



BHC Seeks PSDP Details on Balochistan Assembly...



Pakistan's Missing Democratic Institution

Jinnah People's Train Service to Launch in Quetta, Balochistan; Rs3bn Project Connects Kuchlak to Saryab

Syed Ali Shah:

QUETTA: The Jinnah People's Train Service is set to be launched in Quetta, the provincial capital of Balochistan, introducing a new public transportation facility for residents of the city and surrounding areas.

According to sources within the Balochistan government, more than Rs3 billion has been spent on the launch of the much-awaited People's Train Service in Quetta.

The railway infrastructure for the project has reportedly been completed within just 120 days, paving the way for the launch of the shuttle train service.

The Jinnah People's Train will operate on a 32-kilometre railway track from Kuchlak to Saryab, with seven stations located along the route.

The service will initially consist of two bogies and will have the capacity to carry around 150 passengers at a time.

The project addresses a longstanding demand of the people of Quetta and Balochistan, particularly residents who have been seeking an affordable, reliable and decent mode of public transportation in the provincial capital.



A view of the Jinnah People's Train: Photo Quetta Voice

Quetta has faced persistent transportation challenges, with a large number of residents depending on private vehicles, taxis and local buses for daily commuting. The introduction of the

Kuchlak-Saryab People's Train is expected to provide an additional option for students, employees, workers and other daily commuters.

The Balochistan government, led by Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, has presented the project as part of its efforts to improve public facilities and develop transportation infrastructure in Quetta.

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Aleema provided basic facilities, essential items in jail, Punjab govt...

Three Afghan Nationals Found Dead in Turbat River, One Injured

By Our Correspondent:

Police recovered the bodies of three Afghan nationals and rescued an injured Afghan citizen from the Gorg River in Turbat, Balochistan, local sources said.



The deceased and the injured man were taken to Teaching Hospital Turbat after being recovered from the river. Police sources at Jousak Police Station said the bodies appeared to be around three days old.

The deceased were identified as Saleem, son of Akbar Khan, Sher Agha Khan, son

of Dhatta Khan; and Najeebuddin, son of Wazir.

The injured Afghan national was identified as Aziz, son of Muhammad Jan. He was shifted to Teaching Hospital Turbat for medical treatment.

Police have started an investigation to determine how the three Afghan nationals died and how the fourth person sustained injuries.

The incident comes as authorities in Balochistan continue to monitor the movement and presence of Afghan nationals in the province. Further details are expected as the investigation progresses.

US delegation meets CDF Munir, acknowledges Pakistan's 'longstanding role, sacrifices' during Afghan war

NEWS DESK:

A delegation of America's Afghanistan War Commission called on Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) and Chief of the Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir on Monday and acknowledged Pakistan's "longstanding role and sacrifices during the conflict in Afghanistan", according to the military's media affairs wings.

The visiting delegation also appreciated Pakistan's continued contribution to regional peace and stability, the Inter-Services Public Relations said in a statement.

The delegation, led by its co-chairs, Shamila N. Chaudhary and Dr Colin F. Jackson, met CDF Munir at General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi.

"The delegation is undertaking a review of the United States' 20-year engagement in Afghanistan," the statement said, adding that its discussion with the military chief covered topics including "Pakistan's support, the regional security environment and developments in Afghanistan, with focus on perspectives relevant to the commission's work".

For his part, CDF Munir shared Pakistan's perspective on the security dynamics that shaped the conflict, also highlighting the challenges the country faced during the prolonged US engagement in Afghanistan.



The ISPR statement added that he highlighted the need to incorporate a regional perspective, as well as Pakistan's experience in assessing the strategic, diplomatic and operational dimensions of the conflict.

The US Congress established the Afghanistan War Commission in 2021 as an independent body to review US decisions pertaining to the war in Afghanistan from June 2001 to August 2021, according to the

commission's website. US forces had withdrawn from Afghanistan in August 2021, ending a 20-year war.

The withdrawal was completed a minute before midnight on August 30, 2021.

The US had launched a military intervention in Afghanistan following the Sept 11, 2001, attacks, ushering in two decades of conflict in which civilians suffered widespread violence and abuses.

Some 800,000 US servicemembers served in Afghanistan during this period.

During the war, 2,238 US servicemembers died and nearly 21,000 were wounded.

Meanwhile, over 40,000 civilians were killed and 77,000 wounded in attacks by Taliban insurgents, the Islamic State (IS) group, and in operations by the armed forces of the Afghan Republic or the international coalition led by the US, according to the United Nations mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA).

Independent estimates put the total number of Afghan security forces and civilians killed at more than 100,000.

BHC Seeks PSDP Details on Balochistan Assembly Building Demolition

Hasceb Khan:

Balochistan High Court (BHC) has sought details of the proposed Balochistan Assembly building project in the federal Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) while hearing a petition challenging the demolition of the existing assembly building.

A two-member bench comprising BHC Chief Justice Muhammad Kamran Khan Mulakhail and Justice Najamuddin Mengal heard the



petition. During the hearing, Balochistan Advocate General

Abdul Latif Kakar informed the court that the new assembly building was a federally

funded project and that funds had already been approved. The Chief Justice directed

the authorities to clarify whether the Balochistan Assembly building project was formally included in the federal PSDP.

Chief Justice Mulakhail observed that, according to the information available to him, three to four projects concerning Balochistan were included in the federal PSDP. He further remarked that he had received information that the assembly building project had been dropped.

The petitioner maintained that the existing Balochistan

Assembly building was a historic structure and part of the province's heritage. The petitioner urged the court to stop its demolition and ensure its preservation.

The Balochistan High Court directed the relevant authorities to provide complete details of the Balochistan Assembly project in the federal PSDP.

The court adjourned the hearing of the petition against the proposed demolition of the Balochistan Assembly building until October 7.

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

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

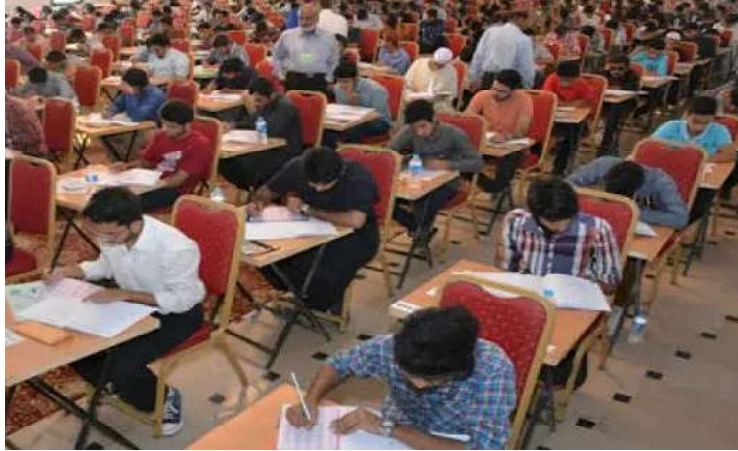
Syed Muhammad Yaseen
For decades, becoming a doctor in Pakistan has been viewed as one of the most prestigious and desirable career choices. Thousands of students and families have traditionally spent years preparing for the MDCAT, often treating admission to an MBBS programme as the ultimate measure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



mately 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 medical education. For stu-

dents 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, finance and other profes-

sional 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, postgraduate 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 overwhelm-

ingly 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.

Pakistan's Missing Democratic Institution

ZIAD-DIN

Every five years, a citizen walks to the polling station, casts his vote, and walks out with a satisfaction of having participated in the democratic process.

A month later, the same citizen sees his street filled with a pile of garbage, observes that the road has deteriorated, and discovers that the school is falling apart.

He wants to complain but lacks access to his representative.

This is the paradox of Pakistan's democracy: it has transferred power from the center to the provinces but has yet to devolve it effectively to the third tier of government.

Since the creation of Pakistan, democracy reaches the ballot box but never reaches the doorstep of the citizen. In other words, the local government system has not evolved in letter and spirit.

Despite insertion of Article 140A, local governments in Pakistan face a deep rooted structural problem: constitutional, political, fiscal, and administrative constraints.

The biggest problem faced by localization of government systems in Pakistan is constitutional weakness.

Although Article 140A stated the formation of local governments, it is six-to-seven-line provision.

It leaves detailed institutional design, powers, functions, and fiscal dimensions to provincial legislation.

Apart from the constitutional weaknesses, local government systems are also politically



marginalized. They are victims of the centralization of power at the provincial level.

Strong political elites view empowered local governments as a threat to their political power.

Moreover, the development funds of MPAs and MNAs create a parallel political structure, undermining the effectiveness of local governments.

Thus, the local government structure becomes largely cer-

emonial rather than an independent tier of government.

Local governments remain financially dependent on provincial governments, limiting their ability to function effectively.

Under the 7th NFC Award, the provinces' share of the divisible pool was increased to 57.5 percent.

However, the NFC framework does not require the provincial governments to allocate a specific share of these transfer to local govern-

ments. According to a World Bank report of 2026, the share of total government spending on local bodies declined from 10 percent in 2005 to less than 5 percent in 2024.

As a result, local governments are unable to perform basic services such as water supply, sanitation, solid waste management, primary education, and other basic local needs.

In addition to constitutional, political, and fiscal challenges, the local government system

also faces deep administrative constraints that dilute its operational effectiveness.

The civil servant continues to perform the tasks of local representatives through their daily administrative functions.

As a result, the overlapping roles create confusion over authority. Furthermore, the lack of continuity is also a major impediment that prevents the development of a stable local administrative system.

Consequently, it

leads to limited administrative autonomy, reducing its efficiency and responsiveness.

India's experience of local government provides a useful case study for Pakistan.

The landmark 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments of 1992 established Panchayati Raj institutions and urban local bodies.

They list 29 subjects for Panchayats and 18 subjects for municipalities.

Furthermore, the amendments ensure

regular elections and reserve seats for women and different castes.

Both rural and urban local bodies receive financial resources from the state and central governments.

Strengthening the third tier of governance in Pakistan is a prerequisite for both grassroots democracy and effective service delivery.

Constitutional protection is the most necessary step in the right direction.

The Constitution

must clearly detail the structure, tenure, and functions of local governments.

Political elites must change their mindset of centralization. Local governments need to derive their powers and functions from the Constitution rather than provincial or federal governments.

Without financial empowerment, local governments cannot ensure effective governance.

Therefore, Provincial Finance Commissions must be activated to ensure the transfer of sufficient funds to local governments. Lastly, institutional building and administrative autonomy are necessary steps to ensure effective local administration.

On the whole, democracy is not merely about elections or representation, rather, it is a practice of participation, transparency, inclusivity, and accountability.

It can only be achieved when governance is brought closer to the voters.

Central and provincial governments cannot provide local services as effectively as local governments can.

Local government not only brings about effective governance but also deepens democratic participation.

Ultimately, democracy becomes meaningful when it reaches the doorstep of the citizen.

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His areas of interest include governance, public administration, democratic institutions and public policy.

Governor Mandokhail Hails Nawaz Sharif's Democratic Services at International Civil Award Launch

QUETTA: Balochistan Governor Jaffer Khan Mandokhail said that former Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif had served as Pakistan's prime minister three times and played a significant role in the country's political and democratic history.

Addressing the launch ceremony of the "The Real Democrat Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif International Civil Award" at Governor House Quetta, the governor said Nawaz Sharif had rendered valuable services to Pakistan and made significant contributions to democratic politics and the continuity of the democratic process.

The ceremony was organized by the Balochistan International Think Tank, Friends of Universe and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Balochistan.

Pakistan's National Assembly records con-



firm that Nawaz Sharif served as prime minister during three separate periods, beginning in 1990, 1993 and 1997, and again from 2013 to 2017.

Governor

Mandokhail said Nawaz Sharif's services and sacrifices for democracy and the strengthening of democratic institutions were worthy of recognition. He also re-

ferred to Pakistan's 1998 nuclear tests during Nawaz Sharif's second tenure. The National Assembly has separately credited Sharif's leadership in overseeing the nuclear tests conducted on May 28, 1998.

The governor said that, among political and democratic leaders,

Referring to the formation of governments in Balochistan, Govern-

nor Mandokhail said Nawaz Sharif had emphasized the importance of taking all political forces along and maintaining relations based on mutual respect.

He described the decision to name the "The Real Democrat International Civil Award" after Nawaz Sharif as an initiative aimed at recognizing political services and highlighting the principles of democratic struggle, political tolerance and public service.

Governor

Mandokhail said that recognizing the contributions of political leaders in a democratic society could help introduce younger generations to the importance of political participation.

He expressed hope that such activities would continue in the future and said the initiative would remain a means of paying tribute to democratic services.

3.5 Acres of Government Land Recovered from Encroachment in Rakhni, Balochistan

BARKHAN/RAKHNI: On the directives of Deputy Commissioner Barkhan Saeed-ur-Rehman Kakar, the district administration carried out an effective anti-encroachment operation in Rakhni under the su-

development work on currently underway. The administration launched the operation to remove illegal encroachments and occupations from government land, ensuring that development work on

development property would not be tolerated. He also directed the relevant officials to ensure continuous monitoring of the recovered land and prevent the re-establishment of encroachments.



pervision of Assistant Commissioner Rakhni Fahad Hussain Umrani. During the operation, 3.5 acres of valuable government commercial land were recovered from illegal occupation.

The land recovered during the operation has been earmarked for Rakhni Model Bazaar, where construction and

the Model Bazaar project continues according to the planned schedule. Speaking on the occasion, Assistant Commissioner Rakhni Fahad Hussain Umrani said that protecting government land is the responsibility of the district administration.

He made it clear that illegal occupation and encroachment on gov-

ernment property would not be tolerated. He also directed the relevant officials to ensure continuous monitoring of the recovered land and prevent the re-establishment of encroachments.

The removal of encroachments is also expected to improve the city's appearance, traffic management and overall administrative order.

17 Patwaris Promoted to Qanoongo Posts in Balochistan's Nasirabad Division

NASIRABAD: In line with the directives of Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan, and Senior Member Board of Revenue (SMBR) Qambar Dashti,

the process of promoting government employees and improving departmental affairs is continuing across Nasirabad Division.

In this regard, Commissioner Nasirabad Division Salahuddin Noorzi distributed promotion orders to 17 Patwaris who had been awaiting promotion since 2017.

The employees have been promoted from BPS-09 to BPS-11 as Qanoongs.

Superintendents of the Commissioner's Of-



fice, Babu Abdul Samad Khosa, Babu Sherallah Khosa, were also present on the occasion.

Congratulating the promoted employees, Commissioner Salahuddin Noorzi said that promotion not only encourages government employees but also increases their responsi-

bilities.

He urged the newly promoted officials to perform their duties with a strong commitment to public service and ensure transparency, merit and the rule of law in the affairs of the Revenue Department.

He said the Government of Balochistan has a clear policy of ensur-

ing that eligible and deserving employees receive their legitimate rights in a timely manner.

This, he added, would help improve the performance of government institutions and facilitate the provision of relief and services to the public.

The promotion of 17 Patwaris to the posts

of Qanoongo has been described as an important development for the Revenue Department in Nasirabad Division.

The move is expected to boost the professional morale of employees while contributing to more effective and efficient management of revenue-related administrative affairs.

Superintendents of the Commissioner's Of-

BUMHS Sets October 5 Deadline for MDCAT 2026 Objections



Syed Muhammad Yaseen:

QUETTA: Bolan University of Medical & Health Sciences (BUMHS) has announced that candidates who have any objection or complaint regarding the MDCAT 2026 examination can submit their applications to the university's Admission Branch by October 5, 2026.

According to the notice issued by BUMHS, candidates

seeking to file an MDCAT 2026 objection or complaint must submit their applications in hard copy at the Admission Branch. Applications submitted after the deadline will not be entertained.

Candidates are required to attach the following documents with their applications: - Original Carbon Copy of the MDCAT 2026 answer sheet

- CNIC - MDCAT 2026

Admit Card. The university has clarified that only hard-copy applications will be accepted and no application will be considered after October 5, 2026.

Candidates who believe there is an issue or discrepancy concerning their MDCAT 2026 paper, answers, or examination record have been advised to submit their objections within the stipulated deadline.

Fisheries Department Intensifies Action Against Illegal Fishing Nets in Gwadar

GWADAR: The Balochistan Fisheries Department has intensified its crackdown on the use of illegal and prohibited fishing nets, with inspection and monitoring of boats and kayaks continuing at Padi Zar Beach in Gwadar.

On the directives of Director Fisheries Marine Ahmed Nadeem and under the supervision of Assistant Director Fisheries Gwadar Shah Fahad,

a Fisheries monitoring team inspected different boats and kayaks at the beach and checked the mesh sizes of fishing nets being used by fishermen.

The team also directed fishermen to strictly refrain from using



prohibited fishing nets.

According to the Fisheries Department, legal action is being taken against violations involving the use of nets with prohibited mesh sizes, including 26, 27, 28 and 114.

Officials said that the use of prohibited nets for catching small

fish negatively affects fish breeding and disrupts the natural balance of marine life.

Therefore, the use of such nets will not be permitted, and fishermen found violating the regulations will face legal action under the relevant laws.

The department

clarified that responsibility for any violation will rest with the concerned individual.

The Fisheries Department will continue its monitoring and inspection operations at Padi Zar Beach and other coastal areas to prevent illegal fishing practices and protect marine resources.

The department

urged fishermen to use only legal and approved fishing nets, avoid catching juvenile and small fish, and cooperate with Fisheries officials in protecting marine life and ensuring the sustainability of the fishing sector.

Quetta Commissioner Directs Review of Security Checkposts in Aghbarg and Nohesar

QUETTA: A delegation of the Bazi tribe, led by Member of the Balochistan Provincial Assembly Malik Naeem Khan Bazi, met with Quetta Division Commissioner Zeeshan Lashari to discuss issues faced by tribal communities in Aghbarg and Nohesar, the law and order situation, and matters concerning security checkposts.

During the meeting, tribal elders apprised the commissioner of their concerns regarding security checkposts and the difficulties faced by local residents.

The delegation also provided a detailed briefing on the utility, existing locations, functioning and possible relocation of various checkposts.

The tribal elders said that some security checkposts were important for maintaining peace and security in the area, while residents were facing difficulties at



certain locations.

They called for local concerns and ground realities to be taken into consideration when deciding on the utility, existing locations, functioning and possible relocation of checkposts.

Commissioner Zeeshan Lashari assured the delegation that their issues would be addressed on a priority basis.

He directed the Deputy Commissioner

Quetta West to take necessary steps to address the concerns raised by the tribes regarding the checkposts.

The commissioner further instructed officials to conduct on-site visits to the relevant areas and assess the current condition, necessity and functioning of the checkposts, as well as the difficulties faced by local residents.

He directed that a detailed report be sub-

mitted after reviewing the ground realities concerning the possible relocation and operation of the checkposts.

Zeeshan Lashari said that all possible measures would be taken to maintain law and order in the area, adding that protecting the lives and property of citizens is a fundamental responsibility of the government.

He said the concerns of the public and

tribal elders would be taken seriously and that efforts would be made to resolve the issues through consultation and mutual cooperation.

The meeting was also attended by Malik Abdul Rehman Bazi and other tribal elders and notables.

The delegation thanked the Quetta Division Commissioner for assuring immediate steps toward resolving their concerns.



The meeting examined in detail the availability of fertilizer, its transportation, distribution through the government-established portal, compliance of official directives and all related matters.

district, adding that no violation of the rules would be tolerated. He said the government had issued clear directives regarding the transportation and supply of fertilizer, and all dealers would be re-

quired to comply with them in letter and spirit. The assistant commissioner instructed dealers to transport fertilizer and maintain complete records according to the procedures prescribed on the official government portal. He said the measure would help ensure that farmers receive fertilizer at the officially prices. He further said the

district administration would strengthen the monitoring and oversight of fertilizer supplies and distribution to prevent irregularities and ensure transparent availability of fertilizer to farmers.

Minister slams KP gov't's 'flaws' in leadership, resources and authority in counter-terror fight

NEWS DESK: Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry on Monday said the PTI-led Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government had not made adequate efforts to combat terrorism, particularly highlighting flaws in its leadership, resources and use of authority.

Addressing media in Islamabad alongside Information Minister Attaullah Tarar, Chaudhry noted that a political leadership could "provide three things in the fight against terrorism: leadership, resources and powers".

He contended that the provincial administration in KP — where the PTI has been in power since 2013 — "did not provide leadership to the security forces over the past 14 years".

The interior official accused the PTI-led government of "creating space" for terrorists.

"If Pakistan is burning in the fire of terrorism, it is because of KP's incompetent leadership," he maintained.

Chaudhry then noted that it was the provincial government's responsibility to allocate funds for counter-terrorism in the budget.

"[Then], why did you not provide the resources?" he asked, adding that the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) was still not func-

tional in the entire province.

"Your forces cannot fight unarmed. You do not have bulletproof jackets, cars, training, CTD, Safe City [project], or a forensic lab," he said, claiming that Safe City projects had been completed on the teshil level as well in Punjab.

The state minister sought accountability from KP over the usage of even one per cent of the National Finance Commission (NFC) Award, which he said amounted to Rs800 billion.

Chaudhry pointed out that KP Chief Minister Sohail Afridi and his information minister did not attend the funeral prayers of the victims of the Sept 18 Kohat blast, but were rather "busy in their street movement or other matters".

He recalled that the KP CM held a "very lengthy" press conference in Dera Ismail Khan in the wake of Saturday's suicide blast, which claimed 12 lives.

"Why did they not condemn Afghanistan? Why do you have a soft attitude on Afghanistan? Why do you deliberately employ such ambiguity and

demeanor, and do not openly condemn or name the real enemy or from where these proxies operate?" he asked.

Chaudhry reiterated his criticism of the



recent KP Police Act, which has been proposed to replace a 2017 version and is aimed at curtailing the powers of the provincial inspector general (IG).

He also responded to PTI's allegation that the party had not been included in discussions about war on terrorism, saying that the party leadership did not show up to meetings when invited.

"You come to Islamabad to demand NFC funds, but your CM does not show up for anti-terrorism meetings," Chaudhry said.

Meanwhile, Tarar said PTI had not taken ownership of the fight

against terrorism, again terming the party as the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan's (TTP) "B team".

He alleged that PTI had facilitated terrorists in its over 12 years of governing KP and that it was not condemning them as it "suits PTI's financial interests".

"Sohail Afridi organised a ceremony and two Afghans did not stand up to pay respect to the national anthem."

"If I was there, I would have dealt with them right then and there. I would have banned them," Tarar said.

Such an incident took place in September 2024, when PTI's Ali Amin Gandapur was serving as the chief minister.

Tarar went on to highlight that the KP government had not ensured the registration of all vehicles yet, as doing so makes the "surveillance of terrorists easier".

He added that potential revenue generated from car registration could have been used for the benefit of the people of KP.

"You sacrificed the security of the entire province for your political gains."

"You will now have to decide if you are with

Pakistan or with Afghanistan. It is as clear as that," the information minister declared.

Afghanistan's "true face" At the outset of the press conference, Chaudhry noted that terrorist "proxies are financed by our eastern border and their hideouts are on the western border".

Islamabad has repeatedly urged the Taliban administration in Kabul to dismantle terrorist sanctuaries on Afghan soil, particularly those linked to TTP, that are used for attacks in Pakistan. Officials say those appeals have gone unheeded.

He emphasised that Islamabad had employed "every way" to convey its concerns to Kabul, including dialogue, dossiers and international forums, but to no avail.

Referring to the recent attack on a rescue vehicle carrying DK Khan blast victims, Chaudhry said that attacking rescue teams was not allowed even during war.

"This is their true face. Is this jihad? Even an enemy with some rules does not carry out such attacks."

He said such terrorist activities were carried out in exchange for receiving funds in dollars, which were proportional

to the number of casualties.

The interior official asserted that Pakistan had the "best systems" for investigating the identity of a suspected terrorist.

"Very few countries have enough data that in less than a minute, any heinous crime or terrorist incident-related information can be accessed in Nadra and other databases [...] we instantly find out whether they are Pakistanis [or not]."

He then recalled that when authorities did not find any details in the database for a recent incident, they used open-source intelligence and geolocated a terrorist's picture to Kabul's Pashtunistan Square.

September witnessed another bout of conflict between Pakistan and Afghanistan, with the former saying it struck terrorist sites in the border region in response to a recent spate of terrorist attacks.

Pakistan conducted "aerial and drone strikes" in another 10 locations across Afghanistan in retaliation for drones launched from across the border that were shot down in KP.

The Foreign Office (FO) has said a demarche was also delivered to the Afghan side on Saturday on account of the Sept 23 airspace violation by drones.

PML-N claims victory in Bahawalpur by-poll

NEWS DESK: PML-N candidate Malik Muhammad Iqbal Channar has secured nearly double the votes of his main rival, Cheema.

In a statement, the provincial election commission said balloting was briefly disrupted at all polling stations in Bahawalpur, considered a PML-N stronghold, following a brawl between voters and police workers allegedly harassed election staff. Immediate action was

taken, and the relevant district returning officer and returning officer around Jhangwala and Abbasnagar, which are considered strongholds of the Channar family, witnessed a large number of voters.

At the incident, Mr Channar alleged that some people had disrupted the polling process and were found stamping ballot papers in favour of his rival.

Increased after midday. Rural polling stations, particularly those around Jhangwala and Abbasnagar, which are considered strongholds of the Channar family, witnessed a large number of voters.

At the incident, Mr Channar alleged that some people had disrupted the polling process and were found stamping ballot papers in favour of his rival.

He received by his predecessor Ali Amin Gandapur, and the two subsequently visited the hospital where the injured were being treated.

Addressing the media, Chief Minister Afridi said his government had warned about the deteriorating security situation in the province and added that people, police personnel and soldiers were bearing the brunt of violence.

Afridi visits victims of Dera Ismail Khan attack alongside predecessor Ali Amin



Aleema provided basic facilities, essential items in jail, Punjab govt tells LHC

NEWS DESK: The Punjab government on Monday told the Lahore High Court (LHC) that Aleema Khan, a sister of PTI founder Imran Khan, had been provided basic facilities and essential items in jail.

Aleema was detained on Sep 20 after the Lahore deputy commissioner ordered her detention or arrest under the Maintenance of Public Order (MPO) Ordinance.

The detention has come amid reports of a crackdown on the PTI ahead of its countrywide protest and march to Islamabad, which the party has postponed to Oct 4. The protest has been called to demand Imran's release from jail and mobilise people for the supremacy of the Constitution.

Assistant Advocate General Farrukh Khan Lodhi submitted a report on behalf of the Kot Lakhpat jail superintendent during the hearing of a petition filed

by Shahraiz Khan, Aleema's son.

According to the report, Aleema had been provided with a bedsheet, blanket, shoes, six suits and a towel. She was also given face wash, a toothbrush, a skin care kit and a shawl, it added.

In light of the government's report, Justice Abber Gul Khan disposed of the petition. The judge also directed the home secretary to decide, in accordance with the law, on

the petitioner's request seeking permission to meet Aleema.

On Sep 26, the LHC had sought a reply from the Punjab home secretary on a petition challenging Aleema's detention. The government had asked the court to dispose of the petition, saying the home secretary had filed Sept 28 for a hearing to review the detention order issued by the Lahore deputy commissioner.

The court, however, issued a notice to the

home secretary, while Barrister Taimur Malik told the judge that Aleema was facing difficulties in receiving her medicines and other essentials in jail. The judge directed the counsel to file a separate application.

Following Aleema's detention, her sisters, Dr Uzma Khan and Noor Niaz, were also detained for 30 days ahead of the PTI's Sept 27 protest and march to Islamabad, which has been postponed to October 4.

According to a Motorway Police spokesperson, restoration work remained under way on the M-14 motorway between Hakla and Kundal and on the loop connecting the M-1 motorway with the Hazara Motorway.

CM Afridi wants KP input included in counterterror policy

NEWS DESK: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi on Sunday called for better cooperation between the provincial and federal governments on security matters, saying the counterterrorism policy should reflect ground realities.

The chief minister made these comments during his visit to Dera Ismail Khan to visit the wounded, a day after a deadly bombing targeted a police and customs check-post killed more than 12 people, including rescue officials, in Darazinda.

He claimed the province also made payments to federal agencies for the provision of modern weapons equipment and armoured personnel carriers (APCs), but the required equipment had yet to be delivered.

He demanded that the federal government provide APCs to the province without further delay and said the people of KP should be taken into confidence before making decisions about peace and security.

"We are picking up coffins on a daily basis," the CM said, calling for greater cooperation between the federal and provincial governments on security matters.

"Peace cannot be established without taking the people of KP into confidence," he said,

Gandapur, urges Centre to involve the province in decision-making, provide resources

He said his government provided an additional Rs35 billion to the KP police in the previous financial year for maintaining peace and security.

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"Peace cannot be established without taking the people of KP into confidence," he said,

adding that his government did not accept policies formulated behind "closed doors".

CM Afridi said anyone taking up arms against Pakistan was a terrorist and expressed concern over the security situation in KP and Balochistan. He said families of those killed in acts of terrorism would be provided with a mortuary package.

The chief minister also launched a diatribe against "some elements" in the federal government, accusing them of polarising the country.

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Islamabad-Peshawar motorway reopened to traffic following 'indefinite' closure

NEWS DESK: The National Highways & Motorway Police (NH&MP) on Monday said the M-1 Motorway between Islamabad and Peshawar has been reopened to all types of traffic in both directions.

M-1, sections of M-14 (Islamabad-Dera Ismail Khan Motorway) and the GT Road (N-5) were closed for a week for an indefinite period amid government pushback ahead of PTI's long march towards Islamabad — initially scheduled for September 27, but later postponed to October 4.

According to a Motorway Police spokesperson, restoration work remained under way on the M-14 motorway between Hakla and Kundal and on the loop connecting the M-1 motorway with the Hazara Motorway.

Traffic travelling from Islamabad to Abbottabad via the M-1 can exit at Burhan Interchange.

Use of the GT Road via Hasan Abdal and rejoin the Hazara Expressway at Jhuri Kas Interchange, the spokesperson said.

The N-5, or GT Road, between Islamabad and Peshawar has also been reopened to all traffic, the spokesperson said.

In a statement issued later, the spokesperson said M-14 had been reopened from Hakla to Kot Belian and from Isa Khel to Yarik. Meanwhile, restoration work on the section between Kot Belian and Isa Khel was still under way, the spokesperson added.

In its Sept 22 directions, the motorway police announced that the

M-1 was closed to all traffic in both directions between the Islamabad Toll Plaza and Chhachhi Interchange.

While the M-14 was closed between Hakla and Kundal. The GT Road was also closed at Attack Khurd.

Security arrangements were also intensified in Attock, with containers and sandbags placed at key bridges and security tightened at major entry and exit points as authorities prepared for the PTI protest.

However, on September 25, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi said PTI's long march towards Islamabad would now commence from Peshawar on Oct 4.

The party was set to hold a nationwide protest and march towards Islamabad to press for

the release of its founder, Imran Khan, who is currently incarcerated in Rawalpindi's Adiala jail.

Ahead of the protest, the Punjab government imposed a ban on gatherings across the province for 15 days and prohibited inciting people to "unlawful assembly".

A similar ban under Section 144 has been enforced in Islamabad for two months.

The Punjab government also sent a letter to the interior ministry requesting mobile and internet services at specific locations in Rawalpindi and Attock to be downgraded or banned on Sept 27.

The federal government also approved the deployment of Rangers in Islamabad and several districts of Punjab from Sept 20 to Oct 5.