



Nushki Girls College Firing: Three Female Students Injured...



Soil Erosion in Bolan, Balochistan: When the Land...

Joint JI-govt committee to mull ways to expand fuel relief scheme

NEWS DESK:

The government and Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) on Tuesday decided to form a joint committee to recommend proposals for expanding the ongoing fuel relief scheme, while JI warned of marching to Islamabad next month if no relief "package" was announced by then.

The decision was made during a high-level meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and JI chief Hafiz Naemur Rehman at the PM House, according to a press release issued by the PM Office (PMO).

The meeting was offered by PM Shehbaz last month when urging JI to postpone its Islamabad march, which it had accepted.

JI has been demanding the abolition of the petroleum levy to reduce the burden of heightened fuel prices on the public.

Tuesday's meeting decided that a committee, comprising three members each from the government and JI,

will present final recommendations on the following two measures:

Expansion of the scope of the ongoing relief scheme on petrol for the public so that the



maximum number of deserving people can benefit from it.

Preparation of feasible proposals for the budget for a phased reduction in the petroleum levy.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal and the PM's political adviser Rana Sanaullah will represent the government in the joint committee, PMO stated.

The premier informed the JI delegation in detail about the re-

lief provided so far by the government in the petroleum products quota for the low-income segment, noting that 12.7 million people have registered in the subsidy scheme so far.

The relief scheme for owners of motorcycles, rickshaws and vehicles of up to 800cc was rolled out across the country on Sept 17. PM Shehbaz had announced the subsidies to ease the public's burden amid rising fuel prices due to the Middle East situation.

During the meeting, the prime minister conveyed to JI that he "fully understands the burden on the public due to the increase in prices of petroleum products", PMO said.

He highlighted the government's effort to provide relief through the subsidy scheme and asserted that Islamabad was "making all-out diplomatic efforts to resolve the regional crisis so that the situation can return to normal".

NATIONAL Page No 4



FCC rejects private ownership claim on state land

NATIONAL Page No 4



Minister blames closure of border for LPG price hike

Nushki Girls College Firing: Three Female Students Injured, One Critical

NEWS DESK:

Three female students were injured in a firing incident at a girls' college in Nushki, Balochistan, with one of the injured reported to be in critical condition, police sources said.



The injured students were immediately shifted to the Teaching Hospital in Nushki.

for medical treatment, according to police sources.

The hospital has also reported an urgent need for blood donations for the injured students, the sources added.

Further details about the circumstances surrounding the

firing, the identity of the attackers and any possible arrests were not immediately available.

Airblue Launches New Flights Between Quetta, Lahore and Islamabad

Sir Salam Jogeza:

Quetta: Airblue has launched new flight services connecting Quetta with Lahore and Islamabad, expanding air connectivity between Balochistan's provincial capital and two of Pakistan's major cities.

According to the Pakistan Airports Authority (PAA), Airblue flight PA-503 from Lahore arrived at Quetta International Airport at 3:25 pm on October 26, 2026. The inaugural arrival was marked by a ceremonial water cannon salute, a cake-cutting ceremony and a welcome for passengers.

Airblue flight PA-501 from Islamabad subsequently landed at 3:45 pm. The Airport Manager, Chief Security Officer and Airblue's Director of Operations attended the welcoming ceremony.

Under the new schedule, Airblue will operate three weekly flights between Quetta and Lahore and two weekly flights between Quetta and



Airblue has launched new flight services connecting Quetta with Lahore and Islamabad.

The new services are expected to provide passengers with additional travel options

and improve connectivity between Balochistan and major urban centres across Pakistan. The Pakistan Airports Au-

thority reaffirmed its commitment to facilitating airport operations and improving air connectivity for passengers

Balochistan Gets Just 4.56% of Agricultural Loans as Punjab Takes 84.52%

Muhammad Faizan Aslam Khan:

Balochistan received only 4.56% of the agricultural loans distributed by the Zarai Taraqati Bank Limited (ZTBL) between 2020 and 2024, while Punjab accounted for 84.52% of the total financing, according to official documents.

ZTBL distributed agricultural loans worth Rs363.39 billion nationwide during the four-year period, but farmers in Balochistan received just Rs16.56 billion, highlighting the province's limited share in agricultural credit.

Punjab received the largest share at 84.52%, followed by Sindh with 9.59% and



Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with 4%. Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan collectively

received 1.44% of the total agricultural loans, the documents showed.

The disparity was also re-

flected in agricultural lending by all banks during the fiscal year 2024-25, when Balochistan accounted for only

0.4% of the total agricultural loans distributed across Pakistan.

All banks collectively disbursed Rs9.51 billion in agricultural loans in Balochistan during the fiscal year, compared with more than Rs2.045 trillion in Punjab, according to the available figures.

The figures highlight a substantial regional gap in agricultural financing and raise questions about farmers' access to credit in Balochistan.

where agriculture faces persistent challenges, including limited irrigation facilities, water scarcity and a predominantly dry climate.

Agricultural loans enable farmers to purchase seeds, fertilisers, machinery and other essential inputs, as well

as invest in irrigation systems and modern farming techniques. Limited access to credit can restrict farm productivity, discourage investment and place additional pressure on rural livelihoods.

The low share of agricultural financing allocated to Balochistan underscores the importance of examining regional lending patterns and the accessibility of bank loans for farmers in water-stressed and less-developed areas.

Expanding access to affordable agricultural credit could help farmers in Balochistan improve crop production, adopt water-efficient farming practices and strengthen the province's agricultural economy.

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

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

By Ayesha Tanveer:

In the valleys of Bolan, the land tells a story that is easy to miss if we only look at the surface. The mountains stand tall, the valleys stretch across the landscape, and farmers continue to work the soil as their families have done for generations. But beneath this familiar picture, something is changing. Little by little, the soil that supports agriculture and rural life is being washed away by sudden floods, carried off by strong winds and weakened by years of pressure on the land.

Soil erosion may not happen overnight, and it rarely makes headlines. Yet for the people who depend on the land, its effects are real. A field that once produced a reasonable harvest may gradually become less productive. A farmer who once relied on rain and traditional methods may find that the same approach no longer works. For communities in Bolan, soil erosion is becoming more than an environmental concern—it is increasingly a threat to agriculture, livelihoods and the future of rural life.

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

That relationship is now under growing pressure. Bolan lies in an arid to semi-arid region where rainfall is limited and unpredictable. Farmers can experience long dry periods followed by sudden and intense rainfall. Instead of slowly soaking into the ground,

heavy rain can rush through valleys and fields, creating flash floods that carry away the most valuable layer of soil.

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

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

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

After months of dryness, the soil may become hard and vulnerable. When intense rainfall suddenly arrives, water can move rapidly across the surface instead of being absorbed into the ground. In the mountainous terrain of Bolan, steep slopes make this runoff even faster.

The result can be devastating. Water cuts through fields, carries soil downhill and deposits it in streams and irrigation channels. What begins as erosion on a hillside can eventually contribute to blocked waterways, increased flood risks and damage to agricultural land.

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

Human Activities
Worse

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



Vegetation is one of the land's natural defenses against erosion. Trees, shrubs and grasses help hold soil together through their roots and reduce the speed at which rainwater flows across the ground. When vegetation is removed, the soil erodes more quickly. Agricultural practices can be limited. Many farming practices have developed out of necessity rather than choice.

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

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

ods.

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

The Hidden Cost of Declining Soil Fertility

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

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

Farmers may then

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

This can create a difficult cycle: Soil erosion reduces fertility, crop yields decline, farmers spend more on inputs, production costs increase, household income falls, poverty and economic pressure grow.

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

The Problem Does Not Stop at the Farm

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

When soil is washed away, it often ends up in rivers,

streams and irrigation channels. Over time, this sediment can reduce water storage capacity and interfere with irrigation systems.

Sedimentation can also increase flood risks during heavy rainfall. At the same time, the loss of soil can improve its structure and help it retain natural habitats and moisture.

Restoring vegetation is equally important. Planting native trees, shrubs and grasses can help stabilize slopes and protect the land from erosion.

Grazing also needs to be managed carefully. Controlled grazing systems can give damaged agricultural land time to recover while still allowing communities to maintain their livestock.

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

For many families in rural Bolan, agriculture and livestock are not simply occupations—they are a way of life.

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When the land becomes less productive, the effects reach directly into people's homes.

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

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

This is why soil erosion should not be treated as an isolated environmental issue. It is connected to poverty, food security, employment, migration and the long-term stability of rural communities.

There Is Still Time to Act
There are practical steps that can make a difference. Farmers can adopt conservation agriculture techniques such as reduced tillage, crop rotation and retaining crop residues. Adding organic matter to the soil can improve its structure and help it retain natural habitats and moisture.

Restoring vegetation is equally important. Planting native trees, shrubs and grasses can help stabilize slopes and protect the land from erosion.

Grazing also needs to be managed carefully. Controlled grazing systems can give damaged agricultural land time to recover while still allowing communities to maintain their livestock.

Water management offers another important opportunity. Small check dams, rainwater harvesting systems and improved irrigation methods can slow down runoff, capture water and reduce soil loss. These measures can be particularly effective in rivers.

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ticularly valuable in areas where every drop of water matters.

But no solution will work without the involvement of the people who live on the land.

Farmers, livestock owners and local communities must be part of the decision-making process. They understand their environment, its challenges and its changing conditions. Government institutions, agricultural experts and development organizations can support them with technical knowledge, training and resources, but long-term success will depend on local participation.

Conclusion

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

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

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

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

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

Neither Capitalism nor Communism

Aziz ur Rehman Agha

The Cold War may have ended, but the ideological clash between Capitalism and Communism continues to shape global politics, economics, and international relations. Even today, global alliances reflect these old ideological divisions.

However, both Capitalist and Communist systems have failed to manage political and socio-economic affairs effectively. One system suppresses personal freedom; the other deepens inequality. Both carry serious structural flaws that make them unsuitable for modern societies.

This calls for a new, balanced approach—one found in the Islamic socio-economic and political philosophy, which follows a middle path between the two extremes.

The Flaws of Communism

Communism lies at one extreme of the ideological spectrum. It suppresses individual freedoms such as speech, press, and trade.

Historical examples from Maoist China during the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976) show how intellectual expression was crushed—books and music not aligned with party ideology were banned, and private libraries were destroyed. Similarly, in the

USSR, any deviation from party thought was treated as a crime.

Economically, Communism eliminates private property and discourages entrepreneurship. Without personal incentive, individuals lose motivation to innovate and work for

economic growth. As a result, this system hampers development and limits prosperity. The severe restrictions on basic rights and freedoms make Communism unsustainable in modern nation-states.

The Problems with Capitalism

On the other end lies Capitalism, which has enabled just 1% of the world's population to control more wealth than the remaining 99% combined.

This system inherently promotes economic inequality, empowering elite industrialists while exploiting the working class. Under Capitalism, profit takes precedence over people—workers are overburdened, and ethical values are often sacrificed for industrial gains.

Furthermore, Capitalism's obsession with rapid industrializa-

tion and profit maximization has led to environmental destruction, resource depletion, and climate crises. It prioritizes wealth accumulation over sustainability. These internal contradictions—growing inequality, moral decay, and eco-

logical harm—make Capitalism an unbalanced model for an equitable, sustainable society.

The Islamic Socio-Economic Philosophy: A Balanced Approach

Both Capitalism and Communism fail because they represent extremes—one suffo-

cates freedom; the other breeds inequality. Islam, however, offers a balanced socio-economic philosophy that harmonizes justice, freedom, and social welfare.

The Islamic economic system allows private ownership and business freedom, but regulates them through moral and legal checks. The obligation of Zakat (charity) redistributes wealth, preventing concentration in the hands of a few.

Meanwhile, the prohibition of Riba (usury) ensures financial fairness and discourages exploitation. Together, these principles foster economic justice, social cohesion, and sustainable development.

Conclusion

Neither Capitalism nor Communism provides a complete solution to humanity's political and economic challenges. Both contain inherent flaws—one curtails human freedom, the other destroys social equality.

The Islamic socio-economic model, however, offers the ideal middle path—balancing individual rights with collective welfare. With its emphasis on justice, equality, and moral responsibility, Islam presents the most sustainable and humane political and economic philosophy for the modern world.



THE ISLAMIC MIDDLE PATH

Balochistan Governor Vows to Transform Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University into a Model Institution

QUETTA: Balochistan Governor Jaffer Khan Mandokhail has reaffirmed his commitment to improving Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University (SBKWU) and transforming it into a model university for the entire country. He urged the university's faculty, researchers and administrative staff to demonstrate outstanding performance and uphold the highest standards of merit, transparency and professionalism.

"If this university is being given top priority as the province's only women's university, you must also prove yourselves number one through your excellent performance," the governor said while addressing the university's Best Performance Awards ceremony in Quetta.

The governor presented Best Performance Awards to research and faculty members and administrative officers in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the university's academic and professional achievements.

Drawing on his 40 years of political experience, Mandokhail em-



phased that selecting the right and deserving recipient is more important than simply presenting an award. He said that when deserving individuals are not identified fairly, the credibility and value of both the award and the awarding institution suffer.

He stressed that merit, integrity, impartiality and freedom from favoritism are essential to preserving the dignity and credibility of any award.

The governor also appreciated the efforts of Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Rubina Mushtaq and her entire team for their contributions to the university's progress.

Merit and Transparency Essential for Institutional Progress

Addressing the participants, Governor Mandokhail said societies that recognize and encourage hard work and public service promote talent, strengthen professional competence and replace disappointment with hope.

He described the awards ceremony as a reflection of the principle that dedication, service and research addressing human needs deserve recognition. According to him, the achievements of individuals can inspire others and create a positive impact across an entire institution.

He added that the provincial government

could earn the trust and confidence of young people by ensuring transparency in governance and consistently upholding merit.

The governor further emphasized that recognizing another person's exceptional dedication, service and abilities without discrimination is itself a valuable contribution to society.

He said awards are not merely symbols of achievement; they also bring public attention to the efforts of individuals whose services, research and creative contributions often remain unnoticed. A society that values its contributors, he added, is better positioned to achieve

meaningful and sustainable progress.

True Success Lies in Serving Society

Explaining his vision of success, Mandokhail said that true achievement goes beyond securing financial stability for oneself and one's family or reaching personal goals.

He described real success as contributing to the elimination of illiteracy, backwardness and exploitation, protecting the rights and authority of subordinates, and creating opportunities for disadvantaged communities to advance.

The governor also highlighted the important role of teachers in developing students' intellectual and academic abilities. He said an outstanding teacher is not merely someone who possesses extensive knowledge but someone who cultivates research, curiosity, critical thinking and creativity among students.

Similarly, he said, the true value of a researcher should be measured by the positive and constructive impact of their work on society.

Quetta Deputy Commissioner Mehrullah Badini Reviews Departmental Performance and Development Projects



QUETTA: Quetta Deputy Commissioner Mehrullah Badini chaired a review meeting of the District Coordination Committee to assess the performance of various government departments, ongoing development projects and measures to address public grievances.

Officials from all relevant departments attended the meeting and presented progress reports regarding their respective departments.

During the meeting, participants held detailed discussions on departmental performance, the progress of ongoing development schemes and efforts to resolve issues faced by the public.

DC Quetta Directs

Departments to Improve Performance

Deputy Commissioner Mehrullah Badini directed all relevant departments to fulfill their responsibilities through effective planning, improved coordination and stronger collaboration.

He emphasized the need for practical measures to resolve public issues and ensure that citizens receive timely relief and better public services.

The deputy commissioner further stated that negligence and un-

Focus on Public Relief and Development Projects

The meeting underscored the importance of coordination among government departments to ensure the timely implementation of development projects and improve service delivery across Quetta.

Deputy Commissioner Badini stressed that all departments must adopt an effective strategy, fulfill their assigned responsibilities and prioritize the resolution of public grievances.

The meeting concluded with an emphasis on accountability, administrative efficiency and coordinated efforts to improve public services and facilitate citizens across the district.

University of Makran Holds Kashmir Black Day Event to Express Solidarity with Kashmiri People

PANJGUR: The University of Makran, Panjgur, organized a special ceremony on October 27 to observe Kashmir Black Day and express solidarity with the people of Kashmir.

The event highlighted the historical significance of the day, the sacrifices of the Kashmiri people, and their ongoing struggle for fundamental rights and the right to self-determination.

The ceremony began with a one-minute silence to express solidarity with the Kashmiri people and pay tribute to their sacrifices.

During the event, participants discussed the historical background of October 27, 1947, and the significance of Kashmir Black Day.

Speakers stated that the Kashmiri people have continued their struggle for decades to secure their fundamental rights, freedom and right



to self-determination. They emphasized that the Kashmir dispute remains one of the major issues in South Asia and said that a just and peaceful resolution is essential for establishing lasting peace and stability in the region.

University of Makran Calls for International Action on Kashmir

Participants stressed the importance of an effective role by the international community and international organizations in ad-

dressing the Kashmir dispute. They called for practical measures to safeguard the fundamental human rights of the Kashmiri people.

Speakers observed that the sacrifices and struggle of the Kashmiri people should not be forgotten, adding that support for their right to self-determination remains an important international concern.

Universities highlighted as Key to Human Rights Awareness

The role of educa-

tional institutions in promoting awareness of national and international issues was also discussed during the ceremony.

Participants said universities have an important responsibility to educate young people about human rights, peace, justice and the right to self-determination.

They noted that events of this nature help students understand historical developments and encourage solidarity with commu-

ties facing challenges related to their fundamental rights.

Vice Chancellor Dr. Mir Sadat Baloch Issues Special Message

University of Makran Vice Chancellor Dr. Mir Sadat Baloch, in his special message on Kashmir Black Day, said that

the struggle, sacrifices and aspirations of the Kashmiri people for self-determination constitute an important chapter in history.

He stated that October 27 serves as a reminder of the hardships faced by the people of Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir and highlights the importance of protecting their fundamental rights.

The ceremony reaffirmed the university administration's commitment to raising awareness among students about Kashmiri human rights and the importance of peace, justice and self-determination.

Usta Muhammad: Additional Deputy Commissioner Gives Hospital Three Days to Fix Medicine Storage Issues

USTA MUHAMMAD: Additional Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ismail Lashari, acting on the special directives of Deputy Commissioner Usta Muhammad Muhammad Ramzan Palal, has given the additional deputy commissioner of DHO

Sardar Yar Muhammad Hospital three days to address deficiencies in medicine storage

and improve the management of medical supplies.

During his visit to the hospital, the additional deputy commissioner expressed serious concern over poor cleanliness in the medicine stockroom, issues regarding the accuracy of the

ventory records are essential requirements for public hospitals.

He noted that negligence in medicine management could compromise the safety and quality of medicines and create difficulties in providing timely healthcare services to patients.

The additional deputy commissioner instructed the hospital administration and concerned officials to take immediate steps to improve the medicine storage system.

The directives include Improving cleanliness and hygiene in the medicine stockroom. Ensuring the accuracy and proper functioning in the medicine storage room, verify the accuracy of the temperature meter, examine the organization of medical supplies, and review the updated stock records.

Preparing a complete and clearly organized inventory of all medicines in stock.

Maintaining accurate, transparent, and regularly updated stock records to facilitate the verification of medicine availability, quantities, and expiry dates.

He directed the relevant authorities to complete all corrective measures within three days and ensure compliance with the prescribed rules and procedures.



Pakistan Railways Announces 829 Jobs Under Balochistan Quota, Deadline November 11

MUHAMMAD FAIZAN Aslam Khan: Pakistan Railways has approved 829 vacancies from Grade 1 to Grade 16 under the Balochistan quota, with 805 posts allocated to the Quetta Division and 24 to the department's headquarters.

Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi said the recruitment process would be completed before November 30, 2026, and directed officials to ensure merit and transparency in the selection process.

Under the approved recruitment plan, 10 per cent of the vacancies will be reserved for Baloch women and five per cent for minorities. Special exemption from written and screening tests has also been approved for the designated quota-based recruitment.



Interested candidates can apply online through the National Jobs Portal. The last date for submitting applications is November 11, 2026.

Applicants have

been instructed to provide their educational certificates, Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC), domicile certificate, character certificate and passport-size photographs as part

of the application process. The recruitment drive aims to fill vacant positions in Pakistan Railways while providing employment opportunities to eligible candidates from Balochistan.

Candidates should check the official vacancy details and eligibility criteria on the National Jobs Portal before applying.

District Health Officer Dr. Amir Ali Jamali, Medical Superintendent Dr. Ahmed Ali Gopang, and Pharmacist Dr. Ayaz Ahmed were also present during the inspection.

During the detailed inspection, Muhammad Ismail Lashari reviewed the storage conditions of medicines, their safety arrangements, and the relevant stock records.

He expressed dissatisfaction with the identified deficiencies and stressed the need for immediate corrective measures to ensure proper medicine management.

The additional deputy commissioner emphasized that the safe storage of medicines, maintenance of appropriate temperatures, systematic arrangement of medical supplies, and timely completion of in-

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Attaching clear identification tags to all medicines. Installing suitable racks to ensure the systematic storage of medicines.

The visit aimed to assess the provision of healthcare facilities, the management and storage of medicines, the accuracy of stock records, and cleanliness arrangements at the hospital.

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Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakil Qadir Khan Directs BECL to Prepare Comprehensive Business Plan Within Three Months

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakil Qadir Khan has directed the management of Balochistan Energy Company Limited (BECL) to prepare a comprehensive business plan within three months to improve the company's performance, strengthen its institutional capacity, and promote sustainable development in the province's energy sector.



issued during a meeting chaired by the chief secretary to review BECL's current performance, future projects, institutional structure, and op-

portunities for investment in Balochistan's energy sector.

During the meeting, BECL officials briefed participants on the

company's ongoing projects, financial and administrative framework, potential investment op-

portunities, and the prospects for utilizing the province's energy resources.

Chief Secretary Shakil Qadir Khan emphasized that Balochistan Energy Company Limited is more than an administrative entity, describing it as a key platform for achieving energy self-sufficiency, attracting investment, and improving public welfare in the province.



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FCC rejects private ownership claim on state land

NEWS DESK: The Federal Constitutional Court (FCC) on Monday rejected a proprietary rights claim by leaseholders of protected agricultural land, observing that state property held by public functionaries in trust for the community cannot be 'ali-e-nated', except under the law.

"Where official record discloses a legal prohibition affecting the very competence of the authority to transfer such property, courts cannot disregard it," observed FCC Chief Justice Aminuddin Khan.

He was heading a two-judge bench also consisting of Justice Ali Baqar Najafi that had taken up a challenge by the member (colonies) of the Punjab Board of Revenue against a 2016 Lah-ore High Court (LHC) decision, which favoured the respondent, Rasheeda Bibi (deceased).

The respondent was leased 49 acres, 5 kanals, and 13 marlas of agricultural land in Chak No. 2/KB, Pakpattan, under the Temporary Cultivation Lease Scheme from Khari 1968 to Rabi 1978, with extensions granted periodically.

The respondents later sought proprietary rights under a government notification dated Sept 3, 1979, but the ap-

plication was rejected on May 14, 2001, because the land fell within a prohibited zone. Subsequent appeals and remands led to a 2008 order by the Pakistan executive district officer (revenue), Justice Aminuddin



accepting the claim and directing the issuance of a claim for deposit of the land price.

This order was later reviewed with the permission of the member (colonies) of the Board of Revenue, resulting in the rejection of the respondents' claim on Aug 24, 2011. However, the LHC subsequently set aside that rejection, prompting an appeal before the FCC.

During the hearing, the FCC framed two questions for determination, highlighting whether the land in dispute was amenable to the

conferment of proprietary right upon respondents to proprietary title. Their entitlement remained subject to the conditions of the Sept 1979 notification, particularly the prohibition relating to land falling within the



prohibited zone. Likewise, the successor revenue officer was competent, subject to the statutory requirements and prior sanction under section 163 of the Punjab Land Revenue Act, 1967, to review an order of his predecessor, the FCC CJ observed.

The judge noted that the present controversy was not terminated in accordance with the governing law and policy, rather than based on prolonged possession, extension of lease or payment of government dues.

The FCC ruled that a temporary cultivation lease conferred no

'PTI avoided protest to protect lives of workers'

NEWS DESK: The PTI's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chapter on Monday claimed that the party avoided staging protests following the proclamation of emergency and imposition of governor's rule in the province in a bid to protect workers' lives, as the party didn't want them to come to harm.

"The protection of workers is our responsibility. Not giving a call for immediate protest does not mean withdrawal from the political struggle," the party's provincial general secretary, Ali Asghar Khan, said in a statement issued here.

He said that while peaceful protest was their right, its timing and nature should be decided under a joint strategy at the national level.

He expressed these views in light of the questions raised at different platforms after the imposition of governor's rule and emergency in KP.

KP office-bearer says peaceful protest is their right, but its timing and nature should be decided under a joint na-

tional strategy. Mr Khan said that important questions and suggestions about the future political course of action emerged during consultations with provincial, regional and district organisations, Insaf Lawyers Forum, members of assembly and workers.

"I consider it necessary to inform the party workers about these matters so that they get clarification about the situation, the decisions made and the reasons behind these decisions," he said.

The PTI leader said that during the consultation, preference was given to hold protest at an appropriate time and ensure that public property was not alienated through administrative error, omission, acquiescence or otherwise, contrary to law.

The FCC ruled that a temporary cultivation lease conferred no

where several PTI workers were wounded due to firing by police, workers and members of assembly who contacted for holding protest, were advised to wait for party orders and avoid showing an immediate reaction.

In that situation, Mr Khan said, it was necessary to avoid



unorganised and individual protests until the announcement of a formal programme. He said that a peaceful and organised struggle at the national level was necessary.

them and the party from provocations or incidents that could be given a wrong colour and blamed on workers.

He said that in view of the protest in Bara, Khyber tribal district government has suspended trade with Iran through border. On this the minister said 50 to 60pc LPG was imported from Iran and rest of the required fuel we get from Qatar. He said due to United States-Iran war LPG supply from Qatar has been suspended.

LPG is largely consumed in remote and far flung areas of the



He said the government was reviewing the whole system and that it has a policy to acquire the gas from other sources abroad.

reasons of high prices of LPG and now we are trying to get the fuel from sea route," said Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervez Malik while

accepted increase in the prices of LPG causing grave concern among the public. A mover of the bill Aliya Kamran said in re-

National Assembly passes seven bills amid sparse attendance

NEWS DESK: Before suspending its proceedings once again owing to a lack of quorum, the National Assembly on Monday passed seven bills in a session marred by low attendance and absence of ministers. A resolution against India's atrocities and unlawful acts in the occupied Kashmir was also put off as proceedings were suspended after quorum was pointed out by an opposition lawmaker.

The seven bills passed by the house included the Pakistan Study Centres (Amendment) Bill 2026, the Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (Amendment) Bill 2026, the Travel Agencies (Amendment) Bill 2026, the Pakistan Tourist Guide (Amendment) Bill 2026, the Pakistan Hotels and Restaurants (Amendment) Bill 2026, the Motion Pictures (Amendment) Bill 2026 and the Pakistan National Council of Arts Institutes (Amendment) Bill 2026.

As the house was passing the bills, interim PTI chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan rose to speak on a point of order. On this, the speaker asked Barrister Gohar to



wait for the passage of the bills.

However, MNA Sohail Sultan pointed out the quorum, compelling the speaker to adjourn the house till 11am today.

Earlier, the lawmakers took offence after a parliamentary secretary responded to a question asked by MNA Syeda Amnah Batool about education. The response sparked a debate as to why the point answers were not shared in the house and why replies were given

through parliamentary secretaries, instead of the ministers concerned. Ms Batool asked whether any national plan existed to align university degrees with the market; what was the number of universities in the country imparting these skills; and whether the government intended to make internship or industry placement mandatory in selected degree programmes.

On this, Parliamentary Secretary Rabia Rafiq said the govern-

ment has made a policy under which the HEC will not verify the degree of any student, who has not completed the required internship. When MNA Shagufta Jumani asked about Neelum-Jhelum power project's completion time and cost, a parliamentary secretary tried to answer. But the speaker said he would not allow any irrelevant secretary to respond. "It is the job of the minister or the parliamentary secretary concerned to respond to questions," he added.

Pakistan reaffirms solidarity with Kashmiris on Black Day, calls for end to rights violations

NEWS DESK: The country's top leadership on Tuesday reaffirmed Pakistan's support for the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) as the country observed Kashmir Black Day to mark the anniversary of the arrival of Indian forces in Srinagar on Oct 27, 1947.

In a statement issued on the occasion, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said the arrival of Indian troops in Srinagar 79 years ago marked the beginning of a "tragic chapter" in the history of Jammu and Kashmir, which continued to cast a long shadow over the region.

He expressed deep concern over the prolonged incarceration of Kashmiri political leaders, activists and human rights defenders.

"Pakistan's position on Jammu and Kashmir remains clear, consistent and principled," he said, adding that lasting peace and stability in South Asia could not be achieved without a just and peaceful resolution of the dispute in accordance with relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

Paying tribute to the

sacrifices of the Kashmiri people, PM said countless men, women and children had made immense sacrifices in pursuit of their rights, adding that their memory would always be honoured.

He reaffirmed the government and people of Pakistan's unwavering solidarity with the people of occupied Kashmir.

According to a statement issued by the

flict, restrictions and denial of their fundamental rights since Oct 27, 1947.

He said, "continuing restrictions on fundamental freedoms, heightened militarisation, arrests and repression of human rights violations remained a matter of serious concern and underscored the need for sustained international attention".

Dar calls for resolu-

tion in line with UN resolutions and his message, Deputy Prime Minister

them in their pursuit of freedom, dignity and the right to determine their own future.

The charge sheet



Presidency, President Asif Ali Zardari said the people of IIOJK had endured decades of con-

tion in line with UN resolutions and his message, Deputy Prime Minister

them in their pursuit of freedom, dignity and the right to determine their own future.

Pims officials face probe over alleged failure to address fire safety risks

NEWS DESK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has ordered an inquiry against senior officials of Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (Pims) over their alleged failure to act on fire safety deficiencies after a fire incident in its nursing hostel in July.

The charge sheet stated that timely corrective measures could have prevented the fire incident in August in which 14 newborn babies died.

The charge sheet alleged that despite the administration being put on notice about the July 6 fire at the Female Nursing Hostel, deficiencies relating to fire causation, evacuation and emergency response were not adequately addressed.

Health Minister Mustafa Kamal, while speaking to media after the incident in August, had claimed that he was kept in the dark about the nursing hostel fire.

PM ordered a three-member inquiry team to complete probe in 60 days.

According to the charge sheet, officials failed to initiate, recom-



mend and ensure reasonable safeguards after the first fire. The alleged omissions, it says, indicated a failure to establish an effective, documented and verifiable system for mitigating fire and life-safety risks.

The prime minister, acting as the competent authority under the Civil Servants (Efficiency and Discipline) Rules, 2020, has constituted a three-member inquiry committee to determine responsibility.

The committee is headed by Commerce Secretary Jawad Paul with Education Secretary Nadeem Mahbub and Human Rights Secretary Abdul Khaliq Sheikh as members. Joint Secretary (hospitals) Mohammad Baksh Sangi has been nominated as departmental representative.

The team has been directed to complete its proceedings within 60 days, unless an extension is granted by the competent authority,

and submit its report within seven days of completion with clear findings on whether the charges have been proved and recommendations regarding exoneration or penalties.

The charge sheet has been served on eight Pims officials, including former Executive Director Prof Dr Rana Imran Sikander, Joint Executive Director Ch. Waris Ali Raza, Director Mother and Child Health Centre Prof Dr Nosheela Amjad.