



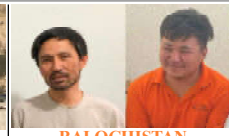
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First Digital, Print Daily of Balochistan

Editor: Asim Khan.

Rs.10.00 Vol.VII:No:280

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

Monday 10, August, 2026

QUETTA VOICE

Quetta Internet Shutdown Disrupts Students, Hospitals, Businesses and Everyday Life

QASEEM SHAH:

QUETTA: Mobile phone and internet services were suddenly suspended in Quetta on Sunday, disrupting daily life across the provincial capital and leaving stu-

from the field. For news organisations increasingly dependent on digital platforms, the outage created significant obstacles to timely reporting.

For ordinary citizens, the suspension meant something more basic but equally important.

Students were among the worst affected, with many unable to attend online classes, access study material or communicate with teachers and classmates. Medical professionals also faced difficulties coordinating with colleagues and patients, raising concerns about communication during emergencies.

Businesses and traders reported disruptions to their routine operations, including communication with customers, online transactions and digital services. Food-delivery workers also struggled to receive orders and contact customers because of the loss of mobile connectivity.

Journalists in Quetta faced additional challenges in gathering information, contacting sources and transmitting news

they could not easily speak to their families and loved ones.

People trying to check on relatives, arrange transport, contact colleagues or seek assistance were left without reliable communication. In a city where mobile phones have become essential for almost every aspect of daily life, the sudden shutdown created widespread frustration and uncertainty.

Sources within the Pakistan government said mobile and internet services were suspended because of security threats in Quetta and as a precautionary measure to prevent any untoward incident. Authorities did not immediately announce how long the services would remain suspended.

The Quetta internet shutdown has once again highlighted how heavily residents depend on digital connectivity—not only for social media and entertainment, but also for education, healthcare, commerce, journalism.

Iran and the US are not engaged in talks and Tehran will not start them as long as Washington breaches an interim deal signed in June, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Sunday, adding that messages are being exchanged via intermediaries.

Araghchi repeated Iran's position that an agreement on the Strait of Hormuz between Tehran and Muscat was in the "final stages" but would not reopen the strategic waterway.

In comments reported by Mehr news agency, he said the agreement would set out the new shipping lanes to be used once

the US fulfils other conditions and the strait is reopened to traffic.

Iran says Strait of Hormuz will remain closed until US "corrects its behaviour".

The Strait of Hormuz will remain closed until the United States "corrects its behaviour", Iran's state broadcaster IRIB reported, quoting Mohammad Bagher Zolghadr, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, Al Jazeera reported on Sunday.

Iran says Strait of Hormuz will remain closed until its conditions are accepted, as it accused the enemy of shifting its war objectives towards reopening the strategic waterway, PressTV reported.

According to the post on X, IRGC spokesman Brigadier General Mohebbi said the enemy had abandoned all its previous war objectives and was now focusing its efforts on reopening the Strait of Hormuz.

"The enemy, abandoning all its previous war objectives, has now put all its efforts into opening the Strait of Hormuz, which was open before the war," Mohebbi said.

"We will keep the Strait of Hormuz closed until the enemy accepts all our conditions," he added.

"We will continue the resistance until the enemy is defeated," Mohebbi said.

Iranian commander says US, Israel failed to achieve goals against Iran: report

Brig Gen Hassan Zadeh, commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' Mohammad Rasoulullah Corps in Tehran, said the US and Israel had "completely failed" to achieve their objectives against the Islamic Republic, according to the Tasnim News Agency on Sunday.

The news outlet reported that Zadeh said Iran's "popular strength and comprehensive readiness of the Basij" had made the country one of the major powers in the region and the world, during a visit to upgraded air de-

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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, and 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 life in Bolan, but too much grazing can place enormous pressure on fragile rangelands. Goats, sheep and cattle depend on these lands for food, while local families depend on livestock for income and survival.

The problem arises when grazing becomes excessive and vegetation does not have enough time to recover. Without sufficient grass and shrub cover, the soil is exposed. Repeated movement of animals can also compact the ground, making it harder for rainwater to enter the soil. More water then flows across the surface, taking soil with it. Farming Practices and the Loss of Fertility

Farmers in Bolan are working under difficult circumstances. Water is scarce, rainfall is uncertain and access to modern agricultural resources can be limited. Many farming practices have developed out of necessity rather than choice.

However, some traditional and intensive practices can unintentionally contribute to 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 damage natural habitats and reduce biodiversity.

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.

Pakistan's Climate Vulnerability: A Governance Dilemma

Zia Ud Din:

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

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

Rising temperatures, droughts, irregular weather patterns, sea-level rise, melting glaciers, floods, and water insecurity demonstrate its far-reaching global consequences. Since these impacts transcend national borders, climate change is inherently a global challenge.

Along with other developing nations, Pakistan remains highly vulnerable. In 2024, Pakistan recorded its ninth warmest year in the last 64 years, with an average temperature of 23.52°C and rainfall levels 21 percent above the historical average. This highlights the urgency of collective international action. For Pakistan, how-



ever, climate vulnerability is compounded by governance constraints. Fragmented institutional coordination, weak policy implementation,

and limited emphasis on adaptation have reduced the state's capacity to respond effectively. Consequently, the climate crisis in Pakistan re-

fects not only environmental stress but also persistent governance failures. Climate change refers to long-term shifts in global weather pat-

terns and temperatures, primarily driven by human activities. According to United Nations find-

ings, excessive greenhouse gas emissions have intensified heat retention in the atmosphere. Gases such as carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide have

thickened the atmospheric blanket, largely due to deforestation, fossil fuel consumption, and rapid industrialization.

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

The Copernicus Climate Change Service reported that average global temperatures in 2024 exceeded pre-industrial levels by 1.52°C. This warming has intensified heatwaves, prolonged droughts, and increased wildfire risks. Rising temperatures have also disrupted weather systems, leading to irregular rainfall, intense storms, and stronger hurricanes.

Another major consequence is sea-level rise. Oceans absorb nearly 90 percent of excess heat caused by greenhouse gas emissions, leading to thermal expansion. Simultaneously, melting glaciers and ice sheets contribute to rising sea levels.

According to Encyclopedia Britannica, global sea levels have risen by approximately 21 to 25 centimeters since 1880, threatening coastal livelihoods and infrastructure. Climate change has also intensified water scarcity, a growing global concern. Pakistan is already a water-stressed country, and climate variability has further exacerbated this challenge.

Two Hazara Men Return Home Safely After Abduction in Balochistan

Jan Muhammad and Sajjad Ali Reunited with Families After July 24 Abduction; Rs25 Million Ransom Was Reportedly Demanded

QUETTA: Two Hazara men, Jan Muhammad and Sajjad Ali, who were abducted on July 24, have safely returned home, bringing a sense of relief and happiness to their families, relatives, and members of the local community. The two men had reportedly remained in captivity for several days following their abduction. According to reports, the kidnapers had demanded Rs25 million (Rs2.5 crore) as ransom for their release.

Their safe return has ended days of uncertainty for their families, who had been waiting anxiously for news about their whereabouts and wellbeing.

Families Welcome Safe Return Following their return, Jan Muhammad and Sajjad Ali were reunited with their families at their homes in Quetta. Family members and community members expressed relief and gratitude over their safe recovery after what had been a deeply distressing period.

The return of the



two men also brought renewed reassurance to members of the Hazara community, who had closely followed developments surrounding the case.

Kashif Haidari Visiting their safe return, Kashif Haidari of the Central Organization of Traders Balochistan visited Jan Muhammad and Sajjad Ali at their respective residences.

During the visit, Haidari met the two men and their family members, congratulated them on their safe return, and expressed happiness that they had been reunited with their loved ones. He also conveyed solidarity with the families, who had faced considerable uncertainty and anxiety during the period of the men's absence. Ransom Demand

Reported According to the information available regarding the incident, the abductors had reportedly demanded Rs25 million for the release of the two men.

However, details concerning the circumstances of their release, whether any ransom was ultimately paid, and the identity of the alleged kidnapers have not been independently confirmed.

No further details regarding the operation or circumstances that led to their recovery were immediately available. Relief After Days of Uncertainty The safe return of Jan Muhammad and Sajjad Ali has brought considerable relief to their families and the wider community.

Cases involving abduction and ransom demands can create significant fear.

The campaign is in

Pishin Displays Banners to Welcome Pakistan-Saudi Arabia-Türkiye Defense Pact

DC Mansoor Qazi Highlights Strong Brotherhood and Strategic Cooperation Among Three Countries

PISHIN: On the directives of Deputy Commissioner Pishin Mansoor Qazi, banners and panflets welcoming the historic joint defense agreement between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Türkiye have been displayed at various district government offices across Pishin.

The initiative aims to express solidarity with the three brotherly

tended to raise public awareness of the close ties between the three countries and demonstrate solidarity with their efforts to strengthen regional cooperation.

DC Pishin Welcomes Strengthened Strategic Partnership Deputy Commissioner Mansoor Qazi said Pakistan enjoys longstanding brotherly

the agreement is expected to contribute positively to regional peace and security while further strengthening the bonds of friendship, brotherhood, solidarity, and mutual respect among the peoples of Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Türkiye.

The district administration said the display of banners reflects the spirit of solidarity and



countries while highlighting their long-standing fraternal relations, mutual trust, and growing defense cooperation.

Messages of Solidarity Displayed Across Government Offices The banners displayed at government offices carry messages welcoming the strengthening of regional peace, stability, and mutual cooperation with brotherly Muslim countries.

According to the Deputy Commissioner,

and friendly relations with Saudi Arabia and Türkiye, describing the joint defense agreement reached in Makkah as an important development toward further strengthening strategic partnership among the three countries. He said Pakistan has always supported the promotion of peace, stability, and mutual cooperation with brotherly Muslim countries.

The campaign is in

appreciation for the deep-rooted relations between the three countries.

Pakistan Saudi Arabia Türkiye defense agreement, Pishin news, Mansoor Qazi, Pakistan Saudi Turkey relations, joint defense pact, Saudi Arabia Pakistan relations, Türkiye Pakistan relations, Pishin district administration, Balochistan news, Makkah defense agreement, regional security cooperation.

Hub DC Reviews Revenue Affairs, Tax Collection and Price Control Measures

Junma Dad Khan Mandokhail Directs Officials to Accelerate Revenue Recovery and Improve Public Services

HUB: Deputy Commissioner Hub Junma Dad Khan Mandokhail chaired an important meeting on revenue affairs at the Deputy Commissioner's Office Hub, reviewing government revenue collection, public service delivery, price control, land valuation, and other administrative matters across the district.

The meeting was attended by the District Engineer of the Irrigation and Canal System Department, all Assistant Commissioners and Tehsildars.

of Hub District, Naib Tehsildars, and relevant officials of the Revenue Department.

Revenue Collection and Administrative matters of the state's financial system and directed officials to perform their respective duties with integrity and diligence.

including Ushr,



Ahiana (water charges), and Agricultural Income Tax (AIT).

Deputy Commissioner Mandokhail directed the relevant officers to adopt an effective strategy to achieve assigned revenue targets and accelerate the recovery of outstanding government dues.

He emphasized that timely and transparent collection of government revenue is an important component of the state's financial system and directed officials to perform their respective duties with integrity and diligence.

including Ushr,

He also ordered that revenue records be kept complete, accurate, and regularly updated, while ensuring transparency throughout the collection process.

Price Control Measures Strengthened The meeting also reviewed measures to control prices of essential commodities in the district. The Deputy Commissioner instructed Assistant Commissioners and other concerned officials to regularly monitor prices in their respective areas and ensure strict implementation of official price lists.

He directed authorities to take legal action against businesses involved in overcharging, hoarding, and other violations in accordance with the law.

Public Complaints To Be Addressed Promptly Deputy Commissioner Hub stressed that citizens should not face unnecessary difficulties while accessing services and other government facilities.

He instructed officers to give priority to public complaints and ensure their timely resolution, with the objective of improving public

service delivery and strengthening public confidence in the district administration.

The Deputy Commissioner directed revenue officials to ensure that the valuation process is transparent and effective, taking into account current market conditions, the nature and location of different areas, and other relevant factors.

quarters (DHQ) Hospital Qalat. The inspection was carried out by EPA Assistant Director Faiza to assess the hospital's medical waste management and disposal system and ensure compliance with environmental regulations. Medical Waste Management System Reviewed During the inspection, EPA officials reviewed the procedures for segrega-

EPA Inspects Qalat DHQ Hospital to Review Medical Waste Management

Balochistan Environmental Protection Agency Assesses Waste Segregation, Disposal and Incinerator Operations

QALAT: On the directives of Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, Provincial Adviser for Environment Naimur Rehman, Secretary Environment and Climate Change Noor Ahmed Pirani, and Director General of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regional Office Qalat conducted a detailed inspection of the District Head-

quarters (DHQ) Hospital Qalat. The inspection was carried out by EPA Assistant Director Faiza to assess the hospital's medical waste management and disposal system and ensure compliance with environmental regulations. Medical Waste Management System Reviewed During the inspection, EPA officials reviewed the procedures for segrega-

tion, collection, storage, and disposal of medical waste at the hospital. The inspection also covered the use of color-coded waste bins, safe handling of sharps such as syringes and other sharp medical instruments, management of infectious waste, and the availability and operational status of the hospital's incinerator.

The overall cleanliness and sanitation conditions of the hospital were also assessed.

guidelines. EPA officials emphasized that proper medical waste disposal is essential for protecting public health and the environment.

The hospital administration was therefore directed to ensure strict compliance with all applicable environmental regulations and prescribed waste management procedures to minimize health and environmental risks.

Qalat DHQ Hospi-



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Qalat DHQ Hospi-

MPA Maulana Hidayat ur Rehman Visits Ormara to Review Public Issues and Development Initiatives

Meeting Focuses on Basic Services, Administrative Affairs and Development Projects in Coastal Tehsil

GWADAR: Balochistan Member of Provincial Assembly Maulana Hidayat ur Rehman visited Ormara, where he met party workers and Assistant Commissioner Ormara Dr. Mah Noor Barkat at her office. Tehsildar Ormara Noor Jan was also present. During the meeting, the participants discussed public issues, administrative matters, provision of basic facilities, and ongoing development initiatives in Ormara in detail.

MPA Pledges Support for Public Welfare Speaking on the occasion, Maulana Hidayat ur Rehman said that the development of Balochistan and prosperity of its people are



among the top priorities, adding that public service remains the central focus of his politics.

He said Ormara is an important part of Gwadar District and assured that all possible measures would be taken to improve the provision of essential facilities, particularly healthcare, education, clean drinking water, electricity, and employment opportunities.

The MPA appreciated the efforts of the Assistant Commissioner Ormara in addressing public grievances and expressed hope that the administration and elected representatives would continue working together to promote development in the area. Administration Assures Transparent Development Assistant Commissioner

Ormara Dr. Mah Noor Barkat thanked the MPA for his visit and assured him that the administration remains fully active in ensuring the prompt resolution of public complaints, merit-based administrative decisions, and transparent completion of development projects. She said that stronger coordination between the administration and local commu-

nities would help accelerate development and improve public service delivery in Ormara.

The meeting underscored the importance of close coordination between elected representatives, district administration, and citizens to address public needs and advance sustainable development in Ormara.

Maulana Hidayat ur Rehman Baloch, Ormara development, Gwadar District, Ormara public issues, Balochistan MPA, Dr Mah Noor Barkat, Ormara administration, clean drinking water, Ormara healthcare projects. She said that stronger coordination between the administration and local commu-

Six Junior Clerks Promoted to Senior Clerk Posts in Balochistan Labour Department

QUETTA: Six Junior Clerks of the Directorate of Manpower Training, Labour and Manpower Department Balochistan have been promoted to the posts of Senior Clerk.

The employees promoted include Sanullah, Sawal Khan, Mansoor Anwar, Muhammad Jameel, Nauman Qayyum, and Rozi Khan.

Employees Express Gratitude Over Promo-

tions The newly promoted employees expressed happiness over their promotions and extended their sincere gratitude to Secretary Labour Department Balochistan, Saleh Muhammad Nasir, Provincial Adviser for Labour Babu Ghulam Rasool Umrani, and Director Manpower Irshad Ahmed for their support and efforts.

The employees said that the personal inter-

est, dedicated efforts, and initiatives taken by the officials for the welfare of departmental employees helped turn their long-standing expectations of career advancement into reality.

They appreciated the department's efforts to address employees' concerns and ensure the provision of their legitimate rights.

Commitment to Employee Welfare The pro-

motivated employees expressed hope that the officers of the Labour and Manpower Department Balochistan would continue their efforts in the future to improve employee welfare and resolve legitimate service-related issues.

They said timely promotions and resolution of employees' concerns would further improve morale and contribute to greater efficiency within the depart-

ment. Balochistan Labour Department promotions, Junior Clerks promoted, Senior Clerk Balochistan, Manpower Training Directorate Quetta, Labour Department Quetta, Sanullah, Sawal Khan, Mansoor Anwar, Muhammad Jameel, Nauman Qayyum, Rozi Khan, employee welfare Balochistan, government employees' promotions.

Why are transporters on strike?

Transporters say the cost of running commercial vehicles has increased sharply, while taxes, toll charges, and other expenses have placed additional pressure on truck owners and operators. The nationwide transporters' alliance has raised several demands, including relief from diesel price increases, withholding tax, toll taxes and other

financial burdens imposed on the transport industry. The Balochistan Truck Owners Association has joined the action, increasing concerns about possible disruption to the supply chain across the province.

What could be affected? If the strike continues, the wheel-jam may affect:

– Goods transportation to and from Quetta
– Supply of essential commodities
– Cargo movement between Balochistan and other provinces
– Commercial and industrial activities
– Imports and exports through major routes

– Movement of trucks and heavy vehicles on national highways
Transporters have also reportedly raised concerns over highway security, particularly incidents involving attacks on cargo vehicles and threats to drivers travelling on major routes in Balochistan.

Transporters demand action Transport representatives are calling for immediate government intervention and negotiations to address their concerns. Their demands include reduction or review of toll taxes, relief from withholding tax, measures to control transportation costs, improved security on highways.

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Security forces kill 15 terrorists in Balochistan IBOs: state media

NEWS DESK: Security forces have killed 15 terrorists in multiple intelligence-based operations (IBOs) in several areas of Balochistan, state media reported on Sunday.

State-run Pakistan TV reported citing sources that the IBOs

their movement," Pakistan TV said.

Khawarji is a term the state uses for terrorists.

The latest operations by the security forces in Balochistan take place as the province continues to face security challenges.

According to the

372 in July, the report said.

Security personnel deaths in Balochistan increased from six in June to 62 in July, representing a rise of 933pc. Terrorist deaths rose from 75 to 238, while civilian deaths increased by 93pc, from 28 to 54.

July 6. During that assault, armed attackers kidnapped and killed 27 police officers.

On July 9, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that the country's civil and military leadership had taken a "mutual and singular decision" to end terrorism after



were carried out in Mastung, Bolan, Washuk, Awaran, Sibi, Khuzdar, Harai, and Nushki under Operation Raddul Fitna 3.

Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the slain terrorists, it reported.

"The operations severely damaged the khawarji network and restricted

Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies' (PICSS) monthly security assessment released on July 31, the security situation deteriorated most significantly in Balochistan in the country last month.

The overall death toll increased by 241pc in Balochistan, from 109 in June to

Eighteen members of peace committees were also killed in the province.

Last month, security forces and law enforcement personnel jointly launched Operation Shaban in Balochistan in retaliation for a deadly attack on a police post at the Mangi Dam pumping station in Ziarat on

multiple major terrorist incidents in Balochistan.

He made the remarks at a meeting in Quetta of the Provincial Apex Committee on the National Action Plan, with Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) and Chief of the Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir also present.

Unregulated placer gold mining raises concerns in GB

NEWS DESK: Increasing placer gold mining activities in streams and rivers are threatening the fragile ecosystem of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), with authorities describing them as a serious risk to

dams, including the Diamer-Bhasha Dam, as well as roads, bridges, government and private infrastructure, human settlements and agricultural land at risk of river erosion. The activities were also causing water, air and land pollution.

Speaking to Dawn, Gilgit-Baltistan Environmental Protection Agency (GEBPA) Director Khadim Hussain said the issue had become more serious in recent years as placer gold mining companies were not complying with environmental laws.

According to the GEBPA, it had been observed that heavy machinery was being used for gold extraction from riverbeds and streams,

mostly near bridges, roads, government and private infrastructure, human settlements and agricultural land.

Oil and other materials leaching from generators and other machinery used in the extraction process were also mixing with river and stream water.

It had also been ob-

The GEBPA said the construction of protection walls along riverbanks for gold extraction and the use of excavated material altered the natural flow of rivers and streams, diverting water towards roads, bridges, human settlements, infrastructure and agricultural land. The diversion of

Furthermore, the dumping of excavated material could cause serious and irreversible damage to sensitive infrastructure.

No proper campsites had been established at the project sites, while no appropriate mechanisms had been provided for the safe collection and dis-



served that untreated wash water generated from gold-washing activities, along with debris, was being discharged into rivers without any sedimentation or settling mechanism.

The polluted river water was being used by people in many areas for drinking and other daily needs.

natural watercourses posed a serious risk of erosion and destabilisation of steep slopes adjoining roads, bridges, infrastructure, human settlements and agricultural land situated near riverbanks and streams. Such damage could be particularly severe during periods of high river discharge.

posals of solid waste. Adequate sanitation and restroom facilities had also not been provided for workers at the sites, resulting in improper waste management.

"These actions constitute a breach of the environmental conditions of approval and endanger public health and safety.

NUMS MDCAT 2026 Postponed; New Exam Date Announced

Syed Muhammad Yaseen

ISLAMABAD: The NUMS MDCAT 2026 examination has been postponed, with the new test date announced as September 13, 2026.

The NUMS MDCAT 2026 was previously scheduled to be held on August 23, 2026. Candidates preparing for admission to MBBS and BDS programmes under the National University of Medical Sciences will now appear in the entrance test on the revised date. According to the updated information shared with candidates, the revised schedule is:

Old NUMS MDCAT Date: August 23, 2026

New NUMS MDCAT Date: September 13, 2026

Status: Postponed

New Exam Date: September 13, 2026

The postponement gives NUMS MDCAT aspirants additional preparation time for the medical entry test, including the Biology, Chemistry, Physics, English and Psychological Assessment components where applicable.

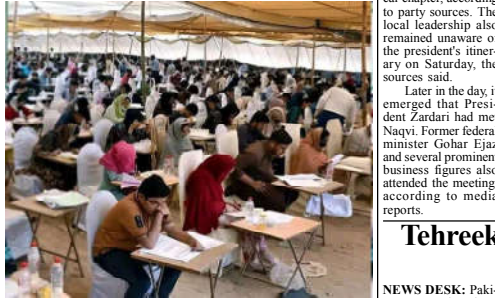
The official NUMS admission notice had originally scheduled NUMS MDCAT 2026 for Sunday, August 23, 2026, at 10:00 AM.

Students have been advised to rely on official announcements and continue their preparation according to the revised examination schedule.

NUMS MDCAT Preparation

Students looking for preparation support, including NUMS FLPs (Full-Length Papers), Psychological Tests, NUMS MDCAT MCQs, past-paper practice and entry-test guidance, can contact Students Nexus By SMY at 03083893269.

Students can also follow the Students Nexus By SMY WhatsApp Channel for updates, preparation material and admission guidance.



On-duty cop martyred, another injured in Lakki Marwat attack

NEWS DESK: A constable was martyred and another sustained bullet wounds while on duty in an attack in the Saeedkhal area of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Lakki Marwat district on Sunday, police said.

District police officer's spokesperson Qudratullah Khan told Dawn that the cops were attacked near the Saeedkhal graveyard, in the limits of the City Police Station.

"The terrorists opened fire on the rider squad personnel while they were patrolling the area," he said, adding that Constable Sajidullah lost

his life in the attack while Constable Muhammad Waqas was seriously wounded.

The body of the deceased constable and the injured policeman were taken to the Government City Hospital, he said.

Meanwhile, a large police contingent reached the site of the attack, surrounded the area and launched a search for the assailants, he said.

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 July 31, 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 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.

Zardari meets Naqvi amid 'system reset' debate

NEWS DESK: President Asif Ali Zardari on Saturday met Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi in Lahore, days after the latter sparked controversy by declaring that the existing system had "collapsed" and calling for the creation of new administrative units, a proposal that has drawn firm opposition from the PPP, particularly in the context of Sindh.

President Zardari, who is also PPP co-chairman, arrived in Lahore late on Friday night, but his arrival was not communicated to the PPP's local chapter, according to party sources. The local leadership also remained unaware of the president's itinerary on Saturday, the sources said.

Later in the day, it emerged that President Zardari had met Naqvi. Former federal minister Gohar Ejaz and several prominent business figures also attended the meeting, according to media reports.

The issue has figured prominently in political circles as earlier senior PML-N

No official statement was issued about the meeting which took place against the backdrop of the interior minister's July 30 statement arguing that the existing system was no longer delivering and that additional administrative units were needed.

His remarks triggered a political reaction, particularly from the PPP, which has consistently opposed proposals to divide

position, maintaining that his remarks aimed at shortcomings in the administrative and governance structure rather than suggesting the federal government or the political system itself was on the verge of collapse. The clarification effectively shifted the emphasis of his earlier remarks from the stability of the government to the performance of the administrative system.

leaders, including PML-N President Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, also held an important meeting at Nawaz Sharif's Jati Umrah residence.

The official statement issued after the meeting remained silent on the creation of additional administrative units. The meet-

cal rivalries in the run-up to the Azad Jammu and Kashmir elections.

The PML-N has yet to announce a formal position on the creation of new provinces. Two Punjab provincial ministers, responding to questions at a press conference, said the party had not yet deliberated on the matter.

A PML-N insider earlier told The Express Tribune that Naqvi's statement had sent shockwaves through the party and beyond, particularly because of the manner in which he articulated his position.

According to the insider, both the PML-N and PPP could be among the biggest political losers under the proposal, as accepting it in its current form could confine the parties to specific regions. Rejecting it, however, also did not appear to be an easy option, leaving the PML-N in a "between the devil and the deep sea" situation.

The issue has figured prominently in political circles as earlier senior PML-N

Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to court opposition parties for long march

NEWS DESK: Pakistani Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has decided to reach out to opposition parties ahead of its planned long march on Islamabad on September 27, while the party's senior leadership is also considering contacting the ruling coalition's Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) as it seeks broader political support for its campaign.

According to sources, a PTI delegation will begin meeting opposition parties after August 14.

The seven-member delegation is expected to include Salman Akram Raja, Junaid Akbar, Aamir Dogar and Atif Khan, among others, and will hold consultations with opposition leaders.

The outreach will also extend to the political leadership in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) as PTI plans to meet Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rahman.

Sources said the party would also approach

Tehreek Tahaffuz Aain-e-Pakistan (TTAP) chief Mahmood Khan Achakzai and Fazl as part of its efforts to build political support for the planned mobilisation.

The possibility of contacting the PPP is also under consider-

ation at the senior leadership level, despite the party being part of the ruling coalition.

The development comes two days after PTI announced its September 27 march towards Islamabad at a public gathering in

Peshawar.

K-P Chief Minister Sohail Afridi had said the party would head towards the federal capital if meetings with PTI founder Imran Khan were not resumed, he was not allowed to receive treatment from his personal physician and cases against him were not heard by the courts. He had said PTI had lost hope in the courts, arguing that the judiciary had become paralysed following the 26th and 27th constitutional amendments.

Afridi further said the party had exhausted every constitutional and legal avenue to secure meetings with the PTI founder, but its demands had not been heard.

