



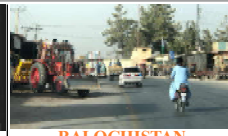
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File Photo: Balochistan's Destiny Rests with Its People, Foreign Proxies Will Be Defeated: Field Marshal Asim Munir.

Balochistan's Destiny Rests with Its People, Foreign Proxies Will Be Defeated: Field Marshal Asim Munir

NEWS DESK:

ISLAMABAD: Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces (COAS & CDF), interacted with notables and political leadership of Balochistan, the military's media wing said. During the interaction, COAS & CDF underscored that the present and future of Balochistan and Pakistan are one and forever, the Inter-Services Public Relations

ISPR said.
<https://x.com/VoiceQuetta/status/2090721275417329976>

He highlighted that Balochistan is blessed with talented, resilient, patriotic and proud people.

He emphasized that clear national narrative and enduring peace and stability are fundamental to unlocking the province's true economic potential, attracting investment and translating its abundant human and natural resources into tangible prosperity for its people.

The Field Marshal stressed that there is no dearth of talent or opportunities amongst the youth of Balochistan, who remain the most vibrant and promising segment of our society.

He emphasized that empowering the youth and providing them opportunities to contribute to national progress remains central to sustainable development.

COAS & CDF stated that Fitna al Khawarij and Fitna al Hindustan are foreign-sponsored

proxies being employed by hostile elements to destabilize Balochistan, obstruct its development and create a wedge between the state and its people. He reiterated that these inimical designs will be defeated through the collective resolve of the nation and an unwavering, resolute and decisive response by the state.

Field Marshal Asim Munir appreciated the role of the notables and society leaders of Balochistan in promoting peace,

strengthening social cohesion and advancing a constructive national discourse. He emphasized the need to holistically and without hesitation counter hostile propaganda, expose false narratives and project the true potential, progress and aspirations of Balochistan and its people. He underscored that the destiny of Balochistan rests only in the hands of the people of Balochistan.

The notables and participants reaffirmed their commitment to peace, development and prosperity of Balochistan and Pakistan. They resolved to stand shoulder to shoulder with the State and Armed Forces against all foreign sponsored threats to the peace and stability. They expressed their firm resolve to contribute towards people centric development leading towards peaceful, stable and prosperous Balochistan where only truth shall prevail and inimical forces narrative is buried in its own propaganda and fakery.

Balochistan CM Hails Successful Counter-Terrorism Operations, 37 Terrorists Killed

NEWS DESK:

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has expressed satisfaction over successful counter-terrorism operations in Mastung, Mach, Khuzdar and Panjgur, paying tribute to the security forces and law enforcement agencies for their professionalism, bravery and timely response.

The Chief Minister said the elimination of 37 terrorists in Balochistan was a major achievement in the ongoing fight against terrorism.

He praised the security forces for carrying out intelligence-based operations against

terrorist networks and inflicting significant damage on elements attempting to destabilize the province.

Mir Sarfraz Bugti said the sacrifices of security personnel and law enforcement agencies reflected the nation's unwavering resolve to eliminate terrorism.

He maintained that every attempt to disrupt peace, development and stability in Balochistan would be thwarted.

The Chief Minister further said that attempts to undermine peace in Balochistan through alleged Indian-sponsored terrorism would be defeated.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has expressed satisfaction over successful counter-terrorism operations in Mastung.

He reiterated that terrorist elements would not be allowed to disrupt the lives of citizens or hinder the province's development.

He said intelligence-based operations (IBOs) and effective

security measures would continue until terrorism was completely eliminated from Balochistan.

"Sustainable peace in Balochistan remains the provincial government's top priority,"

the Chief Minister said, adding that state institutions, with the support of the people, would continue their efforts to eradicate terrorism from the province.

Mastung Blast Today: 6 Dead, 3 Critical in Balochistan Orchard Explosion



Mastung Blast Today: 6 Dead, 3 Critical in Balochistan Orchard Explosion

From Our Correspondent:

MASTUNG: A powerful blast inside a fruit orchard in the Khad Kucha area of Balochistan has killed at least six people and left three others critically injured.

According to Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Rafiq Hanza, the Balochistan explosion took place unexpectedly in the Bagh area of Khad Kucha, Mastung.

The impact of the blast caused instant casualties on site. Emergency services quickly dispatched to the location, transferring both the deceased and the wounded to the nearest medical center for immediate assistance.

Providing a Mastung casualty update, representatives at Nawab Ghous Bakhsh Hospital confirmed that three survivors are currently undergoing emergency treatment.

Medical personnel reported that all three injured individuals remain in critical condition.

Following the Khad Kucha orchard attack, security forces and law enforcement agencies immediately cordoned off the crime scene to secure evidence and prevent further casualties.

A Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS) was summoned to conduct a thorough sweep of the perimeter and determine the exact nature and origin of the explosive device used in the incident.

No group has claimed responsibility for the Mastung blast as of yet.

Police and security officers have launched a full-scale investigation to identify those responsible for the tragedy. Stay tuned for ongoing Quetta Balochistan news updates as more details emerge from local authorities.

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Winds of change to where?

ZAHID HUSSAIN: THERE is much talk of the 'winds of change', but where are they blowing from? Well-briefed sections of the media and well-connected cabinet ministers tell us that some form of administrative restructuring to create new provinces is inevitable, and that it may come sooner rather than later.

We are told it is 'the will of the people' and that anyone who opposes it will be swept aside. One cannot help but wonder whether it is really the will of the people or that of the powers that be.

Curiously, while federal ministers belonging to the ruling PML-N deny any public knowledge of such a move, the PPP has vowed to resist the creation of new provinces.

And there has been no debate on the issue in parliament or the provincial assemblies.

Perhaps, as with the previous 26th and 27th Amendments, the draft is being prepared somewhere else, and lawmakers are expected simply to rubber-stamp it.

Speculation about an impending 28th amendment on administrative restructuring had been circulating for some time, but it was the interior minister's public statement last month that confirmed that a change was in the offing.

His remarks amounted to an indictment of the entire political order and a call for structural change.

A statement by the military spokesman soon after gave further shape to the emerging plan.

Those statements triggered intense public debate over a plan whose contours remain obscure.

All manner of suggestions — from the creation of new administrative units to devolution — are being floated.

Yet even the political parties and federal ministers who adamantly support restructuring admit they have no clear framework for how it should be carried out.

The collapse of the system is the result of the denial of democratic rights to the people.

There is no disagreement that the existing political power structure has long since collapsed and can no longer deliver.

But any attempt to salvage the system through patchwork will fail.

The crisis runs far deeper and cannot be resolved merely by re-drawing administrative units.

Some media reports, apparently based on the official briefing, suggest the still to be finalised 28th amendment is not limited to new administrative units, but also envisages 'sweeping governance restructuring'.

Structural reform is inseparable from democracy, and any change imposed by extra-constitutional forces will only

worsen the chaos and fuel instability.

Yet even the existing imbalance of power in favour of the establishment, there appears little likelihood of resistance from a civilian leadership of questionable legitimacy.

The 26th and 27th Amendments have already damaged the foundation of the Constitution by virtually destroying judicial independence;

many are of the view that the judiciary has been reduced to an extension of the executive.

A 28th amendment as currently conceived would destroy

even the semblance of democracy that remains.

The creation of new administrative units and devolution of power to local governments has long been viewed as a way to improve governance.

Yet the country's political parties have never reached a consensus on the issue, and the constitutional requirement of a two-thirds

majority in both the national parliament and provincial assemblies has made the creation of new provinces almost impossible.

There is broad agreement on establishing a separate

south Punjab province, but whether it should be divided along linguistic or administrative lines remains a sticking point. Similarly,

while there appears to be a general acceptance in KP of a Hazara province, the exact boundary remains disputed.

The suggestion to divide Sindh, however, remains the most contentious issue. Not surprisingly, the PPP has campaigned aggressively against a plan that would create a separate Karachi province,

while others have suggested placing the country's financial and

industrial hub under direct federal control.

Both proposals amount to cutting off Sindh's capital city, which makes no sense; any such move could spark an uprising in the country's second-biggest province.

Likewise, dividing Balochistan into several administrative units would only worsen an already volatile situation.

Far from improving governance, such arbitrary plans, conceived arguably by extra-constitutional elements, are impractical.

Rather than pursuing a controversial redrawing of administrative boundaries, empowering local governments is both more practical and urgently needed to take democracy to the grassroots.

Devolution from the centre to the provinces, and from the provinces to the local level, is a core feature of the 18th Amendment.

Unfortunately, the provinces have failed to implement the second stage of this devolution. That failure has distorted the system and caused widespread governance breakdown.

Local governments have not only had their powers curtailed but have also gone years without elections.

Punjab, for instance, has held no local government elections for years despite repeated Supreme Court orders.

Sindh and KP have held elections, but their local governments' powers have been drastically reduced, and their finances are controlled by provincial governments, rendering them largely ineffective.

Even a megacity like Karachi is governed directly by provincial ministers. Balochistan, the country's most troubled province, has virtually abandoned the local government system, further disenfranchising its population.

What is needed is a constitutional amendment clearly defining the powers of local government and



Zahid Hussain

making those powers mandatory.

The grand idea of creating more provinces, and governance reform imposed by the establishment,

will only expedite the very collapse of the state that the interior minister mentioned.

It must be left to parliament and the political parties to build consensus on devolution to local government, which is essential for democracy and good governance.

We have the example of political parties jointly working on the 18th Amendment, which strengthened federalism through the devolution of power to the provinces.

A major problem, however, is the security set-up's growing control of the state.

A civilian government of doubtful legitimacy, beholden to the establishment for its survival, is in no position to resist pressure.

The collapse of the system is the result of the denial of democratic rights to the people, and the rot cannot be stopped through imposed solutions.

A country mired in economic, political and internal security crises cannot afford another contentious issue dividing the people.

These so-called winds of change are certainly not good for the future of democracy and the country.

What we need is the restoration of democracy and the supremacy of the Constitution to stem the rot.

Plastic in the Womb: Balochistan's Invisible Health Crisis

By Myra Zahid:

In the dusty plains of Balochistan, where drought already strains farms and families, a different kind of threat is moving in quietly. It cannot be seen, smelled, or stopped at the door.

It is microplastics, plastic fragments smaller than five millimeters, and they are now turning up in the air we breathe, the soil we farm, and even inside newborn babies.

Microplastics form when plastic waste breaks down under sun, heat, and friction.

They have been found almost everywhere scientists have looked: household dust, farmland, drinking water, vegetables, and human tissue.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) estimates that the average person eats and breathes in roughly 39,000 to 52,000 microplastic particles every year. In 2019, a global study commissioned by WWF International made headlines when it calculated that people may be ingesting close to a credit card's worth of plastic every week.

The Express Tribune carried the story for Pakistani readers, a reminder that this is not a distant problem, but one already inside our food and water.

Pakistan's Plastic Problem



Pakistan generates an estimated 6.41 million tons of plastic waste a year, according to the UN Development Programme (UNDP), with the vast majority never properly collected or recycled. The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) says 86 percent of the country's plastic waste is mismanaged.

left in open dumps, burned, or washed into rivers and the sea. That puts Pakistan among the

world's worst plastic polluters.

When this waste breaks down in open dumps, fields, and gutters, it does not disappear. It fragments

into microplastics that drift into the air or sink into the soil, eventually working their way into the crops we eat.

Mothers and Babies at Risk

The most alarming discoveries are happening before birth. In 2020,

scientists in Italy found microplastics inside the human placenta for the first time, proof that plastic particles can pass from a pregnant mother to her unborn child. Since then, researchers have also found microplastics in human breast milk.

According to exposure data reported in the Journal of the Pakistan Medical Association (JPMA),

microplastics can carry toxic chemicals

such as BPA and phthalates, both known to disrupt hormones.

These chemicals are linked to low birth weight and long-term developmental risks in children.

In Pakistan, a 2024 study by the University of Karachi's Institute of Marine Science found microplastics in the breast milk of lactating mothers in fishing communities along the Karachi coast,

where seafood is

eaten almost daily. No equivalent study has yet been done in Balochistan, but the risk factors are familiar here too: communities along the Gwadar, Pasni, and Ormara coastline depend

just as heavily on the sea, while facing even thinner access to maternal and child healthcare.

What Can Be Done

There are practical

defenses. Lab tests show that fine water filters (around 0.2 microns, such as certified reverse-osmosis systems) can remove 94 to 100 percent of plastic particles from drinking water.

Balochistan's Agriculture Department is already distributing seeds for home gardening. Families

growing their own vegetables on terraces or small plots, using compost instead of plastic mulch, can

cut their exposure while also improving food security.

Small daily habits help too: choosing cloth bags and glass or metal bottles over plastic, never heating food in plastic containers, and never burning plastic waste, which releases microplastics and toxic fumes directly into the air.

A Policy Gap, and a Climate Connection

Experts say microplastic pollution needs to be treated as both an environmental and a public health issue. That means enforcing waste management laws, banning single-use plastics and plastic

mulching in farming, and monitoring microplastics in soil, air, and food, something Pakistan currently does very little of.

Climate change is making the problem

worse.

Rising heat speeds up plastic breakdown, drought-driven dust storms carry particles further through the air, and floods wash plastic waste into farmland and waterways. Protecting mothers and children from microplastics is, in that sense, also a matter of climate justice.

Pakistan's progress on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals is already behind: official data shows

reliable figures exist for less than 10 percent of SDG indicators nationally, and only 7 percent for

Balochistan. Microplastics sit at the intersection of two of those goals, SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), yet remain almost entirely unmeasured here.

The Bottom Line

Microplastics are invisible, but the risk they carry is not. In a province already facing drought, poverty,

and stretched healthcare, this is a threat reaching the next generation before it is even born.

Waterfertilization, home gardens, and less plastic use can help right now. But lasting protection will need retooling, enforced policy, and research — starting with the studies Balochistan still doesn't have.

Tribal Chief, Son Reportedly Abducted on Quetta-Karachi Highway in Mastung

From Our Correspondent:
MUSTUNG: Tribal elder and Ali Zai tribal chief Sardar Shah Zaman Khan Alizai and his son were reportedly taken away by armed men after their vehicle was intercepted on the Quetta-Karachi National Highway near Sargaz in Mastung district on Wednesday.

According to sources familiar with the incident, the armed men allegedly set up a roadblock at around 4pm as Sardar Shah Zaman Alizai was travelling from Mastung towards Quetta.

The attackers reportedly stopped the vehicle carrying the tribal chief and his son and took both men with them.

Their vehicle was also allegedly taken from the scene.

Family sources said both Shah Zaman Alizai



and his son have remained unreachable since the incident. Their mobile phones have reportedly been switched off, raising serious concerns among relatives and members of the local community.

The incident has caused concern in the area, particularly because the Quetta-

Karachi highway is one of Balochistan's key transportation routes and is frequently used by commuters, traders and residents travelling between major cities.

Authorities have not yet publicly confirmed the circumstances surrounding the reported disappearance or disclosed whether any

arrests have been made. No group has so far claimed responsibility for the alleged abduction.

Police and other security agencies are expected to investigate the incident and determine the whereabouts of the two men.

Further information is awaited from the au-

thorities and the family. The reported incident has once again highlighted concerns over security along major highways in Balochistan, where road-side attacks, disappearances and other security incidents have contributed to growing anxiety among residents and travellers.

Rakhni DSP Jabar Mengal Reviews Law and Order, Directs Police to Intensify Crime Prevention

RAKHNI: A crime meeting was held under the chairmanship of DSP Rakhni Jabar Mengal to review the overall law and order situation, crime pre-

vention measures, police patrolling and other important security-related matters in the area.

SHO Rakhni Younas Khan Khetran, SHO Shah Zaman Khetran and other police officers and personnel attended the meeting.

During the meet-

ing, DSP Jabar Mengal directed officers to take effective measures to further improve the law and order situation, take strong action against

emphasized the importance of maintaining a courteous and professional attitude toward citizens and directed police personnel to take effective steps

for the prompt resolution of public complaints and problems. He reiterated that coordinated patrolling and timely action against criminal elements were essential for maintaining peace and ensuring a secure environment for the people of Rakhni.

Hub Administration Reviews Child Protection, Child Labour and Out-of-School Children



HUB: A meeting of the District Child Protection Committee was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Hub Juma Dad Khan Mandokhail to review measures for protecting children's rights and addressing child-related social issues across the district.

The meeting reviewed a wide range of issues, including child labour, out-of-school children, early marriages, child abuse, malnutrition, drug use and other social challenges affecting children.

Officials and representatives from the district administration, police, Social Welfare Department, Education Department,

Health Department, Municipal Corporation

and other relevant institutions attended the meeting.

Participants discussed the challenges faced by children, the existing child protection mechanism and ways to strengthen coordination among government departments.

Several important decisions were taken to improve the effectiveness of child protection measures in the district.

Addressing the fundamental rights was a shared responsibility of the state and society.

He said providing children with education, healthcare, a safe environment and a better future remained among the

government's priorities.

He stressed that violence, exploitation, forced labour and abuse against children would not be tolerated.

The deputy commissioner directed all relevant institutions to adopt a coordinated strategy to address child labour, physical and psychological violence, sexual abuse, drug use, early marriages, malnutrition and the issue of children remaining outside the education system.

Immediate FIRs Ordered in Serious Child Abuse Cases: Juma Dad Khan Mandokhail directed police authorities that whenever a complaint is reported against a parent, guardian or any other person involving violence,

sexual abuse, exploitation, kidnapping, forced labour or another serious offence against a child, the police must immediately register an FIR and initiate legal proceedings without delay.

He made it clear that negligence or delays in cases involving children would not be tolerated.

End Child Labour: The meeting also reviewed cases of children working in different parts of Hub district.

Participants reported that some children were working in workshops, garages, industrial and commercial establishments, fishing-related locations and other sectors.

It was also highlighted that some or-

phaned and deserving children were being forced into labour instead of attending school because of financial difficulties.

The deputy commissioner directed the relevant departments to establish an effective monitoring and surveillance mechanism to identify children engaged in labour and take practical measures.

In coordination with parents and concerned institutions, to return them to the education system.

He also instructed the Education Department to undertake a comprehensive identification drive for out-of-school children in Hub and launch a special campaign to facilitate their return to schools.

writing materials provided to various educational institutions under the Cluster Budget.

Several teams were constituted to conduct physical verification at the relevant schools. The teams will inspect the availability, utilization and records of the supplied materials and submit detailed reports at the next meeting.

Focus on Quality Education and School Monitoring: Addressing the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ramzan Palal said that providing basic facilities in schools alone was not sufficient to ensure quality education.

He emphasized the need for continuous monitoring of teacher attendance, teaching practices, students' academic performance and effective utilization of available resources.

The deputy commissioner directed relevant officials to regularly monitor development works.

Physical Verification of School Supplies: Ordered: The meeting also reviewed furniture, reading materials and

Green Fiber Boats Distributed Among Gwadar Fishermen Under Balochistan's Fishermen-Friendly Policy



GWADAR: Member of the Provincial Assembly Gwadar, Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman Baloch, distributed documents for 32 Green Fiber Boats among local fishermen through a balloting process at a ceremony organized by the Fisheries and Coastal Development Department.

Under the allocation, six fishermen from Sarbandan, six from Pishukan and 20 fishermen from Gwadar city received documents for the boats.

At the same ceremony, financial assistance cheques were also distributed among 16 people affected by natural disasters in 2024.

Support for Gwadar's Fishing Community: Addressing the ceremony, Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman Baloch said practical measures were being taken to promote the

fisheries sector, improve the welfare of fishermen and provide deserving fishing communities with modern facilities under the fishermen-friendly policies, vision and directives of Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti.

He expressed appreciation for the provincial government's initiatives aimed at supporting the fishing community.

The MPA said transparent and equitable distribution of Green Fiber Boats, financial assistance and essential facilities among fishermen was among the government's priorities.

He noted that Green Fiber Boats had already been distributed among fishermen in Ormara, Pasni, Chirbandan and other coastal areas of Gwadar district.

Fisheries Colony and Land Allocation

Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman Baloch further said practical steps were also being taken to remove hurdles related to the establishment of a Fishermen Colony and the allocation of 200 acres of land for fishermen.

He said the government's objective was to provide fishermen with dignified employment, modern facilities and economic stability, thereby strengthening the coastal economy and fisheries sector.

Officials attending the ceremony included Director Fisheries Ahmed Nadeem, Assistant Commissioner Gwadar Romail Naeem Jan.

Assistant Director Fisheries Shah Fahad, Assistant Director Iqbal Bashir Kakar, Assistant Director Pasni Shahzab and other officials of the Fisheries Department.

Balochistan Brings All Public TVET Institutions Under B-TEVTA Operational Control

QUETTA: The Government of Balochistan has reorganized all public-sector Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions under the regulatory and operational control of the Balochistan Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (B-TEVTA).

According to a notification issued by the Government of Balochistan, the decision has been taken under the relevant provisions of the Balochistan Government Rules of Business, 2012 and the Balochistan Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (Amendment) Act, 2020.

Under the notification, TVET institutions that were previously operating under different administrative control will now be brought under a unified structure of B-TEVTA.

The institutions covered by the reorganization include institutions functioning under the Directorate of Manpower Train-

ing. All TVET institutions operating under the Directorate of Training, Industries and Commerce Department, All Polytechnic Institutes, Monotechnic Institutions and Government Colleges of Technology under the administrative control of the Colleges, Higher and Technical Education Department. Any other public-sector TVET institution that may be notified by the Government of Balochistan from time to time.

The notification states that all relevant TVET institutions across Balochistan, including colleges, schools, polytechnics and training centres, will now operate under the operational control of B-TEVTA.

B-TEVTA will exercise operational control over these institutions and perform the functions and exercise the powers assigned to it under the amended law.

However, all administrative matters, including establishment affairs, service

structure and manpower management, will remain under the Government of Balochistan's Labour and Manpower Department.

The notification further states that the assets, rights, properties, records, ongoing projects and financial liabilities of the merged TVET institutions and the dissolved Balochistan Board of Technical and Vocational Education (BTEVAB) will be transferred to B-TEVTA.

BTEVAB, as applicable under the relevant Act, "The financial affairs of B-TEVTA will also be administratively controlled by the Government of Balochistan's Labour and Manpower Department."

The restructuring is aimed at bringing Balochistan's public-sector technical and vocational education institutions under a more unified operational framework and strengthening coordination and management of TVET services across the province.

37 Terrorists Eliminated in Successful Balochistan Operations, Says Shahid Rind

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister's Adviser on Information and Political Affairs Shahid Rind has praised the successful operations against terrorists in the province,

describing them as a significant achievement in the fight against terrorism.

Shahid Rind said the elimination of 37 terrorists in Mastung, Mach, Khuzdar and

Pangaur was an important success for the security forces and demonstrated their professional capabilities and effective strategy against terrorist networks.

He paid tribute to the sacrifices of security forces in the war against terrorism, saying their

courage and dedication were a source of pride for the entire nation.

According to Shahid Rind, successful operations against terrorist networks have delivered an effective response to elements seeking to undermine peace and stability in Balochistan.

He said conspiracies aimed at damaging peace and stability in the province would not be allowed to succeed.

The provincial

government, he added, would continue to provide full cooperation to security institutions in efforts to eliminate terrorism.

The adviser emphasized that terrorist threats were completely eliminated, adding that the provincial government remained committed to supporting security institutions in maintaining peace and protecting citizens.

People of Balochistan want peace, development

and prosperity, and terrorism could not weaken their resolve," Shahid Rind said.

He further stated that counterterrorism operations would continue until terrorist threats were completely eliminated, adding that the provincial government remained committed to supporting security institutions in maintaining peace and protecting citizens.

PTI slams govt for 'flouting' SC order, taking Imran to Pims instead of Shifa International Hospital

NEWS DESK: The PTI on Friday slammed the government for "flouting" the orders issued by the Supreme Court for moving incarcerated party founder Imran Khan to Shifa International Hospital.

On Tuesday, the SC had directed the government to move Imran to Shifa International Hospital, a private facility. All eyes were on the hospital with a heavy police presence stationed on Thursday night. However, Information Minister Attallah Tarar revealed on Friday that Imran was instead taken to the government-run Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (Pims).

It is worth mentioning that the SC had ordered that Imran's medical reports or information concerning his health should not be used for political purposes.

On Friday, Imran's sister Uzma Khan, who was present for his medical examination, addressed a press conference in Islamabad alongside his personal physician.

Dr Faisal Sultan, she said they had received a phone call on Thursday to reach Adiala jail, where Imran is incarcerated.

"So we reached the Adiala jail at around 8-8:30pm," she added. Uzma said they were then taken to a deputy superintendent of police's room, whom she identified as Sibain.

"Later, Sibain sahib asked Dr Sultan to go outside the room with him and me to stay in the room. Then, after around 10 to 15 minutes, a female assistant sub-inspector took me to a car."

She added that all this while, police did not answer any of her queries.

She said she was taken to an office as a man used the torch from his mobile phone to light the way. She said she assumed the office belonged to the head of a department at Pims.

"We sat there for a while, and then they

tors there, but I was not familiar with any of them. They introduced me to Dr Arif, but I did not know any of the others," she said.

She said they were then taken to an office where an examination of Imran's eye was conducted.



took me upstairs. When I went upstairs, Imran was sitting there. He took a little surprise. He then stood up, he was in shock. He told the doctors they were with him that she is my sister and we were meeting after 10 months," she recalled.

Uzma said she told him as his blood vessel had to be checked, she recalled, adding that she told the doctors they would be going to Shifa International Hospital for an examination and checkup.

Uzma said they were again shifted to another place after that, where the doctors said Imran had to be administered an injection.

She said they were then taken back to an office, where an examination of Imran's eye was conducted. "There was darkness all

"They asked, 'Khan sahib, which eye drops do you use?'"

"I said if the drops they had prescribed were not mentioned in their notes. None of them knew," she added.

One of the doctors said Imran needed to immediately undergo a test as his blood vessel had to be checked, she recalled, adding that she told the doctors they would be going to Shifa International Hospital for an examination and checkup.

Uzma said they were again shifted to another place after that, where the doctors said Imran had to be administered an injection.

Government calls for global action against terrorism

NEWS DESK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President Asif Ali Zardari called for unified global action against terrorism and stressed that no territory was used for terrorism against another country.

The two leaders made these assertions in separate messages on the International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism, which is observed annually on August 21 to honour and support the victims of terrorism.

In his message, shared by the Prime Minister's Office on X, PM Shehbaz said Pakistan was joining the international community in observing this day dedicated to remembering the victims of terrorism and extended its "heartfelt solidarity and tribute to all those who had suffered from this scourge."

He noted that terrorism remained one of the most serious challenges confronting humanity. "Only those who have suffered and played the lives of innocent people to pursue their nefarious objectives or for the families of those who have lost their lives to terrorism, as well as those who have sustained lifelong injuries, equally deserve our compassion and solidarity," he added.

The premier said Pakistan was among the countries that had suffered immensely from terrorism. "Not only have our

valiant armed forces made the ultimate sacrifice in the fight against this scourge, but the brave officers and personnel of our law enforcement agencies, as well as our countless innocent citizens, have also laid down their lives."

"We salute the courage and sacrifice of

the prime minister added, "No nation, civilisation, religion or faith in the world advocates terrorism. Acts of terrorism are a manifestation of diseased minds and an expression of inhuman ideologies."

He stressed that "unconditional condemnation" of terrorism by

menace. "Pakistan has a comprehensive support system in place for martyrs, their families and victims of terrorism. Ensuring that all victims have easy and timely access to healthcare, rehabilitation and essential civic services remains a foremost priority of the government," he said.



all those civilians and security personnel who have lost their lives in acts of terrorism," he said. He highlighted that Pakistan had also paid a "heavy economic and social price" in the fight against terrorism.

"Terrorism has adversely affected the economic well-being of our people and hindered Pakistan's journey towards development, progress and prosperity. With our unwavering national resolve, Pakistan will continue this struggle until this menace is completely eradicated."

the international community, coupled with effective mutual cooperation, was indispensable for the complete eradication of terrorism. The prime minister further noted that the physical, psychological and social rehabilitation of victims of terrorism was also part of shared global responsibility and said that the government, despite its limited resources, consistently remained mindful of the welfare and needs of the victims of terrorism and the law enforcement personnel engaged in combating this

He called upon relevant institutions at the global, national, collective and individual levels to raise their voices against terrorism, subversion and all negative tendencies, while upholding universal human values and the rule of international law.

In his message, shared by the Presidency on X, President Zardari expressed solidarity with the survivors of terrorism, their families and communities whose lives have been forever changed by violence.

Govt announces public holiday on Aug 26 for Eid Miladun Nabi

NEWS DESK: The government on Friday declared a public holiday on Aug 26 (Wednesday) on the occasion of Eid Miladun Nabi.

Muslims around the world celebrate the birth of Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) on the 12th of Rabul Awwal (12th of Rabul Awwal 1448 AH).

A notification is-

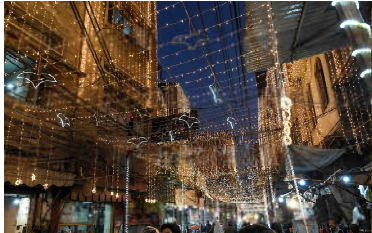
sued by the Cabinet Division, a copy of which is available with Dawn, said.

"The prime minister has been pleased to declare Aug 26, 2026 (Wednesday) as a public holiday on the occasion of Eid Miladun Nabi (12th of Rabul Awwal 1448 AH)."

The holiday was notified in continuation

of a previous circular issued on Jan 19 regarding public and optional holidays for the current year, it said.

Last week, Central Rueti-Hilal Committee Chairman Maulana Abdul Khabeer Azad announced that the Islamic month of Awwal moon was not sighted on Aug 13, and Eid-i-Miladun Nabi would fall on Aug 26.



Nadra makes Proof of Life certificate free for pensioners, expands access points

NEWS DESK: The National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra) has made the Proof of Life Certificate (PoLC) free for pensioners and expanded access to the document through multiple channels across the country, including the PakID mobile app, registration centres, union councils and e-Sahulat franchises.

The initiative, launched on Friday, was taken on the special directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in coordination with the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Defence, Controller General of Accounts (CGA) and Military Accountant General (MAG). APoLC is an official document that verifies that a pensioner is alive. According to Nadra, the easiest option is the PakID mobile application, through which eligible pensioners can obtain the certificate digitally from home.

An immediate family member can also obtain the certificate on a pensioner's behalf through their own PakID account, subject to the prescribed identity verification process.

For those preferring assisted services,

the certificate is available free of charge at more than 5,000 e-Sahulat franchises. It is also available at more than 988 Nadra Registration Centres and 500 Union Councils, where pensioners are given preferential service without having to wait in the regular queue.

For pensioners unable to reach a service point, Nadra said the facility is also available through mobile registration vans, biker services and ManPack registration services, which cater to citizens with limited mobility or access.

The PoLC service is part of a wider reform under which Nadra has established a National Pensioners Register. In Phase I, pensioners administered by CGA and MAG have been brought onto the register to provide an authenticated digital reference for identity and life-status verification.

Nadra said it would now provide daily digital

information Management System (CRMS).

Similarly, changes affecting the entitlement of secondary or family pensioners, including their age and marital status, will be communicated daily to pension controllers where such changes are reflected in Nadra's records. Decisions regarding the continuation, alteration or cessation of a pension will remain with the competent pension authority under the applicable rules. A separate verification service has also been made available to banks, allowing authorised banks to check a pensioner's proof-of-life status directly through the National Pensioners Register.

Nadra said this would provide a digital channel for pension disbursement and reduce reliance on repeated physical or paper-based verification.

Nadra said the register was planned to be expanded in the next phase to include pensioners from other federal and provincial government organisations, public-sector bodies and private institutions after agreements and institutional arrangements were concluded.

Wasting opportunity to ease political tensions is 'tantamount to treason': Achakzai

NEWS DESK: Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Mahmood Khan Achakzai on Friday said wasting opportunities to ease Pakistan's political crisis was "tantamount to treason against this country," criticising the government's handling of Pakistan's Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan's transfer to hospital.

The statement came following the Information Minister Attallah Tarar's statement that Imran had not been admitted to Shifa International Hospital, as had been expected following the SC's order, but had instead been taken to Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) for examination before being returned to Adiala jail.

Addressing the media at Parliament House alongside PTI lawmakers and senior leadership, Achakzai said, "There was hope, and we were thinking, 'better late than never'."

He further said wasting such opportunities amounted to "treason against this country." "Whether anyone accepts it or not, Imran Khan is Pakistan's

most popular party, and we all know that he is currently a prisoner of conscience whose standing firm on his principles. Imran Khan has not broken," he said. He added that the SC had taken notice of reports about Imran's health, including his blood pressure and eye problems, and ordered his transfer to Shifa.

Achakzai stated that PTI had fully cooperated with the decision and had announced across the country that no crowds would gather outside the hospital and that there would be no slogans, disorder or political gatherings. "If Imran Khan had re-

mained in a hospital bed instead of a prison cell for a week and doctors had properly examined him, what would have happened?" he questioned.

He further said he had been pleased when he heard during the night that Imran had reached hospital, believing he would remain there for at least a day or two for treatment.

"However, in the morning, I found out that the situation had deteriorated further," he said.

Achakzai also said Imran had told his sister that he was being treated like former Egyptian president Mohamed Morsi and "being kept

in isolation and subjected to torture." He added that the opposition's disagreement was not personal, "neither with any soldier nor with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif nor Nawaz Sharif."

"Our disagreement is only with those forces that do not accept the supremacy of the Constitution and an independent judiciary in Pakistan, and those who do not arrange bread and water for the poor people," he added.

He said the opposition would only respond through peaceful political activity, adding that the Tehreek-e-Talaf-e-Ay-e-Pakistan

(TTAP) and its allied parties stood "100% in solidarity" with PTI. "The opposition is that important progress is now being made towards forming a united opposition, for we are all working," he added.

Achakzai further said the alliance aimed to save Pakistan from its current crisis and move towards a genuinely democratic system. "The only way to save Pakistan is for the source of power to be Parliament alone, for the judiciary to be completely independent within its domain, and for there to be no restrictions on journalism," he added. Salmaan Akram Raja said contempt of court would be filed.

PTI Secretary General Salmaan Akram Raja, earlier speaking to reporters at Parliament House, said that the party would file a contempt of court petition over the government's failure to implement the Supreme Court's (SC) order directing the transfer of party founder Imran Khan to Islamabad's Shifa International Hospital, and accusing the authorities of refusing to accept the court's decision.



Pakistan, Google sign MoU for AI centre, free Gemini access for students

NEWS DESK: Pakistan and Google signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on Friday under which Google will provide Pakistani students with free one-year access to advanced Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools including Gemini, and work with the government to establish an AI Centre of Excellence in Islamabad, according to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

The MoU comes days after Google opened its first office in Pakistan, with the company saying the move reflected its confidence in the country's digital future and talent.

Google has also partnered with the government on digital-skilling programmes and other initiatives supporting developers, startups, gaining hardware manufacturing and online safety.

The MoU was signed during a reception hosted by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in honour of the Google team.

Under the agreement, the two sides will work to expand Google's Career Certificates

They also agreed to increase Pakistani students' access to Google's advanced artificial intelligence tools, with students set to receive free one-year access to tools including Google AI Plus and Gemini.

Google will also cooperate on establishing an AI Centre of Excellence in Islamabad, which will

train young people and other human resources in skills aligned with global market requirements. The agreement also covers cooperation to strengthen the global competitiveness of Pakistan's mobile industry and gaming industry.

In agriculture, Pakistan and Google will cooperate on using AI for crop monitoring, forecasting and sustainable farming practices.

The agreement also envisages the use of digital platforms to help Pakistan small and medium-sized enterprises access international markets.

A task force comprising the government, Google and relevant stakeholders will be established to prepare a roadmap for Pakistan's IT efforts and competitiveness according to the PMO.

The task force will identify obstacles to IT exports and assess opportunities for growth.

