

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Tuesday, January.14.2025

dquettavoice@gmail.com



A view of forest and wildlife: An AI Image

FO condemns 'increasingly racist, Islamophobic' discourse on Pakistanis in UK

NEWS DESK: The Foreign Office (FO) on Monday condemned what it called the "increasingly racist and Islamophobic" comments directed at Pakistanis in the UK, emphasising the deep relations between both countries as well as the contributions of British Pakistanis.

The statement came after tech billionaire Elon Musk entered a contentious debate surrounding the term "Asian grooming gangs", with remarks sparking concerns of perpetuating harmful anti-Pakistani stereotypes.

Musk attacked—the UK government over grooming gangs, using his platform X to accuse one key Labour leader of being a "rape genocide apologist", and calling for her and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer to be jailed.



Pnyanka Chaturvedi, a leader of India's Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena, wrote on X, "Repeat after me, they aren't ASIAN Grooming Gangs but PAKISTANI grooming gangs." Musk replied with a terse "true," signalling his support for her remarks.

The term "grooming gangs" stems from the widespread abuse of girls in several English towns and cities, which emerged more than a decade ago. A series of court cases eventually led to the convictions of dozens of men, mostly of South Asian Muslim origin. The victims were vulnerable, mostly white, girls.

The scandals have been seized upon by far-right figures, in particular Tommy Robinson, a prominent extremist agitator.

FO spokesperson Shaqfat Ali Khan delivered a statement on Monday in response to the growing anti-Pakistani discourse observed in the UK.

"As such, we note with deep concern the increasingly racist and Islamophobic political and media commentary in the UK that is aimed at conflating the reprehensible actions of a few individuals with the entire 1.7 million British Pakistani diaspora."

He added that Pakistan-UK friendship was characterised by warmth, cordiality, robust cooperation and trust. "Nurtured over decades this relationship remains an important priority of Pakistan's foreign policy," Khan said.

CM Balochistan Reviews Forest and Wildlife Protection Measures

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti, chaired a high-level meeting to review the Forest Department's efforts to protect and sustain the province's rare forests and wildlife. Officials from the Forest Department briefed the meeting on ongoing initiatives to safeguard forests and wildlife. The Chief Minister emphasized the need for effective measures to address growing threats to biodiversity in the region. "Reports of rare wildlife being mercilessly hunted in some areas are alarming. Unchecked il-

legal hunting has put certain species at risk of extinction," said CM Bugti. To counter these issues, the Chief Minister directed the formation of community monitoring committees comprising tribal elders and local communities to oversee conservation efforts. He also instructed strict legal action against those involved in illegal hunting. Highlighting the need for federal support, CM Bugti announced plans to engage the Federal Ministry of Climate Change to restore international funding for protected areas.

During the meeting, Secretary Forest and Wildlife, Noor Ahmed Pirkanji, reported the recent arrest of three individuals involved in illegal hunting in Takatu. "The suspects are government employees, and legal proceedings are underway," Pirkanji added. Key attendees included Provincial Minister Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani, Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakil Qadir Khan, Principal Secretary Babar Khan, Additional Chief Secretary for Development Hafiz Abdul Basit, and other relevant officials.

Balochistan to Strengthen Trade, Scholarships, and Cultural Ties with Iran: CM Bugti

Qasem Shah:



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti has announced plans to enhance trade, educational opportunities, and cultural collaboration with Iran following a meeting with Iranian Ambassador Dr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam. The ambassador offered increased trade volumes, technical education programs, and scholarships for Pakistani students, which CM Bugti welcomed.

CM Bugti emphasized strengthening historical ties between the two nations and assured Iranian traders of un-

interrupted operations for legal consignments. He proposed appointing a liaison officer from the Iranian Consulate to address trade issues efficiently and pledged to work with the federal government to resolve border challenges. The Iranian ambassador's offer of scholarships includes special initiatives for the Hazara community in Quetta. CM Bugti praised the provincial government's ongoing Benazir Bhutto Scholarship Program, which provides students opportunities to study at top global universities, highlighting a shared commitment

to education. Dr. Moghaddam also informed CM Bugti about the appointment of a Baloch governor in Iran's Sistan region, which the Chief Minister lauded as a positive step for regional co-operation. CM Bugti accepted the ambassador's invitation to visit Iran and reiterated his commitment to enhancing cross-border ties. The meeting concluded with a mutual resolve to strengthen trade, educational exchanges, and cultural relations, marking a significant step towards greater collaboration between Balochistan and Iran.

ISPR: 27 Terrorists Killed in Kacchi District Operation

News Desk:

ISLAMABAD: Security forces conducted an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Kacchi District of Balochistan, following reports of terrorist presence in the area, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said. During the operation, troops stealthily surrounded and effectively engaged the terrorists' location. After an intense exchange of fire, 27 terrorists were eliminated. Multiple hideouts, along with caches of arms, ammunition,

and explosives, were also destroyed during the operation. The neutralized terrorists were involved in numerous attacks against security forces and innocent civilians. They were highly wanted by law enforcement agencies. The security forces of Pakistan, aligned with the nation, remain committed to thwarting any attempts to sabotage the peace, stability, and progress of Balochistan.



Contractor and Two Workers Abducted from Zhob-Mir Ali Khel Road Construction Site

Ali Khan Mandokhail:

Zhob: A shocking incident unfolded near the Balochistan-Khyber Pakhtunkhwa border as three individuals, including a contractor from a construction company working on the Zhob-Mir Ali Khel-Tank Road Section 2, were abducted late at night. According to details, the incident occurred in the Kuchh Meena area, approximately 70 kilometers from Zhob, on the Balochistan-Khyber Pakhtunkhwa border. Armed men stormed the construction camp of the local company and kidnapped three individuals. Sources reveal that the

abductees, who were working as subcontractors for the construction company, belong to Kilhi Khwajazi Mandokhail, a village in Zhob district. The victims were actively engaged in the road construction project at the time of the incident. The Kuchh Meena area, where the abduction took place, is known for its remote and rugged terrain, making law enforcement operations challenging. The incident has raised concerns about the safety of workers involved in infrastructure projects in the region.



Punjab information minister criticises PTI leaders for avoiding court

NEWS DESK: Punjab's Information Minister, Azma Bokhari, has criticised leaders of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for evading accountability, claiming that they failed to appear in court despite a waiting judge.

Reacting to comments made by PTI leader Barrister Saif, Bokhari stated that the judge waited for two hours, but the accused never arrived in court, Express News reported. She emphasised that corruption is not just about illicitly sending money abroad, money from money laundering that enters the country is considered 'halaq' corruption. Bokhari also accused PTI leaders of using charitable organisations, such as Shaikat Khannum and Al-Qadir Trust, to conduct financial transactions for personal gain. "Certified liars and corrupt individuals cannot be well-wishers of the nation," she added, further condemning the actions of those who have consistently accused their political rivals of corruption while now evading their own accountability.

She concluded by stating that those who have always criticised others as thieves and robbers are



now running from justice, and they cannot escape accountability forever. Moreover, earlier today Pakistan PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar dismissed speculation that the delay in the verdict for party founder Imran Khan was due to a deal. Speaking to the media outside Adiala Jail, Barrister Gohar clarified that the decision had been postponed by the judge at his own discretion, not due to any negotiations or political agreement, Express News reported. "We were waiting here today at January 17," Barrister Gohar said. He added that the attitude of the trial courts has been inappropriate and that the cases against Imran Khan were fabricated to apply pressure on the PTI founder.

Zahid Gul: Shaping Pakistan's Squash Stars Hamza Khan & Noor Zaman

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Unlocking Balochistan's Potential: A Roadmap for Sustainable Development

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Verdict against Imran, Bushra in £190m Al-Qadir Trust case postponed for 3rd time

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Unlocking Balochistan's Potential Through Digital Connectivity

Editor: Asim Khan

Editorial: Balochistan, Pakistan's largest yet most underserved province, stands at the crossroads of a digital revolution. With the provincial cabinet's approval of a comprehensive digital policy, a transformative opportunity emerges to bridge the province's persistent digital divide.

Leveraging internet connectivity and digital technologies could improve governance, enhance security, boost economic growth, and protect fundamental human rights.

For Balochistan, with its rugged terrain and remote settlements, adopting satellite internet can enable e-governance, foster educational opportunities, and support healthcare systems through telemedicine.

However, as global experiences demonstrate, the internet's transformative power must be deployed in the public interest.

The dominance of private corporations, like SpaceX, poses challenges to accountability and universal access. For Balochistan's digital policy to succeed, public-private partnerships are essential, ensuring that technological progress is inclusive and prioritizes citizens' welfare over profit margins.

Moreover, internet availability is critical to combating extremism and insecurity. By connecting communities and improving access to information, digital tools can empower unity and progress. Similarly, enhanced connectivity can unlock economic opportunities, supporting local businesses and integrating Balochistan into global markets.

International collaborations, such as the G7's involvement in global digital initiatives, could bolster this effort, as seen in projects like CERF and the COVID-19 vaccine rollout. A similar commitment to public-oriented technology deployment can secure Balochistan's future.

This is a pivotal moment for Balochistan. By ensuring robust implementation of its digital policy, the government can not only transform the province's socio-economic landscape but also uphold the human rights of its citizens. Digital connectivity is no longer a luxury—it is a necessity.

From Benazir's vision to Aseefa's voice

By Saira Samo:

Great nations reach their zenith when they recognize women as invaluable assets, but not as trophies upon them the respect and dignity they deserve, free from discrimination.

I recently heard Aseefa Bhutto Zardari address the Global Women's Forum held in Dubai on 26/27 November 2024. The daughter of the late Benazir Bhutto spoke passionately about women's empowerment, and her words left a strong impression on me.

"We are a strong and resilient force. There are two great powers in the world: one is the sword, and the other is the pen. There is a great deal of rivalry and competition between the two, but there is a third power greater than both, and that is our women. My message to young women is to believe in yourselves, remain steadfast in your wishes, and never underestimate the power of your voice," she said.

Listening to her, I was reminded of the indomitable spirit of her mother, Benazir Bhutto. She stood like an iron rod against adversity, defying traditions in a society where male dominance was the accepted norm.

Her rise to power brought hope to millions of women in Pakistan, challenging rigid norms and inspiring them to aspire to leadership roles across various sectors. As Pakistan's first female Prime Minister, Benazir not only shattered conservative traditions but also emerged as a powerful advocate for women's empowerment,

pushing for policies and reforms to address systemic inequalities they faced.

I would like to take a moment to recall the efforts of the late Benazir Bhutto and how she recognized the vital role women play in society, within families, and in supporting the nation.

Benazir's leadership redefined the role of women in a society that often dismissed them as secondary. She believed that empowering women was the key to national progress, a vision she pursued through transformative initiatives.

Benazir Bhutto's assassination in 2007 was a great loss for Pakistan and the world. However, her legacy lives on through programmes like the LHW initiative, which continues to benefit millions of women. Her vision for Pakistan was one where women could live with dignity, free from the constraints of oppression. As she once said, "As a woman, I felt my destiny lay in a land where there was a lack of justice and opportunity, a land where women were confined to the home, a land where the torch of education had yet to be lit."

Benazir's dream remains unfinished. Though Pakistan continues to face gender inequality, the foundations laid by her continue to inspire those advocating for justice and equality. Her daughter Aseefa's stirring words at the Global Women's Forum revive the spirit of her mother as a model of women's empowerment, proving that more equal future for women in Pakistan and beyond is achievable.

Benazir also worked tirelessly to address legal inequalities. She championed the reform of discriminatory laws that had long victimised

women. Her tenure saw women appointed to unprecedented positions, including Pakistan's first female judges and ambassadors, inspiring countless women to pursue careers once deemed inaccessible.

Despite facing relentless resistance from conservative forces and political rivals, who weaponised gendered attacks against her, labelling her as Westernised or undisciplined, Benazir remained steadfast. She was a resilient woman who championed justice and equality for all, including women.

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QUETTA: In the realm of sports, every exceptional athlete owes their success in part to the coach who shapes their journey, refining their skills and instilling the discipline needed for greatness. For Pakistan's promising squash talents, Hamza Khan and Noor Zaman, that guiding influence comes from Zahid Gul. Recognized for his profound understanding of the game and unwavering dedication to cultivating talent, Zahid Gul has emerged as a central figure in Pakistan's squash resurgence, evident in the remarkable achievements of his proteges.

Hamza Khan, a standout star in Pakistan's squash scene, has achieved significant milestones under Zahid Gul's tutelage. In 2023, Hamza made history by clinching the World Junior Squash Championship, ending Pakistan's 37-year title drought and marking a pivotal moment for both the young athlete and the nation.

Hamza's journey to success was not overnight; it resulted from intense training sessions, strategic improvements, and mental conditioning, all under Zahid Gul's guidance.

Beyond this historic victory, Hamza has consistently secured junior titles on the global stage, showcasing his skill and determination. His ascent underscores Zahid's coaching philosophy, which combines technical expertise with mental resilience.

Equally impressive is Noor Zaman, another rising talent who has thrived under Zahid Gul's mentorship. Noor's achievements include reaching the final of the prestigious British Junior Open, among the high-lights of his career in the junior squash circuit. He has also been a key asset to Pakistan's junior squash team, consistently delivering standout performances in international arenas.

Zahid Gul's impact on Hamza Khan and Noor Zaman extends beyond technical training; he has been instrumental in shaping their competitive mindset, instilling values of perseverance and excellence. His emphasis on discipline, hard work, and mental strength has prepared both athletes to confront the challenges of elite competition. Zahid's capacity to inspire confidence and foster a champion's mentality has been pivotal to their success.

For Zahid Gul, coaching transcends profession; it embodies a lifelong commitment to the sport and the athletes he mentors. His passion for squash and dedication to nurturing talent have garnered immense respect within the squash community, reflecting on his proteges. Zahid remains modest yet proud, stating, "Hamza and Noor possess extraordinary potential. My role is to be committed to nurturing their self-belief and their capacity for greatness," as he conveyed in a recent interview.

As Pakistan aims to reclaim its prominence in international squash, Zahid Gul's contributions are invaluable. His collaboration with Hamza Khan and Noor Zaman has already brought glory to the nation, and with his ongoing guidance, the future of Pakistani squash appears promising.

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Mysterious disease claims two more lives in Budhal, death toll rises to 10

JAMMU (INP): Two children of a family died and their four other siblings were hospitalized after they fell seriously ill due to some 'mysterious disease' at the village in Budhal where a massive health crisis continued to haunt villagers in Rajouri district, taking death toll to 10 so far in last one month while the Health authorities remained clueless.

According to Kashmir Media Service, both the siblings belonged to Larkoti hamlet in Budhal village of Budhal tehsil in

Kotranka sub-division of Rajouri district where eight members of two different families had lost their lives due to a mysterious disease in December last year, Director Health Services Dr Rakesh Magotra said.

A senior District Health official in Rajouri said that six children of Mohammad Aslam, hailing from Badhaal village in Budhal, were brought to Community Health Centre, Kandi (Kotranka), for medical check-up on Saturday evening. They had symptoms like fever, sweating, vomiting, de-

hydration, episodic loss of consciousness etc.

The children were initially referred to the Government Medical College (GMC), Associated Hospital in Rajouri and later four of them were shifted to SMO's Hospital (GMC) Jammu, where the girl, Naveena Kouser (8 yrs) breathed her last at 1.05 pm while her brother, Zahoor Ahmed (14 yrs) at around 7.50 pm on Sunday.

The official said two of the siblings were under treatment in the Isolation Ward of GMC Rajouri. The condition of two in Jammu was said to be serious this evening. They both were kept in the Intensive Care Unit of the GMC Jammu. He further added that two others admitted in Rajouri hospital are also being shifted to GMC Jammu late this evening.

The remaining four ailing children of Mohammad Aslam, undergoing treatment in GMC, Jammu, are Yasmeen Akhtar (15 years), Mohammad Maroof (10 Years), Zabina Kouser (9 years) and Safina Kouser (6 years).



ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to the Prime Minister for Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam meeting with a delegation led by former Prime Minister of Norway, Kjell Magne Bonkevik, during his visit to her office.

LA wildfires rage on for 6th day as 24 dead and thousands displaced

LOS ANGELES (INP): The wildfires devastating Los Angeles have escalated into one of the most catastrophic natural disasters in the region's history.

As the fires burn uncontrollably into their sixth consecutive day, the death toll has reached 24, with more than 100,000 residents forced to flee their homes and over 12,000 structures reduced to ashes.

The situation in Los Angeles remains dire as firefighters battle ferocious flames, helped by aerial teams dropping water and fire retardant from helicopters and planes.

Despite these efforts, the fires have ravaged entire neighborhoods, leaving behind a trail of destruction and turning bustling urban areas into apocalyptic landscapes.

The largest blazes are the Palisades Fire on the western side of Los Angeles and the Eaton Fire in the foothills to the east. The Palisades Fire has consumed more than 23,000 acres (96 square kilometers), and officials report it is only

11% contained. The Eaton Fire, meanwhile, has scorched nearly 14,000 acres (57 square kilometers) and remains 27% contained.

While Santa Ana winds eased temporarily, officials warned of their return. The winds, which reached hurricane force earlier in the week, have been a major factor in the fire's rapid spread. With gusts expected to reach 70 mph (112 kph) through mid-week, the threat of further devastation remains high.

California Governor Gavin Newsom called the fires "likely to be the worst natural disaster in U.S. history, in terms of costs," as the scale of the destruction becomes apparent.

Thousands of homes have been leveled, and the emotional toll on residents is immeasurable. Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath described the night's events as "unimaginable terror and heartbreak."

Over 150,000 people were initially forced to evacuate, though that number has now reduced to 100,000, with another 87,000 residents facing evacuation warnings. AS

firefighters brace for more intense conditions, officials warned that the entire population of nearly 10 million could be subject to evacuation orders.

Deadly LA wildfires to cost over \$50 billion in damages, becoming one of the worst natural disasters in U.S. history | Fortune

The fires have already left 16 people missing and claimed the lives of 24 individuals. The majority of the casualties were in the Eaton Fire zone, with at least eight deaths reported in the Palisades Fire. Officials say many of those missing are still trapped in homes consumed by the infernos, and search efforts are ongoing.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department continues its grim task of locating the missing, using specialized search teams and cadaver dogs.

The wildfires have not only caused human tragedy but have also decimated the environment. According to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire), the blazes

have destroyed over 12,000 structures, including homes, businesses, and critical infrastructure. Some areas, such as the affluent Brentwood neighborhood, remain at high risk.

Governor Newsom, seeking to expedite recovery, signed an executive order suspending environmental regulations to facilitate the rebuilding of homes and businesses. This move comes as authorities assess the long-term damage, which could exceed \$130 billion in losses. These wildfires now raging for nearly a week, have scorched an area larger than the city of San Francisco, with no signs of slowing down.

Despite the incredible efforts from firefighters, conditions remain difficult. The Santa Ana winds, which have blown embers as far as two miles ahead of the fires, are expected to pick up again by Sunday night. Firefighting teams, working tirelessly to prevent the fires from reaching more densely populated areas, such as San Fernando Valley and the upscale Brentwood area.

Further advancements in scientific research and national development.

A spokesperson for SUPARCO highlighted the advanced capabilities of the satellite, stating that it will play a critical role in:

Natural Disaster Response: Enhancing disaster management and providing timely assistance during emergencies.

Agriculture: Supporting agricultural planning and monitoring for improved yield and resource management. Urban Planning: Assisting in the development and management of urban areas.

Natural Resource Monitoring: Improving oversight of the country's natural resources to ensure sustainable utilization.

Indian government suppresses Kashmir's aspirations for freedom and



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti is presiding over the review meeting of Forest Department.

Oil jumps as new US sanctions to curb Russian supply to China, India

DUBAI (INP): Oil prices extended gains for a third session on Monday, with Brent rising above \$81 a barrel to its highest in more than four months.

Brent crude futures climbed \$1.47, or 1.84%, to \$81.23 a barrel by 0503 GMT after hitting an intraday high of \$81.49, the highest since Aug. 27.

U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude rose \$1.55, or 2.02% to \$78.12 a barrel after touching a high of \$79.39, the most since Oct. 8.

Brent and WTI have risen by more than 6% since Jan. 8, and

both contracts surged after the U.S. Treasury imposed broader restrictions on Russian oil on Friday. The new sanctions included producers Gazprom Neft (SHN.MM), opens new tab and Surgutneftegas, as well as 183 vessels that have shipped Russian oil, targeting the revenue Moscow has used to fund its war with Ukraine.

Russian oil exports will be hurt severely by the new sanctions, pushing the world's top and third-largest oil exporters respectively, to source more crude from the Middle East, Africa and the Americas, which will boost prices and shipping costs, traders and analysts said.

"Friday's announcement strengthens our

view that the risks to our \$70-\$85 Brent range forecast are skewed to the upside in the short term," Goldman Sachs analysts said in a note.

"We estimate that the vessels targeted by the new sanctions transported 1.7mb/d of oil in 2024 or 25% of Russia's exports, with the vast majority being crude oil." Expectations of tighter supplies have also pushed Brent and WTI monthly spreads to their widest backwardation since the third quarter of 2024. Prompt prices are higher than those in future months in backwardation, indicating tight supply.

RBC Capital Markets analysts said the doubling of tankers sanctioned for moving

the vessels targeted by the new sanctions have been used to ship oil to India and China as previous Western sanctions and a price cap imposed by the Group of Seven countries in 2022 shifted trade in Russian oil from Europe to Asia. Some of the ships have also moved oil from Iran, which is also under sanctions.

"The last round of OFAC (U.S. Office of Foreign Assets Control) sanctions targeting Russian oil companies and a very large number of tankers will be consequential in particular for India," said Harry Tchilingirian, head of research at Onyx Capital Group.

Modi's Kashmir visit meant to create smokescreen to mask repression

SRINAGAR (INP): Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir has been widely condemned as a propaganda exercise aimed at misleading the international community about the dire ground realities in the territory.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the visit is seen as an attempt to project a facade of normalcy and development while concealing India's grave human rights violations and oppressive policies in the disputed territory.

Far from addressing the legitimate aspirations of the Kashmiri people,

justice through draconian measures, and on the other, it shamelessly markets its so-called development mantra, primarily aimed at bolstering India's military control in the territory," he said.

The DFP leader questioned the credibility of India's development claims, highlighting the ongoing human rights abuses, including restrictions on freedom of movement and speech, and the systematic seizure of properties from Kashmiris on fabricated charges. He added that the heightened restrictions, installation of additional checkpoints, and intensified surveillance on Modi's visit expose the hollow claims of normalcy and peace in the occupied territory.

Advocate Anshad Iqbal criticized the Modi regime for promoting a false narrative of development while perpetuating widespread oppression.

"On one hand, the Indian government suppresses Kashmir's aspirations for freedom and

Modi's visit has only intensified their hardships.

With heightened restrictions, increased frisking, searches, arrests, and a heavy security clampdown, the tour has reinforced the perception that India is more focused on consolidating its occupation than ensuring local peace and development through the guidelines set by the United Nations in number of its resolutions on Kashmir.

Critics argue that such visits, like the Z-Morh Tunnel set to be inaugurated by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, are viewed as military-centric initiatives designed to enhance the

mobility of Indian armed forces rather than addressing the territorial's real developmental needs.

Human rights organizations have criticized the lack of transparency, accountability, and community involvement, which not only breaches democratic governance principles but also contravenes

United Nations mandates to safeguard the rights and livelihoods of indigenous populations in disputed territories.

Locals see these projects as part of a larger strategy to militarize and oppress, serving India's strategic interests rather than benefiting the people of IIOJK.

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ISLAMABAD: H.E. Mr. Kashudujaman, Consul General of Bangladesh in Dubai paid a courtesy call on H.E. Hussain Muhammad, Consul General of Pakistan, at the Consulate General of Pakistan.

CORROGENDUM

Kindly find enclosed herewith the Compendium of Tenders for publication in leading newspapers Quota and full or partly. The date of submission and opening tenders are hereby declared (On 22.01.2025) due to unavoidable circumstance as which were on 14.01.2025 as published daily newspapers vide PRQ No. 3004/21.12.2024, so the terms and condition will be remained same.

Executive Engineer
Ladakh Irrigation Division
Uthul

PRQ No.2817/13-01-2025

Executive Engineer
Maintenance Division-II Quetta

PRQ No.2819/13-01-2025

Barrister Gohar criticizes court's postponement of verdict in Khan's case

RAWALPINDI (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar has expressed dissatisfaction with the postponement of the verdict in the 190 million-pound corruption case against PTI founder Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi.

Speaking to the media outside Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail, Gohar claimed that the court staff had informed them earlier that the verdict would be announced on Monday.

However, he noted that despite their preparedness, the judge decided to postpone the decision unexpectedly.

"We were told before entering the jail that the verdict had been postponed. We came prepared for the verdict."

The court staff had told us that the verdict would be announced at 11 am today," Barrister Gohar said. "If the verdict was based on justice, then Imran Khan should have been acquitted."

He further stated that PTI clearly perceives an injustice being done, as the case against Imran Khan regarding the 190 million pounds is baseless, emphasizing that the PTI founder did not benefit financially from any alleged wrongdoing. He added, "We see the writing on the wall clearly."

The accountability court had earlier delayed the verdict for the third time, and the case was heard in Adiala Jail by Accountability Court Judge Nasir Javed Rana.

Despite efforts to notify PTI founder Imran Khan, neither he nor his wife, Bushra Bibi, appeared in court. The PTI leader's sisters, Aleema Khan

and Uzma Khan, attended the hearing.

As a result of the absence of the accused, the court decided to postpone the verdict, which will now be announced on January 17, 2025.

The case has sparked significant security measures, with additional police personnel, including female officers and elite force contingents, deployed outside Adiala Jail to maintain order. Authorities heightened security at Gate No. 5 of the jail, where government officials entering were also searched, ensuring tight control over the area.

The PTI leadership remains vocal in their criticism of the ongoing legal proceedings, asserting that Imran Khan has faced undue scrutiny and that the case lacks substantial evidence.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, with a delegation led by the Deputy Minister for Education of Yemen Dr. Ali Alalabab. The meeting was also attended by the Ambassador of Yemen to Pakistan Mohammed Motahar Alashabi and Additional Secretary Education Mr. Hassan Saqlain.

Aurangzeb says country making progress on Panda bonds

ISLAMABAD (INP): Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb on Monday has said that the country is preparing to launch yuan-denominated bonds (panda bonds) this year to shore up its finances, a Bloomberg report confirmed.

The country is planning to raise \$200 million to \$250 million from Chinese investors over the next six to nine months, the finance minister told Bloomberg in an interview.

Panda bonds are a type of debt security issued by foreign entities in the Chinese capital markets, and they are denominated in Chinese yuan (RMB).

In March last year, Aurangzeb had announced that Pakistan was keen to tap Chinese investors by selling as much as \$300 million in panda bonds.

These bonds allow foreign issuers, including multinational corporations, international financial institutions, and sovereign governments, to access capital from Chinese investors.

"The country is very keen, to tap the Panda bonds and the Chinese capital markets," Muhammad Aurangzeb said.

Fazlur Rehman defends political struggle, emphasizes importance of Islamic principles

MULTAN (INP): Maulana Fazlur Rehman, the leader of Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F), has reaffirmed his party's commitment to the political struggle in Pakistan, emphasizing the need for politics to be grounded in Islamic principles.

Speaking at a ceremony in Multan, Rehman argued that if politics in the country is not aligned with Islamic teachings, there would be no reason to continue the struggle.

In his address, Rehman highlighted the importance of reason, calling it the highest blessing from Allah, and criticized efforts to suppress the light of reason in the world.

He explained that understanding and implementing Islamic values in politics was crucial for the nation's well-being.

Rehman acknowledged the daily challenges of dealing with politicians, but pointed out that

convincing them to adopt Islamic principles was far more difficult than addressing other issues.

He also responded to criticism questioning the achievements of JUI-F in politics, stating that the party's involvement had been vital, particularly in defending the belief in the finality of the Prophethood (PBUH).

"Many questions are raised about what we have achieved from politics," he added.

These questions are pointless. Without our involvement in politics, we would not have been able to fight the battle for the belief in the finality of the Prophethood," Rehman said.

Despite a reduction in seats, with JUI-F currently holding eight members in the National Assembly, Rehman expressed determination not to abandon the struggle.

He recalled that, for the first time, both the ruling and opposition parties had recited praises for

(S&P) maintained its rating of CCC+.

According to the report, Pakistan has undergone 25 loan programmes over half a century, with the IMF insisting the country institute "durable reforms in key areas of the energy sector, tax collection and state-owned enterprises to end a cycle of indebtedness."

Aurangzeb also told Bloomberg that country's gross domestic product (GDP) "will probably expand 3.5pc in the fiscal year ending June."

"We are into this phase of stabilisation," Aurangzeb stated. "Now, where do we go from here? We have to focus on sustainable growth. We are now very focused on to fundamentally change the DNA of the economy to make it export-led."

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), which lowered the key interest rate to 13pc in December, cited that growth prospects had somewhat improved and it had managed to keep inflationary and external account pressures in check and is set to announce its decision for another rate cut on January 27.

Rehman concluded by stressing that the struggle for a politically Islamic Pakistan was an obligation, and while the results ultimately lie in the hands of Allah, the party would persist in its efforts to bring about change in the country.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding matters related to the Ministry of Housing and Works.

Verdict against Imran, Bushra in £190m Al-Qadir Trust case postponed for 3rd time

ISLAMABAD (INP): The verdict in the £190m Al-Qadir Trust case against former premier Imran Khan and his spouse Bushra Bibi expected to be announced on Monday has been postponed for the third time.

Imran and his wife were indicted in the case on Feb 27, 2024, shortly after the general elections.

The case alleges that Imran and Bushra Bibi obtained billions of rupees and land worth hundreds of kanals from Bahra Town Ltd for legalising Rs50 billion that was identified and returned to the country by the United Kingdom during the previous PTI government.

The pronouncement of the verdict has already been postponed twice — on Dec 23, 2024 and Jan 6, 2025. The decision will now be announced on January 17 (Friday). The judge was expected to deliver the verdict in a makeshift courtroom at Adiala Jail, where hearings of the case have continued over the past year.

Ahead of the hearing today, Imran's sisters Aleema, Noreen and Uzma Khan reached Adiala Jail to attend the hearing. PTI Secretary General Salman Akram Raja was also present. On December 23 — the original date the verdict was supposed to be announced

— an Islamabad accountability court postponed its verdict in the case until Jan 6 due to winter vacations.

Then, on January 6, the decision could not be pronounced as Judge Nasir Javed Rana was on leave.

As per the reference, Malik Riaz's son transferred 240 kanals of land to Farhat Shauzadi, while Zulfikar Bukhari received land under a trust, which NAB argued did not exist at the time of transfer.

The prosecution further alleged that a trust was created only after the adjustment of the 190m pounds, raising doubts about its legitimacy and purpose.

Reacting to the development, PTI Chairman Gohar Ali Khan asserted that the postponement was "not a result of any deal". "It is being attempted to give the impression that a deal is being made. There is no deal being made."

The trial court's attitude towards us (PTI) has been unjust," Gohar, flanked by Raja, told reporters outside Adiala.

The PTI chairman reiterated that Bushra Bibi was accused in the case to "pressure Imran". A day ago, PTI central information secretary Sheikh Waqas Akram had termed the matter a clear case

of acquittal as the prosecution could not prove any wrongdoing against the duo.

He said that neither the £190 million in question had been credited to Imran's account nor to that of Bushra Bibi, rather the same was deposited in the account of Supreme Court.

Akram added that Al-Qadir Trust was a university which was providing education to the students. The land transferred to Al-Qadir Trust was not private property of Imran Khan, his wife or any other one rather the entire land was registered in the name of the trust, he said.

He said that the PTI had not attached any expectation to "Washington and Trump administration" for the ex-premier's release. Meanwhile, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif had hoped that "justice will prevail".

Speaking to reporters in Sialkot, he had maintained that the US had not asked the Pakistan government to give relief to Imran, or anyone else.

The PTI is telling people that America is closely monitoring the situation in Pakistan, that it is going to take major decisions in their favour, he said, adding that there was no such thing on the cards.

Bushra Bibi's bail pleas dismissed in November 26 protest cases

NEWS DESK: A local court in Islamabad on Monday dismissed three pre-arrest bail petitions filed by Bushra Bibi, wife of former Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan.

We are now very focused on to fundamentally change the DNA of the economy to make it export-led," he added.

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), which lowered the key interest rate to 13pc in December, cited that growth prospects had somewhat improved and it had managed to keep inflationary and external account pressures in check and is set to announce its decision for another rate cut on January 27.

Rehman concluded by stressing that the struggle for a politically Islamic Pakistan was an obligation, and while the results ultimately lie in the hands of Allah, the party would persist in its efforts to bring about change in the country.

surety bonds as required. The judge expressed concern, stating, "You have not yet submitted the surety bonds. You are not complying with the court's orders."

Defence counsel Khalid Yousaf Chaudhry responded that Bushra Bibi had to appear in court for a decision on the £90 million reference and was required to visit Adiala Jail.

Judge Majoka subsequently dismissed the bail pleas, noting that the interim bail previously granted to Bushra Bibi was valid only until the date of the hearing.

The cases against her stem from her alleged involvement in protests held on November 26.

An accountability court in Rawalpindi on Monday postponed the announcement of its verdict for the third time in the £190 million case involving former prime minister Imran Khan and his wife, Bushra Bibi.

Judge Nasir Javed Rana said that the verdict had been deferred due to the absence of the accused and their legal representatives, Express News reported.

The judge stated that although he arrived at the court at 8:30 am and issued two summons for Imran Khan to appear, both Khan and Bushra Bibi failed to show up.



JEDDAH: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony Chaudhry Salik Hussain signing annual Hajj agreement 2025 with Saudi Minister for Hajj and Umrah Dr. Tawfiq Bin Fawzan Al-Rabiah.

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia sign annual agreement for nearly 180,000 citizens to perform Hajj in 2025

NEWS DESK: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Inter-faith Harmony Chaudhry Salik Hussain on Monday signed the annual Hajj agreement between the two nations, which would see 179,210 Pakistani pilgrims perform Hajj this year.

Hajj, one of the fundamental pillars of Islam, is performed each year by millions of Muslims worldwide. Pakistan receives one of the highest Hajj quotas from Saudi Arabia. Under the current Hajj quota, some 89,602 people will be performing the pilgrimage under the government scheme, while the

best possible facilities for the pilgrims, who will be offered special accommodation in Mina at reduced rates."

The Saudi minister assured his Pakistani counterpart of all possible support for better facilities for the pilgrims, the statement said.

"To make the Hajj journey more accessible, easier, and comfortable, a short Hajj programme of 20 to 25 days has been introduced," the statement said, adding that pilgrims would have the option to choose their accommodation in Madina for four to eight days.

"Each pilgrim will receive a specially designed bag containing the Pakistani flag, a QR code for identification, and relevant information," it said.

"A special mobile app will provide all information to the pilgrims on their mobile phones, en-

abling them to stay updated about their Hajj group's information, training schedule, flight details, accommodations in Saudi Arabia, and live maps and locations of sites during Hajj."

The statement said religious affairs minister Hussain would also participate in a four-day international Hajj conference and expo organised by the Saudi Ministry of Hajj in Jeddah where additional agreements would be made with institutions and companies responsible for providing facilities to pilgrims.

The country's 2025 Hajj Policy states that women will be prohibited from performing Hajj without the consent of their husbands or parents. Moreover, children below 12 would not be allowed to go for Hajj and immunisation of vaccines was mandatory.



ISLAMABAD: HE. Ulrika Sundberg, Special Envoy to OIC and for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue, Meets Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar, Federal Minister for Dialogue, Justice, and Human Rights, to Strengthen Interfaith Harmony and the Protection and Promotion of Minority Rights.