



FRONT PAGE
Quetta Train Service
Suspended: Jaffar Express...
Page No 1



OPINION
BUIEMS Organizes Open Day to
Inspire Students Across Balochistan
Page No 2



BALUCHISTAN
University of Balochistan
Improves Ranking from 42%...
Page No 3



NATIONAL
Death toll from suicide bombing near
police station in Swat rises to 19
Page No 4

First Digital, Print Daily of Balochistan

Editor: Asim Khan.

Rs.10.00 Vol.VII:No:275

Email address: dquettavoice@gmail.com
Website: www.quettavoice.com

Tuesday 04, August, 2026

QUETTA VOICE

Balochistan Situation Lies Between Extremes, Media Ignores Progress: CM Sarfraz Bugti

**Qaseem Shah,
News Desk:**

Chief Minister of Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti has stated that the ground reality in Balochistan is neither as ideal as official claims suggest nor as grim as portrayed by certain external quarters.

He emphasized that the truth lies between these two extremes, warning that one-sided narratives hurt both the province and the state.

Speaking during an interview on a private television channel, the Chief Minister criticized national media outlets for their selective coverage of the province.

"The national media only remembers Balochistan when an unfortunate incident takes place,"

CM Bugti remarked. "Positive developments, major infrastructure projects, and administrative reforms are consistently ignored."

Progress on Merit and Public Services

Highlighting recent administrative achievements, Bugti noted that:

Educational Reforms: Over 17,000 teachers have been recruited purely on merit and transparency, bringing all functional state-run schools back to life.

Healthcare & Youth: Public hospital services have significantly improved.

alongside multiple ongoing youth welfare initiatives across the province.

New Administrative Divisions for Better Governance

To address the challenges posed by Balochistan's vast territory, the provincial government is establishing new administrative divisions and dis-



Chief Minister of Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti has stated that the ground reality in Balochistan.

tricts.

Bugti explained that the massive size of past districts made effective monitoring nearly impossible.

Smaller administrative units will help bring state institutions, governance, and public services directly to the doorsteps of citizens in remote areas.

Security, Foreign Interference, and RAW Network

Addressing regional security concerns, CM Bugti stated

that the global community stands with the Pakistani state, not terrorist outfits.

He reiterated that anti-Pakistan elements continue to receive facilitation from Afghan soil, contrary to international commitments.

He directly linked the funding, training, and backend support of active terrorist factions in the province to India's intelligence agency RAW.

"Balochistan's long borders, rugged mountainous ter-

rain, and scattered population make counter-terrorism operations complex," Bugti said.

"However, our security forces operate strictly within the law.

The state prioritizes protecting civilian lives, whereas terrorists use innocent people as human shields."

Call for Political Unity and Youth Awareness

The Chief Minister strongly condemned attempts by certain political groups to

attribute terrorist activities to the state.

He assured that the youth of Balochistan—both Baloch and Pashtun—are deeply patriotic and urged them to remain vigilant against hostile propaganda.

On the subject of peace talks, Bugti remarked that there is no historical precedent anywhere in the world for successful negotiations with armed terrorist groups.

However, he reaffirmed

the government's commitment to holding open dialogues with political parties,

elected representatives, and young people to resolve administrative and social issues through consensus.

He concluded by reassuring the public that while terrorists seek to instill fear,

the state remains fully determined to safeguard peace, enforce transparent governance, and drive economic growth across Balochistan.

Quetta Train Service Suspended: Jaffar Express Operations Between Quetta and Peshawar Temporarily Cancelled



File Photo: Pakistan Railways has temporarily suspended train operations between Quetta and Peshawar

News Desk:

QUETTA: Pakistan Railways has temporarily suspended train operations between Quetta and Peshawar due to unavoidable circumstances, affecting passengers traveling on the Jaffar Express. Railway officials confirmed that the suspension has come into immediate effect.

According to railway sources, the Jaffar Express departing from Quetta to Peshawar has been cancelled for one day and will not leave Quetta on Tuesday as scheduled.

Meanwhile, the Peshawar-bound Jaffar Express traveling toward Quetta will be stopped at Kuchak Aab, where further movement will remain suspended until further instructions from railway authorities.

Officials stated that the temporary suspension of the Quetta-Peshawar train service was necessitated by unavoidable operational reasons.

The disruption has caused inconvenience for passengers, while

Pakistan Railways is expected to issue further updates regarding the restoration of the service.

ANP's Asghar Achakzai Questions Balochistan Security Strategy, Warns Highways Unsafe

ALI HAMZA:

QUETTA — Awami National Party (ANP) Balochistan President and former provincial lawmaker Asghar Khan Achakzai has launched a sharp critique against the federal government, declaring that key highways and residential areas across the province are no longer safe for ordinary citizens.

Speaking at a packed press conference at the Quetta Press Club, Achakzai voiced serious concern over the worsening law and order situation in Balochistan and challenged the official narrative surrounding regional stability.

"Our highways, our homes, our province, are no longer safe," Achakzai said. "Today, when people leave their homes, they live in constant fear of whether they will return alive."

Worsening Violence on Quetta-Karachi Highway

Highlighting persistent attacks on strategic trade routes, the ANP provincial leader drew attention to recurring violence along the Quetta-Karachi Highway.

He noted that commuters and transporters face daily threats of armed ambushes, extortion, and tar-



Awami National Party (ANP) Balochistan President and former provincial lawmaker Asghar Khan Achakzai at a Press Conference.

geted arson involving commercial oil tankers.

Achakzai criticized decision-makers in Islamabad for remaining distant from the ground realities of the province.

He urged the state to confront the root infrastructure of armed groups rather than conducting reactive operations.

"If militancy is the issue, we ask those in power: where are their

command centers?" Achakzai questioned.

"Why do security forces not take action at the source instead of creating a spectacle after violence enters the province?"

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Soil Erosion in Bolan, Balochistan: When the Land We Depend On Begins to Disappear

By Ayesha Tanveer:

In the valleys of Bolan, the land tells a story that is easy to miss if we only look at the surface. The mountains stand tall, the valleys stretch across the landscape, and farmers continue to work the soil as their families have done for generations. But beneath this familiar picture, something is changing. Little by little, the soil that supports agriculture and rural life is being washed away by sudden floods, carried off by strong winds and weakened by years of pressure on the land. Soil erosion may not happen overnight, and it rarely makes headlines. Yet for the people who depend on the land, its effects are real. A field that once produced a reasonable harvest may gradually become less productive. A farmer who once relied on rain and traditional methods may find that the same approach no longer works. For communities in Bolan, soil erosion is becoming more than an environmental concern—it is increasingly a threat to agriculture, livelihoods and the future of rural life.

A Fragile Land Under Pressure

Balochistan is Pakistan's largest province by area, covering nearly 44 percent of the country's land. Yet only a small portion of this vast region is suitable for cultivation. In places like Bolan, farming has always depended on a delicate relationship between soil, rainfall, water availability and traditional knowledge.

That relationship is now under growing pressure. Bolan lies in an arid to semi-arid region where rainfall is limited and unpredictable. Farmers can experience long dry periods followed by sudden and intense rainfall. Instead of slowly soaking into the ground, heavy rain can rush through valleys and fields, creating flash floods that carry away

the most valuable layer of soil.

This is one of the greatest problems with soil erosion: the soil that disappears first is often the soil that agriculture needs the most.

The topsoil contains organic matter and nutrients essential for healthy crops. Once it is washed away, rebuilding it can take years, sometimes decades.

When Rain Becomes a Threat Rain is essential for life and agriculture, but in Bolan, the way rain arrives can sometimes be as important as how much rain falls.

After months of dryness, the soil may become hard and vulnerable. When intense rainfall suddenly arrives, water can move rapidly across the surface instead of being absorbed into the ground. In the mountainous terrain of Bolan, steep slopes make this runoff even faster. The result can be devastating. Water cuts through fields, carries soil downhill and deposits sediment in streams and irrigation channels. What begins as erosion on a hillside can eventually contribute to blocked waterways, increased flood risks and damage to agricultural land.

This creates a difficult cycle: dry conditions weaken the land, intense rainfall removes the soil, and the loss of soil makes the land even more vulnerable the next time heavy rain arrives. Human activities are also making the problem worse.

Nature is not the only factor behind the changing landscape. Human activities have also played an important role.

Vegetation is one of the land's natural defenses against erosion. Trees, shrubs and grasses help hold soil together through their roots and reduce the speed at which rainwater flows across the ground. When vegetation is removed, the soil is left exposed.



tion is removed, the soil is left exposed.

In many areas, trees and shrubs are cut for fuelwood and construction. Over time, the loss of vegetation leaves hill-sides and open land more vulnerable to wind and water.

Livestock grazing is another important part of soil degradation. Repeated deep ploughing can disturb soil structure, while limited crop rotation and a lack of organic matter can gradually weaken the soil.

In areas where farmers struggle to find enough fodder for livestock, crop residues may be removed from fields instead of being left to protect the soil. As a result, fields can remain exposed for long periods.

The consequences become visible over time. As fertile topsoil disappears, the soil loses nutrients and organic matter. Crops may grow less vigorously, and harvests may decline. For a small farmer, this is not simply a number on a production chart. A smaller harvest can mean less food for the family, less income

and greater difficulty paying for seeds, fertilizer and other agricultural expenses.

The Hidden Cost of Declining Soil Fertility Healthy soil does more than provide nutrients to crops. It also acts like a natural reservoir, holding water and making it available to plants during dry periods.

When erosion removes organic matter and damages soil structure, the land becomes less capable of retaining moisture. In a dry region like Bolan, this can be particularly damaging.

Farmers may then turn increasingly to chemical fertilizers to compensate for declining fertility. Fertilizers can help crops in the short term, but they cannot replace the lost structure and organic matter of healthy soil.

They can also increase production costs for farmers who are already financially vulnerable. This can create a difficult cycle: soil erosion reduces fertility, crop yields decline, farmers spend more on inputs, production costs increase, household in-

come falls, poverty and economic pressure grow.

Breaking this cycle requires restoring the health of the soil itself rather than relying only on short-term solutions.

The Problem Does Not Stop at the Farm

The effects of erosion do not remain within the boundaries of agricultural fields.

When soil is washed away, it often ends up in rivers, streams and irrigation channels. Over time, this sediment can reduce water storage capacity and interfere with irrigation systems.

Sedimentation can also increase flood risks during heavy rainfall. At the same time, the loss of vegetation can help stabilize slopes and protect the land from erosion.

If degradation continues for years without intervention, productive land may gradually become severely degraded and increasingly difficult to cultivate. For Balochistan, where cultivable land is already limited, losing even more agricultural land could have serious consequences.

A Crisis That Af-

fects People, Not Just Soil

Perhaps the most overlooked aspect of soil erosion is its human cost.

For many families in rural Bolan, agriculture and livestock are not simply occupations. They are a way of life. When the land becomes less productive, the effects reach directly into people's homes.

Lower crop yields can reduce household income and increase food insecurity. Families may become more dependent on outside food supplies or government assistance. As farming becomes less reliable, young people may leave villages and move toward urban areas in search of better opportunities.

Over time, environmental degradation can therefore contribute to social change and migration.

This is why soil erosion should not be treated as an isolated environmental issue. It is connected to poverty, food security, employment, migration and the long-term stability of rural communities.

There Is Still Time to Act There are practical steps that can make a difference. Farmers can adopt conservation agriculture techniques such as reduced tillage, crop rotation and retaining crop residues. Adding organic matter to the soil can improve its structure and help it retain moisture.

Restoring vegetation is equally important. Planting native trees, shrubs and grasses can help stabilize slopes and protect the land from erosion.

Grazing also needs to be managed carefully. Controlled grazing systems can give damaged rangelands time to recover while still allowing communities to maintain their livestock.

Water management offers another important opportunity. Small check dams, rainwater harvesting systems and im-

proved irrigation methods can slow down runoff, capture water and reduce soil loss. These measures can be particularly valuable in areas where every drop of water matters.

But no solution will work without the involvement of the people who live on the land.

Farmers, livestock owners and local communities must be part of the decision-making process. They understand their environment, its challenges and its changing conditions.

Government institutions, agricultural experts and development organizations can support them with technical knowledge, training and resources, but long-term success will depend on local participation.

Conclusion

Soil erosion in Bolan is a quiet crisis, but its consequences are anything but small. Every layer of fertile soil that disappears represents a loss of agricultural potential. Every degraded field puts additional pressure on a farmer. Every damaged hillside increases the vulnerability of communities to floods and land degradation.

The challenge is becoming more urgent as climate change, water scarcity and extreme weather place additional pressure on already fragile landscapes.

Protecting Bolan's soil therefore means protecting much more than farmland. It means protecting the food security and livelihoods of families who depend on agriculture. It means preserving the natural environment and reducing the risk of future land degradation.

The soil beneath our feet may seem ordinary, but for the people of Bolan, it is the foundation of their lives.

Saving that soil is not just an environmental responsibility. It is an investment in the future of Bolan and the people who call it home.

BUITEMS Organizes Open Day to Inspire Students Across Balochistan

Syed Dara Shikoh Amir:

Quetta, September 2025 – The Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS) opened its doors to thousands of college students

from across the province by hosting a vibrant "Open Day," showcasing its modern academic facilities, innovative programs, and lively campus culture.

Delivering a special message, BUITEMS Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Khalid Hafeez reaffirmed the university's mission of inclusive education and knowledge sharing. He stated,

"BUITEMS is the university of every student in Balochistan. Our classrooms, research opportunities, and resources are open for all so that no



young learner in the province remains deprived of quality education.

The event attracted an enthusiastic response, with more than 3,000 students from 18+ colleges at-

tracted an enthusiastic response, with more than 3,000 students from 18+ colleges at-

tracting an enthusiastic response, with more than 3,000 students from 18+ colleges at-

tracting an enthusiastic response, with more than 3,000 students from 18+ colleges at-

tracting an enthusiastic response, with more than 3,000 students from 18+ colleges at-

tracting an enthusiastic response, with more than 3,000 students from 18+ colleges at-

tracting an enthusiastic response, with more than 3,000 students from 18+ colleges at-

tracting an enthusiastic response, with more than 3,000 students from 18+ colleges at-

tracting an enthusiastic response, with more than 3,000 students from 18+ colleges at-

tracting an enthusiastic response, with more than 3,000 students from 18+ colleges at-

tracting an enthusiastic response, with more than 3,000 students from 18+ colleges at-

tracting an enthusiastic response, with more than 3,000 students from 18+ colleges at-

tracting an enthusiastic response, with more than 3,000 students from 18+ colleges at-

tracting an enthusiastic response, with more than 3,000 students from 18+ colleges at-

tracting an enthusiastic response, with more than 3,000 students from 18+ colleges at-

tracting an enthusiastic response, with more than 3,000 students from 18+ colleges at-

tracting an enthusiastic response, with more than 3,000 students from 18+ colleges at-

tracting an enthusiastic response, with more than 3,000 students from 18+ colleges at-

tracting an enthusiastic response, with more than 3,000 students from 18+ colleges at-

tracting an enthusiastic response, with more than 3,000 students from 18+ colleges at-

tracting an enthusiastic response, with more than 3,000 students from 18+ colleges at-

tracting an enthusiastic response, with more than 3,000 students from 18+ colleges at-

tracting an enthusiastic response, with more than 3,000 students from 18+ colleges at-

tracting an enthusiastic response, with more than 3,000 students from 18+ colleges at-

tracting an enthusiastic response, with more than 3,000 students from 18+ colleges at-

tracting an enthusiastic response, with more than 3,000 students from 18+ colleges at-

tracting an enthusiastic response, with more than 3,000 students from 18+ colleges at-

tracting an enthusiastic response, with more than 3,000 students from 18+ colleges at-

tracting an enthusiastic response, with more than 3,000 students from 18+ colleges at-

tracting an enthusiastic response, with more than 3,000 students from 18+ colleges at-

CM Balochistan Directs 14 August Preparations with Province-Wide Events

Web Desk:

The Balochistan government will organize grand Pakistan Independence Day celebrations across all divisional and district headquarters on August 14.

Following directives issued by Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti during a high-level meeting to review preparations for the national event.

The meeting, attended by Lieutenant General Rahet Naseem Ahmad Khan,

Commander Southern Command, approved a comprehensive plan to celebrate Independence Day with national flag-hoisting ceremonies, patriotic songs, cultural performances, educational programmes, and community events designed to promote patriotism, national unity, and public participation across the province.

Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti instructed all commissions, deputy commissioners, and relevant government departments to complete preparations on time and ensure that Independence Day celebrations are held in a well-organized, dignified, and memorable manner in every district.

He also directed officials to encourage



maximum public participation, particularly among the youth. "Independence Day is not merely a national celebration but a day to honour the sacrifices of our martyrs," he said. "We must strengthen national unity, and reaffirm our commitment to Pakistan's peace, stability, and development," the chief minister said.

He further directed the authorities to implement comprehensive security and administrative arrangements to ensure that August 14 celebrations in Balochistan are conducted in a peaceful and secure environment, allowing citizens to participate freely in the festivities.

The meeting also emphasized close coordination among all government departments and law enforcement agencies to ensure that Pakistan Independence Day celebrations in Balochistan are conducted with professionalism, discipline, and in accordance with the dignity and prestige of the national occasion.

could worsen the province's fragile political landscape. In a strongly worded statement on Monday, the former Chief Minister demanded an immediate return to fairness and transparency in allocating resources through the provincial Public Sector Development Program (PSDP). Jam Kamal criticized decision-makers for pouring billions of rupees into a handful of

Jam Kamal Raises Red Flag Over 'Unfair' Distribution of Development Funds in Balochistan

NEWS DESK:

Federal Minister for Commerce and senior PML-N leader Jam Kamal has voiced grave concern over what he called an inequitable distribution of development funds across Balochistan, warning that political favoritism

favoured districts while completely ignoring several key regions.

He also pointed out that development schemes in multiple areas were approved at the behest of non-elected figures, bypassing elected local representatives.

further instability, warning that such administrative unfairness acts as "fuel to the fire" given Balochistan's delicate security and political environment.

The sharp criticism highlights growing friction within the provincial governance structure.



Only through structured, integrated planning can every district get an equal shot at growth," he said. The PML-N leader cautioned provincial authorities against fueling

"Resource distribution must not be based on political likes and dislikes," Jam Kamal stated. "It should depend strictly on genuine need, population, economic contribution, and the level of underdevelopment."

The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) is a major coalition partner alongside the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), which currently leads the provincial government in Quetta. Closing his statement, Jam Kamal urged the Chief Minister of Balochistan to act as a leader for the entire province and all coalition partners, ensuring every district receives balanced development and equal treatment.

University of Balochistan Improves Ranking from 42% to 82%, Governor Praises Leadership at Senate Meeting

QUETTA: Governor of Balochistan Jaffer Khan Mandokhail has hailed the University of Balochistan's remarkable improvement in institutional ranking and scoring from 42% to 82%, describing it as a significant achievement that reflects effective leadership, sound administrative strategy, and continuous improvements in academic quality.

The Governor made these remarks while chairing the 13th Senate meeting of the University of Balochistan, attended by Chief Justice of the Balochistan High Court Justice Kamran Khan Mulakhail, Provincial Minister for Education Rahela Hameed Khan Durani, Vice-Chancellor Dr. Zahoor Ahmed Bazzi, Secretary Higher Education Saleh Baloch, representatives of the Higher Education Commission (HEC), senior government officials, and members of the university senate.

The meeting, which lasted nearly five hours, was attended in full by



the Governor, the Chief Justice, and the Provincial Education Minister, underscoring their commitment to strengthening higher education and improving opportunities for the province's youth.

Governor Calls for Higher Academic Standards and Financial Discipline. Governor Mandokhail congratulated Vice-Chancellor Dr. Zahoor Ahmed Bazzi and his team on the university's progress, urging them to continue focusing on raising academic standards, reducing unnecessary expenditures, and strengthening financial discipline.

He also encouraged the university to establish stronger part-

nerships with industries, pharmaceutical companies, agricultural research institutions, and other relevant sectors to promote research, innovation, employment opportunities, and alternative revenue streams, ultimately enhancing the institution's financial sustainability.

University Recognized for Going Fully Paperless. The Governor noted that the University of Balochistan has become the first public-sector university in the province to fully digitize its administrative and office operations under a comprehensive digital transformation initiative, making its system completely paperless.

He described the

initiative as an environmentally friendly achievement and announced plans to replicate the model across other public-sector universities in Balochistan. He also said the Governor's Secretary would adopt a paperless system in the future.

In recognition of his contribution to the digital transformation project, Director IT Muhammad Salal Khan will be awarded a special letter of appreciation.

Chief Justice High-

sented a major advancement in the province's higher education system.

However, he expressed concern that the discontinuation of FA and BA degree programs had limited educational opportunities for thousands of students who rely on private education due to financial, social, or personal circumstances.

He emphasized the need to preserve pathways for private candidates so that men and women across the province can continue pursuing higher education according to their individual circumstances and financial capacity.

Key Recommendations Approved. The Senate meeting concluded with several important decisions based on recommendations submitted by participants, aimed at further improving academic standards, governance, financial management, digital transformation, and access to higher education at the University of Balochistan.

BUTEMS Vice Chancellor Receives Prestigious UK Fellowship, Bringing International Honour to Pakistan

EDUCATION DESK: QUETTA: The Vice Chancellor of the Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUTEMS), Prof. Dr. Khalid Hafeez, has been awarded the Principal Fellowship by the National Council for Entrepreneurship Education (NCEE), United Kingdom, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to entrepreneurship education.

The prestigious fellowship acknowledges Prof. Dr. Hafeez's efforts in promoting entrepreneurial education and innovation across Pakistan, the United Kingdom, and the Middle



East, reflecting his long-standing commitment to strengthening academic leadership and entrepreneurial development.

According to details shared by the university, this distinction

places Prof. Dr. Hafeez among a select group of internationally recognised academic leaders. Notably, he is the first and only academic from Pakistan to receive the honour. He is

also the only recipient from the wider South Asian region, including India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and China.

The recognition is

for BUTEMS but also for Pakistan's higher education sector, highlighting the growing international impact of the country's academic institutions.

University officials described the fellowship as a testament to Prof. Dr. Hafeez's leadership, vision, and dedication to fostering entrepreneurship, innovation, and excellence in higher education.

The achievement has been widely welcomed by the academic community, with many describing it as a proud moment for BUTEMS and a positive reflection of Pakistan's expanding role in global education and research.

Balochistan C&W Secretary Reviews High Court Expansion Project, Directs 24/7 Construction to Ensure Timely Completion

QUETTA: Balochistan Secretary for Communications and Works (C&W) Babar Khan visited the Balochistan High Court expansion project to review the progress of ongoing construction and directed officials to accelerate work to ensure the project is completed within the stipulated timeline. During the visit, the Secretary was accompanied by Chief Engineer Quetta Zone Abdul Rahim Bangalazi,



technical aspects,

architectural design, implementation challenges, and the proposed completion schedule. They also provided updates on construction quality, ongoing works, and upcoming development stages. Inspecting vari-

ous sections of the project, Secretary Babar Khan reviewed the pace of work, construction standards, and the utilization of available resources. He instructed the concerned officers that no negligence or unnecessary delay would be tolerated and directed

them to complete all work according to the approved schedule.

He said the expansion of the Balochistan High Court building is a project of significant public importance, adding that its completion will provide modern and improved facilities for litigants, lawyers, and judicial staff. The Secretary emphasized that the timely completion of the project is among the provincial government's top priorities.

Shoaib Noshwani, Secretary Information Balochistan, and Director Information Saeed Ahmed Shahwani.

Participants discussed strategies to effectively communicate the provincial government's public welfare initiatives, development projects, economic measures, and governance reforms to the public.

The meeting also focused on strengthening public outreach through print, electronic, and digital media while highlighting the government's performance. A key agenda

strategy is essential for keeping the public informed about government initiatives and achievements.

He said the Information Department is utilizing all available resources to promote the provincial government's development agenda, public welfare programs, and good governance initiatives through coordinated media outreach.

According to the Secretary, assigning dedicated media teams to provincial ministries will improve the timely dissemination of accurate and verified information through press releases, photography,

the Information Department's efforts to effectively communicate government performance and assured their full cooperation in further strengthening public outreach.

The meeting concluded with a consensus that the provincial government's development, financial, and public welfare initiatives would be promoted more effectively through an integrated media strategy utilizing print, electronic, and digital media, ensuring greater public awareness of the government's performance and service delivery.

Lasbela Commissioner Reviews Hub District Performance, Calls for Improved Public Service Delivery

HUB, August 3: Commissioner Lasbela Division Saira Atta chaired an introductory and performance review meeting during her visit to Hub district, where she assessed the performance of government departments, reviewed ongoing development initiatives, and discussed key administrative challenges.

The meeting was held at the LHEDA Conference Hall and was attended by Deputy Commissioner Hub Captain (Retd.) Juma Dad Khan Mandokhail, SP Hub Mirza Bilal Hussain, additional

deputy commissioners, assistant commissioners, and heads of all district government departments.

At the outset, Deputy Commissioner Juma Dad Khan Mandokhail briefed the Commissioner on the district's administrative structure, ongoing development projects, and

the status of key sectors, including education, healthcare, municipal services, revenue administration, industry water supply, and infrastructure.

He also highlighted government initiatives and public welfare programs currently being implemented across the district.



Death toll from suicide bombing near police station in Swat rises to 19

NEWS DESK: The death toll from Sunday's suicide bombing near a police station in Swat rose to 19 on Monday, with police saying that four more victims had succumbed to their injuries.

The suicide bombing had taken place near the Kabal Police Station while a protest against lawlessness was under way at the adjoining public square. Police said that the suicide bomber had detonated his explosives after police personnel attempted to stop and search him at the entrance to the police station.

The bombing had claimed the lives of 15 people, including police officials, and left 18 injured. "However, four more victims succumbed to their injuries under treatment, raising the death toll to 19," Swat police spokesperson Nasir Iqbal Karim said in a statement.

The statement added that a large-scale rescue operation was launched immediately after the attack, in which more than 50 Rescue 1122 personnel participated.

"Rescue teams provided first aid at the scene before shifting the injured to various hospitals for further treatment. Authorities are continuing relief efforts as investigations into the suicide attack remain under way," it said.

In a separate statement, Swat police said



the funeral prayers of two policemen martyred in the suicide attack were held at Javed Iqbal Shaheed Police Lines on Monday.

A smartly turned-out police contingent presented a guard of honour to Constable Mukarram Khan and Constable Hussain Khan, and floral wreaths were laid on their coffins.

The ceremony was attended by Malakand Regional Police Officer Syed Fida Hassan Shah, Swat District Police Officer Muhammad Umar Khan, Superintendent of Police (operations) Ghulam Sadiq Khan, Superintendent of Police (headquarters) Atallah, and other senior police officers.

Security personnel and law enforcers have been coming under attack in KP, which continues to face terrorism.

According to the Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies' (PICSS)

monthly security assessment released on Saturday, Security personnel deaths in terrorism incidents in KP, excluding merged districts, increased from 12 in June to 38 in July and terrorist deaths from 37 to 108, reflecting a rise by 192pc. But civilian deaths fell from 26 to seven, a decline by 73pc. One peace committee member was also killed.

Security personnel deaths in merged districts rose from six to 11 and terrorist deaths fell from 72 to 55. Civilian deaths, meanwhile, rose by 86pc, increasing from seven to 13.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi reached Swat on Monday to meet with the martyrs' families. He was accompanied by Special Assistant for Home Affairs Tariq Saeed, Chief Secretary Shahab Ali Shah and the KP inspector general (IG) of police,

according to a statement issued by the CM office.

In Swat, he visited Sheikh Zayed Al Nahyan Hospital in Saidi Sharif and inquired about the health of those injured in the suicide attack.

The chief minister directed the hospital administration to ensure the provision of best possible medical treatment to all the injured, the statement said.

It added that the CM also chaired a high-level meeting at the Jirga Hall in Saidi Sharif. At the meeting, which was also attended by senior officials, the CM was briefed on the overall law and order situation in Swat and Malakand Division.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to restoring peace, the chief minister said there would be no compromise on law and order in Swat and the Malakand Division.

He said that the CM also chaired a high-level meeting at the Jirga Hall in Saidi Sharif. At the meeting, which was also attended by senior officials, the CM was briefed on the overall law and order situation in Swat and Malakand Division.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to restoring peace, the chief minister said there would be no compromise on law and order in Swat and the Malakand Division.

He said that the CM also chaired a high-level meeting at the Jirga Hall in Saidi Sharif. At the meeting, which was also attended by senior officials, the CM was briefed on the overall law and order situation in Swat and Malakand Division.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to restoring peace, the chief minister said there would be no compromise on law and order in Swat and the Malakand Division.

He said that the CM also chaired a high-level meeting at the Jirga Hall in Saidi Sharif. At the meeting, which was also attended by senior officials, the CM was briefed on the overall law and order situation in Swat and Malakand Division.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to restoring peace, the chief minister said there would be no compromise on law and order in Swat and the Malakand Division.

He said that the CM also chaired a high-level meeting at the Jirga Hall in Saidi Sharif. At the meeting, which was also attended by senior officials, the CM was briefed on the overall law and order situation in Swat and Malakand Division.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to restoring peace, the chief minister said there would be no compromise on law and order in Swat and the Malakand Division.

He said that the CM also chaired a high-level meeting at the Jirga Hall in Saidi Sharif. At the meeting, which was also attended by senior officials, the CM was briefed on the overall law and order situation in Swat and Malakand Division.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to restoring peace, the chief minister said there would be no compromise on law and order in Swat and the Malakand Division.

He said that the CM also chaired a high-level meeting at the Jirga Hall in Saidi Sharif. At the meeting, which was also attended by senior officials, the CM was briefed on the overall law and order situation in Swat and Malakand Division.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to restoring peace, the chief minister said there would be no compromise on law and order in Swat and the Malakand Division.

He said that the CM also chaired a high-level meeting at the Jirga Hall in Saidi Sharif. At the meeting, which was also attended by senior officials, the CM was briefed on the overall law and order situation in Swat and Malakand Division.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to restoring peace, the chief minister said there would be no compromise on law and order in Swat and the Malakand Division.

He said that the CM also chaired a high-level meeting at the Jirga Hall in Saidi Sharif. At the meeting, which was also attended by senior officials, the CM was briefed on the overall law and order situation in Swat and Malakand Division.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to restoring peace, the chief minister said there would be no compromise on law and order in Swat and the Malakand Division.

He said that the CM also chaired a high-level meeting at the Jirga Hall in Saidi Sharif. At the meeting, which was also attended by senior officials, the CM was briefed on the overall law and order situation in Swat and Malakand Division.

PM Shehbaz congratulates PML-N as party secures simple majority in AJK Assembly

NEWS DESK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday congratulated Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Nawaz Sharif and the party's successful candidates after it emerged as the leading party in the second phase of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Legislative Assembly elections.

"I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the successful candidates of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz," the prime minister said in a statement.

He said the party's performance reflected the leadership of Nawaz Sharif and the efforts of the entire PML-N team.

"Under the leadership of the PML-N Quaid, the party conducted a highly successful election campaign in Azad Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

Shehbaz said the victory demonstrated the confidence of the people of AJK in the party's policies.

The development and prosperity of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, along with the welfare and well-being of its people, remain among the foremost priorities of the PML-N," he said.

He added that the participation of political parties in the second phase of the elections would further strengthen the democratic process.

Meanwhile, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Political and Public Affairs Rana Sanaullah said

the first phase and seven of the nine seats in Muzaffarabad in the second phase.

"Alhamdulillah, PML-N candidates won 13 of these 20 seats. In Muzaffarabad, PML-N candidates were successful on four of the seven seats, while the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) won three," he said.

Sanaullah said PML-N had also won 10 of the 12 refugee seats.

"PPP neither campaigned nor contested

the refugee seats. On some of those seats, the contest was between PML-N and Muslim Conference candidates," he said.

He said the results had given PML-N 23 seats, enough to form a simple majority government in AJK. Polling on 10 remaining seats would be held in the third phase after one constituency fell vacant

following the death of a candidate.

Congratulating the successful candidates, Sanaullah said the incoming PML-N government would fulfil the promises made by Nawaz Sharif to the people of AJK and usher in a new era of development.

He also criticised the PPP for alleging electoral rigging after losing seats in Mirpur. "Since yesterday morning, they have been building a narrative that they were

deceived through rigging. When asked for evidence, they pointed to a polling station where their own candidate secured 96% of the vote," he said.

Referring to LA-31, Sanaullah alleged that the PPP district president had anticipated defeat and attempted to disrupt polling.

"First, they demanded the deployment

of Sindh Police. When that was not accepted, they spent the entire day trying to create unrest to suppress voter turnout," he said.

He further alleged that PPP workers, along with members of an action committee, created disturbances in a city constituency by setting tyres on fire and opening fire when police arrived. "In the crossfire, one person was killed, creating fear and panic that reduced voter turnout," he said.

He also criticised the PPP for alleging electoral rigging after losing seats in Mirpur. "Since yesterday morning, they have been building a narrative that they were

deceived through rigging. When asked for evidence, they pointed to a polling station where their own candidate secured 96% of the vote," he said.

Referring to LA-31, Sanaullah alleged that the PPP district president had anticipated defeat and attempted to disrupt polling.

"First, they demanded the deployment

of Sindh Police. When that was not accepted, they spent the entire day trying to create unrest to suppress voter turnout," he said.

He further alleged that PPP workers, along with members of an action committee, created disturbances in a city constituency by setting tyres on fire and opening fire when police arrived. "In the crossfire, one person was killed, creating fear and panic that reduced voter turnout," he said.

He also criticised the PPP for alleging electoral rigging after losing seats in Mirpur. "Since yesterday morning, they have been building a narrative that they were

deceived through rigging. When asked for evidence, they pointed to a polling station where their own candidate secured 96% of the vote," he said.

Referring to LA-31, Sanaullah alleged that the PPP district president had anticipated defeat and attempted to disrupt polling.

"First, they demanded the deployment

of Sindh Police. When that was not accepted, they spent the entire day trying to create unrest to suppress voter turnout," he said.

He further alleged that PPP workers, along with members of an action committee, created disturbances in a city constituency by setting tyres on fire and opening fire when police arrived. "In the crossfire, one person was killed, creating fear and panic that reduced voter turnout," he said.

He also criticised the PPP for alleging electoral rigging after losing seats in Mirpur. "Since yesterday morning, they have been building a narrative that they were

deceived through rigging. When asked for evidence, they pointed to a polling station where their own candidate secured 96% of the vote," he said.

Referring to LA-31, Sanaullah alleged that the PPP district president had anticipated defeat and attempted to disrupt polling.

"First, they demanded the deployment

of Sindh Police. When that was not accepted, they spent the entire day trying to create unrest to suppress voter turnout," he said.

He further alleged that PPP workers, along with members of an action committee, created disturbances in a city constituency by setting tyres on fire and opening fire when police arrived. "In the crossfire, one person was killed, creating fear and panic that reduced voter turnout," he said.

He also criticised the PPP for alleging electoral rigging after losing seats in Mirpur. "Since yesterday morning, they have been building a narrative that they were

deceived through rigging. When asked for evidence, they pointed to a polling station where their own candidate secured 96% of the vote," he said.

Referring to LA-31, Sanaullah alleged that the PPP district president had anticipated defeat and attempted to disrupt polling.

"First, they demanded the deployment

of Sindh Police. When that was not accepted, they spent the entire day trying to create unrest to suppress voter turnout," he said.

He further alleged that PPP workers, along with members of an action committee, created disturbances in a city constituency by setting tyres on fire and opening fire when police arrived. "In the crossfire, one person was killed, creating fear and panic that reduced voter turnout," he said.

the first phase and seven of the nine seats in Muzaffarabad in the second phase.

"Alhamdulillah, PML-N candidates won 13 of these 20 seats. In Muzaffarabad, PML-N candidates were successful on four of the seven seats, while the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) won three," he said.

Sanaullah said PML-N had also won 10 of the 12 refugee seats.

"PPP neither campaigned nor contested

the refugee seats. On some of those seats, the contest was between PML-N and Muslim Conference candidates," he said.

He said the results had given PML-N 23 seats, enough to form a simple majority government in AJK. Polling on 10 remaining seats would be held in the third phase after one constituency fell vacant

following the death of a candidate.

Congratulating the successful candidates, Sanaullah said the incoming PML-N government would fulfil the promises made by Nawaz Sharif to the people of AJK and usher in a new era of development.

He also criticised the PPP for alleging electoral rigging after losing seats in Mirpur. "Since yesterday morning, they have been building a narrative that they were

deceived through rigging. When asked for evidence, they pointed to a polling station where their own candidate secured 96% of the vote," he said.

Referring to LA-31, Sanaullah alleged that the PPP district president had anticipated defeat and attempted to disrupt polling.

"First, they demanded the deployment

of Sindh Police. When that was not accepted, they spent the entire day trying to create unrest to suppress voter turnout," he said.

He further alleged that PPP workers, along with members of an action committee, created disturbances in a city constituency by setting tyres on fire and opening fire when police arrived. "In the crossfire, one person was killed, creating fear and panic that reduced voter turnout," he said.

He also criticised the PPP for alleging electoral rigging after losing seats in Mirpur. "Since yesterday morning, they have been building a narrative that they were

deceived through rigging. When asked for evidence, they pointed to a polling station where their own candidate secured 96% of the vote," he said.

Referring to LA-31, Sanaullah alleged that the PPP district president had anticipated defeat and attempted to disrupt polling.

"First, they demanded the deployment

of Sindh Police. When that was not accepted, they spent the entire day trying to create unrest to suppress voter turnout," he said.

He further alleged that PPP workers, along with members of an action committee, created disturbances in a city constituency by setting tyres on fire and opening fire when police arrived. "In the crossfire, one person was killed, creating fear and panic that reduced voter turnout," he said.

He also criticised the PPP for alleging electoral rigging after losing seats in Mirpur. "Since yesterday morning, they have been building a narrative that they were

deceived through rigging. When asked for evidence, they pointed to a polling station where their own candidate secured 96% of the vote," he said.

Referring to LA-31, Sanaullah alleged that the PPP district president had anticipated defeat and attempted to disrupt polling.

"First, they demanded the deployment

of Sindh Police. When that was not accepted, they spent the entire day trying to create unrest to suppress voter turnout," he said.

He further alleged that PPP workers, along with members of an action committee, created disturbances in a city constituency by setting tyres on fire and opening fire when police arrived. "In the crossfire, one person was killed, creating fear and panic that reduced voter turnout," he said.

He also criticised the PPP for alleging electoral rigging after losing seats in Mirpur. "Since yesterday morning, they have been building a narrative that they were

deceived through rigging. When asked for evidence, they pointed to a polling station where their own candidate secured 96% of the vote," he said.

Referring to LA-31, Sanaullah alleged that the PPP district president had anticipated defeat and attempted to disrupt polling.

"First, they demanded the deployment

of Sindh Police. When that was not accepted, they spent the entire day trying to create unrest to suppress voter turnout," he said.

He further alleged that PPP workers, along with members of an action committee, created disturbances in a city constituency by setting tyres on fire and opening fire when police arrived. "In the crossfire, one person was killed, creating fear and panic that reduced voter turnout," he said.

He also criticised the PPP for alleging electoral rigging after losing seats in Mirpur. "Since yesterday morning, they have been building a narrative that they were

deceived through rigging. When asked for evidence, they pointed to a polling station where their own candidate secured 96% of the vote," he said.

Police across Balochistan on high alert following Kharan attack

NEWS DESK: Police have been placed on high alert across Balochistan following an attack on a police station and Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) offices in Kharan by armed men who entered the city late on Saturday night.

Sources said the attackers stormed the city police station, ransacked official records and set the building on fire. They also entered the CTD office, destroyed its record and later set the premises ablaze.

Officials said security forces rushed to

the area after receiving information about the attack and launched operations against the attackers in different parts of Kharan city.

Heavy firing continued until late at night, while large contingents of Frontier Corps (FC) and police personnel were deployed at the entry and exit points of the city as well as other sensitive locations.

The armed attackers, who were reportedly in large numbers, later escaped from Kharan.

A search opera-

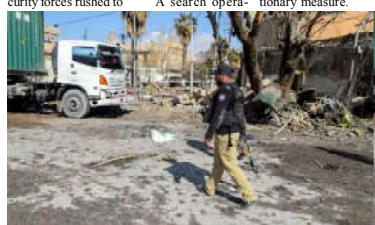
tion by security forces was continuing. However, no casualties were reported in the exchange of fire or during the attacks on the police station and CTD offices.

Following the incident, the authorities declared a province-wide high alert and directed all officials to immediately report to their respective police stations. They were asked to remain fully armed and prepared for any emergency, while unnecessary movement was restricted as a precautionary measure.

A large quantity of weapons, ammunition and other equipment was also recovered from the terrorists killed in the operation, they added.

Several terrorists belonging to Fitna al-Khawarij were also injured during the operations," the sources said.

Fitna al-Khawarij is the term the state uses for terrorists belonging to the banned Tehreek-



Cleric killed after explosion at supermarket in South Waziristan's Wana

NEWS DESK: A cleric was killed following an explosion, suspected to have been caused by a pressure bomb, at a supermarket in Lower South Waziristan's Wana on Monday, police said. Wana Circle Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Asghar Ali Shah told Dawn that the explosion occurred on the ground floor of a supermarket located in Rustam Bazaar.

He said Mufti Janna Mir Masti Khel sustained critical injuries in the explosion and was immediately shifted to Wana district headquarters hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries.

The DSP added that he and Wana City Police Station House Officer filed an initial complaint with a large contingent of police, reached the site of the incident after the explosion, and the area was cordoned off while investigators collected forensic evidence.

DSP Shah said initial investigation suggested the bomb was planted to target the cleric.

He said police had filed an initial complaint and further investigation was under way to identify the perpetrators and determine the motive behind the attack.

The incident comes

just three days after unidentified gunmen shot dead Maulana Ismail, a cleric affiliated with Jamiat ul-Islam-Farooqi (JUI-F), in Azam Warsak Bazaar of Lower South Waziristan's Birmal tehsil.

On July 28, a local cleric was killed and two other people were injured in a suspected quadcopter attack near a mosque in the Landi Doag area of Birmal. In January, JUI-F leader Maulana Sultan Muhammad Wazir was critically injured in a bomb blast near a madrasah in South Waziristan's Wana Bazaar area and later succumbed to his injuries.

NEWS DESK: Security forces conducted effective intelligence-based operations (IBOs) in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) over the past two months under the Azam Warsak Bazaar security sources said on Monday.

According to the sources, security forces destroyed multiple terrorist hideouts during the operations in North Waziristan. "Several terrorists were killed during an operation in the Khattai Killa area of North Waziristan," the sources said.

A large quantity of weapons, ammunition and other equipment was also recovered from the terrorists killed in the operation, they added.

Several terrorists belonging to Fitna al-Khawarij were also injured during the operations," the sources said.

Fitna al-Khawarij is the term the state uses for terrorists belonging to the banned Tehreek-

e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

The sources said the operations were carried out to protect the lives and property of the public while ensuring that the local population was not harmed.

According to the sources, security forces destroyed multiple terrorist hideouts during the operations in North Waziristan. "Several terrorists were killed during an operation in the Khattai Killa area of North Waziristan," the sources said.

A large quantity of weapons, ammunition and other equipment was also recovered from the terrorists killed in the operation, they added.

Several terrorists belonging to Fitna al-Khawarij were also injured during the operations," the sources said.

Fitna al-Khawarij is the term the state uses for terrorists belonging to the banned Tehreek-

e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

The sources said the operations were carried out to protect the lives and property of the public while ensuring that the local population was not harmed.

According to the sources, security forces destroyed multiple terrorist hideouts during the operations in North Waziristan. "Several terrorists were killed during an operation in the Khattai Killa area of North Waziristan," the sources said.

A large quantity of weapons, ammunition and other equipment was also recovered from the terrorists killed in the operation, they added.

Several terrorists belonging to Fitna al-Khawarij were also injured during the operations," the sources said.

Fitna al-Khawarij is the term the state uses for terrorists belonging to the banned Tehreek-

e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

Security forces kill several terrorists in North Waziristan operations

NEWS DESK: Security forces conducted effective intelligence-based operations (IBOs) in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) over the past two months under the Azam Warsak Bazaar security sources said on Monday.

According to the sources, security forces destroyed multiple terrorist hideouts during the operations in North Waziristan. "Several terrorists were killed during an operation in the Khattai Killa area of North Waziristan," the sources said.

A large quantity of weapons, ammunition and other equipment was also recovered from the terrorists killed in the operation, they added.

Several terrorists belonging to Fitna al-Khawarij were also injured during the operations," the sources said.

Fitna al-Khawarij is the term the state uses for terrorists belonging to the banned Tehreek-

e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

The sources said the operations were carried out to protect the lives and property of the public while ensuring that the local population was not harmed.

According to the sources, security forces destroyed multiple terrorist hideouts during the operations in North Waziristan. "Several terrorists were killed during an operation in the Khattai Killa area of North Waziristan," the sources said.

A large quantity of weapons, ammunition and other equipment was also recovered from the terrorists killed in the operation, they added.

Several terrorists belonging to Fitna al-Khawarij were also injured during the operations," the sources said.

Fitna al-Khawarij is the term the state uses for terrorists belonging to the banned Tehreek-

e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

The sources said the operations were carried out to protect the lives and property of the public while ensuring that the local population was not harmed.

According to the sources, security forces destroyed multiple terrorist hideouts during the operations in North Waziristan. "Several terrorists were killed during an operation in the Khattai Killa area of North Waziristan," the sources said.

A large quantity of weapons, ammunition and other equipment was also recovered from the terrorists killed in the operation, they added.

Several terrorists belonging to Fitna al-Khawarij were also injured during the operations," the sources said.

Fitna al-Khawarij is the term the state uses for terrorists belonging to the banned Tehreek-

e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

The sources said the operations were carried out to protect the lives and property of the public while ensuring that the local population was not harmed.