QUETTA VOICE

Rs.10.00 Vol.VIII:No:02
Email address:dquettavoice@gmail.com
Website: www.quettavoice.com
Tuesday 24, November, 2026

First Digital,Print Daily of Balochistan
Editor: Asim Khan.

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Pakistan Petroleum Limited and the Case of Balochistan

Balochistan's 25,000 Jobs Promise: Merit and Equal Opportunity Must Prevail

SYED ALI SHAH ANALYSIS:

QUETTA: The announcement by Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti in the Balochistan Assembly that recruitment against 25,000 vacancies will proceed on a population-based district distribution marks an important policy commitment.

Acknowledging the support of President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, the provincial leadership has framed this initiative as a major step toward addressing chronic unemployment.

Yet public trust cannot rest on announcements alone; it depends entirely on how fairly and transparently these commitments are executed on the ground.

Recent protests by hundreds of candidates outside BUITEMS in Quetta over alleged mismanagement in QESCO and WAPDA interviews underscore how fragile confidence in recruitment processes remains.

While allegations of irregularities require impartial verification rather than premature judgment, the recurring frustration among applicants highlights a deeper structural concern. For years, the people of Balochistan—especially its educated, unemployed youth—have demanded a recruitment system anchored in strict merit, clear rules, and verifiable transparency.



Candidates coming out of BUITEMS after interviews: Photo Muhammad Ismail

A Shared Federal and Provincial Duty

Ensuring fair employment across Balochistan is a joint responsibility of both the federal and provincial governments.

Federal ministries, autonomous bodies, and provincial departments alike must enforce uniform standards that leave zero room for favoritism, nepotism, or political interference.

When candidates invest time, money, and hope into applying for public-sector roles, any perception of opaque procedures or preferential treatment erodes institutional credibility and deepens alienation.

True equity also demands that opportunity reach beyond major urban centers to every corner of the province. Balochistan has endured years of instability and terrorist violence that have disrupted livelihoods and stalled development. Rebuilding confidence requires tangible inclusion across every administrative tier:

Every district must receive its rightful, transparent share of vacancies without administrative delays or manipulation.

Every tehsil must have accessible testing, clear communication, and fair evaluation so remote applicants are not disadvantaged by geography.

?Every union council must see its youth given genuine, equal opportunity to compete solely on competence and qualification.

Turning Policy Into Credible Action

The protests in Quetta should serve as an immediate wake-up call for authorities at every level. Transparent inquiries into disputed recruitment drives, publicly accessible merit lists, and standardized, accountable interview mechanisms are essential safeguards—not optional courtesies.

Balochistan's youth do not seek special favors; they ask for a fair system where hard work is rewarded and every citizen stands equal before the rules. If the 25,000-job initiative is to become a genuine turning point for stability and progress, both Islamabad and Quetta must ensure that the banner of merit is upheld without compromise, across every district and for every young person in the province.

Attempt to Target Jaffar Express Thwarted Near Dera Murad Jamali; Railway Track Damaged

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT:

DERA MURAD JAMALI: An attempt to target the Jaffar Express with explosives failed near Dera Murad Jamali in Balochistan's Nasirabad district, though an early blast damaged a section of the railway track and disrupted train services.



A view of Quetta railway station, passengers carrying luggage: Photo Daily Quetta Voice

According to local police, unidentified armed men planted explosives along the line in the Goth Azizabad Jamali area,

which falls under the jurisdiction of Dera Murad Jamali Saddar Police Station.

The device detonated before the passenger train reached the spot,

sparing the train from a direct hit while damaging the track.

Following the explosion, railway authorities halted the train at Jacobabad Railway Station as a precaution.

Train movement along the affected route was temporarily suspended while officials assessed the damage.

Police and security forces arrived at the scene shortly after the blast. Personnel cordoned off the surrounding area and launched a search operation to track down those responsible

Balochistan Assembly Passes Two Bills Amid Opposition Walkout Over Taking Fazl ur Rehman's Security

ALI HAMZA, QASEEM SHAH:

QUETTA: The Balochistan Assembly on Monday passed the Balochistan Fisheries and Aquaculture Bill and the Balochistan Non-Formal Education Bill, while opposition lawmakers staged a walkout over the withdrawal of security from JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman.

The bills were approved during a session chaired by Dr Ashok Kumar, a member of the Panel of Chairpersons. Provincial Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar presented the Fisheries and Aquaculture Bill, which had already been approved by the relevant standing committee.

The opposition protest began when JUI-F lawmaker Zahid Reki raised the issue of withdrawing security from Maulana Fazlur Rehman, saying the JUI-F chief had survived several assassination attempts.

Reki condemned the decision and warned that the prime minister would be held responsible if any harm came to his party leader. He subsequently walked out of the assembly.

National Party lawmaker Dr Abdul Malik Baloch also expressed concern over the situation and announced that his party members would join the protest. Provincial Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Langau said he was unaware of the details regarding Maulana Fazlur Rehman's security, describing him as a seasoned politician.

He said Pakistan was passing through a critical period and stressed that security forces were protecting the country, adding that criticism of national security institutions was inappropriate.

Provincial Minister Noor Muhammad Domki also highlighted the sacrifices of security forces and said political leaders should refrain from statements against the armed forces. The opposition lawmakers later returned to the House after provincial ministers persuaded them to end their protest. Questions related to the health and population welfare departments were deferred due to the absence of the lawmakers who had submitted them.



Members of the Provincial Assembly Walking out Over Taking Fazl ur Rehman's Security: Photo Daily Quetta Voice

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

The Future of Pakistan's Higher Education – Where Are We Heading

Dr. Faisal Ahmed Khan

One year on, the chaos continues at the highest institution mandated to oversee higher education in the country. At the Higher Education Commission, the current chairman, Dr. Tariq Binuri, is still battling for his survival. While Dr. Binuri might barely complete his term this May, the future of higher education in Pakistan is set on a downward spiral.

The Higher Education Commission had evolved as an institution in two decades, assimilating many essential attributes and continually weeding out ill practices along the way. Exactly when the institution was in the middle of its development, it was struck with an unneeded blow of an arbitrary ordinance.

The events that followed, it has directly exposed higher education to the whims of the power corridors for good.

The status of the Higher Education Commission is fast on its way to becoming a mere equivalent of a board of intermediate and secondary education overseeing tertiary education.

It is approaching being completely subsumed in the black hole of public officialdom. Perhaps it was frowned upon as a peculiar case in the public sector for its relatively superior standards in education and governance.



Therefore, it was felt that it needed to be governed by colleagues who oversee the rest of the education domain.

The role of the federal government enhanced in HEC affairs

This is clear from the fact that the tenure of the chairman is reduced to two years and the role of the federal government has been enhanced in the HEC affairs.

Inevitably, the same wizards in the government will oversee HEC, who have earned some interesting distinctions for us. For example, according to a UNICEF report, we have the second-largest number of out-of-school children after Nigeria, i.e., about 22.8 million children out of school. Only about 67% of our kids finish primary school; and only 55% of those in grade 5 can solve a two-digit subtraction (reported in a survey by South Asia Forum for Education Development), not to mention the evil of evils—the class disparity ingrained in the system up to grade 12. As a result, the standard of higher education in the country will be, in no way, better than what we have at the primary and secondary levels.

Another consequence of the above scenario is that higher education will inspire attention at the helm in the provinces.

While there is no harm in overseeing higher education at the provincial level, if unchecked, this will, however, incur its own heavy cost—one that is exemplified in the recent developments in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Initiating new universities with arbitrary plans, mysterious appointments of key university officials, increasing political influence in the university management, and wrecking the already scarce financial resources are among a few recent proceedings in higher education at KPK.

Provincial-level, higher education is merely treated as part of the riches to distribute among the stakeholders of the government

Similar occurrences are likely to follow in other provinces given the frail existence of the HEC. At the provincial level, higher education is merely treated as part of the riches to distribute among the stakeholders of the government. As a result, the only matters of interest in higher education will remain the number of appointments (excessive and unjust), promotions based on kinships, unfair admissions, undeserved scholarships, and illegal award of contracts to desired contractors. Anything about institution making, quality education, and impactful research will only be deceptive slogans.

It is not intended here to establish that everything has been exquisite in higher education in the past.

There is a long list of improvements and reforms that were still required to uphold the actual spirit of a regulator and patron of higher education in the country. Some might argue that the existing model in the HEC required delegation within the institution instead of concentration of power with the chairman.

A more inclusive model of working with the universities and the provinces was required.

Therefore, a reflection within the institution was needed instead of an intrusion from above. The advances last year have only made things worse.

The push for a subdued HEC will cause more than just saying goodbye to Dr. Binuri

The push for a subdued HEC will cause more than just saying goodbye to Dr. Binuri. It will undo the progress made in the sector in the last two decades. Universities will only become dominions of politicians and the bureaucracy with bountiful interests for them.

Yet we can hope that it is still not too late for the new government to realize the damage already done.

The stature of the HEC should be restored to its original form with a plan of enabling the team within the institution and promoting the inclusive participation of academics and stakeholders from across the country.

Political interests and enmities should be set aside for the sake of our youth and future generations.

Socrates has summed it well: "The secret of change is to focus all your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new."

PPL and the Case of Balochistan

Mehfooz Ali Khan

As Secretary of Finance, I had initiated a case for getting Balochistan in PPL, the biggest oil and gas producing company.

This company owes all its assets based on Balochistan's Sui Gas Field. Unfortunately, political leadership didn't press for its due share.

Here is my analysis of PPL from inception. Recent developments have not been captured, but it tells the story.

Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) has been a major player in the energy sector since the mid-1950s.

As a major supplier of natural gas, PPL today contributes over 20 percent of the country's total natural gas supplies besides producing crude oil, Natural Gas Liquid, and Liquefied Petroleum Gas.

The company's history can be traced back to the establishment of a public limited company in June 1950, with major shareholding by Burma Oil Company (BOC) of the United Kingdom for exploration, prospecting, development, and production of oil and natural gas resources.

PPL employees were allotted 12 percent shares from the government's equity

In September 1997, BOC disinvested from the Exploration and Production (E&P) sector worldwide and sold its equity in PPL to the Government of Pakistan (GOP). Subsequently, the government reduced its holding through an initial public offer in June 2004, which was further decreased with the initiation of the Benazir Employees Stock Option Scheme (BESOS) in August 2009 when PPL employees were allotted 12 percent shares from the government's equity. More recently, GoP further disinvested its 5 percent shares, around 3.55 percent of the total paid-up capital, in PPL through Secondary Public Offering in 2014.



Currently, the company's shareholding is divided between the government, which owns about 68 percent, PPL Employees Empowerment Trust which has approximately 7 percent, and private investors, which hold nearly 25 percent. PPL has acquired 100 percent shareholding of MND E&P Limited, a company incorporated in England and Wales. The name of the subsidiary has been changed to PPL Europe E&P Limited.

PPL operates eight producing fields across the country

The company has also established a wholly-owned subsidiary, PPL Asia E&P B.V. with a corporate seat in Amsterdam, Kingdom of Netherlands.

The subsidiary will focus on the exploration and production of oil and gas in the region. PPL has assigned its interest in Block 8, Iraq, under the Exploration, Development, and Production Service Contract with Midland Oil Company, Iraq to PPL Asia E&P B.V.

PPL operates eight producing fields across the country at Sui (Pakistan's largest gas field), Adhi, Kandhkot, Chachar, Mazarani, Adam, Adam West and Shadad and holds working interest in fifteen partner-operated producing fields, including Qadirpur the country's second-largest gas field.

As a major stakeholder in securing a safe energy future for the country, PPL pursues an aggressive exploration agenda aimed at enhancing hydrocarbon recovery and replenishing reserves. PPL together with its subsidiaries has a portfolio of 47 exploration assets of which the company operates 27, including one contract in Iraq, while 20 blocks, comprising three offshore leases in Pakistan and two onshore concessions in Yemen, are operated by joint venture partners.

PPL has developed a reliable foundation and infrastructure for providing clean and safe energy

Over the years, PPL has developed a reliable foundation and infrastructure for providing clean and safe energy through sustainable exploitation of indigenous natural resources while adhering to best practices of corporate governance and employee health and safety and constraining the ecological footprint of its operations.

As a result, Monitoring and Inspection, Design and Construction, Drilling and Well Engineering, Joint Operations, Operational Technical Support Services and Projects departments, Mazarani, Adhi and Kandhkot fields, Sui Field Gas Compressor Station, Sui Production, Sui Field Engineering and Sui Purification stand certified for ISO 9001 Quality Management System.

Similarly, Kandhkot, Mazarani and Adhi fields, Sui Production, Sui Field Gas Compressor Station, Sui Field Stores, Sui Field Engineering and Drilling and Well Engineering, Design and Construction, Projects, Health, Safety and Environment and Exploration departments and Sui Field Hospital have been certified for ISO 14001 Environmental Management System and OHSAS 18001 Occupational Health and Safety Assessment Series. Sui Purification is also certified for OHSAS 18001.

Currently Government of Pakistan holds 68% Shares out of total shares outstanding of 676.95% Current Year

Current Financial position of PPL, Currently Government of Pakistan holds 68% Shares out of total shares outstanding of 676.95% Current Year the Company paid 80% dividend to shareholders and government of Pakistan got Rs.36.826 billion as Dividend The net Profit registered by the company was Rs.30.0 Billion, Government also earned billions in tax revenue as well.

The government of Balochistan only got slightly above Rs.3.0 billion as Royalty from the Sui field Legal position Legally after 18th Constitutional Amendment, Article 172(3), province of Origin should have an equal share in the profit of oil and gas companies operating in a province. In this case, no such arrangement has yet been made even after a lapse of 10 years. So it is the right of the province to claim its share in holding and profits of the company.

Balochistan Minister Inaugurates Casualty and Labour Rooms at Sanjawi THQ Hospital



SANJAWI: Provincial Minister for Commodity Management Department and Chairman of the Balochistan Food Authority, Haji Noor Muhammad Khan Dumarr, along with Deputy Commissioner Ziarat Abdul Quddus Achakzai, officially inaugurated the Casualty and Labour Room facilities at Tehsil Headquarters (THQ) Hospital Sanjawi.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Haji Baz Muhammad Dumarr, Focal Person for Harnai; Chairman Municipal Committee Sanjawi Haji Khan Muhammad Dumarr; Assistant Commissioner Sanjawi Sher Shah Ghazai; Medical Superintendent Dr. Noor-ul-Baqi; and other relevant officials.

Speaking at the ceremony, Provincial Minister Haji Noor Muhammad Khan Dumarr said that providing quality healthcare facilities to people at their doorsteps was among the government's top priorities.

He stated that the operationalisation of the Casualty and Labour Rooms at THQ Hospital Sanjawi would significantly improve healthcare services for local residents, particularly women and patients requiring emergency medical assistance.

Hospital administration also briefed the provincial minister on the available medical facilities, existing resources, and ongoing initiatives aimed at improving healthcare services at the hospital.

The inauguration was described as an important step towards strengthening the healthcare infrastructure in Sanjawi and ensuring better medical facilities for the local population.

Deputy Commissioner Ziarat Abdul Quddus Achakzai said that the district administration was utilising all available resources to improve the health sector and provide better medical services to the public at government hospitals.

He urged the hospital's medical staff to ensure the timely delivery of quality healthcare services to patients and perform their professional responsibilities with dedication and commitment.

The inauguration of the new facilities is expected to improve emergency healthcare and maternal care services in Sanjawi, bringing much-needed relief to residents of the area.

University of Gwadar Organises Seminar on Sustainable Fisheries and Employment Opportunities for Youth and Women

GWADAR: The Department of Zoology at the University of Gwadar organised a seminar to mark World Fisheries Day 2026 at the university's Main Seminar Hall, focusing on the theme, "Empowering People for Change: Promoting Decent Work Opportunities for Youth and Women in Fisheries and Aquaculture."

Chairperson of the Department of Zoology, Madam Atiqa Baloch, welcomed the guests and participants. In her opening remarks, she highlighted the importance of educational awareness and collective efforts for the conservation and sustainable utilisation of marine resources.

Guest speaker Abdul Raheem, PhD Scholar, Marine Biologist and Deputy Director Environment at the Gwadar Development Authority (GDA), discussed the current state of fisheries in Pakistan, the potential of Balochistan's coastal resources, and the major challenges facing the fisheries sector.

He emphasised that promoting aquaculture and ensuring effective fisheries management had become essential for the sustainable development of the sector.



Another guest speaker, Shah Fahad, Assistant Director Fisheries Balochistan, briefed participants on provincial initiatives aimed at developing the fisheries sector. He highlighted efforts related to establishing fish hatcheries, producing fish seed, and introducing departmental reforms.

During the seminar, students delivered presentations on sustainable fisheries, aquaculture, marine resource conservation, and emerging employment and business opportunities for young people and women in the fisheries sector.

Deputy Commissioner Reviews Talli-to-Sibi Road Rehabilitation Project, Construction Work to Accelerate in December



SIBI: Deputy Commissioner Sibi, Major (Retd.) Ilyas Kubzai, chaired an important meeting to review progress on the Talli-to-Sibi Road rehabilitation project and other ongoing development schemes across the district.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Project Director (DPD) of the Talli-to-Sibi Road project and officials from relevant government departments.

During the meeting, the Deputy Project Director briefed the Deputy Commissioner on the progress of the road rehabilitation project, informing him that some funds had already been released, while the remaining funds were expected to be released next week.

He further stated that practical work on the project would be accelerated from the first week of December, with construction machinery expected to be deployed at the site to begin operations.

The meeting also reviewed the progress of other ongoing development projects in Sibi, including the release of funds, current construction status, and challenges faced by the relevant departments. Officials from various departments briefed the Deputy Commissioner on their respective development schemes and updated him on the progress achieved so far. Speaking at the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Major (Retd.) Ilyas Kubzai highlighted the importance of the Talli-to-Sibi Road, stating that the district administration had continuously received public complaints regarding its deteriorating condition.

He directed the concerned authorities to avoid further delays in starting practical work and utilise all available resources to ensure the project's early completion.

He also instructed all relevant departments to maintain construction quality, regularly monitor ongoing development schemes, and ensure the transparent and effective utilisation of allocated funds. The Deputy Commissioner made it clear that negligence, unnecessary delays, and substandard construction work would not be tolerated.

He further emphasised that providing basic facilities to the public and resolving their problems remained among the top priorities of the district administration.

He directed all departments to strengthen coordination and fulfil their responsibilities to ensure the timely completion of development projects so that their benefits could directly reach the people.

The Talli-to-Sibi Road rehabilitation project is considered important for improving regional connectivity and addressing longstanding transportation difficulties faced by residents.

Chaman DEO Ashok Kumar Rajput Issues Show-Cause Notices to Two Absent Teachers During Surprise School Visit

CHAMAN: District Education Officer (DEO) Chaman, Ashok Kumar Rajput, conducted a surprise visit to Government Boys High School Mahmoodabad to review educational standards, teachers' attendance, and ongoing teaching activities.

During the visit, Headmaster Asadullah briefed the DEO and accompanied him on an inspection of various sections of the school.

The DEO checked teachers' attendance records and registers and found two teachers absent from duty without any justified reason.

Taking notice of their absence, he issued show-cause notices to both teachers and directed them to submit their explanations within three days. The DEO also reviewed classroom teaching activities and found the teaching process unsatisfactory.

Taking serious notice of the situation, Ashok Kumar Rajput assigned District Officer Education (Male) Nadir Shah the responsibility of conducting a further inquiry and directed him to submit a detailed investigation report within one week.

Speaking on the occasion, District Education Officer Ashok Kumar Rajput made it clear that no compromise would be made on discipline, punctuality, teachers' attendance, effective teaching practices, and the improvement of educational standards in government schools.



He urged all teachers to perform their professional responsibilities with honesty, dedication, and a strong sense of accountability, emphasising that providing quality education in government institutions and securing a brighter future for students remained the top priority.

He further stated that surprise inspections of educational institutions would continue to improve their overall performance. Any negligence, unauthorised absence, or poor performance would be dealt with strictly in accordance with departmental rules and regulations.

The DEO's visit reflects the district education department's efforts to strengthen accountability, improve teaching standards, and ensure quality education in government schools across Chaman.

Federal Government Job Interviews Continue for Second Day in Hub Under DC Supervision



HUB: The interview process for recruitment against vacant posts in federal government departments across the Hub Region continued for the second consecutive day on Monday, in accordance with the special directives of Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti and Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan.

The interviews are being conducted under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Hub, Captain (Retd.) Jumma Dad Khan Mandokhail. The district administration has made all necessary arrangements to facilitate candidates and interview panels.

According to the announced schedule, interviews are being conducted today for candidates belonging to Hub and Wadh districts.

All interview panels are operational, and the recruitment process is proceeding in an organised and uninterrupted manner.

During the interviews, candidates' educational certificates and other essential documents are also being scrutinised. Special arrangements have been made to ensure security and smooth administrative operations throughout the process.

Deputy Commissioner Hub is personally supervising and monitoring the interviews to ensure transparency,

merit-based recruitment, and administrative discipline at every stage.

According to the district administration, the recruitment initiative aims to provide employment opportunities in federal government departments to eligible and deserving candidates strictly on merit.

The administration is utilising all available resources to ensure equal opportunities and necessary facilities for all applicants.

Schedule for Upcoming Interviews in Hub Region

The district administration has announced the following schedule for the remaining interviews:

November 24, 2026: Lasbela District

November 25, 2026: Awaran District

The recruitment process is part of the government's efforts to promote merit-based employment and provide equal opportunities to eligible candidates across the Hub Region.

NAB Balochistan Announces Open Court on November 26 to Receive Public Complaints in Quetta

QUETTA: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Balochistan has announced an open court (Khuli Kachehri) for citizens to submit complaints regarding major financial corruption and alleged irregularities in the province. In accordance with the directives of the Chairman NAB,

the open court is organised on the last Thursday of every month, during which the Director General NAB Balochistan personally listens to complainants and reviews their grievances.

This month's open court will be held on Thursday, November 26, 2026, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the NAB Balochistan Regional Office, located on Gulistan Road, Quetta Cantt.

Required Information for Filing Complaints

Applicants have been requested to provide the following information along with their written complaints:

Full name and father's name.

Copy of Computerised National Identity Card (CNIC).

Complete residential address.

Thumb impression or signature.

Contact details, including mobile number, telephone number, and email address.

NAB Balochistan has clarified that, in accordance with the Chairman NAB's instructions, the bureau will no longer entertain anonymous or fictitious complaints. Only verified complaints falling within NAB's legal jurisdiction will be processed in accordance with the law.

TENDER NOTICE

TSE-2627111227343 Only electronic bid will be submitted, No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The Assistant Director Local Govt, Quetta invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2026 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates

Tender Fee 1000 PKR and Bid Security 3%

S.No	Name of Work/s	E/Cost
1	REMAINING PORTION OF ROAD AND SEWERAGE SYSTEM OF NANA SAB STREET SRAGHURGI BYPASS QUETTA	44,554,989

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 31,188,492 PKR Amount in3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Registration with Pakistan Engineering council (PEC) C-5 and above (Upto 65 million)in Relevant Category And Specialized Code is CE01-(i) (Road and Pavements Drainage & Retaining Structure). The bidder must attach bid security in the shape of CDR/Bank Guarantee from a scheduled bank and submit original CDR / Bank Guarantee in the office till the time of bid opening, otherwise bid will be declared as non-responsive. The bidder must attach 03 similar nature (Road, Sewerage/Drain included in the project) works at least 50% of the estimated cost of the project undertaken and completed in last three years. **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee,Deposit at Call of 3 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gob.pk **Issuance of tender Documents:** Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bopra.gob.pk **Last Date of bid submission:** Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 10 December, 202618 09:45 AM through supplier dashboard. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at 10:45 AM on EPPS System Address: Assistant Director, Local Govt & Rural Development Deptt Quetta Phone no. 00819920209 Email sadlgrdquetta@gmail.com

Senior Assistant Director
LG &RD District Quetta
East

BPRO/PRO No.2595/23-11-2026

Quetta Deputy Commissioner Reviews IT Hub Project to Promote Digital Skills and Youth Employment



QUETTA : A meeting regarding the establishment and development of an IT Hub in Quetta was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Quetta, Mehrullah Badini, with the Director of Information Technology.

Assistant Commissioner City Ameer Hamza and the IT Officer also attended the meeting.

During the meeting, a detailed briefing was given on plans to equip young people with modern digital skills through the proposed IT Hub. The discussion focused on providing training in digital marketing, e-commerce, advanced IT skills, and other emerging technology-related fields.

Various aspects of creating new employment opportunities for young people, promoting freelancing, and enabling them to become part of the growing digital economy were also discussed.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Quetta Mehrullah Badini said that the establishment of an IT Hub was an important step towards developing the abilities of young people and preparing them to meet the demands of the modern era.

He directed the concerned officials to take all necessary measures to make the project effective and result-oriented.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasised that the initiative should help the youth of Balochistan acquire modern IT skills and secure respectable employment opportunities through digital platforms and emerging technology sectors.

The proposed IT Hub is expected to contribute to digital empowerment, skill development, freelancing, and employment generation among young people in Quetta and across Balochistan.

Asif says process for referendum on new provinces likely to move forward early next year



NEWS DESK: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has said discussions on a possible referendum to create new provinces are expected to take a "definitive shape" by the end of this year, with the process likely to move forward early next year.

Speaking on ARY News programme 'Sawal Yeh Hai' on Sunday, Asif said the matter would not take long to reach a conclusion, though he refrained from giving a specific date.

Asked whether the PML-N and the federal government had reached a principled decision on holding a referendum, and what its timeline and outline would be, he said: "Perhaps by the year-end, all this debate and discussion that is taking place will take some definitive shape. What shape it will take, I cannot say, but it won't take long. I can certainly say that it is not going to take two to four months."

He said the date could be a few days earlier or later, but the process was expected to move forward soon.

"God willing, but it would not be appropriate for me to give a date. I cannot provide a definitive timeline, but, based on my understanding, the inevitability of this is becoming clearer day by day," he said.

Asked how the referendum question would be framed, given opposition from one province and the fact that previous referendums had been held under dictatorships, Asif said everyone had the right to express reservations.

"You cannot deny someone that right if they have reservations about the entire matter and are expressing them. That is a fundamental part of a democratic society," he said.

He said a joint document would be prepared with input from all stakeholders to ensure that the proposal was acceptable to everyone.

"It will be a joint document in which all the stakeholders will have their input. Rather than producing a document that falls prey to disagreement, my own view is that the efforts and back-and-forth meetings currently taking place will produce something that is acceptable to all," he added.

Asked whether the government would seek consensus on the referendum question to bring the PPP on board, Asif said that was precisely the intention.

He said the question would outline the purpose and objectives of the proposed exercise, requiring people to respond with a yes or no. These objectives, he added, would also be defined through consensus.

Regarding the constitutional requirements for holding a referendum, he said the Constitution provided for such an exercise but also laid down the procedure for constitutional amendments, which could not be bypassed.

"There is room for a referendum in the Constitution; there is no doubt about that. However,

PTV asked to disclose details of foreign trips at public expense

NEWS DESK: The Pakistan Information Commission (PIC) has directed Pakistan Television Corporation (PTV) to disclose details of foreign trips undertaken by its officials at public expense since January 2025, ruling that information about the utilisation of public funds cannot be withheld merely by declaring it confidential or sensitive.

Allowing an appeal filed by journalist and Right to Information (RTI) activist Saddia Mazhar, the commission directed PTV's managing director to provide the complete information sought in her request within 10 days of receiving the order, with a copy to be submitted to the commission.

The order was signed by Information Com-m-issioner Ijaz Hassan Awan and Chief Information Commissioner Shoaib Ahmad Siddiqui.

Ms Mazhar had submitted an information request on June 21, 2026, seeking details of PTV officials and other officers who had travelled abroad at public expense to cover or attend various events from January 2025 onwards.

She specifically sought the names of the officials concerned, the composition of teams deputed for foreign assignments, the nature of their assignments and the expenditure incurred by the government or PTV.

Journalist seeks names of officials, assignments, expenditure since January last year



However, PTV resisted disclosure, maintaining that the information formed part of the corporation's official and confidential records.

In its written response submitted to the commission on Aug 25, 2026, the state-owned broadcaster argued that disclosure could involve matters relating to official deployments, security considerations, operational arrangements and other sensitive aspects of high-level official engagements.

PTV also invoked exemptions under Section 16(d)(ii) and (iii) of the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017, requesting the commission to allow it to withhold the information.

The corporation maintained that its officials were deputed on foreign tours for official assignments, including coverage of prime ministerial visits, high-level government engagements, international conferences and other important meetings. It said specific teams were allocated according to the nature and requirements of these engagements.

Ms Mazhar challenged PTV's position,

Rice exports up by 0.35m tonnes in four months



NEWS DESK: Pakistan's total rice exports surged by 353,000 tonnes to reach 1,351,000 tonnes during the first four months (July-October) of the current fiscal year 2026-27.

The exports were propelled by a massive 62pc jump in Basmati shipments that defied severe maritime disruptions across the Red Sea, the Strait of Hormuz, and the broader Middle East.

According to trade figures for the July-Oct 2026 period, Basmati exports climbed by 116,000 tonnes compared to the corresponding period last year to stand at 301,000 tonnes. Meanwhile, non-Basmati shipments expanded by 140,000 tonnes year-on-year to reach 1,049,000 tonnes.

The remarkable expansion in Basmati export volume came despite heightened geopolitical tensions involving Iran, shipping route diversions, skyrocketing ocean freight charges, and elevated marine insurance premiums.

Market analysts attribute the resilience of the premium grain segment to a combination of domestic policy support and strong agricultural fundamentals. Specifically, the extension of the Drawback of Local Taxes and Levies (DLTL) scheme through September, substantial carryover stocks, an expanded cultivation area, double-cropping in select regions, higher per-acre yields, and favourable weather conditions combined and culminated in a bumper Basmati harvest.

In the coarse grain segment, Pakistani exporters managed to post a 16pc increase in non-Basmati shipments despite fierce price competition from heavily subsidised Indian rice as well as aggressive offers from Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Myanmar.

The country-wise trade data for October 2026 shows that the Philippines emerged as the single largest buyer of Pakistani rice during the month with imports of 87,478 tonnes, followed by Tanzania at 43,747 tonnes and Kenya at 33,078 tonnes. Other major destinations during October included the United Arab Emirates with 25,305 tonnes, the European Union with 21,200 tonnes, Central Asia with 16,400 tonnes, China with 11,949 tonnes, and Saudi Arabia with 7,655 tonnes.

Pakistan has Portugal's 'full support' for GSP+ status, visiting FM says during delegation-level talks in Islamabad



NEWS DESK: Pakistan has Portugal's "full support" for the European Union's (EU) GSP+ status, Portuguese Minister of State and Foreign Affairs Paulo Rangel said on Monday during Pakistan-Portugal delegation-level talks held in Islamabad.

Pakistan's current GSP+ status is set to expire in 2027, after which Islamabad will seek a renewal.

GSP+ status is a special incentive awarded to developing countries to "pursue sustainable development and good governance" in exchange for cutting import duties to zero on two-thirds of the tariff lines of its exports.

The status was granted to Pakistan in 2014, resulting in a 108 per cent increase in Pakistani textile exports to the EU due to concessional tariffs.

In October 2023, the European Parliament unanimously voted to extend the GSP+ status for another four years until 2027 for developing countries, including Pakistan.

The upcoming GSP+ monitoring mission will scrutinise Pakistan's record on 32 international conventions tied to the trade scheme. Maintaining GSP+ status is critical for Pakistan to keep export costs low.

Rangel, in his remarks, stressed that both Pakistan and the EU would mutually benefit from cooperation, adding that "we should not hesitate on developing these bilateral platforms".

The Pakistani delegation was led by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar.

In his remarks, DPM Dar said, "Our focus is on strengthening our political ties, expanding bilateral trade and promoting investment."

He proposed that the two countries regularly convene the Pakistan-Portugal Business Forum to help Pakistani and Portuguese companies "identify trading partners and explore joint venture opportunities".He also suggested that the two delegations identify proposals for progress and review implementation through bilateral political consultations.

The two ministers also agreed to set up a Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) between Pakistan and Portugal. Dar said the JMC would help promote business, trade and investment between the two countries by identifying the "hurdles" for consideration.

Dar added that he and his Portuguese counterpart agreed that parliamentary exchanges between the two countries should be considered as well.

7 killed, 2 injured as stone-laden truck overturns onto mini-truck in Bahawalpur

NEWS DESK: Seven people were killed and two others were injured when a stone-laden truck hit a mini-truck and overturned onto it in Bahawalpur's Uch Sharif early on Monday morning, an official and Rescue 1122 said.

Bahawalpur District Police Officer (DPO) Rana Abdul Wahab told Dawn that the mini-truck,

travelling from Dera Ghazi Khan to Khairpur Tamewali, was carrying 16 people and stopped along a highway due to fog.

"The driver was cleaning the windscreen of the stationary vehicle when another truck, laden with stones, hit it and turned over onto it," the DPO said.

According to the official, the driver of the stone-laden truck, which was also travelling from Dera Ghazi Khan, had lost control of the vehicle.

Passengers in the mini-truck were left trapped, he said.

A Rescue 1122 statement said the passengers were trapped under the truck and the stones, and an excavator was used to clear the stones.

The DPO said police and rescue personnel were able to rescue nine people while seven died because of injuries.

According to Rescue 1122, two people have been injured among those rescued.

DPO Wahab said the driver of the stone-laden truck had fled the scene after the accident. "However, police have identified him and registered a case at Dhoorkot police station. Raids are being conducted to arrest the suspect," the DPO said.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz expressed "deep grief and sorrow" over the loss of lives in the accident, Associated Press of Pakistan reported.



In a message, the CM extended her "heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the bereaved families,"

praying for their strength and patience to bear the "irreparable" loss.

CM Maryam also sought a detailed report on the accident and directed relevant authorities to provide the necessary details, according to APP.

Earlier this month, a collision between a passenger bus and truck claimed the lives of 11 people and left 33 others injured near Pakpattan.

On Oct 21, ten people were killed and 44 others injured when a passenger bus overturned after hitting a road divider on the Indus Highway in Rajanpur district's Rojhan tehsil.

On Oct 19, a road accident on Multan's Bosan Road claimed the lives of five men in their 20s after their speeding Toyota Corolla hit a road divider before crashing into the wall of a nearby plot and catching fire.

PM to attend ECO moot in Iran after Russia trip

NEWS DESK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will undertake his first official three-day visit to Rus-sia from Nov 30, aiming to strengthen bilateral ties and secure energy and inve-stment agreements bef-ore travelling to Iran for the 18th Economic Coo-peration Organisation (ECO) Summit on Dec 3 and 4.



During his meeting with Russian President Vladi-mir Putin, discussions are expected to focus on ene-rgy cooperation, defence, trade, regional security and investment, a source in the Prime Minister's Office told Dawn.

The revival of Pakistan Steel Mills, established with Russian assistance, is also likely to feature prominently, alongside potential Russian investment in Pakistan's oil and gas sectors.

The two countries are likely to examine possibilities for Russian cooperation in restoring the industrial facility, alongside broader initiatives aimed at supporting Pakistan's industrial development.

Following the Russia visit, Prime Minister Shehbaz will represent Pakistan at the ECO summit in Tehran, where leaders of 10 member states will discuss regional trade, connectivity, energy, transportation, investment and industrial cooperation. The summit comes ahead of Pakistan assuming the ECO chairmanship for 2026-27.