

# QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

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dquettavoice@gmail.com

## 11 Soldiers, 40 Civilians Martyred Defending Motherland Against Indian Aggression

**Dawood Ahmed, News Desk:** RAWALPINDI: In a tragic turn of events, the Indian Armed Forces launched unprovoked and brutal attacks on the night of 6-7 May 2025, targeting innocent civilians in a blatant violation of international law. The barbaric assault led to the martyrdom of 40 civilians—including 7 women and 15 children—while 121 others sustained injuries, among them 10 women and 27 children.

In a powerful and timely response, the Pakistan Armed Forces initiated Operation Bunyanum Marsoos under the campaign Marka-e-Haq, delivering precise and effective strikes against enemy positions. The military action aimed to defend national sovereignty and deliver justice for the innocent lives lost.

While defending the homeland with extraordinary bravery, 11 Pakistani servicemen embraced martyrdom and 78 others were wounded. Among the fallen heroes were personnel from both the Pakistan Army and the Pakistan Air Force.

**Army Martyrs:**

Naik Abdul Rehman

Chief Technician Aurangzeb



Lance Naik Ikramullah

Naik Waqar Khalid

Sepoy Muhammad Adeel

Alkar

Sepoy Nisar

Air Force Martyrs:

Squadron Leader Usman

Yousuf

Chief Technician Aurangzeb

Senior Technician Najeib

Corporal Technician Farooq

Senior Technician Muhsin

Their supreme sacrifice

stands as a timeless testament to

courage, patriotism, and devotion

to duty. The people of Pakistan,

along with the Armed Forces, pay

tribute to the martyred civilians

and soldiers and offer prayers for

the speedy recovery of those in-

jured.

The resolve of the nation re-

mains unshakable. Any future

aggression against Pakistan's

sovereignty or territorial integrity

will be met with a swift, compre-

hensive, and decisive response.

## Move to ease troop buildup along border

**NEWS DESK:** Pakistani and Indian senior military officials on Monday agreed to uphold the ceasefire reached last week and reduce troop deployments along the international border, following days of hostilities between the two countries that had raised fears of a wider conflict.

The directors general of military operations (DGMOs) from both countries held a scheduled conversation at 4:30pm that lasted about 45 minutes.

The discussion was originally scheduled for noon, but was postponed till afternoon — the delay was attributed by some sources to a difference over the agenda of the meeting.

The two officers — Pakistan's Maj Gen Kashif Abdul-lah and India's Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai — discussed measures to reinforce their mutual commitment not to fire or engage in any aggressive or in-military actions, according to Indian authorities.

Pakistani officials described the conversation as the initial round of talks after the ceasefire took effect. Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said that the DGMOs are expected to have another round of talks within 48 hours for further discussions.

In peacetime, Pakistan and India typically station border security forces — the Pakistan Rangers and India's Border Security Force, respectively — along the international border, while regular army troops remain in nearby cantonments for rapid deployment if needed. Under the existing terms of engagement, helicopters are restricted from flying within 1 kilometre of the border, and combat jets must remain at least 10 kilometres away.

During heightened tensions, both countries activate wartime formations, repositioning offensive and defensive units closer to the border. After escalation, defence formations occupy positions on border, whereas offen-



There was no official statement released by the Pakistan Army regarding the meeting.

In addition to reaffirming the ceasefire, the two sides reportedly agreed to pursue immediate steps to reduce troop presence along the borders and forward areas, which is seen as a significant move amid fragile calm after a four-day flare-up from May 7 to May 10.

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## Junaid Akbar submits resignation as PAC chairman to PTI

**NEWS DESK:** PTI MNA Junaid Akbar on Tuesday said he had handed over his resignation as the chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) to the party.

The development came after it emerged that PTI founding chairman Imran Khan had directed Akbar to resign from the position and focus on provincial matters. In a video statement issued today, Akbar confirmed that he had handed over his resignation to PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, saying that he readily accepted the decision of the party and Imran.

"Whatever the decision of the party and there is no legal requirement for this parliamentary tradition," he said.

Akbar said the position was a responsibility given by the party and he would accept any decision by the PTI founder, including handing over the party presidency or resignation from the assembly.

PTI's central information secretary Sheikh Waqas Akram, had confirmed to Dawn, that Akbar would step down as PAC chairman. He said Imran had conveyed the message through his sister Aleema Khan during their last meeting and announced that

Akbar would be replaced by Omar Ayub Khan. He said Aleema conveyed the message to Salman Akram Raja after coming out of Adiala Jail.

Akbar was elected unopposed as chairman of the PAC in January this year. In the same month, he was appointed by Imran as the president of PTI's KP chapter, replacing Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur.

The position had been vacant since the February 2024 general elections, which brought the PM-N government to power. The PAC chairmanship is usually held by the leader of the opposition or their nominee, though there is no legal requirement for this parliamentary tradition.

After the general elections, the PTI made several U-turns over nominating a candidate for the post of PAC chairman. Sher Afzal Marwat was initially nominated, followed by the names of Akram and Omar. Ultimately, Akbar's name was finalised for the post.



## Four Men from Punjab Shot Dead in Noshki's Gulangoor Area

**From Our Correspondent:** Noshki: Four bullet-riddled bodies were discovered in the Gulangoor area of Noshki district, Balochistan, on Tuesday, officials from the Levies Force confirmed.

According to Levies sources, unidentified assailants opened fire on the victims, killing them on the spot. The bodies were shifted to the Teaching Hospital Noshki for legal formalities.

Hospital authorities later identified the deceased as residents of Punjab. Two of them were from Pakpattan — Moen, son of Ghulam Mustafa, and Huzafa, son of Muhammad Latif. The other two, Imran Ali and Irfan Ali, both sons of Maqsood Ahmed, hailed from Rahim Yar Khan.

Levies officials have launched a thorough investigation into the incident. However, the motive behind the killings remains unknown at this stage.

This shocking act of violence has raised concerns over the security situation in parts of Balochistan, where targeted killings have been on the rise in recent months.

Authorities have assured that a "possible effort" is being made to trace the culprits and bring them to justice.

**Shahid Rind Strongly Condemns The Attack**  
A government spokesperson has strongly condemned the brutal killing of four labourers in Balochistan's Noshki district, expressing deep solidarity with the grieving families.

The spokesperson reaffirmed the state's commitment to protect the lives and properties of its citizens, stating, "Those behind this cowardly terrorist attack will be brought to justice. The government stands firmly with the affected families in this moment of grief."

He added that elements involved in targeting innocent labourers will not be spared under any circumstances and assured that all necessary steps are being taken to apprehend the perpetrators.

Many times when Justice Umar Ata Bandial was chief justice of Pakistan as dissenting notes of judges were uploaded to the website and since the judges had exposed their minds, the bench tended to be reduced generating a controversy as to which was the majority judgement and which the minority. This happened on May 6 when Justice Ayesha A. Malik and Justice Aqeel Ahmed Abbasi rejected the review petitions filed by the PM-N, Election Commission of Pakistan and PPP outright indicating they would later provide separate reasoning for their stance. On May 9, Justice Malik wrote a complaint inviting CJP Yahya Afridi's attention towards not uploading her dissenting order along with that of Justice Abbasi on the court's website in the reserved seat case.

They were issued in the midst of proceedings, which left indelible marks of a divided court, he pointed out.

Earlier, whenever a judge wanted to withdraw himself from the bench, he issued a dissenting note even when the case had just begun. This created the perception of a widening division among the judges whereas his or her dissenting views were made public by uploading the same by the IT division, thus prejudicing the case from the beginning. This happened



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**NEWS DESK:** Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur on Tuesday vowed that the provincial government will make education a "top priority" in the upcoming budget and allocate more resources towards the sector, state-run Radio Pakistan reported.

The chief minister's concerns follow in the wake of the unexpected textbook shortage in the province which has disrupted classes, high dropout rates, and Pakistan's "low" ranking in the District Education Performance Index Report 2020-23.

"Presiding over a meeting in Peshawar, he directed measures to enhance teachers' capacity, ensure 100 per cent merit in new



"Presiding over a meeting in

Peshawar, he directed measures

to enhance teachers' capacity,

ensure 100 per cent merit in new

recruitments, and establish schools

in revised buildings in areas where

they are urgently needed," the

report said. During the meeting, it

was decided that comprehensive

and multi-faceted measures would

be taken to increase student enroll-

ment in schools. In this regard, schemes

would be included in the upcoming

budget to support various activities

"Gandapur expressed concern

that in some districts, the rate of out-

of-school children remains alarm-

ing, and the declaration of education

emergency is a necessary step to

reduce this number and improve

enrollment rates," it added.

The chief minister

emphasized strengthening the

monitoring system and taking

steps to provide missing facilities

such as laboratories, examination

halls, and other essential infra-

structure in existing schools.

During the last two decades,

students received books from the

provincial government free of

charge at the start of the scholastic

year in April. Two years ago,

the government decided to deliver

only half of the required books as

the costs reached over Rs10 bil-

lion, directing the schools' admin-

istration to collect old books from

the students promoted to the next

grades and fulfil the remaining

book requirements. This year,

however, a complex situation has

emerged in schools as the text-

book board claims that it has

printed all the books requested by

the education department but stu-

dents and teachers have com-

plained about a shortage of books.

In August last year, an official

report placed the country's

## Space for peace diplomacy

By Muhammad Amir Rana:

## Balochistan Doesn't Need New Buildings—It Needs a Future

Editor: Asim Khan

## Editorial:

The decision to demolish the historic Balochistan Assembly building and construct a new one for Rs. 5 billion is not just unwise—it is outrageous. At a time when the province is struggling to overcome extreme poverty, ill health, and a collapsing healthcare sector, prioritizing infrastructure over people's well-being raises serious questions about governance and leadership.

Balochistan has the highest child mortality rate in Asia, with maternal mortality also at alarming levels. According to the Directorate of Nutrition Cell, 54% of children suffer from stunting, while over 60% of women are anaemic. Hidden hunger, a silent crisis, is worsening health conditions, especially among women. The province's female literacy rate has hit a historic low, and over 3 million children remain out of school. Given these grim realities, how can any rational mind justify spending billions on a new building while millions of people suffer from malnutrition, disease, and illiteracy?

The existing assembly building is not just a structure; it is a part of Balochistan's history and culture. It stands in a secure zone with ample space to function effectively. There is no logical reason to shift it elsewhere. More importantly, in a province where resources are scarce, this massive sum should be directed towards improving the Human Development Index (HDI). Balochistan doesn't need more concrete structures—it needs a healthy and educated population capable of facing the global challenges.

The priorities of the government must be questioned. Should Rs. 5 billion be wasted on a new assembly building, or should it be used to improve healthcare, provide clean drinking water, ensure food security, and address the devastating impacts of climate change? The answer is clear to anyone who values human lives over political vanity projects.

Shockingly, most of the opposition has chosen to remain silent on this reckless decision—except for Jamaat-e-Islami chief Maulana Hidayat ur Rehman, who has voiced his opposition. This silence is both disappointing and alarming. If those who claim to represent the people do not stand against such misplaced priorities, who will? Balochistan does not need another building; it needs a future. It needs leadership that understands the struggles of its people. It needs investment in its children, its women, and its environment. If Rs. 5 billion is to be spent, let it be on human lives, not on another structure that adds no real value to the province's future.

## Commercial courts

By Mirza Moiz Baig:

“T

here can be no justice without law and no meaningful law without a court to decide what is just and lawful under any given circumstance.” — Prof Ben-Jamin B. Ferencz

THE recent abolition of the Sindh High Court's (SHC) original jurisdiction has generated renewed concerns about the district courts' capacity. For the reformers, the abolition, while civil suits across Pakistan are filed before the district courts as courts of first instance, the SHC's principal seat at Karachi has historically enjoyed original jurisdiction to entertain civil suits beyond a certain monetary value. While analogous at first sight, port cities across the subcontinent were vested with similar powers. The grant of original jurisdiction was predicated on the belief that port cities, as epicenters of commerce and industry, involve cutting-edge commercial disputes, the adjudication of which ought to be entrusted to the high courts. Nonetheless, this meant that ordinary civil disputes too made their way to the high courts.

Unsurprisingly, the SHC's original side has remained clogged, thus inhibiting its ability to expeditiously decide commercial disputes and submerging the very ba-

sis of the grant of original jurisdiction.

Bemoaning this aspect, Justice Yousuf Ali Sayeed in G.A. Pathan's case, observed: “Suits that are of a commercial nature are often overwhelmed by the preponderance of litigation, particular, specific performance or related matters for cancellation of sale agreements, etc. A jurisdiction based solely on a pecuniary threshold is unworkable, as has proven so over time.”

Ordinary civil disputes too made their way to the high courts. Such concerns ought to have propelled the government into promoting mediation, revisiting archaic procedures, and regulating the SHC's original jurisdiction by gradually transferring certain classes of civil suits to the district courts while contemporaneously investing in their capacity. The government has, nevertheless, abolished the SHC's original jurisdiction forthwith, thus incurring the already burdened district courts with cases now transferred from the SHC. The timing of this move too has raised concerns, with the bar associations campaigning for the abolition of the SHC's original jurisdiction ingratiating themselves

with the government by endorsing its position on the 26th Amendment and the transfer of judges to the Islamabad High Court.

The capricious abolition of the SHC's original jurisdiction poses the capacity constraints of the district courts, impedes access to justice, and erodes the public's confidence in the justice system. Could the government have introduced other reforms to arrest the proliferation of cases on the SHC's original side or would its decision to simply transfer all civil suits to the district courts magically improve access to justice?

One route has been envisaged by Justice Jawad Hassan in Pizz Hut's case, where he underscored the role of commercial courts in the expeditious disposal of cases of a commercial nature. Similarly, while highlighting the importance of regulating the SHC's original jurisdiction in G.A. Pathan's case, Justice Yousuf Ali Sayeed cautioned that “there is still a genuine purpose to be served by preserving such jurisdiction to the extent of suits involving commercial disputes.” He, thus, suggested that the original jurisdiction may be restructured as a commercial side, with commercial disputes beyond a certain pecuniary value being heard by the SHC.

appeared productive.

Saudi Arabia has appeared to take a more proactive stance. While it appeared uncertain whether Riyadh could play the same role as the US and, to some extent, Russia once did, Saudi Arabia has been increasingly active in international diplomacy in recent years, seeking to position itself as a global mediator and a stabilising force in regional and international conflicts. Besides its mediation role in Africa, Saudi Arabia has also intervened in the Russia-Ukraine conflict, while maintaining balanced relations with both Russia and the West during the war.

Apart from Saudi Arabia, the UAE is also interested in gaining a foothold in regional and global politics. The UAE played a key role in brokering a ceasefire between India and Pakistan in 2021, which halted the frequent and raised tensions that had been ongoing since 2019.

Nonetheless, the nature of the long-simmering India-Pakistan tensions over Kashmir is such that an entirely new approach is needed.

By Faisal Bari:

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ENSIONS between Pakistan and India have become a source of tension and attacks. And there are real fears of escalation to a full-scale war between the two countries that have nuclear weapons. India attacked several places early on Wednesday. Given the situation, the Islamabad and Punjab governments announced the closure of all educational institutions on Wednesday.

The situation is very tense. The district courts are very much under the drone, especially given the drone incursions across Pakistan on Thursday.

But there were no instructions from the education departments about Thursday or the next few days for that matter. All schools and universities have been taking their own decisions and moving from one decision to another. My daughter's school sent a message on Wednesday night that classes would be in person and on campus. Early morning when we were getting ready, we got a message that classes would be online.

And we have just received a message that education will be online till further notice. Some universities have moved to classes online for a few days. Others are carrying

on in person. Some have allowed students to have more flexibility and to come in or not.

Emergencies in Pakistan are becoming more frequent and raising uncertainties for everyone. I do not remember having this situation in the past. It was in college or school. In recent times, we have seen schools and universities being shut down during the pandemic, smog, cricket matches, visits of dignitaries, conflict, and so on. The protests, anticipated public protests, rain, floods, cold and heat. I should not mention some of the other reasons. The number of days that are lost from the education perspective has gone up.

This disrupts educational delivery for sure. It upsets students, upsets their learning, makes continuity, covering the syllabus and other things difficult. It makes teaching a harder for the already stressed-out and less motivated teachers, and lowers educational outcomes. We have plenty of evidence of poorer learning outcomes from the pandemic days.

Here is just a small example. In the end of the spring semester for a lot of universities and they were gear-

ing up for examinations. There are many universities that have hostels too where students are staying. These young people are away from their families.

Attacks, Agreements, and some parts of Sindh for sure and a number of times in a year. Extreme weather conditions and events are becoming the norm and are to be expected. Political protests will happen. Terror attacks have seen an uptick and it seems they will be with us for the foreseeable future. And it seems, we will keep repeating the tension cycle with India, as will they.

Should provincial education departments as well as the HEC, the higher education regulator, not throw some exercise that does some contingency planning for how to respond to time some situations that we are going to see more of? Some scenarios could be planned as guidelines for universities and schools, to figure out responses and to also, if needed, invest in appropriate infrastructure and services, to ensure that the switch to online learning is as smooth as possible. What sort of investment should be made in public school infrastructure or services, and teacher training to ensure better delivery of education ser-

ices when contingencies arise? It is the schools with fewer resources in the public as well as private sector, that suffer more and will suffer more. But these are the schools that should be more worried about as they are in the majority and learning will be higher in them.

When we came back from Covid — and we were back in person — a lot of universities and schools stopped paying for Zoom licenses as it was considered a waste of money. Now, when we have to switch, schools use the free Zoom facility but then have to tailor classes for free sessions. Or they have to switch to other free platforms which teachers might or might not be familiar with.

There is definitely a need for better contingency planning. Extreme events are increasing. They are becoming more predictable and so we need to take them into account in education planning at both the school and university level. At one time it was just about the unpredictability of flooding. All of us individually arranged for generators or UPS, etc. Now it is a much bigger level, we will need institutional and public responses to these.

bring rapid change.

Above all, economists and planners who believe inclusive growth is equivalent to greater GDP growth need to understand that any gains will be eroded by rapid population growth and low productivity.

As pointed out in Pakistan's 2050 Demographic Change, Future Projections and Development Oppor-

tunities, 2018 goals. Extended birth spacing services and campaigns like the ones followed in comparable Muslim countries like Indonesia and Bangladesh will

Changing stagnat-

ing fertility patterns to ensure healthier spacing of pregnancies and fewer unplanned pregnancies will directly help lower infant mortality and malnutrition which continue to be central to the World Bank Country Partnership Framework.

Arguably, steps are required to improve food security and child stunting, but malnutrition cannot be addressed without reducing fertility in the country.

Left to women, Pakistan could have a lower fertility rate. Women's stated wanted fertility is one child less than the current 3.6 births per woman. This would bring Pakistan's fertility closer to the level of our progress towards the FP2030 agreed upon in the Council of Common Interests' 2018 goals.

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## Global Sikh community stands with Pakistan: Minister Arora

LAHORE (INP): Provincial Minister for Minorities Affairs, Ramesh Singh Arora, has expressed deep gratitude to the global Sikh community for their strong show of solidarity with Pakistan and its armed forces amidst recent regional developments.

According to the handout issued here on Monday, Arora lauded the unity and ideological clarity demonstrated by Sikhs across the world, saying, "The Sikh nation has once again proven that it does not compromise

on the principles of peace, brotherhood and truth."

He noted that Sikhs living in countries such as India, the United States, Canada, various European nations and Switzerland have shown unwavering support for Pakistan's stance. "This is a historic message that truth knows no borders," he added.

Referring to the recent incident in Pahalgal, the minister said that attempts by certain hostile elements to create discord within the Sikh community had failed. Instead, he highlighted

the community's collective resilience and cohesion.

A song released by young Indian Sikhs, which declared "We cannot say mardabad to Pakistan," was described by Arora as a courageous and conscience-stirring message that resonated globally.

He also praised the constructive and peaceful role of international Sikh bodies, including the World Sikh Parliament, noting that the teachings of Baba Guru Nanak Dev Ji continue to guide humanity towards peace, tolerance, and equality.

"The Sikh community in Pakistan stands firmly with the Constitution, the armed forces, and national institutions," Arora affirmed.

"We are not a minority; we are loyal citizens of Pakistan and stand shoulder to shoulder with our armed forces and our nation in every time of trial," he added.

Minister Arora concluded by thanking the global Sikh community for their unity and expressed pride in the dignity, vision, and peaceful mission of the Sikh nation.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Nepal Rifa Dhital called on Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Dr. Mansad Malik.

## Pakistan Army declares completion of Operation 'Bunyanum Marsoos' after intense 19-day conflict

RAWALPINDI (INP): The Pakistan Army has officially concluded Operation "Bunyanum Marsoos", a high-intensity multi-domain military response to Indian aggression, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) announced Monday. The operation, described as a "Marka-e-Haq", lasted from April 22 to May 10, culminating in hours after both countries' Directors General of Military Operations (DGMOs) held rare direct talks and agreed to a ceasefire.

The conduct of Pakistan Armed Forces Operation "Bunyanum Marsoos", on 10 May 2025 as part of the military conflict Marka-e-Haq, was in response to Indian military's dastardly attacks that began on the night of 6 to 7 May 2025, resulting in the loss of innocent civilian lives, including women, children, and the elderly. Pakistan had vowed justice and retribution for the reprehensible Indian military aggression and brutal killings of our citizens.

Alhamdulillah! Pakistan Armed Forces have delivered the promise made to our people. Armed Forces thank Almighty Allah for His infinite blessings, mercy, help, and divine support. Allah has ordained the believers to retaliate whenever they are wronged. We bow our heads to Him in utmost humility for enabling us to translate our resolve into decisive actions on the battlefield.

Our hearts and sympathies are with the wards and families of the Shuhada who sacrificed their lives for the beloved country. We pray for the quick recovery of our injured countrymen. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to every officer, soldier, airman, and sailor of the Armed Forces of Pakistan who made this success on the battlefield possible through their courage, professionalism, and sacrifice.

The Armed Forces of Pakistan express their profound appreciation and gratitude to the brave Pakistani nation whose unwavering moral strength, resolve, and above all, wholehearted support and prayers remained with us during these trying times.

This support was indeed the most potent force multiplier for the Armed Forces of Pakistan. We are especially indebted to the youth of Pakistan, who became frontline soldiers as the ship of the Prime Minister of Pakistan and his Cabinet Ministers for taking destiny-altering decisions for the country and steering it through this critical situation.

During Indian ghastly attack on night of 7 May, India launched missiles from stand-off on civilian infrastructure and places of worship targeting innocent civilians including women and children.

The Pakistan Cricket Board announced resumption of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) Season 10 following the recent ceasefire between India and Pakistan.

PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi challenged, "If India has any evidence against us, they should present it."

Khawaja Asif also stressed the urgency of resolving the Kashmir dispute, citing that even U.S. President Donald Trump acknowledged the need to address the issue in his speech. "War has only complicated matters on the ground, and finding a solution is essential," he said. "The Indus Waters Treaty, terrorism, and Kashmir must be included in the dialogue agenda." On the internal political situation in India, the Defence Minister stated, "Modi's days are numbered as there is growing opposition in the Indian parliament against him. Now, it's up to the Indian people to decide."

He concluded by asserting, "India can no longer even think of launching another attack on Pakistan. The entire nation stands united against the enemy."

Referring to Pakistan's involvement in the Pahalgal attack,

he said, "We are not a minority; we are loyal citizens of Pakistan and stand shoulder to shoulder with our armed forces and our nation in every time of trial," he added.

Minister Arora concluded by thanking the global Sikh community for their unity and expressed pride in the dignity, vision, and peaceful mission of the Sikh nation.

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"The Sikh community in Pakistan stands firmly with the Constitution, the armed forces, and national institutions," Arora affirmed.



MASK OW: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani poses for a group photo with Valentina Matvienko, Chairperson of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation, during his official visit to Moscow, Russia.

## UK PM says policies would "finally take back control of our borders", recalling pro-Brexit slogan

LONDON (INP): As British government unveils policies designed to reduce legal immigration and fend off rising support for the hard right, UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer vowed to "finally take back control" of Britain's borders.

Starmer announced he was ending an "experiment in open borders" that saw net migration rise to nearly one million people under the previous Conservative government, which lost last year's general election.

The government's Immigration White Paper policy document includes plans to cut overseas care workers and

increase from five to 10 years the length of time people will have to live in UK before qualifying for settlement and citizenship.

English language rules will also be strengthened, with adult dependents required to demonstrate a basic understanding, while the length of time students can stay in the UK after completing their studies will be reduced.

Starmer said the policies would "finally take back control of our borders", recalling the pro-Brexit slogan used at the height of the campaign to leave the European Union in 2016.

Labour vowed in its general election manifesto last year to significantly reduce net migration, which stood at 728,000 in the 12 months to last June.

It had peaked at 906,000 in 2023 after averaging 200,000 for most of the 2010s.

Starmer, a former human rights lawyer who voted for the UK to remain part of the EU, is under renewed pressure to tackle immigration following the anti-immigration Reform party's gains in recent local elections. Arch-Eurosceptic Nigel Farage's party won more than 670 local council seats as well as its first two mayoral posts. It is also riding

high in national polls, while Labour is struggling.

However, Starmer's tack to the right on immigration risks alienating Labour's large base of liberal supporters, with the Liberal Democrats and the Greens picking up votes on the left.

The premier said that migrants "make a massive contribution" to Britain but alleged the country risks becoming an "island of strangers" without more controls.

He added that he wanted net migration to have fallen "significantly" by the next election, likely in 2029, but refused say by how much.

spokeswoman Karoline Leavitt said Trump will promote a vision where "extremism is defeated in place of commerce and cultural exchanges".

Talk of returning to the kingdom has been circulating for months, with Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman vowing to pour \$600 billion into US trade and investments.

"I'll be asking the crown prince, who's a fantastic guy, to round it out to around one trillion

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## Trump reaches Riyadh to begin Gulf tour for talks, trade deals

RIYADH (INP): United States President Donald Trump reached Saudi Arabia on Tuesday, kicking off a Gulf tour that will also include stops in Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

This visit marks his first major international trip of his second term with the White House, stating that the US president looked forward to a "historic return" to the region.

Eight years ago Trump selected Saudi Arabia for his inaugural overseas visit, where he captured headlines by posing with a glowing orb and participating in a traditional sword dance.

His decision to return to the Gulf states, rather than traditional Western allies, highlights their growing geopolitical significance and the importance of his business interests in the region.

In the days before the trip, the White House played an instrumental part in hammering out a

ceasefire between India and Pakistan and holding another round of nuclear talks with Iran.

But the focus of the tour of the Gulf will likely be locking down business agreements.

"White House sources have indicated that the president will focus on 'deals,'" wrote Daniel B. Shapiro, a distinguished fellow with the Atlantic Council's Scowcroft Middle East Security Initiative.

White House spokeswoman Karoline Leavitt said Trump will promote a vision where "extremism is defeated in place of commerce and cultural exchanges".

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## Pakistan has concrete evidence of India's involvement in terrorist activities in Balochistan, KP: Khawaja Asif

SIALKOT (INP): Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has stated that Pakistan has concrete evidence of India's involvement in terrorist activities in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Speaking to the media in Sialkot, Khawaja Asif emphasized that the international community should be aware of India's role in sponsoring terrorism. He added that there is concrete evidence of India's involvement in terrorism in both Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He labeled Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi an "international terrorist". The Defence Minister further noted, "The Indian parliament against him. Now, it's up to the Indian people to decide."

He concluded by asserting, "India can no longer even think of launching another attack on Pakistan. The entire nation stands united against the enemy."

Referring to Pakistan's involvement in the Pahalgal attack,

he said, "We are not a minority; we are loyal citizens of Pakistan and stand shoulder to shoulder with our armed forces and our nation in every time of trial," he added.

Minister Arora concluded by thanking the global Sikh community for their unity and expressed pride in the dignity, vision, and peaceful mission of the Sikh nation.

## PCB announces appointment of new white-ball head coach

LAHORE, May 13 (INP): The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Tuesday announced the appointment of Mike Hesson, as the white-ball head coach of the Pakistan men's cricket team effective from 26 May 2025.

Hesson comes in to fill the post after evaluation of numerous applications received against the vacancy, which fell vacant after Pakistan men's team tour to New Zealand in April. Hesson had previously served as

head coach of various international teams including New Zealand and Kenya. He is also currently serving as head coach of Islamabad United, who are the defending champions of HBL Pakistan Super League.

PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi stated that "I am pleased to announce the appointment of former New Zealand cricketer and renowned coach Mike Hesson as the white-ball head coach of the Pakistan men's team."

"Mike brings with him a wealth of international experience and a proven track record of developing competitive sides. We look forward to his expertise and leadership in shaping the future of Pakistan's white-ball cricket. Welcome to the team, Mike!", he added.

It is worth mentioning here that Hesson had previously served as head coach of various international teams, including New Zealand and Kenya.

He is also currently serving as head coach of Islamabad United, who are the defending champions of the Pakistan Cricket Board announced resumption of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) Season 10 following the recent ceasefire between India and Pakistan.

PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi challenged, "If India has any evidence against us, they should present it."

Khawaja Asif also stressed the urgency of resolving the Kashmir dispute, citing that even U.S. President Donald Trump acknowledged the need to address the issue in his speech. "War has only complicated matters on the ground, and finding a solution is essential," he said. "The Indus Waters Treaty, terrorism, and Kashmir must be included in the dialogue agenda." On the internal political situation in India, the Defence Minister stated, "Modi's days are numbered as there is growing opposition in the Indian parliament against him. Now, it's up to the Indian people to decide."

He concluded by asserting, "India can no longer even think of launching another attack on Pakistan. The entire nation stands united against the enemy."



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Health Mustafa Kamal called Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Syed Imran Ahmed Shah.

### TENDER NOTICE

THE DIRECTORATE OF TECHNICAL EDUCATIONAL invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items: TSE-343557679/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 DPPRA GOB. Tender Fee Rs.1000/-

S.No.	Class of Object	Bid Security
1.	Research and Educational Lab Equipment (Total Items) Count: 23	5%

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules, 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: 3 Assignment of Senior Nature and Complexity 20,000,000 in Previous 3 Years Turn over of at least 20,000,000 PKR in 3 Subsequent Previous Years Presence in Active Tax Payer List Sales Tax Certificate The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. JV 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-responsive. Submission of the required Bid Security document Fee Suppliers must be made at most reasonable prices for bulk order which must be below the Trade price of the products. Principal Authorization: Since, the entire equipment is imported, yet the participating companies, if firms must produce Principal's Authorization. The Bidder must have functional corporate offices in major cities of the country inclusive Quetta City having PTCL Phone & Fax No. Firms must have qualified staff for installation/training of equipment. Must not be presently black listed by any Government organization. Must unconditionally agree with all the instructions, terms & conditions specified in the bidding documents & contract agreement. Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at Call of 2% (Two Percent) of the value of the order against a bank's banked tender. Tender Documents: The NIT & Bidding document can be obtained electronically from [www.ppra.gob.pk](http://ppra.gob.pk) issuance of tender documents. Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at [www.ppra.gob.pk](http://www.ppra.gob.pk) Last Date of bid submission: Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 27 May, 2025/01:30:30 AM through supplier dashboard. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 11:30 AM on EPPS System Address: Brewery Road Quetta Phone no: 3003834358 Email: [info@ppra.gov.pk](mailto:info@ppra.gov.pk)

PRO No.4392/13-5-2025

DIRECTORATE OF TECHNICAL EDUCATIONAL

## National Assembly (NA) passes two bills, referred 13 to committees

ISLAMABAD (INP): The National Assembly on Tuesday passed two private members' bills with a majority vote while 13 pieces of legislation were referred to relevant committees.

The approved bills are the International Examination Board Bill, 2024 and The Ghurki Institute of Science and Technology Bill, 2024. Both bills had been reviewed and approved by the relevant committees before being presented in the House. The bills were passed clause by clause.

Meanwhile, the House referred as many as 13 private members' bills to the relevant standing committees for detailed consideration and consultation.

The bills introduced included: The Elections (Amendment) Bill, 2025; The Parliamentary Budget Office Bill, 2025; The Islamabad Capital Territory Senior Citizens (Amendment) Bill, 2025; The Control of Narcotic Substances (Amendment) Bill, 2025; The Export Development Fund

(Amendment) Bill, 2025; The Al Musaddiq Institute of Higher Education Bill, 2025; The Pakistan Civil Servants

(Amendment) Bill, 2025; The Toll Plaza Rationalization and Equity Bill, 2025; The Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (Amendment) Bill, 2025; The Rawal International University, Islamabad Bill, 2025; The Pakistan General Cosmetics (Repeal) Bill, 2025 and Trade Organizations Act, 2013 [The Trade Organizations (Amendment) Bill, 2025]; s [The Wah Institute of Modern Sciences, Wah Cantt Bill, 2025].

Parliamentary Secretary for Communication Engineer Gul Asghar Khan Baghoor on Tuesday said the government had conducted a high-level meeting in February 2025 to address the issue of damaged fencing on Motorways.

He was responding to a calling attention notice raised by the MNA Ms Asiya Niaz Tanoli in the National Assembly regarding the

deteriorating condition of safety fencing along the country's motorways and national highways, warning that the poor infrastructure poses a significant risk of accidents.

Parliamentary Secretary for Communications further said "Previously, the condition of fencing was not satisfactory, but we have now taken concrete actions. On the M-1 Motorway, for example, 100 percent of the fencing repair work has been completed in the targeted area," said the Parliamentary Secretary.

In response to the question, he added that sufficient funds have been allocated for the repair and maintenance of the Lahore-Islamabad M-2 Motorway.

"We have already completed work on most sections. Now, only selected areas on the M-2 and M-9 motorways remain. Around 30 percent of the work in these remaining sections is expected to be completed within the next six months," he added.



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb in a meeting with a group of leading exporters and businessmen led by former Chairman of the Pakistan Business Council Shahbaz Dewan.

## Lawmakers praise Pak armed forces for effective, united response to Indian aggression

ISLAMABAD (INP): Lawmakers on Tuesday praised Pakistan's armed forces for their effective and united response to Indian aggression, while mocking Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi by calling him "Surrender Modi." Drones

Pakistan People's Party (PPP) senior leader Hina Rabbani Khar condemned India's aggressive behavior, calling it reckless and against international norms. "India acted irrationally, Pakistan acted responsibly. But our patience was mistaken for weakness," she said.

She expressed disappointment over the silence of the international community on India's move to revoke Article 370. He said that US President Donald Trump has acknowledged Kashmir as a disputed territory.

She warned Islamabad, justifying cross-border strikes in the name of counterterrorism. "If such logic is accepted, Pakistan could also justify striking inside India by presenting proof of Indian-sponsored terrorism," she cautioned. PPP leader Abdul Qadir Pateel paid tribute to Pakistan's armed forces, Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir, and the

Pakistan Air Force for their brave and united response. He mocked Modi by calling him "Surrender Modi," and said, "Pakistan has shown the world that we want peace, but if war is forced on us, we will respond with full force."

He accused India of being behind acts of terrorism in Pakistan and credited the country's nuclear strength to the efforts of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Seniors. She also lauded the nation's unity during Operation

Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for promoting Pakistan's peace message internationally.

Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen MNA Hameed Hussain lauded the unity of the armed forces, politicians, media, and public in resisting Indian attacks "under the cover of darkness." Drones

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) MNA Faizal Muhammad Khan expressed full support for the military and praised their professionalism and courage. "Our Army, Navy, and Air Force have once again proven their strength—not just in the region, but globally," he said.

Jamiatul Ulama-e-Islam's Abdul Ghafoor Haideri praised the armed forces and thanked friendly na-

tions like China and Turkey for standing by Pakistan during the tense period.

Mutahhida Qaumi Movement (MQM-P) MNA Syed Wasque Hussain appreciated the unity of the nation and the firm response by Pakistan's armed forces.

PPP's Selar Kamran praised the government's foreign policy and noted that India faced diplomatic isolation during the recent tensions. She also lauded the nation's unity during Operation

Parliamentary Secretary Gul Asghar Khan thanked China for its support and appreciated the government's success in isolating India diplomatically. "India left its mark on the world stage," he added. PPP's Mirza Ikhtiar Baiti congratulated the nation and praised the armed forces for their response, calling it a historic moment. He said India was also defeated diplomatically.

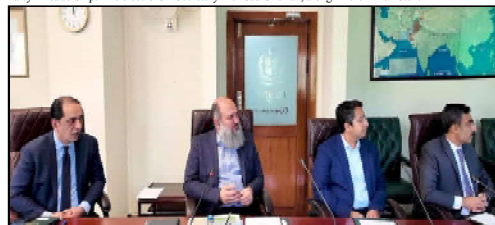
PPP MNA Mahesh Kumar Malani said the armed forces responded decisively by shooting down Indian drones and jets. He said that the entire nation—including minorities—stood shoulder to shoulder with the military against Indian aggression.

with founding President Dr. Arjumand Faisal, warmly welcomed the newly elected leadership.

Speaking after his election, newly elected President Afzal Khan Mandokhel said, "Our aim is to reinvigorate the Islamabad Chapter with renewed energy and meaningful engagement. We envision building a stronger alumni network that is rooted in service, collaboration, and regional impact."

General Secretary Faiz Paracha echoed this vision, stating, "We will work to transform the Islamabad Chapter into a dynamic hub of ideas and action, connecting alumni through impactful initiatives, strategic collaborations, and meaningful opportunities that reflect the East-West Center's global spirit right here in Pakistan."

Established in 2005, the Islamabad Chapter remains one of its most active alumni arms, particularly engaged in community-driven initiatives including environmental advocacy, disaster relief, and educational outreach. Fellows of East-West Center and having studies in the University of Hawaii, can become the members of Alumni Associations which has 50 chapters across the globe. Outgoing President Abu Ahmed Akif Saeed and General Secretary Dr. Asad Chultra, along



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan review employment development plan for Balochistan border district during a briefing by Chief Development Officer Asiya Perveen.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding FBR.

## Book launch ceremony honours Dr Ishfaq Ahmad — An Icon of Pakistan's Nuclear Program

ISLAMABAD (INP): A dignified ceremony was held in Islamabad to mark the launch of the book "Dr Ishfaq Ahmad: An Icon of Pakistan's Nuclear Program", celebrating the legacy of one of the country's most revered scientists.

Published by the Pakistan Nuclear Society (PNS), the book is a posthumous autobiographical sketch edited by physicist Dr. Imtihan Elahi Qureshi. It offers a compelling account of Dr. Ishfaq Ahmad's contributions to Pakistan's nuclear program, along with heartfelt tributes from his peers and colleagues.

President of PNS, Dr. M. Tahir Khaleeq, welcomed the guests, setting the tone for a solemn yet powerful reflection on national scientific achievement.

Dr. Imtihan Elahi Qureshi introduced the book, noting its effort to present a balanced and comprehensive overview of Pakistan's nuclear journey. "Dr. Ishfaq would be remembered as a national icon—not only for his technical contributions but for elevating the stature of scientists and engineers in our society," he remarked.

In a special keynote address, Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, who was the Chief Guest, delivered a powerful tribute to the late scientist.

The launch of this book in the month of May, ahead of Young-e-Ikhteer, holds symbolic value," he said, referring to Pakistan's historic nuclear tests. "It also coincides with Pakistan's recent victory in Operation

Bunyan un Marsoos, showcasing the strength of our national defense." Senator Mushahid called Dr. Ishfaq Ahmad the "Master Mentor of the Scientists" and praised his legacy as a man of principle, vision, and unwavering dedication. "Thanks to the scientists for their efforts that Pakistan continues to assert itself as a strong and powerful country," he stated emphatically, linking science, industry, and sovereignty.

Engr. Parvez Butt, former Chairman of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC), shared personal memories of working alongside Dr. Ishfaq during critical years of the nuclear defence program. He highlighted his leadership in establishing over 30 key scientific and technical institutions and his ability to identify and nurture talent based solely on merit.

Dr. Shamim Ahmad Chaudhri, who served PAEC in

various roles, highlighted Dr. Ishfaq's contributions to non-classified projects in nuclear medicine, agriculture, and research. He noted Dr. Ishfaq's instrumental role in making Pakistan an Associate Member of CERN in 2014, a landmark in international scientific collaboration. Air Commodore (Retd.) Dr. Khalid Banuri, Senior Advisor on Strategic Affairs, offered an appraisal of the 280-page book, describing it as "a window into the life of a pioneer."

He emphasized Dr. Ishfaq's quiet focus, determination, and vision—qualities essential to the success of Pakistan's nuclear program against global skepticism and sanctions.

A special message from Aijaz Ahmad, son of Dr. Ishfaq Ahmad, was also read out by Mr. Muhammad Naeem, Former chairman PAEC. He offered intimate glimpses into the personal values of his father—a man of simplicity, humility, and wisdom who believed in meaningful work over material gain. Concluding the event, Dr. Imtihan Elahi Qureshi presented a copy of the book to the Chief Guest, Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, marking the culmination of a ceremony filled with pride, gratitude, and national resolve.

Dr. Shamim Ahmad Chaudhri, who served PAEC in

## India engaged in political opportunism, misinformation: Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan on Tuesday rejected the recent remarks by the Indian Prime Minister, terming them as "provocative and inflammatory" that represented a dangerous escalation and a blatant disregard for international law, reflecting a propensity to fabricate misleading narratives to justify the aggression and its military adventures.

The statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reiterated the country's right to self-defence and its capacity to respond with strength and precision.

It said New Delhi was setting a "dangerous precedent" by targeting civilians and military bases alike, risking "an uncontrollable escalatory spiral."

The Ministry also refuted Indian claims that Pakistan supporting a ceasefire and mis-sought a ceasefire and said the agreement was the result of diplomatic efforts by friendly countries and Pakistan's com-

mitment to de-escalation. The Foreign Office further criticized India's violations of the Indus Water Treaty and pointed to what it described as India's "revisionist mindset" and "brinkmanship," which could threaten strategic stability in South Asia.

Highlighting its sacrifices in the global war on terror, Pakistan reiterated its position as a victim of terrorism—directly sponsored by India—and reaffirmed its support for a peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions.

Calling on the international community to monitor India's actions closely, the Foreign Office concluded by urging a return to "mature leadership, regional cooperation, and respect for international norms," warning that any future aggression would be met with full resolve.

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Earlier in an interview, PTI leader Junaid Akbar said he had already received informal messages indicating that the PTI founder wants him to play a more active role in party affairs. He said Imran Khan's sister, Aleema Khan, conveyed to him that the post after receiving instructions from the PTI leadership.

He went on to say that if PTI founder will ask him to resign from PTIKP presidency he will

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ISLAMABAD: MNA Anjum Aqeel Khan meet Federal Defence Minister Khawaja Asif during session at parliament house.

## Pakistan Tahreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Junaid Akbar resigns as PAC chairman

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tahreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Junaid Akbar has tendered resignation from the post of Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Chairman on Tuesday.

According to details, Junaid Akbar submitted his resignation to PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan.

In his resignation, Junaid Akbar said that his post as PAC Chairman was a responsibility assigned to him by his party. He further said that he resigned from the post after receiving instructions from the PTI leadership.

He went on to say that if PTI founder will ask him to resign from PTIKP presidency he will

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