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QUETTA VOICE

Balochistan: Re-Polling Ordered in PB-9 Kohlu, Seat Held by PML-N's Nawab Changez Marri

BY YOUSAF MARRI:

Election authorities have ordered re-polling in the PB-9 Kohlu constituency on 4 polling stations, currently represented by Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) MPA Nawab Changez Marri, in a development that could have political implications for Balochistan's provincial assembly.



File Photo of MPA Nawab Changez Marri.

The re-polling will be conducted at designated polling stations, with the Election Commission expected to announce the polling schedule and security arrangements in the coming days.

The decision comes amid heightened political activity involving Nawab Changez Marri, who has recently intensified his criticism of the Balochistan government.

The PML-N leader publicly called for the resignation of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, alleging that the provincial administration had failed to effectively tackle the deteriorating law and order situation in the province.

Marri maintained that the worsening security environment requires immediate and effective

measures, urging the government to take responsibility for restoring peace and stability in Balochistan.

Earlier this week, Nawab Changez Marri met President Asif Ali Zardari at Bilawal House in Karachi. During the meeting, the President reaffirmed the federal government's commitment to ensuring lasting peace, political stability and accelerated develop-

ment across Balochistan.

The meeting also included discussions on the province's overall political landscape, security situation and ongoing development projects, highlighting the federal government's focus on addressing Balochistan's key challenges.

Political analysts believe the re-polling in PB-9 Kohlu will be closely monitored, as the outcome could influence the political dynamics of the Balochistan Assembly and attract significant attention from major political parties.

Election authorities are expected to release further details regarding the affected polling stations, polling date and electoral arrangements soon.

Pakistan Rejects Reports of Role in Alleged China-Iran Missile Transfer

WEBDESK:

Pakistan has firmly rejected reports claiming it would facilitate the transfer of Chinese-made air defence missile systems to Iran, with the military describing the allegations as "absolutely concocted and false."

The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) dismissed speculation that Pakistan would serve as a transit route for the reported shipment of Chinese air defence weapons to Iran, stressing that the claims were baseless.

The denial follows reports by international media, citing unnamed sources, which claimed that Iran is expected to receive 300 to 400 Chinese-made man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS), including QW-12 and FN-16 shoulder-fired missiles, under a defence deal reported

used as a logistical corridor for the movement of military equipment.

Pakistan's Foreign Office did not issue a separate statement on the reported defence deal.

China Also Rejects Allegations China also rejected the reports. A spokesperson for the Chinese Foreign Ministry described the claims as "completely groundless" and reiterated that Beijing remains committed to promoting peace and supporting dialogue to resolve regional conflicts.

Iran had not officially confirmed the reported agreement at the time of publication.

Report Claims Iran Seeking to Strengthen Air Defences

According to the international media reports, the alleged agreement involves the delivery of up to 400 Chinese-made air defence missile systems to help



Pakistan Rejects Reports of Role in Alleged China-Iran Missile Transfer

edly worth \$60-70 million. The reports also alleged that the shipment would transit through Pakistan after departing from Western China.

Pakistan Dismisses Transit Route Claims

Responding to the reports, the ISPR categorically denied any Pakistani involvement in the alleged transfer, rejecting suggestions that the country would be

Iran strengthen its short-range air defence capabilities after months of conflict with the United States and Israel.

Military analysts say shoulder-fired air defence systems such as the QW-12 and FN-16 are designed to engage low-flying aircraft, helicopters and drones, making them valuable for protecting military installations and critical infrastructure.



Balochistan Cabinet Declares Province a Police Area, Approves Security and Education

Balochistan Cabinet Declares Province a Police Area, Approves Security and Education Reforms

QASEEM SHAH:

The Balochistan Cabinet has declared the entire province a Police Area following the integration of the Levies Force into the police system, a landmark decision aimed at strengthening law enforcement and enhancing security across the province.

The decision was made during a cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, who also secured approval for a series of major initiatives covering education, public safety, law enforcement, child protection and infrastructure development.

Among the key decisions was the approval of Phase III of the Chief Minister Scholarship Programme. Under the initiative, 300 children of registered workers in Balochistan will be admitted to a leading boarding school in Islamabad, giving them access to quality education and greater

opportunities for academic and personal growth.

To further strengthen the province's security framework, the cabinet approved the appointment of SP Nabeel Ahmed as the Chief Operating Officer of the Balochistan Safe City Authority. It also approved the formation of the Provincial Parole Board on the recommendation of the Home Department and sanctioned the establishment of a new police station in Hub Marble City to improve security for industrial and commercial zones.

The cabinet also approved the Service Level Agreement for the Quetta Safe City Project, a major step towards introducing smart surveillance and technology-based policing in the provincial capital.

In a move to improve local governance, Union Council Mesi Zai and Union Council Mai Zai were upgraded to Municipal Committees, while a new Municipal

Committee was approved for Gulistan.

To improve the planning and execution of development projects, the cabinet endorsed the Balochistan Planning Manual. It also approved the Balochistan Child Protection Rules 2026, strengthening the legal framework for safeguarding children's rights and welfare across the province.

The cabinet further approved the Balochistan Cadet Colleges (Amendment) Act 2026, extended the contract of the Prosecutor General by two years, and endorsed the Balochistan Hybrid Weighted Procurement Policy 2026 to promote transparency, competition and efficiency in government procurement.

Other major approvals included the financing proposal for the Hamai-Sibi Road Project, the Gwadar Development Authority Service Rules 2024, and the creation of a new tehsil and subdi-

vision in Nasirabad district to improve administrative efficiency and public service delivery.

The meeting began with prayers for the security personnel and civilians who lost their lives in recent incidents. Cabinet members paid tribute to their sacrifices and expressed condolences to the bereaved families.

Speaking at the meeting, Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti said the cabinet's decisions reflected the government's commitment to strengthening law and order, improving governance, expanding educational opportunities and accelerating development across Balochistan.

"The government is fully committed to its public welfare agenda, and every cabinet decision will be implemented in a timely and effective manner to ensure better public services and sustainable development for the people of Balochistan," the chief minister said.

Balochistan High Court Issues Notices in Kalat Division Name Restoration Case

ALHAMZA:

The Balochistan High Court has issued notices to the Government of Balochistan and other respondents after admitting for regular hearing a constitutional petition challenging the removal of the historic name of Kalat Division.

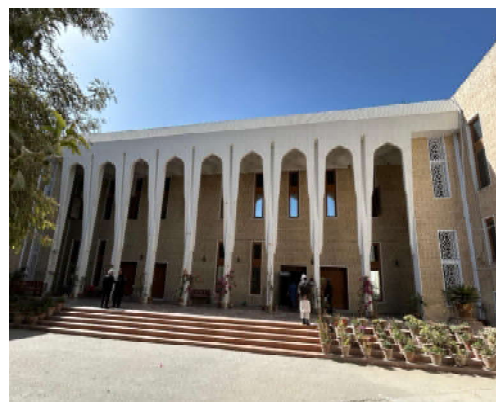
The petition, seeking restoration of Kalat Division's historical and constitutional identity, came up for its initial hearing in the High Court, where the bench accepted the constitutional arguments presented by the petitioner's legal team and approved the case for detailed proceedings.

According to the petition, Kalat Division is not merely an administrative or geographical region but represents a significant part of Balochistan's historical heritage, cultural identity and constitutional recognition.

The petitioner argued that changing the historic name undermines the region's long-standing identity and public sentiment.

The constitutional plea further states that Article 28 of the Constitution of Pakistan guarantees every citizen and region the right to preserve and promote its historical, cultural and linguistic identity.

The petition contends that the historic name of Kalat Division deserves constitutional protection under these provisions.



Balochistan High Court Issues Notices in Kalat Division Name Restoration Case.

Following the hearing, the petitioner welcomed the court's decision, describing it as the first major legal success in the campaign to restore Kalat Division's

historic name. He said the constitutional and legal struggle would continue until the historical identity of the division is fully restored through lawful means. A legal team comprising

Habibullah Khan Advocate, Zahoor Ahmed Sasaki Advocate, Asif Ali Dad Advocate, Junaid Ahmed Umrani Advocate and other lawyers represented the petitioner during the proceedings.

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Poverty and inequality

UMAIR JAVED:

The release of the Household Integrated Economic Survey and Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement data presents a clearer picture of poverty and economic distress in Pakistan. This data has appeared after a gap of nearly six years, during which several important events and shocks took place.

In 2018-19, the country had to go through a painful macro-economic adjustment to counteract the yawning current account deficit left behind by the then departing PML-N government. Between 2020 and 2021,

the global economy faced massive contraction on account of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The expansionary policies designed to mitigate this contraction then led to increased inflation and monetary tightening the world over, which dried up dollar liquidity and raised commodity prices.

During this cycle, the PTI government issued ill-advised growth via the expansion of domestic consumption, which once again increased imports and reintroduced another balance-of-payments crisis.

That crisis, coupled with the global oil price shock, sent Pakistan into its worst inflationary period in decades; it took an extraordinarily painful stabilisation period to tame the cost spiral, though at the cost of growth and any notion



of increased prosperity. This precarious stability is threatened once more by regional geopolitical events.

Given the frequency of shocks — self-inflicted and external/global in nature — and the painful adjustments needed to fight them off, it is little surprise that poverty rates have gone up in the country.

The government's own poverty estimates narrate an increase of seven per cent between 2018-19 (21.8pc) and 2024-25

(28.9). Rural areas were impacted more, reporting an 8pc increase, compared to 6pc for urban areas. We're stuck in a doom-loop of low growth, recurrent stabilisation, and half-hearted attempts at poverty alleviation.

Likely for the first time ever on record, average household inflation-adjusted incomes and consumption actually fell during two successive survey cycles.

In real terms, households on average are both earning less and

consuming less than six years ago. Stretch that back to 10 years, and the numbers remain flat.

In other words, Pakistan has witnessed a lost decade in both incomes and consumption. On its own, this story is distressing enough.

For a country of 250 million with a young and large labour force, enhancing shared prosperity should be the central plan of economic policymaking. Instead, we're stuck in a doom-loop of low growth, re-

current stabilisation, and half-hearted attempts at poverty alleviation.

But what makes it worse is that there is a creeping inequality story that is becoming more apparent via data and anecdotes.

By now, it is clear that the story of the past decade is of economic slowdown interspersed with outright stagnation. The recently released survey data adds the increase in poverty to this story too.

But what about the fact that growth has ac-

tually not been zero during this time? The average annual growth rate from the past six years is around 3pc.

And yet poverty has gone up during this time. As my colleague Dr Ali Hasanain and several others have noted, these two parallel trends (low but positive average growth and increased poverty) show

that the benefits of even anaemic growth are being accrued to a narrower sliver of the population.

If the gain from all

economic growth was distributed equitably, we would not see a real-term decline in average incomes or consumption and an increase in the poverty rate (using a fixed threshold).

Breaking the income and consumption data by quintile predictably shows that the lowest quintiles have seen greater erosion compared to the upper ones.

However, it's the missing top 10pc or so that is likely benefiting from the growth that has taken place.

In large-scale consumption and income surveys, it is standard practice to assume that the top 10pc of the distribution is unlikely to be captured by standard sampling frames.

These are richer households in smaller elite communities that are both a very small fraction of the overall urban landscape and are less likely to entertain door-to-door survey requests.

Given the absence of these households from the data, we don't know what the impact of the past six years (or the past 10) has been on their incomes and consumption patterns.

For those at the very top (the top 1pc to 5pc), there may have been a slowdown in income and consumption growth, but probably not an absolute decline.

The basis for this speculative assessment is the classic distinction between asset-owning households and non-asset owning households. Keeping farmland, live-

stock, and personal residence aside, most Pakistanis are asset poor.

They especially do not have access to assets that can be used to generate rents, profits, dividends, or any other form of capital income.

During periods of high inflation (especially coupled with devolution), asset owners may see a temporary erosion in the real value of their assets, but this is often mitigated by the rise in interest rates, which ultimately benefit net savers. Think about some of the other steps taken by governments in the recent past. Concessional finance for employers is a direct subsidy to owners of capital.

The real estate amnesty scheme/package from 2021 helped spur growth in the construction sector but it had the (likely intended)

effect of raising land values of urban residential and commercial real estate, owned by a small sliver of the population.

Even shocks are experienced differently: higher energy prices have been offset by high-income households through access to low-tax solar products and now new energy vehicles.

In recent months, various forms of conspicuous consumption in big urban centres — expensive real estate, leisure opportunities, coffee shops and restaurants — provide anecdotal evidence of an increasingly bifurcated economy.

Pakistan's Climate Vulnerability: A Governance Dilemma

Zia Uddin:

Pakistan contributes less than one percent to global carbon emissions, yet it consistently ranks among the countries most exposed to climate-induced disasters. This imbalance is not merely an environmental concern; it reflects governance dilemma rooted in a weak institutional co-ordination and limited adaptation planning.

Climate change is one of the most pressing challenges of the modern era, adversely affecting societies at multiple levels.

Rising temperatures, droughts, irregular weather patterns, sea-level rise, melting glaciers, floods, and water insecurity demonstrate its far-reaching global consequences.

Since these impacts transcend national borders, climate change is inherently a global challenge. Along with other developing nations, Pakistan remains highly vulnerable.

In 2024, Pakistan recorded its ninth warmest year in the last 64 years, with an average temperature of 23.52°C and rainfall levels 31 percent above the historical average. This highlights the urgency of collective international action.

For Pakistan, however, climate vulnerability is compounded by governance constraints. Fragmented institutional coordination, weak policy



implementation, and limited emphasis on adaptation have reduced the state's capacity to respond effectively. Consequently, the climate crisis in Pakistan reflects not only environmental stress but also persistent governance failures.

Climate change refers to long-term shifts in global weather patterns and temperatures, primarily driven by human activities. According to United Nations findings, excessive

greenhouse gas emissions have intensified heat retention in the atmosphere. Gases such as carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide have thickened the atmospheric blanket, largely due to deforestation, fossil fuel consumption, and rapid industrialization.

One of the most visible consequences of climate change is rising global temperatures.

The Copernicus Climate Change Service reported that average global tempera-

tures in 2024 exceeded pre-industrial levels by 1.52°C. This warming has intensified heatwaves, prolonged droughts, and increased wildfire risks.

Rising temperatures have also disrupted weather systems, leading to irregular rainfall, intense storms, and stronger hurricanes.

Another major consequence is sea-level rise. Oceans absorb nearly 90 percent of excess heat caused by greenhouse gas emissions, leading to

thermal expansion. Simultaneously, melting glaciers and ice sheets contribute to rising sea levels.

According to Encyclopedia Britannica, global sea levels have risen by approximately 21 to 25 centimeters since 1880, threatening coastal livelihoods and infrastructure.

Climate change has also intensified water scarcity, a growing global concern. Pakistan is already a water-stressed country, and climate variability has

further exacerbated this challenge.

A report by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics places Pakistan among the most water-risk-prone nations. Water scarcity places immense pressure on agriculture, industry, and households, undermining economic stability and food security.

Despite contributing minimally to global emissions, Pakistan bears a disproportionate share of climate-related losses. The

Global Climate Risk Index ranks Pakistan among the most vulnerable countries to climate change.

The 2022 floods alone caused an estimated economic loss of \$40 billion and claimed at least 1,700 lives. More recently, monsoon floods in 2025 resulted in over 1,000 deaths.

Given these realities, climate adaptation is no longer an academic debate but a strategic necessity.

Mitigation remains essential to limit

future warming through reduced greenhouse gas emissions. Transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and hydropower is critical.

Equally important is adaptation. Since climate impacts are already unavoidable, societies must strengthen resilience. Investment in climate-resilient infrastructure, improved urban planning, and effective water management is vital.

Global cooperation remains the third pillar of climate response. Climate change transcends borders and requires collective responsibility. Developed nations must honor climate finance commitments and support vulnerable countries in adaptation efforts.

For Pakistan, effective climate governance is central to resilience. Addressing financing constraints, strengthening legislation, improving federal-provincial coordination, and prioritizing adaptation over rhetoric are critical steps.

Climate change presents urgent challenges that demand immediate action. Without decisive reforms in climate governance and a strategic shift toward adaptation, Pakistan will continue to pay an unjust price for a crisis it did little to create.

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Balochistan Imposes Curfew in Noshki as Security Tightens After Terror Attacks; DSP Martyred in Rakhni

Staff Reporter:
QUETTA: The Government of Balochistan has imposed a district-wide curfew in Noshki after a terrorist attack on a Frontier Corps (FC) post and intelligence warnings of further militant threats, while a separate terrorist attack in Rakhni claimed the life of a senior police officer, highlighting the province's deteriorating security situation.

According to an official notification issued by the Home Department, a curfew has been enforced across District Noshki under Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, effective from 8:00 pm on July 28 until 8:00 pm on July 31, 2026.

The notification states that the District Intelligence Coordination Committee (DICC), Noshki, reported a terrorist attack on an FC post located on the Western Bypass on Tuesday.



Officials said the subsequent security operation indicated a highly volatile law and order situation in the district.

The Home Department further noted that repeated terrorist attacks targeting law enforcement agencies, sensitive government installations, and the

National Highway (N-40) have significantly worsened the security environment, posing serious risks to public safety, human lives, public property, and the movement of passengers and goods.

Authorities also cited credible intelligence reports warning of an increased threat of further terrorist at-

tacks during the month of August, prompting the government to take preventive measures.

Meanwhile, in a separate incident, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Murid Bugti was martyred, while one police officer sustained injuries after terrorists opened fire

in Rakhni, according to Chief Minister's Adviser on Political and Media Affairs Shahid Rind.

Rind said a search operation has been launched to track down the attackers, and additional security personnel have been deployed to strengthen the operation and secure the area.

well-coordinated public events.

The meeting was held at 8:30 a.m., followed by the official commencement of Independence Day celebrations at 9:00 a.m.

The Deputy Commissioner said speeches highlighting the leadership and sacrifices of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah will be delivered to educate the younger generation about the significance of Pakistan's independence and its historical background.

He directed the Education Department to organize special Independence Day events in schools and colleges across the district, while the District Sports Officer was instructed to

arrange a week-long series of sports activities to encourage healthy participation among youth.

The Deputy Commissioner also instructed all heads of government departments to decorate public offices to reflect the

schedule, the flag-hoisting ceremony will be held at 8:30 a.m., followed by the official commencement of Independence Day celebrations at 9:00 a.m.

He directed the Education Department to organize special Independence Day events in schools and colleges across the district, while the District Sports Officer was instructed to

patriotic spirit of Independence Day.

To ensure smooth conduct of the events, the Medical Superintendent was directed to ensure the availability of doctors and paramedical staff on August 4 during the Chehelum observance and throughout other official programs.

The Police Department was instructed to implement comprehensive security arrangements for all scheduled events.

Additionally, the Chief Officer of the Municipal Corporation was directed to complete all cleaning, beautification, and logistical arrangements at Faisal Park, where the district's main Independence Day ceremony will be held.

Naseerabad Administration Inspects Road and Education Development Projects to Ensure Quality Standards

NASEERABAD: Acting on the special directives of Deputy Commissioner Naseerabad Varinder Lal, Assistant Commissioner Chattr Bashir Ahmed, accompanied by SDO Buildings and Roads (B&R) Sajjad Ali Umrani, conducted a comprehensive inspection of ongoing development projects across the district to assess construction quality and progress.

During the visit, the inspection team reviewed the construction and rehabilitation work on several key road projects, including the Rasool Baksh Bugti Blacktop Road, Imam Baksh Bugti Blacktop Road, Shamma W Blacktop Road, and Sultan Kot Blacktop Road.

The officials also visited the Government Shelterless Boys Primary School, Gothi Dadan Khan Jhakrani, along with other ongoing



ing and completed development schemes. Particular attention was given to the quality of construction, materials used, and the pace of work.

Addressing the concerned officials during the inspection, Assistant Commissioner Bashir Ahmed warned that negligence or compromise in the quality of public welfare projects

will not be tolerated. He emphasized that the district administration is fully committed to ensuring transparency, high construction standards, and the timely completion of all development schemes.

He further stated that these projects will play a vital role in improving road connectivity, transportation facilities, and educational infrastructure, making it essential to maintain durability and high-quality workmanship throughout the construction process.

The Assistant Commissioner directed all concerned officers to perform their professional responsibilities diligently and ensure effective monitoring at every stage of implementation so that the

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Balochistan Minister Haji Noor Muhammad Dummar Meets Public Delegations, Orders Swift Resolution of Citizens' Issues

QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Commodity Management Department and Chairman of the Balochistan Food Authority, Haji Noor Muhammad Dummar, met with public delegations and individual citizens from remote areas of his constituency at his office, where he listened to their concerns and reviewed their issues in detail.

During the meetings, the provincial minister took serious notice of the grievances presented by the visitors and issued immediate directives to the relevant authorities to resolve several cases without delay.

He also assured the delegations that the remaining issues would be addressed on a priority basis.



Haji Noor Muhammad Dummar said that, as the elected representative of his constituency, serving the people remains his foremost responsibility. He noted that, as representative of his constituency, serving the people remains his foremost responsibility. He noted that, as representative of his constituency, serving the people remains his foremost responsibility.

He assured citizens that no one with a legitimate grievance would be left without assistance and reaffirmed his commitment to ensuring that public concerns receive prompt attention from

the concerned departments.

The minister stated that listening to the public and taking practical steps to resolve their problems is an essential part of his responsibilities. He pledged to utilize all available resources and his full capacity to

address the needs of his constituents and promote the development and prosperity of the region.

He reiterated that the provincial government remains committed to improving public service delivery and ensuring that citizens receive relief through effective coordination with government departments.

Quetta news, Haji Noor Muhammad Dummar, Commodity Management Department, Balochistan Food Authority, public delegation, constituency issues.

public service, Balochistan government, citizen grievances, development, public welfare, Quetta, government services, Balochistan politics.

Balochistan Home Department Reaffirms Commitment to Strengthening Peace and Public Security

QUETTA: Babar Yousafzai, Assistant Secretary to the Home Department, Government of Balochistan, has said that under the vision of Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti and the provincial government's effective policies, comprehensive measures are being implemented to further strengthen law and order across Balochistan.

Speaking on the government's security efforts, Babar Yousafzai stated that protecting the lives and property of

citizens remains the province's top priority.

He said all law enforcement agencies are working in close coordination to maintain peace and ensure public safety throughout the province. He noted that, as a result of the government's coordinated strategy and the professional efforts of security institutions, the overall law and order situation has improved significantly, leading to increased public confidence.

Babar Yousafzai said the government continues to intensify its efforts against terrorism, extremism, and criminal activities, adding that a zero-tolerance policy is being enforced against elements that threaten peace and stability. He emphasized that lasting peace cannot be achieved without public cooperation and urged citizens to continue supporting law enforcement agencies by promptly reporting any suspicious activities to the relevant authorities.

Reaffirming the Home Department's commitment, Babar Yousafzai said the department remains fully dedicated to maintaining law and order, safeguarding the public, and ensuring long-term stability across Balochistan.

He added that sustainable peace is the foundation for economic development, investment, business growth, and public prosperity, stressing that the Government of Balochistan will continue taking ev-

ery possible step to make the province a peaceful, secure, and progressive region.

Quetta news, Babar Yousafzai, Home Department, Balochistan, law and order, public security, Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti, government services, Balochistan politics.

ance with international safety, environmental, and operational standards. The marine fuel was delivered by the bunker barge M.T. MARINE ISTA, which sailed from Karachi to Gwadar to service the vessel.

The operation was successfully completed through the coordinated efforts of the Gwadar Port Authority (GPA), Pakistan Customs, and other relevant government agencies. Officials ensured full compliance with all legal, regulatory, safety, and environmental standards throughout the process.

Commenting on the achievement, Federal

The minister emphasized that the continued development of Gwadar Port is of strategic importance not only for Balochistan but also for Pakistan's overall economic growth.

Chairman of Gwadar Port Authority Noor-ul-Haq Baloch said the successful operation reflects the port's growing operational capacity, improved efficiency, and increasing confidence among global shipping companies.

He noted that Gwadar Port is now capable of providing reliable marine fuel services, adding that the expansion of bunkering

operation further reinforces Gwadar Port's growing role in regional maritime logistics and supports Pakistan's long-term vision of becoming a major player in global shipping and port services.

Gwadar Port, commercial bunkering operation, Gwadar news, Blue Economy Pakistan, LNG carrier EXCELRATE SHENANDOAH, Low Sulphur Fuel Oil (LSFO), Gwadar Port Authority, Noor-ul-Haq Baloch, Junaid Anwar Chaudhry, maritime logistics, marine fuel services, regional maritime hub, Pakistan shipping, port development, Balochistan economy.

The body of DSP Murid Bugti was draped in the national flag, while a smartly turned-out police contingent presented a guard of honour and ceremonial salute, bidding farewell to the officer with full official honours.

Usta Muhammad Finalizes Plans for Kashmir Solidarity Day and Independence Day Celebrations

USTA MUHAMMAD: Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ramzan Pali chaired a high-level meeting to finalize arrangements for observing Kashmir Exploitation Day (August 5) and Pakistan's Independence Day (August 14) with national spirit and

solidarity rally will be organized on August 5 to express support for the people of Kashmir and to highlight their struggle.

He further announced that the Independence Day program has been finalized. According to the

arrange a week-long series of sports activities to encourage healthy participation among youth.

The Deputy Commissioner also instructed all heads of government departments to decorate public offices to reflect the



well-coordinated public events.

The meeting was held at 8:30 a.m., followed by the official commencement of Independence Day celebrations at 9:00 a.m.

The Deputy Commissioner said speeches highlighting the leadership and sacrifices of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah will be delivered to educate the younger generation about the significance of Pakistan's independence and its historical background.

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The Police Department was instructed to implement comprehensive security arrangements for all scheduled events.

Additionally, the Chief Officer of the Municipal Corporation was directed to complete all cleaning, beautification, and logistical arrangements at Faisal Park, where the district's main Independence Day ceremony will be held.

Gwadar Port Successfully Completes Second Commercial Bunkering Operation, Strengthening Pakistan's Blue Economy

GWADAR: Gwadar Port has successfully completed its second commercial bunkering operation, marking another significant milestone in Pakistan's efforts to strengthen its Blue Economy and position Gwadar as a leading regional maritime hub.

During the operation, the LNG carrier M.V. EXCELRATE SHENANDOAH (IMO No. 9321768) was supplied with approximately 1,150 metric tons of Low Sulphur Fuel Oil (LSFO) at Gwadar Port.

The day-long bunkering operation was carried out in accordance with international safety, environmental, and operational standards. The marine fuel was delivered by the bunker barge M.T. MARINE ISTA, which sailed from Karachi to Gwadar to service the vessel.

The operation was successfully completed through the coordinated efforts of the Gwadar Port Authority (GPA), Pakistan Customs, and other relevant government agencies. Officials ensured full compliance with all legal, regulatory, safety, and environmental standards throughout the process.

Commenting on the achievement, Federal

Minister for Maritime Affairs Junaid Anwar Chaudhry said the successful completion of Gwadar Port's second commercial bunkering operation demonstrates the port's rapidly emerging as a key center for international maritime trade and shipping services.

He added that, under the government's maritime development policies, continuous efforts are being made to provide modern port infrastructure, attract investment, and deliver top-tier services to international shipping companies.

The successful completion of the operation

activities is expected to attract more international vessels, increase port revenue, create new business opportunities, and generate employment in the region.

Noor-ul-Haq Baloch further stated that the government, in collaboration with all relevant stakeholders, is accelerating efforts to transform Gwadar Port into a competitive regional bunkering and maritime logistics hub, while continuing to upgrade the port with internationally recognized facilities and services.

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The successful completion of the operation

Martyred DSP Murid Bugti Laid to Rest with Full State Honours in Barkhan

BARKHAN: The Range Ayaz Ahmed Baloch, Deputy Commissioner, Barkhan, led a funeral procession for the martyred Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Murid Bugti, who was killed in a terrorist attack on August 14. The body of DSP Murid Bugti was draped in the national flag, while a smartly turned-out police contingent presented a guard of honour and ceremonial salute, bidding farewell to the officer with full official honours.

The funeral ceremony was marked by a solemn atmosphere as participants paid tribute to the courage, dedication, and professional service of the fallen police officer.

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