

Balochistan Creates West Chagai District, Nokkundi Made...



Social Media and Youth Mental Health: The Growing Need...

PM Youth Chromebook Scheme How to Apply Online for 500000 Chromebooks in Pakistan

Syed Muhammad Yaseen

Islamabad: The federal government has announced the distribution of 500,000 Chromebooks and internet connectivity devices among students across Pakistan under the Prime Minister's Youth Chromebook Scheme, aiming to promote digital education and improve access to online learning opportunities.

The initiative was formally launched by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on October 25, 2026. The scheme aims to support talented students by providing access to digital educational resources and technology-based learning.

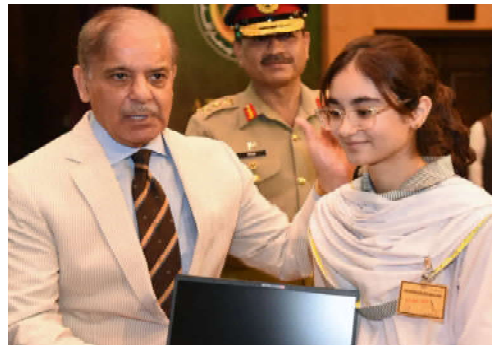
According to the official registration portal managed by the Inter Boards Coordination Commission (IBCC), eligibility is linked to academic performance in the 2026 annual examinations and enrolment in government schools.

Who is Eligible for the Chromebook Scheme?

Students from government or public-sector schools may qualify under the following criteria:

— Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan: Top-performing Grade 9 (SSC-I) students based on the 2026 annual examinations.

— Islamabad Capital Territory,



Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Handing Over Youth Chromebook to a Student.

Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan: Top-performing Grade 9 and Grade 10 students based on the 2026 annual examinations. Selection will depend on the applicable eligibility criteria and merit-based allocation process. The official portal does not specify a universal minimum

percentage of marks for all applicants. How to Apply for the PM Chromebook Scheme 2026

Eligible students can check their records and follow the registration instructions through the official portal:

Registration link: <https://pmchromebooks.ibcc.edu.pk/>

Applicants should select their relevant educational board and search for their examination record using the required details. Students must verify their information, upload the requested documents and submit their application according to the portal's instructions.

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1,500 prisoners to be shifted to Islamabad Model Jail in first phase...

NATIONAL Page No 4



9 Indian-sponsored terrorists killed in Balochistan IBOs: ISPR

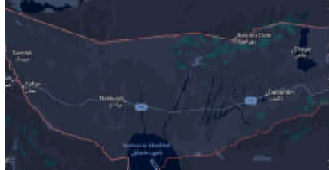
Balochistan Creates West Chagai District, Nokkundi Made Headquarters

News Desk:

The Balochistan government has created West Chagai as a new district, bringing Nokkundi, Taftan and Mashkel under its administrative jurisdiction, according to an official notification issued on

Taftan subdivision and Nokkundi tehsil have been separated from Chagai district, while Mashkel subdivision and tehsil have been transferred from Washuk district to West Chagai.

Dalbandin will remain the headquarters of Chagai district, which will retain Dalbandin and



October 28, 2026.

Nokkundi has been designated as the district headquarters, while West Chagai has been placed under Rakhsan Division.

The notification, issued by the Administration Branch of the Balochistan Revenue Department under Section 6 of the Balochistan Land Revenue Act, 1967, outlines changes to the administrative boundaries of Chagai and Washuk districts.

Under the new arrangement,

Chagai subdivisions, along with Dalbandin, Chagai and Yak Mach tehsils and Char Sar sub-tehsil.

Washuk will continue as the headquarters of Washuk district, comprising Washuk, Basima and Nag subdivisions, their respective tehsils, and Shah Gori sub-tehsil. The administrative reorganisation establishes a separate district for Nokkundi, Taftan and Mashkel, with district-level government administration to be centred in Nokkundi.

Nine Terrorists Killed in Security Operations in Balochistan: ISPR

News Desk:

Security forces have killed nine terrorists during separate operations in Balochistan's Kachhi and Wadh districts, the military's media wing said.

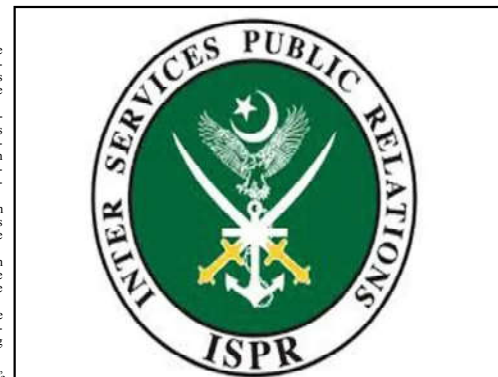
According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), security forces destroyed a terrorist hideout in Kachhi district, where an exchange of fire left seven terrorists dead.

In a separate operation in Wadh district, security forces killed two more terrorists, the ISPR said.

Weapons and ammunition were also recovered during the operations, according to the military's statement.

Clearance operations are underway in the affected areas to eliminate any remaining terrorists, the ISPR added.

President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi condemned terrorism and expressed their resolve to thwart the designs of foreign-



According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR)

backed terrorists and their local facilitators.

The security operations come amid continued efforts

to eliminate terrorist networks operating in Balochistan.

Constitutional Court Questions Balochistan High Court's Role in Gas Tariff Dispute

Muhammad Faizan Aslam Khan:

The Federal Constitutional Court has questioned the Balochistan High Court's authority to issue directions concerning gas tariffs in a case involving excessive bills in the province, observing that tariff determination falls within the jurisdiction of the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA).

A three-member bench headed by Justice Aamer Farooq heard the case and sought affidavits from the lawyers to clarify whether the

High Court's order had been issued with the consent of the parties.

The bench also summoned the High Court's order sheet and adjourned further proceedings until November 17.

During the hearing, the petitioner's counsel argued

that the High Court had exceeded its jurisdiction by acting as a regulator and determining gas tariffs.

Justice Aamer Farooq questioned the legal basis for the directions issued by the High Court and asked under which law it could intervene in tariff matters.

Advocate Naseebullah Achakzai, however, argued that the High Court had not fixed the tariffs itself but had authorised the formation of a committee to deal with the matter.

He told the bench that consent had been given during the proceedings for setting

up the committee.

Justice Farooq observed that the original petition before the High Court concerned meter readings, but the proceedings had subsequently moved towards other matters.

The bench noted that the High Court's order had already been suspended by the Constitutional Court.

The case stems from a petition filed by two lawyers before the Balochistan High Court challenging excessive gas bills in the province.

The Constitutional Court adjourned the hearing until November 17 for further pro-



QETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Social media and Youth Mental Health: The Growing Need for Real Connections in Balochistan

By Ali Hamza Khan: Social media has become a central part of modern life, particularly for young people. From checking notifications after waking up to scrolling through TikTok, Instagram, Facebook and Snapchat before going to sleep, digital platforms increasingly shape how young people communicate, study, form relationships and perceive themselves.

Although social media offers opportunities for learning, networking and entertainment, its excessive use can also raise concerns about mental health, loneliness, anxiety and declining self-esteem. Behind the attractive photographs, trending videos and carefully edited lifestyles lies an important question: are young people becoming more connected digitally while growing more isolated in their real lives?

For the youth of Balochistan, this question deserves particular attention as digital platforms become an increasingly important source of communication, entertainment and social acceptance.

Social Media and Youth Mental Health: The Loneliness Paradox Social media is promised to bring people closer together by removing geographical barriers. Today, a student in Quetta can communicate instantly with someone in Canada, exchange ideas and develop friendships across cultures. These platforms have made information and communication more accessible than ever before.

However, online connectivity does not always provide the emotional support that people need. Young people may have hundreds or thousands of followers but still struggle to find someone who will listen when they experience academic failure, family difficulties, heartbreak or emotional distress. An online audience does not necessarily translate into a dependable support network.

Face-to-face communication offers forms of connection that digital interaction may not

fully reproduce, including body language, personal presence, empathy and the reassurance of being genuinely heard.

This does not mean online friendships are meaningless. Rather, it highlights the importance of balancing digital relationships with meaningful interaction in everyday life.

Social Media Comparison and Low Self-Esteem One of the major concerns surrounding social media and youth mental health is the pressure to compare personal lives with the carefully selected experiences of others.

Instagram feeds and short-form videos often showcase expensive clothes, successful careers, university achievements, holidays in Zurich and apparently perfect lifestyles. The financial difficulties, disappointments and personal struggles behind these images are much less visible.

When young people in Balochistan compare their everyday circumstances with these idealised portrayals, they may begin to feel unsuccessful, unattractive or left behind.

This comparison can contribute to low self-esteem and the fear of missing out, commonly known as FOMO. Young users may feel that other people are enjoying better lives, achieving greater success and building stronger relationships.

The pressure to appear attractive, wealthy, popular or constantly happy can make social media emotionally exhausting. Some users begin to judge their worth by the number of likes, comments and shares their posts receive. A post that attracts little attention may lead to disappointment, embarrassment or self-doubt.

When external approval becomes the main measure of personal value, confidence can become dependent on the reactions of strangers rather than on individual abilities, character and achievements.

Young people need to understand that social media displays se-



lected moments, not the complete reality of someone's life.

Social Media Addiction, Sleep and Concentration

Excessive social media use can become a difficult habit to control. Frequent notifications, scrolling, personalised recommendations, frequent notifications and unpredictable feedback encourage users to return to their screens repeatedly.

Likes, comments and other forms of digital recognition can activate the brain's reward system, reinforcing the desire to check notifications and seek further engagement. For some users, this pattern can interfere with everyday responsibilities.

Students are particularly vulnerable when social media begins to affect their sleep, academic concentration and family relationships.

Using a phone late at night can delay bedtime and disrupt healthy sleep routines. Frequent interruptions from notifications can make it harder to concentrate on lectures, assignments and examination preparation.

A student who repeatedly switches between studying and social media may struggle to maintain focus, while excessive screen time can reduce opportunities for physical activity and in-person interaction.

When meaningful support is difficult to find at home, in universities or within local communities, online plat-

forms can become an alternative source of companionship and acceptance.

Digital communities can offer genuine benefits. They allow young people to share creative work, learn new skills, discuss common interests and connect with others who understand their experiences.

However, not every online community promotes healthy relationships. Some expose young users to cyberbullying, hateful content, unrealistic beauty standards and harmful social pressures.

Addressing this challenge requires more than asking young people to spend less time on their phones. It also requires creating supportive environments where they can find friendship, recognition and purpose in real life.

How to Improve Digital Well-Being Among Young People Reducing the harmful effects of social media does not require abandoning technology altogether. Digital platforms can support education, professional development, social awareness and creative expression when used responsibly.

The priority should be to promote digital well-being and help young people develop healthier relationships

with technology. What Young People Can Do Young users can begin by setting realistic screen-time limits, switching off unnecessary notifications and avoiding excessive phone use before bedtime. They should also review the accounts they follow and prioritise content that supports learning, creativity and personal growth.

Taking regular breaks from social media can provide more time for studying, exercise, reading and spending time with friends and family.

Joining a sports team, participating in a literary society, learning a practical skill or meeting friends without constantly checking a phone can help strengthen real-world relationships.

Young people should also remember that their personal worth cannot be accurately measured through followers, likes or online popularity.

The Role of Parents and Teachers Parents and teachers have an important role in protecting youth mental health. However, criticism, punishment and comparisons with other children may discourage young people from discussing their difficulties.

Instead, adults should encourage open conversations, listen

without immediately passing judgement and take emotional distress seriously.

Changes in behaviour, persistent withdrawal or signs of anxiety should prompt a supportive conversation rather than automatic criticism. Where emotional difficulties persist, professional mental health support may be appropriate.

Schools and colleges should also help students understand responsible social media use, online privacy, cyberbullying and the importance of seeking help when they feel overwhelmed.

Conclusion: Real Relationships Matter Creating an environment in which young people can talk openly about loneliness and emotional distress is an important step towards reducing stigma around mental health.

What Universities in Balochistan Should Do Universities, including the University of Balochistan, can play a constructive role in promoting student mental health and digital awareness.

Educational institutions should work towards providing accessible and confidential counselling services, organising regular awareness sessions on digital well-being and offering guidance on managing online pressure.

Universities can also strengthen campus life by expanding opportunities for sports, debates, literary activities, cultural events, student societies and community service.

These activities can help students develop friendships, discover their interests and feel connected to a wider community.

For students who struggle with isolation, a supportive campus environment can provide opportunities to build confidence and relationships beyond the digital world.

The Responsibility of Society and Policymakers Promoting youth mental health is not solely the responsibility of individuals and their families. Educational institutions, community organisations, technol-

ogy companies and policymakers also have a role to play.

Digital platforms should take concerns such as cyberbullying, harmful content and excessive engagement seriously. Communities and public institutions should also invest in recreational facilities, youth development programmes and accessible mental health support. In Balochistan, where young people represent an important source of future social and economic progress, investing in their well-being is an investment in the province itself.

Conclusion: Real Relationships Matter More Than Online Likes The youth of Balochistan possess talent, creativity and the ability to contribute meaningfully to society. Their value does not depend on their appearance in filtered photographs, the number of followers they attract or the popularity of their online posts.

Social media can be a useful tool, but it should not become the principal measure of happiness, success or self-worth. Young people need genuine friendships, emotional support, opportunities to develop their abilities and environments in which they can express themselves without fear of rejection. These needs cannot always be fulfilled through a screen.

Families, universities and communities must work together to ensure that digital connectivity complements rather than replaces human relationships.

The real measure of connection is not how many people follow us online, but whether we have someone who listens when we are struggling, supports us during difficult moments and accepts us for who we are.

Young people should be encouraged to use technology wisely, protect their mental health and build meaningful relationships in their everyday lives.

The goal is not to disconnect from the digital world, but to reconnect with ourselves and the people around us.

Balochistan: Qila Saifullah Hailstorm Destroys 7M Fruit Trees, 18,000 Farmers Hit

Atta Kakar: A devastating hailstorm accompanied by powerful winds has caused widespread destruction across Qila Saifullah district in Balochistan, damaging more than 7 million fruit trees and affecting nearly 18,000 farmers and landowners.

The storm struck on April 18, severely impacting one of the province's most important horticultural regions and leaving thousands of rural families facing major economic uncertainty.

The disaster caused extensive damage to orchards, agricultural land, and seasonal crops, particularly apple, apricot, and grape farms that form the backbone of the local economy.

Farmers say

years of hard work and investment were wiped out within minutes as hail and strong winds tore through villages and farming areas across the district. Local growers have described the situation as catastrophic, warning that many families may struggle to survive financially without immediate government assistance.

Agriculture remains the primary source of income for a large portion of Qila Saifullah's population, and the destruction of fruit orchards is expected to have long-term economic consequences for the region.

Residents and farming communities have expressed frustration over delays in relief and compensation efforts.



Many affected farmers claim that official assessment and rehabilitation mea-

sures have been slow despite the scale of destruction. Calls are growing for the provincial and

federal governments to announce emergency compensation packages, interest-free agricultural loans,

and recovery support for affected communities. Farmers and local representatives are also demand-

ing restorers.

They argue that without urgent intervention, the crisis could deepen poverty

and unemployment across the district.

The Qila Saifullah hailstorm has once again highlighted the vulnerability of Balochistan's agricultural sector to extreme weather events. Experts warn that climate-related disasters, including hailstorms, droughts, and flash floods, are becoming increasingly frequent in the province, placing additional pressure on farmers already struggling with limited infrastructure and rising production costs. Analysts say stronger disaster management systems, climate-resilient agricultural policies, and faster emergency response mechanisms are essential to protect rural livelihoods and ensure long-term stability in Balochistan's farming sector.

Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail Urges Youth to Focus on Education and National Development

QUETTA: Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has described youth as the country's greatest strength, saying that comprehensive efforts are being made to develop their potential, empower them, and provide them with opportunities to contribute to national progress.

Addressing participants at a programme organized by the Muslim Students Federation (MSF), the governor urged young people to play an active role in bringing their youth into the national mainstream.

He emphasized the need to embrace Pakistani identity and utilize individual talents for the greater interest of the country and its people.

He said Balochistan was passing through a critical period and advised students to demonstrate patience and tolerance while giving special attention to their education.

The event was attended by Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran, Senator Saeed-ul-Hasan Mandokhail, Parliamentary Secretary



Nawabzada Zareen Khan Magasi, MPA Zarak Khan Mandokhail, Khalil George, and MSF District President Humayun Kakar, among other participants.

Governor

Mandokhail praised Parliamentary Secretary Nawabzada Zareen Khan Magasi and MPA Zarak Khan Mandokhail for their active parliamentary roles, while acknowledging Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran's efforts to address issues faced by young people.

He noted that the participation of several parliamentarians in the MSF programme reflects the importance attached to youth education, development, and future opportunities.

The governor assured students that their needs would receive special consideration in the distribution of the government.

Highlighting progress in higher education, Mandokhail said efforts had been made to improve the academic performance of public-sector universities across Balochistan.

He claimed that the ranking and scoring of all public universities in the province had reached 80 percent, describing the achievement as a matter of pride. Addressing the gathering, Member of the

Balochistan Provincial Assembly Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran said the power of the pen was greater than that of the gun.

He encouraged young people to pursue their struggle through education, knowledge, and intellectual development, emphasizing that the power of the pen could overcome lasting barriers.

Reaffirming the importance of national unity, Khetran said Pakistan's existence was fundamental to the future of its people. He added that young people carried a significant responsibility to help advance both Pakistani and Balochistan in national development.

Parliamentary Sec-

Barkhan DC Saeed Ur Rehman Kakar Reviews Chemical Monitoring and PTTS Implementation



BARKHAN: A meeting was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Barkhan Saeed Ur Rehman Kakar to review the monitoring of chemicals and precursors and ensure the effective implementation of the Precursors Tracking and Traceability System (PTTS).

Officials from relevant departments and law enforcement agencies attended the meeting. During the session, participants conducted a detailed review of the monitoring

of chemical and precursor stocks, transportation, movement, and usage.

The meeting also focused on preventing illegal activities and ensuring the accuracy and proper maintenance of relevant records.

Deputy Commissioner Saeed Ur Rehman Kakar directed the concerned officials to maintain strict surveillance over the movement of precursors and ensure that all relevant information and records under the PTTS are updated promptly.

He also emphasized the importance of effective coordination among departments and the timely exchange of information to strengthen monitoring mechanisms and prevent the misuse of chemicals and precursors.

The meeting underscored the administration's commitment to improving regulatory oversight, ensuring compliance with established procedures, and strengthening the implementation of the PTTS in Barkhan.

Loralai DC Haseeb Shuja Reviews Agricultural Income Tax Recovery and Revenue Department Performance

LORALAI: The 11th review meeting on agricultural income tax collection and the administrative affairs of the Revenue Department was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Loralai, Captain (Retd.) Muhammad Haseeb Shuja.

The meeting reviewed revenue matters, government tax collection, and the overall performance of the Revenue Department in detail.

Key issues discussed included the collection of agricultural income tax, recovery of outstanding dues, and the completion of revenue records, pending revenue cases, protection of government land, and the performance of various sections of the Revenue Department.

During the meeting, concerned revenue officers briefed the Deputy Commissioner on progress in agricultural income tax collection and other revenue-related matters.



The meeting also examined tax recovery across different districts, action against defaulters, and the current status of pending cases.

Deputy Commissioner Captain (Retd.) Muhammad Haseeb Shuja discussed the relevant laws and regulations to achieve the prescribed targets for agricultural income tax and other government revenues under all circumstances.

He emphasized accelerating the recovery of outstanding government dues from defaulters. He made it

clear that negligence or unnecessary delays in collecting outstanding government revenue would not be tolerated.

The Deputy Commissioner also instructed officials to resolve pending revenue cases on a priority basis in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. He stressed the need for effective measures to prevent unnecessary delays for the public and ensure that every case is processed within the prescribed legal framework.

Emphasizing the importance of accurate and properly maintained revenue records, he said that incomplete or incorrect records could create serious difficulties for both the public and the administration. He directed the concerned officials to ensure proper scrutiny and verification of all records and maintain them in line with modern requirements.

Regarding the protection of government land, the Deputy Commissioner instructed the relevant authorities to promptly identify illegal occupation and encroachments on state-

owned property and take appropriate legal action against those responsible.

He observed that the Revenue Department is a vital component of the district administration, as its performance directly affects public service delivery and the collection of government revenues. He urged revenue officers to perform their duties with honesty, transparency, and a strong sense of responsibility while ensuring timely assistance to citizens in revenue-related matters.

The Deputy Commissioner further emphasized that transparency, accountability, effective communication, and timely public relief remain key priorities of the district administration. He stated that the performance of all relevant officers would be reviewed regularly and that negligence, unnecessary delays, or irregularities would not be tolerated.

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Ormara AC Dr. Mahnoor Barakat Visits Four Government Schools to Review Education Standards



ORMARA: In line with the government's education-friendly policies, Assistant Commissioner Ormara Dr. Mahnoor Barakat visited four more government schools to assess educational standards, improve teaching quality, and ensure discipline in public sector educational institutions.

During the visits, Dr. Mahnoor Barakat inspected Government Boys High School Islamia Lane, Government Boys High School Juna Lane, Government

Girls Middle School Koh Bun, and Government Boys Primary School Koh Bun. She reviewed educational activities and available facilities at the schools, focusing on teachers' attendance, student enrolment, teaching practices, infrastructure, and the overall learning environment.

The visits aimed to monitor the performance of educational institutions, improve the effectiveness of the teaching process, and ensure a conducive environment for providing quality

education to students. The continued visits by Assistant Commissioner Dr. Mahnoor Barakat are part of ongoing efforts to strengthen educational monitoring and improve the standard of education in government schools across Ormara.

These initiatives are intended to address students' educational needs, enhance classroom performance, strengthen discipline, and ensure that public sector schools provide a better learning environment for students.

Quetta Metropolitan Corporation Inspects Potential Sites for New Fruit Market

QUETTA: In line with the vision of Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti and the directives of Quetta Metropolitan Corporation Administrator Bashir Ahmed Barech, officials have inspected several locations to assess the feasibility of establishing a dedicated fruit market in the provincial capital.

As part of the initiative, Quetta Metropolitan Corporation Magistrates Imran Zaib and Aamir Qaisrani, accompanied by Zone In-charge Qasim Khan, visited various areas around the Taxi Stand, Ramzi Road, and Airport Road.



During the visit, the officials inspected potential sites and assessed their suitability for establishing an organized fruit market. The team reviewed possible locations to identify an appropriate site that could accommodate fruit vendors and support more orderly commercial activities.

The proposed fruit

market aims to provide vendors with a suitable and organized space to conduct their businesses while reducing the impact of roadside fruit selling on traffic flow across the city.

The initiative is also intended to improve traffic management, facilitate the movement of commuters, and organize commercial activities in busy areas of Quetta.

The Quetta Metropolitan Corporation is currently assessing suitable locations for the proposed market. The selection process aims to balance the needs of fruit vendors

with the convenience of residents and the smooth movement of traffic.

The establishment of a designated fruit market is expected to support better urban management and provide a more organized business environment for vendors, subject to the final selection of an appropriate site.

Balochistan Holds PIO Training Workshop on Right to Information Act 2021 and Transparency

QUETTA: Balochistan Provincial Secretary Imran Khan has emphasized that the right to information is fundamental to transparent governance, accountability, and strengthening public trust.

He said the timely and effective provision of information by government institutions helps keep citizens informed about official affairs and improves institutional performance.

He expressed these views while addressing a training workshop for Public Information Officers (PIOs) on Section 5 of the Information Act 2021, which deals with proactive disclosure of information.

The workshop was organized by Transparency International Pakistan in collaboration with the Balochistan Information Commission.

The provincial secretary highlighted the important role of Public Information Officers in promoting transparency across government departments, ensuring compliance with legal requirements, and providing citizens with accurate, authentic, and timely information.

PTI asked to look inward; warned against further talks

NEWS DESK: Majority of PTI lawmakers on Tuesday opposed further efforts to negotiate with the powers that be, arguing that the latter had already secured what they wanted, and that pursuing further talks would "only show weakness".

Several members also expressed dissatisfaction with the party leadership's handling of the prevailing challenges, questioning its decisions and overreliance on then-Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister Sohail Afridi.

Heated arguments were witnessed during a joint parliamentary party meeting that lasted over seven hours, with some questioning why the top leadership had handed so much authority to Mr Afridi, who, they said, held no position within the party hierarchy.

On the other hand, around 15 lawmakers favoured supporting the proposed amendment, arguing that it could help normalise relations with the establishment and pave the way for the release of Imran Khan.

The meeting, held at Parliament House to discuss the prevailing political situation and the party's future strategy, was chaired by PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan. Former National Assembly speaker

Asad Qaiser, Senator Ali Zafar and Chief Whip Malik Amir Dogar were in attendance.

An insider, requesting anonymity, said that most participants, including Mr Qaiser, had rejected further efforts

although morale had declined following the PTI government's removal in KP; the party had not lost public support. Another participant said Mr Qaiser presented a pre-written declaration containing

after his son was arrested near Khairan and stayed in Lahore until his son was released. Azam Swati urged Barrister Gohar and his colleagues to step down, while MNA Shah Ahmad also criticised the lead-



to negotiate.

Some criticised Barrister Gohar and Secretary General Salman Akram Raja, questioning why the party leadership appeared to be functioning under Mr Afridi. They alleged that the top leadership had left everything to the KP chief minister, who had become non-functional after the imposition of governor's rule in KP because of its interest in transfers, postings and financial matters in the province.

Public support The insider said members believed that

points that had not been discussed at the meeting, annoying several members. At this, Faisal Amin Gandapur reacted by asking, "Is this a joke?" and walked out following an exchange with Barrister Gohar.

Mobeen Arif Jutt questioned why the party was not speaking up for leaders who were in jail or in hiding, saying he felt embarrassed when speaking to them. He also criticised opposition leader Mahmood Khan Achakzai, alleging that Mr Achakzai had contacted Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz

ership. Peshawar MNA Sher Ali said party leaders were receiving calls asking them to surrender to the police or face police raids on their homes.

Consultations go on

After the meeting, party whip Amir Dogar said several prevailing issues had been discussed, but decisions would be taken after consultation with leaders of the opposition in both houses.

This was the first session and another meeting would follow, he said.

NA, GB Assembly adopt resolutions on Black Day

NEWS DESK: Pakti-i-4-an observed Kashmir Black Day on Tuesday, reaffirming solidarity with the Kashmiris as the Nat-i-onal Ass-embly unanimously passed a resolution marking the 79th anniversary of Indian troops' landing in Srinagar on October 27, 1947.

The resolution was jointly moved by Federal Minister Amir Muqam and Kashmir Committee Chairman Rana Muhammad Qasim Noon during a session chaired by Deputy Speaker Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah.

The resolution condemned human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and called upon the international community to fulfil its responsibilities towards a just and lasting resolution of the dispute.

The resolution stated that Indian forces landed in Srinagar on October 27, 1947, marking the beginning of India's illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir and one of the

darkest chapters in the history of the Kashmiri people.

It noted that the Jammu and Kashmiri people remained one of the oldest un-solved international disputes in the United Nations agenda and reaffirmed the inalienable right of the Kashmiri people to self-determination under

struggle for this fundamental right. It also paid tribute to generations of Kashmiri men, women and children for their courage, resilience and sacrifices in their struggle for dignity, freedom and self-determination.

It expressed grave concern over the continued incarceration of

India's unilateral actions of Aug 5, 2019, and subsequent measures aimed at changing the internationally recognised disputed status and demographic character of the region. It also expressed serious concern over measures intended to bring about demographic and political changes in the occupied



the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. The resolution reiterated Pakti-i-4-an's unwavering moral, political and diplomatic support for the people of Jammu and Kashmir and one of the

Kashmiri political leaders and activists and attempts to silence the legitimate political aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

The resolution categorically rejected

territory, emphasising that no unilateral action or political process conducted under occupation could substitute for the Kashmiri people's exercise of their right to self-determination.

Imaan, Hadi allege security breach case 'nothing more than harassment' for their human rights work

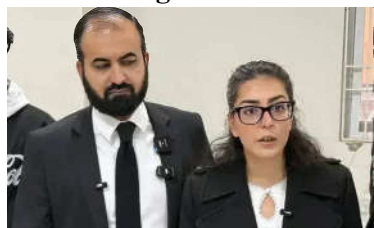
NEWS DESK: Human rights lawyer Imaan Zamah Mazari-Hazir and her husband, Hadi Ali Chattha, have alleged that the case against them pertaining to a security breach was "nothing more than harassment" for their legal and human rights work, falling under the broader pattern of targeting through "reprisals".

On Tuesday, the case concluded at Adiala Jail, with the anti-terrorism court (ATC) reserving its verdict.

Both accused recorded their statements under Section 342 (power to examine the accused) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, while final arguments by the state counsel also concluded during the proceedings.

Imaan and Hadi are facing a jail trial in a 2024 case on the alleged disruption of an international cricket team's security route and incitement to public unrest.

The couple, accused of removing bar-



riers from the route, were indicted on Oct 7.

"The evidence produced during this trial is not against us, but in fact a charge sheet against (prosecution witnesses) police officials and the state," Imaan and Hadi said in their separate similar recorded statements available with Dawn.

They claimed that the prosecution witnesses were "part and parcel" of the state machinery that had allegedly targeted them for

their human rights work and provision of pro bono legal assistance and services to the marginalised and oppressed communities, including street vendors and victims of false blasphemy allegations and enforced disappearances.

"I am a prisoner of conscience who has been at the receiving end of state persecution," the statements by the lawyer couple read.

Imaan pointed out that the entire jail trial had been challenged by the couple in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) as well as the Supreme Court (SC).

Further, the trial was conducted with Imaan and her husband being presented in a cage, preventing effective communication with their counsel or the court, she said.

"From day one, our constitutional rights to fair trial, due process and basic human dignity have been infringed," she stated.

'Have no illusions': Kundi tells Afghan Taliban Pakistan will not tolerate attacks after Angoor Adda firing

NEWS DESK: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi condemned on Wednesday the latest instance of firing from across the Afghan border in Lower Waziristan, asserting that Pakistan would "never tolerate" attacks on its people or violations of its sovereignty.

The incident took place on Tuesday night when Afghan security forces opened unprovoked fire on Pakistan Army border posts and residential areas in the Angoor Adda border area. The firing resulted in the death of a local resident and left five of a family injured as a mortar landed on their house.

The Lower South Waziristan deputy commissioner confirmed the casualties in a post on X, saying that several shops were also damaged and heavily "hit".

"Pakistan's forces on the border have and are responding effectively and heavily," he said in his post on X.

The morning after the firing incident, Governor Kundi strongly condemned the "unpro-



voiced and blatant aggression by the Afghan Taliban regime against civilian homes and Angoor Adda Bazaar in Lower South Waziristan".

"I salute Pakistan's armed forces for their swift, forceful and decisive response. Let the Afghan Taliban regime have no illusions: Pakistan will never tolerate attacks on its people or violations of its sovereignty," he said in his post on X.

The governor added that KP had "sac-

rificed thousands of lives in the fight against terrorism, and we will not allow anyone to threaten our people or undermine our security".

"Any aggression against Pakistan will be confronted with unwavering resolve. Our armed forces have the full backing of the nation to defend every inch of our soil, and no threat or hostile act will weaken our determination to protect Pakistan," he warned.

Adviser to KP Governor on Information and

Public Relations Samar Haroon Bilour also posted on X that the "cowards" had once again struck at night.

"They will have to face consequences," she added.

The firing from the Afghan side on Tuesday prompted a swift response from security forces.

According to officials, the firing originated from posts located inside Afghan territory, and targeted Pakistani border posts with sniper, small and heavy weapons.

1,500 prisoners to be shifted to Islamabad Model Jail in first phase: Naqvi

NEWS DESK: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday said prisoners from Islamabad will be shifted to the new model jail in the capital which is awaiting inauguration by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Talking to media at the newly-built Islamabad Model Jail, Naqvi, accompanied by State Minister for Interior Talal Chaudhry, said the jail project faced prolonged delay. It was started by the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration with the federal government's funding. The ICT and the government had authorised the now defunct Public Works De-

completion. He said with the efforts of the state minister and the CDA this project has now been completed. The minister also visited various sections of the jail including the 35-bed hospital and kitchen. It is relevant to note here that the jail project faced prolonged delay. It was started by the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration with the federal government's funding. The ICT and the government had authorised the now defunct Public Works De-

partment (PWD) for execution of the project. But work remained either stuck or continued with

a slow pace. In 2024, the project was handed over to CDA for execution, which managed the completion of its first phase on a fast track basis. This phase-I project has been completed at a cost of around Rs7 billion, including fund utilised by PWD. In 2016, the project was handed over to the CDA. The project's total cost is Rs3.9 billion, its completion deadline was 2019.

Meanwhile, the interior minister visited Kashmir Chowk underpass and reviewed the pace and progress of on-

er expressed satisfaction over the pace of construction and appreciated the progress achieved so far, read a statement issued by the interior ministry. The minister said if construction continued at the current pace, the project could be completed in less than 30 days. CDA officials said work continued at the site with full pace and it could be completed before November 5. They said after 18 days, the physical progress of the work was around 75pc. The prime



ment (PWD) for execution of the project. But work remained either stuck or continued with

going construction work. The project was launched 17 days ago. "The interior minister had laid the foundation stone of this project worth Rs1.4 billion on October 6.

Lahore again ranks world's most polluted major city as smog worsens

NEWS DESK: Lahore was ranked the world's most polluted major city on Wednesday morning as smog thickened over the city with the onset of colder weather.

In the past few years, air pollution has become one of the most pressing public health and environmental crises facing Pakistan. Various cities of the country, most notably Lahore, deal with smog, especially in the winter months. The phenomenon is attributed mainly to industrial emissions, vehicular pollution, stubble burning and air movement.

According to the live air quality ranking published by Swiss air quality monitoring platform IQAir, Lahore recorded an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 296 at 10am on October 28, placing it at the top of the list of the world's major cities.

Cairo ranked second with an AQI of 289, followed by Delhi at 272. Tashkent stood fourth with an AQI of 186, while Karachi ranked fifth at 173, according to the readings.

placed Lahore and Cairo in the city's deteriorating category under the US AQI scale, while Delhi's air quality was also in the same category.

An AQI reading of 296 indicates a high level of air pollution that can pose health risks, particularly for children, older people and those with respiratory or heart conditions.

The worsening air quality coincided with colder conditions in Lahore during the early morning, when smog reduced visibility and

added to concerns over the city's deteriorating air quality. Residents were advised to limit prolonged outdoor exertion when pollution levels were high, particularly those with asthma and other respiratory conditions.

He said the machinery was being used to suppress dust on roads and in surrounding areas to limit its spread.

"Development work in Lahore and other cities of the province was also contributing to pollution," he added.

Anti-smog guns were being deployed on a priority basis in areas where higher pollution readings were recorded, particularly at locations with elevated levels of PM10 (particulate matter), he added.

He said the machinery was being used to suppress dust on roads and in surrounding areas to limit its spread.

"Development work in Lahore and other cities of the province was also contributing to pollution," he added.

