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# QUETTA VOICE

## Karachi Rangers Camp Attack: Injured Terrorists Reveal Afghanistan Involvement, Security Sources Reveal

Our Correspondent:

Fresh details have emerged in the investigation into the recent attack on a Pakistan Rangers Sindh camp in Karachi, with an injured terrorist allegedly revealing information about an Afghanistan-based network linked to the assault, according to security sources.

Officials familiar with the investigation said the arrested suspect, identified as Usman Ali, claimed during interrogation that he entered Pakistan from Afghanistan through an organized cross-border network. He reportedly told investigators that he traveled from Jalalabad with three other terrorists, Abdul Hadi, Janan, and Umar Farooq, to carry out the planned attack. According to security sources, the suspect alleged that Janan threw the explosive device at the Rangers camp, while Abdul Hadi was killed during the security forces' response. He further claimed that the group had crossed into Pakistan about a week before the attack and remained hidden in an under-construction building arranged by Abdul Hadi, who was familiar with the local area.

Investigators were also told that the weapons used in the attack had allegedly been transported from Waziristan before the operation. The suspect claimed he was wounded by security forces while attempting to flee the scene after the attack.

Security sources said the injured terrorist admitted to being a member of the banned terrorist outfit Jamaat-ul-Ahrar (JuA). During questioning, he allegedly identified the group's commander

as Ahrar Maulvi Sahib, whom he claimed operates from Afghanistan. The suspect further alleged that he and his associates had received specialized terrorist training in Afghanistan before entering Pakistan. According to security sources, the training included tactical warfare, handling explosives, and assembling suicide jackets. He also claimed that an instructor identified as Umar Qari supervised the training, while operational planning and logistical support for the Karachi attack were coordinated from Afghanistan. Officials said the suspect further disclosed that Abdul Hadi had previously operated in Karachi and played a key role in arranging accommodation, transporting weapons, and facilitating the movement of the group before the attack. Security agencies are continuing their investigation to verify the suspect's claims and trace other individuals allegedly connected to the network. Authorities emphasized that the interrogation is ongoing and that all disclosures are being examined through intelligence and forensic evidence. Defense and security experts say the alleged confessional statements support Pakistan's longstanding concerns regarding cross-border terrorism. They maintain that terrorist organizations continue to exploit safe havens outside Pakistan to plan and coordinate attacks, underscoring the need for stronger regional cooperation and effective counterterrorism measures. The Karachi Rangers camp attack remains under investigation as security agencies work to dismantle the network behind the assault and prevent future terrorist incidents.



File Photo: Govt formally transfers management control of PIA to Arif Habib-led consortium.

## Govt formally transfers management control of PIA to Arif Habib-led consortium

NEWS DESK:

The Privatisation Commission on Monday announced the formal transfer of management control of Pakistan International Airlines Corporation Limited (PIACL) to the Arif Habib Corporation-led consortium, culminating the privatisation process that began last year.

"The government achieves first financial closing of PIACL privatisation transaction with management control transferred to the investor consortium following satisfaction of all conditions precedent under the Share Purchase and Subscription Agreement (SPSA)," said the Privatisation Commission after a meeting of the restructured board.

The new board appointed Lt Gen (ret) Anwar Ali Haider, managing director of Fauji Foundation, as the first chairman of the privatised entity.

In its press release, the commission commended the "support and guidance" of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, and other relevant cabinet committees and officials.

"Since execution of the SPSA on January 29, 2026, the Privatisation Commission and other GoP stakeholders including Ministry of Defence completed challenging Conditions Precedent under the SPSA," the PC said.

"These included domestic and overseas regulatory approvals, lessors and commercial consents, aviation policy reforms, corporate approvals, restructuring of taxation relating to legacy liabilities, aircraft financing arrangements, governance changes, tax-related matters, airport infrastructure arrangements, and the provision of transaction security by the investor consortium," the statement said.

There were a total of 40 Conditions Precedents in regulatory, commercial and contractual consents, taxation matters, shareholders restructuring, rental arrangements and governance matters.

On the regulatory side, the transaction required approvals, notices and confirmations from multiple regulatory authorities. These included aviation-related approvals from the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority, merger control filings with the Competition Commission of Pakistan, and change-of-control-related processes involving the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority.

Given PIACL's international operations, coordination was also required with foreign aviation authorities and aviation safety bodies. In this regard, international merger control clearances in relevant foreign jurisdictions, including Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, were obtained.

These approvals were necessary to ensure that PIACL could continue operating under the required regulatory permissions following first closing.

On the commercial side, a key part of the process was the satisfaction of contractual consent requirements. PIACL was required to obtain 22 contractual consents under the SPSA from a wide range of counterparties, including aircraft lessors, maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) and technical service providers, aviation fuel suppliers, airline partners, payment service providers and other operational counterparties.

These consents were necessary to ensure that important commercial and operational arrangements remained in place after the change in shareholding and that the transaction did not trigger termination rights, defaults or disruption to PIACL's operations, as well as to release encumbrances over company-owned aircraft, engines and leases.

## Asad Qaiser Says Government Has Lost Writ in Balochistan, Calls for Trade Routes to Reopen

Ali Hamza:

QUETTA: Former National Assembly Speaker and senior Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insan (PTI) leader Asad Qaiser strongly criticised the federal government during a press conference at the party's office in Quetta, accusing it of failing to address the challenges faced by the people, particularly in Balochistan.

Qaiser claimed there was "no visible writ of the government" in the province, alleging that major highways remain blocked while citizens continue to face insecurity.

He said the prevailing law and order situation reflected the government's inability to ensure public safety and restore normalcy. Questioning the legitimacy of the current political system, Qaiser alleged that those sitting in the National Assembly were not the true representatives of the people.

He claimed that candidates who had genuinely won



Former National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser Addressing a Press Conference.

the general elections were prevented from taking their seats in Parliament. The PTI leader called for the immediate reopening of all trade routes with neighbouring countries, arguing that cross-border trade would create employment opportunities and improve the economic conditions of people in Balochistan. Qaiser also criticised the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), accusing former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of failing to uphold the sanctity of the vote. He alleged that the public mandate had been undermined instead of being respected. Demanding the release of all political prisoners, Qaiser said PTI would continue its struggle until all detained political workers across the country were freed.

He added that the party was determined to work alongside other political forces to protect democratic rights, strengthen the Constitution, and ensure the supremacy of the people's mandate.

# QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

## IRC reaches to 29,000 out of school girls in Balochistan

**By Shakoor Khan:** International Rescue Committee (IRC) under its Teach & Educate Adolescent Girls with Community Help (TEACH) project, reached out to 29,000 out-of-school girls of 5 districts of Balochistan including Pishin, Killa Abdullah, Nushki, Kharan and Chagai.

"IRC is striving hard to promote girl's education in Balochistan besides imparting vocational trainings on financial literacy and trades to make them financially independent," said Sharief Mengal, Head of IRC Balochistan during a policy dialogue titled "Improving future of girl's education in Balochistan held in collaboration with UK aid at local hotel here.

Balochistan Education Minister Naseebullah Mari was the chief guest while representatives from the Education ministry, Directorate of Special Education, Literacy, Non-Formal Education & Human Rights Department, Balochistan Assessment and Examination Commission, Balochistan Textbook Board, Policy Planning Implementation Unit, Provincial Institute of Teachers Education, Education Support Programme, Global Partnership of Education, German Agency for International Cooperation, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund Society for Community Strengthening and Promotion of

Education, Balochistan, Institute for Development Studies and Practices, Japan International Cooperation Agency also attended the event.

The event hosted conversations with multiple stakeholders including education experts and government functionaries on the barriers faced by girls in the province in pursuing their education and discussed possible solutions to combat those barriers.

**salient feature of the project IRC**

While highlighting the salient feature of the project IRC chief in



Balochistan Sharief Mengal said under the 'Girls Learn' stream of the project, 22,000 girls received classes on Package A, B and C of non-formal curriculum, of them 4000 enrolled in mainstream formal schooling system.

Under 'Girls Earn' stream of the project, 7000 girls completed Package A of the non-formal curriculum, out of these 7000 girls, 5000 received training on financial literacy and business development planning. 2400 girls received training on 8 vocational trades and toolkits and 250 girls received financial grants to start a business. Naseebullah

Marri, Education Minister Balochistan, on the occasion urged that "We must do our part to remove the barriers faced by girls in the region so that every girl can pursue her education and become a valuable member of society".

"The Government is making all out efforts to combat the low literacy rate which has affected girls from all ethnic groups, and socioeconomic backgrounds,"

We are committed to assist and contribute to building economically prosperous, and educated Balochistan, so every child has access to education.

He however welcomed the support extended by the International Rescue Committee for providing educational and vocational training opportunities, saying he is very grateful for the on-ground initiative of community-based schools in Balochistan.

Abdul Rauf Baloch – Secretary Secondary Education on the occasion appreciated the contributions of IRC for girls' education in Balochistan.

He shared that education is a complex subject which cannot be discussed without WASH, health and other facilities. This makes it a responsibility of all relevant departments and stakeholders who should play their role effectively.

Zain Ul Abedin Khan, Deputy Director Programs, IRC, in his remarks said that "As a society need to commit to prioritize and focus on Girls Education through adequate resources. Girls' education in Balochistan is one of the biggest challenges faced by the country and to deal with it we must work with innovative methods like Non-Formal Education." He further added that, "Over the years, we have realized that if girls are unable to reach school, all stakeholders need to fill the gap and

provide access to life-long learning opportunities like productive skills and life-skills within communities.

**Girl's education is correlated with lower rates of poverty**

The panel discussions established an opportunity for the policy makers and practitioners to understand that girl's education is correlated with lower rates of poverty and improved health outcomes. While stimulating dialogue, the stakeholders pledged to work together to eradicate the barriers to girl's education by providing gender inclusive facilities and quality of education. The event was a culmination of three sessions where the first was hosted to discuss the barriers faced by girls in pursuing their education. The panelists of the first session classified the barriers into 3 categories: Cultural, Economic and Service Delivery. The panelists recommended Accelerated Learning Programs (ALPs) as a viable option while integrated with skill-based trainings and digitalizing education.

**Initiatives to combat the barriers to education**

The second session was focused on sustainable initiatives to combat the barriers with the help of Non-Formal Education in bridging the gap between primary and secondary schooling.

Chairperson of the session, Mr. Abdul Khaliq – Chief Planning Officer Policy, Planning and Implementation Unit welcomed the participants and emphasized the importance of solutions to these barriers.

Mr. Ashraf Gichki – Director Literacy and Non-Formal Education shared contribution of NFE department toward provision of second chance of education to out-of-school children.

**Personal struggles in overcoming the barriers to education**

The third and final session gave the TEACH clients an opportunity to express their personalized struggles in overcoming the barriers to education. Anam – client of TEACH project from Pishin shared that after joining TEACH ALP center, she can read books and newspapers. Sima from the same district shared that her parents don't allow traveling long distances to attend school but after opening of ALP center at doorsteps, she was able to join the classroom for first time in her life.

Halima from Nushki district shared that her mother is the only breadwinner of home and works at households of others to earn income. Halima shared that she is the only child of her family who can read, thanks to joining ALP center.

## 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 sporadic spillovers from Afghanistan.

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, inde-

pendent 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.

UNFPA and Quetta Press Club Hold Media Workshop on National Population Agenda and Reproductive Health

QUETTA: The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), in collaboration with the Quetta Press Club, organized a media workshop on the National Population Agenda to strengthen public awareness and highlight the role of the media in promoting population, reproductive health, and sustainable development initiatives.

The workshop was chaired by Quetta Press Club President Irfan Saeed and attended by UNFPA Balochistan Provincial Coordinator Sadia Atta, senior journalists Syed Ali Shah, Behram Lehri, Salam Jozgazi, representatives from Pakistan Television (PTV) Quetta's Current Affairs Division, and journalists from various print, electronic, and digital media organizations.

The primary objective of the workshop was to review the progress made on commitments under the National Population Agenda, discuss existing challenges, and strengthen the media's role in creating public awareness on population and reproductive health issues.

Addressing the participants, Quetta Press



Club President Irfan Saeed said that population, health, and development are closely interconnected, making the effective implementation of population-related policies essential for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

He emphasized that responsible and informed media coverage is critical to achieving the objectives of Pakistan's National Population Agenda.

During the workshop, participants received detailed briefings on the progress made toward national population commitments. The session also featured an in-depth discussion on the implementation of the Reproductive Health Bill, its key provisions, and measures being taken to ensure its effective enforcement.

Participants were informed that the Reproductive Health Bill aims to ensure timely access to quality reproductive healthcare services, reduce maternal mortality, address unmet family planning needs, improve maternal and child health, and strengthen legal and practical protections for women and girls against violence, discrimination, and exploitation.

Speaking at the event, UNFPA Balochistan Provincial Coordinator Sadia Atta highlighted the media's vital role in disseminating accurate information on reproductive health, family planning, and population-related issues. She noted that responsible journalists can significantly contribute to the country's broader sustainable development goals.

UNFPA Pakistan, National Population Agenda, Quetta Press Club, Reproductive Health Bill, Family Planning Pakistan, Balochistan Health Department, Sustainable Development Goals, Media Workshop Quetta, Maternal Health, Population Policy Pakistan.

and, development partners to advance the National Population Agenda.

They emphasized that enhanced cooperation would help improve healthcare services for women, children, and families while contributing to the country's broader sustainable development goals.

Quetta Deputy Commissioner Reviews Progress of Development Projects, Stresses Timely Completion

QUETTA: Deputy Commissioner Mehruallah Badini chaired a high-level meeting to review the progress of ongoing development projects across Quetta and assess the implementation status of key public services.

Anwar Kakar, Assistant Commissioner City Amir Hamza, Assistant Commissioner Sarfiah Mansoor Ahmed, officials from the Communications and Works (C&W) Department, representatives of the Uni-

versed departments to ensure that development projects are completed within the stipulated timelines while maintaining the highest standards of quality. He emphasized that efficient coordination,



versity of Balochistan, and other concerned government officers. A comprehensive briefing was also given on the proposed establishment of a modern Information Technology (IT) Section at the University of Balochistan, highlighting the project's objectives, scope, and expected benefits for academic and administrative development.

Addressing the participants, Deputy Commissioner Mehruallah Badini directed all con-

tinuous monitoring, and prompt resolution of obstacles are essential to delivering public development projects that benefit the people of Quetta. Key words: Quetta Development Projects, Deputy Commissioner Quetta, Mehruallah Badini, University of Balochistan IT Section, C&W Department Balochistan, Quetta Infrastructure, Public Development Projects, Balochistan Government, IT Development, Quetta News.

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Balochistan Chief Secretary Directs Transparent Recruitment, Timely Development Projects, and Fair Tendering

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Secretary Shafeeq Qadir Khan chaired the monthly Secretaries Committee meeting to review key governance issues, including the progress of development projects, transparency in public procurement, disposal of government assets, and recruitment against vacant government posts.

The meeting was attended by Chairman CMIT Muhammad Ali Kakar, Senior Member Board of Resources and (SMBR) Qamber Dashti, Additional Chief Secretary (Development) Zahid Saleem, Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Muhammad Hamza Shaqfat, provincial secretaries, divisional commissioners, and other senior government officials.

Addressing the participants, Chief Secretary Shafeeq Qadir Khan



stressed the need to further improve administration, ensure the efficient utilization of public resources, and strengthen transparency across all government departments.

He said that public resources are a trust and must be managed in an accountable and transparent manner. The Chief Secretary directed all departments to prepare lists of non-functional government vehicles to be disposed of and ensure their disposal

through transparent public auctions in accordance with national laws and procurement regulations. During the meeting, officials informed participants that the auction process for approximately 300 government vehicles is already underway.

Emphasizing transparency in public procurement, Shafeeq Qadir Khan instructed departments to strengthen the tendering process by rejecting tenders that receive only a single bid

and encouraging competitive bidding to ensure fairness, transparency, and value for public funds.

Highlighting the importance of creating employment opportunities for young people, the Chief Secretary directed departments to immediately fill vacant government positions strictly on merit. He instructed authorities to identify all vacant posts and prioritize recruitment district-wise, with special focus on the Health, Educa-

tion, and Planning Departments, to improve essential public services while providing employment opportunities to local youth.

The meeting also reviewed the progress of development projects across the province. Officials informed the committee that the Annual Development Programme (ADP) 2026-27 includes 5,618 development projects, comprising 3,761 ongoing schemes and 1,857 new projects.

Balochistan Population Welfare Department Forms Anti-Harassment Committee to Ensure Safe Workplace

QUETTA: Acting Secretary Population Welfare Department Balochistan, Zafar Baledi, the Population Welfare Department Government of Balochistan, has constituted a new Anti-Harassment Committee.

The committee must include at least two female members from within the organization to ensure fair and transparent handling of workplace harassment complaints.

The department emphasized that the formation of such committees is a legal obligation for every institution and is essential to address complaints in accordance with the legal procedures prescribed under the Act.

According to the

department, Secretary Zafar Baledi urged all officers and employees to fully comply with the provisions of the law and actively contribute to maintaining a safe, respectful, and harassment-free office environment.

He stressed that collective responsibility and adherence to workplace ethics are vital for creating an atmosphere where all employees can perform their duties with dignity and confidence.

Balochistan Population Welfare Department Anti-Harassment Committee, Workplace Harassment Act 2016, Zafar Baledi, Quetta News, Women Protection at Workplace, Government of Balochistan, Safe Workplace, Employee Rights, Workplace Safety.

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Balochistan Communications and Works Department Honors Mah Noor Mirwani for Outstanding Success in CSS Examination 2026

QUETTA: The Communications and Works (C&W) Department, Government of Balochistan, honored Mrs. Mah Noor Mirwani with a special Recognition of Excellence Shield in acknowledgment of her outstanding success in the CSS Examination 2026.

A simple yet dignified ceremony was organized by the department to celebrate her remarkable achievement.

The event was attended by Chief Engineer Quetta Zone Abdul Rahim Bangulazi, Chief Engineer Sibi Zone Zubair Ahmed Khoso, Chief Engineer Kharan-Makan Zone Khalil-ur-Rehman Achakzai, Executive Engineer Buildings Chakar Rafiq Baloch, Executive Engineer Roads



Panjgur Zarif Baloch, along with other senior officials of the department.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary Commissioner Abdul Babar Khan congratulated Mrs. Mah Noor Mirwani on her exceptional accomplishment,

describing her success as a reflection of her hard work, dedication, perseverance, and determination. He stated that her achievement is not only a matter of pride for her personally but also for the entire Communications and Works Department.

He further expressed his best wishes for her future academic and professional endeavors, adding that her success serves as an inspiration for government officers, students, and young professionals aspiring to excel in competitive examinations.

CSS Examination 2026. Mah Noor Mirwani, Balochistan C&W Department, Recognition of Excellence, Quetta News, Government of Balochistan, Babar Khan, CSS Success, Public Service, Pakistan Civil Services.

TDAP Holds Business Startup and Export Documentation Awareness Seminar in Quetta

QUETTA: The Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) organized a comprehensive awareness seminar titled "Business Startup and Initial Documentation in Export Perspectives" at the Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Indus-

try. During the seminar, Muhammad Sharif, Executive Officer at TDAP Regional Office Quetta, delivered a detailed presentation covering key aspects of starting a business, export opportunities, initial export

An interactive question-and-answer session was held at the end of the seminar, where participants actively engaged with experts and sought guidance on various business and export-related matters. Attendees de-



documentation, business registration procedures, regulatory requirements, access to international markets, and various government support programs available for exporters. He encouraged participants to embrace modern business practices and actively explore export opportunities to contribute to Pakistan's economic growth and global trade competitiveness.

The seminar commenced with welcome remarks by Noor Ali Achakzai, Director of TDAP Regional Office Quetta, who highlighted the importance of empowering youth and women to strengthen Pakistan's export sector and achieve sustainable economic growth.

He reaffirmed TDAP's commitment to providing guidance, technical support, and facilitation to aspiring entrepreneurs entering the business and export

documented, business registration procedures, regulatory requirements, access to international markets, and various government support programs available for exporters. He encouraged participants to embrace modern business practices and actively explore export opportunities to contribute to Pakistan's economic growth and global trade competitiveness. The speakers emphasized that awareness programs of this nature play a vital role in enhancing the entrepreneurial skills of youth and women, promoting self-employment, and increasing participation in Pakistan's export sector.

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Musakhel District Administration Begins Preparations for Local Government By-Elections

MUSAKHEL: District Returning Officer (DRO) and Deputy Commissioner Abdul Razaq Khan Khajjak announced the official oath-taking ceremony for the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for the by-elections. The district administration stated that all necessary administrative and election-related measures have been initiated to ensure the smooth

conduct of the electoral process in accordance with the Election Commission's guidelines and legal framework.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Abdul Razaq Khan Khajjak reaffirmed the district administration's commitment to conducting the by-elections in a transparent, impartial, and peaceful manner. He emphasized

that every effort would be made to ensure free and fair elections by implementing all required security, administrative, and logistical arrangements.

The administration also reiterated its resolve to uphold the integrity of the electoral process and ensure that voters in the concerned union council are able to exercise their democratic rights in a secure and well-

organized environment.

Musakhel By-Elections, Local Government Elections, Abdul Razaq Khan Khajjak, Election Commission of Pakistan, Returning Officer Oath, UC 18 Musakhel, Local Bodies Elections Balochistan, Transparent Elections, Deputy Commissioner Musakhel, Balochistan News.

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# PMD forecasts nationwide monsoon rainfall from first week of July

NEWS DESK: The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) said on Monday that a fresh monsoon spell was set to begin in the country from the first week of July.

Monsoon rains fall across the region from June to September, offering respite from the summer heat and are crucial to replenishing water supplies. However, heavy downpours also trigger deadly floods, landslides and displacement, particularly in vulnerable, poorly drained, or densely populated areas.

In an advisory, the department said that a westerly wave was likely to enter the upper Kohistan of the country from June 30. At the same time, "moist currents from the Arabian Sea are continuously penetrating the eastern and central parts of the country."

It added that most currents from the Bay of Bengal were expected to reach the upper parts from July 2.

Under the influence of this system, the PMD predicted that scattered rain, windstorm and showers, accompanied by isolated heavy falls, were expected in Neelum valley, Muzaffargarh, Rawalakot, Poonch, Hattian, Bagh, Haveli, Sudhanoti, Kotli, Bhimber, and Mirpur from July 1 to July 6.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, it said scattered rain, windstorm/thundershower



(with isolated heavy falls) was expected in Dir, Chitral, Swat, Kohistan, Malakand, Nowshera, Charsadda, Karak, Tank, Lakki Marwat, Swabi, Shangha, Battagram, Buner, Kohat, Kurram, Bajaur, Mohmand, Khyber, Orakzai, Abbottabad, Haripur, Peshawar, Mardan, Hangu, Waziristan, Bannu and Dera Ismail Khan from July 1 to July 5 with occasional gaps.

Rainfall was also predicted in July 1 to July 5 with occasional gaps. In Balochistan, the PMD forecast rainfall in the northern and north-eastern parts of the province, including Zoh, Sherani, Kohlu, Naseerabad, Harnai, Sibbi, Barkhan, and Dera Bugti from July 1 to July 4.

In Sindh, rain was predicted in Sukkur, Larkana, Dadu,

Nankana Sahib, Chinot, Okara, Kasur, Noor Pur Thal, Bhakkar, Layyah, Mianwali, Bahawalpur, Bahawalnagar, DG Khan, Multan, Khaneval, Lodhran, Muzaffargarh and Rajanpur were slated to receive rain from July 3 to July 5 with occasional gaps.

In Gilgit-Baltistan, rain and thunderstorms were expected in Diamir, Astore, Ghizer, Skardu, Hunza, Gilgit, Ghanche, and Shigar from July 1 to July 5 with occasional gaps. In Punjab, the PMD forecast rainfall in the northern and north-eastern parts of the province, including Zoh, Sherani, Kohlu, Naseerabad, Harnai, Sibbi, Barkhan, and Dera Bugti from July 1 to July 4.

In Sindh, rain was predicted in Sukkur, Larkana, Dadu,

Jacobabad, Shaheed Benazirabad, Kashmore, Shikarpur, Ghotki, Khairpur, Qambar Shahdadkot, and Nausahro Feroze on July 3 and July 4.

The department further warned that the weather may damage infrastructure, such as solar panels, electric poles and billboards. It also indicated a possibility of landslides in vulnerable areas of upper KP GB, and Kashmir from July 1 to July 6. The PMD also warned of flash flooding in local streams and nullahs of Kashmir, KP GB and hill torrents of DG Khan from July 2 to July 5.

It further warned of urban flash flooding in Islamabad/Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Nowshera, Sialkot, Narawal, Gujranwala, Lahore and Faisalabad from July 1 to July 4.

# Punjab Assembly body takes notice of 'campaign against speaker'

NEWS DESK: A Punjab Assembly committee on Sunday voiced serious concern over alleged police excesses, unresolved complaints against law enforcement and continued failure to establish legally mandated Public Safety Commissions, warning that internal police accountability alone had proven inadequate and calling for stronger parliamentary oversight.

The Committee on Law Reforms and Delegated Legislation, chaired by Punjab Assembly Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan, reviewed the performance of the police, particularly the Crime Control Department (CCD).

amid growing concerns raised by the lawmakers, human rights organisations and civil society over alleged police misconduct and extrajudicial killings.

Inspector General of Police Rao Abdul Kareem, Regional Police Officer Sheikhupura Athar Ismail and District Police Officer Kasur Atif Phulwarwan attended the session.

The IGP and the Sheikhupura RPO briefed the lawmakers on crime trends in Kasur district and across Punjab.

The committee expressed its constitutional responsibility of parliamentary oversight rather than interfering in police affairs, stressing that



electoral representatives had a duty to hold public institutions accountable, one of the participants told Dawn.

The meeting also took serious notice of what members described as a coordinated media and online campaign targeting the Punjab Assembly and the Speaker's office.

The committee declared the campaign malicious and unfounded, saying it sought to portray legitimate parliamentary oversight as interference in policing.

Alleges that Kasur DPO is behind campaign, recommends disciplinary action at police excesses, extrajudicial killings

The members alleged that Kasur District Police Officer Atif Phulwarwan was the of-

ficer at whose behest the campaign was being orchestrated and recommended that disciplinary proceedings be initiated.

The committee resolved to refer the matter to the Assembly's Committee on Privileges for examination and appropriate action under the Rules.

To avoid any perception of conflict of interest, Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan recused himself from this portion of the proceedings despite members requesting his participation, allowing the committee to continue deliberations in his absence.

Lawmakers also highlighted specific incidents allegedly involving the Kasur Police, including the violation of the sanctity of a place of worship and deficien-

cies in the investigation of a sexual violence case.

Members argued that such incidents reflected the absence of an effective and systematic accountability framework within the police force.

During the meeting, the members reviewed letters received from human rights organisations and civil society groups, along with complaints submitted by the legislators regarding police high-handedness.

The committee also took notice of the allegations documented by the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) concerning more than 900 alleged police encounter killings, which had been raised before the United Nations Committee against Torture, of which Pakistan is a state party.

# Pakistan summons Afghan envoy over terrorist attack on Rangers camp in Karachi

NEWS DESK: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) Spokesperson Tahir Andrabi said on Monday that the Afghan chargé d'affaires was summoned to the MoFA last night, and a strong demarche was issued regarding the Karachi terrorist attack.

On Saturday, security forces foiled a terrorist attack in Karachi, in which three Pakistan Rangers (Sindh) personnel embraced martyrdom and four others were injured. The attack, according to the military's media wing, was launched by "Khwarizj belonging to Indian proxy, Jamaat-ul-Ahrar".

The assailants, after a blast at the main gate at the Rangers camp, attempted to breach the perimeter security but were pushed back by personnel who killed three Khwarizj and

captured one, identified as an Afghan national, in an injured condition. According to Andrabi, "the Afghan chargé d'affaires was summoned to the MoFA last night, and a strong demarche was issued regarding the Karachi terrorist attack."

Asimilar demarche was conveyed by Pakistan's Ambassador, Mr Ubaid-ur-Rehman Nizamani to the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

He said the demarche "was issued in light of the fact that Afghan nationals, including one apprehended alive, participated in this attack, proving yet again that Afghan soil and Afghan nationals continue to be used to orchestrate terrorist attacks inside Pakistan."

Earlier, Information Minister Attaullah Tarar said security forces had carried out precision strikes on terrorist camps and safe havens of Jamaat-ul-Ahrar and Fitna al-Khwarizj in Afghanistan's Paktia, Paktika and Kunar provinces, killing 29 terrorists.

The strikes were conducted under Operation Ghazab Li Haq on the night of June 28-29 after an attack on a Rangers camp in Karachi.

Operation Ghazab Li Haq was launched around the end of February, followed by renewed clashes along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, with the Afghan Taliban forces firing on multiple locations, prompting swift military retaliation by Islamabad.

The clashes intensified after Afghanistan launched a border offensive in response to Pakistani air strikes targeting terrorist positions.



# Al-Qadir Trust case: IHC gives defence two weeks to begin arguments in Imran, Bushra's appeals

NEWS DESK: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday dismissed contempt of court petitions filed by PTI founder Imran Khan and his wife, Bushra Bibi, after observing that the powers of attorney granted to pursue their appeals had been signed in white.

The defence a final two-week adjournment to commence arguments in the appeals against their conviction in the £190 million graft reference.

An accountability court in Islamabad had sentenced Imran and Bushra to 14 and seven years in prison, respectively, on Jan 17, 2025 in the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) reference, also known as the Al-Qadir Trust case.

On Monday, IHC chief justice Sardar Muhammad Sarfaraz Dogar and Justice Muhammad Asif heard the appeals against the couple's sentences.

Barrister Salman Safdar, Salman Akram Raja and other members of the defence team appeared before the court. The PTI founder's sister,

Aleema Khan, and several party leaders were also present during the proceedings.

At the outset, the bench expressed displeasure when members of the defence team approached the rostrum together.

Directing the lawyers to return to their seats, the chief justice remarked that the court would not be influenced by the defence team's powers of attorney had already been received.

The court then turned to the hearing of the main appeals and dis-

missed the defence to commence arguments. Justice Dogar warned that if the appellants failed to proceed, the court would ask the NAB prosecutor to advance arguments.

Barrister Safdar contended that although the jail authorities had now provided powers of attorney relating to the IHC proceedings, the remaining documents were yet to be furnished.

The chief justice responded that those documents would also be provided. Islamabad Advocate General Naveed Malik argued that during the previous hearing, the defence had misled

the court by stating that the powers of attorney had been signed on June 16, while failing to disclose that the jail superintendent had contacted counsel on June 18 to facilitate the execution of the documents.

The bench observed that since the powers of attorney had now been signed, the contempt petitions had become infructuous.

The court then turned to the hearing of the main appeals and dis-



# OGDCL commences oil production from well in Sindh's Sanghar district

NEWS DESK: The Oil & Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL), Pakistan's leading exploration and production company,

said on Monday that it had successfully commenced oil production from its Bubi Deep-1 well in the Bubi and Dharmaki mining lease areas in Sindh's Sanghar district.

In a statement, the state-run producer said the well was currently producing 2,000 barrels of oil per day (bopd) from the Massive Sand of the Lower Goru Formation.

OGDCL had announced the discovery of oil and gas at the exploratory well on June 3.

Demonstrating its operational and fast-track capabilities, the company completed the laying of a 4-inch, 1.5-kilometre flowline connecting the well site to the Bubi Plant, enabling

early monetisation of the discovery and the timely commencement of production.

As operator with 100pc working interest in the Bubi and Dharmaki Mining Lease, OGDCL executed the project entirely through indigenous capabilities, it said.

The production commenced with the discovery and the timely commencement of production.

OGDCL began commercial production from Baragazi X-01 (Slant) exploratory well in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Kohat district — Pakistan's highest-producing well that contributes approximately 10pc of OGDCL's total crude oil production, it said.

The well is currently producing around 6,100 bopd, 18 million cubic feet per day (mmcf) of gas, and 50 tonnes of LPG.

In March, OGDCL announced the successful commencement of oil production from its development well Pasakhi-13 in Hyderabad, marking Pakistan's first successful horizontal oil well in a clastic reservoir.

Marrd by forced production curtailment, the profitability of the country's largest oil and gas producer dropped by 1 per cent to Rs115.3 billion in the first three quarters (July-March) of the outgoing fiscal year (FY25-26).

During the nine-month period, OGDCL spud 10 wells, and sustained exploration efforts yielded eight oil and gas discoveries, further strengthening the company's resource base.

Table with Urdu text and numerical data, likely a production or financial report. Includes a header 'درخواستیں منظور ہیں' and a table with columns for various categories and values.