



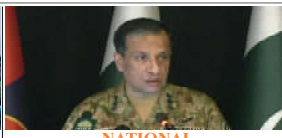
**FRONT PAGE**  
Judicial Probe Begins into  
Deadly Ziarat Mangi...  
Page No 1



**OPINION**  
Hypertension: The Silent Threat  
We Continue to Ignore  
Page No 2



**BALUCHISTAN**  
Deputy Commissioner (DC)  
Chaman Reviews...  
Page No 3



**NATIONAL**  
ISPR slams India's 'Bollywood-style'  
documentary projecting last year's...  
Page No 4

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# QUETTA VOICE



Supreme Court of Pakistan has instructed relevant authorities to shift incarcerated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan

## Supreme Court Orders Imran Khan Transferred to Shifa Hospital for Medical Assessment

HASEEB KHAN:

ISLAMABAD — In a key legal development, the Supreme Court of Pakistan has instructed relevant authorities to shift incarcerated Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan to Islamabad's Shifa International Hospital within the next few days for a comprehensive medical evaluation. The order was handed down by a three-member bench led by Justice Shahid

Wahid, alongside Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan and Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim, while considering a petition filed on behalf of the former prime minister regarding his hospitalization. As part of its directives,

the apex court mandated the constitution of a specialized medical board to evaluate the former leader's health.

The court ruled that Khan's personal physician and his sister, Dr. Uzma Khan, must remain closely integrated

with the medical panel throughout the process.

In addition to addressing his medical care, the court ordered jail administrators to guarantee weekly visitation rights for Khan's family members.

To mitigate public fallout and protect privacy, the bench explicitly barred the former prime minister's legal representatives and family members from releasing his medical findings to news outlets or politicizing the proceedings.

## Judicial Probe Begins into Deadly Ziarat Mangi Dam Attack



File Photo: Judicial Probe Begins into Deadly Ziarat Mangi Dam Attack

ALI HAMZA:

QUETTA — A judicial commission investigating the deadly terrorist attack on the Mangi Dam pumping station in Ziarat district officially began its proceedings on Tuesday.

Led by High Court Justice Muhammad Aamir Nawaz Rana, the inquiry aims to fix responsibility and uncover the facts behind the ambush that left several police officers dead while guarding the crucial water infrastructure project.

Top legal representatives—including the Additional Attorney General,

Advocate General Balochistan, and Prosecutor General Balochistan—appeared before the commission during its inaugural session.

Widening the Call for Information The commission's secretary submitted an initial report confirming that public notices had already been dispatched to relevant institutions and published in major local newspapers.

However, to ensure maximum transparency and encourage any potential witnesses or informed citizens to step forward, Justice Rana instructed officials to run the notices again with

wider regional outreach.

Strict Deadlines for Legal Teams During the session, the bench directed provincial law officers to submit brief written statements along with all official records regarding the probe's Terms of Reference (TORs). Meanwhile,

federal legal council requested additional time to consult higher authorities, which the commission granted.

The court adjourned proceedings until August 24, 2026, when legal teams are expected to present their formal submissions and preliminary findings.

## Asma Jattak's Sister Appeals for Justice as Family Awaits Answers in Khuzdar



Asma Jattak has called upon top provincial authorities, the judiciary, and human rights organizations to urgently step in, arrest those involved in her kidnapping

From Our Correspondent:

KHUZDAR — In a deeply emotional public appeal, the family of Asma Jattak has called upon top provincial authorities, the judiciary, and human rights organizations to urgently step in, arrest those involved in her kidnapping, and bring her father's killers to justice.

The call comes shortly after the government's announcement that Balochistan will form a high-powered committee to probe the Asma Jattak case, as law enforcement agencies continue efforts to arrest the main accused.

Speaking out after enduring prolonged trauma, Asma's sister described the unbearable toll the

violence and threats have taken on their daily lives.

The family has suffered a harrowing ordeal of ongoing harassment, culminating in the tragic murder of their father, Master Inayatullah Jattak, in Khuzdar.

"These incidents have completely changed our lives," she expressed in her statement, detailing how the family continues to live under a constant shadow of fear and insecurity.

"We are not asking for any special favors—we only want the law to take its course and for every single perpetrator to be held accountable."

**Key Demands Raised by the Family:**  
Immediate Arrests: Urgent

legal action to detain all individuals involved in the abduction of Asma Jattak and the murder of her father.

**Family Protection:** Comprehensive security measures provided by law enforcement agencies to guarantee the safety of the surviving family members.

**Transparent Investigation:** A fair, transparent, and completely unbiased probe, ensuring that no influential person remains above the law.

The family urged the public and civil society across Balochistan to amplify their call for justice,

emphasizing that immediate government intervention is necessary to restore safety and uphold the rule of law.

# QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

## South-West Asia and the War Against Narcotics: Where Does Pakistan Stand?

**By Dr. B. Sultan:** Lady Macbeth once remarked that "a little water clears us of this deed" after the assassination of the King. Yet, with time, she remained haunted, obsessively rubbing her hands in an attempt to cleanse the imagined stains of blood. The persistence of narcotics production and trade in South-West Asia resembles this unending struggle—a dark reality that cannot be easily washed away.

Afghanistan has long been recognized as the world's largest producer of opium, with its roots tracing back to the early 1900s. Over the decades, the repercussions of this industry spilled into neighboring Pakistan and Iran. In the late 2000s, Taliban leader Mullah Omar imposed a strict ban on poppy cultivation through threats, forced eradication, and severe punishments. However, as revealed by the UNODC Opium Survey 2007, the ban primarily targeted cultivation while the trade continued. After the fall of the Taliban, opium again became a source of funding for logistics, weapons, and militia payments.

In 2022, the Taliban leadership once again announced a ban on poppy cultivation, with fibrotal



Akhundzadeh officially declaring significant reductions. Some Western reports, supported by satellite imagery, showcased declining poppy fields in southern Afghanistan. However, this raises critical questions: Can Afghanistan realistically abandon such a central economic resource while facing

sanctions? And what consequences does this shift have for Pakistan? While certain international outlets hastily claim that Pakistan has become a new hub for narcotics, such narratives ignore key realities. The issue is not a simple matter of "shifting sands" but a complex regional security challenge. The

porous border between Pakistan and Afghanistan, coupled with cross-border networks of drug traffickers, means temporary shifts in cultivation are often strategic rather than permanent. Moreover, Afghanistan's pivot towards methamphetamine production—highlighted by satellite

evidence of expanded opium processing hubs—reflects adaptive strategies of traffickers rather than genuine eradication. In Pakistan, however, the situation is markedly different. Since 2001, the country has largely maintained its "poppy-free" status, despite sporadic spillovers from

Afghanistan. Following the Taliban's 2022 ban, some illicit cultivations did emerge in border areas, particularly within Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Yet, these were swiftly addressed through Pakistan's Poppy Elimination Campaign (PEC-2025). This multi-agency effort,

led by the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) and provincial administrations, successfully destroyed thousands of acres of illegal poppy fields. Over 250 FIRs were registered, dozens of arrests were made, and awareness campaigns were launched across educational institutions. Importantly, in-

dependent surveys after March 2025 confirmed the effectiveness of these eradication drives.

Pakistan's determination to combat narcotics often remains under-reported internationally, overshadowed by outdated or selective portrayals.

The fact remains: Pakistan continues to fight this menace not only for its own stability but also for global security.

What is urgently needed is greater recognition of these efforts by the international community and enhanced cooperation from agencies such as the UNODC.

As South-West Asia remains at the heart of global narcotics trade routes, Pakistan's role is both frontline and decisive. Balochistan, in particular, holds the potential to transform from a vulnerable transit zone into a hub of opportunity, stability, and resilience. Just as Lady Macbeth's imagined guilt could not be washed away with water, the global community cannot absolve itself of responsibility by ignoring Pakistan's sacrifices and achievements in this ongoing struggle. The fight against narcotics requires collective recognition, support, and action—not selective narratives.

## Hypertension: The Silent Threat We Continue to Ignore

**By Dr Rubaba Khan Buledi:**

Every year, World Hypertension Day reminds us of a health crisis that continues to grow quietly across the globe. Unlike many diseases that arrive with immediate warning signs, hypertension often develops silently. A person may appear healthy, continue daily routines, and feel physically normal while high blood pressure gradually damages the heart, kidneys, brain, and blood vessels. This is why medical experts across the world describe hypertension as the silent killer.

In Pakistan, the burden of hypertension is increasing at an alarming pace. Rapid urbanisation, unhealthy eating habits, physical inactivity, smoking, stress, and lack of routine medical checkups have created conditions where cardiovascular diseases are becoming more common among both older and younger populations. Unfortunately, many individuals only discover they have high blood pressure after suffering from serious complications such as stroke, heart disease, or kidney failure.

**Women Neglect Their Own Health, Prioritise Family**

What makes hypertension particularly dangerous is the lack of awareness surrounding it. In many households, people still consider blood pressure problems to be temporary



conditions caused only by stress or fatigue. Self-medication and delayed medical consultation remain common practices.

A large number of patients discontinue medicines once they start feeling better, without understanding that hypertension often requires lifelong management and regular monitoring.

The challenge becomes even more serious in developing regions where access to healthcare facilities remains limited. In rural and remote areas, many people are unable to undergo routine health screenings due to economic difficul-

ties, long travel distances, or lack of awareness. Women, especially in conservative societies, frequently neglect their own health while prioritising family responsibilities.

As a result, hypertension often remains undiagnosed until it reaches dangerous stages.

Another worrying trend is the increasing prevalence of hypertension among younger people. Fast food consumption, excessive use of digital devices, reduced physical activity, and rising mental stress are contributing significantly to this issue. The modern

lifestyle has distanced many people from healthy daily habits that once naturally supported physical wellbeing. Walking has been replaced by prolonged sitting, home-cooked meals by processed food, and social interaction by constant digital engagement.

Public Awareness Campaigns are Essential

Mental health also plays an important role in blood pressure related illnesses. Economic uncertainty, unemployment, work related pressure, and social stress contribute heavily to anxiety and chronic tension. When stress becomes a per-

manent part of life, it directly affects the cardiovascular system. Unfortunately, mental health awareness remains weak in many societies, where emotional wellbeing is often ignored or misunderstood.

Preventing hypertension does not always require expensive treatment. In many cases, small but consistent lifestyle changes can significantly reduce health risks. Balanced diets, reduced salt intake, regular exercise, proper sleep, and avoidance of smoking can greatly improve cardiovascular health. Even simple daily hab-

its such as walking for thirty minutes, drinking enough water, and managing stress levels can make a noticeable difference.

Public awareness campaigns are essential in this regard. Governments, healthcare institutions, educational organizations, and media platforms must work together to educate people about the dangers of uncontrolled blood pressure. Schools and colleges should also encourage health education programs that teach young people the importance of nutrition, physical activity, and preventive healthcare.

Technology can

also become an effective tool in tackling hypertension.

Telemedicine, mobile health applications, and digital awareness campaigns can help reach communities that lack direct access to medical professionals. Regular blood pressure monitoring devices are now more accessible and can help individuals take responsibility for their own health. However, technology alone cannot solve the problem without public willingness to adopt healthier lifestyles.

**A Healthier Society Cannot be Built Through Hospitals Alone**

Healthcare systems must shift their focus from treatment alone to prevention and early diagnosis.

Preventive healthcare is not only more effective but also more affordable in the long term. Hospitals across Pakistan continue to face increasing pressure from patients suffering from preventable cardiovascular complications. Investing in awareness and early intervention can reduce this burden significantly.

Women's health deserves special attention in discussions surrounding hypertension. Pregnancy related hypertension, hormonal changes, nutritional deficiencies, and limited healthcare access place many women at greater risk. Community level awareness programs targeting mothers and families can play a vi-

tal role in early detection and treatment.

The role of family support is equally important.

Healthy living becomes easier when families collectively adopt positive habits. Shared meals with balanced nutrition, reduced dependence on unhealthy food, and encouragement for physical activity can create healthier communities from within households themselves.

World Hypertension Day should not remain a symbolic observance marked only through seminars and official statements. It should encourage serious reflection on how modern lifestyles are affecting public health.

Hypertension is no longer a disease affecting only the elderly. It is becoming a widespread societal challenge that requires collective responsibility and long term commitment.

A healthier society cannot be built through hospitals alone. It requires awareness, discipline, preventive care, and responsible choices at both individual and community levels. The fight against hypertension begins not in emergency rooms but in our homes, schools, workplaces, and daily routines.

If societies truly wish to reduce the growing burden of cardiovascular disease, they must recognize one simple reality: Prevention is always more powerful than cure.

## Balochistan Finance Minister Vows Action on Miners' Welfare, Safety and Rescue System



QUETTA: A delegation of the Pakistan Mines Labour Federation met Balochistan Provincial Finance and Mines & Minerals Minister Mir Shoaib Noshervani in Quetta and discussed in detail the issues, concerns and demands faced by miners across the province.

The delegation briefed the provincial minister on the difficulties confronting mine workers, including welfare, healthcare facilities, workplace safety measures and other basic issues.

Mir Shoaib Noshervani assured the delegation that all legitimate issues of mine workers would

be addressed on a priority basis. He said practical measures would be taken in coordination with the Mines Department and relevant officials of the Finance Department.

The provincial minister expressed serious concern over the absence of medical staff from mines hospitals in Kachi and other districts and directed the Mines Department to ensure that all mines hospitals remain fully functional. He also ordered that daily attendance reports of hospitals and medical staff be regularly submitted to his office.

He further directed authorities to

ensure that all ambulances remain operational and stationed near mining sites at all times so that injured miners can receive immediate medical assistance and timely rescue services in the event of accidents or emergencies.

Mir Shoaib Noshervani made it clear that negligence in miners' welfare, healthcare and safety measures would not be tolerated and directed the concerned authorities to continuously monitor implementation of these measures.

Mines Welfare Fund Initiative The meeting also witnessed important progress regarding the

Mines Welfare Fund. It was decided that, in consultation with the Finance Department, a comprehensive summary grant and release of Workers' Welfare Fund allocations would be prepared and sent to the Chief Minister of Balochistan for approval. The provincial minister also directed officials to further strengthen the mine rescue system to effectively respond to accidents and emergencies.

He said more skilled and modern trained rescue personnel would be recruited on a contract basis to ensure safety and swiftness of rescue operations.

Mines Welfare Fund Initiative The meeting also witnessed important progress regarding the

injured inside mines.

He added that rescue personnel would be provided advanced, scientific and modern training at leading and high-standard training institutions in the country to enhance their professional capabilities and ensure that precious human lives can be saved promptly during mining accidents.

Mir Shoaib Noshervani reiterated the government's commitment to utilizing all available resources to protect the rights, welfare, health and safety of mine workers, while further improving safety and welfare measures across Balochistan's mining sector.

## Kech DC Reviews Education System, Warns Action Against Teacher Absenteeism

TURBAT: Deputy Commissioner Kech Yasir Iqbal Dashti chaired an important meeting of the District Education Group to review educational affairs, teacher attendance, issues faced by schools and measures to provide students with a better learning environment across Kech district.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Turbat Muhammad Hanif Kabzai, District Education Officer Kech Amjad Shehzad, DEO Kech Asghar Ali, Government Girls Model High School Turbat Principal Zamard Wahid, Degree College Turbat Principal Sagheer Ahmed, UNICEF representative Faiz-ur-Rehman, RTSM representative Haleem Baloch, DDOs from all tehsils, representatives of the Finance Department and NRSP, along with other relevant officials.

Officials Briefed on



Education Sector At the beginning of the meeting, District Education Officer Amjad Shehzad gave a detailed briefing on the overall education situation in Kech, the condition of educational institutions and other relevant matters.

UNICEF representative Faiz-ur-Rehman subsequently briefed participants on the organization's ongoing initiatives and support for the education sector in the district.

RTSM representative Haleem Baloch pro-

vided an update on teacher attendance and absenteeism, as well as deductions from salaries in accordance with applicable rules and regulations.

Principals and heads of educational institutions, including Zamard Wahid of Government Girls Model High School Turbat, highlighted the challenges, requirements and issues facing their respective schools.

DC Warns Action Over Teacher Absenteeism Addressing the

missioner further stated that salaries would be deducted in cases of unauthorized absenteeism in accordance with applicable regulations.

Schools' Issues To Be Addressed on Priority Basis Yasir Iqbal Dashti said problems faced by schools and teachers would be resolved on a priority basis to create a better educational environment and ensure the provision of quality education to students.

He directed the relevant authorities to maintain close coordination and take practical measures to improve educational institutions, teacher attendance and service delivery.

The deputy commissioner's emphasis on education system improvement, teacher attendance and the future of students reflects a proactive and responsible approach toward strengthening the education sector in Kech district.

## Deputy Commissioner (DC) Chaman Reviews Preparations, Security for Upcoming Anti-Polio Campaign

CHAMAN: Deputy Commissioner Chaman Habib Ahmed Bangalzai chaired a District Polio Eradication Committee

meeting to review the effectiveness of the anti-polio campaign and to discuss the necessary steps to ensure the success of the upcoming campaign.



(DPEC) meeting to review preparations for the upcoming anti-polio campaign, security arrangements, and the performance and achievements of the previous campaign.

The meeting reviewed the performance of polio teams during the previous campaign, including vaccination coverage, children reached, missed children and challenges faced by teams.

Participants also discussed measures to address shortcomings and adopt a more effective strategy for the upcoming campaign.

The Deputy Commissioner Habib Ahmed Bangalzai directed ADC

Chaman Fida Baloch, officials of relevant departments and polio authorities to complete all preparations for the upcoming campaign in a timely and comprehensive manner. He stressed effective monitoring of polio teams, strict implementation of micro-plans and all necessary measures to ensure access to children under five years of age.

The Deputy Commissioner also directed security officials to formulate a comprehensive security plan to provide foolproof security to polio teams, with special arrangements in sensitive areas so that polio workers could perform their duties safely and without fear.

He said the complete eradication of polio is a shared national responsibility, requiring

effective coordination and a unified strategy among the district administration, Health Department, Polio

Programme, security agencies and other relevant departments.

The meeting expressed a firm commitment to making the upcoming anti-polio campaign successful, addressing shortcomings identified during the previous campaign and further strengthening polio prevention measures across Chaman district.

The DC Chaman further directed officials to ensure that children up to 10 years of age enrolled in schools and religious seminars are provided the required vaccinations and immunization, as part of broader efforts to protect children against preventable diseases.

## Gwadar MPA Inspects 200 Acres Allocated for Fishermen Colony in Jiwani

GWADAR: JIWANI: Member of the Balochistan Assembly from Gwadar Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman Baloch inspected 200 acres of land allocated for a fishermen colony during his visit to Jiwani and reviewed the condition of the site.

The Assistant Commissioner Jiwani was also present during the inspection.

economy and local development, making it essential to provide them with better residential facilities and basic amenities.

He said the matter concerning the land allocated for the fishermen colony would be taken forward while keeping public interest, the welfare of fishermen and the motion of the fisheries sector in view.

to strengthening the local coastal economy and supporting the sustainable development of the fisheries sector in Jiwani and Gwadar.

Gwadar fishermen colony, Jiwani fishermen colony, Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman Baloch, 200 acres fishermen colony, Gwadar fishermen colony, Jiwani development, Balochistan



Speaking on the occasion, Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman said fishermen play a key role in the coastal

The MPA emphasized that improving living conditions for fishing communities would also contribute

coastal economy, fishermen welfare Balochistan MPA, Jiwani fisheries sector

## Deputy Commissioner Nasirabad Reviews Security Arrangements for 12 Rabi-ul-Awwal

NASIRABAD: Deputy Commissioner Nasirabad, Virendra Lal, chaired an important meeting to review security, law and order, and other arrangements for the holy occasion of 12 Rabi-ul-Awwal, marking Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH).

The meeting was attended by religious scholars from different schools of thought, heads and senior officials of relevant government departments. Officials briefed the Deputy Commissioner on preparations and arrangements being made for the occasion.

The meeting reviewed in detail the routes of religious processions, security arrangements at mosques and other important religious sites, deployment of police personnel, traffic management, cleanliness, lighting, availability of clean drinking water, healthcare and medical facilities, and rescue services. Speaking at the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Virendra Lal said that 12 Rabi-ul-Awwal is a day of great religious significance and devotion. He emphasized that ensuring



peace and maintaining law and order, while providing the best possible facilities to citizens, are among the top priorities of the district administration.

He directed all concerned departments to complete preparations to the stipulated time and ensure foolproof se-

curity arrangements during processions and religious gatherings.

He also stressed the need for close coordination and a comprehensive strategy among all departments to prevent any inconvenience during the celebrations.

The Deputy Commissioner instructed of-

ficials to ensure cleanliness along procession routes, remove encroachments, maintain smooth traffic flow and make all necessary arrangements.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner instructed of-

## Balochistan Inquiry Commission Begins Open Court Proceedings into Ziarat Mangy Dam Pumping Station Attack

QUETTA: The judicial inquiry commission constituted by the Government of Balochistan to investigate the terrorist attack on the Mangy Dam Pumping Station in Ziarat district, which resulted in the martyrdom of police personnel, commenced proceedings in open court on Tuesday.

The inquiry commission is headed by Justice Muhammad Aamir Nawaz Rana. During the proceedings, the Additional Attorney General, Advocate General Balochistan, Prosecu-

tor General Balochistan and Registrar/Secretary of the Inquiry Commission appeared before the commission.

Terms of Reference Presented During the hearing, the Registrar/Secretary of the Inquiry Commission read out the Terms of Reference (TORs) issued by the Government of Balochistan. The commission was also informed that, in compliance with its order dated August 15, 2026, a public notice had been published in various Urdu and En-

glish newspapers across the province on August 17.

The notice had also been forwarded to all relevant government departments and institutions.

Following the briefing, the commission directed that the August 17 public notice be republished widely to ensure maximum public awareness and facilitate participation in the inquiry.

AG and Prosecutor General Directed to Submit Statements The Advocate General Balochistan and Prosecu-

tor General Balochistan were directed to submit their statements to the commission by August 28.

The commission allowed the request.

mission adjourned further proceedings until Friday, August 28, 2026, directing that the required concise statements and relevant records be submitted before the next date of hearing.

The judicial inquiry is aimed at examining the circumstances surrounding the Mangy Dam Pumping Station terrorist incident in Ziarat and the deaths of police personnel, with the commission proceeding according to the mandate assigned by the Government of Balochistan.

Next Hearing on August 28 The com-

## Balochistan C&W Secretary Reviews Expansion Project of Balochistan High Court Building

QUETTA: Balochistan Secretary Communications and Works Babar Khan conducted a detailed inspection of the Balochistan High Court building and reviewed ongoing construction activities and the overall progress of the project.

Chief Engineer Quetta Zone Abdul Rahim Bangalzai, Chief Architect Dr. Sohrah Marri, Executive Engineer Building Kachlak Division Umar Munir, and other senior officials accompanied the secretary during the visit.

During the inspection, officials briefed Secretary Babar Khan on the project's overall progress, including construction phases, technical matters, architectural design, challenges being faced and the proposed timeline for completion.

The officials also provided an update on the ongoing construction work, including the quality of materials being used and preparations for the upcoming

stages of the project.

Secretary Communications and Works Babar Khan issued strict instructions for further accelerating construction work and ensuring that there was no interruption in project activities.

He directed that work should continue on a 24-hour basis so that all targets could be achieved within the stipulated timeframe.

Babar Khan said the time available for completion was limited and urged all engineers, officers and staff to work with maximum efficiency and commitment.

He made it clear that negligence, delay or lack of seriousness in the important public project would not be tolerated, while no compromise would be made on construction quality.

The concerned authorities were further directed to continuously monitor both the pace and quality of work to ensure that the Balochistan High Court expansion project is completed on time and according to the required standards.

## ISPR slams India's 'Bollywood-style' documentary projecting last year's 'military blunder as a successful endeavour'

**NEWS DESK:** The military's media affairs wing on Tuesday slammed India's "Bollywood-style" documentary on its "Operation Sindoor", saying it had "cobbled together a propaganda video to project a military blunder as a successful endeavour".

In a statement, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said, "More than a year after Marka-i-Haq, India refuses to face the harsh reality. Instead of conceding defeat in a failed venture, India has decided to colour history in her preferred hues."

Last year's brief military conflict with India — starting from the April 22 Pahalgam attack to the end of Operation Bunyannu Marsoos with a ceasefire between the two countries following the intervention of the United States — on May 10 — has been called "Marka-i-Haq" (Battle of Truth) by the state.

"To achieve this mutilation of history, Indian content creators have produced a highly dramatised, coloured and factually inaccurate account of so-called Operation Sindoor, packaged as a documentary featuring senior political and military leadership of India," ISPR said.

Operation Sindoor is the term New Delhi used for its strikes on Pakistan on May 7, 2025.

"For its lack of nu-

ance and seriousness, the documentary can be characterised as a tragedy and a comedy at the same time. Selectively edited interviews, emotional narration and cinematic Bollywood style reconstruction have been used to alter established facts and rewrite

the operational outcome," it said.

The statement said that the documentary's account contained "fundamental contradictions, exposing a belated attempt to manufacture a domestically palatable version of events".

ISPR said the documentary attempted to establish a deliberate linkage between an address by the army chief on April 16, 2025 and the Pahalgam incident on April 22, 2025, "conjur-ing a conspiracy theory out of nothing".

"More significantly, India subsequently claimed that the three

alleged perpetrators of Pahalgam were identified and eliminated on July 28, 2025, 82 days after so-called Operation Sindoor. Yet the documentary presents so-called Operation Sindoor as the punishment for those responsible for Pahalgam. If the

missiles, PAF precision munitions, long-range loitering munitions and precision artillery against 26 military targets, including facilities used to target Pakistani citizens, and entities involved in fomenting terrorism against Pakistan," it said.

It went on to say that the documentary itself undermined its claim of clear Indian dominance.

Indian military leadership acknowledges extensive Pakistani missile, drone and air defence systems. Such admissions are difficult to reconcile with its repeated portrayal of Pakistan being decisively defeated," it said.

"The documentary's account of the cessation of hostilities is of less revealing nature."

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## Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz calls for effective measures to create jobs for youth

**NEWS DESK:** Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed the government to ensure coordinated and effective measures to create employment opportunities for young people under the National Youth Employment Policy, with a monthly review meeting to monitor its implementation.

Chairing a meeting to review progress on the policy, the prime minister said providing decent employment to the country's skilled and talented youth was among the government's top priorities.

He called for a comprehensive strategy and inter-ministerial coordination to implement the policy, with special focus on equipping young people, particularly women, with skills to access new employment opportunities.

The prime minister also directed that special attention be given to creating employment opportunities for young people in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (K-P).

He said institutional reforms had been introduced in the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTC) and Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) to align Pakistan's skilled workforce with domestic and international business and industrial demand.

According to a

briefing, NAVTC was taking measures to provide workers with international certifications and proficiency in languages required in overseas job markets. Young people were also being trained according to market demand to facilitate employment abroad.

The Digital Youth Hub is providing information on domestic and overseas employment opportunities through a single platform, while Youth Development Cells are being established in educational institutions to provide career guidance, counseling and information about employment and skills development opportunities. The prime minister also directed an awareness campaign to inform young people about the benefits available under the policy.

Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashood briefed the meeting on measures taken in accordance with

the prime minister's directives.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Planning and Development Minister Ahsan Iqbal, Economic Affairs Minister Ahmad Khan Cheema, Information and Broadcasting Minister Attaullah Tarar, Climate Change Minister

terminated young people's prospects.

He said the government was focusing on technical education, information technology and artificial intelligence to prepare young people for the changing global job market, while also promoting entrepreneurship so that youth could create employment opportunities for others.

The prime minister also announced that 35% of the labour force under the national youth employment policy would comprise women, with at least 10% allocated to startups.

PM Shehbaz also highlighted government initiatives including laptop distribution, overseas training in emerging fields and the expansion of Danish Schools to provide disadvantaged students with greater access to quality education, describing equal opportunity for young people as central to building the welfare state envisioned.



Musadik Malik, Information Technology Minister Shauza Fatima Khawaja, Rana Mashood and other relevant officials attended the meeting.

## Health ministry employees must get tested for hepatitis C or will not receive salaries from next month: Kamal

**NEWS DESK:** Health Minister Mustafa Kamal on Tuesday said that hepatitis C screening had been made compulsory for all employees of his ministry and the salaries of untested employees would be withheld from next month onwards.

Kamal was addressing the inaugural ceremony of the Prime Minister's Hepatitis C Elimination Programme

employees of other ministries as well, adding that letters would be sent in this regard.

He said the programme for the elimination of hepatitis C would be rolled out in phases, beginning with Islamabad where the government had set up 17 centres for screening.

Meanwhile, testing facilities would also be made available at private

hospitals, he said, according to state broadcaster Radio Pakistan.

The government was providing gadgets and testing kits to private hospitals as well, he added. According to Radio Pakistan, he said the spread of hepatitis C in the country was a matter of "grave concern".

The spread, he said, could be controlled through effective treat-

ment and raising awareness.

He said the federal government had begun consultations to take action on board on the elimination programme, and the programme would be launched in Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan as well.

Hepatitis C is a deadly disease that affects an estimated 12.9

million people in Pakistan, including nine million with hepatitis C and 3.8 million with hepatitis B, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO). Every year, more than 48,000 people die in Pakistan due to hepatitis infections that are preventable and curable, which equals one death every 11 minutes, WHO says.

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in Islamabad, where he too got tested for hepatitis C, with his result coming out negative.

The programme was jointly launched by the World Health Organisation and the health ministry in May with the aim of ending the disease by 2030.

Kamal said on the occasion that hepatitis C screening was being made mandatory for the

## CM Maryam announces 3-day Basant festival in March 2027 after 'successful' return last year

**NEWS DESK:** Lahore's 2027 Basant festival will be held from March 12 to 14, 2027, following its "successful" return last year after an 18-year hiatus, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said in a post on X on Tuesday.

"Lahore will once again come alive with colour, culture, festivity, music, energy and legendary hospitality," she wrote.

In December 2025, the Punjab government lifted an 18-year ban on the historic flying and hanging, subject to strict regulations under the Punjab Kite Flying Ordinance, 2025. Under the ordinance, police officers of the rank of sub-inspec-

tor were empowered to make arrests and conduct searches without warrants based on credible information.

The festival was banned in 2007 following news of deaths and serious injuries caused by sharp kite strings, particularly among motorcyclists and pillion riders, as well as by celebratory gunfire.

In her post, CM Maryam said the celebration is for "the youth of Punjab and Pakistan", inviting them to "come together, create memories, and make Lahore shine with your energy and spirit".

To our overseas Pakistanis and interna-

tional guests, mark your calendars and come home to the warmth, colours and festivities based in Lahore," she wrote.

The Punjab government, in May, announced a set of rules and regulations for kite-flying during next year's Basant festival. At the time, Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari had said that the festival would be celebrated in February 2027.

According to the new rules, running, jumping and hanging over the edges on roof-tops have been completely banned. The rules also prohibit the "overcrowding of roof-

**NEWS DESK:** Information Minister Attaullah Tarar on Tuesday said Pakistan's fight against terrorism must extend beyond security operations to countering extremist narratives and misinformation, arguing that the country's experience showed the "perception and narrative war" often began before the actual conflict.

Addressing a capacity-building workshop organised by the Sustainable Social Development Organisation (SSDO) in Islamabad, Tarar said Pakistan had made significant gains against terrorism, but that a policy reversal had subsequently undermined years of counter-terrorism efforts.

"Information managers or narrative builders have to reduce the gap between perception and reality," Tarar said, stressing the importance of the information battle in countering terrorism.

He said Pakistan had faced major security challenges in Karachi and parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, prompting the state to introduce the National Action Plan, which he said received support from all stakeholders.

"Federal and provincial governments, the armed forces and other institutions worked together to eliminate terrorism," he said, adding that narrative-building had been an important part of that effort.

Tarar said terrorism had been eliminated to a large extent by 2017, af-

ter he said, adding that political parties had not been taken into confidence when the policy was changed.

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impose ideologies through violence.

Tarar further said the National Action Plan's legal framework needed to be further strengthened, while the government, provinces and other institutions continued working together to counter terrorism.

He questioned India's account of the incident, asking how an FIR could have been registered within half an hour of the attack and how alleged attackers could have travelled from the Line of Control to Pahalgam in such a short period through difficult mountainous terrain.

"If the attackers entered the area so easily, where were India's security arrangements, and why were they not detected?" he asked.

Tarar said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's offer at the Pakistan Military Academy in Kakul for an internationally conducted, transparent investigation into the Pahalgam incident had left India without an effective response.

He said Pakistan had used international media platforms to highlight its own experience of terrorism, including 90,000 deaths among soldiers, police, law enforcement personnel, politicians, pressmen and civilians, including children.

"Pakistan is a country that has sacrificed in the war against terrorism; it cannot be compared with a country that promotes terrorism," he said.

Referred to the Pahalgam attack and the subsequent tensions with India, Tarar said the battle over perceptions had begun even before any military confrontation.

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## Over 9 terrorists killed in Balochistan IBOs: state media

**NEWS DESK:** Security forces have killed more than nine terrorists in intelligence-based operations (IBOs) in Balochistan, state media reported on Tuesday.

The operations were conducted in Ziarat, Hanna and Surab under the leadership of Fina-3, according to Pakistan TV, which said that the army and ammunition forces had taken the slain terrorists.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi commended the security forces after the operation, according to a statement issued by his ministry on X.

The interior minister commended the professional capabilities of the security forces for sending more than nine terrorists of Fina-al-Hindustan to hell," it added.

The statement further quoted Naqvi as

saying that operations against Fina-al-Hindustan and Fina-al-Khawarij were under way with full force and will continue.

The operations are the latest in a string of actions being taken as Balochistan continues to grapple with security challenges.

The state uses the term Fina-al-Khawarij for the banned Tehreek

i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and has designated Balochistan-based groups as Fina-al-Hindustan to highlight India's alleged role in terrorism and destabilisation across Pakistan.

On Monday, two terrorists were killed and three others were injured in an IBO in the Killa Zaik area of Balochistan.

It came a day after

security forces killed seven terrorists during an IBO in Kharan's Lajay area under.

On Saturday, security forces had killed 10 terrorists and injured many others in an IBO in the Shor Pard area of Balochistan's Khuzdar district.

That followed the killing of at least 18 terrorists in Balochistan's Surab district, including

eight in a premature detonation, according to the military's media affairs wing.

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

The overall death toll increased by 241pc in Balochistan, from 109 in June to 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. Eighteen members of peace committees were also killed in the province.

