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QUETTA VOICE

Balochistan Safe City Authority Identifies 138 Stolen Vehicles Across Pakistan

NEWS DESK:

QUETTA: The Balochistan Safe City Authority has made significant progress in strengthening law enforcement, crime prevention and public safety through modern surveillance technology, identifying 138 stolen vehicles from across Pakistan.

The authority also helped prevent potential major acts of terrorism by identifying nine suspicious activities through its surveillance and monitoring system, according to a briefing.

The development was discussed during a high-level meeting of the Balochistan Safe City Authority, chaired by Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti.

During the meeting, Inspector General of Police Balochistan Muhammad Tahir Khan briefed the chief minister on the authority's performance, surveillance operations and measures taken to improve public security.

The meeting was informed that the Balochistan Safe City Authority had provided police with 631 key pieces of evidence related to different crime scenes, supporting investigations and helping law enforcement agencies take timely action.

The briefing highlighted the role of the Safe City Surveillance System in crime detection, monitoring suspicious activities and improving police response mechanisms. The identification of suspicious activities through real-time monitoring also contributed to preventing potential terrorist incidents. The meeting also decided to seek technical and operational support from the Punjab Safe Cities Authority to further enhance the capacity of the Balochistan Safe City Authority.



Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti is presiding over a review meeting of the Safe City Authority. Photo DGPR

ational support from the Punjab Safe Cities Authority to further enhance the capacity of the Balochistan Safe City Authority.

In this regard, Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has written to the Chief Minister of Punjab, requesting assistance and technical cooperation to strengthen the operational capacity of the Balochistan Safe City Authority.

The meeting was further

informed that the 15 Madadgar Emergency Response Service has been placed under the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) to strengthen the emergency response and security mechanism.

Speaking at the meeting, Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that the Balochistan Safe City Authority was playing an effective role in maintaining law and order and preventing crime across the province.

He said the effective use of modern technology would further improve the protection of citizens' lives and property. "Strengthening the Safe City system and bringing it in line with modern requirements is among the government's priorities," the chief minister said.

Mir Sarfraz Bugti emphasized that the timely identification of crimes and suspicious activities could make police operations more effective and enable law enforcement agencies to respond rapidly to emerging threats.

He described the performance of the Safe City Authority as encouraging and called for greater use of modern technology to accelerate crime prevention, surveillance and emergency response.

The Balochistan government, he added, was working to strengthen modern surveillance technology and an effective security and emergency response mechanism to ensure a safer environment for citizens.

Asim Munir, Mohsin Naqvi Meet Iranian Interior Minister in Tehran Amid Middle East Peace Efforts

NEWS DESK:

Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir and Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi met Iranian Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni in Tehran on Monday as Pakistan intensified diplomatic efforts to promote regional peace and de-escalation in the Middle East.

The high-level Pakistani delegation arrived in Tehran as part of Islamabad's efforts to strengthen bilateral cooperation with Iran and support diplomatic initiatives aimed at resolving the ongoing regional conflict.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Field Marshal Asim Munir's visit is focused on advancing efforts for a peaceful, durable and comprehensive resolution to the Middle East conflict.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghai said the Pakistani delegation's visit comes at a significant stage in Pakistan-Iran relations, which he described as being at one of their strongest points.

Baghai said the Pakistani officials were scheduled to hold discussions with senior Iranian authorities on bilateral relations and regional security. He also clarified that the visit was separate from the expected arrival of Oman's foreign minister in Tehran, although both engagements would address regional security concerns.



Chief of Defence Forces Asim Munir meets with Iran's Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni in Tehran, photo grabbed from X account of PakTV Global.

own minister in Tehran, although both engagements would address regional security concerns.

Pakistan Pushes for Regional De-escalation

Pakistan has continued diplomatic efforts to reduce tensions in the Middle East and encourage dialogue between the parties involved in the conflict.

Islamabad has previously offered its good offices to facilitate negotiations and has advocated a peaceful resolution

to regional disputes through diplomacy rather than military escalation.

The latest high-level visit comes amid heightened tensions surrounding the Middle East conflict and the strategic Strait of Hormuz, a key international route for global oil and gas shipments.

Developments surrounding the waterway have raised concerns over their potential impact on global energy markets, while diplomatic efforts continue to prevent further escalation.

Pakistan-Iran Relations

The visit also highlights the importance Pakistan attaches to its relationship with neighbouring Iran. Discussions between senior officials are expected to cover bilateral cooperation, border security and broader regional developments. Pakistan has repeatedly emphasized the need for collective diplomatic efforts to promote stability and prevent the Middle East conflict from spreading further across the region.

Balochistan: 5 Workers Killed on Road Construction Site in Saranan



File Photo of policemen deployed in the interior of Balochistan

ASMAT HANAFI:

PISHIN: Five road construction workers were killed and another was critically injured when armed attackers opened fire on a construction site in Saranan Sulemanzai on Sunday, targeting labourers and machinery involved in a double-road project.

The attack prompted strong condemnation from Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, who expressed grief over the loss of lives and offered condolences to the victims' families. He said attacks targeting workers and development projects would not be allowed to disrupt peace and development in Balochistan.

Balochistan government

spokesperson Shahid Rind also condemned the incident, expressing solidarity with the bereaved families and stressing that those responsible would be brought to justice.

According to local sources, the attackers opened fire on labourers working on the road project before fleeing the area. The attack spread fear among residents and halted construction activities.

Sources have linked the attack to the banned Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), but no group has officially claimed responsibility. The reported attribution has not been independently verified.

Security personnel have launched an investigation into the attack and are collecting evidence to identify the perpetrators.

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

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

By Ayesha Tanveer:

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

A Fragile Land Under Pressure

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

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

the most valuable layer of soil.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Livestock grazing is another important part of life in Bolan, but too much grazing can place enormous pressure on fragile rangelands. Goats, sheep and cattle depend on these lands for food, while local families depend on livestock for income and survival. The problem arises when grazing becomes excessive and vegetation does not have enough time to recover.

Without sufficient grass and shrub cover, the soil is exposed. Repeated movement of animals can also compact the ground, making it harder for rainwater to enter the soil. More water then flows across the surface, taking soil with it. Farming practices and the loss of fertility

Farmers in Bolan are working under difficult circumstances. Water is scarce, rainfall is uncer-

tain and access to modern agricultural resources can be limited. Many farming practices have developed out of necessity rather than choice.

However, some traditional and intensive practices can unintentionally contribute to soil degradation. Repeated deep ploughing can disturb soil structure, while limited crop rotation and a lack of organic matter can gradually weaken the soil.

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

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

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

The Hidden Cost of Declining Soil Fertility

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

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

Farmers may also turn increasingly to chemical fertilizers to compensate for declining fertility. Fertilizers can help crops in the short term, but they cannot replace the lost structure and organic matter of healthy soil. They can also increase production costs for farmers who are already financially vulnerable.

This can create a difficult cycle: Soil erosion reduces fertility? crop yields decline? farmers spend more on inputs? production costs increase? household in-

come falls? poverty and economic pressure grow.

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

The Problem Does Not Stop at the Farm

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

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

Sedimentation can also increase flood risks during heavy rainfall. At the same time, the loss of vegetation can damage natural habitats and reduce biodiversity.

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

A Crisis That Affects People, Not Just Soil Perhaps the most overlooked aspect of soil erosion is its human cost.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BUIITEMS Organizes Open Day to Inspire Students Across Balochistan

Syed Dara Shikoh Amir:

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

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

Delivering a special message, BUIITEMS Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Khalid Hafeez reaffirmed

the university's mission of inclusive education and knowledge sharing. He stated,

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



young learner in the province remains deprived of quality education." The event at-

tracted an enthusiastic response, with more than 2,000 students from 18+ colleges attending.

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

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

to help them choose the right academic paths. Special awareness stalls, departmental exhibitions, and program presentations

provided students with insights into BUIITEMS' wide-

ranging degree programs, research projects,

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

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

the bridge between the university and youth across Balochistan.

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

Innovation, and student empowerment in Balochistan, encouraging young learners

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

FIR Registered Against JI Balochistan Chief Hidayat ur Rehman Over Gwadar FC Checkpost Video

Staff Reporter:
QUETTA: Police in Gwadar have registered a case against Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Balochistan chief and provincial assembly member Maulana Hidayat ur Rehman over a video he allegedly recorded and shared on social media concerning an FC security checkpoint in the port city.

According to Gwadar police, Maulana Hidayat ur Rehman recorded a video after his vehicle was stopped at a security checkpoint and later uploaded the footage to social media.

Authorities subsequently initiated legal action over the incident.

The First Information Report (FIR) was registered on the complaint of SHO Bashir Ahmed.



Police said the case includes sections 353, 186, 503, 504, 505 and 506 of the Pakistan Penal Code.

According to the FIR, government officials allegedly faced

resistance, verbal confrontation and threatening behaviour during the incident at the checkpoint.

The FIR also mentions that a video of the incident was recorded and subsequently shared on social media.

Police have registered the case and launched further legal proceedings. No further details were immediately available regarding any arrest or court proceedings.

Balochistan Home Minister Reviews Security Arrangements for 12 Rabi-ul-Awwal

QUETTA: Balochistan Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Langau chaired a high-level meeting in Quetta to review security arrangements for 12 Rabi-ul-Awwal across the province.

The meeting was attended by DIG Quetta Inam Shaukat and senior officials of the Home Department. DIGs and commissioners from other districts of Balochistan also participated in the meeting through a video link.

The meeting conducted a detailed review of security arrangements planned for 12 Rabi-ul-Awwal



across the province. Officials briefed the participants on security plans for procession routes, religious gatherings (Majalis) and other important and sensitive locations.

Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Langau said that maintaining

law and order and ensuring the protection of the lives and property of citizens is the government's foremost responsibility.

He directed the relevant authorities to ensure comprehensive security arrangements and made it clear that

no negligence or lapse in security measures would be tolerated.

The Balochistan Home Minister instructed district administrations and police authorities to maintain close coordination and ensure effective implementation

of the security plan. He further directed officials to remain vigilant and take all necessary measures to ensure peaceful observance of 12 Rabi-ul-Awwal throughout Balochistan.

Chaman Deputy Commissioner Holds Open Court to Address Public Grievances

CHAMAN: Deputy Commissioner Chaman Habib Ahmed Bangulzai chaired an open court (Khuli Kachehri) at the Deputy Commissioner Complex Hall to directly hear citizens' complaints, concerns and suggestions and take immediate measures for their resolution.

Army Colonel Asad, District Police Officer (DPO) Chaman Aitzaz Arif, officers from various government departments, tribal elders, members of the business community, youth, civil society representatives and other relevant officials attended the open court.

During the session, tribal elders, traders, civil society representatives and local residents presented their grievances and



highlighted issues affecting the people of Chaman.

The concerns raised included unemployment, law and order, problems related to NADRA services, prolonged electricity load-shedding and other important public

issues.

The relevant officials noted the complaints and briefed the administration on matters falling within their respective departments.

Deputy Commissioner Habib Ahmed Bangulzai issued necessary directives to the concerned departments for the prompt and effective resolution of public complaints.

He instructed officials to utilize all available resources to address citizens' problems and ensure tan-

gible progress on the grievances raised during the open court.

The deputy commissioner said that the timely resolution of public problems remains the top priority of the district administration.

He added that the purpose of holding open courts is to strengthen direct communication between citizens and the administration, listen to people's problems firsthand and take practical and effective measures for their resolution.

The open court provided citizens with an opportunity to raise their concerns directly before senior administrative and departmental officials, with the administration reiterating its commitment to improving public service delivery in Chaman.

Gwadar Villages Get Drinking Water Supply Through Shadi Kaur Transmission Line

GWADAR: Member of the Balochistan Provincial Assembly (MPA) Maulana Hidayat ur Rehman Baloch has formally inaugurated a new water supply project aimed at providing clean drinking water to several remote villages located along the

Kalmaty, Engineer Kamran, PA to MPA Waseem Samad, local elders and a large number of residents from different villages. Speaking on the occasion, Project Director Water Mir Jan Baloch said that the Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) had

The authorities are now gradually connecting additional villages to the system to expand the coverage of the water supply network.

The completion of the project is expected not only to provide drinking water to residents of remote areas



route of the Shadi Kaur Main Water Transmission Line.

Under the project, drinking water supply has been extended to Shitangi, Kanda Sol, Chakoli and several other remote rural areas by connecting them with the Shadi Kaur Main Transmission Line.

The initiative is expected to resolve the long-standing drinking water shortage faced by residents of these villages.

4 The inauguration ceremony was attended by GDA Chief Engineer Engineer Haji Muhammad, Project Director Water Mir Jan Baloch, Assistant Engineer Kambar

already completed the construction of pipelines to supply water to the targeted areas.

Following completion of the work, several new villages have been formally connected to the Shadi Kaur Main Transmission Line and water supply has commenced.

He said the initiative would help address the prolonged difficulties faced by residents in obtaining drinking water and improve access to this essential facility in remote parts of Gwadar.

Dozens of villages in Kappar, Nalant and adjoining areas are already connected to the Shadi Kaur Transmission Line and receiving water.

but also to reduce their dependence on alternative water sources and eliminate the need to travel long distances in search of water.

The project is being described as an important step toward improving basic infrastructure and public services in rural Gwadar, particularly in addressing the region's long-standing drinking water shortage.

Later, GDA Chief Engineer Haji Syed Muhammad and Project Director Water Mir Jan Baloch visited the Chor Pumping Station, where they reviewed the water supply situation and assessed the status of water being supplied to Gwadar.

Khuzdar Commissioner Meets Tribal Elders, Officials to Discuss Peace, Development and Public Welfare

KHUZDAR: Commissioner Khuzdar Division Qadir Bakhs Perani held a meeting with tribal elders and government officials at his office on Saturday to discuss law and order, development projects and matters related to public welfare in the region.

The delegation included Sardar Mehrullah Qamrani, Sardar Hayat Khan Sajdi, JUI Surab General Secretary Mir Maqbool Ahmed Gurgarni, Engineer Abdullah Gurgarni, District Health Officer (DHO) Khuzdar Dr. Abdul Hameed Lehri and Local Government Officer Abdul Qayyum Unrani.

The tribal elders congratulated Commissioner Qadir Bakhs Perani on assuming office and briefed him on various issues facing the local

population. They emphasized the need for improved basic facilities, particularly in the health, education and communications sectors.

The elders also assured the commissioner of their full cooperation with the district administration in efforts to maintain peace and promote development and public welfare.

Commissioner Qadir Bakhs Perani listened carefully to the concerns raised by the delegation and said that all available resources were being utilized to resolve public issues.

He said that public service is the government's foremost priority and that no negligence would be tolerated in this regard.

The administration, he added, was working to resolve

people's basic problems within available resources and ensure that essential facilities are delivered to citizens at their doorstep.

The commissioner further stated that efforts were being made under the Balochistan Sustainable Development Initiative (BSDI) to address key public needs. Several projects related to health, education and the provision of clean drinking water are being implemented under the BSDI programme to improve essential services for local communities.

The meeting concluded with an agreement to further strengthen cooperation between tribal elders and the administration and to make concerted efforts for the resolution of public grievances and promotion of development in Khuzdar Division.

Quetta ADC Reviews Progress on Land Acquisition Awards and Land Transfers



QUETTA: Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Quetta Hafiz Muhammad Tariq chaired a review meeting to assess progress on approved awards, pending matters and the ongoing process of transferring land mutations to the names of the concerned acquiring departments.

The meeting was attended by Tehsildars of City, Sariah, Sadar and Kuchlak, along with other concerned officials.

During the meeting, officials reviewed the progress of various land acquisition projects, the status of approved awards, pending matters and the ongoing process of transferring land mutations to the names of the concerned acquiring departments.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Hafiz Muhammad Tariq directed the relevant officers to complete all land acquisition-related

matters within the prescribed timelines. He further instructed officials to prioritize pending mutations and accelerate the process of transferring acquired land records to the respective acquiring departments.

The meeting emphasized timely completion of land acquisition procedures to facilitate development projects and ensure efficient management of acquired land in Quetta.

NAB Balochistan to Hold Open Court on August 27 for Public Complaints

QUETTA: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Balochistan will hold an open court for complaints on Thursday, August 27, 2026, at its regional office on Gulistan Road, Quetta Cantt, in accordance with the directives of the NAB Chairman.

The open court will be held on the last Thursday of every month, where the Director General NAB Balochistan personally hears

complaints regarding major financial corruption and matters falling within NAB's jurisdiction. The upcoming session will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the NAB Balochistan office on Gulistan Road, Quetta Cantt.

Applicants have been directed to provide the following information with their written complaints: Full name along with father's name, Copy of Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC)

Complete residential or postal address, Thumb impression or signature, Contact details, including mobile, telephone or email address. NAB Balochistan clarified that, under the instructions of the NAB Chairman, anonymous or fictitious complaints will not be entertained.

Only verified complaints that fall within NAB's legal jurisdiction will be processed in accordance with the law. The bureau further stated that complainants will be required to submit an affidavit on stamp paper before action is initiated on eligible complaints.

Members of the public can submit complaints through the following channels:

By post or in person at the NAB Balochistan office, Gulistan Road, Quetta Cantt. For further information, citizens can contact the NAB Balochistan Regional Complaint Office at 081-9203614 or 081-9203468.

son at the NAB Complaint Office located at the DC Office, Inscomb Road, Quetta.

Through the monthly open court, where complainants can meet the Director General NAB Balochistan in person on the last Thursday of every month.

For further information, citizens can contact the NAB Balochistan Regional Complaint Office at 081-9203614 or 081-9203468.

PM Shehbaz and Sindh CM 'agree to maintain political tolerance, consultation' amid rift in ruling coalition

NEWS DESK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met with Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah on Monday, and both agreed to "maintain political tolerance and consultation", the premier's party, PML-N, posted on X.

The meeting comes amid an emerging rift between the PML-N and Murad's PPP, allies in the Centre.

State broadcaster Radio Pakistan reported that the meeting took place in Islamabad while the PML-N said matters of mutual interest and political affairs were also discussed on the occasion.

The talks also covered Sindh-related matters and ongoing development projects, the PML-N's X post stated.

Finance Minister M u h a m m a d Aurangzeb, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah, Information Technology Minister Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar, Economic Affairs Minister Ahmad Khan Cheema and Petroleum Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik also attended the meeting.

The meeting takes place against the backdrop of the PPP ex-

pressing its grievances, particularly those related to recent elections in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The PML-N has come out as the winner in the polls that the PPP alleges were marred by rigging and irregularities.

Last week, the opposition's participation in committees to pursuing electoral reforms — the meeting also carried a broader political undertone.

The signal from the PPP could have been that, while it remains part of the coalition government, it is

day, which included 21 bills.

On Aug 20, when the lower house of Parliament passed two bills pertaining to the military and nuclear command structure, the PPP also objected to the manner in which the legislation was pre-

pared. While the party ultimately voted in favour of the bills, Bilawal lashed out at the government for not taking ruling allies on board.

The discord between the PPP and PML-N was also apparent in the National Assembly on Aug 18, when the former managed to focus during the meeting was parliamentary cooperation — from restoring the

will to engage more assertively with the opposition, particularly as tensions over the AJK election results continue to simmer.

The discord between the PPP and PML-N was also apparent in the National Assembly on Aug 18, when the former managed to focus during the meeting was parliamentary cooperation — from restoring the

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'Imran would not have spent 3 years in jail if he wanted to make a deal,' says PTI's Gohar

NEWS DESK: PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan on Monday brushed aside speculation regarding a deal with the government, saying party founder Imran Khan would not have spent three years in jail if he wanted to make a deal, Gohar said.

He made the remarks while speaking outside the Supreme Court (SC) alongside PTI leader Sardar Latif Khosa after the two met with the court's registrar.

"Khan sahib does not make deals. He will not stay in the hospital a minute more than is necessary for his tests and treatment. If he had to make a deal, he would not have spent three years in jail," Gohar said.

"All we have to say is that there should be no politics on his health," he said.

During the press talk, Gohar said that he and Khosa had arrived at the SC to meet with Chief Justice of Pakistan Yahya Afridi in connection with the party's contempt petition against the government's alleged violation of its Aug 18 order for shifting Imran to Shifa International Hospital.

Asked to meet the chief justice, he was busy so it could not happen. Myself and Khosa sahib met the SC registrar and requested that a number be allotted to this case and it be fixed for hearing," he said.

He said that the registrar had assured that a

case number would be allotted to the contempt plea. Gohar said that they were also assured of the early fixation of the case before the SC.

"This [Aug 18 order] cannot be ignored. The whole world is looking at the SC and whether it is able to implement its order," he said.

PTI founder's medical tests to be conducted at a private hospital, with both his sister Uzma and his personal physician Dr Faisal Sultan included in the medical board examining him," he said. Meanwhile, Khosa said that a case number was being allotted to the case in Lahore.

Last week, Imran's sister Uzma Khan had filed contempt petition before the SC against officials for flouting its Aug 18 order. The petition, filed by Advocate Uzair Karamat Bhandari on behalf of Dr Uzma, also requested the apex

court to depute an officer or appoint a local commission to ensure that Imran was immediately shifted to the private hospital in accordance with its earlier directions. Imran's hospital transfer saga

Last week, the SC had ordered the government to shift Imran to Shifa International Hospital within two days for examination and treatment by a multidisciplinary medical board. A three-member bench headed by Justice Shahid Waheed and comprising Justices Naeem Akhtar Afghani and Ishaq Ali Khan issued the interim contempt petition, and quoted the registrar as saying that one of the judges directions on the petition seeking Imran's hospitalisation, access to personal physicians and family members and provision of his medical record to his family.

The court had also ordered that Dr Uzma

and Dr Sultan — Imran's personal physician — be present during the medical check-up by a medical board.

At the same time, Imran's family members, PTI members and lawyers associated with him were barred from disclosing his health condition or medical reports to the media or public

until the next hearing.

The next day, the government had filed a review plea against the court's order to shift Imran to the private hospital, arguing that the directive was discriminatory and issued in violation of prison rules and principles of natural justice. However, the SC had returned the plea on Thursday with the objection that the contents of the affidavit and facts, along with the review petition filed under Article 188 of the Constitution, had not been properly drawn up and that one of the paper books was not in order.

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Chinese company meets President Zardari, proposes \$522m for first phase of Ketu Bunder port

NEWS DESK: China Harbour Engineering Company (CHEC) on Monday proposed a preliminary \$522.34 million engineering cost for the first phase of a new deep-water port at Ketu Bunder near Karachi as President Asif Ali Zardari called for the project to be developed alongside road links, power, water and telecommunications infrastructure, according to a statement issued by the President's Office on X.

The Chinese company presented a Conceptual Master Plan for the proposed Ketu Bunder Port during a meeting with President Zardari, outlining plans for a new maritime gateway with multiple terminals, logistics facilities and supporting infrastructure.

The proposed Phase-I development included a multi-purpose terminal with a 500-metre quay, according to the presentation by the

project should be supported by reliable road connectivity, power and water supply, industrial infrastructure and other essential facilities.

According to the statement, the president also emphasised the need for close technical coordination between CHEC and relevant Pakistani authorities to further develop the project, stressing that the

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Info ministry says video of Asif comparing Pakistan's progress with India's is fake

NEWS DESK: The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on Monday said that a video of Defence Minister Khawaja Asif comparing Pakistan's progress with India's was "fake", adding that the PML-N leader had not made any such statement.

The ministry shared the purported clip of the minister on its X account.

The nearly minute-long video appeared to show a clip from a press conference by the minister on a major news channel.

In the purported video, the minister called on citizens to review the country's situation. He went on to say that Pakistan and India had gained independence at

the same time, yet the difference in progress between the two was evident.

The purported clip showed Asif saying that Balochistan had slipped from our hands," the people in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were facing difficulties and residents of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) had taken to the

streets for their rights. On the other hand, look at India, Asif said in the alleged video, pointing to the country's progress in technology, infrastructure and the economy.

"We have to ask ourselves whether we are a true democracy. Instead of blaming others, we should question our

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