



FRONT PAGE

Thousands Attend Funeral Prayers in Quetta...

Page No1



OPINION

South-West Asia and the War Against Narcotics...

Page No 2



BALUCHISTAN

Bilawal Bhutto, CM Sarfraz Bugti Meet to Review....

Page No 3



NATIONAL

Security forces foil major terror plot in Wana

Page No 4

First Digital, Print Daily of Balochistan

Editor: Asim Khan.

Rs.10.00 Vol.VII:No:262

Email address: dquettavoice@gmail.com

Website: www.quettavoice.com

Monday 20, July, 2026

QUETTA VOICE

One Killed in Landmine Blast in Balochistan's Dera Bugti

By Our Correspondent

DERA BUGTI: One person was killed in a landmine explosion near the Pat Feeder area of Balochistan's Dera Bugti district on Saturday.



File Photo of a tractor damaged on a landmine blast in Dera Bugti

According to local sources, the victim was passing through the area when a landmine planted along the roadside exploded, killing him on the spot.

Police and other law enforcement personnel rushed to the scene after receiving information about the incident. The body was shifted to a nearby hospital for legal formalities, while security officials cordoned off the area and began collecting evidence.

Authorities have launched an investigation into the incident to determine who planted the explosive device and the circumstances surrounding the blast. Further legal proceedings are underway.

Bilawal seeks 'better results' in upcoming AJK elections as PPP hopes to form govt

NEWS DESK:

PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Sunday expressed his hope of forming a government in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), seeking "better results" from the public in the upcoming elections than in the previous one.

He made the remarks while addressing a public rally in AJK's Kotli ahead of the regional elections set for July 27.

The PPP chairperson said that his party had contested the last election in AJK even when the PTI was in power in the Centre.

"During the last elections, the PPP had the majority seats and the party had won the elections, but now the conditions are different," he said.

cent belongs to the people of Kashmir, and I promise that I will continue defending the right to ownership of the people of Kashmir," the PPP chairman vowed.

He claimed that throughout Pakistan, the PPP was the only political party that ensured employment for the people, promising employment opportunities for the youth of AJK.

"If you give an opportunity to the son of Shaheed Bibi (Benazir Bhutto), I will try to create employment opportunities for the youth of AJK."

Referring to the current situation in AJK, he said, "I can feel the pain of the police and army officers, who had left their homes to protect the people of Pakistan and its border and were unable to reach their homes. Likewise, I also feel the pain of the families who



PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, addressing a public rally in Kotli, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK)

"For the past six months, the PPP has been in government in AJK, and our friend, Shehbaz Sharif, has been in power at the Centre for some years," he elaborated, referring to the ruling coalition led by PML-N. Contending that there will be "no difficulties like before," he told the public, "You have to furnish better results in this election than before."

Bilawal also criticised the registration of a murder case against one of his party's candidates, who he identified as Javed Badhanvi.

Expressing his hope of forming a government in AJK, the PPP chairman said that to get the required majority, his party need each and every seat in the AJK Assembly from Kotli.

The Bhutto scion made pledges to the people of AJK similar to those he made during the PPP's election campaign in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) last month.

He said that there would be no need to protest and shut down the whole of AJK if its representatives had their representation in Islamabad to raise their issues in the National Assembly or Senate on a provisional basis.

"The land of Kashmir 100 per

have lost their youth during the recent protests.

"What holds more weight: the life of a common man or that issue of the 12 refugee seats?" he questioned.

"I have come to you with a promise to ensure the right to self-government, the right to self-ownership, and the right to employment for the people of AJK," he said.

"I believe that the people of Kashmir, especially the youth, want change; they are not ready to advance on past terms. They say that they have to win the right to self-government on an international level; however, they also want some rights on the national level, too."

He said that he had a dream, like his mother and former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, who had secured observer status for AJK in the Organisation of the Islamic Cooperation, to ensure AJK's representation in the decision-making bodies in Pakistan.

"Would that not be good, until the census, that AJK had the provisional representation in the Council of Common Interests and National Finance Commission?" he said.



A high-level delegation of Balochistan ministers visited Sukkur on Sunday

Balochistan, Sindh Agree to Ensure Fair Water Share After Farmers Protest

STAFF REPORTER:

QUETTA: A high-level delegation of Balochistan ministers visited Sukkur on Sunday to address growing concerns over the province's water shortage, following protests by farmers who complained that insufficient water supplies were damaging their standing crops.

The delegation, led by Balochistan Irrigation Minister Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani, included Provincial Ministers Saleem Ahmed Khosa and

Muhammad Khan Lehri. During the visit, the ministers met farmers in the Kirthar Canal command area, where growers voiced concerns over water shortages affecting agriculture.

Following the meeting with farmers, the Balochistan delegation held detailed talks with Sindh Irrigation Minister Jam Khan Shoro and senior officials of the Sindh Irrigation Department to discuss the province's share of water under the 1991 Water Apportionment Accord.

According to officials, the

meeting focused on ensuring Balochistan receives its allocated share of water through the Pat Feeder Canal, a lifeline for thousands of farmers in the province. The two sides also reviewed water flows and agreed on measures to improve coordination between the irrigation departments of both provinces.

Speaking after the meeting, Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani said the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leadership is fully aware of Balochistan's concerns and is committed to ensuring the

province receives its constitutional and agreed share of water.

He said Sindh officials assured the delegation that around 9,000 cusecs of water would be maintained through the Pat Feeder Canal in accordance with operational requirements and the spirit of the 1991 Water Accord.

The development comes amid longstanding concerns in Balochistan over water distribution, with farmers repeatedly urging authorities to ensure a fair and uninterrupted supply for irrigation.

Four Injured After Gunmen Attack Education Department Bus on Quetta-Karachi Highway in Mastung

From Our Correspondent:

MASTUNG: Four people were injured after unidentified gunmen opened fire on a Balochistan Education Department bus in Mastung district on Sunday, police said.

was travelling from Quetta to Panjgur when armed assailants opened fire, causing panic among passengers.

The injured have been identified as Zahoor Ahmad, Abdul Sattar, Naseer Hussain, and Tanveer Ahmad.

Soon after the shooting,

hospitals in Quetta, where they are receiving medical treatment.

Police have cordoned off the area and launched an investigation to determine the motive behind the attack. Officials said evidence is being collected, while efforts are

growing security concerns on highways across Balochistan, where government vehicles, passenger buses, and public transport have periodically come under attack. Authorities say security operations and investigations are continuing to



Angered heirs at the Quetta trauma center after deadly bombing in Mastung: File photo

The attack took place in the Khad Kocha area on the Quetta-Karachi Highway, one of Balochistan's busiest roads. According to police, the bus

the attackers fled the scene. Rescue officials and law enforcement personnel rushed to the area and shifted the injured to

underway to identify and arrest those responsible.

No group has claimed responsibility for the incident. The latest attack adds to

ensure those involved are brought to justice.

Further details will be shared as more information becomes available.

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

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 methamphet-

amine production—highlighted by satellite evidence of expanded ephedra 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 main-

tained its "poppy-free" status, despite sporadic spillovers from Afghanistan.

Following the Taliban's 2022 ban, some illicit cultivations did emerge in border areas.

In Pakistan, 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.

Forced Marriage in Islam: A Clear Violation of Women's Rights and Human Dignity

By Musavir

Durrani:

Forced marriage remains one of the most damaging cultural practices in parts of the Muslim world today. Despite being justified in the name of honor, tradition, or family unity, Islam itself strictly forbids forcing any woman, or man, into a marriage they do not want. Islamic teachings make consent the

core of marriage, while coercion makes a marriage batil (invalid).

The Qur'an Clearly Forbids Forced Marriages. Allah states in Surah An-Nisa:

"O you who believe, it is not lawful for you to inherit women against their will." (Qur'an 4:19)

This verse was revealed to abolish the jahiliyyah practice of controlling or forcing women into marriages.

Islam replaced oppression with dignity, choice, and responsibility.

Prophetic Example: Forced Marriages Declared Invalid. A woman once came to the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)



complaining that her father had married her without her permission. The Prophet (PBUH) gave her the full right to reject or accept the marriage, proving that consent is mandatory.

Hadith References: Sahih al-Bukhari, Hadith 5138.

Sahih Muslim, Hadith 1419. These narrations all confirm that the Prophet (PBUH) allowed the woman to annul her forced marriage.

One narration even states that she chose to remain married but wanted to teach women that fa-

thers have no right to force their daughters. Parents Can Advise, But They Cannot Force.

Islam highly respects parents, but marriage choice is not their right. They can guide, suggest, and advise, but they have ab-

solutely no power to force their child into marrying someone. Even if parents think they "know what is best," they cannot override the choice of their daughter or son. The final decision always belongs to the person getting married.

Statements such as: "If you don't marry this one, who will marry you?" "You have no choice." "Do it for family honor." "You must obey your parents."

These are pure emotional manipulation, and Islam does

not allow it. Emotional or Psychological Pressure is Also Haram. Forced marriage is not only when someone is physically pressured. Even emotional, mental, or family pressure counts as force. Any Nikkah done under fear, pressure, or

threats is invalid (Batil) in Islam. This ruling is based on multiple hadith in which the Prophet (PBUH) annulled marriages done without consent.

Modern Forced Marriages, A New Way of Burying Women Alive. Before Islam, Arabs used to bury baby girls alive. Today, many scholars say: "We no longer bury women in the ground, we bury their dreams on the day of their Nikkah."

When a girl is forced into a marriage, pressured emotionally, or told she has no other choice, we destroy her life while she is still alive. This is the new form of burying women alive, and Islam came to end this injustice completely.

Forced marriage has no place in Islam. It is against the Qur'an, against the Sunnah, and against the dignity that Islam gives to every woman and man. Parents must love, support, and guide, but never control or force marriage decisions. "Allah gave women this right, and no one can take it away."

Balochistan Government Tenders and Jobs: Guide for Contractors and Job Seekers

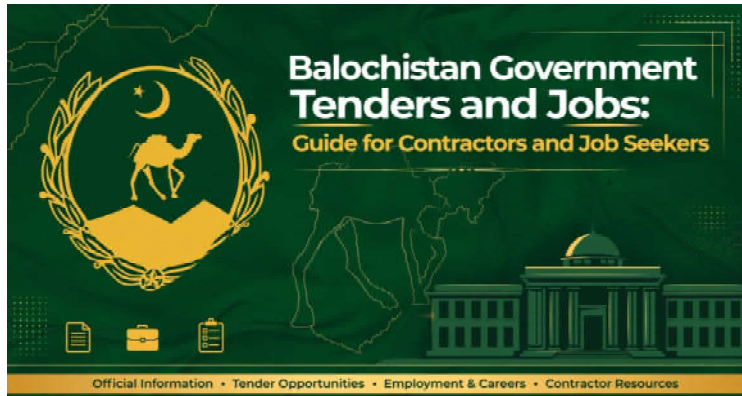
BY WEB DESK: Balochistan is Pakistan's largest province by land area, and its public sector is one of the biggest sources of economic opportunity in the region, both for businesses chasing government contracts and for citizens seeking stable employment. Yet most guides online either recycle outdated portal links or ignore the province entirely, leaving contractors and applicants to piece together information from scattered notices. This guide fixes that. It is built as a living reference for Balochistan government tenders and jobs, covering every major channel, department, and eligibility rule you need to know, updated in spirit, not just in date.

Why Balochistan's Public Sector Matters

From the Gwadar Port expansion to CPC-linked infrastructure, irrigation schemes, health department recruitment, and education sector hiring, Balochistan's government spends heavily on both development contracts and human capital. For contractors, this means recurring opportunities in construction, logistics, IT services, and supply chains. For job seekers, it means openings across the Balochistan Public Service Commission (BSPSC), local government bodies, autonomous authorities, and federally-funded provincial projects.

Where Balochistan Government Tenders Are Published

Unlike Punjab or Sindh, Balochistan's tender ecosystem is less



centralized, which is exactly why many opportunities go unnoticed by contractors outside the province.

The main channels are:

Balochistan Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (BPPRA): the province's official procurement regulator. Every public tender above the prescribed threshold must legally be advertised here, making it the single most authoritative source.

PPRA's Central e-Procurement Portal: federally funded or co-funded projects in Balochistan are often cross-listed here alongside provincial listings.

Departmental Websites: Communication & Works (C&W), Public Health Engineering (PHE), Irrigation, and Education departments frequently post tenders directly, sometimes before syndication to BPPRA.

Daily Newspapers:

Despite digitization, Balochistan tenders are still legally required to run in national and regional newspapers (Urdu and English), so cross-checking print notices remains essential for anyone who wants a complete picture.

District and Municipal Committees: Smaller-value local tenders (municipal works, sanitation contracts) are often only advertised at the district level and never reach national portals.

Pro tip: Serious contractors track all five channels simultaneously, because a tender missed on one portal can still be legally valid if published on another.

How to Apply for Balochistan Government Tenders

Register your business with the relevant tax authorities and ob-

tain an active NTN and, where applicable, sales tax registration.

Prepare standard documentation in advance: company registration certificates, bank solvency certificates, previous experience/completion certificates, and PEC (Pakistan Engineering Council) registration for construction works.

Purchase tender documents within the stated window; most Balochistan departments still require a physical or bank-draft-based document fee.

Submit technical and financial bids separately when a two-envelope system is specified, which is standard for works above a certain value threshold.

Attend the bid opening if permitted; transparency has improved, and physical presence can help you catch clerical disputes early.

Balochistan Government Jobs: Where to Look

Government job seekers should focus on these primary recruiting bodies:

Balochistan Public Service Commission (BSPSC): Handles recruitment for gazetted and select non-gazetted posts across departments. The provincial equivalent of the federal FPSC.

Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP) and other development bodies: Regularly hire for project-based and technical roles.

Health and Education Departments: Among the largest recruiters in the province, especially for teaching, nursing, and paramedical staff. Check their district-based merit lists. Local Government and Rural Development

Department: Hires for municipal, sanitation, and administrative roles at the district level.

Levies and Police Departments: Recruit through their own testing and physical assessment processes, separate from BSPSC.

Eligibility and Domicile Requirements

Most Balochistan government jobs require a provincial or district domicile certificate, and many posts are reserved along district-wise quotas to ensure representation across Balochistan's diverse regions. Applicants should always verify:

Domicile and Permanent Residence Certificate (PRC): requirements for the specific post.

Age relaxation rules, which are often more generous in Balochistan than in other provinces to ac-

count for educational access gaps.

Educational equivalency certificates if degrees were obtained outside Pakistan or through Balochistan-specific boards.

Common Mistakes That Disqualify Applicants and Bidders

Submitting tender documents after the sealed deadline, even by minutes.

Misreading an earnest money deposit or submitting it in the wrong instrument type.

Applying for reserved-quota government posts without the correct domicile documentation.

Ignoring addenda or corrigenda issued after the original tender notice, these are legally binding and frequently change deadlines or specifications.

Staying Ahead: A Practical Tracking Routine

Because Balochistan's procurement and recruitment landscape is fragmented across multiple portals and newspapers, the most reliable approach is a weekly routine: check BPPRA and PPRA listings, scan departmental websites for C&W, PHE, Irrigation, and Education, and review Urdu and English newspaper classifieds for district-level notices. Bookmarking this guide and revisiting it periodically is more effective than relying on any single portal alone.

Frequently Asked Questions

Where is the official portal for Balochistan government tenders?
The Balochistan Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (BPPRA) is the province's official and legally mandated procurement portal.

How do I apply for a job through BSPSC?
Applications are typically submitted online through the Balochistan Public Service Commission's recruitment portal, followed by a written test and interview for shortlisted candidates.

Is domicile mandatory for Balochistan government jobs?
Yes, most posts require a valid Balochistan domicile, and many are further divided by district-wise quotas.

Can contractors from other provinces bid on Balochistan tenders?
Generally yes, unless the tender explicitly restricts eligibility to locally registered or domiciled firms, which does occur for smaller district-level works.

Bilawal Bhutto, CM Sarfraz Bugti Meet to Review Balochistan Security; APC Announced to Tackle Terrorism

ISLAMABAD: In a high-level move to address the escalating security challenges in Balochistan, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti held a detailed meeting at Zardari House in Islamabad on Saturday.

The leaders engaged in a comprehensive discussion covering the province's overall political, administrative, and law-and-order situation. Judicial Commission Formed Over Ziarat Incident During the briefing, Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti updated the PPP Chairman on the government's administrative responses following recent wave of terrorism in the province.

Crucially, the Chief Minister revealed that the provincial government has taken decisive steps to support the grieving families of the Ziarat tragedy. In line with the victims' demands, a judicial com-



mission has been officially established to investigate the incident and bring the facts to light.

In a bid to foster political harmony and establish sustainable peace, CM Bugti announced that Balochistan will soon host an All-Parties Conference (APC).

"We are inviting political entities from both inside and outside the parliament," Bugti stated. "The goal is to draft a unified, consensus-driven strategy to counter terrorism and restore long-term stability to the region."

The PPP Chairman lauded CM Sarfraz Bugti's responsible handling of the crisis, particularly his efforts to provide closure to the Ziarat victims' families and steer the negotiation process toward success.

He also extended his gratitude to the opposition parties for playing a constructive role in the talks.

Reaffirming his party's core philosophy, Bilawal emphasized that bullets cannot solve deep-rooted issues. The event aimed to enhance young people's understanding of Kashmir's historical background, cultural heritage, and current challenges while encouraging critical thinking and academic research.

The chief guest at the ceremony was Professor Dr. Rubina Mushtaq, Vice Chancellor of Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University.

The event was attended by faculty members, students, educators, and distinguished guests from various walks of life.

During the competition, participants answered a series of questions related to the history, culture, and contemporary issues of Kashmir. Students demonstrated impressive knowledge, confidence, and analytical skills throughout the contest.

Gwadar Port Continues Transshipment Operations as Cargo Vessel Arrives Amid Regional Maritime Tensions

GWADAR: Despite the prevailing regional maritime tensions, Gwadar Port continues to maintain uninterrupted commercial operations, with another transshipment vessel successfully berthing at the port to begin cargo handling activities.

According to port authorities, the Bangladesh-flagged vessel M/V JAHAN BROTHERS II arrived at Gwadar Port on July 18 after sailing from Singapore.

The ship is carrying

53,064.666 metric tons of prime steel billets, with the cargo ultimately destined for Al Hamriyah Port in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Under the transshipment plan, the steel billets will be temporarily unloaded and stored at Gwadar Port before being reloaded onto another vessel for onward shipment to the UAE.

The operation highlights Gwadar's expanding role as a regional transshipment hub, a corridor for regional and international commerce.

Anwar Chaudhry said that the continuation of trade activities at Gwadar Port despite the current regional maritime situation reflects Pakistan's growing port capabilities and increasing international confidence in the country's maritime sector.

He noted that the rise in transshipment operations underscores Gwadar Port's strategic geographic location and its potential to serve as a major alternative trade corridor for regional and international commerce.

The minister added that the Government of Pakistan is continuing efforts to strengthen port infrastructure, facilitate international shipping lines, and ensure the uninterrupted flow of regional trade.

Chairman of Gwadar Port, Noor-ul-Haq Baloch, said that the uninterrupted commercial and port operations demonstrate Gwadar's ability to function as a safe, reliable, and efficient maritime trade hub despite regional challenges.

Al-Hamd Islamic University Quetta Hosts Kashmir Knowledge Competition to Promote Awareness Among Youth

QUETTA: Al-Hamd Islamic University Quetta organized a prestigious academic competition on "The History, Culture, and Contemporary Issues of Kashmir," bringing together students from universities, colleges, and schools across Balochistan to promote awareness and research on the Kashmir issue.

The event aimed to enhance young people's understanding of Kashmir's historical background, cultural heritage, and current challenges while encouraging critical thinking and academic research.

The chief guest at the ceremony was Professor Dr. Rubina Mushtaq, Vice Chancellor of Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University.

The event was attended by faculty members, students, educators, and distinguished guests from various walks of life.

During the competition, participants answered a series of questions related to the history, culture, and contemporary issues of Kashmir.

Students demonstrated impressive knowledge, confidence, and analytical skills throughout the contest. After successfully completing multiple rounds of questions, teams from Al-Hamd DNN Quetta and Nisa Institute Quetta followed by a highly contested and exciting final round.

Al-Hamd DNN Quetta secured the championship title by clinching the first position, while Nisa Institute Quetta finished as the runner-up.

The judging panel included Syed Raheem Shah, anchorman at Pakistan Television (PTV), Zameer Durani, National Trainer, and Munir Khattak, Senior

Lecturer at Law College Quetta. The judges evaluated participants' performances with fairness and transparency. Addressing the audience, Chief Guest Professor Dr. Rubina Mushtaq said the Kashmir issue is not merely a regional dispute but a matter of human rights, justice, and global conscience.

She stressed that the younger generation should be well-informed about Kashmir's history, culture, and present-day realities so they can better understand the issue and effectively convey the voice of the Kashmiri people to the international community.

She also reaffirmed the commitment of edu-

cational institutions to continue organizing academic and intellectual events that promote research, critical thinking, and national awareness among students.

At the conclusion of the event, Professor Dr. Rubina Mushtaq distributed trophies, certificates, and cash prizes to outstanding participants and praised their academic excellence.

Participants described the competition as an informative and impactful initiative that successfully raised awareness about the Kashmir issue among young people.

Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) electioneering gains momentum

NEWS DESK: Government employees assigned election duties for the 2026 Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) general elections will cast their votes on Monday (tomorrow) under arrangements made by the AJK Election Commission (EC), enabling them to exercise their franchise before polling day.

According to AJK EC senior member Khawaja Ahsan, polling for election staff will be held at designated polling stations established at the district headquarters of the respective districts to facilitate officials deployed on election duty.

The AJK EC has directed all District Returning Officers (DROs), Returning Officers (ROs), district administrators and other relevant departments to complete all necessary arrangements to ensure that polling for election personnel is conducted in a transparent, orderly and timely manner.

Under the commission's instructions, Ahsan said all officials assigned election duties have been directed to report to their designated polling stations on the scheduled date and time to cast their votes and strictly comply with the procedures and code of conduct issued by the election commission.

Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman



Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is set to address a public election rally in Kotli on Sunday (today) as the party steps up its campaign for the July 27 Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Legislative Assembly elections, following an encouraging response to its campaign launch in Dadyal.

The Kotli rally will be Bilawal's second public gathering of the election campaign after he launched the party's drive with a rally in Dadyal on July 17.

The PPP claims its campaign has since gained significant momentum across AJK and that the party has further strengthened its position ahead of the polls.

PPP AJK Media Adviser Syed Azadar Hussain Shah said the Kotli rally would demonstrate the party's public support, expressing confidence that Kashmiris would endorse the PPP's narrative.

Along with the recent increase, the government has also introduced a system for daily fluctuations in fuel prices," it stated.

"The increase in petrol prices does not only affect vehicle owners; its repercussions extend to food items, transportation, agriculture, industry, and the budget of every household," the PTI said, questioning why only common man was asked to make all sacrifices every time.

The PTI firmly asserts that the gov-

ernment must immediately reduce the petroleum levy and significantly cut unnecessary taxes imposed on the public.

While criticising the rise in petrol prices, PPP General Secretary Nayyer Hussain Bukhari said, "The impact of the petroleum levy falls directly on the people."

He urged the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to review how much profit oil companies earned and called on the government to improve tax collection from taxable segments.

"Forget the whole country, tax collection even from shopkeepers in Islamabad is not being done properly," he said.

This election is not merely about forming a government but about safeguarding the rights of the people of Kashmir and determining the future course of development, empowerment and prosperity," he said.

Shah maintained that the large turnout and enthusiastic participation of party workers at the Dadyal rally had emerged the election campaign. Fresh schedule for LA-24

The Azad Jammu and Kashmir Election Commission (AJKEC) has issued a fresh election schedule for LA-24 Poonch-Sudhnoti-7 (Baloch) following the death of independent candidate Zahid Yasin.

According to an AJKEC spokesperson, the returning officer ter-

Security forces foil major terror plot in Wana

NEWS DESK: A terrorist was killed and five others injured in South Waziristan's Wana as security forces thwarted a major terrorist plot by destroying an "explosive-laden vehicle intended for a suicide attack" during an intelligence-based operation on Saturday, state media said while citing security sources.

In a post shared on X, state broadcaster Pakistan TV said, "Security forces foiled a major terrorist plot in Wana through a timely intelligence-based operation, destroying an explosive-laden vehicle intended for a suicide attack."

Quoting the security sources, the post further underscored, "The operation prevented a potential catastrophe in Wana and surrounding areas, with one terrorist killed and five others injured."

It also said that the "successful action averted significant civilian casualties" and ensured the safety of the local population.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi paid tribute to the security forces for foiling a "major terrorism attempt in Wana."

In a post shared by the ministry of interior on X, the minister said, "Salute to the security forces for thwarting the nefarious suicide at-

tack plot in advance through intelligence-based operations. The brave soldiers of the security forces have crushed the enemy's intentions to dust!"

He further stated that the "security forces destroyed a vehicle and motorcycle laden with explosives" with "ut-

most professional skill" before the terrorists could attack "Security forces, demonstrating consummate skill, ensured the protection of citizens' lives and property."

Meanwhile, the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) said on Saturday that a wanted terrorist was killed during an intelligence-based operation in Wana.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Dera Ismail Khan district. According to a CTD statement, the slain terrorist was identified as Khalid alias Commander, who was wanted in multiple cases, including the targeted killing of CTD Constable Muhammad Ali, who was martyred on March 17, 2025.

The department said that it had received confirmed intelligence through its technical

surrendering, he opened indiscriminate fire on personnel," the statement said. It added that he was killed as the CTD retaliated.

The statement said that the slain terrorist was affiliated with the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan's Zakir Kochi Karwan group.



It also said that he had been evading law enforcement agencies by concealing his identity, frequently changing his appearance and moving between locations.

The CTD said a 9mm pistol, a hand grenade and a smartphone were recovered from his possession and taken into custody for forensic examination.

It added that efforts were underway to identify and take legal action against his facilitators, financiers and logistical support network.

PTI, PPP slam fuel price hike, demand cut in levy

NEWS DESK: The PTI and the PPP have criticised the latest government decision to increase petroleum prices, warning that it would further burden a public already reeling from high inflation.

In separate statements, the PTI demanded that the government reduce its spending on luxuries instead of "penalising people."

while the PPP asked the authorities to review how much profit oil companies earned rather than burdening the masses.

The PTI said the prices of petroleum products were raised at a time when the public was already burdened by inflation, unemployment, and heavy bills.

"The government

has once again shifted the weight of its incompetence and anti-people economic policies directly onto the shoulders of ordinary citizens, farmers, labourers, and industries."

Along with the recent increase, the government has also introduced a system for daily fluctuations in fuel prices," it stated.

"The increase in petrol prices does not only affect vehicle owners; its repercussions extend to food items, transportation, agriculture, industry, and the budget of every household," the PTI said, questioning why only common man was asked to make all sacrifices every time.

The PTI firmly asserts that the gov-

ernment must immediately reduce the petroleum levy and significantly cut unnecessary taxes imposed on the public.

While criticising the rise in petrol prices, PPP General Secretary Nayyer Hussain Bukhari said, "The impact of the petroleum levy falls directly on the people."

He urged the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to review how much profit oil companies earned and called on the government to improve tax collection from taxable segments.

"Forget the whole country, tax collection even from shopkeepers in Islamabad is not being done properly," he said.

After backlash over proposed law, state minister outlines more stringent measures for blue passport issuance

NEWS DESK: After criticism on a bill seeking to allow the issuance of blue passports to former parliamentarians' children, Minister of State for Interior, Tahir Chaudhry has assured that measures would be taken to ensure that the travel document is used for "only official duties" abroad and issued for a limited time in most cases.

The bill, seeking the issuance of blue passports to dependent children under the age of 28 of ex-members of parliament, was approved by a Senate panel on July 10. If the Members of Parliament Salaries and Allowances (Amendment) Bill, 2026 becomes law, the legislation would place former members of parliament on par with retired Grade-22 government officers, whose dependent children already enjoy the same entitlement.

An official press statement released by the Senate Secretariat earlier this month noted that Chaudhry had "also agreed on the passing of the bill."

However, he later claimed he had opposed the bill during the July 10 proceedings of the Senate committee. He said he had informed the Senate Standing Committee on Interior that the issue should first be discussed with the federal cabinet and other

stakeholders. "Despite my opposition," in the signing of visa abolition agreements with other countries, "Our focus is

on having agreements for visa-free entry with as many countries as possible," he said.

According to Chaudhry, the number of blue passports issued in the country was brought down from around 70,000 to less than 50,000 in the recent past. "It will now be further reduced by 15-20 per cent," he said.



He said discussions on an agreement for visa exemption for blue passport holders are at an "advanced

Pakistan reaffirms support for Kashmiris' right to self-determination

NEWS DESK: Pakistan on Saturday reiterated its principled stance in support of a peaceful and just resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

In a message on Kashmir's Accession to Pakistan Day (Youm-e-Illaq-i-Pakistan), being observed on Sunday (today), President Asif Ali Zardari said, "We urge the international community, particularly the United Nations, to fulfil its responsibility by supporting efforts aimed at ensuring the realisation of the Kashmiri people's inalienable right to self-determination."

He said: "Today, we pay tribute to the historic resolution adopted by the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference on July 19, 1947, which



reflected the political aspirations of the Muslim of Jammu and Kashmir at a defining moment in the history of the subcontinent."

The president said that for nearly eight decades, the Jammu and Kashmir dispute has remained unresolved despite the United Nations Security Council resolutions recognising the right of

the people of Jammu and Kashmir to self-determination.

"The continued denial of this fundamental right, coupled with persistent human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), remains a matter of serious concern for the international community," he added.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said Pakistan will continue to extend its unwavering diplomatic, political and moral support until the people of Jammu and Kashmir are able to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination. In a message on the occasion of Kashmir's Accession to Pakistan Day, he

said: "The unresolved Jammu and Kashmir dispute continues to have profound implications for regional peace and security."

"Lasting peace in South Asia requires the peaceful resolution in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people."



Omar Ayub declared 'proclaimed offender'

NEWS DESK: A court in Islamabad on Saturday declared Omar Ayub Khan a proclaimed offender in a case related to the party's November 26 protest after he failed to appear despite repeated court summons.

Judicial Magis-

trate Shaista Kundi issued the order while hearing the case registered at the Secretariat Police Station. During the proceedings, the court noted that Omar Ayub had been summoned to appear but failed to attend the hearing.

Following his repeated non-appear-

ance, the court declared the PTI leader a proclaimed offender and also issued his permanent arrest warrant. The case pertains to the November 26 protest and was registered at the Secretariat Police Station under Section 144 and other relevant provisions of the law.

With the latest order, law enforcement authorities have been directed to execute the arrest warrant and produce the PTI leader before the court in accordance with the law. The court adjourned further proceedings until a later date.

