

# QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

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## 11 Labourers Killed in Shahrage Harnai Bomb Attack

Hanif Tareen, Sardar Muhammad Khondai:



Labourers and ambulances at the spot of the tragic incident: Photo provided by Sardar Muhammad Khondai

**SHARAGHARNAI:** At least 11 labourers were killed and six others injured in a bomb attack targeting their vehicle in the Shahrage area of Harnai district, Balochistan, on Friday. According to initial reports, the labourers were traveling when their vehicle was struck by a roadside bomb. Authorities have launched an investigation and are collecting evidence from the scene. The injured have been shifted to a nearby hospital for medical treatment. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack so far. Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti

has strongly condemned the Shahrage attack, vowing that the perpetrators will be brought to justice. He assured that all-out efforts would be made to ensure the protection of labourers working in coal mines in the area. The Balochistan government has strongly condemned the attack, vowing that the perpetrators will be brought to justice. Law enforcement agencies have been deployed to the area to enhance security. Further details are awaited as the investigation progresses. In separate statements, the president and prime minister vowed

to continue efforts till the elimination of terrorism from the country. PM Shehbaz directed relevant authorities to provide the best medical support to the injured and prayed for their recovery. He said that those who harm the lives and property of innocent and defenceless citizens will have to pay a heavy price. Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti condemned the incident and expressed sorrow over the loss of lives, an official statement from the CM House said. He directed the authorities concerned to provide the best medical facilities to the injured work-

## PECA Amendment Act 2025 Challenged in Balochistan High Court

Manan Mandokhail:

**QUETTA:** The Balochistan Union of Journalists (BUJ), Balochistan Bar Council, and Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) Balochistan have challenged the PECA (Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act) Amendment Act 2025 in the Balochistan High Court.

Speaking to the media, Rahib Khan Buledi stated that the PECA Act is against human rights and an attempt to suppress journalists' voices. He strongly condemned the amendments, asserting that they undermine the core principles of democracy and freedom of expression. A constitutional petition has been filed, making the federal government and other relevant authorities respondents in the case.



The petition calls for the controversial PECA Act to be annulled, arguing that it violates fundamental constitutional rights. During the filing of the petition, BUJ President Khalil Ahmed, Balochistan Bar Council Vice Chairman Rahib Khan Buledi, and HRCP Balochistan Vice Chairperson Kashif Kakar Panezai were present, along with a large number of senior journalists.

BUJ President Khalil Ahmed criticized the ruling parties, saying, the blind and deaf parliament passed the PECA Act. We did not expect such unconstitutional measures from the PML-N and PPP. He further accused both parties of violating democratic traditions and expressed hope that the judiciary would ensure justice by striking down the PECA Act. The petitioners emphasized that freedom of speech is a fundamental right and urged the judiciary to uphold democratic values by repealing the law.

## FO dismisses India-US statement against Pakistan as 'one-sided, misleading'

**ISLAMABAD:** The Foreign Office on Friday dismissed the accusations made by India and the United States against Pakistan in a joint statement, terming it "one-sided, misleading, and contrary to diplomatic norms." The joint statement came after US President Donald Trump and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi met at the White House a day earlier. It referenced Pakistan's alleged involvement in the 2008 Mumbai attack and accused the country of "supporting extremism." Responding to the allegations, FO spokesperson Shafiq Ali Khan, while speaking during a weekly press briefing, said, "We consider the Pakistan-specific reference in the Indo-US joint state-



ment of Feb 13 as one-sided, misleading and contrary to diplomatic norms. "We are surprised the reference has been added to the joint statement," he writes, adding Pakistan's counter-terrorism cooperation with the US. He further stated, "Such references cannot cover up India's sponsorship of terrorism, subversion and extra-judicial assassina-

tions in the region and beyond, nor can they shift international attention from the stark reality of India being a safe haven for perpetrators of hate crimes against Muslims and other minorities." The FO spokesperson pointed out that the statement failed to address India's non-compliance with United Nations Security Council's resolutions "which is the key source of tension and instability in the region" and to recognise the "grim human rights situation" in Jammu and Kashmir. "Regrettably, this is tantamount to abdication of international responsibility. The international community recognises Pakistan's efforts and sacrifices in the fight against terrorism," he said. **NEWS DESK:**

## 13 terrorists neutralised in K-P operations

**RAWALPINDI:** Thirteen terrorists, who were actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against the security forces and the killing of innocent civilians, were neutralised in five different operations in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P), the military said on Thursday. According to a press release issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the media wing of the military, the operations were carried out in Dera Ismail Khan, North Waziristan, Lakki Marwat, and Khyber districts. "On 12-13 February 2025, thirteen Khawarij were sent to hell in five separate engagements in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Province," the ISPR press release said, referring to the terrorists belonging to the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). "An intelligence based operation was conducted by Security



Forces in general area Khulachi, Dera Ismail Khan District. During the conduct of operation, own troops effectively engaged the khawarij location, resultantly, five khawarij including Kharij Shah Gul @ Rohani were sent to hell," it said. "In two separate encounters in North Waziristan District, fire exchange took place between the Security Forces and khawarij in general areas Dosali and Tappi. Resultantly, five khawarij were effectively neutralized by own troops," it added.

"In another encounter that took place in Lakki Marwat District, two khawarij were sent to hell. During an engagement in general area Bigh, Khyber District, own troops effectively neutralized one more khawarij," the press release said. According to the media wing of the military weapons and ammunition were recovered from the dead terrorists, "who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against the security forces as well as killing of innocent civilians." Meanwhile, President Asif Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif lauded the security forces for their successful operations and reiterated the determination to completely eradicate the Fitna Al-Khawarij from the country. **NEWS DESK.**

## Six newly appointed Supreme Court judges take oath

**ISLAMABAD:** The six newly appointed Supreme Court judges on Friday were administered oath by Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Yahya Afridi at a ceremony in Islamabad. The judges' appointment was marred by controversy when the meeting of the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) on Feb 10 when four members walked out, fervent opposition by the opposition PTI, and protests by the lawyer's fraternity. The meeting of the JCP was held despite the refusal of two Supreme Court judges—Justice Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Muneib Akhtar—as well as two PTI members—Barrister Ali Zafar and Barrister Gohar Ali Khan—who asked the chief justice to postpone the meeting amid reservations regarding the 26th Constitutional Amendment.



The lawyers' fraternity held protests outside the Supreme Court building as they held placards and raised slogans against the 26th Amendment. However, the commission, by a majority of its total membership, nominated the six judges and acting chief justices of the high courts. The newly sworn-in judges are Justices Muhammad Hashim Khan Kakar, Muhammad Shafi Siddiqui, Salahuddin Panhwar, Shakeel Ahmad, Amer Farooq, and Ishfaq Ibrahim.

Meanwhile, Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb took oath as Acting Judge of the SC. The ceremony was attended by judges of the SC, including Senior Puisne Judge Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani, and Justices Muneib Akhtar, Ayesha Malik, and Athar Minallah. Additionally, judges of the high court, the Attorney General of Pakistan, representatives from the Pakistan Bar Council, and lawyers were in attendance. For the first time, the oath-taking ceremony was held outdoors in the apex court's garden instead of at the ceremonial hall.

Separately, Justice Sanaat Muhammad Sarfraz Dogar took oath as the Acting Chief Justice of the Islamabad High Court, with President Asif Ali Zardari administering the oath to him. **No personal grudge against anyone: Justice Shah** In an informal talk with journalists after the ceremony, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah denied any rift between the judges of the apex court. When asked about the judges not performing their duties, Justice Shah said, "Look at the rate of disposal of cases. Those verdicts have been published in law books, all records are available with the Supreme Court." While responding to a question on whether there was a reference being filed against him, the judge replied that he would see when the reference

came forward. Justice Shah added that he had no grudge or difference with anyone but they should look at the "elephant in the room." "When a reference comes, it will be examined. If nothing wrong has been done, there is no reason to fear. Allah is watching over everything," he told reporters.

**SC judges' seniority list updated** The new appointments brought a change in the judges' seniority. After the Chief Justice of Pakistan, Justice Shah is the senior-most judge, followed by Justices Muneib Akhtar, Aminuddin Khan, Jamal Mandokhail, Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Ayesha Malik, Athar Minallah, Hassan Azhar Rizvi, Shahid Waheed, and Musarat Hilal. Following that are Justices Irfan Saadat, Naeem Akhtar Afghan, Shahzad Malik, Aqeel Abbasi, Shahid Bilal Hassan, Hashim Kakar, Shafi Siddiqui, Salahuddin Panhwar, Shakeel Ahmad, Amer Farooq, Ishfaq Ibrahim, Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb, Sardar Tariq, and Mazhar Alam Miankhal.

## Swift Action Needed to Bring Muhammad Musawir Home

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## 1,000 Pakistani agricultural graduates to get advanced training in China

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## Those who taught me discipline mentally ill, says Sher Afzal Marwat

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EDITORIAL

Editor: Asim Khan

Swift Action Needed to Bring Muhammad Musawir Home

The suspension of the two-week-long sit-in at Balochistan Assembly Chowk following Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti's assurances offers a glimmer of hope to the grieving family of 10-year-old Muhammad Musawir, who was kidnapped in Quetta.

While the Chief Minister's empathetic stance and commitment to daily updates from the Joint Investigation Team (JIT) are commendable, words alone cannot heal the anguish of a family waiting for their child's safe return.

Now is the time for the provincial government to match its promises with decisive and effective action.

The heartbreaking ordeal of Muhammad Musawir is a stark reminder of the growing menace of kidnapping in Balochistan, where incidents of abduction have intensified fear among citizens.

The government's immediate focus must be on utilizing all available resources and modern investigative technologies, such as geo-fencing, surveillance, and artificial intelligence tools, to expedite the child's recovery.

Delays in such cases not only shatter the trust of families but also embolden criminal elements operating with impunity.

Chief Minister Bugti's assurance that "all of Balochistan stands with the family" is a powerful sentiment, but true solidarity is demonstrated through action.

His administration must ensure that the JIT operates transparently and delivers concrete results within the promised timeframe.

Moreover, the opening of the CM House to the public is a positive step towards accessibility, but it must be accompanied by robust systemic reforms to address the root causes of abductions and prevent similar incidents in the future.

Civil society's role in amplifying the plight of Muhammad Musawir's family and their insistence on long-term solutions deserve recognition.

Their demand for better law enforcement strategies, advanced training for police personnel, and community engagement programs to combat crime must be prioritized by the government.

The heartache of Musawir's parents is a tragedy no family should endure. As the sit-in committee has given a ten-day reprieve, the clock is ticking for the government to demonstrate tangible progress. Failure to recover the child within this period risks further eroding public confidence in the administration's ability to safeguard its citizens.

This case should serve as a wake-up call for Balochistan to overhaul its approach to security. Preventing such incidents in the future requires not only swift responses but also robust infrastructure to prevent and deter crimes similar to activities. For Muhammad Musawir and countless others who may fall victim to similar crimes, the government must act with urgency, determination, and an unwavering commitment to justice.

The safe return of Muhammad Musawir stands as a testament to the government's resolve to protect its most vulnerable citizens. The world order after WWII

By Shahid Javed Burki:

There can be little doubt that the world, prompted mostly by the United States President Donald Trump, is heading towards creating a new world order.

This will be different from the one the United States fought from 1945 to 1991.

The Second World War ended in 1945 with Washington as the clear winner although what was then called the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the USSR, played an important role in beating the axis powers of Germany and those that were killed belonging to the other winning partners.

However, it did not participate in the deliberations that followed the end of the war since its governing philosophy was based on one-man rule which was very different from that followed by America and its western partners.

A couple of international conferences held during the war were over defined how relations among the world states would be managed.

The United States has the world's largest economy while India has the world's largest population.

Before defining the shape the new cold war is likely to take, I will, albeit briefly, describe the global order that had emerged after the end of the Second World War in 1945 and lasted until the arrival of Donald Trump in Washington as the 47th president of the United States.

The new world order was influenced by the thinking of John Maynard Keynes, the British economist who explained the impact of the decisions taken at a conference held in the French city of Versailles where the victors of the First World War decided to exact the price from the losers.

Those who lost would pay the cost of the war incurred by those who had won. This placed a heavy tax burden on the citizens of Germany and Italy which eventually led to the rise of Nazism in Germany and a similar party in Italy. The result was the Second World War.

Need to implement laws to address GBV and DV

By Muhammad Majid Bashir:

Gender-based violence (GBV) covers domestic violence, sexual violence, psychological abuse, economic abuse, stalking, early forced marriage, and other specific harmful practices including cutting or biting any part of body. These are deep-rooted social issues that undermine the dignity, safety and well-being of individuals, particularly women.

Stringent laws are there to address these concerns, but it is the lack of enforcement of these laws that often exacerbates family tensions rather than resolving them. About 90% of women in Pakistan have experienced some form of domestic violence (DV) in their lifetime. Between 2020 and 2023, about 63,000 cases of GBV were reported, 80% of which were related to DV. In 2023, Punjab alone reported 10,201 cases of DV, but many incidents remained underreported.

DV often stems from deeply ingrained patriarchal norms, emotional instability, and a lack of ethical or moral education. Many perpetrators of violence are themselves a product of dysfunctional atmospheric conditions and addressed psychological issues. The committees measures alone may not result in behavioral change or family harmony.

Psychological and emotional abuse can play a transformative role. Counseling sessions can help individuals identify and manage underlying issues such as anger, insecurity, or mental health problems. Regular workshops on ethical behaviour, moral values, and the importance of family harmony should be organised. To create a sustainable solution, it is essential to shift the focus from punitive measures to preventive and rehabilitative mechanisms.

The government and society should explore the need for psychological and ethical rehabilitation programmes for perpetrators and promote the formation of reconciliation committees under social reforms to resolve family disputes at the grassroots level.

The committees should address the GBV victims either with the police stations or with the union council offices without involving police. The committees can serve as a first point of contact for family disputes, offering mediation before legal action is considered.

Involving law enforcement in family disputes often leads to public embarrassment, deep-seated mistrust, and escalation of grievances. Reconciliation committees can provide a private, non-

By Maleeha Lodhi:

A PERFECT storm was threatened by President Donald Trump's announcement of sweeping tariffs on imports from Canada, Mexico and China. Additional tariffs of 25 per cent were imposed on goods from Mexico and Canada and 10pc on China. Trump justified invoking emergency powers to apply tariffs "because of the major threat of illegal aliens and drugs including fentanyl".

He also threatened tariffs on EU imports. He is set to announce "reciprocal tariffs" on more countries in coming days. In the past, Trump often said he would act against countries that have a trade surplus with the US and tariffs will make the American economy stronger and replace income tax.

He has long favoured pursuing a protectionist economic agenda. Admitting tariffs would cause economic pain to the US, he nonetheless claimed it would be "worth the price that must be paid".

America's three biggest trading partners reacted quickly and furiously. Canada and Mexico hit back with retaliatory levies. China imposed counter-tariffs on a range of US products, including crude oil, LPG and farm equipment.

Beijing ordered an antitrust investigation of Google and said it would file a lawsuit against the US in the World Trade Organisation.

The impact of Trump's tariff move was immediate. Markets tumbled over the weekend while investors expressed alarm over the disruption of global supply chains and fears of volatility ahead.

International investment firms anticipated a reduction in global growth and depressed business sentiment. Economist and Nobel laureate Paul Krugman described Trump's action as "really destructive" and "like throwing sand into the gears of international commerce and manufacturing".

But just before the tariffs on Mexico and Canada were to be enforced, Trump paused them for a week. He then threw another phone call with leaders of the two countries in which he negotiates a deal to suspend the tariffs.

This U-turn was a different move from what he has done before. He has often used tariff threats as a bargaining tactic to put other governments off-balance in order to secure a deal. This bullying approach of pressure-and-negotiation holds up apparent concessions by other countries "worse to his political base".

Trump plans to speak to President Xi Jinping to enter trade negotiations while delaying tariffs on low-value packages from China. Markets across the world reacted with relief to the pause in the tariff war, but that didn't end uncertainty about what comes next.

No one expects Trump's game of brinkmanship to end with this, and fears persist of a trade war. He repeated his familiar mantra last week that he would use tariffs to get other countries to meet his demands. Uncertainty on this count will take a heavy toll on the global economy as well as on Washington's ties with friends and competitors alike. The use of coercive economic power to browbeat smaller countries is one thing. Employing it against a big power and the world's largest exporter, China, is a different matter. Beijing also has the means to inflict damage on the US economy even as it comes at a price to the blow to its trade.

"Bullies," wrote the Economist last week, "rarely pick on any target their own size." That is why Trump has so far desisted from levying steep additional tariffs on China. He frequently promised during the election campaign.

The struggle to save the judiciary

By Sultan Mehmoed:

An editorial in this newspaper lamented recently, and letters of a courageous few judges highlight, the Supreme Court's inability to survive, with some judges refusing to go down without a fight, striving to prevent complete capitulation.

The ongoing structural erosion of the judiciary's independence, with most judges remaining passive spectators, echoes on lawyers' movement in Pakistan—a pivotal moment when one chief justice, despite his shortcoming, dared to confront the most powerful people in Pakistan.

The lawyers' movement, a mass mobilisation of lawyers and civil society, established the country's most significant democratic reforms in decades.

Confronting Gen Musharraf's authoritarian interference in the judiciary, the movement spurred not just the restoration of the judiciary but facilitated constitutional milestones like the 18th and 19th Amendments, strengthening judicial independence by taking appointments away from the government and giving them to a panel of senior judges and lawyers.

Ultimately, the movement paved the way for the restoration of Gen Musharraf's military regime, paving the way for a more democratic Pakistan. These changes promised a judiciary that could serve as a genuine check on executive power—a judiciary with the teeth to enforce constitutional rights, protect civil liberties, and hold the state and the politically powerful military accountable.

Despite political pressures, Pakistan's judiciary showed it could stand as a bulwark against the military's overreach. This legacy of resistance keeps the members of justice alive.

In the late 1990s at least, Pakistan's judiciary has made significant progress, weathering societal pressures from generals seeking compliance, civilian leaders disrupting court proceedings, and military-backed groups undermining its autonomy. Despite these challenges, it has often pushed back, reinterpreting constitutional provisions to maintain influence over judicial appointments and issuing landmark rulings that upheld democratic principles.

The Darshan Masih vs. The State case exemplified this: a landmark ruling that evolved a role in response to a desperate telegram from bonded laborers under the custody of a feudal landlord and collusion of police with him, the court defied entrenched Anglo-Saxon traditions of "judicial restraint" to confront modern-day slavery head-on, taking a stand that few would have dared to hear their plea. This bold move not only affirmed fundamental rights but also signalled the judiciary's willingness to challenge entrenched power structures and ensure justice for the most marginalised.

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A multipolar world will not so easily bend to Washington's will with America's primacy eroding.

For its part, the European Union said it will respond firmly to any new tariffs and may use its anti-coercion powers if necessary. In anticipation of Trump carrying out his threat of imposing "very substantial" tariffs, the 27-member economic bloc is readying retaliatory measures against Silicon Valley.

In what is being described as the first use of a punitive toll against a service industry, this would mark an escalation in the trade war, although EU officials say they would rather negotiate.

At an informal summit in Brussels last week, European leaders declared their intention to fight back if Trump slapped higher tariffs, while calling for negotiations. Affected countries in Europe and beyond will respond to tariff rises in the longer term by finding other markets for trade.

Apart from retaliation by other countries, Trump's tariff war will come at a price to the American economy, contrary to his disingenuous claims that they will "rarely pick on any target their own size."

That is why Trump has so far desisted from levying steep additional tariffs on China. He frequently promised during the election campaign.

The most obvious would be the impact on American consumers by way of more inflation as business costs go up. And this at a time when

inflation is high, which Trump promised voters he would curb. Higher tariffs would upend supply chains, dampen growth and investment, increase the cost of borrowing and even reduce US exports.

Several sectors such as the automobile industry and agriculture would be particularly hit hard. Business groups representing agriculture, automakers and those dealing with consumer products are already reported to have sounded the alarm over how tariffs will fuel price rises. The adverse economic impact on the US will be greater if Trump expands the tariff war to Europe.

Beyond Europe, there are obvious implications that will be obvious diplomatic costs for the US. Relations with countries that are bullied and pressured can hardly be expected to escape unscathed.

Even allies are coerced into making concessions, actions that antagonise them will leave diplomatic ties considerably damaged. The confidence of allies would be shaken in a country acting so recklessly. The global standing of the US and its credibility would be damaged. Its reliability questioned and its alliances jeopardised. Adversaries hit by tariff rises will have even less of a reason to be responsive to Washington on other issues.

There can be little doubt that the world, prompted mostly by the United States President Donald Trump, is heading towards creating a new world order.

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1,000 Pakistani agricultural graduates to get advanced training in China

ISLAMABAD, Feb 14 (INP): Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain chaired a high-level meeting to review progress on Prime Minister's Initiative for Short-Term Training of 1,000 Agricultural Graduates in China.



QUETTA: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Balochistan leader Shams Hamza Zai addressing a press conference at Quetta Press Club (QPC).

International Cricket Council (ICC) announces prize money for Champions Trophy 2025

LAHORE (INP): The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the prize money for the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy 2025, with the winning team set to receive a massive \$2.24 million.

"Modi's visit to US unacceptable," Washington echoed with anti-Modi slogans

WASHINGTON (INP): A large number of Kashmiri and Sikh communities held a protest demonstration outside the White House in Washington on the occasion of the meeting between Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump.

PTA starts issuing virtual network licenses: Shaza Islamabad (INP): Minister of State for Information Technology Shaza Fatima Khawaja has expressed the confidence that new telecom entities will enter Pakistan.

MILITARY ENGINEER SERVICES TENDER NOTICE

Table with 5 columns: S.No, Name of Works, Sanction Cost, Completion Period. It lists various engineering services like construction of roads, bridges, and water supply systems.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari administering the oath of office to Mr Justice Sardar Muhammad Sarfraz Dogar as the Acting Chief Justice of Islamabad High Court, at Aitwan-e-Sadr.

Justice Sarfraz Dogar takes oath as acting Islamabad High Court (IHC) Chief Justice (CJ)

NEWS DESK: Islamabad High Court with effect from the day he takes oath of his office till the appointment of regular chief justice.

IIOJK's Shopian village deprived of basic amenities

SRINAGAR (INP): The villagers of Nagahab Babopora, a Gujjar locality in Shopian district of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir have been struggling without access to drinking water and electricity for the past seven years.

Jamshoro road accident claims five lives

JAMSHORO (INP): At least five people were killed and six others were injured in a tragic road accident on Indus Highway near Jamshoro resulting in multiple casualties.

TENDER NOTICE section containing detailed information about procurement processes, eligibility criteria, and contact details for the Director General Farms & Feed Resources, Quetta.

### Pakistan slams Netanyahu's statement to establish Palestinian state in Saudi Arabia

ISLAMABAD (INP) Pakistan on Friday has "strongly" condemned the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's statement regarding the establishment of the Palestinian state in Saudi Arabia. Addressing a weekly briefing, Foreign Secretary Shafiqat Ali Khan said that the remarks by Israel are irresponsible, provocative, and thoughtless and are offending, undermining, and disregarding the legitimate rights of Palestinian people to self-determination and independent state on their own historic and legitimate territory.

He stated that Pakistan stands in solidarity with Saudi Arabia. Any attempt to under-

mine Saudi Arabia's unwavering position and misrepresentation of its commitment to the Palestinian cause is deeply regrettable.

Earlier, Israeli officials suggested the establishment of a Palestinian state on Saudi territory. Netanyahu appeared to be joking on Thursday when he responded to an interviewer on pro-Netanyahu Channel 14 who mistakenly said "Saudi state" instead of "Palestinian state", before correcting himself.

Saudi Arabia affirmed its categorical rejection of remarks by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu about displacing Palestinians from their land, the foreign ministry

said in a statement on Sunday. While the Saudi statement mentioned Netanyahu's name, it did not directly refer to the comments about establishing a Palestinian state in Saudi territory.

Egypt and Jordan also condemned the Israeli suggestions, with Cairo deeming the idea as a "direct infringement of Saudi sovereignty".

The kingdom said it valued "brotherly" states' rejection of Netanyahu's remarks.

"This occupying extremist mindset does not comprehend what the Palestinian territory means for the brotherly people of Palestine and its conscientious, historical and legal association with that land," it said.



ISLAMABAD: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi, Chief Justice of Pakistan administering the oath of office to Mr. Justice Hassan Aurangzeb, Judge, Islamabad High Court as Acting Judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

### Malaysia Consultative Council of Islamic Organization (MAPIM) reaffirms support to Kashmir cause

MUZZAFFARABAD (INP) A delegation from the Malaysia Consultative Council of Islamic Organization (MAPIM) has reaffirmed its support for the Kashmir cause, pledging to take concrete steps to highlight human rights violations by India in occupied Jammu and Kashmir on international platforms.

"Our organization is deeply committed to the Kashmir issue and will play an active role in bringing it to global attention," said Haji Mohammad Azmi Abdul Hamid, President of Majelis Perundingan Pertubuhan Islam Malaysia, during a meeting with Chaudhry Latif Akbar, the Acting President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), at Aiwane-Sadr in Muzaffarabad.

According to a press release, Azmi informed Latif Akbar that to maintain the long-standing relationship between Malaysia and Kashmir, MAPIM had established the "Friends of Kashmir" group and would take additional measures to strengthen bilateral ties.

He also announced that scholarships and other opportunities would be provided to AJK's youth, along with the establishment of a Kashmir-Malaysia-Pakistan Centre to en-

hance bilateral relations. Earlier, briefing the visiting delegation, Latif Akbar underscored the urgency of a lasting solution to the Kashmir dispute for regional and global peace.

Condemning India's oppressive tactics aimed at suppressing the freedom movement, he said New Delhi had blatantly deprived the people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir of their fundamental rights and was destabilizing the region through relentless aggression. Calling India's unilateral action of August 5, 2019, a grave injustice to the Kashmiri people, Mr Akbar lauded Pakistan for consistently advocating the Kashmir cause at international forums.

He also commended Malaysia's unwavering support in amplifying the voice of the oppressed Kashmiri people on global platforms. Expressing hope that international human rights organizations would take cognizance of India's war crimes, the acting president urged them to take meaningful action to end the long-standing oppression of Kashmiris.

Later, the delegation visited SOS Hermann Gmeiner School

on the outskirts of Muzaffarabad, where they were briefed on the institution's objectives, funding sources, and ongoing projects.

Zubaria Hussain, an assistant director of the school, highlighted that SOS Hermann Gmeiner Schools primarily focused on providing quality education and comprehensive training to underprivileged and orphaned children, equipping them to become responsible members of society.

She informed the delegation that the institution had two setups in AJK—one in Muzaffarabad and the other in Rawalakot.

She further said that SOS Hermann Gmeiner Schools System operated a subsidiary unit, SOS Youth Home, dedicated to training older children and preparing them for independent and productive lives. The land for the Muzaffarabad facility was allocated by the AJK government, while its administration was managed by an NGO, with financial support from philanthropists across Pakistan. During the visit, Mr Azmi handed over a donation cheque to the school's official as a gesture of support for its noble mission.

### Those who taught me discipline mentally ill, says Sher Afzal Marwat

ISLAMABAD (INP) Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Member of National Assembly (MNA) Sher Afzal Marwat claimed that those who had taught him discipline were mentally ill, adding that he was now "free from the prison of discipline." He expressed this in a statement.

He further asserted that PTI founder Imran Khan was not always informed properly and that his ears were filled with false information.

Marwat specifically addressed the issue of slogans raised during the Swabi rally, stating that he was not to blame.

"I went to the Swabi rally as a guest actor and am not at

fault for the slogans raised there," he explained, adding that similar slogans had been raised at previous rallies as well.

Marwat also dismissed the accusations leveled against him by certain PTI leaders, claiming that some individuals within the party had been conspiring for a long time to have him removed. He insisted that if the slogans at the rally were in his favor, it was his right as a party member.

The tension came to a head when Imran Khan, after receiving complaints from party leaders about Marwat's involvement in the Swabi rally, issued a directive to expel him from PTI.

Two days ago, Imran Khan formally announced Marwat's expulsion from the party due to his repeated violations of party discipline, including making statements critical of PTI. Marwat had previously been issued a show-cause notice for his remarks, but his defiant response led to his removal.

In the aftermath of the expulsion, PTI leadership is expected to issue a notification to terminate Marwat's primary membership, and he will be asked to resign from his position as an MNA.

The decision marks another significant development in PTI's ongoing efforts to maintain party discipline and address internal rifts.



QUETTA: Members of Balochistan union of journalists hold protest against Prevention of Electronic Crimes (PEC) Amendment Bill, 2024.



ISLAMABAD: Resident Coordinator of the United Nations in Pakistan Mr. Mohamed Yahya calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

### Photo exhibition 'Beautiful Japan - Through the Eyes of an Ambassador' opens at PNCA

ISLAMABAD (INP) A mesmerizing photo exhibition titled "Beautiful Japan - Through the Eyes of an Ambassador" opened on Friday at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA), offering a stunning visual journey through the many facets of Japanese life.

The exhibition, capturing the essence of Japan's culture, landscapes, people, and technological marvels, is the work of former Ambassador of Pakistan to Japan, Farukh Amil.

The diplomat-turned-photographer meticulously documented his time in Japan, forging deep connections between the two nations through his lens.

His work has also been recognized internationally, earning him the prestigious Grand Prix in Japan's Ambassador's Photo Exhibition competition.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Hassan Nasir Jamy,

Secretary of the National Heritage & Culture Division, alongside Japan's Ambassador to Pakistan, Akamatsu Shuichi. Also in attendance were PNCA Director General Ayoub Jamali and other distinguished guests.

The exhibition, a collaborative initiative between the Embassy of Japan, the MEXT Alumni Association of Pakistan (MAAP), and PNCA, will run until February 19.

Featuring around 40 selected photographs, the exhibition not only highlights the breathtaking beauty of Japan but also serves to strengthen cultural ties between Japan and Pakistan. The collection offers Pakistani audiences a unique perspective on Japan's rich heritage and contemporary society.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony, Ambassador Akamatsu lauded Amil's keen eye and deep appreciation for Japanese culture. "Each pho-

tograph is a testament to his understanding of our society. As Japan's Ambassador to Pakistan, I am delighted to see my country through the lens of someone who knows it so well," he remarked.

He further emphasized the exhibition's role in fostering cultural diplomacy. "This exhibition powerfully connects our two nations, allowing us to share Japan's beauty and complexity with the people of Pakistan."

It reminds us that despite geographical distance, we share common values, respect for traditions, and a deep appreciation for beauty and the human experience."

Ambassador Akamatsu also extended his gratitude to PNCA and MAAP for their invaluable support in organizing the exhibition, underscoring the significance of cultural collaborations in strengthening bilateral relations between Pakistan and Japan.

### Reconciliation ends long-standing rivalry between two prominent Groups

LAHORE (INP): After years of tension and enmity, the feud between two major groups in Lahore—the Taif Butt Group and the Qaiser Butt Group—has finally come to an end.

A special reconciliation ceremony was held at the residence of Khawaja Tareef Butt, marking a historic moment in the city's social and business circles. Both sides officially announced the resolution of their differences, paving the way for a new era of cooperation and peace.

The ceremony was attended by prominent business figures from Lahore, including Shafiqat Baggia Butt, Israr Butt, and several other influential personalities. Their presence underscored the importance of this peace agreement for the future of Lahore's business community.

Hamza Butt, son of the late Javed Butt, expressed his joy and

relief over the successful reconciliation, stating that nothing was more important than peace.

"This peace has been achieved through prayers to Allah. We've been working towards reconciliation for a long time, and today we are witnessing the fruits of those efforts," he said, emphasizing the significance of unity.

Qaiser Butt also echoed these sentiments, stressing the long-standing efforts made for peace between the groups.

"Reconciliation has been a priority for us for a long time. It's time to put an end to this conflict, as no one has gained anything from fighting. We call for reconciliation not just between our groups, but among all factions in Lahore," he stated.

He further thanked the family of the late Javed Butt and the Taif Butt family for their role in

bringing the two groups together.

"Almost all the individuals involved in the murder of Javed Butt have been arrested. Now, it is up to the police to handle the rest of the investigation," Qaiser Butt added.

"Our efforts moving forward will focus on keeping these families united, as the future of Lahore and its generations cannot bear the weight of this prolonged conflict."

In a surprising development, the Qaiser Butt Group also announced their disinterest in further involvement with the Amir Balaj Truckan Wala Group, signaling a shift in their alliances.

This historic reconciliation marks a turning point in Lahore's long-standing social and political landscape, with hopes that it will inspire more peace and cooperation across the city's various factions.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, in a meeting with Mr. Makhtar Diop, Managing Director & Executive Vice President of the International Finance Corporation (IFC), at the Finance Division.

### Karachi traffic accidents claim 107 lives this year

KARACHI (INP): Another motorcyclist was killed in a traffic accident, bringing the death toll to 107 this year in Karachi.

According to details, the latest incident involved a 45-year-old motorcyclist, Saifullah, who was tragically run over by a dumper in the Memon Goth area.

Karachi has witnessed a disturbing surge in traffic accidents, with a total of 107 lives lost in just the first 45 days of 2025, the rescue service said. The victims include 78 men, 14 women, 11 children and 4 girls.

According to a report by the Chitpa Welfare Association, in addition to the fatalities, at least 1493 citizens were injured in these accidents. The

injured include 6290 men, 193 women, 42 children and 18 girls. The traffic police said that most accidents involved heavy vehicles, including dumpers, trailers, and oil tankers.

In January and the first six days of February 2025, 32 accidents involved heavy traffic. In response to the rising number of accidents, the traffic police have taken action, issuing 34,655 challans and arresting 490 drivers. Additionally, 532 vehicle fitness certificates were cancelled.

Read More: Traffic accidents claim 39 lives in Karachi this year

A four-member committee has been formed to investigate the causes of the accidents and suggest measures to improve

road safety. The committee will review the fitness certificates of oil tanker dumpers and water tankers as well as licenses of those driving the vehicles.

During the last few days, in response to traffic accidents, several cargo vehicles and water tankers were set on fire by unknown persons in Karachi's Landhi, Korangi, Al-Karam and Surjani Town areas.

Police have detained 10 persons after rampant incidents of vehicles burning.

The Dumper and Oil Tankers Association had also staged a sit-in at the National Highway to protest against the burning of vehicles by unknown persons.