sanaullah after PTI-govt meeting

NEWS DESK:

The government on Friday assured the PTI that it would discuss with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) the extension of tax exemptions for the merged districts of the erstwhile Fata and Pata regions, according to federal minister Rana Sanaullah.

Sanaullah, who also serves as the prime minister's adviser on political affairs, made the remarks after key leaders from the government and the PTI met at Parliament House.

The finance minister has promised (the opposition) that he will seek to extend these exemptions after speaking with the IMF, and God-willing, will make efforts for it," Sanaullah told reporters after the meeting.

The meeting was held in the chamber of Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb. Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Amir Muqam also attended from the government side, while Asad Qaiser, Junaid Akbar and PTI MNAs from the erstwhile Fata represented the opposition.

Sanaullah said the opposition had raised concerns with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in the National Assembly earlier in the day over the expiry of tax exemptions for the erstwhile Fata and Pata regions on June 30.

He said that the premier subsequently directed him, Aurangzeb and Amir Muqam to meet the opposition. The PML-N leader noted that Muqam had already been making efforts on the matter.

NA lauds Pakistan's mediation in US-Iran peace agreement

NEWS DESK:

The National Assembly on Friday unanimously passed a resolution recognising Pakistan's efforts in facilitating a peace agreement between the United States and Iran, saying the country's role had established it as a trusted and neutral mediator on the global stage.

The National Assembly (NA) session began under the chairmanship of Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq. Upon arriving in the House, the prime minister was welcomed by desk-thumping from lawmakers.

The resolution, moved by Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar, acknowledged what it described as Pakistan's sincere and tireless diplomatic efforts that led to the US-Iran peace agreement.

The House appreciated the role played by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir and the entire team involved in the negotiations.

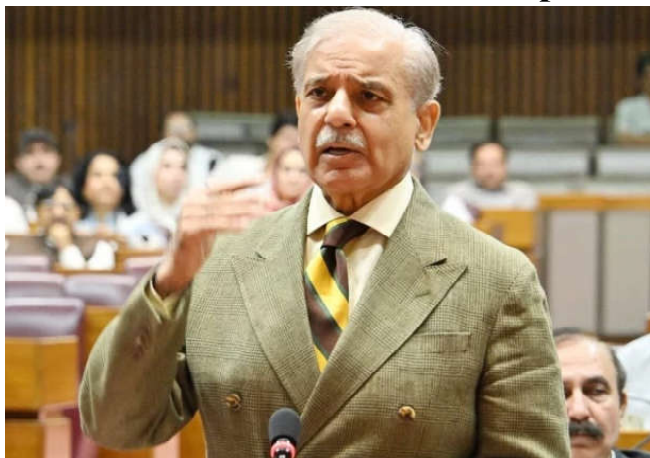
The resolution said the National Assembly noted "with immense satisfaction and pride" the diplomatic breakthrough that resulted in the cessation of hostilities and the signing of an agreement aimed at promoting peace and stability between the United States and Iran.

The House also congratulated the leadership of Iran and the United States on signing what it described as a historic peace agreement.

Pakistan, Iran to enter a new era after MoU: PM Shehbaz
Earlier, addressing the parliament, PM Shehbaz expressed confidence that Pakistan and Iran would enter a new era of prosperity,

economic cooperation and stronger bilateral relations following the signing of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Iran and the United States.

The premier said Pakistan had earned global recognition for



its role in facilitating the peace agreement, calling it a moment of pride for the nation.

"Pakistan is being acknowledged around the world for helping bring about this peace deal," the prime minister said, adding that the achievement reflected the country's growing diplomatic stature.

The prime minister said Pakistan had earned international recognition and urged lawmakers across party lines to support a unanimous resolution.

"If this House passes a unanimous resolution on this matter, it will send a message of unity to the world," he said, adding that political differences should not stand in the way of national interests.

PM Shehbaz said Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of the

Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir had played the most crucial role in securing a global peace agreement and had worked tirelessly over the past two to three months.

He also credited Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi for their contributions, saying there had been several moments when negotiations appeared close to collapse.

The prime minister congratulated opposition lawmakers as well as PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, President Asif Ali Zardari and former prime minister Nawaz Sharif.

PM Shehbaz told parliament that Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian had telephoned him on Thursday evening to thank Pakistan and had specifically ac-

knowledged Field Marshal Munir's role.

The prime minister said he had invited Pezeshkian to visit Pakistan and that the invitation had been accepted.

He added that the Iranian president had invited Pakistan to attend the funeral of Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and that a Pakistani delegation would participate.

PM Shehbaz further told the NA that a significant reduction in fuel prices would be announced later in the day, adding that oil prices had declined following a ceasefire and expressed hope they would fall further.

"Today, God willing, a significant reduction will be announced," he said, referring to fuel prices due to be revised on Friday.

makers had taken part in the debate. While nine hours had been allocated to the opposition, its members had spoken for 14 hours and four minutes, exceeding their allotted time by five hours, three minutes and 28 seconds.

The speaker said opposition claims that they were not allowed to speak were contradicted by repeated invitations extended to members to participate in the debate.

He added that Thursday's sitting had deliberately been extended by half an hour to accommodate additional speeches and that government members had also been invited to speak, but none had done so during the evening session.

Ayaz Sadiq announced that Friday's sitting would be adjourned until Saturday before Juma prayers.

Speaking during the debate, PPP lawmaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf said an Iran-US agreement had demonstrated Pakistan's desire for global peace and claimed Pakistan had helped avert a third world war.

He congratulated Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Asim Munir and called for government employees' salaries to be increased by 10 per cent, arguing that the proposed seven per cent raise was insufficient.

Ashraf said political stability, improved law and order, poverty reduction and consensus-based policymaking were essential for economic growth and foreign investment.

He also addressed the situation in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), saying he had served on a government negotiating team that accepted 80 per cent of protesters' demands, while the issue of refugee seats remained unresolved.

According to Ashraf, electricity tariffs were reduced to Rs3 per unit and flour subsidies were granted as part of the negotiations.

He called for the formation of another negotiating committee and urged both protesters and authorities to pursue dialogue.

He said 66 opposition law-

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Call for Pink Bus Expansion of Pink Bus Service in Quetta



Editorial: The Balochistan government's recent approval of the Pink Bus Service in Quetta is a landmark step toward providing women with safe, reliable, and dignified public transportation. Led by Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti and executed by Dr. Faisal Ahmed Khan, Chief of Public-Private Partnership, this initiative marks a first in Balochistan and follows the successful model implemented in Sindh. Launching this women-only service with three buses is a promising start, but Quetta's growing demand calls for a larger fleet. To effectively address the transportation challenges women face, the government should ex-

pand this service to include at least a dozen pink buses. A more extensive fleet would significantly enhance women's mobility, providing not only a safe travel option but also empowering access to education, employment, and healthcare facilities. Female commuters often encounter issues like overcrowding, harassment, and long wait times. A larger pink bus fleet would offer them timely, comfortable, and safe transportation, reducing the daily struggles they face on public transport. Such an expansion aligns with the government's agenda for social inclusion and gender-focused urban development, creating

a supportive environment where women can travel freely. The Pink Bus Service represents more than just transportation; it's an investment in women's empowerment and independence. By increasing the fleet, Balochistan can set a strong precedent for gender-responsive policies that promote equal access to public spaces. Expanding this service in Quetta can serve as a model for other cities, creating a more inclusive society for women across the province. Let's call on the Balochistan government to enhance this project by committing to a dozen buses, meeting the demand for decent and secure transportation for women in Quetta.

Malnutrition in Balochistan

Amber Munir in Balochistan shared in Quetta Voice on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 page 04. The article highlights the role of essential nutrients in human resource development along with a brief introduction of malnutrition, characterization of malnutrition, procedure of taking measurements of SAM and MAM cases, medical complications, community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM), infant and young child feeding (IYCF), etc. Background: Surveys regarding Nutrition National Nutrition Survey (2001-2002): The National Nutrition Survey conducted in 2001-2002 assessed the nutritional levels and health status of mothers and children in Pakistan. Data was collected through a questionnaire consisting of four modules including a household questionnaire, biochemical and clinical questionnaires, and a dietary form. Additional biochemical samples including serum retinol, serum ferritin, and zinc, were collected from mothers and children under-5. Urine samples were collected from mothers and children ages 6-12 years for iodine deficiency. The survey sampled 10,656 households from 700 primary sampling units.

National Nutrition Survey (2011): The NNS 2011 covered all provinces: Gilgit Baltistan (GB), Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Sindh, Punjab, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). This included 1,500 enumeration blocks (EBs)/villages and 30,000 households, with a 49% urban and 51% rural distribution. National Nutrition Survey (2018): The 2018 Pakistan National Nutrition Survey (NNS 2018)

is the largest national nutrition survey carried out in Pakistan. It is designed to provide policymakers, program managers, and academicians a unique set of nutrition-related data including environmental, anthropometric, and biochemical indicators. National Nutrition Survey (2019): The aim of NNS 2018-19 is to undertake a field survey and generate district-specific nutrition information related to malnutrition (both undernutrition and overnutrition) and micronutrient deficiencies among women and children in Pakistan. Malnutrition status in Balochistan: Balochistan is the most under-developed of Pakistan's provinces, with a high proportion of children under five years of age who are stunted (52%) and 16 percent of who are wasted. Moreover, the prevalence of anemia among children in this age group is 57%

and nearly 49% among women of childbearing age. Numerous factors are thought to contribute to child undernutrition in Balochistan, including sub-optimal infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices; frequent child infections (especially diarrhea diseases and measles); maternal nutritional deficiencies and/or illness and death; absence/adequacy of micronutrient supplementation, and household food insecurity and gender inequity. A survey conducted by the National Nutrition Cell revealed that 49% of women in Balochistan were suffering from malnutrition. Moreover, the ratio of maternal anemia was 49%, anemia among children below five years was 57% and iodine deficiency among women was 29%. Balochistan Nutrition Program for Mother and Children (BNPMC)

In response to the challenging nutrition situation in the province, the Department of Health (DoH) launched the Nutrition Program for Mothers and Children (BNPMC) in 2016. They implemented nutrition activities among the rural and urban population of seven selected districts. The total population of these districts is 1,654,613, of which estimated target populations include 152,369 pregnant and lactating women (PLW). Stakeholders include the DoH, Peoples Primary Healthcare Initiative (providing health services at Basic Health Units in the districts), and local NGOs. The total cost of the above project was 1,492.62 million PKR (US\$142.1 million) of which 80% were provided by the World Bank and 20% by the Government of Balochistan. A major part of the funding

(41%) was allocated to strengthen institutional arrangements which include staffing, technical assistance for capacity building, strengthening coordination mechanisms, addressing malnutrition among children and PLW (37%), and addressing micronutrient malnutrition (13%). Future Plans: The aforesaid program ended in December 2019 and was limited to seven districts, whereas the malnutrition situation continues to exist in 22 districts of Balochistan. Therefore, the Government of Balochistan has assigned DoH and PPHI to extend nutrition intervention in 22 districts for which project proposals are ready; implementation is expected from July 2021. The author is a program officer in PPHI

is the largest national nutrition survey carried out in Pakistan. It is designed to provide policymakers, program managers, and academicians a unique set of nutrition-related data including environmental, anthropometric, and biochemical indicators. National Nutrition Survey (2019): The aim of NNS 2018-19 is to undertake a field survey and generate district-specific nutrition information related to malnutrition (both undernutrition and overnutrition) and micronutrient deficiencies among women and children in Pakistan. Malnutrition status in Balochistan: Balochistan is the most under-developed of Pakistan's provinces, with a high proportion of children under five years of age who are stunted (52%) and 16 percent of who are wasted. Moreover, the prevalence of anemia among children in this age group is 57%

and nearly 49% among women of childbearing age. Numerous factors are thought to contribute to child undernutrition in Balochistan, including sub-optimal infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices; frequent child infections (especially diarrhea diseases and measles); maternal nutritional deficiencies and/or illness and death; absence/adequacy of micronutrient supplementation, and household food insecurity and gender inequity. A survey conducted by the National Nutrition Cell revealed that 49% of women in Balochistan were suffering from malnutrition. Moreover, the ratio of maternal anemia was 49%, anemia among children below five years was 57% and iodine deficiency among women was 29%. Balochistan Nutrition Program for Mother and Children (BNPMC)

In response to the challenging nutrition situation in the province, the Department of Health (DoH) launched the Nutrition Program for Mothers and Children (BNPMC) in 2016. They implemented nutrition activities among the rural and urban population of seven selected districts. The total population of these districts is 1,654,613, of which estimated target populations include 152,369 pregnant and lactating women (PLW). Stakeholders include the DoH, Peoples Primary Healthcare Initiative (providing health services at Basic Health Units in the districts), and local NGOs. The total cost of the above project was 1,492.62 million PKR (US\$142.1 million) of which 80% were provided by the World Bank and 20% by the Government of Balochistan. A major part of the funding

(41%) was allocated to strengthen institutional arrangements which include staffing, technical assistance for capacity building, strengthening coordination mechanisms, addressing malnutrition among children and PLW (37%), and addressing micronutrient malnutrition (13%). Future Plans: The aforesaid program ended in December 2019 and was limited to seven districts, whereas the malnutrition situation continues to exist in 22 districts of Balochistan. Therefore, the Government of Balochistan has assigned DoH and PPHI to extend nutrition intervention in 22 districts for which project proposals are ready; implementation is expected from July 2021. The author is a program officer in PPHI

South-West Asia and the War Against Narcotics: Where Does Pakistan Stand?

By Dr. B. Sultan: Lady Macbeth once remarked that "a little water clears us of this deed" after the assassination of the King. Yet, with time, she remained haunted, obsessively rubbing her hands in an attempt to cleanse the imagined stains of blood. The persistence of narcotics production and trade in South-West Asia resembles this unending struggle—a dark reality that cannot be easily washed away. Afghanistan has long been recognized as the world's largest producer of opium, with its roots tracing back to the early 1900s. Over the decades, the repercussions of this industry spilled into neighboring Pakistan and Iran. In the late 2000s, Taliban leader Mullah Omar imposed a strict ban on poppy cultivation through threats, forced eradication, and severe punishments. However, as revealed by the UNODC Opium Survey 2007, the ban primarily targeted cultivation while the trade continued. After the fall of the Taliban, opium again became a major source of funding for logistics, weapons, and militia payments. In 2022, the Taliban leadership once again announced a ban on poppy cultivation, with Hibatullah Akhundzada officially declaring significant reductions. Some



Western reports, supported by satellite imagery, showcased declining poppy fields in southern Afghanistan. However, this raises critical questions: Can Afghanistan realistically abandon such a central economic resource while facing sanctions? And what consequences does this shift have for Pakistan? While certain international outlets hastily claim that Pakistan has become a new hub for narcotics, such narratives ignore key realities. The issue is not a simple matter of "shifting sands" but a complex regional security challenge. The porous border between

Pakistan and Afghanistan, coupled with cross-border networks of drug traffickers, means temporary shifts in cultivation are often strategic rather than permanent. Moreover, Afghanistan's pivot towards methamphetamine production—highlighted by satellite

evidence of expanded opium processing hubs—reflects adaptive strategies of traffickers rather than genuine eradication. In Pakistan, however, the situation is markedly different. Since 2001, the country has largely maintained its "poppy-free" status, despite spo-

radic spillovers from Afghanistan. Following the Taliban's 2022 ban, some illicit cultivations did emerge in border areas, particularly within Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Yet, these were swiftly addressed through Pakistan's Poppy Elimination Campaign

(PEC-2025). This multi-agency effort, led by the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) and provincial administrations, successfully destroyed thousands of acres of illegal poppy fields. Over 250 FIRs were registered, dozens of arrests were made, and awareness campaigns

were launched across educational institutions. Importantly, independent surveys after March 2025 confirmed the effectiveness of these eradication drives. Pakistan's determination to combat narcotics often remains under-reported internationally, overshadowed by outdated or selective portrayals. The fact remains: Pakistan continues to fight this menace not only for its own stability but also for global security. What is urgently needed is greater recognition of these efforts by the international community and enhanced cooperation from agencies such as the UNODC. As South-West Asia remains at the heart of global narcotics trade routes, Pakistan's role is both frontline and decisive. Balochistan, in particular, holds the potential to transform from a vulnerable transit zone into a hub of opportunity, stability, and resilience. Just as Lady Macbeth's imagined guilt could not be washed away with water, the global community cannot absolve itself of responsibility by ignoring Pakistan's sacrifices and achievements in this ongoing struggle. The fight against narcotics requires collective recognition, support, and action—not selective narratives.

Balochistan Moving Towards an Educational Revolution in Higher Education Sector, Says Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has announced that the province is steadily moving toward an educational revolution in the higher education sector, with a strong focus on modernizing medical education and producing a skilled workforce capable of meeting national and international demands.



The governor made these remarks during a meeting with Professor Dr. Shabbir Ahmed Lohr, Vice Chancellor of Bolan University of Medical and Health Sciences (BUMHS), in Quetta.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Mandokhail said that Balochistan has initiated a transformative process in medical education through Bolan University of Medical and Health Sciences.

The ambitious initiative aims to produce 10,000 medical professionals and healthcare technicians annually, significantly strengthening the healthcare sector and creating new employment opportunities for the province's youth.

He stated that the program has initially been launched through Bolan Medical University, an institution fully dedicated to excellence in medical education and healthcare training.

According to the governor, the government is committed to expanding this successful model to other public sector universities across Balochistan in the near future. Highlighting the importance of employment prospects, Governor Mandokhail noted that the global healthcare industry currently offers thousands of job opportunities for trained medical professionals and technicians.

He emphasized that the future educational strategy will integrate diploma programs with academic degree courses, allowing students to acquire industry-relevant skills without placing additional pressure on existing educational resources. These graduates will no longer have to spend years searching for government jobs. Instead, they will be equipped with practical skills that can help them secure employment opportunities both locally and internationally, he said.

The governor stressed that empowering young people with modern and market-driven skills will enable them to serve the people of Balochistan effectively while also contributing successfully in the global workforce. He added that such skills will not only help achieve economic independence and contribute directly to national growth and development.

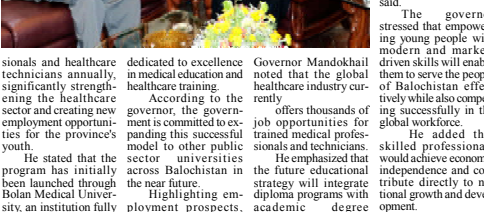
Assistant Commissioner Sohbatpur Conducts Surprise Inspection of DHQ Hospital, Reviews Healthcare Services

SOHBATPUR: Acting Deputy Commissioner Sohbatpur conducted a detailed surprise inspection of the District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital, reviewed the overall functioning of the hospital and evaluated the quality of services being provided to patients.

Officials reported that all doctors, paramedical staff, and other hospital employees were present at their respective duties during the inspection.

Assistant Commissioner Saifuddin Khoso expressed satisfaction over staff attendance and commitment to their responsibilities. He also carefully examined the attendance register and issued necessary instructions to the relevant authorities.

He directed the hospital administration and staff to ensure the uninterrupted provision of quality and timely medical treatment to all patients. Emphasizing the importance of professional conduct, he instructed healthcare workers to treat patients with cleanliness and hygiene conditions of the facility.



Quetta Administration Reviews Muharram Security and Facilities in Meeting with Shia Conference Representatives

QUETTA: Deputy Commissioner Mehruallah Badini chaired an important meeting with representatives of the Shia Conference to review arrangements for Muharram-ul-Haram and Ashura observances in the provincial capital.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held regarding the provision of essential facilities for mourners, including the supply of water and gas, as well as comprehensive security arrangements and other related administrative measures.

Representatives of the Shia Conference presented their suggestions and recommendations, which were duly noted by the district administration for further consideration and implementation where necessary.

Deputy Commissioner Quetta assured participants that all possible facilities would be provided to mourners during Muharram, and that foolproof security arrangements would be ensured across the district to maintain peace and order during religious gatherings.

The meeting was also attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Muhammad Anwar Kakar and Assistant Muhammad Yousof Hashmi, along with other relevant officials. The district administration reaffirmed its commitment to facilitating peaceful religious observances and ensuring the safety and convenience of citizens during the holy month. Quetta Senior district officials attended the meeting. Commitment to peaceful and well-organized religious observances. Muharram Arrangements Quetta, Ashura Security Pakistan, Shia Conference Meeting, Mehruallah Badini, Religious Events Quetta, District Administration Quetta, Public Safety M u h a r r a m, Balochistan News.

DC Naseerabad Conducts Surprise Visit to BHU Kot Mengal, Orders Action Against Absent Medical Staff

NASEERABAD: In line with the Government of Balochistan's efforts to ensure the provision of quality and timely healthcare services, Deputy Commissioner Virender Lal conducted a surprise inspection of Basic Health Unit (BHU) Kot Mengal on Friday.

During the visit, the deputy commissioner carried out a detailed review of the healthcare services being provided at the facility, including the availability of medicines, cleanliness standards, patient care arrangements, and overall operational performance of the health center.

Expressing strong dissatisfaction over the absence of doctors and paramedical staff, Deputy Commissioner Virender Lal directed that a formal report regarding their absenteeism be submitted to higher authorities for further action.

While interacting with the medical staff present at the facility, he emphasized that Basic Health Units were established to provide immediate and quality healthcare services to residents of rural and remote areas at their doorstep. He stated that any negligence in achieving this objective would not be tolerated.

The deputy commissioner instructed doctors and paramedical staff to perform their professional responsibilities with honesty, dedication, and a strong sense of accountability. He stressed the importance of ensuring timely, effective, and quality medical treatment for every patient visiting the health facility. He further warned that strict action would be taken against any official found guilty of negligence, carelessness, or lack of interest in delivering healthcare services. Virender Lal reiterated that the district administration is utilizing all available resources to ensure full implementation of the healthcare directives issued by the Government of Balochistan, with the goal of improving public access to essential medical services. The deputy commissioner reaffirmed his commitment to enhancing the quality of public services and improving institutional performance through regular surprise inspections. He noted that such visits would continue in order to strengthen accountability, improve service delivery, and provide maximum relief to the public.

DC Dukki Reviews SAP Birth Date Correction Cases for Government Employees, Approves Eligible Applications

DUKKI: Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Naem Khan chaired an important meeting regarding the correction of birth dates in the SAP system for government employees across the district. The meeting was attended by members of the relevant committee, district officials, and affected government employees.

During the session, all submitted applications and cases were reviewed in detail, while supporting documents were thoroughly scrutinized to ensure compliance with government rules and procedures. Cases found to be complete and accurate were approved, while some applications requiring additional verification and supporting documentation were granted extra time for completion. Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Naem Khan directed the concerned authorities to process all cases in a transparent, fair, and impartial manner in accordance with government regulations. He emphasized that deserving employees should receive timely relief while ensuring the accuracy and integrity of official records. The deputy commissioner highlighted the importance of maintaining correct information in government.

CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS COASTAL AT UTHAL. INVITATION FOR BIDS. DESIGN, BUILD, FINANCE, OPERATE, MAINTAIN AND TRANSFER CARBON OFFSET PROJECT - AFFORESTATION, REFORESTATION AND REVEGETATION (ARF) PROJECT IN BALUCHISTAN INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (ICB). PROJECT BRIEF: The Balochistan Forest & Wildlife Department, in collaboration with the Public-Private Partnership Authority (P3PA), invites fresh proposals from potential national and international bidders to develop and implement the Balochistan Carbon Offset Project under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP).

Sariab Master Plan Approved for the First Time in History: Major Development Milestone Attributed to Haji Ali Madad Jatak's Efforts

QUETTA: A landmark development for the residents of Sariaab, the Sariaab Master Plan has received provincial approval for the first time in the area's history.

The achievement is being widely credited to the tireless efforts, strategic leadership, and public-focused vision of Provincial Minister, senior Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader, and prominent public representative Haji Ali Madad Jatak.

The approval of the Sariaab Master Plan is being hailed as a historic and transformative step toward sustainable urban development, economic growth, and improved public services in the region. Local residents and stakeholders have expressed optimism that the implementation of the master plan will not only significantly improve the area's infrastructure and appearance but also create new employment opportunities, attract investment, and provide modern facilities to thousands of residents.

Public circles have praised Haji Ali Madad Jatak's leadership and dedication.



Quetta Administration Reviews Muharram Security and Facilities in Meeting with Shia Conference Representatives

QUETTA: Deputy Commissioner Mehruallah Badini chaired an important meeting with representatives of the Shia Conference to review arrangements for Muharram-ul-Haram and Ashura observances in the provincial capital.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held regarding the provision of essential facilities for mourners, including the supply of water and gas, as well as comprehensive security arrangements and other related administrative measures.

Representatives of the Shia Conference presented their suggestions and recommendations, which were duly noted by the district administration for further consideration and implementation where necessary.

Deputy Commissioner Quetta assured participants that all possible facilities would be provided to mourners during Muharram, and that foolproof security arrangements would be ensured across the district to maintain peace and order during religious gatherings.

The meeting was also attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Muhammad Anwar Kakar and Assistant Muhammad Yousof Hashmi, along with other relevant officials. The district administration reaffirmed its commitment to facilitating peaceful religious observances and ensuring the safety and convenience of citizens during the holy month. Quetta Senior district officials attended the meeting. Commitment to peaceful and well-organized religious observances. Muharram Arrangements Quetta, Ashura Security Pakistan, Shia Conference Meeting, Mehruallah Badini, Religious Events Quetta, District Administration Quetta, Public Safety M u h a r r a m, Balochistan News.

DC Naseerabad Conducts Surprise Visit to BHU Kot Mengal, Orders Action Against Absent Medical Staff

NASEERABAD: In line with the Government of Balochistan's efforts to ensure the provision of quality and timely healthcare services, Deputy Commissioner Virender Lal conducted a surprise inspection of Basic Health Unit (BHU) Kot Mengal on Friday.

During the visit, the deputy commissioner carried out a detailed review of the healthcare services being provided at the facility, including the availability of medicines, cleanliness standards, patient care arrangements, and overall operational performance of the health center.

Expressing strong dissatisfaction over the absence of doctors and paramedical staff, Deputy Commissioner Virender Lal directed that a formal report regarding their absenteeism be submitted to higher authorities for further action.

While interacting with the medical staff present at the facility, he emphasized that Basic Health Units were established to provide immediate and quality healthcare services to residents of rural and remote areas at their doorstep. He stated that any negligence in achieving this objective would not be tolerated.

The deputy commissioner instructed doctors and paramedical staff to perform their professional responsibilities with honesty, dedication, and a strong sense of accountability. He stressed the importance of ensuring timely, effective, and quality medical treatment for every patient visiting the health facility. He further warned that strict action would be taken against any official found guilty of negligence, carelessness, or lack of interest in delivering healthcare services. Virender Lal reiterated that the district administration is utilizing all available resources to ensure full implementation of the healthcare directives issued by the Government of Balochistan, with the goal of improving public access to essential medical services. The deputy commissioner reaffirmed his commitment to enhancing the quality of public services and improving institutional performance through regular surprise inspections. He noted that such visits would continue in order to strengthen accountability, improve service delivery, and provide maximum relief to the public.

MILITARY ENGINEER SERVICES NOTICE OF TENDER. Tender notice No. DW/SC/6000-Adv/5mg/13/E-6 dated 16 June, 2026. 01. The office of CMWS (P) Chakdara invites sealed tenders for the following works in light of PPKA Rule 13 (1) of 2004-05. (i) Prov'n of certain facilities at PAF Base (NN) Rs. 30,362 Million (ii) Prov'n of certain facilities at PAF Base (NN) Rs. 28,599 Million (iii) Prov'n of certain facilities at PAF Base (NN) Rs. 22,072 Million (iv) Prov'n of certain facilities at PAF Base (NN) Rs. 24,512 Million (v) Prov'n of certain facilities at PAF Base (NN) Rs. 22,003 Million

Info ministry refutes Afghan Taliban's claim of strikes in border areas

NEWS DESK: The information ministry on Friday refuted Afghanistan's claims of targeting alleged terrorist camps in the border areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

In a statement on its fact check account, the ministry said, "The Afghan Taliban regime, through its various propaganda mouthpieces and official statements, is claiming to have targeted some alleged ISKP camps in border areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan using rudimentary drones."

"The claims are false as usual," it declared. The ministry added that terrorist camps, including "those of Daesh and more than two dozen other terrorist organisations are factually located, run and patronised from inside the territories under control of the Afghan Taliban regime."

According to the statement, one rudimentary drone of the Taliban regime intruded into Pakistan's airspace near Shinke, Khyber and was "immediately identified and neutralised by the alert air defence system of the Pakistan Air Force." The ministry also shared a picture of the drone.



the aforementioned drone. It asserted that the Taliban regime was "used to [issuing] such fake and nefarious statements" to cover their "patronisation of terrorism waged in neighbouring countries and region, including that from Daesh, Fitna Al Hindustani and others".

The Pakistani government uses the term 'Fitna Al Hindustani' to refer to the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and its affiliates. It uses the term 'Fitna Al Hindustani' to refer to groups it accuses of being sponsored by India to execute terrorist attacks on Pakistani soil.

Earlier in the day, the Afghan Taliban had claimed "air strikes" on what it described as "terrorist hideouts" in KP and Balochistan, both of which share a border with Afghanistan. The development comes over a week after Pakistan carried out strikes on terrorist hideouts along its border with Afghanistan, which Information Minister Attaullah Tarar said killed 26 terrorists.

Those strikes were carried out in the aftermath of continued terrorist incidents in Pakistan that targeted military and police personnel. Islamabad has repeatedly urged the Taliban administration to dismantle terrorist sanctuaries on Afghan soil, particularly those linked to TTP. Officials say those appeals have gone unheeded.

The Afghan Taliban have denied the allegations and say military operations in Pakistan is an internal problem. In February, following unprovoked fir-

ing by the Afghan Taliban from across the border, Pakistan launched Operation Ghazab lil-Haq.

China's mediation between Islamabad and Kabul, as part of which talks were held in Urumqi in April, resulted in a lull in hostilities until the June 9 strikes by Pakistan.

Foreign Office has underscored that progress in ties with Afghanistan hinges on credible counter-terrorism assurances from Kabul, particularly a commitment that its soil would not be used for attacks against Pakistan. Islamabad has also repeatedly voiced its concerns about the usage of Afghan soil for cross-border terrorism on international platforms, particularly the United Nations.

PM Shehbaz announces likely fuel price reduction, seeks unity in House

NEWS DESK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday told the National Assembly (NA) that a significant reduction in fuel prices would be announced later in the day and called for a unanimous parliamentary resolution to project national unity, as he hailed Pakistan's role in recent diplomatic efforts that he said contributed to global peace.

The NA session began under the chairmanship of Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq. Upon arriving in the House, the prime minister was welcomed by desk-thumping from lawmakers.

Addressing the House during the budget session, PM Shehbaz said oil prices had declined following a ceasefire and expressed hope they would fall further.

"Today, God willing, a significant reduction will be announced," he said, referring to fuel prices due to be revised on Friday.

The prime minister said Pakistan had earned international recognition and urged lawmakers across party lines to support a unanimous resolution.

"If this House passes a unanimous resolution on this matter, it will send a message of unity to the world," he said, adding that political differences should not stand in the way of national interests.

PM Shehbaz said Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of the Army

Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir had played the most crucial role in securing a global peace agreement and had worked tirelessly over the past two to three months.

He also credited Deputy Prime Minister

Pakistan and had specifically acknowledged Field Marshal Asim Munir's role.

The prime minister said he had invited Pesheshkian to visit Pakistan and that the invitation had been accepted. He added that the Iranian

PM Shehbaz later walked to the seats of Opposition Leader Mahmood Khan Achakzai and PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan to shake hands with them.

Speaker Ayaz Sadiq provided details of par-



liament and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi for their

contributions, saying there had been several moments when negotiations appeared close to collapse.

The prime minister congratulated opposition lawmakers as well as PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, President Asif Ali Zardari and former prime minister Nawaz Sharif.

PM Shehbaz told parliament that Iranian President Masoud Pesheshkian had telephoned him on Thursday evening to thank

and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi for their contributions, saying there had been several moments when negotiations appeared close to collapse.

The prime minister congratulated opposition lawmakers as well as PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, President Asif Ali Zardari and former prime minister Nawaz Sharif.

which had been rattled by months of uncertainty and fears of a wider regional conflict.

Within hours of the signing ceremony, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif held a telephone conversation with President Pesheshkian. The two leaders spoke for nearly 30 minutes and reviewed the implementation of the agreement as well as the next phase of diplomatic engagement.

Pakistan's role has drawn praise not only from regional capitals but from across the international community. President Trump has

PMDC Announces MDCAT 2026 Schedule

Syed Muhammad Yaseen

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Medical and Dental Council has officially released the schedule for MDCAT (Medical and Dental College Admission Test) 2026, the mandatory entry test for admission into MBBS and BDS programs across Pakistan.

According to the official announcement, the exam will be held on Sunday 16 August 2026 at 10:00 AM (PST) under designated admitting uni-

versities assigned to different regions, including UHS Lahore, KML Peshawar, Sukkur IBA University, BUMHS Quetta, and SZABMU Islamabad, along with international test centres.

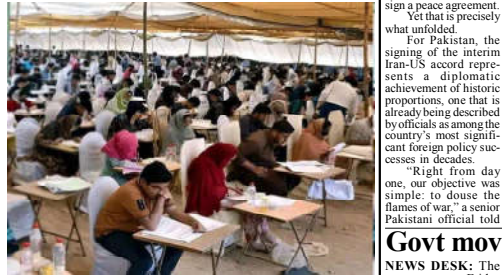
Registration Timeline: Start of registration: 22 June 2026

Last date (normal): 8 July 2026
Late registration deadline: 13 July 2026
Fee Structure: PKR 9,000

Late registration (Pakistan): PKR 13,000

International centres: PKR 45,000
Late registration (international): PKR 55,000

The council has clarified that all fees are non-refundable and non-transferable. The MDCAT remains the centralized screening mechanism for admissions into medical and dental colleges nationwide, used by both public and private institutions for merit-based selection.



FY2026-27: KP CM presents Rs2.17tr budget, with estimated fiscal deficit of Rs48bn

NEWS DESK: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi is presenting the provincial budget for the fiscal year 2026-27 in the KP Assembly.

The budget outlay is Rs2.17 trillion, with an estimated fiscal deficit of Rs48 billion, according to the budget documents.

At the outset of his budget speech, he said all parliamentarians of the PTI from the provincial assembly had "unanimously decided" to present the budget.

founder Imran Khan. Afridi also announced that the budget he was presenting had a deficit of Rs48bn. "The KP government will not seek a loan of Rs48bn from anyone," he said, adding that "we will provide this amount to the people of KP from our own resources."

Moreover, he said the budget would be in accordance with the Federal Board of Revenue's tax collection target of Rs1.2 trillion. "There will be no grants for the Centre in this budget," he asserted. The KP CM went on to say that his government's representatives had clearly stated in a meeting of

the National Economic Council that a decision on providing grants to the Centre could not be made without consulting Imran.

"We said Imran Khan sahib is the final authority on this," he said, adding that the KP government's representatives were not being allowed to meet Imran. He said his party had demanded a meeting with Imran ahead of the provincial budget, further reiterating the PTI's allegation that Imran and his spouse, Bushra Bibi, were being kept in solitary confinement.

He earlier presided over a meeting of the provincial cabinet, which approved the budget.

From wild fantasy to reality

NEWS DESK: When Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday morning put his signature on the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding, it marked the culmination of an extraordinary diplomatic process that many would have dismissed as pure fantasy only a few months ago.

Few, if any, could have imagined that Pakistan would not only emerge as the principal mediator between Iran and the United States during one of the most dangerous crises in recent Middle Eastern history, but would also succeed in convincing the two bitter adversaries to sign a peace agreement.

Let that be precisely what unfolded. For Pakistan, the signing of the interim Iran-US accord represents a diplomatic achievement of historic proportions, one that is already being described by officials as among the country's most significant foreign policy successes in decades.

"Right from day one, our objective was simple: to douse the flames of war," a senior Pakistani official told

The Express Tribune on condition of anonymity. "God willing, we have achieved that milestone.

There was a point when the region appeared to be heading towards a catastrophe. Today, there is hope," the official added.

The formal signing ceremony was initially scheduled to take place in the Swiss resort town of Burgenstock on Friday.

However, diplomatic sources said both US President Donald Trump and Iranian President Masoud Pesheshkian eventually signed the memorandum

digitally, a move that was later endorsed by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in his capacity as the chief facilitator of the peace process.

The agreement paved the way for an immediate easing of tensions. The United States moved to lift its naval blockade measures while Iran began reopening the Strait of Hormuz, a vital global energy artery

which had been rattled by months of uncertainty and fears of a wider regional conflict. Within hours of the signing ceremony, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif held a telephone conversation with President Pesheshkian. The two leaders spoke for nearly 30 minutes and reviewed the implementation of the agreement as well as the next phase of diplomatic engagement.

Pakistan's role has drawn praise not only from regional capitals but from across the international community. President Trump has

publicly acknowledged Islamabad's contribution to the peace effort on several occasions, while diplomatic sources say several European and Gulf states have commended Pakistan for preventing what could have become a devastating regional war.

Perhaps the most striking reaction, however, came from Iran itself. A diplomat serving in Tehran described scenes unfolding across the country as "unprecedented": "Pakistani diplomats and embassy officials are witnessing something that no diplomatic reporting can fully capture," the diplomat said.

"There is genuine jubilation. There is relief. Above all, there is gratitude."

According to diplomatic sources, the announcement of the peace agreement triggered spontaneous celebrations in various parts of the country. From university campuses and public squares to sports grounds and city streets, a mood of optimism appears to have replaced months of anxiety and uncertainty.

Govt moves to fully digitise passport issuance system

NEWS DESK: The government on Friday decided to transition its passport issuance system to a complete e-passport framework as part of sweeping reforms aimed at modernising immigration services and eliminating fraud.

According to the Interior Ministry, a high-level meeting on Passport and Immigration was held at the headquarters under the chairmanship of Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, where key decisions regarding the digital overhaul of the system were approved.

A principal decision was taken to fully shift passport issuance to e-passports, with the move aimed at reducing fraud and forgery in the passport system. However, a deadline has been announced for the phase-out of existing

passports. The Director General of Passports and Immigration, Muhammad Ali Randhawa, briefed the minister on ongoing reforms and plans. Officials said premium service applicants will now be charged according to the actual cost of passport services.

According to the briefing, preparatory work for home delivery of passports without Pakistan abroad had been completed, and the service will be launched soon.

From July 1, a cashless payment system will be introduced at passport offices across the country, and online passport

applications will also be shifted to the PKID platform.

The meeting also decided to finalise a policy for business passports in consultation with the Federal Board of Revenue.

The ministry said the reforms are part of broader efforts to make the passport system more efficient,

transparent, and citizen-friendly.

According to the Ministry of Interior, the e-Passport is a highly secure travel document. It has an electronic chip embedded in one of the passport pages, which will be used to store biometric information about the holder.

The chip contains data that will verify the passport holder's identity and will include the biometrics of the passport holder, the person data found on the data page of the passport, a unique identification number, and a digital signature.

An e-passport has a contactless chip on it which means that those passports can be read electronically. The newly launched e-passports in Pakistan ensure compliance with the United Nations' ICAO standards.

