



FRONT PAGE

Balochistan Chief Minister Vows Priority Jobs...

Page No 1



OPINION

MDCAT Registrations Decline, has the MBBS Dream Lost Its Shine...

Page No 2



BALUCHISTAN

Naseerabad Health Department Conducts Interviews for Female...

Page No 3



NATIONAL

Girls dominate top positions in Federal Board of Intermediate...

Page No 4

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QUETTA VOICE

Balochistan Public Health Engineering Bill 2026 Faces Opposition Over Public Interest Concerns

Haseeb Khan:

The chairman of the Balochistan Assembly's Standing Committee on Public Health Engineering, Maulana Noorullah, has opposed the Balochistan Public Health Engineering Bill 2026, saying the proposed legislation does not adequately protect public interests. The bill came under detailed discussion during a meeting of the Standing Committee at the Balochistan Provincial Assembly Secretariat, where members also raised concerns over groundwater depletion, water management, institutional accountability and the performance of water and sanitation authorities.

Maulana Noorullah was elected chairman of the committee with the approval of its members and presided over the meeting after his election. Committee members Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman and Shahida Rauf also attended the session.

The meeting reviewed the Balochistan Public Health Engineering Bill, 2026 (Bill No. 20 of 2026), which seeks to establish a comprehensive legal framework for drinking water supply, sanitation, wastewater management and regulation across the province.

The proposed law includes provisions for regulating groundwater extraction, protecting water resources, establishing a Provincial Groundwater Regulatory Board and creating district-level water supply and sanitation groups.

It also proposes measures for the effective operation and maintenance of rural and urban water supply schemes, wastewater treatment, safe reuse of treated water, and regulation of water tariffs, billing and collection.

During the discussion, committee members stressed that the



File Photo: The chairman of the Balochistan Assembly's Standing Committee on Public Health Engineering.

proposed law should ensure accountability of government officials as well as citizens.

They called for clearly defined responsibilities for relevant officers and officials and demanded a mechanism for action against those who fail to perform their legally assigned duties.

The members proposed incorporating provisions for disciplinary action under the Balochistan Employees Efficiency and Discipline (PEEDA) Act, 2011, where applicable.

The committee also expressed serious concern over the declining groundwater level in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan, warning that the province's water resources were facing increasing pressure.

Members called for effective regulation of private tube wells and other groundwater extraction points, particularly those operating

at homes and private properties, to prevent the uncontrolled depletion of underground water reserves.

Maulana Noorullah cast his vote against the bill, maintaining that it was not in the public interest. He said the fundamental responsibility of the committee was to safeguard the rights and interests of the people.

Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman also emphasized that

electoral representatives were responsible for protecting public interests.

He questioned the performance of Quetta WASA and other relevant institutions, stressing the need for transparency, accountability and efficient utilization of public funds.

Assembly Secretary Tahir Shah Kakar, Special Secretary Abdul Rahman, Additional Secretary Law Saeed Iqbal, officials

from the Public Health Engineering Department and Assembly Secretariat staff also participated in the meeting.

The committee members maintained that any legislation concerning drinking water and sanitation in Balochistan must prioritize public welfare, institutional accountability, transparency and the long-term protection of the province's natural water resources.

Balochistan Chief Minister Vows Priority Jobs and Welfare for Locals in Gas Firms

Qasem Shah:

QUETTA (September 09, 2026) — Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Wednesday reaffirmed the provincial government's commitment to providing local employment opportunities within gas companies and prioritizing community welfare across gas-producing regions.

Speaking to a delegation of elders and youth from the Bugti tribe in Quetta, the Chief Minister highlighted ongoing development strategies aimed at transforming Dera Bugti, Sui, and surrounding areas. Discussions focused on regional public welfare

initiatives, local infrastructure projects, and broader socio-economic advancement.

"Integrating Dera Bugti, Sui, and adjacent areas into the mainstream national development trajectory remains a primary objective," Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti stated.

"Historic projects are actively underway, while several key initiatives have already reached completion. The government is strictly prioritizing improvements in education, healthcare, road connectivity, and local job creation."

The Chief Minister stressed that a structured framework is being implemented to ensure corporate social responsibility (CSR) and welfare funds from gas exploration companies directly benefit local populations through tangible public interest projects.

Moving beyond policy announcements, Bugti emphasized that the provincial administration is delivering concrete actions to build long-term regional stability. "Ensuring prosperity, trans-



parency, and sustainable growth for our citizens is the core responsibility of the state, and every available resource is being utilized efficiently toward this end," he added.

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The move comes after the PMDC directed medical and dental institutions to facilitate the return of previously enrolled Afghan students to Afghanistan.

The council has also barred

KEMU Moves to Expel 20 Afghan MBBS Students

NEWS DESK:

Lahore: King Edward Medical University (KEMU) has initiated action against 20 Afghan MBBS students, including seven final-year students, following fresh directions from the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) regarding Afghan nationals enrolled in medical and dental institutions across Pakistan.

According to a KEMU Registrar's notification dated September 7, 2026, the university has directed the affected students to complete all required formalities through the Office of the Assistant Registrar MBBS within 24 hours.

The notification, bearing No. 1272/REG/KEMU/2026, refers to a PMDC letter dated September 1, 2026, concerning the status of Afghan nationals enrolled in medical and dental institutions.

The KEMU notification lists 22 Afghan nationals associated with the university. Of these, 20 are currently enrolled in the MBBS programme, while two are listed as recently graduated. The 20 enrolled students include:

- 1 first-year MBBS student
- 6 second-year MBBS students
- 4 third-year MBBS students
- 1 fourth-year MBBS student
- 7 final-year MBBS students

The move comes after the PMDC directed medical and dental institutions to facilitate the return of previously enrolled Afghan students to Afghanistan.

The council has also barred



File Photo: King Edward Medical University (KEMU).

institutions from granting new admissions, placements, transfers or migrations to Afghan nationals during the current academic session until further orders.

PMDC directive triggers action across Pakistan

The PMDC's September 1 directive reiterates earlier instructions and requires institutions to complete administrative formalities, including documentation and necessary clearances, for Afghan students.

Reports published on September 8 said KEMU was among the first major public

medical universities to act on the directive.

The university has given the affected students a 24-hour deadline to complete the required procedures.

The development has sparked concern because several affected students, particularly those in their final year of MBBS, were nearing completion of their medical degrees.

The broader PMDC policy currently does not provide a publicly announced exemption for students close to graduation.

The KEMU action follows

a nationwide PMDC directive affecting Afghan nationals studying medicine and dentistry in Pakistan.

The regulator has instructed institutions to facilitate the departure of existing Afghan students and has stopped new admissions and other forms of academic facilitation for Afghan nationals.

The decision has raised concerns among students and rights advocates, particularly over the academic future of final-year MBBS students who may be forced to leave Pakistan before completing their degrees.

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

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 19,000 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 Omara 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 man-

agement 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.

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

MDCAT Registrations Decline, has the MBBS Dream Lost Its Shine in Pakistan?

Syed Muhammad Yaseen:
For decades, becoming a doctor in Pakistan has been viewed as one of the most prestigious and desirable career choices. Thousands of students and families have traditionally spent years preparing for the MDCAT, often treating admission to an MBBS programme as the ultimate measure of academic success.

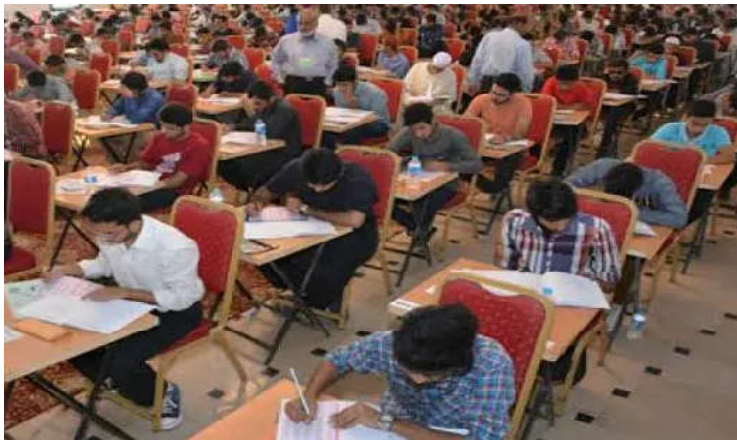
The MDCAT picture appears to be changing.

Official figures indicate a noticeable contraction in the MDCAT candidate and registration pool. In 2022, 204,253 candidates appeared in the MDCAT, followed by 180,534 in 2023. In 2024, PM&DC reported 167,772 registrations, while the number fell to 140,071 registrations in 2025.

These figures require an important qualification. The 2022 and 2023 figures refer to candidates who appeared in the examination, whereas the 2024 and 2025 figures refer to registrations. Therefore, they should not be treated as a perfectly comparable year-by-year series.

The clearest recent comparison is between 2024 and 2025. Registrations declined by 27,701, or approximately 16.5 percent.

The early picture for 2026 also deserves attention, but with caution. According to a National Assembly briefing



on July 10, approximately 135,000 students had registered for MDCAT 2026 at that point.

However, registration was restarted for some days as it got delayed till 20 September. It should therefore not be presented as a confirmed decline.

The more interesting question is not simply whether MDCAT numbers are falling. It is why?

One obvious factor is the rising cost of medi-

cal education. For students unable to secure public-sector seats, private medical colleges can represent a major financial commitment. Families are increasingly evaluating medicine not only through the lens of prestige, but also through affordability, career progression and financial return.

At the same time, students today have far more career options. Technology, artificial intelligence, software development, business, fi-

nance and other professional fields have become increasingly attractive.

It would be premature, however, to claim that these sectors are directly responsible for the MDCAT decline without comprehensive national research.

Another concern is the uncertainty surrounding the medical education pathway itself. Students face a long journey from MDCAT preparation to MBBS, house job, post-

graduate training and eventual specialization. Limited postgraduate opportunities, demand-

ing working conditions and uncertainty about career progression can influence how families assess the profession.

The emergence of unfilled MBBS seats in some private medical colleges is particularly significant. Reports of unfilled MBBS seats in provinces such as Sindh and Punjab suggest that the traditional situation—where demand over-

whelmingly exceeded available seats—is changing in parts of the private sector.

But vacant seats should not automatically be interpreted as evidence that students no longer want to become doctors. High tuition fees, admission rules, students declining offers and other factors can also contribute. In fact, a court record from Sindh highlighted the role of expensive private-college fees in difficulties filling certain seats.

This distinction is important because the solution should not simply be to lower admission standards whenever seats remain vacant.

Pakistan certainly needs doctors. Large parts of the country continue to face healthcare shortages, particularly outside major urban centres. But increasing the number of medical graduates alone cannot solve these problems.

The country needs a medical education

system that offers quality training, adequate clinical exposure, affordable education, transparent admissions and a credible postgraduate career pathway.

Policymakers should therefore investigate the reasons behind the changing MDCAT trend through a nationwide study of applicants and eligible students. How many reject private medical seats because of fees? How many choose foreign universities? How many switch to other professions? How many are discouraged by postgraduate uncertainty?

Until these questions are properly answered, conclusions about a "collapse" of medical education demand would be premature.

The falling MDCAT numbers should instead be viewed as a warning signal. Pakistan may not be losing interest in medicine; rather, students may be becoming more selective about the price they are willing to pay for a medical career.

The answer is not to force more students into MBBS. It is to make medicine a profession that students choose because it offers quality education, professional dignity, financial sustainability and a clear future.

Pakistan does not simply need more doctors. It needs a medical education system that future doctors can believe in.

Balochistan Governor Receives Interfaith Delegation After Successful US Visit and UN Address

QUETTA: Representatives of the Christian, Hindu and Sikh communities met Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail on Wednesday and congratulated him on his successful visit to the United States and his participation and address at the Youth and Artificial Intelligence Summit held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The delegation was led by former member of the Balochistan Assembly Anita Irfan Bashir, Bishop Wilson Masih, Amer Jan, Tariq Gul and Raj Kumar who are also present during the meeting.

Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail thanked the representatives of minority communities for visiting Governor House to welcome him following his return from the United States. He said addressing the Youth and Artificial Intelligence Summit at the UN Headquarters in New York was a matter of pride for all Pakistanis.

The Governor also said that during his US visit, he attended Pakistan Independence Day celebrations organized by the Pakistani community in Texas, Houston and Los Angeles.

Emphasizing national unity, Governor Mandokhail said Pakistan was home to people belonging to different ethnicities, religions and communities, but "we are all Pakistanis."

He stressed that all citizens are equal in the eyes of the Constitution of Pakistan.

He assured representatives of minority communities that the government would continue to extend its support to them and take all possible measures to address their concerns and resolve their problems.

Interfaith Harmony emphasized speaking on the occasion, Balochistan Finance Minister Mir Shoaib against vacant positions in the Health Department was being conducted strictly on the principles of merit and transparency.

He said the objective was to strengthen the available healthcare workforce at medical facilities and ensure the provision of quality healthcare services to people at their doorstep.

The Commissioner emphasized that Lady Medical Officers and Female Staff Nurses play a vital role in providing healthcare services to women.

Their appointment against vacant positions would particularly help improve access to quality medical treatment for women and children across the division.

Speaking on the occasion, Commissioner Salahuddin Noorzi said the recruitment process

ment process, candidates for 19 vacant posts of Lady Medical Officers and four posts of Female Staff Nurses were interviewed.

Their educational qualifications, professional experience and other required documents were thoroughly scrutinized.

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Quetta DC Reviews Progress on Modern E-Commerce and IT Lab at Balochistan University

QUETTA: Deputy Commissioner Quetta Mehrullah Badini, accompanied by Assistant Commissioner City Quetta, Amir Hamza and the Executive Engineer

supply and installation of modern IT equipment, laboratory upgradation, repair and renovation work as well as the overall progress of the

IT facilities at the laboratory. The Deputy Commissioner said the modern E-Commerce and IT Lab would play an important role in providing students with



(XEN) City visited the modern E-Commerce and IT Lab being established at the University of Balochistan and reviewed the ongoing development work in detail.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner was briefed on various aspects of the project, including the

project. Mehrullah Badini directed the concerned authorities to ensure that all project works were completed according to the approved quality standards, specifications and stipulated timeline.

He also stressed the need to ensure the provision of modern

opportunities to develop technology and digital skills and explore new avenues in online business and e-commerce.

He directed the relevant institutions to strengthen coordination and cooperation to ensure the timely and high-quality completion of the project.

Balochistan Food Authority Chairman Haji Noor Muhammad Dummar Meets Public Delegations

QUETTA: Provincial Minister for the Commodity Management Department and Chairman Balochistan Food Authority, Haji Noor Muhammad

assistance in resolving their issues. Haji Noor Muhammad Dummar listened attentively to the concerns raised by the delegations and as-

cial minister said that resolving public grievances and providing relief to citizens are among the government's top priorities.



Dummar, met with representatives of various public delegations at his office on Wednesday.

During the meetings, members of different delegations apprised the provincial minister of their problems, concerns and difficulties and requested

him to take necessary action. He said he would coordinate with the relevant authorities to facilitate the resolution of public issues.

Speaking on the occasion, the provin-

cial minister said that the doors of elected public representatives would always remain open to the people and assured citizens that sincere efforts would continue to resolve their legitimate problems and provide them with necessary relief.

Lasbela Commissioner Inspects Government Girls Higher Secondary School Hub

HUB: The Commissioner of Lasbela Division visited the Government Girls Higher Secondary School Hub to review educational and administrative affairs, teaching activities, basic facilities and the quality of educational services being provided to female students.



During the visit, the Commissioner inspected various sections of the school, including classrooms, the science laboratory, computer laboratory, library and other available facilities.

The Commissioner directed the school ad-

ministration to pay particular attention to teacher attendance, punctuality and teaching standards, emphasizing that providing quality education to female students is among the government's top priorities.

He also met teachers and students and sought information about the quality of education, attendance, teaching system and issues being faced by the institution.

The Commissioner directed the school ad-

Naseerabad Health Department Conducts Interviews for Female Medical Officers and Staff Nurses

NASEERABAD: The second phase of the recruitment process to strengthen the healthcare workforce in Naseerabad Division was conducted on Tuesday, with interviews held for vacant posts of Lady Medical Officers (LMOs) and Female Staff Nurses.

The recruitment process was carried out in line with the vision of Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti and directives of Chief Secretary Shakil Qadir Khan.

The interviews were conducted under the supervision of Naseerabad Divisional Commissioner and Chairman Divisional Health Committee Salahuddin Noorzi.

During the recruitment process, candidates for 19 vacant posts of Lady Medical Officers and four posts of Female Staff Nurses were interviewed.

Their educational qualifications, professional experience and other required documents were thoroughly scrutinized.

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Members of the Divisional Health Committee also asked candidates a range of questions to assess their professional competence, qualifications and suitability for the respective positions.

Deputy Commissioner Sohbatpur Fareeda Tarin, Divisional Director Health Dawood Khan Kanshi, Medical Superintendent (MS) Dr Habib Pandram, and other members of the Divisional Health Committee were present during the interviews.

Speaking on the occasion, Commissioner Salahuddin Noorzi said the recruitment process

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TENDER NOTICE

The MANAGER GOVT. DAILY FARM KOTLU invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items: TSE-26278194888

Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, it is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPMA-GOB. Tender Fee: 300 PKR.

S.No. Class of Object Bid Security

1. Animal Feed & Medicines (Total Items) (Court: 3). 60,000 PKR

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: (i) Any person of Sincere Nature and Competency 2,500,000 in Previous 3 Years Turn over of at least 20,000 PKR in 3 Subsequent Previous Years

Presence in Active Tax Payer List Sales Tax Certificate The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. JV is not permissible. Submission of the required Bid Security in case Bid Security is not found as required during financial evaluation the bidding firm shall be declared as ineligible and non-responsive. Submission of the required Bid Security document Fee at samples would be exempted. Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure. Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at Call of amount 60,000 PKR specified above in the name of the undersigned from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the undersigned 300 PKR (Insurance of Tender Documents) From the date of publication of NF to 25 September, 2026 during office hours on working days.

Last Date of bid submission: The Bidders must be authorized letter by 23 September, 2026 at 10:30 AM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the undersigned at 11:30 AM. Address: Daily Farm Kotlu.

Phone No: 029957395 Email: livestockk@paf.gov.pk

Superintendent Govt. Daily Farm Kotlu

DDPO/PPR No. 12895-9-2026

CC: naseerabad@paf.gov.pk, naseerabad@paf.gov.pk, naseerabad@paf.gov.pk

BEFORE THE JUDGE BANKING COURT QUETTA DISTRICT COURT KACHHRY SHARAF-IQBAL QUETTA

SUIT NO. 112/2026

Habib Bank Limited, Through Its Attorney (Sami Ur Rehman). Plaintiff

VERSUS

Haroon Faizal S/o Faizal Din, Resident of H. No: 156, Street # 8, A-1 City, Brewery Road Quetta.

Inspector at Intelligence Bureau Baluchistan, Quetta. Borrower/Defendant

SUIT FOR RECOVERY OF Rs. 769,362/61- US/9 OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (RECOVERY OF FINANCE) ORDINANCE # XLVI, 2001.

NOTICE UNDER FORM IV APPENDIX B OF C.P.C. 1908

Notice to: - The above noted defendant.

WHEREAS the plaintiff has instituted a suit against you under section 9(5) of the Banking Companies Ordinance XLVI of 2001 for Rs. 769,362/61- US/9 of balance of principal & interest/mark up/tent due to him of which copy can be obtained from this court, on or, hereby summoned to obtain leave from the court within 30 (thirty) days, from the service hereof to appear and defend the suit, and within such time to cause an appearance to be entered for you.

In the default whereof the plaintiff will be entitled at any time after expiration of such 30 (thirty) days to obtain decree as prayed in the plaint.

Leave to appear may be obtained on an application to the court supported by an affidavit or declaration showing that there is defense to the suit on the merits, or, i.e. if, it is reasonable that you should be allowed to appear in the suit. Date of hearing is 19-10-2026.

GIVEN under my hand and seal of the court, this 08th day of September, 2026.

(SAIFULLAH KHAN) Registrar Banking Court Quetta

BEFORE THE JUDGE BANKING COURT QUETTA DISTRICT COURT KACHHRY SHARAF-IQBAL QUETTA

SUIT NO. 111/2026

Habib Bank Limited, Through Its Attorney (Sami Ur Rehman). Plaintiff

VERSUS

Shahid Hussain S/o Allah Ditta, Resident of Mohallah Chaman Sheikh Manda, Airport Road Quetta.

Cell No: 0306-3682141. Borrower/Defendant

SUIT FOR RECOVERY OF Rs. 429,475/56- US/9 OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (RECOVERY OF FINANCE) ORDINANCE # XLVI, 2001.

NOTICE UNDER FORM IV APPENDIX B OF C.P.C. 1908

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(SAIFULLAH KHAN) Registrar Banking Court Quetta

PM Shehbaz directs banks to expand financing for agriculture, SMEs, housing

NEWS DESK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday urged banks and financial institutions to expand lending to farmers, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and the housing sector, as the government set a target of Rs2 trillion in agricultural financing by June 2028, according to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

According to the statement issued by PMO, PM Shehbaz made the remarks while chairing a review meeting on the Access to Finance Plan 2026-28 in Islamabad, where progress on financing for the agriculture, housing and SME sectors was reviewed.

"Banks and financial institutions should play their role in providing loans to farmers, SMEs and the housing sector," the prime minister said.

He said the government would encourage banks that played a proactive role in providing loans.

"The agricultural sector is the backbone of the country's economy, and working

for its development is a national responsibility," PM Shehbaz said. Bank lending to the agricultural sector stood at Rs1,268 trillion in August 2026, according to the briefing at the meeting. The government has set a target of increasing

the Prime Minister's Apna Ghar Scheme. He was told that 147,504 applications had so far been received under the scheme, of which 53,127 had been approved. The total value of the approved applications stood at Rs313.42



agricultural lending to Rs2 trillion by June 2028 under the Access to Finance Plan.

The meeting was also told that 35,838 applications had been received through the Zarkhez-e-apr for loans, with Rs7.35 billion approved and Rs1.96 billion already disbursed.

ing for low- and middle-income groups is our priority," PM Shehbaz Sharif said.

He directed the chief secretaries of the provinces to conduct a comprehensive survey of properties across which banks could provide loans to people seeking homes under

billions, while loans worth Rs45.43 billion had been provided to 8,739 applicants.

A system was also being developed to identify plots across the country that met mortgage requirements, with Islamabad selected for the pilot project, officials said.

'Mohsin Naqvi should come to parliament,' Bilawal says over new provinces

NEWS DESK: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said on Wednesday Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi is entitled to express his views on the creation of new provinces, but stressed that the issue should be debated in Parliament rather than at business forums.

Speaking to reporters in London, where he is visiting with his father, President Asif Ali Zardari, Bilawal acknowledged that he and Naqvi could hold differing views on the matter. "Mohsin Naqvi will be speaking in his own voice, and I speak in my own voice," he said. "Mohsin Naqvi has the right to express his opinion," he added.

Responding to a question about Naqvi's remarks on the creation of new provinces, particularly in Sindh, Bilawal reiterated his call for the matter to be brought before the National Assembly. "As I

have answered this question before, my thinking is that this issue should be debated in the National Assembly," he said.

And Mohsin Naqvi rarely comes to the National Assembly, so instead of coming to business forums, Mohsin Naqvi should come to parliament," Bilawal remarked. "There

ready to debate the issue with any federal minister or government representative in parliament."

He maintained that the discussion should focus on longstanding problems within the country's system rather than being reduced to competing political positions. "What are the problems in the system,

"In my view, there should be an open debate on what the real problems are, what causes the system to collapse, and what their solutions should be," he added.

Bilawal acknowledged that Naqvi was entitled to his own position, but argued that such matters should ultimately be taken up by elected representatives in parliament.

"Mohsin Naqvi will have his own opinion," he said. "I believe that these points, these positions, when you are an elected representative, should be discussed in parliament by those elected representatives speaking as the voice of their people," he concluded. The devolution of Sindh

The current debate over new provinces began on July 30, when Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi called for additional administrative units or provinces as part of a broader.



should be a debate on this in parliament," he added. Bilawal also expressed his willingness to discuss the matter directly with government representatives. "I am

what are the faults in the system, what are the issues in the system — these problems are not new, historically, these issues have existed," he said.

Constable martyred, another injured in attack on police vehicle in K-P's Karak

NEWS DESK: A police constable was martyred and another was injured when unknown armed men opened fire on a police vehicle in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's (K-P) Karak early Wednesday morning, District Police Officer (DPO) Imran Khan confirmed.

According to DPO Khan, the officers were carrying out routine patrols in the Shatakai dam area, within the jurisdiction of Sabirabad police station, when the vehicle came under attack during the second half of the night.

"Constable Zafran was killed in the firing, while Constable Muhammad Imtiaz was wounded," he added.

The injured officer was taken to hospital for medical treatment.

Khan said he reached the scene late at night with additional

Police Lines in Karak Regional Police Officer (RPO) Kohat Irfan Tariq, DPO Khan, district administration officials, police personnel, civil society representatives and members of the public attended the funeral.

A police contingent presented a guard of honour, while senior officers laid floral wreaths on the coffin.

RPO Irfan Tariq offered condolences to the bereaved family and said the entire police force stood with them. He vowed that those responsible for the constable's killing would be brought to justice as soon as possible.

The body was later taken to his native area with full official protocol, where he was to be buried according to local customs.

Terrorism has significantly increased in K-P and Balochistan in the past few years.

ate their resolve that all possible measures will be taken to bring to justice those elements targeting police personnel, and the suspects will be arrested soon and brought before the law," Khan added.

He said police were making every effort to identify and apprehend those involved in the attack. The funeral prayer for police constable Zafran was held with full official honours at the

police personnel after receiving information about the attack.

The area was subsequently cordoned off, and police launched a search-and-strike operation to track down those responsible.

"Additional police personnel were deployed at various locations and were keeping a close watch on the individuals," he said.

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Terrorism has significantly increased in K-P and Balochistan in the past few years.



Girls dominate top positions in Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE) intermediate exam results

NEWS DESK: Girls dominated the top spots, securing 11 out of 15 positions in all five groups, as the Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE) announced results for the 2026 annual exam on Wednesday. According to the results, the pass percentage for class 12 (HSSC-II) stands at 85.95pc and at 65.31pc for class 11 (HSSC-I).

A total of 106,508 students had registered for the HSSC-I exam, among whom 67,848 passed. Similarly, of the 104,838 students who registered for the HSSC-II exam, 87,364 passed.

The results were announced at a ceremony at the FBISE building in Islamabad, where Education Minister Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui pressed the enter key on a laptop, declaring the results open. FBISE Chairman Dr Ikram Ali Malik was also present on the occasion and briefed those attending the ceremony about the results.

In the Pre-Medical Group, Annamara Azhar of Army Public School and College, Gujranwala secured the second position with 1,070 marks, and Ansa Fatima of KIPS College, Wah Cantt secured the third position with 1,068 marks.

Trailing by just one

mark, Muhammad Jahanzab of Punjab College of Science, located in Islamabad's Blue Area, secured the second position and Syeda Inam Fatima of Army Public School and College, Gujranwala Cantt secured the third position with 1,070 marks.

In the Pre-Engineering and Commerce groups, girls secured all top three positions. Among pre-engineering students, Rameen Arjmand of Army Public School and College Girls, located in Rawalpindi Cantonment, secured the first position with 1,075 marks.

Zainab Samee of Army Public School and College, Gujranwala Cantt secured the second position with 1,070 marks, and Ansa Fatima of KIPS College, Wah Cantt secured the third position with 1,068 marks.

In the Commerce Group, the first two po-

Islamabad secured the third position with 1,046 marks. Among students who sat the exam in the General Science Group, Abdullah Azhar of Punjab College of Science, located in Islamabad's Blue Area, stood first with 1,063 marks while Hayan Azhar of Defence Public School and College, Rawalpindi Cantonment, secured the second position with 1,059 marks.

Hadia Zakria of Punjab College Campus secured the second position with 1,047 marks. Islamabad's H-11 area, secured the third position with 1,056 marks.

WHEREAS the plaintiff has instituted a suit against you under section 9(5) of the Banking Companies Ordinance XLVI of 2001 for Rs. 544,391/68/-, balance of principal & interest/mark up/rent due to him of which copy can be obtained from this court, on or, hereby summoned to obtain leave from the court within 30 (thirty) days, from the service hereof to appear and defend the suit, and within such time to cause an appearance to be entered for you.

IN THE default whereof the plaintiff will be entitled at any time after expiration of such 30 (thirty) days to obtain decree as prayed in the plaint.

Leave to appear may be obtained on an application to the court supported by an affidavit or declaration showing that there is defense to the suit on the merits, or, i.e. if, it is reasonable that you should be allowed to appear in the suit. Date of hearing is 19-10-2026.

GIVEN under my hand and seal of the court, this 08th day of September, 2026.

(SAIFULLAH KHAN)
Registrar
Banking Court Quetta

BEFORE THE JUDGE BANKING COURT QUETTA DISTRICT COURT/KACHEHRY SHARAH-AQBAL QUETTA
SUIT NO. 110/2026

Habib Bank Limited. Through Its Attorney (Sami Ur Rehman).
Quetta Jinnah Road Branch. Plaintiff

VERSUS
Abd Hussain S/o Khair Muhammad.
Resident of H.No. B-54,
Opposite Governor House Zarghoor Road, Quetta.
Driver, High Court of Balochistan, Quetta.
Cell No: 0333-7942087. Borrower/Defendant

SUIT FOR RECOVERY OF Rs. 544,391/68/- US 9 OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (RECOVERY OF FINANCE) ORDINANCE # XLVI, 2001.

NOTICE UNDER FORM IV APPENDIX B OF C.P.C. 1908

Notice to: - The above noted defendant.

WHEREAS the plaintiff has instituted a suit against you under section 9(5) of the Banking Companies Ordinance XLVI of 2001 for Rs. 544,391/68/-, balance of principal & interest/mark up/rent due to him of which copy can be obtained from this court, on or, hereby summoned to obtain leave from the court within 30 (thirty) days, from the service hereof to appear and defend the suit, and within such time to cause an appearance to be entered for you.

IN THE default whereof the plaintiff will be entitled at any time after expiration of such 30 (thirty) days to obtain decree as prayed in the plaint.

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Banking Court Quetta

BEFORE THE JUDGE BANKING COURT QUETTA DISTRICT COURT/KACHEHRY SHARAH-AQBAL QUETTA
SUIT NO. 108/2026

Habib Bank Limited. Through Its Attorney (Sami Ur Rehman).
Quetta PAF Branch. Plaintiff

VERSUS
Riaz Ahmed S/o Shah Bakhs.
Resident of PAF Base Colony Samangli Road, Quetta.
Cell No: 0333-7104833. Borrower/Defendant

SUIT FOR RECOVERY OF Rs. 225,587/67/- US 9 OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (RECOVERY OF FINANCE) ORDINANCE # XLVI, 2001.

NOTICE UNDER FORM IV APPENDIX B OF C.P.C. 1908

Notice to: - The above noted defendant.

WHEREAS the plaintiff has instituted a suit against you under section 9(5) of the Banking Companies Ordinance XLVI of 2001 for Rs. 225,587/67/-, balance of principal & interest/mark up/rent due to him of which copy can be obtained from this court, on or, hereby summoned to obtain leave from the court within 30 (thirty) days, from the service hereof to appear and defend the suit, and within such time to cause an appearance to be entered for you.

IN THE default whereof the plaintiff will be entitled at any time after expiration of such 30 (thirty) days to obtain decree as prayed in the plaint.

Leave to appear may be obtained on an application to the court supported by an affidavit or declaration showing that there is defense to the suit on the merits, or, i.e. if, it is reasonable that you should be allowed to appear in the suit. Date of hearing is 19-10-2026.

GIVEN under my hand and seal of the court, this 08th day of September, 2026.

(SAIFULLAH KHAN)
Registrar
Banking Court Quetta

BEFORE THE JUDGE BANKING COURT QUETTA DISTRICT COURT/KACHEHRY SHARAH-AQBAL QUETTA
SUIT NO. 109/2026

Habib Bank Limited. Through Its Attorney (Sami Ur Rehman).
Quetta Kili Shahozai Branch. Plaintiff

VERSUS
Shahzad Alfrad S/o Alfrad James.
Resident of H.No. 5-10/90/837 Shahzaman Road, Quetta.
Director General Health Office Sarlah Road, Quetta.
Cell No: 0345-8163566. Borrower/Defendant

SUIT FOR RECOVERY OF Rs. 644,871/50/- US 9 OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (RECOVERY OF FINANCE) ORDINANCE # XLVI, 2001.

NOTICE UNDER FORM IV APPENDIX B OF C.P.C. 1908

Notice to: - The above noted defendant.

WHEREAS the plaintiff has instituted a suit against you under section 9(5) of the Banking Companies Ordinance XLVI of 2001 for Rs. 644,871/50/-, balance of principal & interest/mark up/rent due to him of which copy can be obtained from this court, on or, hereby summoned to obtain leave from the court within 30 (thirty) days, from the service hereof to appear and defend the suit, and within such time to cause an appearance to be entered for you.

IN THE default whereof the plaintiff will be entitled at any time after expiration of such 30 (thirty) days to obtain decree as prayed in the plaint.

Leave to appear may be obtained on an application to the court supported by an affidavit or declaration showing that there is defense to the suit on the merits, or, i.e. if, it is reasonable that you should be allowed to appear in the suit. Date of hearing is 19-10-2026.

GIVEN under my hand and seal of the court, this 08th day of September, 2026.

(SAIFULLAH KHAN)
Registrar
Banking Court Quetta

BEFORE THE JUDGE BANKING COURT QUETTA DISTRICT COURT/KACHEHRY SHARAH-AQBAL QUETTA
SUIT NO. 105/2026

Habib Bank Limited. Through Its Attorney (Sami Ur Rehman).
Sharigh Branch. Plaintiff

VERSUS
Wali Muhammad S/o Jan Khan.
Resident of Mohallah Collage, Duki.
Cell No: 0333-2422962. Borrower/Defendant

SUIT FOR RECOVERY OF Rs. 1,822,351/13/- US 9 OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (RECOVERY OF FINANCE) ORDINANCE # XLVI, 2001.

NOTICE UNDER FORM IV APPENDIX B OF C.P.C. 1908

Notice to: - The above noted defendant.

WHEREAS the plaintiff has instituted a suit against you under section 9(5) of the Banking Companies Ordinance XLVI of 2001 for Rs. 1,822,351/13/-, balance of principal & interest/mark up/rent due to him of which copy can be obtained from this court, on or, hereby summoned to obtain leave from the court within 30 (thirty) days, from the service hereof to appear and defend the suit, and within such time to cause an appearance to be entered for you.

IN THE default whereof the plaintiff will be entitled at any time after expiration of such 30 (thirty) days to obtain decree as prayed in the plaint.

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GIVEN under my hand and seal of the court, this 08th day of September, 2026.

(SAIFULLAH KHAN)
Registrar
Banking Court Quetta

BEFORE THE JUDGE BANKING COURT QUETTA DISTRICT COURT/KACHEHRY SHARAH-AQBAL QUETTA
SUIT NO. 105/2026

Habib Bank Limited. Through Its Attorney (Sami Ur Rehman).
Sharigh Branch. Plaintiff

VERSUS
Wali Muhammad S/o Jan Khan.
Resident of Mohallah Collage, Duki.
Cell No: 0333-2422962. Borrower/Defendant

SUIT FOR RECOVERY OF Rs. 1,822,351/13/- US 9 OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (RECOVERY OF FINANCE) ORDINANCE # XLVI, 2001.

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Notice to: - The above noted defendant.

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Registrar
Banking Court Quetta

Two navy personnel martyred while patrolling at sea: DGPR

NEWS DESK: Two Pakistan Navy personnel were martyred while patrolling at sea to ensure security, the Navy's Directorate-General of Public Relations (DGPR) said on Wednesday.

"Shoaib Rehman (PMA-IV) and Ghaffar Nasar (PMT-II) embraced martyrdom while performing patrolling duties at sea to ensure security," it said in a statement on X.

In March this year, the Pakistan Navy had launched Operation Muhafizul-Balahr to counter "multidimensional threats to national shipping and maritime trade".

According to the Pakistan Navy, the decision — which followed the launch of the US-Iran war — was made in light of the "evolving regional maritime security environment and poten-

tial disruptions to critical sea lanes". The statement noted that with approximately 90 per cent of Pakistan's trade conducted via sea, the operation aimed to ensure that vital sea routes remained safe, secure, and uninterrupted.

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As per the statement, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Asraf expressed deep sorrow over the loss of precious lives. "Senior Pakistan Navy officials attended the funerals of martyred sailors and met their families," it added.



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