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QUETTA VOICE

Quetta Tehsildar Arrested Over Alleged Land Record Manipulation

NEWS DESK:

The Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) Balochistan has arrested Quetta Tehsildar Abdul Ghaffar Notezai for his alleged involvement in corruption, misuse of official authority and tampering with government land records.

The action followed a complaint alleging that the tehsildar, in alleged collusion with Qanungo Nasruddin and Patwari Inayatullah, unlawfully cancelled a property mutation without informing or serving notice to the original owner.

Director General Anti-Corruption Balochistan Naseebullah Kakar said the department launched an inquiry after receiving information about alleged manipulation of official records by the revenue officials.

Preliminary investigations reportedly found that the mutation was cancelled without providing the original owner an opportunity to respond.

The earlier mutation was subsequently restored, after which two more mutations were allegedly entered into the official record.

The Anti-Corruption Establishment registered a case against the accused and arrested Tehsildar Abdul Ghaffar Notezai, who has been identified as the main suspect in the case.



File Photo: The Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) Balochistan has arrested Quetta Tehsildar Abdul Ghaffar Notezai.

Meanwhile, raids are being conducted to arrest the other alleged accused, Qanungo Nasruddin and Patwari Inayatullah. The anti-corruption authorities said the investigation will be taken on the basis of findings.

Protesters Block Quetta-Karachi Highway Following Fatal Shooting in Khuzdar's Wadh Tehsil

From Our Correspondent:

KHUZDAR — Four people lost their lives and several others, including women and children, sustained injuries during a shooting late September 10 in the Sunaro area of Wadh tehsil, Khuzdar district. Following the incident, local residents gathered along the main Quetta-Karachi National Highway to stage a protest, temporarily disrupting traffic movement across both directions of



File Photo: Four people lost their lives and several others, including women and children.

the critical artery. Long queues of stranded vehicles formed as demonstrators placed the victims' remains on the road to draw attention to the inci-

dent. Local reports indicate the firing occurred around 10:00 PM in Killi Yan Muhammad Garganari, Sunaro. According to community members present at the protest, those killed were local residents and daily laborers. Demonstrators are calling on local authorities and law enforcement agencies to initiate a transparent investigation to determine the circumstances surrounding the shooting and identify

those responsible. Authorities have yet to release an official statement regarding the perpetrators or the primary cause of the attack.

Lahore High Court Stops PMDC from Sending Afghan Medical Students Back

WEB DESK:

LAHORE — The Lahore High Court (LHC) has stepped in to stop the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) from sending Afghan medical students back to Afghanistan.

Justice Khalid Ishaq gave the order on Friday after 13 Afghan students from different medical colleges in Lahore went to court.

The court said the students can go back to their hostel rooms, attend classes, and take their medical exams while the case is being decided.

Why the Students Went to Court

In July and September, the PMDC issued notices telling medical and dental colleges to send all enrolled Afghan students back to Afghanistan.

The PMDC also banned colleges from giving any new admissions or seats to students from Afghanistan for this academic year.

After these notices came out, colleges like King Edward Medical University asked Afghan students to clear their rooms and leave within 24 hours.

Many of these students were close to finishing their medical degrees.

The lawyer for the students, Assad Jamal, told the judge that the PMDC overstepped its authority and acted unilaterally.

He pointed out that the students were never given a chance to explain their position



File Photo:: Lahore High Court (LHC).

before being ordered to leave.

What the Court Said
The PMDC's lawyer argued that the government made the decision due to national security.

However, Justice Ishaq rejected this argument.

He questioned how the regulatory body could suddenly tell students to pack up and leave when they had been studying legally in Pakistan for years. The judge ordered that no student should be stopped

from studying or taking exams. The court has now asked the PMDC, the Health Ministry, and medical college heads to submit their official answers before the next hearing on September 18.

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 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.

When this waste is 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.

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.

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.

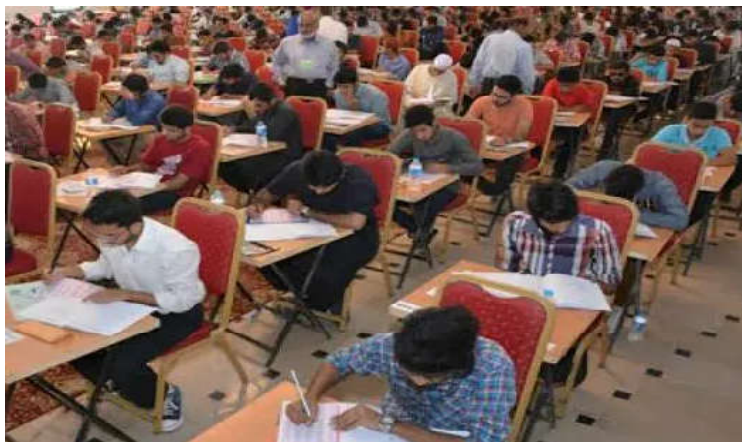
The MDCAT picture appears to be changing.

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 2026 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, demanding working conditions and uncertainty about career progression can influence how families assess the profession.

The emergence of vacant 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 when ever seats remain vacant. Pakistan certainly needs doctors. Large parts of the country 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.

Governor Chairs Lasbela University Senate Meeting, Hails Major Gains in Performance and Transparency

QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhail chaired the 9th Senate meeting of Lasbela University of Water and Marine Sciences (LUWMS), reviewing the university's achievements, academic and research activities, administrative affairs and future development plans.

Addressing the meeting, Governor Mandokhail said it was a matter of pride that within a short period of just two years, public sector universities across Balochistan had improved their performance, transparency and institutional systems, helping replace a previously negative perception with a more positive and promising image.

He described Lasbela University as a leading example of this transformation.

University Raises Performance Score from 41% to 85.32%. The governor said Lasbela University had increased its performance ranking and scoring from 41 percent to 85.32 percent, while achieving savings of Rs86 million in a single year.



He praised Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Abdul Malik Tareen and his entire team, saying the achievements represented a significant milestone and demonstrated that visionary leadership, adherence to merit, financial transparency and institutional discipline could deliver major results even with limited resources.

He also highlighted the institution's contribution in producing around 5,000 graduates since its establishment, describing them as a

valuable national asset capable of contributing to the development of Balochistan and Pakistan's economy, marine resources, environment, livestock, water sector and other related fields.

Potential to Become Hub of Blue Economy and Marine Sciences Governor Mandokhail said the university's geographical location gave it exceptional potential to emerge as a unique academic and research centre for Pakistan's blue economy, marine sciences, fisheries, marine biodiversity, coastal development and water management.

He stressed the need for the university to align its academic pri-

orities with the requirements of Balochistan's agriculture and water resources while equipping young people with modern scientific and technical skills.

He said global economies were no longer dependent solely on traditional resources, but increasingly valued knowledge, research, technology, artificial intelligence and human capital as key drivers of development.

Balochistan's public sector universities, he added, must become part of this global transformation so that young people were not merely prepared to seek employment but were also equipped to create employment opportunities.

Research Must Ad-

dress Practical Ecological Challenges The governor emphasized that university research should not remain confined to academic papers and publications.

He called for stronger links between research and practical challenges facing industry, agriculture, fisheries, water resources, the environment and local economies, enabling universities to contribute directly to solving socioeconomic problems through scientific approaches.

He said a university's real success should not be measured by rankings alone, but by the quality of education it provides, the strength of its research and its ability to develop practical solutions to problems faced by society.

Senate Reviews Academic, Financial and Development Matters During the 9th Senate meeting, participants held detailed discussions on the university's academic and administrative performance, financial affairs, research activities and future development projects.

Ormara AC Inspects Schools and Water Supply Facilities in Panjgur

ORMARA: Assistant Commissioner Dr. Mahnoor Barkat visited Panjgur as part of the Government of Balochistan's education-friendly policy, efforts to promote quality education and initiatives aimed at providing basic public facilities to citizens.

During the visit, the assistant commissioner inspected the Government Girls Middle School, Government Boys Middle School, the Public Health Engineering (PHE) office and the adjoining water supply system. Schools' Academic and Administrative Affairs Reviewed

During her visits to both educational institutions, Dr. Mahnoor Barkat reviewed teaching and administrative affairs, available educational facilities, student attendance and overall

teaching arrangements.

She emphasized the importance of improving facilities in educational institutions and promoting a safe



conductive and supportive learning environment for students.

Water Supply System Inspected The assistant commissioner also visited the Public Health Engineering office and the adjoining water supply facilities, where she examined arrangements for the supply, storage and distribu-

tion of drinking water.

She directed the relevant authorities to take necessary measures to ensure effective and uninterrupted provision of clean



drinking water to the local population.

Dr. Mahnoor Barkat instructed the concerned officials to prioritize improvements in educational facilities and public services and ensure that government initiatives aimed at benefiting citizens are implemented effectively at the grassroots level.

Gwadar Boat-Making Centre Preserves Maritime Heritage While Equipping Youth with Skills

GWADAR: As part of the Government of Balochistan's initiatives to equip young people with modern and traditional skills, promote technical education and preserve the region's cultural heritage, Assistant Commissioner Romail Naeem Jan visited the Boat-Making Centre established at Model High School Gwadar.

The vocational training centre has been established with the support of UNICEF to provide students with practical skills linked to Gwadar's centuries-old maritime identity and coastal culture.

During the visit, Adil Nadeezai briefed

high school are being trained to design and produce distinctive and attractive boat models.

The initiative is aimed not only at developing students' technical and creative abilities but also at retaining Gwadar's maritime civilization, cultural heritage and local identity through traditional craftsmanship.

Two trained instructors are providing practical training to the students, while modern tools and other necessary facilities have been made available at the centre.

Assistant Commissioner Romail Naeem Jan inspected the boat models pre-

pared by students and

through a local outlet established in Gwadar. He directed the concerned authorities to explore opportunities for expanding the market for local handicrafts by accessing major urban markets, particularly Karachi.

He said broader market access would provide greater commercial opportunities for student-made products while helping showcase Gwadar's unique maritime identity across Pakistan.

Technical Training Linked to Economic Opportunities Assistant Commissioner Romail Naeem Jan appreciated the efforts of the instructors, school administration and UNICEF in estab-



lishing and supporting the centre.

He said technical training, preservation of traditional skills and making young people capable of earning livelihoods are among the government's priorities. He expressed hope that initiatives of this nature would enable the youth of Gwadar not only to carry forward their cultural traditions but also to transform their creative and technical skills into sustainable economic opportunities.

Efforts to Expand Market for Student-Made Products The assistant commissioner was informed that products prepared at the centre are currently being marketed

pared by students and appreciated their craftsmanship, creativity and enthusiasm. He described the initiative as an important step towards preserving Gwadar's traditional skills, highlighting the creative potential of young people and promoting local handicrafts.

Students Learn Traditional Boat-Making Skills Students from the upper primary grades through

the assistant commissioner in detail about the training being provided to students and the activities being carried out at the centre.

He was informed that students are receiving hands-on training to make small, decorative boat models as a means of passing on Gwadar's traditional maritime craftsmanship on to the younger generation.

Students Learn Traditional Boat-Making Skills Students from the upper primary grades through

Balochistan Reviews Local Government Restructuring After Quetta Division into Two Districts

QUETTA: Secretary Local Government and Rural Development Balochistan Abdul Rauf Baloch chaired a consultative meeting to review necessary legal and administrative changes to the local government system following the division of Quetta district into two districts.

The meeting discussed the establishment of local councils, fresh delimitation of Town Municipal Corporations (TMCs) and urban union councils, and other matters concerning the alignment of the local government structure with the province's new administrative setup.

The meeting was attended by Quetta Metropolitan Corporation Administrator Bashir Barich, Secretary Local Government and Rural Development Balochistan Abdul Waheed Badini, Focal Person of the Local Government and Rural Development Department Taha Junaid, as well as senior officials from



the Election Commission, Local Government and Rural Development Department and other relevant departments.

Legal Amendments and Local Councils Officials reviewed the administrative situation arising from the division of Quetta district into two districts and examined ways to bring the local government system in line with the new administrative structure.

The meeting considered necessary legislative amendments to the Local Government Act 2010, particularly matters related to establishing local councils in the newly notified districts.

Participants also reviewed the existing boundaries of Quetta's TMCs and the urban union councils functioning under them.

In light of the new administrative division, the meeting considered fresh demarcation of these local government units and possible amendments to their boundaries where required.

Census Administration Also Reviewed The participants also examined whether the division of Quetta district would require changes to the existing distribution of census charges, circles and Census Block Codes (CBCs).

Proposals were discussed for their redistribution among the relevant TMCs and urban union councils, if necessary, along with appropriate administrative arrangements.

Secretary Abdul Rauf Baloch said restructuring local government institutions in accordance with the new administrative requirements was an important task following the division of Quetta district.

He directed the concerned officials to conduct a detailed review of all legal, administrative and delimitation-related matters and prepare practical recommendations to ensure that the local govern-

ment system could move forward effectively under the new administrative framework.

Coordinated Approach Emphasized The secretary said the local government system plays an important role in providing basic services to citizens and establishing an effective administrative structure at the grassroots level.

He stressed that following the creation of new districts, the boundaries of local government institutions must be finalized through clear legal and administrative procedures.

Quetta Deputy Commissioner (DC) Orders Acceleration of NA-25 Development Work

QUETTA: Deputy Commissioner Quetta Mehruallah Badini chaired a meeting to review the ongoing construction and development work on National Highway NA-25, along with the progress made so far and issues affecting the project.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Hafiz Muhammad Tariq, relevant officials of the National Highway Authority (NHA) and revenue officials.

During the meeting, the concerned authorities briefed the deputy commissioner on the status of ongoing work on



different sections of NA-25 projects achieved to date, outstanding issues and the future course of action.

NA-25 Work to Be Accelerated Deputy Commissioner Mehruallah Badini stressed the importance of completing development and construction projects on major highways within the stipulated timeframe.

He said such projects were directly

linked to providing citizens with better travelling facilities, improved traffic management and safer and easier transportation.

The deputy commissioner directed the relevant authorities to accelerate work on NA-25 and utilize all available resources to ensure completion of the development work within the stipulated timeline.

He also emphasized that construction quality and compliance with

prescribed standards and regulations must be given special attention to ensure the project remains durable and effective for the public.

Improved Coordination Among Departments Deputy Commissioner Badini instructed the concerned officers to move all matters related to the road project forward through effective coordination and a well-defined strategy.

He directed officials

to immediately inform the district administration of any obstacle or issue affecting the project so that timely measures could be taken to resolve it.

Revenue authorities were also instructed to address all administrative and revenue-related matters associated with the project faced by women and ensure the provision of basic facilities to them.

He emphasized that direct interaction with women would help the administration understand their needs and facilitate timely action on genuine complaints.

The initiative is expected to strengthen public access to government departments and improve the district administration's response to women's social, educational, healthcare and economic concerns.

Jaffarabad Holds First Women's Open Court to Address Public Grievances

JAFFARABAD: A special women's open court (Khuli Kachehri) was held in Jaffarabad for the first time to identify and address issues faced by women, following efforts by Deputy Commissioner Khalid Khan and in accordance with the directives of Balochistan Chief Minister Jaffar Khan. The court was presided over by Deputy Commissioner Jaffarabad Division Salahuddin Noorzi.

The open court was chaired by Assistant Commissioner Jhat Pat Dhiraj Kalra, with officers and representatives of all relevant government departments in attendance.



A large number of women from across Jaffarabad participated and presented their concerns to district officials. The issues raised included education, healthcare, drinking water, women's rightful share in government employment, difficulties related to the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) and other public welfare matters.

Women's Com-

plaints Heard Individually During the open court, the complaints and concerns of women were heard individually and in sequence.

Officials from the relevant departments responded to their concerns and provided information regarding possible solutions and the steps that could be taken to address their problems.

Assistant Commis-

sioner Jhat Pat Dhiraj Kalra said the special open court had been organized in line with the special directions of the Balochistan Chief Minister and Chief Secretary. The initiative was aimed at providing women with an effective platform to directly present their problems before the district administration and concerned government departments. Administration Pledges Timely Resolu-

tion Dhiraj Kalra said the district administration would take every possible measure to resolve issues faced by women and ensure the provision of basic facilities to them.

He emphasized that direct interaction with women would help the administration understand their needs and facilitate timely action on genuine complaints. The initiative is expected to strengthen public access to government departments and improve the district administration's response to women's social, educational, healthcare and economic concerns.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, SOU TH invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the year 2026 (based on Composite schedule rates 2025 on Percentage Rates). Tender Fee:-

S No	TSE No	Name of Scheme	Estimated Cost	Bid Security
1	202701818803	HOME SOLARS UC SORO UNDER PSPD NO. 1887 22/08/2025	25,000,000	2%
2	202701818803	PROVISION AND INSTALLATION OF HOME SOLAR SYSTEM FOR EAST ZAMURAN DISTRICT KEHA UNDER PSPD NO. 1887 22/08/2025	18,000,000	2%
3	202701818763	PROVISION AND INSTALLATION OF HOME SOLAR SYSTEM FOR NORTH HERIKRAN DISTRICT KEHA UNDER PSPD NO. 1887 22/08/2025	14,000,000	2%
4	202701818803	PROVISION AND INSTALLATION OF HOME SOLAR SYSTEM FOR NORTH WADKAN DISTRICT KEHA UNDER PSPD NO. 1887 22/08/2025	14,000,000	2%
5	202701818803	PROVISION AND INSTALLATION OF HOME SOLAR SYSTEM FOR BAHAWAL DISTRICT KEHA UNDER PSPD NO. 1887 22/08/2025	14,000,000	2%

Provisions shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Taxpayer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. (BIRA Registration must be Active) The bidder must have completed 1 assignment of similar nature of work. Turnover of at least 17,500,000 for TSE No mentioned at S.No. 1, Rs. 17,500,000 for TSE No. mentioned at S.No.2 and Rs. 9,000,000 for TSE No mentioned at S.No. 3,4,5 in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm. Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-6 and above (up to 25 million) in relevant category and specialized code is EE111 (Solar), EE1111 (Solar Energy), EE11111 (Solar Energy System). Firm must have completed 1 tender nature of work in DC Solar Home System in last 3 years in any Government Sector. Procedure of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure. Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit Receipt or Cash specified above in terms of the order subject to 2% of the estimated cost of the tender. Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the undersigned and can also be downloaded from BPPRA website. Issuance of Tender Documents: From the date of publication of NOT to opening of bids as mentioned above during office hours on working days. Last date of bid submission: The bids must be submitted latest by 28th Sep 2026 upto 10:00AM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on 28th Sep 2026 at 11:00AM. Address: C-30, Railway Housing Society, Joint Road, Quetta. Phone no: 081-2472246 Email: hassanaj@gmail.com

Director General (South) Energy Department

DDPO-PRG No.1313114-09-2025

Ali Asad Gilani to succeed Khalil Hashmi as Pakistan's Ambassador to China: Dar

NEWS DESK: Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) and Foreign Minister (FM) Ishaq Dar said on Friday that Ali Asad Gilani would succeed Khalil Hashmi as Pakistan's Ambassador to China.

In a post on X, Dar said Hashmi would join the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) next week following the successful completion of his tenure as Pakistan's ambassador to China.

"Mr. Khalil Hashmi will be joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs next week," Dar said, adding that he had made an "important contribution to further advancing the close and enduring Pakistan-China friendship".

"I am pleased to share that Mr. Ali Asad Gilani will succeed him as Pakistan's next Ambassador to China," Dar said. Having served at important positions at the MoFA, Gilani would "further advance the Pakistan

China all-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership" and build on the important work undertaken by his predecessors, Dar said.

"My best wishes to both Ambassadors for their respective assignments," he added.

Asim Iftikhar made new foreign secretary Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday appointed Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, as the country's next foreign

secretary, bringing one of the Foreign Office's (FO) most experienced multilateral diplomats back to Islamabad at a time of heightened geopolitical challenges.

FM Dar announced the appointment, saying PM Shehbaz had approved the assignment.

Ambassador Iftikhar will succeed Foreign Secretary Anna Baloch, who is due to retire from government service on September 17 after a diplomatic career spanning more than three decades.



signments," he added. Asim Iftikhar made new foreign secretary Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday appointed Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, as the country's next foreign

secretary, bringing one of the Foreign Office's (FO) most experienced multilateral diplomats back to Islamabad at a time of heightened geopolitical challenges.

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Fourth polio case of 2026 reported in KP's Bannu district

NEWS DESK: The National Emergency Operations Centre for Polio Eradication (NEOC) on Friday confirmed a fourth polio case in Pakistan during the ongoing year, with the latest case reported from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Bannu district.

The government-led Polio Eradication Initiative urged all parents and caregivers to ensure that their children are vaccinated during the upcoming door-to-door campaign from Sept 21 to 27, and in every subsequent campaign, to protect them from lifelong disability.

Three of the four cases have been reported from southern KP, where security-related access constraints have resulted in children missing critical vaccination, allowing wild poliovirus to continue circulating. "Thanks to the safe and effective polio vaccine, Pakistan

has reduced polio cases by 99.8 per cent, from an estimated 20,000 cases in the early 1990s to 31 in 2025. So far in 2026, four cases have been reported, mostly concentrated in southern KP," a statement issued by the polio programme said.

"While overall poliovirus transmission in the country has declined since 2025, transmission remains persistent in southern

tehsils, where vaccination teams were unable to reach children consistently since 2025 due to insecurity.

"This new case underscores the urgent need to maintain strong surveillance and vaccination efforts nationwide, because no child is safe from polio until every child is protected," the statement said.

Polio is a highly contagious and incurable disease that can

have been used safely in 195 countries, including all Muslim-majority countries.

The first case of the year was reported from Sindh in a four-year-old child from Bello Union Council in Sujawal district. The other two were reported in Bannu and North Waziristan.

So far this year, Pakistan has already conducted three large-scale polio campaigns. The next national cam-



campaign is scheduled for Sept 21 to 27 and aims to protect nearly 31 million children, including those in southern KP.

cause lifelong paralysis and, in some cases, death. It can, however, be prevented through safe and effective polio vaccines, which

campaign is scheduled for Sept 21 to 27 and aims to protect nearly 31 million children, including those in southern KP.

9 rights groups, including CPJ and RSF, urge PM to address 'deteriorating press freedom' in Pakistan

NEWS DESK: Nine press freedom and human rights organisations, including international bodies, have penned a letter to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, urging him to take "immediate action to address the country's rapidly deteriorating press freedom environment".

The organisations include the Committee to Protect Journalists, Reporters without Borders, CIVICUS, the International Federation for Human Rights, the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, the International Press Institute, the Freedom Network, Bolo Bhi and Rural Media Network Pakistan.

In the letter, the organisations said they were writing to express "deep concern over Pakistan's rapidly deteriorating press freedom climate".

"In recent months, journalists in Pakistan have disappeared, faced detention and criminal investigations, been blocked from reporting in certain parts of the country, and lost jobs due to government and law enforcement agencies' pressure," the organisations said.

"These developments have further eroded the ability of Pa-

kistani journalists to report freely and safely," they said.

The organisations also said it was "alarming" to see the growing use of the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016 (Peca), and investigations by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) against journalists for reporting on matters of public interest.

They said that authorities had also introduced restrictions on reporting in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), "imposed internet and telecommunications blackouts, taken regulatory action against broad-

casters, and imposed draconian new guidelines requiring journalists working for international media outlets to obtain authorisation before reporting outside the three main cities".

"Maintaining public order and national security, and preventing the spread of alleged false information, must not become open-ended pretexts for suppressing public-interest reporting," they said.

In their list of demands, the group called for the immediate release and safe return of journalists Razi Tahir and Muhammad Saif, who they said "were seized and taken to an undisclosed location on August 1".

The organisations further called for a prompt and transparent investigation into an attack on reporter Mian Zahid



Owaisi in June and urged the authorities to bring about these responsible to justice.

The group also called for the withdrawal of curbs on foreign media and an end to "using information blackouts to restrict reporting", while also highlighting the alleged blocking of Al Jazeera's website following government criticism of the outlet's reporting on AJK.

Lastly, they also called for an end to "interference in the operations of independent broadcasters". They said that Aaj TV has dismissed veteran journalist Munir Zahid Jahangir after 11 years at the station and cancelled his current affairs programme.

PMD forecasts fresh spell of monsoon rain in upper parts of country from Sept 12-17

NEWS DESK: Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) on Friday forecast monsoon rains in upper parts of the country starting tomorrow, with temperatures expected to drop during the forecast period.

Monsoon currents are penetrating upper parts of the country, the Met Office said in an advisory, adding that a westerly wave was likely to enter the upper parts of the country during the weekend and strengthen on September 14.

In Kashmir, rain, wind and thundershowers are expected with isolated hailstorms in Neelum Valley, Muzaffargarh, Rawalakot, Poonch, Hattian, Bagh, Haveli, Sudhanoti, Kotli, Bhimber and Mirpur from Sept 12 to 17, with occasional gaps.

Rain accompanied by wind and thundershowers is also expected in Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Murree, Galliat, Jhelum, Chakwal, Talagang, Attock during the same period, with occasional gaps.

Similar weather conditions are expected in Lahore, Sialkot, Sheikhupura, Narowal, Mandi Bahauddin, Gujrat, Gujranwala,

Wazirabad, Hafizabad, Kasur, Okara, Nankana Sahib, Sargodha, Khushab, Mianwali, Noorpur, Thal, Faisalabad, Jhang, Toba Tek Singh, Layyah, Bhakkar, Sahiwal, Dera Ghazi Khan, Multan and surrounding areas starting Sept 12 evening, lasting till Sept 17 with occasional gaps.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Met Office predicted rainfall in Peshawar, Dir, Chitral, Swat, Kohistan, Malakand, Mardan, Nowshera, Charsadda,

Bannu and Waziristan from Sept 12 to Sept 17 with occasional gaps. Rain, wind and thundershowers with isolated heavy rainfall are also expected in Gilgit-Baltistan's Diamir, Astor, Ghizer, Skardu, Hunza, Gilgit, Ghanche and Shigar during this period.

Meanwhile, in Sindh, mainly hot and humid weather is expected in most parts of Balochistan as well during the forecast period. However, PMD added that rainfall is expected in Zhob, Barkhan, Musakhel and surrounding areas from Sept 13 to Sept 16 with occasional gaps.

In its advisory, the weather agency warned that heavy rains could cause urban flooding in low-lying areas of Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Mardan, Swabi, Gujranwala,

Swabi, Shargla, Mirpurkhas, Tharparkar, Umarkot, Thatta, Badin, Karachi and surrounding areas from the evening of Sept 13 to Sept 16 with occasional gaps.



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KP advocate general questions maintainability of plea against PTI's Sept 27 protest

NEWS DESK: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Advocate General Shah Faisal Utmankhel on Thursday questioned the maintainability of a petition filed in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) against the PTI planned protest in the federal capital on Sept 27.

The PTI has announced a nationwide protest on Sept 27 to demand the release of party founder Imran Khan and mobilise people for the supremacy of the Constitution. A citizen, Waqas Ahmed, has challenged the planned move on the grounds that the protest could disrupt routine life, traffic and business activities in the federal capital. A larger bench, headed by IHC Chief Justice Sardar Muhammad Sarfraz Dogar, is hearing the case.

Justice Muhammad Azam Khan and Justice Muhammad Asif are also a part of the bench.

During the hearing on Friday, KP Advocate General Utmankhel argued that an appropriate legal remedy was available to the petitioner before the Islamabad chief commissioner and that the extraordinary jurisdiction of the high court under Article 199 of the Constitution — under which a high court may take up a matter if it is satisfied that no other adequate remedy is provided by law — could

not be invoked in the present circumstances.

He also pointed out that the petition was moved against a political party that had not been impleaded as a respondent. He questioned why the PTI had not been made a party to the petition if the proceedings concerned its planned protest, while

CJ Dogar asked whether the PTI was actually planning to undertake the long march. The chief justice further asked the advocate general if he agreed

On the court's directive, he also read out the oath administered to the KP CM and argued that he had not violated his oath through any of his statements.

Referring to Article 5 of the Constitution, the chief justice asked whether the chief minister was constitutionally bound to remain loyal to the state. "CM Afridi is very much loyal to the state," AG Utmankhel replied. He reiterated that political statements by the chief minister did not fall within the do-

ments were dealt with at the party level.

Responding to questions about any instructions having been issued by the chief minister to government officials in connection with the long march, the chief secretary assured the court that KP government officials would not be allowed to act beyond their constitutional limits. CJ Dogar then recalled that the court had been told the planned march intended to strengthen the judiciary — seemingly a reference



with statements made by KP Chief Minister Sohail Afridi regarding the planned long march.

The chief justice, however, did not specifically refer to any particular remarks by the KP CM. Utmankhel replied that the office of the advocate general was not concerned with the chief minister's political narrative but only with his official responsibilities.

main of the advocate general's office, suggesting that the PTI and the chief minister should be impleaded as parties to the petition.

The KP chief secretary was then called to explain the provincial government's position regarding the planned protest. He adopted a stance similar to that of the advocate general, saying political state-

to the KPAG's remarks from Thursday's hearing — and pointed out that previously the PTI had not complied with directions issued by the courts regarding its protest marches. Justice Khan asked whether the chief minister could announce or support a long march and sit-in before formal approval had been granted for the protest.

Pakistan is pressing US and Iran to resume talks despite lingering mistrust: UN envoy

NEWS DESK: Pakistan is urging the US and Iran to return to negotiations, including those related to sanctions and a US naval blockade, Washington and Gulf states have called for free navigation through the Strait of Hormuz.

Pakistan's permanent representative to the United Nations, Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, made the remarks in an interview published on Thursday by The National, an English-language daily newspaper based in Abu Dhabi.

The Islamabad Memorandum, signed in June following mediation by Pakistan and Qatar, called for an end to hostilities, a 60-day window to negotiate a permanent end to the conflict, and arrangements to reopen the Strait of Hormuz to commercial shipping.

Iran has accused the US of failing to implement key provisions, including those related to sanctions and a US naval blockade.

Washington and Gulf states have called for free navigation through the Strait of Hormuz.

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both Iran and the US, and at high levels," he added.

"We believe that the best way to resolve the situation and to conclude a comprehensive and conclusive deal is to return to the negotiations table, and for that we have a framework in the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding."

There is also "a slight lack of willingness" to implement the

negotiations, the envoy said it was "not as simple as that" to determine who was more responsible or unwilling to return to the talks.

However, he expressed hope that the two sides could return to negotiations despite the difficulties.

"If we were able to pull this off, if we were able to get a ceasefire announced in April, in the midst of heavy fighting and a continuing escalation, and then we were able to bring them together, and then we, you know, led the two parties to this memorandum of understanding, there is no reason that we cannot again bring them back to the table," he said.

Ahmad said Pakistan remained convinced that renewed negotiations offer the only sustainable path out of the confrontation.



Everything is there. They need to return... and I hope that they will realize this soon."

Asked which side was reluctant to resume