

Akhtar Mengal to be arrested if BNP-M march enters Quetta, Balochistan govt warns

Quetta(News Desk) The Balochistan government on Sunday warned Sardar Akhtar Mengal, chief of his faction of the Balochistan National Party-Mengal (BNP-M), that he would be arrested under the Maintenance of Public Order (MPO) if his party's march against the jailing of Baloch activists entered Quetta.

The BNP-M had begun a "long march" from Wadh to Quetta on March 28 to protest the arrests of Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) leaders and activ-

ists, including Dr Mahrang Baloch and Sammi Deen Baloch, as well as a crackdown on their sit-in in Quetta. Sammi was released on Tuesday. The BNP-M's sit-in at the Lakpass area of Mastung entered its 10th day today. The party is set on heading to Quetta as a deadlock persisted over its demands — including Mahrang's release — while the Balochistan government warned to limit the march to Quetta's Sariab Road. However, that offer seemed to be no longer

on the table as Balochistan government spokesperson Shahid Rind asserted today that Mengal would be arrested if he "moves towards Quetta". Responding to a post on X by Mengal, who claimed his party was "completely encircled by security forces" at Lakpass, Rind said the BNP-M president had been alerted at 6am about the orders to arrest him under the MPO. MPO orders are usually issued to maintain public order and cite a "threat to the public safety" along

with a possible "breach of peace and tranquility". Rind wrote: "Mengal refused to give his arrest. The administration and the police have clearly told him that if he moves towards Quetta, he will be arrested, and this is why law enforcement agencies (LEAs) are present there. "BNP's calls to block national highways right now is adding to the difficulties faced by the citizens. The administrations of all districts have been instructed that national highways will not be shut."



Dr Dereje Wordofa, president of SOS Children's Villages International, speaks at the ceremony at Chief Minister House.

Another robbery suspect injured in 'encounter' in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: (News Desk) After another suspect was injured during an encounter in the federal capital, the number of injuries in such incidents over the past five days has increased to three.The encounter took place at Karnal Sher Khan Road (formerly I.J.P Road) in the area of the Sabzi Mandi police station. Over the incident, a case was also registered with the Sabzi Mandi police under sections 324, 353, and 186 of the Pakistan Penal Code, along with sections 13 and 20 of the Arms Ordinance 1965.In the FIR, the police said that the two suspects were attempting to commit a crime at the time of the incident; however, no case was registered at the police station in this regard.A two-member police patrolling team was on duty in the area of Karnal Sher Khan Road. The police officials spotted two persons riding on a motorcycle who were attempting to commit a crime when they reached Pirwadhi Mor near Dhok Hassu.

Islamabad sector I-12 plot owners dismayed by slow development pace



ISLAMABAD: (News Desk) Despite spending large sums and conducting several operations over the years, the Capital Development Authority (CDA) has failed to prevent the resurgence of illegal settlements in Sector I-12.

The slum dwellers have gradually begun returning, particularly to I-12/3, where they are setting up makeshift shelters. The Sector I-12 plot owners have blamed the CDA, saying that had the development work been completed according to the deadline set by the CDA chairman, which was October 2024, this situation would never have occurred.

In 2023, the CDA launched a large-scale anti-encroachment operation, clearing over 700 kanal of land illegally occupied by settlers. Another operation in May 2024 resulted in the reclamation of 125 kanal, with more than 75 structures demolished. A third major operation was carried out in January 2025, leading to the demolition of rooms and livestock enclosures. Despite these extensive efforts, slum dwellers are once again moving in.Muhammad Masood Ilyas, one of the allottees, said, "The slow pace of development work in Sector I-12 has allowed slum dwellers to return." "The resurgence of these illegal settlements poses a serious challenge to the already slow development process in the sector," he said.

Water level in key dams rises slightly after rainfall

ISLAMABAD: (News Desk) The water level in major dams has risen from critically low threshold due to increased inflows from the melting of glaciers and rainfall in March.

Mangla and Tarbela, two of the biggest reservoirs in Pakistan, almost ran out of water in recent weeks, prompting fears of acute water shortage for domestic and agriculture use.

According to a Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) report, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, north Punjab, most of Balochistan, Azad Kashmir, and

Gilgit Baltistan received light to heavy rainfall in March.

The inflows increased the water level in Mangla Dam on Jhelum River from 1,066.25 cusecs on March 23 to 1,086.70 cusecs on April 4, Wapda data shows.

Similarly, the water level in the Tarbela Dam increased from the dead level of 1,402 cusecs to 1410 cusecs.

Mangla and Tarbela over dead level; PMD says drought still a threat

However, the PMD warned that mean temperatures were expected

to remain above normal nationwide during April.

The forecast for April said that slightly below-normal rainfall is anticipated in northern Punjab, Kashmir and adjoining areas of northern KP.In contrast, southern regions are expected to experience closer to normal rainfall, with a reduced negative anomaly as per the region's climatological patterns.

The PMD report said mean temperatures are expected to remain above normal nationwide, with maximum temperatures over Kashmir, GB and northern KP.The April

forecast predicted normal rainfall in drought-prone southern regions."This expected rainfall should improve soil moisture in areas like coastal Balochistan, the Thar Desert in Sindh, and the Cholistan region in Punjab," PMD said, adding that mild to moderate drought conditions already present in Sindh and coastal Balochistan may intensify if the rainfall remains deficient, Met Office cautions.The meteorological department advised all stakeholders to save water to mitigate the adverse impacts of drought.

Lawyers in Gilgit-Baltistan go on strike till 16th

GILGIT: (News Desk) Legal fraternity in Gilgit-Baltistan has announced a boycott of all court proceedings and will hold protest demonstrations across the region until April 16, citing the non-fulfillment of their demands.

For the past five months, lawyers in Gilgit-Baltistan have been protesting and boycotting court proceedings, except for emergency cases, due to the unmet demands. However, this time, lawyers have decided to not appear in courts even for emergency cases till April 16.

A meeting of GB High Court Bar Association (GBH-CBA) under the chairmanship of Advocate Tanveer Akhtar passed a resolution and reviewed progress on the joint demands of GB Bar Council, GB Supreme Appellate Court Bar Association, GBHCBA and district bar associations.

According to a statement issued by the association on Saturday, the meeting expressed reservations over government's failure to implement lawyers' demands despite repeated strikes and protests.

Margalla Hills wildfire intensifies due to strong winds: IWMB

ISLAMABAD: (News Desk) Strong winds intensified a wildfire sweeping through the Margalla Hills, officials confirmed on Saturday.

"Gusts are fanning the flames, carrying embers into untouched areas and accelerating the fire's spread by fueling it with a continuous supply of oxygen," said Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB) spokesperson Omer Bilal.

According to emergency responders, the combination of wind-driven embers and dry vegetation had created volatile conditions, making the blaze difficult to contain. Omer Bilal attributed the erratic behaviour of the fire to what he called was extremely dry weather and dry vegetation.

Poor mobile phones signals made it difficult for authorities to contact fire fighting teams. Fire started around 1pm, the official said.Firefighting efforts were ongoing till the writing of this story, with authorities urging the public to stay away from the affected areas as teams work to bring the situation under control.

Govt allocates Rs437m, land in three Sindh cities for SOS villages

KARACHI: (News Desk) The Sindh government on Saturday announced the provision of land in Karachi, Khairpur and Jamshoro, along with a financial commitment of Rs437 million for the development of educational infrastructure in recognition of the enduring collaboration between the government and SOS Children's Villages.

During a special ceremony held at the CM House on Saturday to celebrate four decades of service provided by SOS Children's Villages in Sindh, Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah, in his message read out by Local Government Minister Saeed Ghani in his absence, extended his heartfelt congratulations and reiterated the provincial government's steadfast support for the organisation's mission to improve the lives of vulnerable children throughout the province.

The ceremony drew a distinguished audience, including the president of SOS Children's Villages International, Dr Dereje Wordofa; the president-elect of SOS Pakistan, Shahid Hamid; chairman of SOS Sindh, Javed Jabbar; secretary of SOS Sindh, Naureen Hamid; executive assistant to the president of SOS International, Peter Safer; along with diplomats, business leaders, philanthropists, volunteers and children residing in SOS Villages.In his message, the chief minister honoured the legacy and humanitarian ethos of the SOS model, which provides family-like care to children who lack parental support.

CM congratulates the NGO for completing 40 years of service in provinceThe unique structure of SOS Children's Villages, where a dedicated woman becomes the mother of 8 to 10 children in a loving and secure home, restores the essential fabric of a family, he said.



BNP-M's Sajid Tareen addresses a press conference at the Quetta Press Club on April 6, 2025

High concentration of chemicals found in boiling water samples of Korangi Creek fire: report

Karachi(News Desk) A massive fire that erupted during drilling near an oil refinery in Korangi Creek on March 28 was likely triggered due to a concentration of a larger quantity of chemicals than permissible limits, it emerged on Sunday.

On Wednesday, Karachi Mayor Barrister Murtaza Wahab that the report

prepared by Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) and the Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) experts, who had conducted soil testing of the area and taken away samples, was expected to be submitted with the provincial and city authorities on Saturday.

According to a preliminary report on Sunday by

experts of the University of Karachi, samples of boiling water were taken and sent to concerned institutions of the varsity.

While concerned officials have not made the findings of the report public, Rescue 1122 spokesperson Hassaan Khan told that chemical analysis of the boiling water has been shared with them.

He noted that excessive amounts of Benzene, Toluene and Tetrachloroethane has been found in the boiling water.

Regarding the quantity of chemicals found in the water, as per the chemical analysis, Tetrachloroethane was detected at 33 micrograms per litre instead of the permissible five micrograms per litre.

Balochistan CTD foils terror plot, seizes 70kg of explosives

QUETTA: (News Desk) The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) of Balochistan Police foiled a major terror plot on Saturday, recovering a large cache of explosives, arms and ammunition from an area on Sariab Road.

According to a CTD spokesperson, the intelligence-based operation was carried out by CTD Quetta in the vicinity of the Radio Pakistan Tower. During the operation, officials recovered a 20kg

improvised explosive device fitted with a remote detonation mechanism, along with 50kg of high-grade explosive material buried underground. In addition, five hand grenades and three 9mm pistols with live ammunition were seized from the site. All explosives and weapons were secured without incident. Reports said 'S', a resident of 66/GD, Noor Shah, had been living with 'U' at a poultry farm at village 189/9A-L for the last

six months. The man had promised to marry her in future. On Wednesday night, 'S' visited him at the farm and a quarrel erupted between them over the marriage. The man had refused to marry her to which she got infuriated, picked up the pistol and shot him. The CTD arrested Azizullah Khan Khattak and recovered explosive material, an iron box, electronic devices, double charger, electric circuit, dry batteries and

detonators.

Aziz hailed from Tusrati tehsil of Karak district. The CTD registered a case against him under s "Acting on confirmed intelligence regarding a potential sabotage attempt targeting critical infrastructure, the CTD launched a swift and coordinated operation," the spokesperson said. A combing search was conducted with support from the Bomb Disposal Unit. However, no arrests were



made during the operation as no suspects were found at the scene.An FIR has been registered at CTD Police Station Quett

a under relevant provisions.Forensic analysis of the recovered material is under way, while intelligence-based follow-up operations are underway.