

# Independent

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## Senate passes bill amending Pakistan Army Act, 1952, to strengthen national security

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate on Thursday passed The Pakistan Army (Amendment) Bill, 2023, which proposes stringent penalties for unauthorized disclosure of classified data pertaining to the country's security or the Pakistan Army in a significant move to safeguard sensitive information related to national security.

The bill, moved by Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif, is aimed at strengthening the existing legislation for protect vital information critical to the safety and interests of Pakistan and its armed forces.

According to the key highlights of The Pakistan Army (Amendment) Bill, 2023, the bill proposes the addition of Section 26-A to the Pakistan Army Act,

which criminalizes the unauthorized disclosure of information acquired in an official capacity that could be prejudicial to Pakistan's security or the armed forces. Anyone found guilty under this section faces rigorous imprisonment for up to five years.

The bill makes it clear that if someone discloses sensitive information after obtaining prior approval from the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) or any officer duly empowered by him, such disclosure shall not be considered unauthorized.

The proposed amendments specify that cases of unauthorized disclosure shall be dealt with under Section 59 (civil offences) of the Army Act read with the Official Secrets Act 1923, reinforcing the legal

framework to prosecute offenders effectively.

The bill introduces Section 26-B, which prohibits any person subject to the Army Act from engaging in political activities for a period of two years after their retirement, release, resignation, discharge, removal, or dismissal from service. Furthermore, individuals who have been involved in sensitive duties are barred from participating in any form of political activity for five years after their exit from service.

Violation of the aforementioned political activity restrictions, upon conviction by the court constituted under the Army Act, could lead to rigorous imprisonment for up to two years.

The bill proposes the introduction of Sections 55-A, 55-B, and 55-C to tackle issues related to conflict of interest, electronic crimes aimed at undermining the armed forces, and defamation. Individuals subject to the Army Act in the past five years are prohibited from entering into employment, consultation, or other engagements with entities having a conflict of interest with the activities of the Pakistan Army or its affiliates.

Committing offenses under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA), 2016, with malicious intent against the armed forces may result in punishment as prescribed in



GAWADAR: A Chinese official presenting a model of an aircraft to Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on the completion ceremony of the airside infrastructure (runway, taxiway) at New Gwadar International Airport



ISLAMABAD: Balochistan Minister for Irrigation Mir Muhammad Khan Lehri, Additional Chief Secretary Development Hafiz Abdul Basit and Secretary Irrigation Abdul Fateh Bhangar talking during meeting of ECNEC

## CM directs all concerned departments district administration to expedite relief operation in rain hit areas

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo has directed all concerned departments and district administration to expedite the relief activities in the rains and flood affected areas of the province further.

He also directed the authorities to provide necessary relief and support to the affected people remaining alert in view of the emergent situation emerged following the heavy rains and flashflood in various parts

of the province.

These directives were issued by the Chief Minister Bizenjo to the concerned departments and district administration in view of the situation following heavy rains across the province, on Wednesday night.

Moreover, the Chief Minister expressed deep grief and sorrow over the losses caused due to the heavy rains and flashflood in districts of Kharan and Washuk.

He directed the Direc-

tor General Provincial Disaster Management Authority to reach Kharan and Washuk immediately along with the relief goods.

The Chief Minister also directed the Communication and Works department to ensure rehabilitation of the provincial roads affected due to the rains.

Moreover, taking notice of the closure of highways at Pinjra bridge in Bolan and Hub river in Hub, Mr. Bizenjo also directed the National Highway Authority to take steps on war footing grounds for rehabilitation of Quetta-Sibi and Quetta-Karachi highways respect-



QUETTA: Deputy Commissioner Quetta Shehak Baloch and Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Sana Mahjabeen inspecting flood water in Hanna Urak

## Comprehensive security plan prepared to maintain law & order during Muharram: Zia

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah Langove has stated that the comprehensive security plan has been prepared to maintain law and order during the Muharramul Haram in Quetta and other parts of the province.

He announced that the mobile phone service would remain suspended on 9th and 10th Muharram in Quetta.

The Minister Home was presiding over a meeting held to review the security arrangements during the Muharramul Haram here on Thursday.

The Special Secretary Home, SSP Quetta, Additional Secretary Home, Deputy Commissioner

Quetta, Administrator Metropolitan Corporation and other concerned high ups were in attendance at the meeting.

While the Commissioners of Naseerabad, Sibi and Loralai as well as DIG Police Sibi Range and SSP Khuzdar participated in the meeting through video link.

The SSP Quetta Zohaib Mohsin briefed in detail about the law and order situation and the arrangements being made for the 9th Muharram and Ashura processions.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister Home said that it is our priority to maintain law and order owing to the country's situation. He said that additional security personnel have been deployed to ensure peace.

## PM expresses grief over demise of UAE President's brother

ISLAMABAD (Online): Sheikh Saeed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the brother of the United Arab Emirates' President, passed away today.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has expressed deep sorrow and grief over the demise of Sheikh Saeed Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, brother of UAE President Sheikh Muhammad Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan.

In a condolence message, he said that the entire Pakistani nation shares this grief of the Royal family and people of the United Arab Emirates.

The Prime Minister prayed for the higher ranks of the departed soul and grant of courage to the bereaved family to bear this loss.

## SC wraps up Musharraf petition seeking return of surety bonds

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has wrapped up Pervez Musharraf petition seeking return of his surety bonds in Akbar Bugti murder case being not persuaded.

The matter came up for hearing before a 2-member bench of SC presided over by Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan Thursday.

Advocate Robina Butt appeared on behalf of

## Akbar Bugti murder case SC wraps up Musharraf petition seeking return of surety bonds

Balochistan government during the hearing but no one appeared on behalf of the petitioner.

Upon it the SC wrapped up the petition declaring it rejected being not persuaded.

Former president Pervez Musharraf had filed petition during his life seeking return of surety bonds in Akbar Bugti murder case.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chairs the meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC).

## PM's visit to Gwadar manifests personal interest of PM in dev. of Balochistan: Governor

Independent Report  
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to Gwadar is the manifestation of his personal interest in development and prosperity of the province.

The Governor was addressing a ceremony of cheque distribution and inauguration of different projects at Gwadar on Thursday.

The Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was chief guest on the occasion, who arrived in the port city especially to make inauguration of different development projects besides ground breaking of few others. The Governor maintained that the Prime Minister is taking personal interest in development of the province and so of Gwadar.

The Prime Minister

Shahbaz Sharif has paid several visits to the province since assuming the office of PM last year, the Governor maintained.

He said that the Prime Minister's visit would yield far reaching impacts and results in future.

He also mentioned that work is continued on different projects in the port city and these ongoing projects would put the province and country on path of development. He said that the development of Gwadar would also have great impact on development of the country along with the province.

Earlier, the Governor welcomed the Prime Minister along with the provincial high ups including Chief Secretary Abdul Aziz Uqaili and Inspector General of Police, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh at the Gwadar airport the same noon.

## Gwadar sea port to be developed as one of the best in world: PM

GAWADAR (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday reiterated the government's firm resolve to extensively develop the Gwadar Sea Port as one of the best in the world.

He said the fate of the people of Balochistan, especially of Gwadar, would be changed through the ongoing development operation across the province.

Addressing laptop and cheques' distribution ceremony, he said when Nawaz Sharif was elected prime minister for the third time in 2013, he planned and launched multiple projects in power, infrastructure and other sectors in Gwadar.

However, he deplored that when he visited as prime minister last year

here, he was shocked to note that, the previous government had abandoned work on all ongoing projects in the city.

He said despite 15 months of challenging time, the coalition government managed to lay foundation of development and prosperity in the country especially in Balochistan.

Balochistan, he said was rich in huge minerals and other natural resources which needed to be explored and the fruits of the development of the area would be passed on to the local people.

The local people must enjoy all the basic facilities in all sectors including health and education.

He said the draft of the Gwadar port was one the

deepest among the world's top ports, however dredging of the port which was a continuous process to prevent accumulating silt, was not ensured by the previous government.

Now he informed that the current government initiated the dredging process which would be completed by February next year.

He said in five years from 2017 to 2022, only 100,000 tons of goods could arrive here while goods of over 600,000 tons arrived here at the Gwadar Port during the 15 months of the incumbent government.

The prime minister announced that the laptop quota for Balochistan had now been increased to 14% against the 6% population share of the province.



GAWADAR: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif distributes Laptop among the high-achievers of Gwadar University under the Prime Minister Youth Laptop Scheme 2023.

## Prime Minister pays whirlwind visit to Gwadar

Independent Report  
QUETTA: The Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif paid a whirlwind visit to the port city of Gwadar on Thursday.

The Federal Ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Molana Asad Mehmood, Khawaja Saad Rafiq, Agha Hasan Baloch and other federal high ups also reached Gwadar along with the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister and others were warmly received by the Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar, Chief Secretary, Abdul Aziz Uqaili, Inspector General of Police, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh and other high ups at the Gwadar airport.

Later, he participated in the ceremonies of the inauguration and foundation laying stones of different development projects in the port city. At the outset, the Premier spent a very hectic day being engaged in different activities including distribution of cheques.

Later, he left Gwadar for Islamabad the same evening.

## BA adopts resolutions on waiving of agri. loans and Durag-Tonsa road construction project

Independent Report  
QUETTA: The Balochistan Assembly adopted the resolutions about waiving of agriculture loans of Zamindars and construction of Durag-Tonsa road project in its session on Thursday.

Both the resolutions were tabled by the member of provincial assembly, Nasrullah Zairay while the deputy speaker, Sardar Babar Khan Musakhail was in the chair.

Earlier, the session resumed after around two hours late from the given schedule.

The question hour was postponed due to absence of the concerned provincial ministers.

Later, the call attention notice about the illegal recruitments in the PPHI was also deferred due to absence of the Minister Health. The call attention notice was tabled by the MPA Nasrullah Zairay.

Speaking on his resolution on the agriculture loans of the Zamindars, Nasrullah Zairay charted that the federal government did nothing for rehabilitation of the flood affected people of the province.

He mentioned that the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has come to Balochistan for several times, but he didn't give anything to the province.

The MPA Zahoob Ahmed Buledi pointed out that the people are facing hardships due to non-construction of the Pinjra bridge and Hub river bridge.

He said that if the Pinjra bridge was not constructed by NHA, then the provincial government should have constructed it.

He said that who says that the provincial government can't build the bridge.

MPA Zahid Reki also accused the federal government of ignoring Balochistan. He said that the federal government is constantly ignoring the province.

The Provincial Minister for Finance, Zamark Achakzai said that he made attempt to meet the Chairman Zarai Tarqiyyati Bank for eight days, but he didn't meet him.

He said that when he (Chairman of Bank) was not ready to meet us, then how the loans would be waived off.





