

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

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1,814 Pakistani Citizens Return from Iran via Taftan Border Amid Escalating Regional Tensions

Riaz Baloch:
CHAGHI, BALUCHISTAN: Amid the rising political and security instability in Iran, a significant number of Pakistani nationals have returned home via the Taftan border, according to a statement by the Chaghi District Administration. On Thursday alone, 1,814 individuals crossed back into Pakistan, highlighting the scale of the ongoing repatriation effort.

Breakdown of Returnees Includes:

428 religious pilgrims (Zaireen)

655 international students
566 Pakistani tourists
160 deportees
5 foreign nationals

According to officials, 112 tourists and 24 students arrived during the night hours, suggesting round-the-clock movement across the Pakistan-Iran border.



Chaghi's Deputy Commissioner confirmed that border security, immigration services, and health screening facilities have been fully activated to handle the influx. "We are ensuring safe, efficient, and dignified return procedures for all individuals coming from Iran,"

he said. Medical check-ups, transport arrangements, and temporary shelter are being provided as needed. Buy vitamins and supplements.

Daily Monitoring and Border Management

With the situation in Iran

remaining volatile, daily monitoring and cross-border management protocols have been enforced. Immigration officials, Levies personnel, and the Balochistan Health Department are working in coordination to ensure border operations are secure and efficient.

Field Marshal Munir engages US think tanks on Pakistan's role in global peace

NEWS DESK: During his official visit to the United States for a five-day official visit aimed at reinforcing military and strategic ties between Pakistan and the United States, Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, held a detailed and candid exchange with senior scholars, analysts, policy experts, and international media representatives in Washington DC, according to a statement from the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR).

Engaging with prominent US think tanks and strategic affairs institutions, the COAS presented Pakistan's principled position on key regional and global matters, deepening mutual understanding of the country's strategic perspective.

US President Donald Trump said it was an honour to meet COAS Munir during a luncheon held at the White House on Wednesday. In his remarks, Field Marshal Munir reiterated Pakistan's steadfast commitment to regional peace and a rules-based international order.



He referenced key military operations, including Marka-e-Haq and Operation Bunyanum Marsoos, and addressed Pakistan's counter-terrorism efforts, highlighting the destabilising role of certain regional actors employing terrorism as a component of hybrid warfare.

He emphasised Pakistan's frontline role in the global war on terror, citing the country's significant human and economic sacrifices for global security.

The COAS also spotlighted Pakistan's untapped potential in information technology, agriculture, and mining, inviting global partners to invest in these sectors for mutual benefit.

He elaborated on Pakistan's balanced and lawful approach to regional and global conflicts, advocating for diplomacy and cooperative security frameworks.

The long-standing Pakistan-U.S. relationship was also reviewed, with a focus on counter-terrorism, regional stability, and economic growth.

Participants appreciated the transparency and strategic clarity in the COAS's views. The session was widely regarded as a meaningful contribution to strengthening the US-Pakistan strategic dialogue.

Yesterday, During his two-hour meeting with US President Donald Trump at the White House, Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir discussed a wide range of issues, focusing on expanding bilateral cooperation in trade, artificial intelligence, energy, cryptocurrency, and emerging technologies, according to a statement from the (ISPR).

The two leaders also exchanged views on regional security matters, including counter-terrorism efforts, the recent ceasefire between Pakistan and India, and rising tensions in the Middle East.

Govt secures Rs1.275tr to address power sector debt

NEWS DESK: The government has signed term sheets with 18 commercial banks for a Rs1.275 trillion (\$4.5 billion) Islamic finance facility to help pay down mounting debt in its power sector, government officials said on Friday.

The government, which owns or controls much of the power infrastructure, is grappling with ballooning "circular debt"—unpaid bills and subsidies—that has choked the sector and weighed on the economy.

The liquidity crunch has disrupted supply, discouraged investment, and added to fiscal pressure, making it a key focus under Pakistan's \$7 billion IMF programme.

Finding funds to plug the gap has been a persistent challenge, with limited fiscal space and high-cost legacy debt making resolution efforts more difficult.

"Eighteen commercial banks will provide the loans through Islamic financing," Khuram Schehzad, adviser to the finance minister, told Reuters.



The facility, structured under Islamic principles, is secured at a concessional rate of 3-month KIBOR (the benchmark rate banks use to price loans) minus 0.9%, a formula agreed on by the IMF.

"It will be repaid in 24 quarterly instalments over six years," and will not add to public debt, Power Minister Awais Leghari said.

Existing liabilities carry higher costs, including late payment surcharges on Independent Power Producers of up to KIBOR plus 4.5%, and older loans ranging slightly above benchmark rates. Meezan Bank, HBL, National Bank of Pakistan, and UBL were among the banks participating in the deal.

The government expects to allocate Rs323 billion annually to repay the loan, capped at Rs1.938 trillion over six years.

The agreement also aligns with Pakistan's target of eliminating interest-based banking by 2028, with Islamic finance now comprising about a quarter of total banking assets.

Mushahid terms Pakistani talent, Chinese tech 'invincible wall' for South Asia's peace and stability

NEWS DESK: Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed on Friday termed "Pakistani talent and Chinese technology an invincible wall" for peace, security and stability in South Asia during a dialogue held in Islamabad.

Pakistan has held strong bilateral relations with China which has supported it through many investments and development projects such as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), termed as a "lifeline" for the country's economy.

The senator's comment came during a keynote address at the Pakistan-China Dialogue hosted by the Pakistan-China Institute (PCI) under the auspices of the "Friends of Silk Road," according to a statement by the PCI. The



event was attended by diplomats, parliamentarians, students and scholars.

Mushahid, who serves as the PCI chairman, observed: "The global balance of economic and political power is shifting from West to East, heralding the Asian Century."

He lauded China's "peaceful rise as a source of strength for developing nations across Asia, Africa and Latin America" and thanked Beijing for its unwavering support of Pakistan's territorial integrity and sovereignty, es-

pecially last month in the face of Indian aggression.

Condemning recent Israeli strikes on Iranian territory, the senator called the attacks "a flagrant violation of International Law and the UN Charter" and rejected narratives promoting a "new Cold War or so-called China threat". "Security is preserved through cooperation, not military blocs, or demonising countries through disinformation", he stressed.

The event was also attended by a five-member delegation from the Communist Party of China's International Department (IDPC) led by its spokesperson, Ambassador Hu Zhaoxing.

Speakers celebrated the enduring "Iron Brothers" relationship.

Govt continues to score legal victories

NEWS DESK: After the 26th Constitutional Amendment, the government has got another major victory on Thursday as the constitutional bench endorsed the transfer of three judges from different high courts to the Islamabad High Court (IHC).

The government's legal team must be jubilant that in view of the majority order, Justice Muhammad Sarfraz Dogar will continue as acting chief justice of the IHC, which is seen as crucial for the executive authority.

The majority order will further frustrate the five IHC judges, who have been facing a tough time since writing a letter to the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) regarding interference of agencies in the judicial functions, particularly on matters related to the PTI.

A senior government functionary admits that the 26th amendment is the outcome of the six IHC judges' letter. Constitutional Bench (CB) was created through the 26th constitutional amendment. The real purpose of the amendment was to control the superior judiciary for the stability of the current political set-up.

The present government doesn't want that courts should give any substantive relief to the incarcerated former prime minister as he is perceived as a threat to the system.

Since November last year, legal circles were keenly watching the outcome of three cases that they considered would determine how far the judiciary could go to assert its independence.

The constitutional bench did not disappoint the government as two of the cases had been decided in its favour.

Firstly, trial of civilians in the military courts have been endorsed by the CB. Now, the government initiative regarding the transfer of three judges to the IHC



has also been endorsed by the constitutional bench led by Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar.

It is interesting to note that the CB is not taking up petitions against the 26th constitutional amendment.

If things stand the way as they are, it is no surprise that the government may get another victory in the reserved seats case soon.

Three tourists die after glacial slide in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Naran: Rescue 1122

NEWS DESK: Three tourists lost their lives on Friday after they were buried under a glacial slide in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Mansehra district, according to officials. Mansehra Rescue 1122 spokesperson Amir Khadim Khan told Dawn.com that the incident occurred near Sohni Waterfall in the Naran area.

"[The] tourists, hailing from Lahore, were taking selfies near the glacier when it slid down, burying them underneath."

He added that the bodies of the tourists were recovered from the glacier and moved to a nearby hospital, where they were identified as 35-year-old Mohammad Tahir, 22-year-old Mohammad Tayyab, and 13-year-old Abubakar.

Adviser to Chief Minister KP on Tourism, Zahid Chame, expressed his condolences to the bereaved families and said, "Arrangements were being made to dispatch the bodies to Lahore."

Rubio praises Pakistan's regional peace efforts in call with PM

NEWS DESK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif received a telephone call from US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Friday, during which both sides discussed a wide range of regional and global issues in what was described as a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

According to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office, the PM underscored that the escalating Iran-Israel crisis could only be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy.

He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to playing a constructive role in all peace efforts amid a situation that poses serious concerns not only for the region but for the world at large.

PM Shehbaz conveyed his best wishes for US President Donald Trump and lauded his courageous leadership.

He also appreciated Rubio's active diplomacy, particularly his role in facilitating the ceasefire agreement between Pakistan and India.

Highlighting Trump's positive statements on Pakistan, the PM called them encouraging steps toward long-term peace in South Asia. He stressed that sustainable peace could only be achieved through meaningful dialogue between Pakistan and India.

In this context, he reiterated Pakistan's readiness to engage in talks with India on all outstanding issues, including Jammu and Kashmir, the Indus Waters Treaty,



trade, and counterterrorism cooperation.

The situation in the Middle East also featured prominently in the discussion. PM Shehbaz reiterated that the only viable solution lies in peaceful dialogue and diplomatic engagement.

He reaffirmed Pakistan's willingness to play a constructive role in defusing tensions.

On economic matters, he referred to Trump's interest in strengthening bilateral trade and expressed Pakistan's desire to expand cooperation with the United States in key sectors such as trade, investment, energy, minerals, rare earth elements, and information technology.

Reaffirming Pakistan's resolve to eradicate terrorism, the PM spoke about ongoing efforts to eliminate the threat posed by extremist groups such as the Baluchistan Liberation Army (BLA), Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), and others.

In response, Rubio appreciated Pakistan's counterterrorism efforts and assured the United States' full support in this regard.

Balochistan Budget 2025 – A Promising Blueprint That Demands Transparent Implementation

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LHC warns of strict action against tree-cutting along Lahore canal

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Levies Vehicle Attacked in Chaman: One Killed, One Injured Near Tableeghi Markaz

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EDITORIAL VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Balochistan Budget 2025 – A Promising Blueprint That Demands Transparent Implementation

Editorial:

The Balochistan Budget 2025, worth Rs1,000,000 billion, has laid out an ambitious development roadmap focusing on education, healthcare, infrastructure, clean drinking water, climate change, and law and order. Presented by Finance Minister Mir Shoaib Noshwari, the budget reflects a forward-thinking development vision. However, its true value will only be realized if there is a robust transparency mechanism in place, especially around the newly formed district coordination committees.

These coordination committees, empowered to oversee local development execution, are a positive step towards decentralizing governance. However, without a strict audit and accountability framework, their risk becoming unchecked centers of influence. To ensure that development projects are completed on time and with quality, the government must implement a real-time monitoring system, regular public disclosures, and third-party performance evaluations.

One of the most promising elements of this budget is the allocation of Rs3 billion to install 1,000 water filtration plants across all union councils. This has the potential to significantly reduce waterborne diseases in underserved communities. Another highlight is the creation of the Balochistan Climate Change Fund with Rs500 million, showing a clear commitment to environmental sustainability.

The government's restraint in avoiding unnecessary job creation is commendable and will help lower non-development expenditures, freeing up funds for more impactful programs.

Additionally, the enhanced allocation to local governments is a welcome move — if managed transparently. But budget figures alone do not ensure change. There must be clarity: Will these funds reach the people — or be trapped in bureaucratic bottlenecks or political circuits?

To truly benefit the common man, the Balochistan government must make transparency, accountability, and performance tracking the cornerstones of its fiscal strategy. The district coordination committees must operate under clear public reporting mandates and be accountable to both provincial authorities and local communities.

In a province facing complex challenges — from poverty and underdevelopment to law and order issues — only good governance can deliver real transformation. This budget lays the foundation, now it must be built upon with integrity, oversight, and a people-first approach.

Heatwave Threatens Lives and Crops in Balochistan

By Ghalib Nehad:

As temperatures soar across Pakistan, several districts of Balochistan are bracing for an intense heatwave.

According to the Balochistan Meteorological Department, Sibi is expected to record temperatures as high as 47°C in the coming days. Turbat may reach 46°C, Lasbela 44°C, Nokundi 43°C, Dalbandin 41°C, and Quetta could experience highs of up to 35°C.

The Met Office has issued heatwave alerts for Sibi, Kachi, Sohbatpur, Lehri, Naserabad, Jhal Magsi, Turbat, Lasbela,

Washuk, Kharan, and Chaghi, warning of dry and extreme weather conditions. The heat is not only endangering human health but also threatening agricultural productivity. Khaliq Hussain Bhat, Chairman of the Farmers' Union, emphasized that extreme heat severely impacts seed survival and crop growth. He noted that wheat yields, which traditionally ranged from 50-60 maunds per acre, have dropped significantly to 20-25 maunds due to milder winters and erratic climate patterns. Bhat also highlighted the critical situation in canal-fed farming areas where declining water availability has exacerbated the risks. He urged the government to introduce heat-resistant crop varieties to prevent billions in agricultural losses and potential food shortages.

Meanwhile, Dr. Mahmood Ahmad warned that rising temperatures could lead to an increase in heat-related illnesses. He advised citizens to stay hydrated, avoid sun exposure between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m., and wear light-colored, loose-fitting clothing.

Balochistan in the Eye of Climate Change Storm: Calls for Resilient Climate Policies Surface

Chandni Kakar:

In the global battle against climate change, Balochistan, Pakistan, serves as a stark reminder of the urgent need for climate resilience. The province is experiencing increasingly severe weather events, a consequence of human-induced climate change. However, many residents mistake these extreme weather occurrences for regular fluctuations, hindering recognition of the escalating climate crisis.

Balochistan becoming unbearably hot

Balochistan is becoming unbearably hot, with rising temperatures transforming heatwaves into a year-round torment. These heatwaves pose severe health risks, including heat stress, dehydration, and even fatalities. In 2017, Turbat recorded a scorching 53.5°C (128.3°F), setting a record for Pakistan. Unfortunately, forecasts suggest that temperatures will continue to rise.

However, the climate challenges in Balochistan extend beyond relentless heatwaves. The province grapples with devastating droughts and floods, both of which have displaced millions of people. The province's infrastructure is under severe strain, with nearly 4 million people displaced, disrupting lives and triggering food shortages and price spikes due to their impact on the agriculture sector.

The 2022 flood in Balochistan underscores the looming climate change threat

The 2022 flood underscored the looming threat of climate change over Balochistan. Driven by intensified and increasingly frequent monsoon rains, the full extent of the damage is yet to be comprehended. However, it exposed the province's vulnerabilities and highlighted the urgent need for effective management strategies.

Balochistan's annual rainfall of just 200 mm barely meets the needs of its parched population. This water scarcity adversely affects food production, access to drinking water, and livestock numbers, exacerbated by climate change. The severe droughts of 1997-2003 and 2014-2017 forced millions to migrate to water-rich areas.

CC affects economy

Climate change also decimated the region's economy through the loss of livestock. Between 2010 and 2022, over 1.5 million livestock were lost, costing over \$1 billion and displacing over 100,000 people, particularly in districts like Quetta, Pishin, Turbat, Pajura, and Khuzdar.

Tree plantations could mitigate sweltering temperatures

In a province where tree planting could mitigate sweltering temperatures and climate change impacts, government initiatives should engage younger generations in green initiatives. Achieving a resilient future necessitates a collaborative effort involving government, local communities, civil society, and the commercial sector.

Balochistan's path towards resilience begins with a symphony of collective action. By addressing these critical issues, Balochistan can better adapt to the challenges posed by climate change, ensuring a more secure and sustainable future for its residents. The writer is a Balochistan-based journalist, she can be reached at chandrini@kakar.com or [+923001234567](tel:+923001234567).

By: Ifthikhar Ahmed:

Balochistan Agriculture Officers are highly obliged to Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo, Minister Agriculture, Mir Asad Ullah Baloch, Secretary Agriculture, Mr. Umair Ali Koker, Balochistan Agriculture Officers Association's president Dr. Qasim Kakar, General Secretary Shaked Zehri and all others that rendered efforts in the approval of the Four Tier system. Hopefully the said service structure may diminish the prevailing irregularities amongst the agriculture officers.

This will boost the performance of agriculture department

The new increase in the performance of the overall agriculture department. Currently agriculture is the least privileged department of the province though major segment of the population

is directly or indirectly dependent upon the agriculture. Agriculture must be given due respect and importance for the survival of the masses.

The longtime lingering demands of our Tier Service Structure is the most effective apparatus that would not only strengthen the Department but also would benefit the officers in order to maintain smooth, timely and regular flow of promotions.

Through four-tier service, officers to get promotion chances

Absence of Four Tier Service Structure is one of the main hindrances in the progress of Agriculture department because chances of promotions are limited and large number of officers presently retired in the same grade wherein they were appointed. However,

through the implementation of the Four Tier Structure, officers might get equal promotional chances in a flow, as timely as officers in the other departments of the province.

Fortunately, financial impacts of the four tiers upon the department are so meager.

Discrimination with the agriculture professionals

There is terrible discrimination with the agriculture professionals rather with agriculture altogether as in the entire service most of the officers hardly avail only one promotion which is totally against the equity, fundamental right and natural justice. Pakistan

is an agricultural country, presently it contributes 19.2 percent to the GDP and provides employment to around 38.5 percent of the labour force. More than 65-70 percent of the population depends on agriculture. It is suffice to mention that from 1960 to 2018 agriculture was contributing 27.38% to GDP with a minimum of 20.22% at the lowest.

Agriculture sector plays a key role in the development of Balochistan

The progress of the agriculture in province, the same is highly dependent on the agro-professionals so it is obligatory that the agriculture professionals must be given due privileges. The delightful agriculture officers mean advanced agriculture in the province. Hopefully this service structure would bring new wave of happiness and joy amongst the officer.

The perks and privileges would also be increased, ultimately they would multiply their efforts for the progress and prosperity of the agriculture in the province. These discriminations

Withering Public Institutions

Asghar Harifai:

The beleaguered public offices have come under a new wave of employee associations broadening the turf war.

The new rallying point is to assert the right for the coveted packages in wages given to the provincial secretariat. Guided by the tools employed by secretariat employees to secure bloated wages in comparison with the attached department, the number of associations has multiplied and the pre-existing ones have coalesced into a broader alliance.

They have further asserted to arrogate the positions of head of attached departments claimed by provincial secretariat employees. A few days back Balochistan Secretariat Employees Association announced its withdrawal from a grand alliance of other employees' associations.

The alliance was formed to put pressure on the government for demands they all shared; which included the rise in pay and allowances and to address the discrepancies.

A growing number of employees adding public grievances

The growing number of employee associations, in the name of their welfare, underscores the growing utility of forming pressure groups to protect spheres of influence. Taking a cue from the past, the growing trend will bring serious pressure on the frail institutional framework adding to public grievances.

One of the phenomena engendered by growing pressure groups in the public, is written writ large that institutions have exponentially grown in size, while at the same time turned into patrimonial ossified entities, forfeiting their merit. The eventuality will not only bring about suffering for all employees associated with these institutions but will also lead to the flight of the public at large. The bloated oversize of public departments in association with their ossified nature has turned them into a self-serving

superstructure and lost relevance to the common man.

A department created for the general public turned into a service provider for employees only

A department created for the service of the general public has turned into a service provider for their respective employees. All the offices at district, divisional or provincial levels have more affairs related to the disposal of these institutions with the aim to alleviate the issues of citizens, are arrogated to themselves and have turned into a bone of contention for members of the institutions.

Speaking of personal experience, a department, with district and divisional level offices, it was noted that more than 90% of the correspondence made with that office was related to the personal affairs of the employees

working in that department. It is the case with every public sector institution. Their raison d'être is service unto self.

Element of powers keep their opponents at bay

The element of powers among employees' associations also include larger size, the larger the size, the more nuisance value to keep the opponent at bay. At the provincial secretariat with the aim to enlarge its own size decades-old clerical staff positions are exponentially expanded leading to a 'one size fits all' structure. Despite specialization in every field turning into a norm, the public sector is stuck in an age-old management model. The information technology development has turned the public sector structure into an obsolete entity.

The manpower and the machine have found no compatibility.

The only change in the last 75 years is that number of positions has shifted from one service group to another. Mutual bargaining among the ser-

vice groups is termed reform in the system. A third-body assessment guided only by the public interest has never taken place.

The resistance to change has not only left the public sector unworkable, the private sector has overtaken it in the market.

When private sector services are required from the market, the public sector functionalities are found totally clueless about the trend in the market. Resultantly, the public sector is uniformly characterized by sub-standard quality.

The public sector has still not parted from the role, long performed but is now overtaken by the private sector with better performance. A role swap from a player to a regulator has still not taken place. The role of regulator, which should have been taken by the public sector, is distasteful for it.

The author is a former Secretary of Tourism Balochistan Government.

He can be reached at shangrillapal@yahoo.com

Formation of Pakistan Peoples Party, its aims and objectives

By Bashir Nichari:

Fifty-five years ago, an incredible journey began with the creation of the Pakistan People's Party. The history of the PPP is full of struggle and sacrifices, which makes it the People's Party.

The first founding convention of the party was held on the night between November 30th and December 1st, 1967 at Dr. Mubasher Hussain's residence at Gulberg, Lahore.

The primary manuscript of the party had compiled by Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, J.A. Rahim, and Dr. Mubasher Hussain, and was finalized after a lengthy discussion.

The participants in this convention were aware that they would create a new life for the people of this land and thus presented the documents for approval in the same meeting.

The aims and objectives of the party formation were to call for a socialist change in Pakistani society.

The ultimate goal of the party policy was to create a classless

society which was possible in our circles only through socialism. Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto made tempestuous visits to all corners of the country. While speaking at a public meeting at Lahore Mochi Darwaza, the People's leader, in his speech of 3 hours and 10 minutes, shed light on Islamic socialism, democracy, capitalism, and feudalism.

At that time, Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto convinced the nation with arguments that society should embrace Islamic socialism and democracy as the foundation stones for a progressive State.

He knew that these were the things upon which our future generations would have walked with pride. These sentences of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto have become a part of our historical politics.

1- Islam is our religion

2- Democracy is our politics.

3- Socialism is our economy.

4- The source of power is the people's strength. 5- Martyrdom is our wish.

(Added by Shaheed Benazir Bhutto the fifth point) Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto said he had made a public manifesto to bring revolutionary changes to Pakistani society. He implemented agrarian reforms to slacken the grip of feudal lords, improve the economic

welfare of laborers, and established social security system to prevent capital accumulation.

Besides, the acknowledgement of laborers' rights under the constitution, the self-respect of the ordinary person, the eradication of social inequality, and the essential honor of vote were some of the significant points in the basic manuscript.

People's leader Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto took over the leadership of a defeated nation in 1971.

But after only a few months, he gave democracy to the self-scrvy by providing an interim constitution.

The parliament headed by the PPP majority gave the 1973 constitution.

The ultimate goal of the party was the first unified national constitution of the country

after its creation. That was the first written pact of the Pakistani nation, which remains poignant as a theme for martial law imposers. Quaid-e-Awam also laid the foundation of the Party's newspaper "Musawat" to advance his party policies.

Today, the party formed by Quaid-e-Awam Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto has echoed in the four corners of the land and will continue to resonate in the atmosphere of Pakistan.

Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto stood alive in the form of Murtaza Bhutto Shaheed, in the character of Shah Nawaz Shaheed, and in the silhouette of Benazir Bhutto, the personification of democracy.

Bhutto's personality is performed on the world's stage today in the form of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

His achievements as a leader of the opposition in the National Assembly and as Foreign Minister of Pakistan in a short span of 7 months are remarkable.

Bhuttoism is still used as a political term even by Bhutto's opponents in this country

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Karachi welcomes first seasonal shower after intense heatwave

KARACHI (INP): Light drizzle was reported in various parts of Karachi on Friday, bringing hope of some relief to residents after days of scorching heat. Areas including Gulshan-e-Maymar, Sohrah Goth, Scheme 33, Federal B Area, Liaquatabad, University Road, Stadium Road, and PECHS experienced brief showers.

The city had been reeling under high temperatures, with mercury levels soaring above 40 degrees Celsius in recent

days. The light rain brought a noticeable drop in feels-like temperature and raised hopes for more showers in the coming days.

According to the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), Karachi is likely to experience cloudy and pleasant weather over the next three days, with chances of light drizzle during the early morning and late night hours. Daytime temperatures are expected to remain between 33°C and 35°C, with a slight increase to 35°C

by the final week of June, with higher-than-usual rainfall expected in the province this season.

The PMD has forecast pre-monsoon rains across various other regions of the country as well from today till June 23 with occasional gaps, subsiding the intense heatwave affecting several parts. The expected wet spell will bring dust storms, rain, wind, and thunder-showers, while isolated areas may also experience heavy rainfall and hailstorms.



ISLAMABAD: Idesh Van der Gracht, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium, met with Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar, Federal Minister for Law and Human Rights, to review bilateral cooperation and Pakistan's recent legal and human rights reforms.

Europe pushes diplomacy as Israel-Iran air war enters second week

PARIS (INP): Iran said on Friday it would not discuss the future of its nuclear programme while under Israeli attack, as Europe sought to draw Tehran back to the negotiating table, with a decision on potential U.S. involvement expected within two weeks.

Israel began attacking Iran last Friday, saying it aimed to prevent its longtime enemy from developing nuclear weapons. Iran retaliated with missile and drone strikes on Israel. It says its nuclear programme is peaceful.

Israeli air attacks have killed 639 people in Iran, the Human Rights Activists News Agency said. Those killed include the military's top

echelon and nuclear scientists. Israel has said at least two dozen Israeli civilians have died in Iranian missile attacks.

Reuters could not independently verify the death toll from either side. Israel has targeted nuclear sites, missile capabilities, while also hitting civilian areas, as it tries to shatter the government of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, according to Western and regional officials. "Are we targeting the downfall of the regime?"

That may be a result, but it's up to the Iranian people to rise for their freedom," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Thursday.

Iran has said it is targeting military and defence-related sites in Israel, although it has also hit a hospital and other civilian sites. Israel accused Iran on Thursday of deliberately targeting civilians through the use of cluster munitions, which disperse small bombs over a wide area.

Iran's mission to the United Nations did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Iran's emergency services said on Friday that five hospitals had been damaged in Israeli strikes. With neither country backing down, the foreign ministers of Britain, France and Germany along with the European Union foreign policy chief were due to meet Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi in Geneva to try to de-escalate the conflict on Friday.

"Now is the time to put a stop to the grave scenes in the Middle East and prevent a regional escalation that would benefit no one," said British Foreign Minister David Lammy. U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio also met on Thursday and held separate calls with his counterparts from Australia, France and Italy.

The U.S. State Department said Rubio and the foreign ministers agreed that "Iran can never develop or acquire a nuclear weapon."

Lammy said he was "X" while adding that "a window now exists within the next two weeks to achieve a diplomatic solution."

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Quetta: Haji Khudaisad Mandokhail and Sheraz Mandokhail meeting with Governor Balochistan Jafar Khan Mandokhail.

LHC warns of strict action against tree-cutting along Lahore canal

LAHORE (INP): Strict legal action has been ordered by Lahore High Court's (LHC) Justice Shahid Kareem against individuals involved in illegal cutting of trees in Lahore.

Such actions, the LHC judge warned during proceedings on Friday, are likely to lead to criminal charges against the violator, including contempt of court.

The judge, while noting that the newly established Environment Department's new force has failed to act against smoke-emitting

vehicles and is mostly absent from the city, expressed strong discontent with the Environment Commission.

The LHC sought a detailed report regarding the effectiveness and deployment of this new force. The court, in a corresponding move, also called for a thorough report regarding the Yellow Line Train project on Canal Road proposed by the Government of Punjab.

Justice Shahid Kareem made it crystal clear that any tree-cutting activity along the canal is strictly prohibited.

He cemented his argument by citing the Canal Heritage Act, which restricts removal of trees within the area.

A report was brought to the court's attention about the government's hesitation regarding provision of risk allowance to traffic wardens.

The report was also read out which was submitted by a female member of Environmental Commission, highlighting that this measure would end up in an estimated yearly expense of Rs 3 billion from the provincial treasury. The court was also informed that market associations have been mandated to ensure installation of catalyst converters on all of their generators.

Several senior officials, including Deputy Attorney General Asad Ali Bajwa, Deputy Director Environment Ali Ijaz, Assistant Advocate General Hasan Ijaz Cheema, and representatives from various departments, appeared in the court. The Lahore High Court has adjourned the case hearing until the 27th of June.

Samit Ganguly exposes deepening India's civil-military rift after Pakistan clash

ISLAMABAD (INP): The gap between the civil and military leadership in India is widening, which may lead to serious challenges in formulating a unified strategy in any crisis situation. This revelation was made by Samit Ganguly, a renowned Indian scholar and foreign policy analyst, in his recent article published in the American journal Foreign Policy.

He raised the question of whether India's civil and military leadership are compatible? He said India's crisis is not only military in nature but is deeply institutional. What is emerging is not silence but open accusations.

The Modi government and the military leadership are blaming each other for the shameful defeat in the recent clash with Pakistan. He said India's Chief of Defence Staff Anil Chauhan went abroad and admitted the loss of Indian aircraft in the recent clash with Pakistan. The Indian political leadership, especially Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, has maintained complete silence on this issue. The Modi government has placed the responsibility of public

accountability for Pakistan's defeat only on the military leadership. This silence is challenging India's historical tradition in which civilian control over the Indian army was considered a priority since the era of Jawaharlal Nehru.

Incidents such as Indian Air Chief Marshal Amarpreet Singh's harsh criticism of the Modi government over shortcomings and corruption in defence procurement process at an international air show reflect the growing role of military powers in India and the retreat of the political leadership. Anil Chauhan's open denial of the destruction of aircraft in the war against Pakistan and the Air Force's complaints are actually a manifestation of a rift in the leadership, where each side is busy blaming the other for the failure. It should be remembered that the Indian military and political leadership is suffering from severe ambiguity and contradictions, while the civil and military leadership of Pakistan is handling national security matters with unity, prudence and complete harmony despite global pressure.



ISLAMABAD: Islamabad: Federal Minister for Housing and Works Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada held a meeting with the UN-HABITAT headquarters mission.

APHC, DFP seek urgent release of Shabbir Shah on medical grounds

SRINAGAR (INP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) and Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (DFP) have sought urgent intervention from international community to help secure early release of illegally detained DFP Chairman Shabbir Ahmed Shah, who is suffering from prostate cancer and needs an urgent surgery.

According to Kashmir Media Service, APHC spokesman Advocate Abdul Rashid Minas in a statement in Srinagar said senior APHC leader Shabbir Ahmed Shah, jailed in Tihar, battles prostate cancer, has appealed to the United Nations and rights organisations to help release him on humanitarian basis.

The DFP spokesman, advocate Arshad Iqbal, in a statement issued in Srinagar, while highlighting the plight of illegally detained party chairman, said it is quite unfortunate that the Indian judiciary has denied bail to Shabbir Ahmed Shah despite knowing that he is suffering from serious ailments.

He said Shabbir Ahmed Shah, currently in Tihar jail, is battling prostate cancer but it was ironic that at this very crucial time his family was not permitted to attend him or at least be present by his side during the treatment.

Terming it a violation of the basic human rights, the spokesman appealed to the world human rights organisations to raise the issue with the Indian government and ensure that due compassion care is extended in this critical time and that his family is allowed to be by his side at this difficult hour.

Meanwhile, DFP acting chairman Mehmood Ahmed Saghar in his statement in Islamabad expressed his grave concern over Shabbir Shah's declining health condition.

He said denial of adequate medical treatment to prisoners constitutes a severe violation of international law. "International treaties and human rights instruments mandate that prisoners receive the same standard of healthcare available in the community," Saghar said, adding that denying necessary healthcare to prisoners amounts to endangering their lives.

He said that, on one hand, Indian prison authorities ignore deteriorating health conditions of Shabbir Shah and, on the other, the Indian judiciary has undermined his family's repeated requests for release on medical grounds.

This lack of empathy on the part of Indian authorities, he said, has unfortunately taken a heavy toll on Shah's health.

Secretary, Workers Welfare Fund, Graces House of Commons as Guest of Honor at its Inauguration ceremony.

"Institutions like House of Commons are not just academies—they are nation-building platforms," says Secretary WWF, Zulfiqar Ahmad.

ISLAMABAD: In a moment of great pride and distinction, House of Commons (HOC)—Islamabad's premier CSS & PMS preparatory academy—welcomed the Secretary, Workers Welfare Fund (WWF) as the Guest of Honor at a special event held on campus in G-11/3. The occasion was further dignified by the presence of Mr. Ihsan Ghani, former DG Intelligence Bureau and National Coordinator NACTA, who accompanied the Secretary WWF.

The event marked a significant milestone in the academy's journey, reflecting its growing recognition as a center of academic excellence and civil service grooming in Pakistan.

The Secretary was received with great respect and enthusiasm by Ms. Kainat Riaz, CEO and Founder of House of Commons. During his visit, he was thoroughly briefed on HOC's academic model, vision, and its transformative mission.

"Institutions like House of Commons play a vital role in shaping the intellectual and professional foundations of our youth," said the Secretary. "I am deeply impressed by the leadership's passion, the faculty's commitment, and the aspirants' discipline."

He lauded the academy's mission to prepare Pakistan's next generation of civil servants through a culture of academic rigor, personal discipline, and national responsibility.

"We don't just train students—we train leaders," said Ms. Kainat Riaz, CEO and founder of House of Commons. "At HOC, we prepare aspirants not only to pass the exam, but to transform into policy-shapers and nation-builders."

Addressing the audience, Mr. Ihsan Ghani emphasized the transformational power of CSS & PMS examination, stating that it is not just an academic competition but a gateway to lifelong service, influence, and leadership.

Passing CSS changes your life—but more importantly, it gives you the power to change the lives of others," he noted. He stated that in today's shrinking job market, civil service remains one of the few viable career paths offering job security, privileges, and purpose.

"Life is not about finding yourself; it's about creating yourself—and Kainat and her team at HOC have given you that opportunity," he added.

This high-profile visit not only reaffirms House of Commons' status as a leading academy for CSS & PMS preparation, but also strengthens its resolve to continue shaping the future of officers of Pakistan.

House of Commons is a premier institution dedicated to preparing aspirants for the CSS and PMS examinations. Rooted in the values of academic integrity, national service, and visionary leadership.

HOC is committed to producing civil servants who are intellectually sharp, morally grounded, and socially responsible through expert-led teaching, personalized mentorship and critical thinking.

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ISLAMABAD: Secretary Workers Welfare Fund graces House of Commons' inauguration, praising its role in shaping Pakistan's future leaders."

FINAL NOTICE

It is hereby informed that undersigned is informing M/S Hawala Construction Company Pvt. Ltd. for not doing the following development works:

- Fencing of Tuff Tiles at Dera Sardar Khan Rind Shoran Tehsil Sumri Kachhi PSDP No. 3573
- Fencing of Tuff Tiles at Shah Bazar with Slide drains Shoran Tehsil Sumri Kachhi PSDP No. 3578
- Installation of Solar Street Lights at Tehsil Mach Kachhi PSDP No. 3597
- Construction of Concrete Stairs Installation of Solar Street Lights at various Streets of Korum City and Tehsil Mach Kachhi PSDP No. 3595

Moreover, you are already been informed by this office several times regarding the mentioned works. This is the final notice, otherwise no payment will be made and your license will be considered in Black List.

Assistant Director,
Local Govt & Rural Dev. Dept.
Kachhi at Dadar

PRG No. 4875/20-6-2025
G.O. No. 4875/20-6-2025

Levies Vehicle Attacked in Chaman: One Killed, One Injured Near Tableeghi Markaz

Sardar Muhammad Khondai: Chaman: One Levies Force official was killed and another injured in a targeted gun attack near the old Tableeghi Markaz in Chaman, Balochistan.

The attack has raised fresh security concerns in the volatile border region with Afghanistan.

According to official sources, unidentified armed men ambushed a Levies Falcon vehicle, opening fire at close range.

The attack resulted in the death of officer Ismat, while another officer, Abbas, sustained injuries.

The injured was immediately shifted to Civil Hospital Chaman, where doctors confirmed his condition is stable.

Security forces swiftly cordoned off the area and launched a search operation to locate the assailants. However, no group has claimed responsibility for the shooting.



The incident occurred near a busy religious site, causing panic among local residents. Eyewitnesses reported heavy firing and chaos in the area before security forces arrived.



ISTANBUL: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar, arrived in Istanbul to participate in the 51st Session of the Council of the Foreign Minister (CFM) of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) being held on 21-22 June 2025. Upon arrival, He was received by Pakistan's Ambassador to Turkey, Dr. Yousaf Junaid, Consul General, Nauman Aslam and representative of Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Field Marshal emphasizes Pakistan's commitment to regional peace, counter terrorism efforts, economic growth

RAWALPINDI (INP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, during his U.S. visit, reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to regional peace, counterterrorism, and economic growth, while advocating for deeper diplomatic and strategic ties with the United States.

According to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), during his official visit to the United States, Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, held a comprehensive and candid exchange with senior scholars, analysts, policy experts, and representatives of leading international media outlets in Washington D.C.

The interaction with prominent U.S. think tanks and representatives of the strategic affairs institutions, provided an opportunity to articulate

Pakistan's principled stance on key regional and global issues, and to deepen understanding of Pakistan's strategic outlook.

In his remarks, the Chief of Army Staff highlighted Pakistan's unwavering commitment to regional peace and stability, and its constructive role in fostering a rules-based international order.

The Field Marshal alluded to the details and analysis of the Maaraka e Haq, Operation Buryanum Marsoos and elaborated on Pakistan's perspective on terrorism, noting the malign influence of certain regional actors in sponsoring and perpetuating terrorism as a tool of hybrid warfare.

The COAS emphasized that Pakistan has been on the front lines of the global war against terrorism, having rendered immense sacrifices—both human and economic—

in pursuit of a safer and more secure world.

Field Marshal Asim Munir shed light on Pakistan's remarkable untapped potential, particularly in the domains of information technology, agriculture, and its vast and underexploited reserves in the mining and mineral sectors.

He invited international partners to explore collaborative opportunities in these sectors to unlock shared prosperity.

Participants noted the openness and clarity of the COAS's perspectives and appreciated Pakistan's consistent and principled policies.

The interaction was marked by a spirit of mutual understanding and was highly regarded as a positive step toward enhancing strategic dialogue between Pakistan and the United States.

New safeguards being introduced for arrest in tax fraud cases, NA told

ISLAMABAD (INP): Minister of State for Finance Bilal Azhar Kayani has said the budget for next financial year is aimed at further consolidating the economic gains, providing relief to the people and continuing the journey of reforms.

Taking part in the debate on budget for the next fiscal year at the National Assembly in Islamabad on Friday, Bilal Kayani said the government's target is to make the current IMF programme the last one. He emphasized that this will only be possible by enhancing exports and ensuring inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

The Minister of State said a critical aspect of the next year's budget is tariff reforms, aimed at enhancing productivity of industries.

Bilal Kayani said allocation for Benazir Income Support Programme has been enhanced from 592 billion rupees to 716 billion rupees. He said salaries of government employees have been

enhanced by ten percent and pensions of retired employees by seven percent.

The Minister of State mentioned that salaried class has also been provided relief on taxes as was promised by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

He said new safeguards are being introduced for arrest in tax fraud cases. He emphasized that no arrests will be made during the inquiry stage and arrests during the investigation stage will only be made in cases involving involvement in sales tax fraud of over 50 million rupees, and only with the approval of a three-member FBR committee.

Participating in the discussion on the budget, Nafesa Shah emphasized the need for extending support to the agriculture sector. Minister for Religious Affairs Sardar Muhammad Yousaf, taking the floor, termed the budget as balanced. He said matters are moving towards improvement as a result of difficult decisions taken by the government. As regards to

current year's Hajj, Sardar Muhammad Yousaf said over one hundred and fifteen thousand Pakistani pilgrims performed Hajj this year. He said Saudi Arabia awarded award of excellence to Pakistan for making excellent arrangements for Pakistani pilgrims.

The Minister for Religious Affairs said process has been started to make arrangements for next year's Hajj, emphasizing that the Saudi guidelines will be fully followed. In his remarks, Junaid Akbar Khan said the budget carries nothing for the people. He said the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have rendered immense sacrifices in the war on terrorism. Syed Rafiullah urged the government to review family pension reforms, emphasizing that there should be no limitations on pensions for spouses and disabled children. Sahibzada Hamid Raza said health and education have been ignored in the budget.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Syed Imran Ahmad Shah and BISP Chairperson Senator Rubina Khalid discussing social protection programs during a meeting.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding matters related to PNSC.

Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to 'freeze' bank accounts of non-filers: Langrial

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) chairman has said the body will 'freeze' the bank accounts of non-filers in the FY2025-26.

The National Assembly's Standing Committee on Finance, chaired by Syed Naveed Qamar, convened to discuss the issue of enforcing sales tax registration for non-registered individuals and businesses.

Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Chairman Rashid Mahmood Langrial revealed that non-registered entities will now receive formal notices, and failure to register will result in the freezing of their bank accounts. However, accounts will be reinstated within two days of compliance.

According to the FBR, many

businesses are income tax filers but remain unregistered for sales tax, including factories with multiple industrial meters. It was disclosed that several unregistered factories in Karachi alone are conducting billions worth of sales.

Committee member Usman Ahmed Mela opposed the idea of sealing properties of non-registered entities, calling it excessive. The FBR chairman acknowledged the concern but maintained that this move is limited to large-scale manufacturing units, not small retailers or cottage industries.

Naveed Qamar criticized the pressure tactics, saying, "First you cut their electricity and gas, now you're shutting bank accounts too."

FBR officials detailed how

many operators in Karachi evade taxes by frequently shifting locations, operating high-volume manufacturing setups on a single plot before moving on.

Committee member Mirza Ihtishar Baig argued that such stringent measures should not affect small traders and suggested a sales threshold for mandatory registration. He proposed increasing the registration limit from Rs8 million to Rs10 million in view of inflation. The FBR Chairman agreed, stating that the limit would be raised to Rs10 million and assured the committee that about two-thirds of manufacturing units are still unregistered. "We can allow six months' grace period with no sales tax collection for new registrants," he added.

Hanif Abbasi expresses concern over rising number of derailments

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi Friday expressed concern over the rising number of derailments and called for a detailed analysis and proactive measures to prevent future occurrences.

He said this while chairing a high-level meeting at the Ministry of Railways, focusing on train safety, administrative performance and ongoing corruption investigations within Pakistan Railways. Senior officials presented comprehensive briefings on recent incidents, accidents and operational issues, with particular attention to incidents reported in Sukkur, Multan, and Peshawar during June 2025.

Hanif Abbasi directed that clear recommendations and an

action plan be formulated and submitted to the relevant authorities. He also sought a report on the delay of the Awam Express departing from Karachi and ordered an immediate inquiry into the recent foot overbridge incident in Khunewal.

Regarding the closure of the Shahinabad Quarry, the minister instructed officials to identify those responsible and take appropriate action.

The meeting also reviewed the Railway Construction Pakistan Limited investigation, where the Inspector General of Pakistan Railways Police reported that the fact-finding inquiry was nearing completion. The inquiry recommends criminal proceedings against implicated officials and

proposes the case be handed over to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) for further investigation. Reaffirming the Ministry's zero-tolerance stance on corruption, Minister Abbasi said that financial, administrative and structural reforms remain a top priority.

He also said that strict disciplinary action against non-performing staff, while assuring that employees who demonstrate exceptional performance will be recognized through rewards and commendation certificates.

Hanif Abbasi called on all officers and personnel to perform their duties with sincerity, transparency and accountability, emphasizing the government's commitment to restoring public confidence in the national rail system.

KP CM threatens to dissolve assembly amid political tensions

PESHAWAR (INP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur has said that he holds the authority to dissolve the provincial assembly at any time. In a video message, Gandapur stated that PTT's founding leader has been unjustly imprisoned and that their mandate was stolen after the events of May 9. "Despite all efforts to dismantle the KP government, the people of KP have stood by their mandate," he said.

He criticised the KP govern-

ment for not calling the budget session, terming it a constitutional responsibility.

"The PTI founder has the legal and moral right to be consulted on the budget, yet he is being denied access," Gandapur added.

He warned that failure to present the budget could allow the federal government to impose an economic emergency and take over the province.

He directed all MPAs not to

vote on the budget demands in today's session and said he will announce the next plan of action on Monday.

"I have the authority to dissolve the assembly anytime—there is no requirement to wait for the budget," Gandapur declared. "This is a direct message to all institutions."

"He also cautioned party members that attempts were being made to repeat the events of May 9 and February 8. PTI workers should prepare mentally and physically."



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi Chairs High-Level Meeting Detailed Briefing on Ongoing Inquiries; Key Directives Issued.

Pakistan issues travel advisory for Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan government has issued travel advisory urging citizens to avoid non-essential travel to Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, and Syria due to Iran-Israel escalation.

In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs advised Pakistani nationals currently residing in these countries to remain extremely cautious.

Citizens of Pakistan were also urged to limit movement and avoid all unnecessary travel within those territories.

The advisory specifically directed citizens to stay in close contact with their nearest Pakistani embassies for assis-

tance and up-to-date information.

The directive comes amid rising regional tensions, particularly involving Iran and Israel, which have affected security dynamics across several Middle Eastern nations.

The Pakistan Foreign Office asserted that the advisory is a precautionary measure to protect Pakistani nationals and ensure their safety during the current volatile situation.

Israel and Iran's air war entered a second week on Friday and European officials sought to draw Tehran back to the negotiating table after Iranian missile attacks.

any decision on potential U.S. involvement would be made within two weeks.

Israel began attacking Iran last Friday, saying it aimed to prevent its longtime enemy from developing nuclear weapons. Iran retaliated with missile and drone strikes on Israel. It says its nuclear programme is peaceful.

Israeli air attacks have killed 639 people in Iran, said the Human Rights Activists News Agency. Those killed include the military's top echelon and nuclear scientists. Israel has said at least two dozen Israeli civilians have died in Iranian missile attacks.