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Balochistan Cracks Down on Official Vehicle Misuse...

Balochistan Political Leaders Support Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) Protest for Press Freedom

ALI HAMZA:

QUETTA: Political leaders in Balochistan have thrown their weight behind the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) nationwide protest movement, demanding press freedom, protection of journalists and improved working conditions for media employees.

The political leaders expressed their support during a roundtable conference organised by the Balochistan Union of Journalists (BUJ) and Quetta Press Club at the Quetta Press Club as part of the PFUJ's countrywide protest campaign.

The conference was attended by National Party President and former Balochistan chief minister Dr Abdul Malik Baloch, Balochistan National Party-Awami chief and MPA Mir Asad Baloch, Jamaat-e-Islami Balochistan chief and MPA Maulana Hidayat ur Rehman, and senior journalists.

Addressing the gathering, Maulana Hidayat ur Rehman said journalists in Balochistan were facing serious challenges, while restrictions on journalism had affected press freedom across the province.

He said Jamaat-e-Islami fully supported the journalists' nationwide protest movement and stood with the media community in its struggle for professional rights.



Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) nationwide protest movement, demanding press freedom. Photo Daily Quetta Voice

Mir Asad Baloch said journalists were fighting not for personal interests but for the rights of society and the public at large.

He criticised media house owners for earning substantial profits without providing adequate facilities to their employees. He also alleged that some major media owners had earned money in Balochistan and invested in properties abroad.

He reiterated his party's support for the nationwide campaign and called for addressing the problems confronting working journalists.

Former chief minister Dr Abdul Malik Baloch urged journalists to prepare a resolution outlining their professional and economic challenges, saying he would also raise their concerns in the Senate.

Criticising the country's political and governance system, he said a small section of the elite continued to exercise influence while ordinary citizens remained deprived of basic facilities.

He said authoritarian governments had repeatedly undermined democratic and social principles, while major political par

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United Kingdom (UK), Pakistan geological surveys plan partnership for mineral....

In hard-hitting speech, Bilawal says system was 'made to collapse'

NEWS DESK:

Amid debate on a "system reset" in the country, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari said on Tuesday that the governance system had not collapsed, but was rather "made to collapse".

Over the past few months, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has whipped up a political storm since he called for the formation



of new administrative units in the country,

saying the current "system" of governance had "collapsed" and needed a "reset".

During his speech at the Karachi Press Club, Bilawal recalled Naqvi's remarks and said, "Nobody objects that the system has collapsed, but there is no discussion and debate on why it collapsed."

He noted that the proposed solution "was not an actual remedy to the illness due to which we suffered a system collapse".

"If we want to focus on resolving the issues of the public, if we want to fight poverty, unemployment, inflation, then we absolutely need to decide why the system collapsed," the Bhutto scion said.

Senate Panel Raises Concerns Over Panjgur Dam, Balochistan Jobs Quota

FAIZAN ASLAM KHAN

ISLAMABAD : A Senate subcommittee on less-developed areas has reviewed Balochistan's development projects and the implementation of the province's quota in federal jobs, while raising concerns over the proposed design of the Panjgur Dam and its potential impact on local communities, agricultural land and traditional irrigation systems.

The meeting, chaired by Senator Jan Muhammad Buledi at Parliament House, reviewed the Aghaz-e-Huqooq-e-Balochistan Package, ongoing development schemes and recruitment against Balochistan's quota in federal ministries, divisions and autonomous institutions.

Officials told the committee that complete and updated data on appointments against Balochistan's federal quota was not available.

The Establishment Division is now compiling fresh data on vacancies, appointments and allocated quotas. The committee directed authorities to submit separate details for Grade 1–5 and Grade 6–16 posts. Buledi also demanded details of the 5,000 posts allocated to Balochistan and stressed that the province must receive its due share in federal



employment.

Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal said around Rs200 billion had been allocated for development projects in Balochistan. He said the N-25 project, costing more than Rs400 billion, was targeted for completion within two years.

The committee expressed particular concern over the Panjgur Dam. Officials said the project is designed to irrigate around 25,000 acres, while its revised design now proposes pipelines instead of open canals to protect agricultural land and thousands of date-palm trees.

The project director said Panjgur previously had 118 karezes, irrigating nearly 6,000 acres, but 72 have been affected by changing water-extraction practices.

The committee also sought a detailed WAPDA report on the Gish Kaur Dam, including its potential impact on downstream agriculture and water flows to Mirani Dam.

The committee stressed that Balochistan's development projects must prioritize local communities, agricultural resources, employment, transparency and traditional irrigation systems.

BALOCHISTAN OFFICERS REPATRIATED AFTER 14 YEARS ON FEDERAL DEPUTATION

MUHAMMAD FAIZAN ASLAM KHAN:

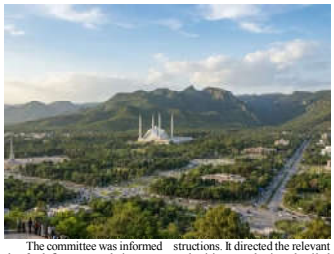
Several government officers from Balochistan have been sent back to their provincial departments after spending 10 to 14 years on deputation in federal institutions, highlighting concerns over staff shortages and the implementation of the province's employment quota

The disclosure was made during a meeting of the Senate Sub-Committee on Problems of Less Developed Areas, chaired by Senator Jan Muhammad Buledi, which reviewed Balochistan's representation in federal ministries, divisions, autonomous bodies and civil armed forces.

Officials informed the committee that several provincial employees had remained posted in federal institutions for more than a decade. Those repatriated included education professionals such as professors, lecturers and subject specialists.

The prolonged deputation had affected staffing levels in provincial departments and created difficulties in filling vacant positions, officials said.

Secretary Establishment Division acknowledged that comprehensive data on Balochistan employees serving in federal institutions was not readily available. He proposed examining vacancies in grades 1 to 5 separately from positions in grades 6 to 16 to assess the actual implementation of the provincial quota.



The committee was informed that fresh figures were being compiled on the prime minister's instructions. It directed the relevant authorities to submit a detailed comparison of positions allocated to Balochistan, employees currently working against those posts and vacant seats.

Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal said Balochistan's development was essential for Pakistan's overall progress and remained a priority for the federal government.

He said the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) was facing severe financial constraints, with its allocation declining from 2.6 per cent of GDP in 2018 to almost zero under the prevailing financial situation. Despite these challenges, approximately Rs200 billion had been allocated for Balochistan, he added.

The minister described the N-25 highway as a major flagship project for the province, with an estimated cost exceeding Rs400 billion and a two-year completion target.

He also stressed the importance of water development projects.

The proposed Panjgur Dam project also came under discussion, with lawmakers expressing concerns over its potential impact on local communities, agricultural land, date palm orchards and the traditional irrigation system.

Senator Jan Muhammad Buledi questioned whether the existing irrigation network had been properly assessed before the project was planned. He stressed that development schemes should deliver direct benefits to local residents and suggested considering smaller dams as an alternative.

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 sediment 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 Are Making the Problem 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



is left exposed.

In many areas, trees and shrubs are cut for fuelwood and construction. Over time, the loss of vegetation leaves hillsides and open land more vulnerable to wind and water.

Livestock grazing is another important part of life in Bolan, but too much grazing can place enormous pressure on fragile rangelands. Goats, sheep and cattle depend on these lands for food, while local families depend on livestock for income and survival. The problem arises when grazing becomes excessive and vegetation does not have enough time to recover.

Without sufficient grass and shrub cover, the soil is exposed. Repeated movement of animals can also compact the ground, making it harder for rainwater to enter the soil. More water then flows across the surface, taking soil with it.Farming Practices and the Loss of Fertility

Farmers in Bolan are working under difficult circumstances. Water is scarce, rainfall is uncertain and access to modern agricultural resources can be limited. Many farming practices have developed out of necessity rather than choice.

However, some 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.

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 vegetation can damage natural habitats and reduce biodiversity.

If degradation continues for years without intervention, productive land may gradually become severely degraded and increasingly difficult to cultivate. For Balochistan, where cultivable land is already limited, losing even more agricultural land could have serious consequences.

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. 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 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 rangelands 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 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.

Pakistan's Climate Vulnerability: A Governance Dilemma

Zia Ud Din:

Pakistan contributes less than one percent to global carbon emissions, yet it consistently ranks among the countries most exposed to climate-induced disasters. This imbalance is not merely an environmental concern; it reflects governance dilemma rooted in a weak institutional coordination and limited adaptation planning.

Climate change is one of the most pressing challenges of the modern era, adversely affecting societies at multiple levels.

Rising temperatures, droughts, irregular weather patterns, sea-level rise, melting glaciers, floods, and water insecurity demonstrate its far-reaching global consequences. Since these impacts transcend national borders, climate change is inherently a global challenge. Along with other developing nations, Pakistan remains highly vulnerable. In 2024, Pakistan recorded its ninth warmest year in the last 64 years, with an average temperature of 23.52°C and rainfall levels 31 percent above the historical average. This highlights the urgency of collective international action.



For Pakistan, however, climate vulnerability is compounded by governance constraints. Fragmented institutional coordination, weak policy implementation, and limited emphasis on adaptation have reduced the state's capacity to respond effectively. Consequently, the climate crisis in Pakistan reflects not only environmental stress but also persistent governance failures. Climate change refers to long-term shifts in global weather patterns and temperatures, primarily driven by human activities.

According to United Nations findings, excessive greenhouse gas emissions have intensified heat retention in the atmosphere. Gases such as carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide have thickened the atmospheric blanket, largely due to deforestation, fossil fuel consumption, and rapid industrialization.

One of the most visible consequences of climate change is rising global temperatures.

The Copernicus Climate Change Service reported that average global temperatures in 2024 exceeded pre-industrial levels by 1.52°C. This warming has intensified heatwaves, prolonged droughts, and increased wildfire risks. Rising temperatures have also disrupted weather systems, leading to irregular rainfall, intense storms, and stronger hurricanes.

Another major consequence is sea-level rise. Oceans absorb nearly 90 percent of excess heat caused by greenhouse gas emissions, leading to thermal expansion. Simultaneously, melting glaciers and ice sheets contribute to rising sea levels.

According to Encyclopedia Britannica, global sea levels have risen by approximately 21 to 25 centimeters since 1880, threatening coastal livelihoods and infrastructure. Climate change has also intensified water scarcity, a growing global concern. Pakistan is already a water-stressed country, and climate variability has further exacerbated this challenge.

Balochistan Governor Directs SSGC to Ensure Full Gas Pressure, Uninterrupted Supply During Winter



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has directed officials of Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) to ensure uninterrupted gas supply at full pressure to all consumers and take practical measures for the prompt resolution of public complaints.

He also called for extending gas supply hours in Quetta until 11:00 PM during the winter season to provide maximum relief to residents.

The Governor issued these directions during a meeting with SSGC General Manager Muhammad Raheel Siddiqui Malik and Chief Manager Billing Muhammad Imran at Governor House Quetta.

Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail said that the people of Balochistan were facing serious economic challenges, including poverty, unemployment, and low per capita income. Therefore, he stressed the need to provide special relief to consumers and explore possibilities of supplying gas at subsidized rates to the maximum extent possible.

He emphasized that all public complaints regarding gas supply and related services must be addressed promptly to prevent unnecessary difficulties for consumers.

The Governor said that providing relief to the people of Balochistan, particularly residents of Quetta, and improving their overall quality of life should remain a priority for the government and relevant institutions.

He added that improving gas supply, ensuring timely complaint resolution, and addressing consumer grievances required effective and coordinated measures.

Governor Raises Concerns Over Ban on New Gas Connections

Governor Mandokhail also highlighted the difficulties faced by consumers due to the restrictions on new gas connections.

He said that people waiting for new connections were experiencing considerable difficulties, while some consumers were being forced to rely on alternative sources of energy.

He urged the relevant authorities to find a practical and appropriate solution to this issue to reduce public hardships.

Governor Appeals for Timely Payment of Gas Bills

The Governor also appealed to consumers to cooperate with the government and relevant institutions by paying their outstanding gas bills on time.

He explained that non-payment of bills negatively affected the operational performance of utility companies and ultimately created difficulties for consumers themselves.

SSGC Briefs Governor on Recent Measures

During the meeting, SSGC General Manager Muhammad Raheel Siddiqui Malik briefed the Governor on the company's recently introduced measures, public awareness campaigns for consumers, and challenges being faced by the organization.

The meeting focused on improving gas supply services, addressing public complaints, providing winter relief, and exploring solutions to issues faced by gas consumers across Balochistan, particularly in Quetta.

DC Naseerabad Virender Lal Orders Crackdown on Illegal Water Connections and Water Theft from Rabi Canal



NASEERABAD: Deputy Commissioner Naseerabad, Virender Lal, chaired an important meeting of irrigation officials to review measures against illegal water connections, unfair distribution of agricultural water, and prevention of water theft from the Rabi Canal.

The meeting was attended by Chief Engineer Irrigation Qurban Ali Jatoi, Superintending Engineer Mudassir Zafar Khosa, and other relevant departmental officials.

During the meeting, officials gave a detailed briefing on enforcement actions taken against illegal connections along the Rabi Canal, the unequal distribution of irrigation water, and ongoing efforts to prevent water theft.

Addressing the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Virender Lal said that agricultural water was a vital national and economic resource, and its fair distribution would be ensured at all costs.

He made it clear that no individual, farmer, or landowner would be allowed to illegally obtain more water than their allocated share or deprive other farmers of their legitimate rights.

He emphasized that injustice, favoritism, and illegal practices in the distribution of irrigation water would not be tolerated under any circumstances. The Deputy Commissioner directed irrigation authorities to maintain continuous monitoring of the Rabi Canal and take indiscriminate legal action against those involved in illegal water connections, water theft, or drawing water beyond their allocated share.

He stressed that canal water must be distributed strictly according to the prescribed schedule and established regulations to ensure timely and adequate water supply, particularly to farmers in tail-end areas.

Virender Lal further stated that irrigation officials had a fundamental responsibility to perform their professional duties effectively, remain present in the field, and closely supervise the water distribution system.

Balochistan IGP Muhammad Tahir Announces Rs. 1 Million for Modern Gym at Qasim Lines Quetta



QUETTA: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Balochistan, Muhammad Tahir, visited Qasim Lines in Quetta, where he was warmly received by Additional IGP and Commandant Balochistan Constabulary Ashfaq Ahmed, SSP Operations Division Malik Asghar Usman, Ms. Sumaiya Saleem, Ms. Tehreem Zafar, SSP Headquarters Kamal Khan Kabezai, zonal commanders, wing commanders, and other senior police officers.

During the visit, the IGP inspected various sections of Qasim Lines, including the Motor Transport (MT) Section, fire simulator, barracks, residential quarters, offices, and canteen.

He reviewed the available facilities and sought information about the accommodation and other basic amenities provided to police personnel.

Addressing police personnel on the occasion, IGP Muhammad Tahir said that the members of the police force were a valuable asset of the department and that their welfare, health, and basic needs remained among the top priorities.

He assured the personnel that all possible measures would be taken to provide them with improved facilities. He particularly emphasized better medical treatment, educational opportunities for their children, and other welfare-related initiatives.

Appreciating the dedication and professional commitment of police personnel, the IGP urged them to maintain high morale and consider police service not merely a government job but a noble responsibility of serving and protecting the public.

He encouraged officers and personnel to perform their duties with dedication, honesty, commitment, and professional integrity.

Speaking on the occasion, Additional IGP and Commandant Balochistan Constabulary Ashfaq Ahmed announced that a modern gym facility would be established at Qasim Lines to promote the physical fitness, health, and overall well-being of police personnel, while also enhancing their professional capabilities.

On the occasion, IGP Muhammad Tahir announced the allocation of Rs. 1 million for the establishment of the modern gym and assured that further steps would also be taken to improve the welfare and provision of essential facilities for police personnel.

At the conclusion of the visit, the IGP listened to the concerns and problems of police personnel and issued necessary instructions to the concerned officers on the spot for the immediate resolution of several issues.

He reiterated his commitment to continuing practical measures aimed at improving the welfare of the Balochistan Police force, providing a better working and living environment, and strengthening the professional capacity of police personnel.

DC Sherani Kaleemullah Kakar Inspects Ongoing Development Projects, Directs Officials to Ensure Quality and Timely Completion



SHERANI: Deputy Commissioner Sherani, Kaleemullah Kakar, inspected various ongoing development projects across the district and conducted a detailed review of construction quality, work progress, and the different stages of project implementation.

During the visit, he directed the concerned officials and construction staff to ensure high standards of quality in all development schemes and complete construction work in accordance with approved designs, prescribed standards, and government regulations.

Reviewing the pace of work, the Deputy Commissioner said that development projects were essential for public welfare and the overall progress of the region. He made it clear that delays in completing these schemes would not be tolerated.

He instructed the relevant departments and contractors to fulfil their responsibilities with honesty and professionalism to ensure that all projects were completed within their stipulated timelines.

Kaleemullah Kakar further warned that negligence regarding the use of substandard construction materials, poor-quality work, unnecessary delays, and inefficient utilization of public funds would not be tolerated.

He directed all concerned officers to regularly monitor development activities and keep the district administration informed about the progress of ongoing projects.

The Deputy Commissioner said that the district administration's foremost priorities included

providing basic facilities to the public, maintaining transparency in government development projects, and ensuring the effective utilization of available resources in the public interest.

He added that the timely and quality completion of development schemes would improve the district's infrastructure and provide direct relief to local communities.

He also instructed the relevant authorities to strengthen project monitoring mechanisms, immediately resolve obstacles affecting construction work, and ensure that neither the pace nor the quality of development projects was compromised.

The Deputy Commissioner expressed his resolve that the district administration would continue to closely monitor all ongoing development projects and ensure transparency, quality, and timely completion of schemes undertaken for public welfare in Sherani district.

PDMA Balochistan Holds Provincial Consultation on Preventing Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies (GBViE)



QUETTA: The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Balochistan, through its Gender and Child Cell (GCC), organized an important provincial consultation meeting on the prevention of Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies (GBViE) and the protection of affected individuals at the PDMA Conference Hall in Quetta.

The meeting was held on the special directives of Director General PDMA Balochistan, Jahanzaib Khan Ghorizai, under the supervision of Director Planning and Coordination, Naveed Ahmed.

The consultation was attended by GBV Expert Ms. Anam Malik Mengal, Programme Assistant Hammad-ul-Haq Khan, and representatives from various government departments and humanitarian organizations.

During the meeting, participants also discussed joint planning and effective inter-agency coordination for the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign 2026. Emphasis was placed on strengthening institutional collaboration and ensuring coordinated efforts to prevent gender-based violence, particularly during emergencies and disasters.

Participants agreed that all relevant departments would nominate their respective focal persons and share details of their proposed activities with one another. This initiative aims to strengthen coordination among institutions, clearly define roles and responsibilities, and ensure the delivery of safe, dignified, confidential, and survivor-centred services to affected individuals.

At the conclusion of the meeting, participants reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the protection of women, girls, children, and other vulnerable groups during disaster preparedness, response, and relief operations.

PDMA Balochistan reiterated its resolve to continue working towards safeguarding the dignity, fundamental rights, and well-being of vulnerable communities while ensuring inclusive and gender-responsive disaster management across the province.

Balochistan Government Approves Charter of Internal Audit to Strengthen Financial Transparency and Accountability



QUETTA: The Government of Balochistan has approved the Charter of Internal Audit, marking a significant step towards strengthening financial management, promoting transparency, ensuring accountability, and improving compliance with government rules, regulations, and financial policies across provincial departments.

The initiative has been introduced by the Finance Department, Government of Balochistan, with the primary objective of establishing an effective, structured, and professional internal audit system across provincial government departments.

The new framework aims to identify institutional weaknesses, financial and administrative irregularities, and deviations from prescribed rules and regulations, while recommending appropriate corrective measures to improve departmental performance.

Under the approved mechanism, reports highlighting weaknesses, shortcomings, and irregularities identified during internal audits will be submitted to the concerned Principal Accounting Officers (PAOs). They will be responsible for reviewing the audit findings and ensuring that necessary corrective actions are taken.

The primary objective of the internal audit system is not merely to identify irregularities but also to improve financial and administrative management, strengthen internal controls, and introduce reforms to prevent similar issues in the future.

Furthermore, internal audit reports will serve as important supporting documents for external audits, helping government departments improve their audit preparedness and institutional accountability. Finance Department Establishes Dedicated Internal Audit Unit

To implement the initiative effectively, the Finance Department has established a dedicated Internal Audit Unit under the supervision of the Chief Internal Audit.

The unit will perform audit functions in accordance with the approved charter and defined scope, upon the request of the concerned Principal Accounting Officer.

Partnership with ICAP to Strengthen Professional Expertise

As part of efforts to enhance institutional capacity and professional expertise, the Finance Department has engaged audit specialists and included Chartered Accountancy (CA) interns in the Internal Audit Unit.

For this purpose, the department has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP), Karachi, establishing an institutional arrangement for professional internships of CA trainees.

Two-Week Specialized Training Programme for Auditors

To further strengthen technical expertise and professional capabilities, the Finance Department has also launched a two-week specialized training programme for CA interns and auditors.

Highly qualified, experienced professionals and subject-matter experts are being invited as guest speakers to deliver training on modern auditing techniques, practical skills, and professional standards.

These training and capacity-building initiatives are expected to significantly improve the professional capabilities of the Internal Audit Unit, the quality of audit reports, and overall operational efficiency.

As a result, audit teams will be better equipped to complete their assigned responsibilities efficiently, professionally, and within the prescribed timelines.

Government Boys High School Hazara Society Wins Chief Minister Balochistan Inter-School Hockey Tournament 2026

QUETTA: The final of the Chief Minister Balochistan Inter-School Hockey Tournament 2026 was held in Quetta between Iqra Rozat-ul-Quran Lil Attfal and Government Boys High School Hazara Society, with Secretary Schools Education Balochistan, Lal Jan Jaffar, attending as the chief guest.

The ceremony was attended by Special Assistant to the Chief Minister for Home Affairs Babar Yousafzai, Secretary Sports Dura Baloch, Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Yasser Bazai, Special Secretary Education Rizwan Qadeer, Deputy Secretary Education Javed Kurd, District Education Officer Dr. Naseer Ahmed Shah, General Secretary Balochistan Hockey Association Syed Amin Shah, District President of Iqra Schools Muhammad Shakir, along with senior government officials, sports personalities, teachers, and students.

Addressing the gathering, Secretary Schools Education Lal Jan Jaffar said that sports are an essential component of students' education, training, and overall development.

He stated that participation in sports helps young people develop discipline, tolerance, self-confidence, teamwork, and leadership skills.

He emphasized that promoting sports activities in educational institutions was essential to ensuring that students remained physically and mentally healthy alongside their academic pursuits.

He further stated that, in line with the vision of Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, the provincial government was committed to providing better sporting opportunities to the younger generation and encouraging positive extracurricular activities in educational institutions.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary Sports Dura Baloch said.

Iranian FM Araghchi meets CDF Munir, discusses regional security and geopolitical developments

NEWS DESK: Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) and Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Field Marshal Asim Munir met Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi to discuss regional security, geopolitical developments and bilateral cooperation, the military's media wing said on Tuesday.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), a high-level Iranian delegation led by the Iranian FM Araghchi called on CDF Munir on November 16.

The ISPR said during the meeting, both sides discussed "matters of mutual interest, regional security dynamics and evolving geopolitical developments," adding further that the two sides also exchanged views on exploring ways to "address common security challenges."

The field marshal emphasised the "importance of sustained engagement, mutual trust and close coordination" between the "two brotherly countries to promote regional peace and stability," the statement added.

"The Iranian foreign minister praised Pakistan's constructive role in promoting regional peace and stability and said Iran wants to further strengthen bilateral relations with Pakistan," the statement concluded.

A day earlier, Araghchi arrived in Islamabad to attend the 30th Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) Council of Ministers Meeting. He was received at the airport by



Additional Foreign Secretary Muhammad Tariq Wazir and other officers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Foreign Office (FO) said.

During a meeting on the sidelines of the ECO ministerial meeting, Dar and Araghchi reviewed bilateral relations and discussed regional and international developments of mutual interest, the FO said.

The two sides reaffirmed the close and brotherly ties between Pakistan and Iran and pledged to strengthen bilateral cooperation through continued high-level engagement, according to the FO.

He congratulated Pakistan on successfully hosting the ECO ministerial meeting and appreciated the discussions, hospitality and arrangements made for the event, the statement said.

Speaking at a media briefing after the 30th meeting of the ECO, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said Pakistan has not given up on its efforts to promote peace between the United States and Iran and remains committed to pursuing dialogue and de-escalation.

He said Pakistan would continue its diplomatic efforts to support dialogue and achieve lasting peace and stability in the region and beyond.

He said regional stability, respect for international law and adherence to treaties were essential for strengthening connectivity and achieving shared economic progress. He also stressed the need for disputes to be resolved peacefully through dialogue and diplomacy in accordance with international law and the UN Charter.

Dar said Pakistan was still awaiting a response from the United States to its proposal, adding that Islamabad remained hopeful of a breakthrough. "We are still waiting for the US response. We have not lost hope and continue to make every effort to resolve the situation," he said.

Pakistan, Turkmenistan discuss ways to strengthen trade, energy, regional connectivity ties

NEWS DESK: Pakistan and Turkmenistan on Tuesday discussed ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation in trade, investment, energy and regional connectivity during the sixth session of the Pakistan–Turkmenistan Joint Intergovernmental Commission (JIC) in Islamabad.

The session was co-chaired by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Turkmenistan's Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), the two sides reviewed bilateral cooperation and explored opportunities in energy, transit trade, agriculture, food security, transport, communications, industry, information technology, education, health, banking, tourism, sports and culture.

Both countries emphasised the importance of stronger business-to-business engagement and institutional partnerships to translate their longstanding relations into practical economic projects.

Dar stressed the



Groups, close institutional coordination and regular follow-up.

He said the commission provided an important framework for reviewing previous agreements, assessing progress and identifying practical steps to expand economic cooperation.

The session was attended by the federal ministers for power, commerce and petroleum, ministers of state for federal education and national heritage, and senior officials from relevant ministries and departments.Earlier, Dar held a one-on-one meeting with Meredov at the MoFA ahead of the JIC session.

cussed ways to strengthen cooperation in trade, investment, energy, regional connectivity and people-to-people exchanges. They also exchanged views on regional developments.

Dar emphasised that dialogue and diplomacy remained the only viable means of resolving outstanding issues and achieving lasting peace and stability in the region. Meredov appreciated Pakistan's constructive role and continued diplomatic efforts to promote regional peace and stability.

In his opening remarks at the JIC session, Dar said Pakistan attached great importance to its relations with and shared interests in regional prosperity.

Meredov described Pakistan as an important partner in strengthening economic links between Central and South Asia.

He expressed confidence that the two countries could expand their cooperation through mutually beneficial projects.

Separately, Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan held a bilateral meeting with Turkmenistan's Minister of Trade and Foreign Economic Relations, Dortguly Suleymanov, to discuss measures to expand trade, improve market access and strengthen business cooperation.

United Kingdom (UK), Pakistan geological surveys plan partnership for mineral development

NEWS DESK: The Geological Survey of Pakistan (GSP) and the British Geological Survey (BGS) drafted an agreement to work together on geological mapping, research and data, with "the aim to give Pakistan stronger evidence and skills for more responsible and transparent mineral development," the British High Commission in Islamabad said in a press release on Tuesday.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the GSP and the BGS is in draft form and subject to final institutional clearance. British High Commissioner Jane Marriott highlighted the plan at the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum held at the Jinnah Convention Centre in Islamabad on November 13.

"Pakistan has significant mineral deposits, but mining contributes less than 2% of GDP," the release said, adding that the draft agreement "would provide a framework for long-term cooperation including sharing knowledge, building skills, mapping, research, and better geological data."

British High Commissioner Jane Marriott



geochemical sampling, airborne geophysics, mapping software (Geographic Information Systems) and spectral remote sensing, using internationally-recognised methods," it added.

According to the release, "REMIT is a UK-funded programme supporting Pakistan to build a stronger, more competitive and sustainable economy." Working with the Pakistani government, the programme works to "strengthen revenue mobilisation, improve the business and investment environment, facilitate trade and exports, and support reforms that can unlock private investment and long-term economic growth."

British High Commissioner Jane Marriott said that within the minerals sector, REMIT has also supported institutional capacity building, including technical training for the GSP, which includes a 16-week institutional capacity-building programme for GSP, which was delivered by IGS.

Jane noted at the forum that "Pakistan has extraordinary mineral potential." She stated that "turning that potential into sustainable jobs for the local community, exports.

Sindh showcases flood recovery; Centre pitches sewage overhaul at COP31

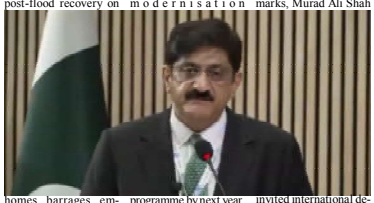
NEWS DESK: Showcasing Sindh's comprehensive climate resilience strategy at COP31, Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah on Monday called for stronger international cooperation, equitable climate finance and technology transfer, stressing that developing countries — despite contributing the least to global emissions – were shouldering the heaviest climate change burden.

Delivering the keynote address during a session titled 'Sindh's Climate Action: Combating Climate Change' at the Pakistan Pavilion, he said that in the wake of the devastating 2022 floods, his province had set a target of constructing 2.1 million climate-resilient houses for flood-affected families, making it the world's largest post-disaster housing reconstruction initiative.

The provincial government had adopted a strategy of rebuilding stronger and safer communities rather than merely repairing damaged infrastructure, CM Murad said, adding that one million houses had been completed within three and a half years, while another 700,000 were at different stages of construction.

More than 42,000 community committees had been established, and over 1.7 million bank accounts had been opened for beneficiaries. Financial assistance was transferred directly to families, enabling them to construct their own houses, he said. He also highlighted that women had been given a central role in the rehabilitation process, through property ownership and financial empowerment.

CM Murad sets out post-flood recovery on



homes, barrages, embankments and mangroves; says vulnerable communities must not face climate crisis alone

Regarding flood protection and infrastructure rehabilitation, CM Murad said Sindh had reconstructed 205km of protective embankments, restored 157,000 hectares of agricultural land and strengthened the Manchar Lake protection system, increasing its floodwater discharge capacity to 83,500 cusecs.

All 44 gates of Sukkur Barrage had been replaced, while reconstruction of 54 out of 65 gates at Guddu Barrage had been completed, he noted, adding that Sindh aimed to complete the barrage rehabilitation and modernisation programme by next year.

Simultaneously, the government is rebuilding 5,811 flood-affected schools, rehabilitating 141 roads covering 825 kilometres across 19 districts and restoring more than 1,000 damaged health facilities, with particular attention to maternal and child healthcare, he said.

Highlighting nature-based climate solutions, the chief minister said Sindh had restored mangrove forests over 126,000 hectares in the Indus Delta.

Under the Delta Blue Carbon initiative, an estimated 142 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions were expected to be absorbed or reduced, while 5.6 million tonnes of carbon credits had been verified.

In his closing remarks, Murad Ali Shah invited international development partners and investors to support Sindh through climate finance, modern technology, and investment in clean energy, water conservation, and climate-resilient infrastructure.

Fire breaks out at glass factory in Karachi's Baldia Town: rescue official

NEWS DESK: A massive fire broke out at an industrial unit in Karachi's Baldia Town on Tuesday morning, reportedly during the refilling of an underground oil tank by a tanker, rescue officials said.

Rescue-1122 spokesperson Hassaanul Haseeb Khan told Dawn that the organisation's command and control room received a report of the fire at around 10:36am.

He said two fire tenders were initially dispatched to the site, while more were called in later as the scale of the fire became apparent.

The spokesperson added that the factory was housed in a two-storey building and manufactured glass products, including windowpanes and decorative items.

"During the preliminary probe, it emerged that an oil tanker was refilling an underground oil tank when it caught fire and exploded," the spokesperson said.

The explosion



caused oil to spread both inside the factory premises and onto nearby streets, triggering panic among firefighters and residents, he elaborated.

He said 11 fire tenders had brought around 70 per cent of the blaze under control.

"The fire spread from the ground floor to the first and second floors."

Regarding the exact cause of the fire, Khan opined that it would be ascertained after a thorough probe as to whether the fire was an outcome of some human error during refilling of an underground oil tank by the oil tanker.

However, he said that the tanker, filling the oil in the underground oil tank, had been completely destroyed.

"It was certain that the ignition occurred in the oil tanker that spread to the whole factory building." No casualties or injuries have been reported in the incident, according to rescue and police officials.

In a statement, Site-B police said the fire broke out at the Al-Hamad Plastic Factory in the Rasheedabad area of Baldia Town.

Police personnel were present at the site alongside firefighting and rescue teams, the statement added.

Meanwhile, the Sindh Rangers said in a statement that their personnel were also at the site to assist in the rescue operation and manage traffic.

In late October, over 30 shops were destroyed when a blaze erupted at a furniture market in Karachi's Gulistan-i-Jauhar.

The fire safety audit of buildings across Karachi has been initiated, with 1,369 buildings audited by November 12 in all seven districts of the city.

Asian Development Bank approves $500m loan to support Pakistan's federal pension reforms

NEWS DESK: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Tuesday approved a $500 million results-based loan to help Pakistan reform its federal civil pension system, the Manila-based lending agency said in a statement.

The reforms will help contain rising pension-related fiscal pressures, strengthen pension system sustainability, and expand fiscal space for development and social spending, according to the statement.

It added that Pakistan's federal pension spending has grown nearly fivefold since fiscal year 2016 and now exceeds Rs1 trillion a year.

"Its longstanding unfunded and noncontributory legacy defined benefit scheme is financed entirely through annual budget allocations, creating growing fiscal pressure as pension obligations increase over time," the statement highlighted.

"Pakistan has taken important steps to strengthen its federal pension system, and this program will help sustain and institutionalise those reforms," ADB Country Director for Pakistan Emma Fan was quoted as saying.

"ADB's support will help achieve lasting results by strengthening



institutions, improving transparency, and supporting a more sustainable pension system," Fan added.

Furthermore, the financing will support the first phase of the government's Pension Reform Implementation Plan, and the transition to the defined contribution pension scheme, in which federal civil employees appointed from July 2024 are required to participate, said the statement."ADB's support will help improve pension management to reduce liabilities, boost financial transparency through digital systems, and enhance pension service delivery and financial literacy among beneficiaries," it read.

In 2024, ADB's senior economist Aiko Kikkawa had said the pension system in Pakistan suffered from low contribution rates, making it unsustainable in the long run.

An earlier report by the ADB highlighted Pakistan's weak pension and insurance systems. Most government positions entail unfunded pensions, where pensions for current employees are financed through tax revenues, according to the report titled 'Strengthening Pakistan's Pension and Insurance Systems'.

In August, the government executed agreements with 16 pension fund managers to formally operationalise the Defined Contribution Pension Fund Scheme (DCPFS), launched a year ago for public sector employees as part of major pension reforms aimed at containing the snowballing pension burden on the budget.