

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Tuesday, March 04, 2025

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Suicide Blast Targets Security Forces Vehicle in Kalat, One Martyred, Four Injured



Frontier Corps personnel reached the spot of the blast: Photo provided by Abdullah Lehri

Bdullah Lehri:

KALAT: A security forces vehicle was targeted in a suicide attack on the main RCD Road (N-25) near Midway Kalat, resulting in the martyrdom of a soldier and injuries to four others.

The attack occurred at approximately 2:55 PM when a suicide bomber detonated explosives near the convoy.

The powerful blast sent shockwaves through the area, leaving the vehicle badly damaged and causing panic among commuters.

Eyewitnesses described

scenes of chaos as rescue teams and security personnel rushed to the site.

The injured soldiers were immediately shifted to a nearby medical facility, where they are receiving treatment. One of them remains in critical condition, while the others are reported to be stable.

Security forces have launched a search operation in the area to track down those behind the attack. The incident highlights the ongoing security challenges in the region and the sacrifices made by personnel in maintaining stability.

Mohsin Naqvi Condemns Kalat Suicide Attack, Pays Tribute to Martyred FC Soldier

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has strongly condemned the suicide attack on an FC convoy near Mughalzai on the National Highway in Kalat. He paid tribute to the martyred FC personnel, Ataulah, acknowledging his sacrifice in the line of duty. Expressing deep condolences, Naqvi conveyed his sympathies to the family of the martyred soldier.

The interior minister directed authorities to ensure the best possible medical care for the four FC personnel injured in the attack. He emphasized that the government stands with the family of the martyr in their time of grief and fully recognizes the sacrifices made by security forces in maintaining peace in Balochistan.

Mohsin Naqvi reaffirmed his appreciation for the FC's relentless efforts and sacrifices for the security of the region. He saluted the unwavering commitment of the force, acknowledging their crucial role in safeguarding Balochistan.

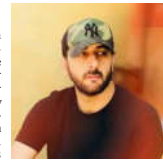
Sindh Police Seek Balochistan's Help to Arrest Shahzain Marri After Karachi Assault

From Our Correspondent:

KARACHI: The Sindh police have urged the provincial government to coordinate with Balochistan authorities for the arrest of tribal leader Shahzain Marri, who allegedly fled after his guards were detained for assaulting a citizen in Karachi's Boat Basin area.

Last week, Karachi's South Zone police apprehended multiple security guards following a viral video showing them attacking two individuals in a car. While initial reports suggested that seven guards had been arrested, an official document later confirmed that five were taken into custody.

According to South DIG Syed Asad Raza, Marri, the grandson of late Baloch nationalist leader Nawab Khair Bux Marri, was identified as the prime suspect. He, along with



his security personnel, reportedly tortured a citizen before escaping to Balochistan.

To facilitate his arrest, Sindh IG Ghulam Nabi Memon has written to the provincial home secretary, requesting the Sindh government to engage with Balochistan authorities regarding the capture of Marri and another suspect, Ghulam Qadir.

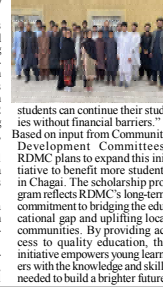
Authorities are now awaiting further action from the Balochistan government to bring the suspects to justice.

RDMC Launches Scholarship Program for School Children in Chagai

Riaz Baloch:

NOKKUNDI, CHAGAI DISTRICT: Reko Diq Mining Company (RDMC) has introduced a new scholarship program to support promising students from underprivileged backgrounds in Chagai. As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) efforts, RDMC, in collaboration with Progressive Education Network (PEN), aims to provide quality education opportunities to students from seven RDMC-supported primary schools in the district. The scholarship program focuses on students in Grades 6, 7, and 8, selecting those with strong academic performance and financial need. Following a thorough selection process, 15 students were chosen: 3 from Durban Chah, 5 from Humai (including 2 girls and 3 boys), 4 from Tung Kachau, 2 from Mashki Chah, and 1 from Nok Chah School. To ensure the best educational opportunities, PEN conducted a detailed assessment of schools in Quetta and nearby areas. Based on this evaluation, Iqra Residential School at Masoom Educational Complex was selected as the ideal institution. Known for its experienced faculty, well-structured curriculum, and modern facilities, the school

provides a supportive learning environment that fosters both academic and personal growth. Essa Lahir, RDMC's Community Investment Lead, emphasized the importance of this initiative, stating, "For years, many schools in this region remained non-functional, depriving children of education. RDMC has actively worked to restore these schools and create new learning opportunities. This scholarship program is a significant step in ensuring talented



students can continue their studies without financial barriers." Based on input from Community Development Committees, RDMC plans to expand this initiative to benefit more students in Chagai. The scholarship program reflects RDMC's long-term commitment to bridging the educational gap and uplifting local communities. By providing access to quality education, the initiative empowers young learners with the knowledge and skills needed to build a brighter future.

For greater good of state, we sacrificed our politics: Information Minister Attaullah Tarar

NEWS DESK:

Information Minister Attaullah Tarar has stated that the government had sacrificed its political interests for the greater good of the state. He made these remarks during a press conference in Islamabad on Monday.

"We have sacrificed our politics for the state," he said, adding that decisions made under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif were in the best interest of the country. He also revealed that the PM would present the full facts to the nation on Tuesday.

Marking one year since the formation of the current coalition government, Tarar emphasised the improvements in the country's economic indicators. "Today, inflation has reached the lowest level of 1.5%. Nine years and five months ago, in September 2015, inflation was at 1.3%," he highlighted.

He also pointed out that there had been a reduction in interest rates, a positive shift in the stock



market, and overall improvements in Pakistan's economic landscape.

"During the PTI government, Pakistan was isolated internationally. But now, under Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the country is receiving positive international attention," he added. He cited the PM's recent visit to Uzbekistan,

where Pakistan's flag was prominently displayed.

Tarar also spoke about the growing confidence of foreign investors in Pakistan, with countries such as Azerbaijan pledging significant investments. "The President of Azerbaijan has committed to investing \$2 billion in Pakistan,

and Uzbekistan has recognised Pakistan's unique global position," he said.

In his address, the information minister stressed that the improvement in the country's economy was due to hard work, teamwork, and a focus on national interests.

PTI claims Imran Khan held in solitary confinement

NEWS DESK:

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has accused the government of placing former Prime Minister Imran Khan in solitary confinement at Adiala jail, claiming that he is being held in the prison's death cell.

The party's Central Information Secretary, Sheikh Waqas, made the claims during a press conference, stating that Imran Khan had been denied any visitors, including political allies and family members. Express News reported. Sheikh Waqas emphasised that, according to the law, Imran Khan is entitled to meetings with his legal counsel and family. However, he alleged that even these rights were being blocked. He further claimed that, despite a court ruling permitting



six people to meet Khan, the authorities had not allowed the meetings to take place.

"The courts' orders are being disregarded. Even Imran Khan's wife has been denied meet-

ings with him twice, and no explanation is being given," Waqas said. "We have filed a contempt of court petition. To meet Imran Khan, one has to approach the court, yet even after the contempt petition, meetings are not being allowed. Political associates are being stopped, and even his family is not being permitted to meet him. The Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is also being denied permission to meet him."

Sheikh Waqas said that with so many cases against Imran Khan, how will he consult with his lawyers? Court orders are being ignored. Sheikh Waqas further stated that despite court orders, Imran Khan is not being allowed to meet his children, nor is he allowed to sign power of attorney papers.

PM takes notice of gas loadshedding during Sehri, Iftar

NEWS DESK:

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has intervened to address the ongoing issues of gas supply disruptions during sehri and iftar in the month of Ramadan, directing immediate action to ensure a smooth and uninterrupted flow of gas during critical hours.

In a late-night emergency meeting, the prime minister convened discussions with the managing directors and senior management of SSGC and SNGPL to address the issues of low gas pressure and disruptions in service. Express News reported.

As a result of the meeting, Sui Southern Gas Company announced a 10% increase in gas pressure to ensure better delivery during peak hours.

Additionally, gas supply to areas located at the end of distribution networks will begin 30 to 45 minutes before sehri and iftar, helping to improve pressure in these regions.

To further monitor the situation, Sui Southern announced the establishment of control rooms at both the head office and regional offices.

These rooms will oversee the daily gas supply situation, ensuring that complaints related to low pressure are promptly addressed and resolved on an emergency basis.

Meanwhile, SNGPL also pledged to adhere to the prime minister's directives, assuring citizens that the gas supply during sehri and iftar hours would be maintained without fail.

They urged the public to report any issues through the 1199 helpline for immediate resolution. Yesterday, residents of various areas in Karachi faced significant difficulties due to disruptions in gas supply during iftar time.

According to reports, areas including Liaquatabad B Area, Liaquatabad 4,

Federal Capital Area, and North Nazimabad have been without gas supply, causing inconvenience for residents.

Additionally, parts of Nazimabad, PIB Colony, and various blocks of Gulshan-e-Iqbal are also experiencing interruptions in gas services. However, a spokesperson for Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) has denied claims regarding the gas outages.

Quetta's Air Quality: A Beacon of Hope in Pakistan's Pollution Crisis

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Germany has a new leader and Trump has a new challenge

Continued to page 2

Arrest warrants issued for Omar Ayub, other PTI leaders

Continued to page 4

EDITORIAL VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Quetta's Air Quality: A Beacon of Hope in Pakistan's Pollution Crisis

Editorial:

Quetta has earned recognition as the city with the best air quality in Pakistan, with an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 31, marking it as 'good' and healthy, according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Amid worsening air pollution and dense smog in urban centers like Lahore and Karachi, Quetta's clean air serves as a shining example of environmental resilience.

While Quetta's clear skies owe much to its geographical location, lower population density, and fewer industrial emissions, sustaining this air quality presents a significant challenge. Environmentalists emphasize that the focus must shift from temporary measures to sustainable strategies to preserve Quetta's atmosphere and mitigate the impacts of global warming.

Green Initiatives Must Be Long-Term

The Forest Department and local NGOs have launched tree plantation drives to beautify Quetta and improve its air quality. However, most of the saplings planted along roads have dried up within weeks due to inadequate care. This highlights the need for a sustainable approach where plants are nurtured consistently, rather than short-lived initiatives centered around photo sessions.

To truly maintain Quetta's air quality, authorities must prioritize sustainable efforts. Ensure saplings are planted in suitable areas and looked after until maturity.

Vehicular emission controls: Introduce stricter policies to reduce pollution from vehicles.

Community involvement: Engage citizens in green initiatives to create awareness and responsibility.

A Call to Action

Quetta's achievement is a reminder that clean air is possible, even in challenging conditions. However, it requires a committed and focused approach. Policymakers, environmentalists, and citizens must work together to implement effective green initiatives that go beyond temporary fixes. As Pakistan battles the adverse effects of climate change, Quetta's example underscores the importance of sustainable practices to ensure a healthier future for all.

Invalidation of students' emotions

By M Nadeem Nadir:

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Former cricketer suggests sidelining senior players

LAHORE (INP): Former Pakistan cricketer Kamran Akmal suggested that senior players should be sidelined and younger talent be given a chance to shine in T20 matches.

Speaking during News programme 'Aitraz Hai', Kamran Akmal said that the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) should form a 'professional' team, citing the current team's reliance on 'hopes and prayers'.

"We need to create a pool of 35-40 players, not just rely on 20-25 players," Kamran Akmal said and added, "This can

only be achieved by giving opportunities to new players in T20 cricket and preparing backup players."

He also suggested that senior players be sidelined for 8-10 months and focus on Test and ODI cricket, while new players are given a chance to prove themselves in T20 cricket. He emphasised the importance of developing a strong backup system, citing the lack of progress in the last 6-7 years.

Kamran Akmal also pointed to India's dominant performance against New Zealand, restricting them to under 250 runs, as an example of a well-

organized team. He stressed that the PCB needs to adopt a more professional approach, focusing on merit-based team selection and developing a larger pool of players. Read More: Pakistan remain winless in Champions Trophy 2025 as Bangladesh clash abandoned

Earlier, former pacer Shoaib Akhtar has slammed Pakistan cricket team following their disappointing loss to India, saying the national team lacks required skills to compete on the biggest occasion.

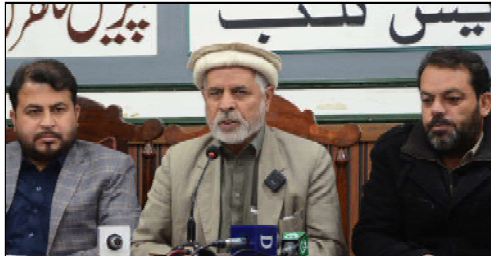
During a recent cricket show, Shoaib

Akhtar said, "We always speak about intent but I think they also lack skills. If they had skills, they wouldn't have played like way."

He also expressed his discontent with the team's management and captaincy during the ICC Champions Trophy 2025, labeling them as "clueless" and "brainless".

"Clueless management to be honest, brainless captaincy... absolutely average team who displayed the skills there... nothing to talk about it," he added.

Shoaib Akhtar taking a jibe at the team for their 'successive' failures in the past few years.



QUETTA: Chairman Action Committee Housing Scheme Abdullah Jan addressing a press conference at Quetta Press Club (QPC).

UN calls on Israel to restore aid supplies to devastated Gaza

GAZA (INP): Israel blocked aid flowing into Gaza, where a six-week truce enabled the entry of vital food, shelter and medical assistance, prompting the UN to call for an immediate restoration of humanitarian assistance.

The Israeli decision came as talks on a truce extension appeared to hit an impasse, after the ceasefire's 42-day first phase drew to a close.

Truce mediators Egypt and Qatar accused Israel of blatant violation of the ceasefire deal by halting the aid, a move which according

to APT images left trucks loaded with goods lined up on the Egyptian side of the Rafah crossing to Gaza. Early on Sunday Israel had announced a truce extension until mid-April that it said United States Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff had proposed.

But Hamas has repeatedly rejected an extension, instead favouring a transition to the truce deal's second

phase that could bring a permanent end to the war.

With uncertainty looming over the truce, both Israel and Palestinian sources reported Israeli military strikes in the Hamas-run Gaza Strip, whose health ministry reported at least four people killed.

Hamas, whose October 7, 2023 attack on Israel triggered the fighting, said the decision to suspend humanitarian aid is cheap blackmail, a war crime and a blatant coup against the ceasefire agreement.

The Egyptian foreign ministry accused Israel of using starvation as "a weapon against the Palestinian people", comments echoed by Qatar which said it "strongly condemns" Israel's decision.

Saudi Arabia, which has rejected any talk of normalising its ties with Israel without a Palestinian state, condemned the aid block as "a tool of blackmail and collective punishment". Jordan

said Israel's action "threatens to reignite" fighting in Gaza.

UN chief Antonio Guterres called for "humanitarian aid to flow back into Gaza immediately". The European Union condemned what it called Hamas's refusal to accept the extension of the first phase, and added that Israel's subsequent aid block "risks undoing humanitarian consequences".

Brussels called for "a rapid resumption of negotiations on the second phase of the ceasefire". Gazans expressed concern over the decision they said immediately surged.

"Prices are rising and people are panicking about food supplies," Belal al-Helou, 56, said in Gaza City. More than 15 months of war in Gaza destroyed or damaged most buildings, displaced almost the entire population and triggered widespread hunger, according to the UN. Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar, asked by reporters about the risk of starvation, dismissed such warnings as "a lie". Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said he had "decided that, from this morning, all entry of goods and supplies into the Gaza Strip will be suspended".

It said there would be "consequences" for Hamas if it did not accept the temporary truce extension.

But on a sandy street in Gaza City, Mr Abu Amer, 21, expressed hope the ceasefire can continue "forever". According to Israel, the truce extension would see half of the hostages still in Gaza freed on the day the deal came into effect, with the rest to be released at the end if an agreement was reached on a permanent ceasefire.

Of the 251 captives taken during Hamas's October 2023 attack, 58 remain in Gaza including 34 Israeli military has confirmed are dead.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan, Nawaf bin Saad Ahmad Al-Malki called on Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

Ramadan packages distributed among families of Police martyrs

CHINOT (INP): In a heartwarming gesture, the Punjab Police has completed the distribution of Ramadan packages to the families of police martyrs, as instructed by Inspector General of Police Punjab, Dr Usman Anwar.

This thoughtful initiative aims to honor the sacrifices of those who have laid down their lives for national security. Police officers personally visited the homes of the martyrs, inquired about their

families' well-being, and presented gifts as a token of appreciation.

This move demonstrates the police department's commitment to supporting the families of their fallen heroes.

District Police Officer Chinot Abdullah Ahmed emphasized that the sacrifices of police martyrs will never be forgotten, stating,

"The country is built on the sacrifices of the martyrs."

Those who sacrificed their lives for na-

tional security are our real heroes and are our pride."

He added that the heirs of the martyrs are considered part of the police family, and all possible steps are being taken to ensure their welfare.

On the other hand in a welcome move, the Municipal Committee Chinot has set up 12 points across the district where sugar is being sold at a subsidized rate of Rs 130 per kilogram, the local correspondent

of reported this from Chinot.

According to the details, the designated sale points are strategically located in various areas, including Khatm Nuhawwat Chowk, Satellite Town, Sahbi Mandi Jhang Road, Rehri Bazaar Soling Stop, Lal Chowk Annipur Chowk, Lorry Adda Jhang Road Bhawana, Aqsa Chowk, Muslim Colony, Gol Chowk Darul Uloom, Larian Chowk, Kachehi Chowk, and Bailey Chowk Jhang Road.

NHSRC assigns another significant responsibility to Health Services Academy

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination (NHSRC) has assigned another significant responsibility to the Health Services Academy (HSA), recognizing its transparency, efficiency, and merit-based recruitment processes.

Under the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP), HSA has been tasked with recruiting for 423 positions, ranging from PPS-1 to PPS-22, across 10

different public health projects.

According to Nadeem Sajjad Kayani, Controller of Examinations and Focal Person for PSDP Projects at HSA, the academy has already successfully conducted recruitment for five major teaching hospitals in the federal capital, where over 150,000 candidates underwent screening tests in a transparent manner.

Based on this success, the Ministry of Health has further strengthened its trust in

HSA by assigning another large-scale recruitment task. This new recruitment drive involves conducting screening tests, psychological assessments, skill and trade tests, and other evaluation stages for 71,487 applicants.

Speaking to the media, Nadeem Sajjad Kayani stated that under the leadership of Vice-Chancellor Dr. Shehzad Ali Khan,

HSA will conduct the recruitment process using modern technology,

including Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) systems, and transparent policies.

He emphasized that all testing phases will be conducted according to international standards, utilizing advanced assessment technology to eliminate any possibility of error or malpractice.

The use of OMR systems will not only ensure transparency in written examinations but will also facilitate an effective evaluation of candidates' actual skills in skill and trade tests.



QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretary for Minority Affairs Sunjay Kumar Panjwani, Mir Asad Budeemitting with Provincial Advisor for Human Development Dr. Rabeha Khan Bulleth.

Champions Trophy 2025 semi-finalists' line up completed

LAHORE (INP): The ICC Champions Trophy 2025 semi-finalists have been confirmed, after India thrashed New Zealand in the final group-stage game of

the tournament. India set to face South Africa in the first semi-final in Dubai on Sunday, March 5. New Zealand will take on South Africa in Lahore on Wednesday, March 6.

South Africa topped Group B, with Australia finishing second, just a point behind.

India, who finished top of Group A, will play Australia at the Dubai International Stadium on March 5.

The second semi-final will see South Africa face New Zealand at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore on March 6.

The winners of these two matches will meet in the final on Sunday, March 9, with the venue yet to be confirmed.

Also read: India's winning streak con-

tinued as New Zealand bundled out at 205 in CT 2025 clash

It is important to mention here that the full implications of the India's refusal to play Champions Trophy matches in Pakistan were laid bare on Sunday as Australia and South Africa waited to find out whether they will play their semi-finals in Lahore or Dubai this week.

Political tensions between the neighbours mean India have not played a cricket match in Pakistan since 2008 and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) were not inclined to change the policy for the Champions Trophy, citing security issues.

As a result, although the rest of the tournament is taking place in Pakistan, India played all of their group matches in Dubai and will stay put for Tuesday's semi-final as well as the final next Sunday, if they make it through.

Karachi authorities set official prices for flour, bread

KARACHI (INP): Commissioner of Karachi Syed Hassan Naqvi has issued a notification setting official flour prices and bread rates in the city to accommodate masses during Ramadan. According to the notification, the wholesale price of No 2.5 flour in Karachi has been fixed at Rs83 per kg, while the retail price is set at Rs87 per kg. Ramadan Calendar 2025 - Sehri & Iftar time to day Fine flour prices are at Rs88 per kg in whole-

sale and Rs92 per kg in retail. Chalki flour price has been set at Rs100 per kg. However, in Karachi's markets, fine flour is being sold between Rs90 to Rs100 per kg, while Chalki flour is priced between Rs110 to Rs115 per kg. The notification also fixes the price of a 100-gram roti at Rs10 and a 120-gram naan at Rs15.

However, in Karachi, chapati is being sold at Rs18 to Rs20, while naan without weight restrictions is priced between Rs25 to Rs28.

Additionally, the flour rates have been officially set to regulate market prices. Read More: Karachi commissioner sets official grocery prices for Ramadan Earlier, Karachi Commissioner set new prices for groceries and essential items during Ramadan, with official price lists to be released every morning. According to reports, this measure has been taken to prevent price hikes during Ramadan. The Commissioner Karachi has issued a notification with revised prices for groceries and other essentials. Official prices for vegetables and fruits will be released every morning. Further, a complaint cell has also been activated at the Commissioner's office, which will help prevent the overpricing of goods during Ramadan.

Deputy Commissioners have been instructed to take strict action against those who violate the official rates, including fines and arrests.



QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretary Excise and Taxation Haji Muhammad Khan Lohi, Former Provincial Minister Mir Sikandar Urani meeting with Provincial Minister Sardar Abdul Rehman Khuran.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-BID ONLY

The Executive Engineer (Building) CM, PPSH Department District Gwadar invites sealed percentage tender based on composite schedule of rates, 2023 G.O.B amended up to date from interested contractors for the work listed below. Earnest Money 2% Tender Fee Rs.20000/- (in shape of green chit from deposited in bank of account-027111 and T-1 and T-2 30 Months)

S.No.	Name of work	Estimate
1.	CONSTRUCTION OF OFFICE BUILDING/ RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PROSECUTORS OF BALUCHISTAN (PHASE I) (PSP-4486/2254/1760) TSE-24253455903	00.258 M

The tender process would be carried out under G.F.F.R. rule 2014. The earnest money in shape of only cash deposit or bank guarantee from schedule bank in favor of Executive Engineer (Building) CM, PPSH Department District Gwadar should accompany the bids.

ELIGIBILITY OF BIDDERS: The bidders shall be registered with Income Tax, are mandatory for eligible to apply. Affidavit of no litigation history where decision went against the firm further an affidavit of no blacklisting from any Agency. The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work. Turnover of at least 42,250,000 PKR amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm 3 projects in hand of building works.

METHOD OF PROCUREMENT: Single Stage Two envelope bidding procedure.

EVALUATION CRITERIA: The first Lowest Evaluated Bid will be recommended for award of contract, who fulfilling the basic eligibility criteria.

TENDER DOCUMENTS: The Documents can be obtained from office of the undersigned on non-refundable payment duly deposited through green Chit/Chit in NFP under head C-12716 as mentioned against each category.

DATE FOR ISSUANCE: The tender form will be issued from the date of Publication up to 20.03.2025 from the office of PPSH website.

SUBMISSION, OPENING OF TENDER: The tenders will be received on 20.03.2025 at 12:00 PM and will be opened on the same day at 01:00 PM in presence of participating bidders and procurement committee members.

ADDRESS: Executive Engineer (Building) CM, PPSH Department District Gwadar Near Civil Hospital road at Gwadar. Contact: Pst. 0864-210534. Email: sps@psdcoastalgwadar@gmail.com

PPS No.3481/03-03-2025
G.O.B. Islamabad, 03-03-2025
G.O.B. Islamabad, 03-03-2025

Executive Engineer (Building) CM, PPSH Department District Gwadar

14 international, domestic flights cancelled at Karachi Airport

KARACHI (INP): As many as 14 international and domestic flights of different airlines which were scheduled to depart from Jinnah International Airport (JIAP) in Karachi were cancelled due to various operational and technical issues on Monday.

A Serene Air flight ER-811 which was scheduled to land in Jeddah from Karachi was cancelled. An Airblue flight PA-110 was cancelled.

The flight was scheduled to take-off from Karachi for Dubai.

A Serene Air flight ER-524 which was scheduled to land in Lahore from Karachi was cancelled. A Serene Air flight ER-502 which was scheduled to depart from Karachi to

Islamabad was cancelled. An Air Sial flight PF-145 which was scheduled to land in Allama Iqbal International Airport (AIIA) Lahore from Karachi was cancelled.

An Airblue flight PA-408 was delayed by four hours. The flight was scheduled to arrive in Islamabad from Karachi.

An Air Sial flight PA-125 was cancelled. The flight was scheduled to land at New Islamabad International Airport (NIIA) from Karachi. An Airblue flight PA-208 which was scheduled to depart from Karachi for Islamabad was cancelled.

A Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flight PK-241 was cancelled. The flight was scheduled to land in Dammam

from Karachi.

Another PIA flight PK-310 was cancelled. The flight was scheduled to take-off from Karachi to Quetta.

A PIA flight PK-157 was also cancelled. The flight was scheduled to land in Salam Kot from Karachi.

Another PIA flight PK-304 was cancelled. The flight was scheduled to land in Lahore from Karachi. A Baltic Air flight OD-135 was cancelled.

The flight was scheduled to arrive in Kuala Lumpur from Karachi. An Iran Air flight ER-310 was cancelled.

The flight was scheduled to depart for Bahrain from Karachi.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications, Privatisation & Board of Investment, Abdul Aleem Khan presiding over a meeting of NIIA.

Rain, snow again pound parts of Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), (AJK)

ISLAMABAD (INP): Rain again lashed different parts of the Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) on Sunday night and Monday morning, turning the weather cold again.

In Punjab, rain was reported from Lahore, Gujranwala, Rawalpindi, Burewala, Vehari, Layyah, Nowshera Virkan, Talagang, Pattoki, Sher Garh, Sarai Mughal, Renala Khurd, Kharian, Manawala, Muridke, Sarai Alamgir and their surrounding areas.

Narowal and its suburbs received rain, accompanied by a cool breeze, which turned the weather cold again.

There was sunshine on Sunday due to which temperatures had risen in the city.

However, temperatures dropped following rain Monday's rain. Likewise, in-

termittent rainfall in the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad increased chill in the air. Rain recorded in different localities of Rawalpindi is as under:

Rawalpindi Kutchery: 3 millimeters, Bogra, Golra and Shamsabad two millimeters each. Similarly, showers were also reported from different areas of KP.

The weather turned cold again following intermittent rain in Haripur and its outskirts. However, the rain resulted in the suspension of the power supply to different areas of the city, creating a lot of inconvenience for the residents, especially for those who use the internet.

Besides the suspension of the electricity supply, the gas supply also stopped, and even in those areas where the gas was available, it was not sufficient enough to cook food dur-

ing Shri. The level of humidity in the air in the morning was recorded at 66 per cent, while the weather department predicted that the maximum temperature in the city would go up to 13 degrees Celsius, while it would remain 9 degrees Celsius on the minimum side.

Likewise, different parts of Mansehra and its adjoining areas were also lashed by rain, while it snowed over the hills in Kaghan, Shogran and Narayan, turning the weather extremely cold.

Showers continued to pour in Swat and the suburbs till last reports came in, while there were reports of snow from the upper areas.

While on the one hand, the downpour and snow turned the weather bitterly cold in these areas, it also inundated low-lying areas. The supply of electricity was also suspended due to the inclement weather.

Policeman martyred in Bajaur attack

RAJAWAT / LAKKI MARWAT: A policeman was martyred by unidentified assailants in an attack in the Khar area of Bajaur, on Sunday.

The cop, identified as Ismail Khan, was returning home from a nearby market after shopping when the assailants ambushed him in the Badisamoor area, rescue officials said while quoting locals.

The 38-year-old victim was critically wounded in the attack and died while being administered first aid at the District Headquarters Hospital, Khar.

District Police Officer (DPO) Waqas Rafiq said the martyred cop was head of the Quick Response Force of district police. Talking to reporters after the incident, the DPO said a police team immediately arrived at the scene to arrest the attackers, but they fled. He vowed to use all resources to trace the attackers, adding that an investigation has been launched into the incident. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack. NEWS DESK.



QUETTA: Activates of National party hold protest outside Quetta Press Club (QPC).



ISLAMABAD: High Commissioner of the United Kingdom, Jane Marriott call on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

2 supermarkets in Islamabad's DHA sealed for overpricing food items, 51 vendors arrested

NEWS DESK: Islamabad's district administration on Monday sealed two supermarkets in the city's Defence Housing Authority (DHA) and three shops in other areas, as well as arrested 51 vendors during a citywide drive against overpricing.

The crackdown targeted markets, Ramadan bazaars, and residential areas to enforce official price lists as consumers brace the surging costs of food items driven by inflation during Ramadan.

Officials said 51 vendors were detained for charging above government-mandated rates, with three shops and 11 vendors in the DHA area. The remaining 38 superstores were temporarily closed for repeated violations, according to The Associated Press.

Besides carrying out inspections across key markets — including Pakistan Town, H-9, H-10, and H-11 — the capital administration sealed two superstores in DHA and arrested three staffers for overcharging.

Targeting upscale areas, seven vendors were detained during price checks in G-12 and G-13 sectors for violating rate lists.

Islamabad Deputy Commissioner (DC) Irfan Nawaz Memon asserted that the crackdown will continue "without discrimination" throughout Ramadan.

"Our goal is to ensure citizens are not exploited. Strict action will follow against anyone disregarding official rates," he stated.

"No leniency will be shown to those profiting unfairly during Ramadan. We're mobilising all resources to ensure compliance."

He reiterated that relief for citizens remained a top priority, warning vendors to adhere to regulations or face penalties. Residents were urged to check official price lists before purchasing goods and report violations via the district helpline 051-9108084. In Pakistan Town, the assistant commissioner's teams sealed three shops and arrested eight

vendors during "surprise checks". Another 17 vendors were taken into custody in the Sabzi Mandi market for allegedly inflating prices of daily-use edibles like tomatoes, onions, and potatoes.

Separately, the Industrial Area administration also arrested seven sellers in the H-9 area for overpricing daily essentials.

Four shopkeepers were held in Tramri Market, while five others in Sattar Market faced action following consumer complaints. At the H-9 Ramadan Bazaar, three persons were detained for parking mismanagement, causing public inconvenience.

Meanwhile, Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah also directed the local authorities today to control the prices of essential items during Ramadan.

CM Shah's orders came after it was reported that consumers in Karachi faced overcharging on the first day of Ramadan (March 2), despite tall claims by the price regulator to take strict action against them.

KP govt claims major performance milestones, challenges Punjab leadership

PESHAWAR (INP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's government spokesperson, Barrister Saif, has asserted that the provincial government's one-year performance has outshone that of other provinces, highlighting a series of key achievements under the leadership of Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur.

In a statement, Barrister Saif emphasized that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's progress far exceeds that of other provinces, particularly criticizing Maryam Nawaz's focus on personal publicity rather than public welfare.

Barrister Saif stated that while some politicians, like Maryam Nawaz, focus on getting their pictures published in newspapers, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has taken a more substantial approach by releasing a comprehensive performance report.

The report details 625 development projects, contrasting with the 150 photos attributed to Maryam Nawaz. He added that the provincial government had pub-

lished its one-year performance in the form of a book, showcasing 23 major projects in 25 different sectors.

In his address, Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur reiterated the achievements of his administration, pointing out that despite facing challenges from the federal government, the economic situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa remains stronger than the other provinces. He proudly announced a 55 per cent increase in provincial income, the implementation of the Health Card Plus scheme for the entire population, and the achievement of the IMF target—an accomplishment he claims no other province has matched.

Gandapur also took a direct swipe at the Punjab government, stating, "Punjab's performance is not even one percent of our performance." He challenged the Chief Minister of Punjab to debate on the performance of their respective provinces. He further highlighted that Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa currently has a surplus of Rs 176 billion in its treasury and continues to implement a wide range of public welfare projects. Among the major initiatives, Gandapur noted that the provincial government has facilitated the distribution of free laptops to students, extended life insurance facilities, and provided financial assistance of Rs 200,000 to 4,000 deserving girls to help them with marriage expenses. He also mentioned that the Health Card Plus scheme has been extended to all citizens of the province, providing comprehensive healthcare coverage.

In a call for other provinces to follow suit, the Chief Minister urged Punjab's leadership to increase its revenue and offer similar benefits to its citizens, such as free healthcare and the distribution of laptops to students. Gandapur concluded by challenging Punjab's Chief Minister to replicate Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's successes in welfare and economic development.



Islamabad: Coordinator to the Prime Minister for Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam presenting a shield to Jamie Fergusson, Global Director for Climate at the International Finance Corporation (IFC), during his visit to her office.

Arrest warrants issued for Omar Ayub, other PTI leaders

ISLAMABAD (INP): A local court in Islamabad on Monday issued arrest warrants for opposition leaders Omar Ayub, Amir Dogar, and Amir Mughal over their failure to appear in two cases related to the violation of Section 144.

Judicial Magistrate Shahzad Khan, who presided over the hearing, accepted exemption pleas filed on behalf of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Khan and Shouab Shaheen. However, arguments on the acquittal applications of the accused could not be presented during the proceedings.

The cases against Barrister Gohar and other PTI leaders were registered at the I-9

police station in connection with alleged violations of the prohibitory order. The court subsequently adjourned the hearing till April 23.

Meanwhile, the Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) in Islamabad granted post-arrest bail to 56 PTI workers against surety bonds of Rs5,000 each. ATC Judge Abulhasnat Muhammad Zulqarnain issued the ruling on bail applications filed by the detainees, who were arrested in cases registered at Tarnol and Kohsar police stations following the November 26 protest.

Advocate Sardar Busy represented the PTI workers during the proceedings.

It may be recalled that PTI had launched a march

from Peshawar to Islamabad on November 24, 2024, under the leadership of Bushra Bibi and the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, demanding the release of party founder Imran Khan.

The march reached the federal capital late on November 25, culminating in clashes between PTI supporters and law enforcement agencies the following day.

Several people, including police personnel, were injured in the confrontation. In its aftermath, multiple cases were lodged against PTI leaders and hundreds of party workers at various police stations across Islamabad and Rawalpindi under different legal provisions, including anti-terrorism laws.