

# QUETTA VOICE

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Saturday, January.18.2025

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OPD of the Sandeman Provincial Hospital Quetta closed as a result of boycott by the YDA: Photo Muhammad Ismail

## ECP delists three political parties for skipping intra-party elections

**NEWS DESK:** The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has removed three political parties from its list of registered entities due to their failure to conduct intra-party elections, as required by law. According to an official notification, the Pakistan National Party (PNP), National Democratic Party (NDP), and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Nizam (PTN) have been delisted for not holding elections within the prescribed timeframe.

The move comes as part of the ECP's efforts to enforce the Political Parties Order of 2002, which mandates that all political parties in Pakistan conduct regular intra-party elections to ensure democratic practices and accountability.

In a contrasting development, the ECP has recognized Tehreek-e-Saba Hazara Pakistan (TSHP) as a registered political party, following the successful completion of its intra-party elections in November 2024.

Additionally, last week, the ECP also enlisted Awaam Pakistan (AP), after the party held its intra-party elections in June 2024.

Awaam Pakistan, formed by former Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and former Finance Minister Miftah Ismail.

## Govt defends 'merit-based' verdict in £190 million case

**NEWS DESK:** Information Minister Attaullah Tarar has defended the verdict in the £190 million Al-Qadir Trust case, describing it as a merit-based decision grounded in the law.

Speaking to reporters outside the parliament house on Friday, he said the founder of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) failed to establish his innocence.

Flanked by Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar, the information minister stressed that prominent legal experts had also recognised the judgment as fair and lawful. He condemned the use of religious narratives to mask corruption, calling it an unethical diversion. Attaullah Tarar characterised the Al-Qadir Trust case as a historic corruption scandal, criticising the defence counsel for relying on political rhetoric instead of contesting the case on legal grounds. He noted the defence's inability to counter the prosecution's evidence, which ultimately shaped the verdict. Echoing these sentiments, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar labelled the case "open and shut" and highlighted the unprecedented scale of corruption involved.

**School Meal Program in Balochistan – A Step Towards Better Education and Nutrition**

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## Patient Suffering Continues as YDA Strike Paralyzes Hospitals in Balochistan

**Qasem Shah:**

**QUETTA:** The Balochistan government has initiated action against 36 medical officers, 29 lady medical officers, and 9 dental surgeons for allegedly receiving dual salaries, issuing notices to those involved. Provincial Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar stated that evidence of corruption had been uncovered, and FIRs would be filed against those involved. In a statement, the YDA condemned the arrests of its leaders and criticized the Health Department's actions against doctors accused of receiving dual salaries. The association de-

manded the immediate release of its members and called for a constructive dialogue to resolve their long-standing issues, including salary disparities and better working conditions. He revealed that the Health Department has shared a list of implicated doctors and is seeking details of contract-based doctors from international organizations. Officials on deputation to UN bodies are also being reviewed, with instructions for those whose tenure has ended to report back to their parent department. Meanwhile, the strike by the Young Doctors Association over

the arrest of its leaders entered its third day, paralyzing OPDs across government hospitals in Balochistan. Patients remained the hardest hit, struggling to access essential medical services. A patient lamented, "We are suffering due to the doctors' protests and government inaction. Who will care for us in this chaos?" Another said, "The government must resolve this issue quickly, lives are at stake." The ongoing strike has deepened the healthcare crisis in the province, further highlighting the need for prompt resolution.

## Three Judges Approved for Balochistan High Court by Judicial Commission

**Staff Reporter:**

**QUETTA:** The Judicial Commission has approved the appointment of three judges to the Balochistan High Court. The newly approved judges include Muhammad Asif Reki, Najmuddin Mengal, and Muhammad Ayub. This decision marks a significant step toward strengthening the judiciary in Balochistan. The appointments are expected to enhance the court's ability to handle pending cases and ensure timely justice. The approval has been welcomed by legal circles, who see it as a move to improve the efficiency and capacity of the provincial judiciary.



## Death toll in attack on Kurram aid convoy rises to 10: official

**NEWS DESK:** The death toll in a previous day's attack on a supply convoy bound for Parachinar in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Kurram district has risen to 10. District Health Officer (DHO) Quaiser Abbas told Dawn.com on Friday.

A day ago, a security official was martyred and four others were injured when the convoy of 35 vehicles, carrying food and other essential items to Parachinar, came under attack in the Bagan area.

In retaliatory action by secu-

rity personnel escorting the convoy, six attackers were killed and 10 others were injured. Although communications were lost with the drivers of 29 vehicles, some of them managed to make it safely to Thall in Hangu district.

The Kurram DHO told Dawn.com today that following the attack on the supply convoy, another security official had been martyred, and six drivers and two other passengers were among those killed, raising the death toll to 10 within the last 24 hours. "The bodies of a driver and a

passenger were dismembered and shot dead and the bodies were moved to Lower Alizai in sacks," DHO Abbas said.

He added that four of the drivers' bodies were found in the morning in the Udawal area with their hands bound and signs of torture.

The DHO said they had been shot dead and the bodies were moved to Alizai Hospital.

Additionally, the drivers' family members told Dawn.com that they were in contact with the victims until 1am, after which they could not be reached.

## Imran Khan, Bushra Bibi Sentenced in £190m Al-Qadir Trust Case

**Dawood Ahmed:**

**ISLAMABAD:** Former Prime Minister Imran Khan and his wife, Bushra Bibi, were convicted on Friday in the £190 million Al-Qadir Trust case. Imran Khan received a 14-year prison sentence, while Bushra Bibi was handed a seven-year term.

The verdict, announced by Judge Nasir Javed Rana at a makeshift courtroom inside Adiala Jail, also imposed fines of Rs1 million on Imran Khan and Rs500,000 on Bushra Bibi. Failure to pay these fines would result in an additional six months and three months of imprisonment, respectively.

The court ordered the forfeiture of the "Al-Qadir University Project Trust" property to the federal government under Section 10(a) of the National Accountability Ordinance, 1999. "Both convicts are present before the court and are to be taken into custody immediately. They are to be handed over to the Superintendent Jail with the necessary commitment warrants to serve their sentences," the court stated in its ruling. The announcement, delayed three times earlier, marks a significant development in the case involving alleged misuse of public funds and trust property.



## Rain, Snowfall Expected in Balochistan: PDMA, DCs on High Alert

**Manan Mandokhail:**

**QUETTA:** The Federal Meteorological Department has forecast rainfall and snowfall in Quetta, Pishin, Mastung, Gwadar, Killa Abdullah, Chaman, and other parts of Balochistan from January 18 to 20.

Cool and chilly weather is expected to prevail during this period.

In response to the weather alert, the Provincial Disaster Management Authority

(PDMA) has placed its staff on high alert to manage any emergency situations.

Deputy Commissioners in the affected districts have also instructed their support staff to remain vigilant and prepared to handle any contingencies.

Authorities urge residents in these areas to take precautionary measures, especially in mountainous regions prone to heavy snowfall and potential disruptions.



## 5 terrorists killed in intelligence-based operation in KP's Tirah: ISPR

**RAWALPINDI:** Five terrorists were killed in an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Khyber district on Friday, the military's media wing said.

A statement from the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) said an IBO was conducted in the district's general area of Tirah based on the reported presence of terrorists.

It added that the security forces engaged the terrorists and as a result, five, including ring-leader Abdullah aka Turab, "were sent to hell" while one was apprehended.

The ISPR said weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the slain who had remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities in the area against the security forces, as well as killing of innocent civilians.

The ISPR added that a sanitisation operation was being conducted to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area.

"The security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the

country," it concluded.

The ISPR said a day ago that security forces killed 22 terrorists and injured 18 others in various IBOs across Tirah since December 14. "Of late, numerous terrorist incidents have occurred in general area Tirah, Khyber district against security forces as well as the innocent civilians resulting in several casualties," said the statement.

The ISPR added that the IBOs would continue till peace in the area was restored and the terrorists were eliminated.

Armed terrorists, affiliated with various groups, had stood to have gradually moved out of the plains of Tirah valley, taking refuge in vacant houses in the hilly terrain, as security forces fortified their positions in key locations of the valley.

Sources in the region had told Dawn that the situation in parts of the valley was calm, with no major terror-related incident reported last month. They said the armed terrorists, who were frequently seen in different parts of Tirah valley, NEWS DESK

**28% increase in Information Technology (IT) exports: National Assembly (NA) informed**

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**Balochistan's Climate Crisis: Impact, Causes, and Solutions**

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## QUIET VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

### School Meal Program in Balochistan – A Step Towards Better Education and Nutrition

#### Editorial:

The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Balochistan Education Department and the World Food Programme (WFP) marks a significant step towards addressing critical issues of malnutrition and low school enrolment in Balochistan.

Under this two-year initiative, 20,000 students in 65 schools will benefit from 5 million nutritious meals, aiming to combat nutritional deficiencies, improve attendance, and enhance learning outcomes.

Balochistan, despite being resource-rich, faces severe developmental challenges. Malnutrition, stunting, and anaemia, particularly among women and children, are widespread.

Hidden hunger—a condition where essential nutrients are lacking—contributes to high child mortality rates. Poverty and unemployment exacerbate these issues, leaving millions of children vulnerable.

Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durani emphasized the transformative potential of this program in boosting enrolment and improving student health.

However, with over 3 million out-of-school children and 1 million enrolled in schools across the province, this initiative must be expanded.

Global organizations like the WFP should extend their support beyond the initial 20,000 students to reach marginalized neighborhoods and backward districts.

Providing free meals to all school-going children could significantly improve enrolment, retention, and overall well-being.

This program not only addresses nutrition but also promotes education as a tool for empowerment in Balochistan. Scaling up such initiatives is essential to secure a healthier, more educated future for the province's children.

### False promises by the biggest crooks

By Imran Jan:

"I'm livin' in America, and in America you are on your own. America is not a country. It's just a business."

These are some harsh, yet honest words, spoken by a character played by Brad Pitt in the movie, *Killing Them Softly*.

While he says it in a different context, I cannot help but think of the countless American soldiers who believed the lies of their leaders and their journalism.

They went to lands that didn't belong to them and fought wars they were lied to about, killed innocent people they were told were monsters. And when they returned home with either their limbs missing or in most cases, their brains messed up, they were not given the medical help they were promised.

The message from America to them was clear and simple: the country only cares about those who can pay (in body and blood).

Once you are no longer capable of paying, America doesn't care about you. You are no longer a paying customer as far as America is concerned. The country is not willing to take care of their end of the bargain, which is to take care of the wounded warrior after they were sold on the war.

A massive and devastating wildfire happened in California and is ongoing at the time of this writing.

Several people

have died and countless houses and buildings have been burnt, including those belonging to Hollywood celebrities. The leafy town of Beverly Hills began to resemble Gaza within days. Very quickly, the insurance industry, which is a euphemism for crooks, started to make noise about not honouring fire coverage.

Let me tell you something about the insurance companies in America; they are some of the biggest crooks in the world. They work more like banks and less like insurance companies.

Insurance companies want the customer to keep paying premiums on their policies but once those customers are rendered useless after their house or business is burnt or damaged, insurance not only doesn't want to take care of their end of the bargain, which is to make the customer whole, but they also do not want to renew the existing policy after its term expires.

The same wildfire in California also shed some light on the actions of another group of crooks: the oil industry. Their friendly media continues to make noise during this wildfire that this was an act of arson, which started this fire. Initially I did not understand their game.

But their continued focus on how it was an act of crime and the use of phrases such as there was human agency in-

volved in this fire and that this was human activity made me realise that this sheer focus on this rhetoric was actually to avoid any discussion of climate change. Because every time there is a wildfire or a flood, the first thing that comes to mind is the climate crisis.

What they forgot to realise is that climate change also is due to human activity.

There is a human agency very much involved in environmental disasters.

Climate change is not due to environmental disturbances occurring naturally but rather is the response of the environment to our mind-bogglingly excessive use of fossil fuel.

The fossil fuel industry has made their filthy fortune from the extraction of natural resources from the earth. The earth in response needs to be taken care of or else it will stop hosting life.

The fossil fuel industry does not want to take care of a planet, which has been their paying customer for centuries.

The planet has been paying them but now that time has come for the fossil fuel industry to return the favour and make their customer whole, the same tactics are being repeated to avoid such an endeavour as have been used by the United States of America.

All the crooks want to do is shift the blame and responsibility elsewhere.

## Balochistan's Climate Crisis: Impact, Causes, and Solutions

Chandni Kakar:

Balochistan, a region of unique geological diversity and a long coastline is grappling with severe climate change challenges. This article delves into the causes and consequences of climate change in Balochistan, shedding light on its impact on agriculture, water resources, and the overall ecosystem. Additionally, it explores the global context of climate change, its implications on the region, and potential solutions to mitigate its effects. The Unique Ecosystem of Balochistan

Balochistan's geological diversity, including rugged mountains and sandy plains, creates a distinct ecosystem. However, these unique features also make it vulnerable to climate change. The region's economy is heavily dependent on agriculture, which is severely impacted by climate change. Reduced rainfall and increased temperatures have led to a significant drop in the underground water level, affecting both farmers and the overall landscape.

### Migration and Economic Consequences:

The scarcity of water and extreme heat have driven people to migrate to urban centers like Quetta in search of employment opportunities. Reduced agricultural income from fruit sales has further strained the region's economy.

### Deforestation and Substandard Fuel:

Primary Causes Experts attribute large-scale climate change in Balochistan to deforestation, especially the cutting of juniper forests in Ziarat, and the use of

## Is it time for basic income in Pakistan?

By Neil Howard:

Special assistance is everywhere conditional, and in Pakistan it is no different. Either it comes with behavioural strings attached — 'do this and we'll help you, don't and we won't' — or it is targeted, with receipt conditional on being a specific type of person or being a particular type of problem (think Benazir Income Support Programme [BISP] and the extreme poor).

Those who defend this approach typically offer the same justifications. First, they argue, resources are limited, which means that we should give them to those most in need and make sure they use them well. Intuitively sensible, this position quickly gives way to the troubling claim that as the poor aren't used to having any money, we should 'guide' them so that they don't waste what they get. Inside this sits the pernicious, yet sadly widespread, prejudice that the poor are feckless and do not deserve our support.

Critics of these positions abound, as they do of conditionality more broadly. First, to note, any claim that 'resources are limited' are contentions at best. Just walk around in Islamabad, you might hear, 'and you'll see how much money Pakistan really has'.

The important point is that we cannot uncritically accept the claim that there isn't enough money to go around, because how much money is available to the public purse is always and everywhere an artefact of decisions made by the wealthy and the powerful who make much they will how much they can avoid.

Second, the evidence is clear that conditionality is ineffective, as well as inefficient and inimical to human dignity. Targeted forms of social assistance exclude many of those most in need. Targeting also leads to waste, since it generates duplication, opens avenues for corruption, and requires burdensome bureaucracies to administer. In turn, these bureaucracies are known to be stigmatising and abusive — the poor typically have to jump through unpleasant hoops, offer bribes, and face shame to receive their aid.

Think of basic income like a pension, only for everyone, and for the purpose of being to provide a stable floor of economic security for all. For every citizen, regardless of their income, scholars and civil society advocates are turning to basic income as an alternative. Per the international definition, a 'basic income' is "a periodic cash payment un-

conditionally delivered to all on an individual basis, without means-test or work requirement, for every citizen, with the core purpose of providing a stable floor of economic security that all people can stand on, as a replacement for the patchy social safety nets that we know millions fall through.

Supporters note not only that basic income could provide people with life-changing economic security, but that its simple nature being transferred directly to all — eliminates the need for expensive, wasteful administrative systems that are ripe for corruption. This prospect is attractive all over the world, but perhaps nowhere more so than in the subcontinent.

Pilot research from across the region shows that basic income can be transformative. In India, a trial in rural Madhya Pradesh found that it improved people's health, nutrition, education, and ability to invest. More recently, an experiment run by colleagues and I in Telangana showed major improvements in people's dignity and people's sense of agency. These findings have been paralleled in Bangladesh, where another experiment documented a substantial reduction in stress along-

side an increase in people's sense that they can cope with life. Nepal, it has just been announced, is set to join the wave of South Asian basic income pilots.

### Overexploitation of Tubewells and Falling Water Levels:

Balochistan faces the challenge of over 50,000 legal and illegal tubewells extracting large quantities of groundwater daily, leading to a rapid decline in underground water levels, exacerbating the water crisis.

### Global Climate Change and Balochistan's Rising Temperatures:

The rapid melting of glaciers, partly caused by a deadly heatwave, has further strained water resources.

### Multiple Factors and the Way Forward:

Provincial Secretary of Environment and Climate Change, Niaz Ahmed, emphasizes that climate change is a global problem. Balochistan

is experiencing rising temperatures, with Quetta reaching up to 41 degrees Celsius, high lighting the urgency of addressing climate change.

### Pakistan's Role in the Global Climate Crisis:

While Pakistan's contribution to global climate change is minimal (less than one percent), it ranks high on the German Watch Index for countries severely affected by climate change.

### Impact on Weather Systems and Melting Glaciers:

The rapid melting of glaciers, partly caused by a deadly heatwave, has further strained water resources.

### Health Implications During Severe Droughts:

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## Cyprus hails new access to United States (US) defence goods

NICOSIA (INP): Cyprus heralded a move by United States President Joe Biden allowing the strategic Mediterranean country access to military equipment. Traditionally aligned with Russia, European Union member Cyprus has solidified a more pro-American stance since the election of President Nikos Christodoulides in 2023.

In a memorandum issued by the White House on Wednesday, Biden said "the furnishing of defence articles and defence services to the Republic of Cyprus will strengthen the security of the United States and promote world peace."

Biden's decision

makes Cyprus eligible "to receive defence equipment, supplies, and services" through programmes including the Foreign Military Sales and the Excess Defence Articles divestment initiative. Washington's embassy to Nicosia said on its website.

A statement from the Cyprus Presidency on Thursday called the move a "historic milestone in the bilateral relations between Cyprus and the United States" that would "yield tangible benefits at diplomatic and defence levels".

It is also "clear acknowledgement" from Washington that Cyprus is a "key pillar of stability and security in the Eastern Mediterranean", the Presidency said.

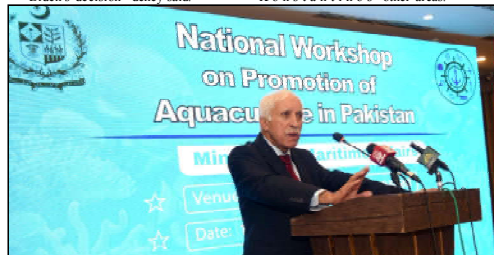
On X, United States Ambassador Julie Davis Fisher said: "President Biden's determination of the ROC's eligibility for government-to-government defence sales marks an important step in deepening the relationship, enhancing security cooperation & promoting stability in the East Med."

In 2022 Washington fully lifted a decades-old arms embargo, conditional on Nicosia continuing to block Russian warships from its ports.

The United States imposed the arms embargo on the whole of Cyprus in 1987 in the hope it could encourage its reunification. Cypriot government spokesman Konstantinos

Letymbiotis said the new defence cooperation was the result of Cyprus proving itself a valuable partner during the Middle East crisis.

The two countries cooperated in an initiative to deliver aid to Gaza by sea, as well as on the evacuation of US nationals from the region, he said. Cyprus has been divided since 1974, when NATO-member Turkey invaded the north in response to a Greek-backed coup. More than 30,000 Turkish troops remain stationed on the island. Last year, Christodoulides was the first Cypriot president to visit the White House since 1996, and the two sides entered a Strategic Dialogue aimed at enhancing security and other areas.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh addressing the National Workshop on the Promotion of Aquaculture in Pakistan.

## Gaza's Strip between Israel and Hamas destruction in numbers

PARIS (INP): The war in the Gaza Strip between Israel and Hamas, which agreed a ceasefire, has killed tens of thousands of people and created a humanitarian disaster.

The fragile ceasefire deal is due to start on Sunday, but still has to be approved by Israel's cabinet. The sheer scale of bombardment and violence of the fighting have disfigured the densely populated Palestinian territory's urban landscape. Gaza is one of the most densely populated places on the planet. Before the war, 2.4 million people lived on a 365-square-kilometre (140-square-mile) strip of land. By December 1, 2024, nearly 69 percent of the buildings in Gaza had been destroyed or damaged, according to satellite imagery analysed by the UN.

Since October 7, 2023, at least 46,788 Palestinians, most of them civilians, have been killed in Israel's military campaign in Gaza, according to data provided by the health ministry in the Hamas-run territory. Those figures are acknowledged as reliable by the UN. Before the war, Gaza City in the territory's north was home to some 600,000 people. Almost three-quarters of its buildings (74.2 percent) have been damaged or destroyed.

In Rafah, Gaza's southernmost city along the border with Egypt, the Israeli army launched a ground offensive in early May. By the end of that month, nearly 48.7 percent of the buildings in Rafah had been hit, against 33.9 percent the previous month.

Although relatively spared compared with Gaza City, gutted facades and buildings stand testament to the scars of war. Rights group Amnesty International said that more than 90 percent of the buildings along 5.8 square kilometres of Gaza's border territory with Israel appear to have been "destroyed or severely damaged" between October 2023 and May 2024.

The United Nations has estimated that

reconstruction in the territory would take up to 15 years and cost as much as \$50 billion. During the war, Gaza's hospitals have been repeatedly attacked by Israel, which accused Hamas of using them for military purposes, a charge the militant group denies. Kamal Adwan hospital, one of the few medical facilities still operational in northern Gaza, is now empty and out of service since a major Israeli strike in late December, according to the World Health Organization. By December 31, just 18 of Gaza's 36 hospitals, or half, were partially functioning, according to the WHO, with a total capacity of 1,800 beds.

Data from UNOSAT and geographic database OpenStreetMap also indicates that more than 83 percent of Gaza's mosques have been damaged or destroyed.

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ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Iran Dr. Reza Amir Moghadam called on Speaker National Assembly Anwar Azeem in Islamabad.

## Fog delays toss for Pakistan-West Indies Test series opener

MULTAN (INP): Fog delayed the toss on day one of the first Test between Pakistan and West Indies in Multan on Friday. The toss was scheduled for 9:00 am but it could not be held due to the weather conditions.

Pakistan will aim to finish the ICC World Test Championship 2023-25 on a winning note when they face West Indies in the first Test of the two-match series.

West Indies, who will play a Test match in Pakistan for the first time since December 2006, are currently positioned at the bottom of the ICC World Test Championship table. In the last Test series be-

tween the two sides on Pakistan soil, PCB Hall of Famer Inzamam-ul-Haq led the home side to a 2-0 win in a three-match Test series.

Pakistan and West Indies last faced each other in the red-ball format in 2021 in West Indies, where the two-match series was levelled 1-1.

Pakistan under the leadership of Shan Masood will be looking to win their second consecutive home series after they defeated England 2-1 in October last year. Pakistan's 15-member squad has undergone three days of extensive training, while Kraig Brathwaite-led side practiced for two days at the picturesque Multan

Cricket Stadium. The touring side also featured in a three-day warm-up game against Pakistan Slubach at the Islamabad Club in Islamabad last week.

The home side squad comprises of fast bowler Mohammad Hafeez (right-handed batter) and Rohail Nazir (wicketkeeper-batter), while Ahrar Ahmed, Imran-ul-Haq, Mohammad Ali and Sajid Khan have been recalled to the side.

Ahrar and Sajid require 11 and six wickets, respectively to complete their 50 Test wickets each.

Shan Masood (captain), Saud Shakeel (vice-captain), Ahrar Ahmed, Babar Azam, Imran-ul-Haq, Kamran Ghulam, Kashif Ali, Khuram Shahzad, Mohammad Ali, Mohammad Hafeez, Mohammad Rizwan (wicketkeeper/batter), Noman Ali, Rohail Nazir (wicketkeeper/batter), Sajid Khan, and Salman Ali Agha.

West Indies 12 for the 1st Test: Kraig Brathwaite (captain), Alick Athanaze, Amir Joseph, Gudakesh Motie, Jayden Seales, Jonel Warrican, Justin Greaves, Kaveem Hodge, Keacy Carty, Kevin Sinclair, Mikyle Louis and Tevin Imlach (wicket-keeper).

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## India continuously violating international laws in IIOJK: APHC

SRINAGAR (INP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has said that India is continuously violating international laws and conventions in Indian Jammu and Kashmir.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the APHC spokesman, Abdul Rashid Minhas in a statement in Srinagar said since the Bharatiya Janata Party-led Indian government revoked special status of the territory on August 05, 2019, the Kashmiris have been de-

prived of all basic rights granted to any human being under international law. He said that India is continuously violating international laws and conventions in Indian Jammu and Kashmir.

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## James Vince quits first-class cricket to take up PS� deal

LONDON (INP): James Vince has quit first-class cricket for 2025 in a move that will enable him to play in the Pakistan Super League despite the ECB's new policy on No-Object Certificates (NOCs).

Vince will continue to lead Hampshire's T20 side but has stepped down as club captain after nine seasons in charge, and will play no part in their County Championship campaign this summer.

Vince, 33, was retained by Karachi Kings ahead of the PS� draft on Monday. The ECB announced in November that it will only grant NOCs to the paperwork required for players to feature in overseas leagues - to white-ball specialists for tournaments that take place during the English season, with the notable exception of the IPL.

The new policy, and the PCB's decision

to shift its flagship tournament into a new April-May window, left Vince with a choice between skipping the PS� - at significant financial cost - or renegotiating the final year of his Hampshire contract to become a white-ball specialist. He has chosen the latter, in a move confirmed by the club on Wednesday morning.

"I love Hampshire," Vince said. "It's been my club and home for 16 years, so I want to be able to maintain my best to keep delivering for Hampshire in T20 cricket, and hopefully even further our success in the competition (the Blast). I also need to understand what is best for my family, and combine that with the stage of my career I am at."

Hampshire cited Vince's decision to relocate his family to Dubai - where he is currently playing for Gulf Giants - as a major factor in his new deal, following a se-

ries of unexplained attacks on their home in the county last year. "I am so grateful to everyone at Uffington Bowl for supporting me last year through a really tough time, and for allowing me to make this next step," Vince said.

Giles White, Hampshire's director of cricket, asked the club's supporters to be understanding of Vince's decision. "James has been at the heart of the club for the best part of 20 years, showing absolute commitment on and off the field as the team's leading batter and captain," he said.

"We recognise that this announcement will be tinged with disappointment for many fans but hope everyone will join us in celebrating what has given to our club over many years and supporting him as he fulfils his commitment to continue leading the Hawks in the 2025 Vitality Blast."

### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer Building CWPRA Department District Surab invites sealed tender based on complete schedule of rates, 2015 G.O.B. amended up to date from interested contractors/firms for the work listed below. Earned Money 2% and Time limit 12 Months.

S.No.	Name of work	E/Coat
1.	CONSTRUCTION OF BOUNDARY WALL FOR TWO (02) CLASS ROOMS AND TWO (02) BATHROOMS FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL, KILLIMURWAN MOHSAR, DISTRICT SURAB (BEANS CODE 16347) (PSPF NO. 8270.23024.2486) TSE-242501628445	14.171 M

The procurement shall be carried out in accordance with Baluchistan Public Procurement Regulatory Authority rules, 2014. BASIC ELIGIBILITY: The Contractor must have valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council in the category relevant to the value of work C-6 or above for which it is applicable with relevant discipline and registration with its authority i.e. (NTR, Sales Tax Department and Excise and Revenue Authority, where applicable. One Year valid work experience. Turnover last three years showing financial capacity of the firm. METHOD OF PROCUREMENT: National Competitive Bidding Procedure. Single stage - One envelope bidding procedure. BIDDING/TENDER DOCUMENTS: Issued. The contractor/firm having registered with PEC in aforementioned category in relevant discipline can obtain bidding document from the addressed mentioned below on production of green chit form for an amount of Rs.15000 (Non Refundable) deposited in the head of account: C-20716 through Government treasury National Bank Pakistan or can be downloaded from website of BPPRA. From the date of publication of this notice on the website of BPPRA till one day prior to the last date of submission. The contractor/firm who obtained bidding document by downloading them from BPPRA website will also be required to produce deposited green chit form from above mentioned fee. The document if requested by mail will be promptly dispatched by registered mail for which cost of mail will be by the applicant; however, under no circumstances the procuring agency will be held responsible for loss/damage of document so marked. Earned money as mentioned above shall be submitted in the form of bank guarantee or deposited at call from a scheduled bank. DEADLINE OF SUBMISSION: The bidding documents shall filed and attached with copies of supporting documents to be submitted in sealed envelopes by hand or through registered mail to the address mentioned below on or before 06-02-2025 at 11:00 AM. Opening: The tender document will be opened on 06-02-2025 at 12:00 PM before procurement committee in the presence of the contractors or their authorized representative. Address: Office of The Executive Engineer Buildings CWPRA District Surab. Tel: 03378113384 Email: Address: engg\_bldg\_surab@yahoo.com. Term and conditions are mentioned (incorporated) in detailed in bidding documents. Procuring agency may cancel the bidding process at any time prior to acceptance of bid or proposal as per provision of BPPRA Rules, 2014.

PHO No. 285517-01-2025

Executive Engineer Buildings CWPRA District Surab

### TENDER NOTICE

The Science and IT Department invites bids from eligible bidders for supply of following items. TSE-242501628511 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. Tender Fee Rs. 1000/-

S.No.	Class of Object	Bid Security
1.	ICT Equipment/Network, surveillance devices, storage devices, Office Equipment	2%

(Total Items Count: 7)

Procurements shall be made under the Baluchistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Assignments of relevant Nature and Complexity: A-000. Bidders must have Presence in Active Tax Payer List Sales Tax Certificate. The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. It is not permissible. Submission of the required Bid Security in case Bid Security is not found as required during financial evaluation the bidding firm shall be declared as ineligible and non-qualified. Submission of the required Bid Security in case Bid Security is not found as required during financial evaluation the bidding firm shall be declared as ineligible and non-qualified. The bidders must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the under signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under signed: 1,000 PKR issuance of tender Documents. From the date of publication of NTF to 31 January, 2025 during office hours on working days Last Date of bid submission: The tenders must be submitted latest by 31 January, 2025 at 12:00 AM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under signed at 11:00 AM Address: Room 816 Block No. 14, First Floor, Civil Secretariat, Quetta. Phone no: 337881277 Fax no: 0910287445 Email: khangar@gmail.com

Section Officer Science and IT Department

## Cold, dry weather likely to prevail in most parts of country

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has forecast mainly cold and dry weather in most parts of the country during next 24 hours.

Moderate to dense fog in patches is likely during morning and night hours in most districts of Punjab, upper Sindh, and plain areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, while light rain and snowfall are predicted in western Balochistan and upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by evening or night.

According to the synoptic situation, continental air is currently dominating most parts of the country, though a shallow westerly wave is expected to

affect upper and western regions from tomorrow evening or night. During the last 24 hours, cold and dry weather prevailed across the country, with light rain reported in northern Balochistan, Kashmir, Murree, and Galiyat, and moderate to dense fog prevailed over much of Punjab.

Leh remained the coldest place in the country on Thursday where temperature fell up to -11 degrees Celsius.

Meanwhile, dense fog again blanketed several cities of Punjab, including Lahore, on Friday, paralysing routine life and disrupting road traffic.

According to a Motorway police spokesperson,

Motorway M2 from Lahore to Kot Momin, M3 from Lahore to Darkhana, M4 from Pindi Bhattian to Faisalabad and M11 from Lahore to Sialkot have been closed to all kind of traffic.

The Motorway police have advised the motorists to use Grand Trunk (GT) Road for travelling. They have also urged the drivers to drive slowly and switch on fog lights.

The Motorway police have also advised the people to stay home and avoid unnecessary travelling. Dense fog has also disrupted traffic at several places in the country at the national highways due to low visibility.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting regarding transit cargo and tracking system.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain Meets Iranian Ambassador to Strengthen Agricultural Cooperation.

## PTI to challenge Imran's conviction in \$190m case in higher courts

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Friday announced to file an appeal against the court verdict, declaring party founding chief Imran Khan and his spouse Bushra Bibi guilty in the \$190m reference.

Addressing media in the federal capital, PTI stalwart and Leader of Opposition in National Assembly Omar Ayub said they would challenge the verdict in the higher courts.

Calling it a 'Black Day', Leader of Opposition in Senate Shibli Faraz said that superior courts would dismiss the 'baseless' case against Imran.

"In this country, thieves roam freely, while the innocent and honest individuals who walk the path of righteousness are being targeted," said Faraz.

He emphasised that Al-Qadir University, established to educate and promote the life of the Prophet (PBUH) and Islamic education, had caused no loss to the government, nor had Khan or Bushra gained any personal benefit from it.

Faraz further highlighted Khan's legacy, citing the establishment of Naimal University and Pakistan's largest network of cancer hospitals.

"A person who builds Naimal University, someone who establishes hospitals for cancer treatment, the largest of their kind across multiple cities in Pakistan, is being punished for setting up Al-Qadir University," he said.

The opposition leader lamented the state of governance

and accountability in Pakistan. "This is a nation where the rule of law and the supremacy of the constitution do not exist."

Those who have looted this country are now sitting as respected individuals, while honest citizens struggle with inflation or languish in jails," the senator said.

Faraz reiterated PTI's commitment to seeking justice through legal means, saying "We will take these matters to other courts, as we have done in the past, whether it was the cipher case, the Toshakhana case, or any other which the courts threw out."

"A new dawn will come, God willing. We remain steadfast and are committed to the rule of law and the supremacy of the constitution, and we will continue to operate within that framework God willing," he declared.

PTI Information Secretary Sheikh Waqas Akram told Geo News that the decision would be challenged in the Islamabad High Court. He further clarified that this was a case meant for acquittal, emphasising that there was no "justification for a conviction".

Akram also asserted that a baseless case had been filed against the founder of PTI.

Khan's lawyer Faisal Chaudhry, speaking to reporters outside Adiala jail, condemned "NAB's political usage", saying the accountability watchdog had become a tool in governments' hands. "NAB's investigation [in Al-Qadir Trust case] is flawed."

The public prosecutor's evidence neither contained any

proof of monetary gains, crime proceeds, nor of financial corruption," he added.

Chaudhry claimed till date the prosecutor did not present, on record, a single case of money laundering, whether of UK court or Pakistan court, against the PTI founder.

He also made personal attacks on the judge, raising questions about his honesty. "This is [...] hand-picked judge was declared by the Supreme Court as not worthy of being appointed as a judge," he said.

An accountability court in Islamabad — after delaying the verdict three times — convicted the PTI founder and his wife, Bushra Bibi, in the £190 million case.

Accountability Court Judge Nasir Javed Rana handed down a 14-year sentence to the PTI founder and a seven-year sentence to his wife, while also slapping heavy fines on them.

The PTI founder will have to pay a fine of Rs1.5 million and his wife has been slapped with a fine of Rs0.5 million. In case they fail to pay the fine, the ex-prime minister will serve six months more and Bushra three months.

The Al-Qadir Trust case, commonly known as the £190m case involved allegations that Imran and some others in 2019 adjusted Rs50 billion — amounting to £190 million at the time — sent by Britain's National Crime Agency (NCA) to the Pakistani government during his tenure as the country's prime minister.

## 28% increase in Information Technology (IT) exports: National Assembly (NA) informed

ISLAMABAD (INP): The National Assembly was informed today that there has been a twenty-eight percent increase in Information and Computer Technology exports in the first six months of the current fiscal year.

Minister of State for Information Technology Shaza Fatima Khawaja told the House during the Question Hour that this increase in exports is directly proportional to the increase of internet usage and speed in the country.

She pointed out that the

VPNs and Whatsapp are fully functional. She mentioned that comprehensive efforts are under way to bring considerable improvement in overall internet experience.

Parliamentary Secretary for Climate Change Ahmad Atteeq Anwer told the House that a national flagship initiative, Up-scaling of Green Pakistan Programme is under implementation with a target of planting 3.29 billion trees by 2028.

He said plantation and distribution of 2.2 billion plants

across the country has been achieved since 2019.

He said under the programme, nationwide plantation campaigns are organized every year during spring and monsoon.

The Parliamentary Secretary said the government is considering establishing a new climate finance governance framework to streamline processes and improve access to climate finance.

The House has now been adjourned to meet again on Monday at five pm.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, chairing a meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet at the Finance Division.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting regarding transit cargo and tracking system.

## Irfan Siddiqui, rejects PTI Chairman Gohar Khan's statement about politicization of security-related meeting in Peshawar

ISLAMABAD (INP): The spokesperson for the government's negotiation committee Irfan Siddiqui, on Thursday strongly rejected PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan's statement about the politicization of the security-related meeting in Peshawar.

Accompanied by Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Political Affairs Rana Samuallah, he expressed disappointment over Gohar's statement, arguing that the PTI leader had undermined his own negotiating team. "No direct talks are being held between PTI and other parties, except with the government's negotiating team," Siddiqui pointed out.

Irfan Siddiqui, compared the charter of demands presented by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to a charge sheet against the current government, calling it a "pack of accusations" largely based on unfounded allegations.

He stated that the government negotiation committee, after

consulting with its coalition partners, would issue a formal written response to PTI's demands within seven working days.

The government believes that negotiations should proceed without the pressure of deadlines. However, to maintain a constructive dialogue, "we have agreed a response deadline for January 26 or 27," said Siddiqui. The PTI's reaction to the government's response is yet to be seen, but Siddiqui stressed that the focus should remain on achieving tangible outcomes, rather than adhering strictly to timelines.

Siddiqui further clarified that the government committee, composed of representatives from seven parties, will consult with their respective leaderships before finalizing the response to PTI's demands. He underscored that certain issues, particularly sub-judice cases, cannot be discussed during the negotiations due to legal constraints. "As per the Constitution, cases under ju-

dicial consideration cannot be part of these discussions," he explained.

One of the key points of contention is PTI's demand for the formation of a commission to investigate the May 9 and November 27 incidents. Siddiqui stated that the government would consider the proposal carefully and evaluate all aspects before making a decision. PTI has proposed 15 terms of reference (TORs) for the creation of two commissions.

Siddiqui indicated that if a commission is formed, the government would also include its own conditions in the TORs.

In a bid to foster a positive atmosphere, Siddiqui indicated that the government does not view recent media statements from PTI as a hindrance, despite their contentious nature. He revealed that a meeting with PTI's founder Chairman had been agreed upon and would take place in the coming days, in a conducive environment.

## Speakers decry ongoing atrocities in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK)

ISLAMABAD (INP): Speakers at an event expressed grave concerns over the continued atrocities committed by New Delhi in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the event was organized by Friends of Kashmir International in X-space in the wake of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to IIOJK. The speakers underscored that these injustices, persisting for over seven decades, aim to suppress the legitimate aspirations of Kashmiris for freedom and self-determination.

The discussion brought to light the forced imposition of India's Hinduva policies in IIOJK, including demographic changes designed to dilute the Muslim-majority status of the occupied territory. The speakers also condemned measures forcing Muslims to act against their religious beliefs, which they described as a systematic assault on

Kashmiri identity and culture. They highlighted the importance of combating Indian propaganda, which portrays Kashmir as peaceful despite ongoing massive human rights abuses.

Activist Naila Altaf Kiyani emphasized, "Kashmiris do not want to live under Indian rule even if New Delhi paves roads of gold there".

Dr. Mubeen Shah, Director of Kashmir House Turkey, called for introspection and a reassessment of strategies. He said, "We need to introspect and reassess how we are reacting to Indian atrocities and what should be our way forward in the future for Kashmiris' right to self-determination."

Ghazala Habib, Chairperson of Friends of Kashmir International, stressed the need for greater global representation to advance the Kashmir cause.

Senior Hurriyat leader Altaf Hussain Wani praised Pakistan's support for Kashmiri cause and

urged unity in continuing the struggle.

Journalist Azaz Syed discussed the economic aspects, suggesting that strengthening economy could enhance the global impact of the Kashmiri movement.

Hurriyat leader Abdul Hameed Lone condemned India's brutalities and its demonization of Kashmiris for raising voice for their right to self-determination.

Turkish activist and songwriter Turge Evran underscored the importance of creative avenues to raise global awareness about the Kashmir cause. He shared details about his work, including songs inspired by the resilience of Kashmiris, as a means to resonate with international audiences.

The event concluded with Sadia Sattar emphasizing the importance of unity, determination, and evolving strategies to effectively advocate for Kashmiris' just cause.



ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to PM for Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam talking to a delegation of Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) led by the president, Rehan Naveed Bharrara which called on her.

## NHA set to increase toll rate by 100pc, Senate committee told

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Senate Standing Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Senator Saifullah Abro, convened today to discuss ongoing and completed projects of communication sector particular National Highways Motorways and Road Infrastructure under multilateral, bilateral and UN agencies along with the details of tendering process and interest paid by Federal Government on these projects.

The officials informed that a total of 33 projects have been completed as of July 2024, of which 15 projects were funded by Asian Development Bank, 05 projects by World Bank, 07 projects by China, 01 project funded by Saudi Fund for Development, 01 projects by USAID, 03 projects by Japan, 01 project was funded by Kuwait Fund.

The total commitments for

these projects were 10 Billion USD. However, 10 projects are ongoing with a commitment of 1,547.03 Million USD, and from these 04 projects are each funded by Asian Development Bank and Korea and 01 project each by Saudi Fund for Development and World Bank. While discussing communication sector (ongoing projects) funded by Korea, Senator Saifullah Abro raised concerns over the delay in completion of the projects.

It is unfortunate to witness that projects have delayed due to change in design in later stages or due to delay in hiring the local contractors and consultants. Committee mentioned that, in foreign aided projects, interest has been charged since the signing of the agreement and any delay in its completion cost around millions of dollars to the nation.

It has been revealed that the consultants and contractors for the Korean Funded Projects have been hired from the list provided by Korean Exim Bank. Senator Kamran Murtaza stated that local contractors and consultants should be given a fair chance to compete in the bidding process, and any restriction on local contractors and consultants infringes their constitutional rights (Article 18 & 25 of the 1973, Constitution of Pakistan).

Senator Saifullah Abro inquired about the rate charged by Korean contractors and consultants and their comparison with the local contractors and consultants.

The Committee recommended the NHA to provide details of rates charged by Korean local contractors and consultants and also EAD to investigate about it.