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QUETTA VOICE

Balochistan Assembly Passes Unanimous Resolution Against India's August 5 Kashmir Decision

ALI HAMZA:

The Balochistan Assembly on Tuesday unanimously passed a resolution condemning India's August 5, 2019, revocation of Articles 370 and 35A, reaffirming Pakistan's continued political, diplomatic, moral, and legal support for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The resolution was tabled by Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti on the occasion of Kashmir Exploitation Day (Youn-e-Istehsal Kashmir).

It was jointly presented by Provincial Ministers Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani, Mir Zahoor Ahmed Buledi, Mir Shoaib Noshervani, Faisal Khan Jamali, and Parliamentary Secretary Barkat Ali Rind, before being adopted unanimously by the provincial legislature.

The resolution strongly condemned India's unilateral decision of August 5, 2019, which revoked Articles 370 and 35A of the Indian Constitution.

It stated that the move altered the constitutional status of Jammu and Kashmir, violated United Nations Security Council resolutions, and undermined the rights and identity of the Kashmiri people.

The assembly expressed concern over what it described as attempts to change the demographic composition of Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir by allowing non-residents to purchase land and secure government employment.

According to the resolution,



File Photo: Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti Addressing Balochistan Assembly Session.

tion, such measures violate international law and further complicate the longstanding Kashmir dispute.

Lawmakers also condemned alleged human rights violations in Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir, including restrictions on civil liberties, arbitrary detentions, media curbs, and the use of

force against civilians. The resolution stated that these measures were intended to suppress the Kashmiri people's internationally recognized right to self-determination.

Reaffirming solidarity with the people of Jammu and Kashmir, the Balochistan Assembly pledged that Pakistan would

continue extending political, diplomatic, moral, and legal support to the Kashmiri cause. It also reaffirmed the annual observance of Kashmir Exploitation Day on August 5 to raise global awareness about the situation in the region.

The assembly called on the provincial government to

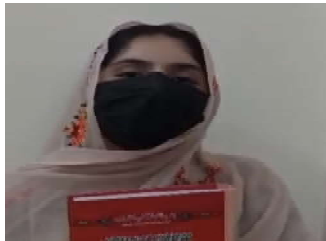
urge the federal government to intensify diplomatic efforts by raising the Kashmir issue at the United Nations (UN), the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), and other international forums.

It also recommended the formulation of a comprehensive national strategy to strengthen Pakistan's diplo-

matic and legal advocacy for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The resolution concluded by paying tribute to the resilience and sacrifices of the Kashmiri people and expressed hope for a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions.

Asma Jattak Seeks Protection After Father's Killing, Renews Call for Justice



File Photo: Asma Jattak Seeks Protection After Father's Killing, Renews Call for Justice

STAFF REPORTER:

QUETTA: The case of Asma Jattak has once again come under the spotlight after the killing of her father, Master Attaulah Jattak, in Pakistan's Khuzdar district, intensifying calls for justice and protection for the family.

Asma first drew national attention in 2024 when she was allegedly abducted by influential tribal men.

Following widespread public outrage and sustained pressure on social media, the provincial government launched efforts that ultimately led to her recovery.

In recent statements shared on social media, Asma has levelled serious allegations against her alleged captors, accusing them of subjecting her to violence during her captivity.

She has also appealed to the

authorities to ensure the safety of her family members, expressing fears that they remain at risk.

According to Asma, the dispute began after she refused a marriage proposal from one of the accused.

She claims that her refusal led to threats, her alleged abduction, and continued intimidation.

The killing of her father has further heightened concerns, with rights advocates and social media users demanding a transparent and impartial investigation into both the murder and the allegations raised by Asma.

Authorities have yet to publicly respond in detail to the latest allegations.

The case continues to attract widespread attention, with many urging swift action to establish the facts, ensure accountability, and provide protection to the affected family.

Khuzdar Murder Case Rocks Balochistan Assembly as Lawmakers Demand Justice for Asma Jatak's Family

QASEEM SHAH:

QUETTA: The tragic Khuzdar murder case involving the family of kidnapped girl Asma Jatak triggered a heated debate in the Balochistan Assembly on Tuesday, with lawmakers from both the treasury and opposition benches strongly criticizing the provincial administration and law enforcement agencies over their handling of the case.

The outrage follows the killing of Master Attaulah Jatak, who was shot dead in Khuzdar. Attaulah was the father of Asma Jatak, who was allegedly abducted in 2024 by influential local tribesmen. Days before the incident, a video widely shared on social media showed Asma holding the Holy Quran while appealing to Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti for protection, claiming her family was facing continuous threats.

The murder has intensified public anger across Balochistan, with citizens, civil society members, and social media users demanding immediate justice for the bereaved family and stronger action against those responsible.

During the assembly session, lawmakers across party lines called for swift arrests and an impartial investigation. PPP legislators Ali Madad Jatak and Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani urged authorities to immediately apprehend those involved in the murder.

Meanwhile, Jamaat-e-Islami MPA Maulana Hidayatullah Rehman alleged that influential political figures were being protected due to their status, claiming that those responsible were



File Photo: Khuzdar murder case involving the family of kidnapped girl Asma Jatak triggered a heated debate in the Balochistan Assembly on Tuesday.

widely known but remained beyond the reach of the law.

Responding to the allegations, Revenue Minister Asim Kurd Gello rejected claims linking former chief minister Nawab Sanaullah Khan Zehri to the case, stating that Zehri and his son were currently in Saudi Arabia and had no involvement in the incident.

Home Minister Ziaullah Lango assured the assembly that

an FIR would be registered promptly and that law enforcement agencies would take all necessary steps to arrest the culprits. However, Speaker Captain (Rtd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai expressed dissatisfaction with verbal assurances alone, insisting that authorities deliver tangible results.

"We do not need briefings from senior police officers—we need visible action and justice,"

the Speaker said while directing the government to ensure immediate progress in the investigation.

The Khuzdar murder case, the alleged kidnapping of Asma Jatak, and the growing calls for justice in Balochistan continue to draw widespread attention, with pressure mounting on the provincial government and police to bring both the kidnappers and the killers to justice.

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 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.

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



tion is removed, the soil is left exposed.

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.

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.

Governments, 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 2,000 students from 18+ colleges at-

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Visiting students and their teachers explored BUITEMS' facilities, interacted directly with profes-

sors, and participated in detailed career guidance and counseling sessions designed

to help them choose the right academic path.

Special awareness stalls, departmental exhibitions, and program presentations provided students with insights into BUITEMS' wide-

range of programs, research projects, and campus life.

Many participants praised the initiative, calling it a valuable opportunity to connect with higher education and future career options.

Prof. Dr. Khalid Hafeez applauded the organizing team for successfully conducting the Open Day, adding that such outreach efforts strengthen

the bridge between the university and youth across Balochistan.

By holding this large-scale Open Day, BUITEMS has further solidified its reputation as a center of excellence in higher education,

innovation, and student empowerment in Balochistan, encouraging young learners

to strive for academic success and contribute to the province's development.

Balochistan Assembly Passes Unanimous Resolution Condemning India's August 5 Move in IIOJK

Ali Hamza
QUETTA: On the occasion of Youm-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir (Kashmir Exploitation Day), Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti presented a joint resolution in the Balochistan Provincial Assembly condemning India's unilateral actions of August 5, 2019, regarding Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). The resolution was unanimously passed by the House.

The resolution was jointly moved by Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, Provincial Ministers Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani, Mir Zahoor Ahmed Buledi, Mir Shaukat Noshwari, Faisal Khan Jamali, and Parliamentary Secretary Barkat Ali Rind.

The Assembly declared India's violation of Articles 370 and 35A of its Constitution on August 5, 2019, as unconstitutional, illegal, and a violation of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions on the disputed status of Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the resolution, Article 370 granted the region a special constitutional status, including its own constitution, flag, and internal autonomy, while



Article 35A safeguarded the rights of permanent residents regarding government employment, property ownership, and residency. The Assembly stated that the removal of these provisions was an attempt to undermine the identity, constitutional status, and fundamental rights of the Kashmiri people.

The House also expressed serious concern over what it described as efforts to alter the demographic composition of IIOJK by allowing non-residents to purchase land and ob-

tain government jobs, calling such measures a violation of international law. The resolution strongly condemned alleged human rights violations in Kashmir, including state repression, prolonged lockdowns, arbitrary arrests, restrictions on media freedom, and other actions aimed at suppressing the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination.

R e a f f i r m i n g Pakistan's support for the people of Kashmir, the Balochistan Assembly pledged continued political, diplomatic, moral, and legal support

for their cause, stating that Pakistan would continue to stand with the Kashmiri people.

The Assembly also reaffirmed the observance of Youm-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir every year on August 5, emphasizing that awareness campaigns and events would continue to highlight the situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) before the international community.

Furthermore, the provincial government urged the federal government to raise the

Kashmir dispute more effectively at the United Nations (UN), the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), and other international forums through proactive diplomacy, while calling for a comprehensive national strategy to strengthen legal and diplomatic support for the people of IIOJK.

The resolution concluded by paying tribute to the resilience, sacrifices, and struggle of the Kashmiri people and prayed for lasting peace, justice, and freedom for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Chaman Coal Mine Grenade Attack: One Worker Killed, Four Injured in Balochistan

WEB DESK: A coal mine worker was killed and four others were injured after unidentified assailants carried out a hand grenade attack on a coal mine in Chaman, Balochistan, on Tuesday, officials said.

According to preliminary reports, the attackers threw a

nearby hospital for emergency medical treatment.

Hospital authorities confirmed that one of the injured workers later succumbed to his injuries. The deceased was identified as Nasruddin, 38, son of Alam Din, a resident of Kashmore district in Sindh.

scene soon after the attack and launched an investigation. Authorities have not yet determined the motive behind the assault, and no group has claimed responsibility.

The grenade attack has renewed concerns over the security of coal mine workers in Balochistan, where



hand grenade at a group of five laborers while they were working inside the mine. The powerful explosion left all five workers critically injured, prompting their immediate transfer to a

The remaining four injured workers are undergoing treatment, while doctors continue to monitor their condition.

Security forces and law enforcement agencies reached the

incidents targeting miners and laborers have occurred in the past.

Officials said further investigations are underway to identify and apprehend those responsible.

Barkhan Administration Assures Transparent Review of Shop Cutting Issue, Promises Merit-Based Decisions

BARKHAN: Deputy Commissioner Barkhan Saeed ur Rehman Kakar has assured traders that the district administration will ensure complete transparency, merit, and rule of law in the matter of shop cutting in local markets, adding that no injustice or discriminatory treatment against any shopkeeper will be tolerated. He made these remarks during a meeting with shop owners led by Fareedullah Khattar, District President of the Anjuman-e-Tajir.

The deputy commissioner directed the Assistant Commissioner Barkhan to conduct a fresh measurement and verification of all affected shops in coordination with revenue officials and concerned

shopkeepers. He instructed that a detailed report be submitted by 10:00 AM the following day to ensure a transparent, impartial, and fair decision based on ground realities.

The traders welcomed the district administration's assurance of a transparent investigation and equal justice, expressing hope that the matter would be resolved according to legal procedures and merit.

Barkhan news, Saeed ur Rehman Kakar, District Administration, traders issues, transparent governance, Balochistan

During the meeting, traders presented their concerns regarding the

measurement and cutting of certain shops, claiming that some cases involved unfair adjustments.

Responding to their concerns, Deputy Commissioner Saeed ur Rehman Kakar stated that all cases would be reviewed afresh and decisions would be made strictly according to law, facts, and merit.

He made it clear that no political pressure or personal recommendations would influence the process.

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Chaman District Coordination Committee Reviews Development Projects, NCP Vehicle Issue, and Independence Day Preparations

CHAMAN: Deputy Commissioner Habib Ahmed Bangulzai chaired an important meeting of the District Coordination Committee (DCC) to review the performance of government departments, ongoing development projects, law enforcement coordination, and preparations for Pakistan's Independence Day celebrations.

The meeting was attended by heads of all government departments and representatives of relevant institutions, who presented detailed briefings on their departments' performance, ongoing initiatives, key challenges, and future plans.

D e v e l o p m e n t Projects Under BSMI Reviewed The committee conducted a comprehensive review of completed and ongoing development projects under Balochistan Sustainable Development Initiative (BSDI) Phase II and Phase III, including: Government schools



Basic Health Units (BHUs) Road infrastructure Other public development schemes Deputy Commissioner Bangulzai directed all concerned departments to ensure that projects are completed within the prescribed timeline and according to approved quality standards so that the public can benefit without unnecessary delays.

F o c u s o n N o n - C o m - P a i d V e h i c l e s The meeting also discussed the issue of Non-Compliant (NCP) vehicles in Chaman.

Officials emphasized the need for stronger coordination be-

tween law enforcement agencies and relevant government departments to ensure compliance with legal requirements and government directives. Participants agreed that coordinated action is essential to uphold the rule of law and curb illegal activities effectively.

I n d e p e n d e n c e D a y Preparations Begin The District Coordination Committee also reviewed preparations for Pakistan's Independence Day with patriotism, enthusiasm, and full public participation.

Deputy Commissioner Habib Ahmed Bangulzai directed all government depart-

ments to immediately begin Independence Day arrangements by: Hoisting the national flag at all government offices, educational institutions, and public buildings. Completing cleaning, beautification, and decorative lighting of public facilities. Ensuring all necessary administrative arrangements are finalized in time for nationwide celebrations.

He said the district should celebrate Independence Day with patriotism, enthusiasm, and full public participation.

C a l l f o r B e t t e r Coordination Concluding the meeting, the deputy

commissioner urged all departments to strengthen inter-agency coordination, improve communication, and perform their responsibilities efficiently to enhance public service delivery and ensure the effective implementation of development and administrative initiatives across Chaman district.

C h a m a n D C C meeting, Habib Ahmed Bangulzai, BSDI Phase II, BSDI Phase III, Chaman development projects, NCP vehicles, Independence Day preparations, Balochistan administration, BHUs, government schools, Chaman news, Balochistan news.

leadership, management, and quality assurance, which would help strengthen Pakistan's higher education sector upon his return.

He wished Dr. Bilal Sarwar success in the fellowship and expressed hope that his achievements would inspire other professionals and academics from Balochistan to pursue excellence at the international level.

J a f f a r K h a n Mandokhail, Dr. Bilal Sarwar, BUTEMS, Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship 2026-2027, Balochistan Governor, higher education Pakistan, quality assurance, leadership, Quetta news, international fellowship, Balochistan education.

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Balochistan Governor Congratulates BUTEMS Professor on Selection for Prestigious Humphrey Fellowship

QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has congratulated Dr. Bilal Sarwar, Director of Quality Enhancement and Accreditation (QE&A) at Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUTEMS), on his selection for the prestigious Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program 2026-2027.

During a meeting at the Governor House in Quetta, Governor Mandokhail praised Dr. Sarwar for his outstanding professional achievements and described his selection as a proud moment for Balochistan.

The governor



noted that Dr. Bilal Sarwar is the only fellow selected from Balochistan to join a distinguished cohort of professionals from more than 70 countries under the internationally recognized fellowship program.

He expressed confidence that during his 10-month Humphrey Fellowship in the United States, Dr. Sarwar would positively represent Pakistan and Balochistan while contributing to a

stronger international image of the country.

G o v e r n o r Mandokhail also said the fellowship would enable Dr. Sarwar to gain advanced knowledge and international experience in higher education,

continued moral, diplomatic, and political support for the Kashmiri people and their right to self-determination.

At the conclusion of the event, participants offered special prayers for the peace, stability, and well-being of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

S o l i d a r i t y Rally Held Across the City A tree was planted under a plantation campaign to promote environmental awareness.

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Sohbatpur Marks Kashmir Exploitation Day with Solidarity Rally and Tree Plantation Drive

SOHBATPUR: The district administration of Sohbatpur organized a Kashmir Exploitation Day awareness rally under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Farceda Tareen to express solidarity with the people of Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir and highlight their situation.

The rally was attended by the Superintendent of Police, heads of government depart-



ments, district administration officials, representatives of civil society, teachers, students,

and a large number of local residents. Participants carried banners and placards ex-

pressing support for the Kashmiri people and their right to self-determination.

The procession began from the Deputy Commissioner's Office and passed through various roads before concluding at the city's main square.

Addressing the gathering, speakers said the people of Jammu and Kashmir have endured decades of hardship and reiterated Pakistan's

continued moral, diplomatic, and political support for the Kashmiri people and their right to self-determination.

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S o l i d a r i t y Rally Held Across the City A tree was planted under a plantation campaign to promote environmental awareness.

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'No sovereignty over East Jerusalem': Dar condemns Al-Aqsa incursions by 'extremist Israeli settlers'

NEWS DESK: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Wednesday said that Israel has no sovereignty over East Jerusalem and its holy sites, condemning the incursions into Al-Aqsa Mosque by 'extremist Israeli settlers'.

Addressing the ministerial conference in Amman, Jordan, he said that the illegal actions of Israel — the occupying power in occupied Palestine — continued to threaten the sanctity and historical character of the holy sites in Jerusalem. "They undermine international law, disregard UN resolutions, and further erode the prospect of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace."

"Pakistan condemns in the strongest possible terms the continued incursions into Al-Aqsa Mosque by extremist Israeli settlers encouraged by senior Israeli ministers and carried out under the protection of occupying forces," FM Dar stated. By deliberately undermining the religious and historical status of Jerusalem, FM Dar emphasised that Israel was provoking the sentiments of billions of Muslims across the globe.

"This appears not only an attempt to undermine regional peace, security and stability but also to drag followers of various religions into a wider conflict," he said, adding, "We cannot and



must not allow that."

"Pakistan condemns Israeli actions and provocations in the strongest possible terms," he said.

He stressed that there should be no ambiguity that Israel has no sovereignty over occupied East Jerusalem and its Islamic and Christian holy sites.

"All measures seeking to alter its character and status are null and void and without any legal effect," he added.

The foreign minister said Pakistan reaffirmed its support for the historic and special role played by Jordan in the Jerusalem Endowment and Al-Aqsa Affairs Department, affiliated with the Jordanian Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, as the legal authority with exclusive jurisdiction over the administration of Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Moreover, FM Dar said that Pakistan also

remained "deeply concerned" over the continuous expansion of illegal Israeli settlements, the establishment of new settlements and the continued oppression of the Palestinian people.

"These policies violate international law and further entrench an unlawful occupation," he said.

In Gaza, he said that the humanitarian situation was extremely fragile.

"The ceasefire and the implementation of the elements of the Gaza Peace Plan have yielded some improvements; however, 59pc of the population still face food insecurity and health crises," FM Dar said.

Since the ceasefire, he said that over 1,100 Palestinians had been killed, which called into question the full and faithful implementation of the Gaza Peace Plan.

"Arab and Islamic countries must act with unity, resolve and collec-

tive action and should reaffirm the protection of Jerusalem and the holy sites, demanding an immediate cessation of all violations against Al-Aqsa Mosque, preservation of the historical and legal status quo, and unrestricted access to the Old City of Jerusalem and the holy sites," he said.

He said that Arab and Islamic countries should also reject "illegal Israeli settlement activities, annexation attempts, forced displacements, and demographic changes in the occupied Palestinian territory."

"We should support the full and faithful implementation of the comprehensive plan to end the Gaza crisis," he said.

"We should also strengthen Arab and Islamic coordination and diplomatic efforts to ensure the protection of the rights of the Palestinian people."

Youn-e-Istehsal: Civil, military leadership reaffirm support for Kashmiris in IOJK, call for UN-backed resolution

NEWS DESK: The country's civil and military leadership on Wednesday reiterated its support for the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) on Youn-e-Istehsal, saying India's actions on August 5, 2019,

to revoke the region's special autonomy had not altered its disputed status and urging a settlement in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolutions.

In August 2019, India's government revoked the special status of IOJK and rushed through a presidential decree in a bid to fully integrate its only Muslim-majority region with the rest of the country, hours after imposing a major security clampdown in the region. With Article 370 revoked, the Indian Constitution came into full force in IOJK, and the state government lost its power to decide which provisions should be applied in the occupied territory.

In a statement issued today, President Asif Ali Zardari said Pakistan observed Youn-e-Istehsal Kashmir to reaffirm its "unwavering solidarity" with the people of IOJK and to pay tribute to their "courage, resilience and commitment" to what he described as their struggle for self-determination.

He said India's actions of August 5, 2019 "cannot change the legal status of the dispute, nor can they weaken the resolve of the Kashmiri people," adding that millions had spent the past seven years living under severe restrictions affecting every aspect of daily life.

The president said

situation and advancing "a just and peaceful settlement" of the long-standing dispute. Prime Minister Sheikh Sharif,

in his message, said Pakistan observed the day to remind the world of the "grave consequences" of India's "illegal and unilateral actions" of August 5,

nor diminished the legitimate aspiration of the people," saying instead that they had "deepened repression, undermined fundamental freedom, and accelerated attempts to alter the demographic composition of the occupied territory."

The prime minister said the continued suppression of Kashmiri



Pakistan would continue to raise its voice "at every international forum" until the dispute was resolved in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions and "the aspirations of the Kashmiri people."

He said that seven years later the measures had "neither changed the legal status of IOJK

2019, which he said sought to alter the internationally recognised status of Jammu and Kashmir in flagrant violation of international law and the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council."

He said that seven years later the measures had "neither changed the legal status of IOJK

political leadership, restrictions on civil liberties and curbs on independent media remained a matter of serious concern," while praising the "courage, resilience and steadfastness" of the Kashmiri people.

Calling the dispute "the principal unresolved issue affecting peace and stability in South Asia,"

Delayed AJK poll results hand one seat each to PML-N, PPP in Muzaffarabad constituencies

NEWS DESK: The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) secured one seat each as unofficial and unconfirmed results from the two constituencies where polling had been delayed brought the second phase of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Legislative Assembly elections to a close on Tuesday.

The PML-N won LA-27 Muzaffarabad-I, while the PPP clinched LA-28 Muzaffarabad-II. According to unofficial and unconfirmed results, the PPP completed after counting was completed at all polling stations.

received 18,621 votes, finishing just 298 votes behind the PML-N candidate. The narrow margin reflected the closely contested nature of the constituency, where the PML-N, PPP and PPP had been engaged in a keen electoral battle.

With all 197 polling stations reporting results, the PML-N managed to hold off the challenge from the PPP and secure the constituency.

PPP takes LA-28 In LA-28 Muzaffarabad-II, PPP candidate Basil Ali Naqvi secured a decisive victory, polling 28,214 votes against 26,866 votes obtained by PML-N candidate

links and movement in parts of the constituency areas. The Election Commission decided to defer polling where the required election material and staff could not reach polling stations in time. The decision resulted in the two constituencies going to the polls separately from the rest of the Muzaffarabad Division.

Election authorities subsequently completed arrangements for the resumed polling, deploying additional security personnel at sensitive polling stations and ensuring the availability of election staff and material.



The polling in the two constituencies was held on Tuesday after voting scheduled for August 2 was postponed because adverse weather conditions disrupted the transportation of polling staff and election material to the affected areas.

The conclusion of polling in the two constituencies completed the electoral process in the Muzaffarabad Division, where the second phase of the AJK elections was held amid heightened security and close competition between the major political parties.

PML-N wins LA-27 by 298 votes. In LA-27 Muzaffarabad-I, PML-N candidate Noreen Ahmed emerged victorious after securing 18,919 votes from all 197 polling stations, according to official and unconfirmed results.

She defeated Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) candidate Sardar Tabarak Ali, who

Chaudhry Shehzad. According to unofficial and unconfirmed results from all 174 polling stations, Naqvi won the constituency with a margin of 1,348 votes. The result ended one of the most closely watched contests of the election process in the Muzaffarabad Division.

The constituency had already attracted considerable attention during the initial polling on August 2, when adverse weather conditions prevented election material and polling personnel from reaching several polling stations on time.

The Election Commission's subsequent postponing of the polling in the affected areas and fixed Tuesday for the resumed vote.

The delayed polling followed the next general adverse weather conditions that disrupted road

The Tuesday polling was conducted under enhanced security arrangements, with law-enforcement personnel deployed to maintain order and facilitate voters. The completion of counting in the two delayed constituencies now provides a clearer picture of the electoral balance emerging from the second phase of the AJK elections.

The results are particularly significant because the Muzaffarabad Division has traditionally remained a politically competitive region, with the PML-N and PPP maintaining strong organisational and electoral networks.

With the PML-N taking LA-27 and the PPP winning LA-28, the two delayed constituencies ended in a split between the two major parties, adding another dimension to the wider contest over the formation of the next government in Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Lahore High Court (LHC) disposes of PTI petition for rally at Minar-i-Pakistan after DC refuses permission

NEWS DESK: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Wednesday disposed of a petition filed by PTI seeking permission to hold a public rally at Minar-i-Pakistan after it was informed that the deputy commissioner had denied the request.

The PTI announced it would stage a nationwide protest against the US and Pakistan today (Wednesday) to mark three years since the imprisonment of party founder Imran Khan and demand his release, with a gathering in Peshawar serving as the centrepiece of its campaign.

On Wednesday,

Justice Mirza Vivas Rauf disposed of the petition filed by PTI Lahore President Mian Akram Usman seeking permission for a public rally at a Pakistan rally. At the outset of the hearing, the judge directed a law officer to seek instructions from the deputy commissioner.

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When the hearing resumed, the law officer appeared before the court, saying the deputy commissioner had refused to grant permission for the PTI rally. He argued that permission for the rally could not be granted in view of potential terrorist threats in Lahore.

Justice Rauf then asked the petitioner's counsel under what law the court, while exercising its jurisdiction under Article 199 of the Constitution, could grant permission to hold a public gathering when the deputy commissioner had decided the matter. The judge dismissed the petition, advising the lawyer to challenge the deputy commissioner's order if he would be the appropriate legal remedy.

In his petition, the PTI leader said that he

submitted a request for a no-objection certificate on July 22 seeking permission for the rally, along with assurances of full compliance with security, traffic and administrative protocols.

He alleged that despite repeated follow-ups, the deputy commissioner's office had neither granted nor formally refused the request. Instead, he stated, the deputy commissioner resorted to delaying tactics and administrative harassment.

The petitioner argued that this inaction amounted to an indirect refusal that infringed on the petitioner's fundamental rights.

Pakistan, US hold counter-terrorism dialogue, reaffirm commitment to combating terrorist groups

NEWS DESK: The United States and Pakistan on Tuesday held the fourth counter-terrorism dialogue in Washington, reaffirming their commitment to combating terrorist groups and enhancing the safety of their citizens and the stability of the region, the statement said.

The two governments committed to ensuring their counter-terrorism collaboration to keep both of their nations safe and secure, and as part of an enduring partnership of regional peace, prosperity, and stability," it said.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Office said that the two sides held "extensive deliberations on the regional and global terrorist threat and pledged to deepen counter-terrorism collaboration both bilaterally and at multilateral level."

The renewed engagement marks a shift from the difficult period in Pakistan relations following the withdrawal of American forces from Afghanistan in 2021.

Washington had expressed concerns over terrorists sanctuaries in the region, while Islamabad repeatedly highlighted the security challenges it faced from cross-border militancy and instability in Afghanistan.

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

The Executive Engineer (Public Health Engineering) Division Dera Gochi invites Sealed tenders from the firms/individuals for the following works 2025-27. Tender Fee 1500/- and Bid security 2 % for each work. Time limit three months. **BSO PHASE-III**

Sl	NAME OF WORK	Qty	APP. COST/EST.	TSE No
1	EXTENSION & IMPROVEMENT OF GRAVITY LINE SOUTH DEBRA BUSTI TOWN DISTRICT SOUTH DEBRA BUSTI	1 Job	2426855/-	TSE-2627/01/15025
2	REPLACEMENT OF PIPE LINE FOR WSS KILLI KORDAN DISTRICT SOUTH DEBRA BUSTI	1 Job	764943/-	TSE-2627/01/15043
3	CONSTR. OF SOLAR BASED WSS KILLI KORDAN DISTRICT SOUTH DEBRA BUSTI	1 Job	1817706/-	TSE-2627/01/15063
4	REPLACEMENT OF PIPE LINE FOR WSS KILLI NABI SAKSIRI DISTRICT SOUTH DEBRA BUSTI	1 Job	888399/-	TSE-2627/01/15203
5	CONSTR. OF SOLAR BASED WSS KILLI MOHAMMED NAWAZ AT KHOTTA R O 238 IN SUI DIST SOUTH DEBRA BUSTI	1 Job	486970/-	TSE-2627/01/15293
6	REPLACEMENT OF PIPE LINE WSS MOROW DIST SOUTH DEBRA BUSTI	1 Job	2756730/-	TSE-2627/01/15293
7	SUPPLY & INSTALLATION OF SOLAR SYSTEM AS SUPPLANT AT KILLI FOR WSS KILLI SORI	1 Job	1631354/-	TSE-2627/01/15055
8	CONSTR. OF SOLAR BASED WSS JAMALI DIST SOUTH DEBRA BUSTI	1 Job	1817706/-	TSE-2627/01/15052
9	SURVEY OF URBIC FOR VARIOUS WSS KILLI SOUTH DEBRA BUSTI	1 Job	1386220/-	TSE-2627/01/15113
10	EST. OF GRAVITY LINE DEBRA BUSTI TOWN SURVEY OF CLINE	1 Job	2548787/-	TSE-2627/01/15105
11	REPLACEMENT OF PIPE LINE FOR WSS MARROW DIST SOUTH DEBRA BUSTI	1 Job	2587463/-	TSE-2627/01/15269
12	CONSTRUCTION OF SOLAR BASED 6 NOS TURBINE WITH SOLAR FOR SUI TOWN PACKAGE-3	1 Job	1492000/-	TSE-2627/01/15323
13	CONSTRUCTION OF SOLAR BASED 6 NOS TURBINE WITH SOLAR FOR SUI TOWN PACKAGE-3	1 Job	1492000/-	TSE-2627/01/15323
14	CONSTRUCTION OF SOLAR BASED 6 NOS TURBINE WITH SOLAR FOR SUI TOWN PACKAGE-3	1 Job	1492000/-	TSE-2627/01/15343
15	CONSTRUCTION OF SOLAR BASED 6 NOS TURBINE WITH SOLAR FOR SUI TOWN PACKAGE-3	1 Job	1492000/-	TSE-2627/01/15323
16	CONSTRUCTION OF SOLAR BASED 6 NOS TURBINE WITH SOLAR FOR SUI TOWN PACKAGE-3	1 Job	1492000/-	TSE-2627/01/15303
17	CONSTRUCTION OF SOLAR BASED 6 NOS TURBINE WITH SOLAR FOR SUI TOWN PACKAGE-3	1 Job	1492000/-	TSE-2627/01/15303
18	REPLACEMENT OF PUMPING WINDMILL AND INSTALLATION OF FLOW METERS	1 Job	20,69,555/-	TSE-2627/01/15173

The Procurement will be finalized as per S-PHHA rules and regulations, the firm must have valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council in relevant category and relevant discipline who have removed for the year 2024-25 and registered with tax authorities i.e. SRA, NTN & Sales Tax Department active firms where applicable who are on AIL of IIR three-year similar experience and turnover of last three years. The tender fee must be deposited in local of account 022721-82226 through Green channel in any National Bank of Pakistan. **METHOD OF PROCUREMENT:** Single Stage, One envelope system. **BIDDING DOCUMENTS / TENDER DOCUMENTS:** Can be downloaded from S-PHHA Website or on Production of Tender Fee and Tender documents cost Rs. 1500/- for each work. **ISSUANCE:** The tender form will be issued to bidders after publication of notice in newspapers from 24-08-2024 to 14-08-2024 at 01:00 PM. **OPENING:** The sealed bids will be opened on 24-08-2024 at 01:00 PM. **IN PLACE OF TENDERS:** Submission inquiries and opening will be ADDRESS: Office of the ACP-III, Division Dera Gochi. Telephone No. 0375-410531/0393-410433. E-Mail: DSO0323@ppra.gov.pk. Other terms and conditions are attached with tender documents.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Public Health Engineering
Division Dera Gochi

0375-410531/0393-410433
E-Mail: DSO0323@ppra.gov.pk