

QUETTA VOICE

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Thursday, August.07.2025

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Trump imposes additional 25pc tariff on Indian goods, relations hit new low

NEWS DESK: United States President Donald Trump on Wednesday issued an executive order imposing an additional 25 per cent tariff on Indian goods, citing New Delhi's continued imports of Russian oil, sharply escalating tensions between the two countries after trade talks collapsed.

The new measure raises tariffs on some Indian goods to as high as 50pc, among the steepest faced by any US trading partner. The move is expected to hit key Indian export sectors, including textiles, footwear, and gems and jewellery and marks the most serious downturn in US-India relations since Trump returned to office in January.

In an executive order issued from the White House, Trump said: "I find that the Government of India is currently directly or indirectly importing Russian Federation oil."

"Accordingly, and as consistent with applicable law, articles of India imported into the customs territory of the United States shall be subject to an additional ad valorem rate of duty of 25pc."

Trump said he determined it "necessary and appropriate" to impose an additional ad valorem duty on imports of articles of India since it was directly or indirectly importing Russian oil.

The tariff is set to take effect in three weeks and would be added on top of a separate 25pc tariff entering into force on Thursday. It maintains exemptions for items targeted by separate sector-specific duties, such as steel and aluminium, and categories that could be hit, such as pharmaceuticals. Trump's executive order does not mention China, which also buys Russian oil. A White House official had no immediate comment on whether an additional order covering those purchases would be forthcoming.



The development pays off on Trump's repeated threats to hike the tariff rate on India for its oil purchases from Russia.

India's foreign ministry said that the decision was "extremely unfortunate" and that New Delhi would take all actions necessary to protect its national interests.

"We reiterate that these actions are unfair, unjustified and unreasonable," it said.

A senior Indian official said New Delhi was blindsided by the sudden imposition of the new levy and the steep rate, as both countries continue to discuss trade issues.

Trump said a day ago he would increase the tariff charged on imports from India from 25pc "very substantially" over the next 24 hours, given India's continued purchases of Russian oil.

"India has not been a good trading partner, because they do a lot of business with us, but we

don't do business with them. So we settled on 25pc but I think I'm going to raise that very substantially over the next 24 hours, because they're buying Russian oil," he had told CNBC in a televised interview.

"They're fuelling the war machine, and if they're going to do that, then I'm not going to be happy," Trump had said, adding that the main sticking point with India was that its tariffs were too high.

Trump last week said he would impose a 25pc tariff on goods imported from India and added that the world's fifth-largest economy would also face an unspecified penalty, but gave no details. Later, Trump mounted a sharp attack and said: "I don't care what India does with Russia. They can take their dead economies down together, for all I care."

Over the weekend, two Indian government sources told Reuters

that India would keep purchasing oil from Russia despite Trump's threats. In turn, White House Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller had accused India of effectively financing Russia's war in Ukraine by purchasing oil from Moscow.

Trump had made the same threat about substantially raising tariffs a day ago.

Responding to the threat, India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) had issued a statement claiming that the US and the European Union "targeted" New Delhi for purchasing Russian oil after Moscow invaded Ukraine in 2022. The MEA highlighted in its statement that the very nations criticising India were engaging in trade with Russia themselves, adding that the goods exchanged include energy, fertilisers, mining products, chemicals, iron and steel and machinery and transport equipment.

Hub dam project to be inaugurated by Aug 13

Karachi Mayor Barrister Murtaza Wahab announced on Wednesday that the Hub Dam water supply project will be inaugurated on August 13.

Speaking to media outside the Supreme Court Karachi Registry, Wahab said propaganda was being spread using old videos regarding the new canal supplying water from Hub Dam to the city.

"After 22 years, it is due to the efforts of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) that the city is receiving additional water," he said.

He stated that the project, completed at a cost of Rs12.8 billion within a record time of 10 months, is ready for inauguration. "If the propaganda were true, this inauguration would not be happening," he said.

The mayor clarified that work on the project has been completed and that trial runs are standard procedure before launching large-scale initiatives. "Such issues are common in concrete work, and the purpose of testing is to detect and resolve problems beforehand," he said.

Wahab added that a one-year warranty period has been set post-completion, under which the contractor is responsible for any required repairs. He dismissed allegations against the project as baseless.

"All standards were maintained during construction. The noise of propaganda is drowning out the news of additional water supply to the city," he said.

"Propaganda is being spread to sabotage the water supply project," he said.

He said the Hub Dam had previously supplied 100 million gallons of water daily to Karachi, but due to a 45-year-old transmission system, the supply had fallen to 60 million gallons per day. "The new canal project will again deliver 100 million gallons of water daily," he said. "After this, the old canal will be repaired. Once both systems are functional, the water supply from Hub to Karachi will be doubled."

The project is expected to benefit residents of District West, Kearnari, and Central.

Commenting on federal funding, Wahab referred to earlier statements by the Governor of Sindh. "He said on TV that Rs40 billion have been received from the federal government. I remind him that he had promised Rs100 billion. If Rs40 billion have been received, transfer them to the KMC account and serve the city."

He also criticized the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), saying that "China-cutting," land commercialization, and resource plundering are remnants of its era. "We also remember the body bags, extortion, and kidnappings for ransom," he said.

"The city's fundamental problems began during MQM's time."

Wahab expressed his willingness to work with other parties for the city's development. "The city's hopes are tied to its political leaders," he said. "We want chaos to end. Everyone must work together for the betterment of Karachi."

He added, "I am ready to sit with MQM, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), or Jamaat-e-Islami for the betterment of the city."



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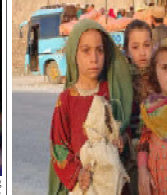
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UN Protests Pakistan's Early Afghan Refugee Expulsions

ISLAMABAD / NEW YORK: The United Nations has raised alarm over Pakistan's early deportation of Afghan refugees, warning that the move could see more than one million Afghans expelled from the country before the official September 1 deadline.

However, according to a Reuters report, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) says it has received credible reports of arrests and deportations of legally registered

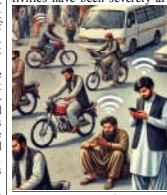


Pakistan's Ministry of Interior announced on July 31 that Afghan nationals holding Proof of Registration (PoR) cards—the last group allowed to stay without visas—would be considered illegal residents after their cards expired on June 30. The federal government had instructed provinces to begin the repatriation process

for more than 1.3 million PoR card holders starting September 1.

However, according to a Reuters report, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) says it has received credible reports of arrests and deportations of legally registered

tered Afghan refugees across Pakistan ahead of schedule. The UNHCR stated that forced repatriations before the deadline would breach Pakistan's international commitments. It has urged Islamabad to halt deportations and ensure that Afghan returns are voluntary, gradual, and conducted with dignity.



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Balochistan's Rs250 Billion Federal Allocation Must Drive Inclusive, Transparent Infrastructure Development
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EDITORIAL

Editor: Asim Khan

Balochistan's Rs250 Billion Federal Allocation Must Drive Inclusive, Transparent Infrastructure Development

Editorial:

The federal government's allocation of Rs250 billion for Balochistan in the upcoming Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) is a significant step that, if properly implemented, can transform the province's economic future. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's announcement at the Balochistan Grand Tribal Jirga in Quetta reflects a welcome shift toward prioritizing infrastructure investment, socio-economic development, and regional connectivity in a province often overlooked.

However, we emphasize that this federal funding must be utilized for high-impact, long-term infrastructure projects — not short-term political schemes or small-scale, non-viable parent initiatives. Balochistan requires mega projects that foster job creation, enhance public health systems, modernize education infrastructure, and develop transportation networks to uplift the Human Development Index (HDI).

For maximum return on investment and to ensure value for taxpayer money, funds must be directed toward projects like the dualization of the Quetta-Karachi Highway, smart road infrastructure, clean drinking water systems, renewable energy integration, and digital education. These projects not only promote regional growth but also boost national economic indicators and reduce rural-urban disparities.

From a public finance and fiscal policy standpoint, transparency and accountability mechanisms must be enforced. We urge the government to establish an independent monitoring authority to ensure that every rupee is spent efficiently. Government transparency, financial accountability, and public-private partnerships should guide the implementation process to avoid corruption and misuse of development funds.

By Dr Shujat Ahmed:

Unseeing warning signs: choosing fatal outcomes?

Jinnah saw a macabre future for his founded refuge for some Muslims of India; not only has it come to pass, worse still lies ahead.

No words can describe the suffering dumped on Pakistan not by outsiders but by choosing of her own people under the rule of a messianic mantra "country is saved, better days ahead" — authors of past failures claiming to fix it. This noble idea began in 1948, underlined by fatal outcomes, still the same creed of authors pretending this time problem will go away.

There are no mere coincidences in this world. Predicting outcomes of choices is not rocket science; even in infants cause-and-effect reasoning emerges by age of 27 weeks (Leslie et al., 1987), yet complex forecasting demands deliberate analysis (Salcedo et al., 2008).

Human actions, once created carve their own paths of consequences (intended or unintended), and can neither be recreated because past cannot be undone, nor can it be erased. Outcomes, however, can be immediate or delayed — always preceded by warning signs. If created reality is to be remedied, then it demands new actions that enact new outcomes. Thus, cycle continues until death ends our existence on this planet.

At individual level, we can trace our decisions' trajectories and warning signs until consequences strike. At national level, stakes multiply exponentially. Legislation and policy choices demand debate, negotiation and compromise, with consequences lasting generations for country and its citizens.

This parallel becomes profound as PakRaj nexus (British Loyalist Feudal-Military-Bureaucracy) unjustifiably captured Pakistan after Jinnah's death. Reality behind their smokescreen has been pushing country deeper into bund-gall, marked with decades of institutional and governance failures, incompetence, corruption and a very weak judiciary, unable to uphold constitution or safeguard rights.

Our devastating story can be quantified through global rankings, and these brutal metrics are purposefully and brazenly rejected — not in an exercise of logic but an aura of power.

Socio-developmental indicators signal a crisis leaning towards collapse. Bottom-tier placement, in Knowledge, Development, Sustainable Goals and Gender Gap Index. Nearly half the population lives in poverty, and multidimensional poverty grips a third. Pakistan's global brand and passport outlook is pitiful.

Ironically, our current mantra to prosperity via digital IT sector, is through pitfalls, as we are labeled "weak performer" due to crippling gaps in education, innovation, ICT and research (Knowledge Index: 120/141). Huawei's Digitization Index (68/77) brands us a "starter". With education spending below 2% of GDP, this "better days ahead" story will crumble.

Most alarming for Pakistan is the status evaluated by Fragile States In-

dex (FSI). Since 2006, FSI has tracked stability using 12 indicators (1 = stable, 10 = unstable) across 4 dimensions. Our 2024 placement (27/179) reveals interlocking vulnerabilities: Security Apparatus 7.9: Precautionary security, evident in daily terrorist attacks (Balochistan and KP). Factionalised Elites 9.3: Wealth concentrated in elite hands; citizens left impoverished. Group Grievance 9.0: Marginalised communities — Baloch, Saraiki, Shia, Mohajirs — fueling grievances and wearing down cohesion.

Economic Decline 8.0: Low GDP growth rates, population expansion (2.7%), youth unemployment, investment dwindles, debt reaches Rs7.6 trillion (BTI-2024 rank 112/137, worst country). Uneven Development 5.0: Resources are monopolised by PakRaj, while public lacks basic health, education and economic opportunities. Brain Drain 5.5: Elite controls gainful employment, middle classes stagnate, masses stuck in menial jobs while skilled manpower leaves country.

State Legitimacy 8.0: Severely eroded by disputed elections, contradictory court rulings and rushed legislation. Public Services 7.6: Crumbling infrastructure, strained public services, limited social safety net. Human Rights 7.8: Marked by enforced disappearances, media suppression, judicial decay. (BTI labels Pakistan "hardline authoritarian" — Political Transformation Index at 99/137).

Demographic Pressure 7.8: Unchecked population growth (2.7%, region's highest), rapid urban migration, especially into Karachi, threatening civic breakdown. IDPs and Refugees 7.3: Refugees still burden state, while flood-affected citizens remain unsettled. External Intervention 8.4: After last year's shocking violence, it worsened this year, so far 502 strikes leaving 737 dead and 991 injured (PKSS 2025), while in June alone, there were 78 incidents — 100 killed and 189 wounded.

Unfortunately, grievances are climbing "escalation ladder" toward broader armed conflict in restive provinces — fertile ground for exploitation by India and others. Once again, existential threat comes from within, not outside, weirdly reminiscent of East Pakistan (1971).

Why? Because State (Legislature, Government, Judiciary) is once more failing its people, particularly in troubled regions, where security operations persist, relabeling and empowerment of existing security apparatus, apparently, is an admission that use of force isn't working. Yet, it has been made clear that restive areas will be coerced into submission. Gaza — a grim reminder of where such policies lead.

What's needed are methodical efforts by state to remedy root causes through establishment of national commissions for healing past wounds and charting a new future for humiliated Pakistan — based on Truth, Justice, Equity and Reconciliation (as done in South Africa, Brazil, Canada, Morocco). Sadly, state remains unresponsive.

This is not just an economic opportunity, it is a national security imperative. Without addressing the root causes of underdevelopment — poverty, unemployment, and lack of education — extremism, insurgency, and foreign-sponsored sabotage will continue to find fertile ground. National security, economic resilience, and social cohesion are directly tied to how well we invest in the country's largest and most resource-rich provinces.

As a platform committed to investigative journalism, public interest reporting, and development policy, we insist that there be no ghostly projects, no individual schemes, and no politically motivated allocations. Only inclusive economic development, guided by data-driven planning and evidence-based policy, can deliver the sustainable growth Balochistan needs. This is a defining moment. The Rs250 billion fund should not be another missed opportunity.

By Arifa Noor:

Arresting doctors

Two doctors were having a leisurely lunch on the banks of a river. While eating they noticed a body floating in the water. Both jumped in the water and dragged the person out of water and started resuscitating him. While busy saving the person, they noticed two more bodies floating in the river. They jumped again and dragged both out and started providing first aid. Again they noticed that many more bodies were coming their way. One of these doctors jumped into the water again to save them while the other, instead of jumping into water, started running upstream.

The doctor in the water shouted to his friend, "John, you don't want to save them?" "First I need to find out why they are falling into the river," answered the second doctor.

By Dr Rana Jawad Asghar:

Global weather change

For decades now, scientists and weather experts have reached the conclusion that observable global weather changes have been caused by human activity. Science that arrived at that conclusion is simple. It focuses on the burning of fossil fuels that produce carbon dioxide which gets trapped in upper atmosphere and prevents world weather from becoming part of the global system.

The burning of coal, gas and oil are not the only sources of emissions of climate-altering gases. They are also produced by the burning of fuel by motor vehicles and aircrafts. The development of artificial intelligence needs a lot of energy; supplying it would add further strain on global weather system.

The United Nations system is now involved in studying and preventing global weather change. On July 22, the International Court of Justice based in The Hague issued a strongly worded opinion saying that states must protect their citizens from the "urgent and existential threat of climate change". This statement constituted a major contribution for the global environmental movement and for the countries at the greatest risk of harm.

By Shahid Javed Burki:

A question of timing

THE May 9 convictions are here. Wholesale, and after a long wait — during which most of those who were behind bars remained behind bars and most of those who had managed to wrangle some form of freedom continued to remain outside. So far, this situation has not really changed as we wait to see if any of the well-known names who have been convicted are found and arrested. None of this is surprising — neither the judgements nor the convictions/acquittals. And not even the names of those who were able to escape being tried in the first place.

So far, in the three decisions which have come forward, among others, Yasmin Rashid and the other prisoners in Lahore have been found guilty, as have key PTL leaders in the various assemblies — from Omar Ayub in the National Assembly to Shibli Faraz in the Senate and the Punjab opposition leader Ahmed Bachche.

The judgements appear to have given a starting role to the key prosecution witnesses, who had in Aman Park, and heard the PTIs' "evil planning."

By Arifa Noor:

Building peace in South Asia

SAARC was established with the goal of promoting cooperation in the economic, social, technological and cultural fields. It was hoped it would eventually provide a framework for regional peace and development.

With Afghanistan becoming a member, this hope was further enhanced. However, after Donald Trump's election to show for itself. The success of Asean provides a study in contrast. While it has contributed enormously to the strengthening of

peace and development in Southeast Asia, Saarc has practically ceased to exist. The reasons given include political tensions and bilateral conflicts, differing threat perceptions, institutional weaknesses, lack of political will, limited intra-regional trade, etc. The major reason, however, is that India has always been more interested in regional domination than regional cooperation. In particular, the Indian demand that the issues of Kashmir and territorial disputes be resolved exclusively on the basis of its own demands has con-

veyed to the smaller countries of Saarc that if this is India's attitude towards Pakistan, what chance will they have of getting a fair deal with regard to their own issues with India. As a result, Saarc has been unable to agree on a unified political agenda for peace and development. India is much larger than all the other member states combined in area, population and size of economy. After its chastening experience of Operation Sindoor, one might have hoped India would have bowed to the possibilities for coopera-

tion over hegemony. The recent conflict also demonstrated that China has become a South Asian military, economic, political and strategic factor. This is a massive strategic development which seems to have stunned India into strategic paralysis. It is at a loss whether to continue the war or to cut its losses and embark on a course of regional cooperation and development, in which it could still be a leader if not a hegemon.

By Ashraf Jehangir Qazi:

Rethinking national security

PAKISTAN, which has one of the world's largest armies, has emerged as a formidable military power. The military's robust response to India's aggression in May this year again proved its prowess.

Indeed, a strong military makes a country safer against external aggression. Yet, this is not enough to provide com-

plete security to a nation whose economy is in a perpetual state of crisis and where close to 45 per cent of the population lives below the poverty line by some estimates.

According to the latest UN report, Pakistan currently ranks 168th out of 193 countries on the Human Development Index (HDI). (The only other South Asian country even lower in the human de-

velopment category is Afghanistan.)

More than 23 million children are out of school. It's a scary place for a country that has the highest population growth rate in the region. Some 80m people are added to the population each year, making it an explosive situation.

Growing inequalities between rich and poor, and among regions, have weakened

the country, presenting the biggest challenge to national security — more than any external threat. As said by economists Acemoglu and Robinson in their seminal book Why Nations Fail, "extractive institutions", intended to benefit a small elite, result in stagnation and perhaps even state failure.

By Zahid Hussain:

Hiroshima horrors

THERE were several sources of angst in Japan back in June, when Donald Trump likened the massive US attack on Iranian nuclear facilities to the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

"That hit ended the war," he declared.

The mayor of Nagasaki politely described the US

president's statement as "regrettable". Mikami Toshiyuki, a survivor of the 1945 attack and co-chair of Nihon Hidankyo, the advocacy group that was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize last year, called the comments "unacceptable".

Various members of the group expressed their anger, and a demonstration in Hiroshima led by others

who experienced the catastrophe as children called on Trump to retract his remarks.

Fat chance. Trump, like all too many Americans, was brought up to believe that his nation ended World War II with its nuclear thrashing of Japan. They are seldom taught that their Asian adversary was prepared to surrender. Japanese

military leaders wanted the US only to concede that the emperor would remain in place. The US insisted on an unconditional surrender. Once it was achieved in mid-August, Hirohito, a suspected war criminal, remained in the imperial palace.

By Mahir Ali:

Tunnel vision?

IDEAS, good and bad, have a strange way of persisting and penetrating all sorts of barriers — geographical, cultural, linguistic, and above all, time. The edicts of a man who died, imprisoned in a mud cell in the citadel of Damascus in the 14th century, continue to impact us in 2025, the era of AI and virtual reality. I am referring to 'The Al-Din Ibn Taymiyya'.

However, today, let us explore the influence of a set of Deobandi interpretations, which are simpler compared to the jurisprudential of the Levant's polymath, yet still equally, if not more, controversial. Bahihsiti Zewar, the original Urdu title, has been translated into English and titled Heavenly Ornaments. Compiled as a toolkit to

help Muslim women entering marriage, it was first published in 1909.

Banu Mushqay, who won the 2025 International Booker Prize for her short stories translated into English by Deepa Bhatia in the title of Heart Lamp, revealed in a recent interview with Arfa Sherwan that even in her home state of Karnataka in south India, some Muslim communities still inculcate Bahihsiti Zewar in a bride's dowry. I'm not sure if Ashraf Thani's book has been translated into Kannada or if people are relying on its English version. The book, however, is said to have been translated into Arabic, Bangla, Marathi and Urdu.

The book's influence abides. So does the criticism of parts of it for being extra prescriptive for women. But there are other parts that could be seen as permissive of what is generally seen as deviant behaviour. In such instances, all gender identities could be seen as beneficiaries or victims, depending on the circumstances and individual or societal perspectives.

Debates of misogyny and misandry apart, certain parts in make it difficult to assess who can be described as the author's worldview, instead of being rooted in theology. For instance, take the following passage: "It is not permissible toward short stories, novels, based on love and beauty which are of a fictitious nature." The book's influence abides. So does the criticism of parts of it for being extra prescriptive

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should also be obtained from."

The influence of 'Bahishti Zewar' abides. Though Hassan al-Banna, founder of the Muslim Brotherhood movement in Egypt, his successor Syed Qutb and Abul Ala Maududi, founder of Jamaat-i-Islami (JI), were contemporaries, the timelines of their activism and peak periods of authorship make it difficult to assess who influenced whom more.

However, it is clear that both Maududi and Qutb, despite belonging to the Sunni-Wahabi school of thought and influenced by Ibn Taymiyya, left their imprints on Ayatollah Khomeini's revolution in Iran.

By Shahzad Sharjeel:

The regulatory force — a bureaucratic mirage

T he Government of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa has recently unveiled a proposal to establish a new "Regulatory Force", a move that at first glance appears bold and assertive.

It arrives wrapped in the language of reform, with promises to crack down on regulatory violations and enforce long-ignored laws. However, beneath the surface, this initiative is far less about reform and far more about repeating the past, clothed in new terminology.

In truth, the proposed force is not a leap forward but a familiar step, born from the state's chronic unwillingness to fix what already exists.

According to the draft bill, the Regulatory Force will investigate and prosecute regulatory offences, headed by a Director General and Chief Minister. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police Act of 2017 explicitly empowers the police to investigate all offences under provincial and federal law. Section 13 of the Act even allows the formation of special units for complex and technical crimes, including those involving white-collar or regulatory violations.

Additionally, the colonial-era Police Rules of 1934 require officers to be conversant with a range of regulatory frameworks from excise and narcotics to food safety and environmen-

tal codes. The existing law is not silent; it is simply not being used.

Rather than reinforcing existing structures and addressing what has faltered, the government appears to have chosen a path of duplication, one that history has shown leads only to greater institutional confusion.

At the heart of this proposal is the decision to vest enforcement powers in Deputy Commissioners, a throwback to colonial-era governance where the DC was a singular authority: judge, and administrator rolled into one.

By Syed Saad Ali Shah:

Meeting reviews arrangements for Afghan refugees' repatriation

PESHAWAR (INP): In light of the directives of the provincial government, a meeting regarding the repatriation of illegal Afghan refugees was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Charsadda, Dr. Azmatullah Wazir. The meeting reviewed arrangements made for the repatriation of Afghan refugees. Besides, District Police Officer (DPO) Charsadda Waqas Khan, Additional Deputy Commis-

sioner (ADC) Charsadda, and Assistant Commissioner (AC) Charsadda, the representatives of NADRA and other relevant security agencies, also attended. On this occasion, it was clarified to the participants of the meeting that all Proof of Registration (POR) and Afghan Citizenship (ACC) card holder refugees residing in the country have been declared illegal, after which the Government of Pakistan has decided to send such Af-

ghan refugees back to their country.

The participants were told that all arrangements have been completed for the repatriation of such Afghan refugees residing in Charsadda, and in this regard, committees have been formed in the three tehsils of the district under the leadership of the concerned Assistant Commissioners. These committees have been tasked to ensure the voluntary return of Afghan refugees in collaboration

with their leaders in the first phase.

In this regard, Deputy Commissioner Charsadda, Dr. Azmatullah Wazir made it clear to all participants that all illegal Afghan refugees should be returned to their country with dignity in the presence of the police.

He made it clear that all Afghan refugees should be sent off with dignity and respect so that they take home good traditions and memories of hospitality.



QUETTA: Sheikh Wilayat Hussain Jaffer head of Balochistan Shia Conference and MWM.

Rahul Gandhi links Modi's silence on US tariff threats to Adani probe

NEW DELHI (INP): Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, has intensified his criticism of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, linking the PM's silence over US President Donald Trump's recent tariff threats to an ongoing American investigation into the Adani Group.

Gandhi's remarks came after Trump said India has not been a good trading partner and announced that he will raise the tariffs on New Delhi "very substantially" over the next 24 hours because it is buying Russian oil.

In a post on X,

Gandhi wrote, "India, please understand: The reason PM Modi cannot stand up to President Trump despite his repeated threats is ongoing US investigation into Adani. One threat is to expose financial links between Modi, Adani, and Russian oil deals. Modi's hands are tied," Gandhi wrote.

Rahul Gandhi and other opposition leaders have long accused the Modi government of favouring Gautam Adani, pointing to a series of policy decisions since 2023 support by US-based Hindenburg Research accused Adani of orchestrating one of the largest corporate frauds in history.

Trump recently reinitiated the tariff debate, saying that India is buying discounted Russian oil and reselling it at a profit on the global market. "India is not only buying massive amounts of Russian oil, they are then selling it on the open market for big profits. Because of this, I will be substantially raising the tariff paid by India to the USA," Trump wrote on his platform, Truth Social. Recently, at a press conference, Rahul Gandhi accused the Modi government of making foreign policy decisions that serve private business interests rather than national welfare.

level academic exchanges, policy reports and data integration. The initiative reflects a shared commitment to address global challenges through enhanced research cooperation and cross-border dialogue.

Representatives from both institutions expressed confidence that the center will contribute valuable insights to policymaking and global discourse.

Key areas of collaboration include joint research projects, high-

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Imran Khan announces countrywide strike on August 14

RAWALPINDI (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan has called on the public to take to the streets on August 14 to demand "true freedom," condemning what he described as an unlawful and oppressive system.

Speaking through family members after a meeting at Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail, Imran Khan also declared that no new candidates would be nominated to replace the PTI leaders who were disqualified, as he considers those disqualifications illegal and unjust.

Aleema Khan, who met him along with his

sister Uzma Khan, spoke to the media afterwards. She said it was a blessing that their meeting with Imran Khan and his wife, Bushra Bibi, had taken place, and that the sisters had waited outside the prison together.

Aleema revealed that Imran Khan had inquired about his children's possible return to Pakistan and expressed satisfaction over recent protests, praising the people for taking to the streets despite state oppression.

According to her, Imran Khan was pleased to learn that citizens in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab had shown strong participation in

the demonstrations. He paid tribute to the nation and compared the current repression to even more severe than that under past dictators.

Imran Khan reportedly said: "Yahya Khan divided the country to retain power—today, we're again being pushed toward a similar fate. Media is gagged, and if we want real freedom, we must stand up now." He made no complaints about the treatment he personally faced in jail, Aleema said, but he firmly reiterated his call for protests on August 14, asserting that rule of law no longer exists in the country. He urged PTI

leaders not to fear arrests or imprisonment.

Additionally, Imran Khan has sent a clear message to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government, demanding an immediate halt to ongoing operations in the province. He emphasised that actions against their own people only fuel resentment against the party.

He advised that conflict resolution should be pursued through traditional jirgas (tribal councils) not force. Addressing Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, Khan warned that if the government cannot stop the operation, the CM must seriously reconsider his next steps.

No military operation or displacement taking place in tribal districts: Saif

PESHAWAR (INP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Adviser Barrister Saif clarified that no military operation or displacement is currently taking place in the tribal districts. Speaking to the media he said that Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur has held consultations with tribal elders to maintain peace in the region. Barrister Saif rejected the criticism being levelled at the Chief Minister regarding operations, calling it baseless. He stressed that any future decisions will be made with the involvement and advice of the tribal people.

He urged all political groups to support the government in its efforts to eliminate terrorism, warning that turning peace efforts into potential points of contention was unfair to the nation. Barrister Saif further stated that armed struggle against the state falls under rebellion.

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BEFORE THE JUDGE BANKING COURT QUETTA OFFICE AT DISTRICT COURT/KACHEHRY SHARA-E-IQBAL QUETTA

SUIT NO. 31/2025

Habib Bank Limited through its Manager,
Pishin Branch.

PLAINTIFF

VERSUS

Inmadad S/O Bor Muhammad.
R/o: New Kili Surkhah Colony Tehsil Pishin,
CNIC No: 54303-2027883-5.

DEFENDANT

SUIT US 9 OF THE FINANCIAL INSTITUTION (RECOVERY OF FINANCES) ORDINANCE 2001 FOR RECOVERY RS: 1,737,702/89, ALONG WITH INTEREST, COST OF FUND AND COST OF SUIT.

NOTICE UNDER FORM IV APPENDIX B OF C.P.C. 1908

Notice to:- The above noted defendants.

WHEREAS the plaintiff has instituted a suit against you under section 9(5) of the Banking Companies Ordinance XLVI of 2001 for **RS: 1,737,702/89**, balance of principal & interest/mark up/rent due to him of which copy can be obtained from this court, on or, hereby summoned to obtain leave from the court within 30 (thirty) days, from the service hereof to appear and defend the suit, and within such time to cause an appearance to be entered for you.

In the default whereof the plaintiff will be entitled at any time after expiration of such 30 (thirty) days to obtain decree as prayed in the plaint.

Leave to appear may be obtained on an application to the court supported by an affidavit or declaration showing that there is defense to the suit on the merits, or i.e. if, it is reasonable that you should be allowed to appear in the suit. Date of hearing is **08-09-2025**.

GIVEN under my hand and seal of the court, this **05th day of August, 2025**.

(SAIFULLAH KHAN)

Registrar
Banking Court Quetta

BEFORE THE JUDGE BANKING COURT QUETTA OFFICE AT DISTRICT COURT/KACHEHRY SHARA-E-IQBAL QUETTA

SUIT NO. 29/2025

Habib Bank Limited through its Manager,
Loralai Branch.

PLAINTIFF

VERSUS

Abdul Raziq S/O Achtar Muhammad.
R/o: Shah Karez, P.O Loralai.
CNIC: 56302-3849903-3.

DEFENDANT

SUIT US 9 OF THE FINANCIAL INSTITUTION (RECOVERY OF FINANCES) ORDINANCE 2001 FOR RECOVERY RS: 202,787/78, ALONG WITH INTEREST, COST OF FUND AND COST OF SUIT.

NOTICE UNDER FORM IV APPENDIX B OF C.P.C. 1908

Notice to:- The above noted defendants.

WHEREAS the plaintiff has instituted a suit against you under section 9(5) of the Banking Companies Ordinance XLVI of 2001 for **RS: 202,787/78**, balance of principal & interest/mark up/rent due to him of which copy can be obtained from this court, on or, hereby summoned to obtain leave from the court within 30 (thirty) days, from the service hereof to appear and defend the suit, and within such time to cause an appearance to be entered for you.

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Banking Court Quetta

Pakistan, Oman enjoy close relations based on shared religion, culture and values: President Zardari

ISLAMABAD (INP): Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Pakistan Fahad Sulaiman Khalaf Al Kharsai Wednesday called on President Asif Ali Zardari at Awan-e-Sadr and discussed ways to further promote bilateral cooperation. Both sides underlined the need to deepen relations for the mutual benefit of the two brotherly nations.

Speaking to the Ambassador, the president said that Pakistan and Oman enjoy close fraternal relations based on shared religion, culture and values. He emphasized that enhanced interaction at the leadership level would further strengthen the cordial ties between the two countries.

The president highlighted the importance of expanding trade and economic cooperation,

saying that Pakistan is keen to increase bilateral trade and investment in areas such as information technology, construction, healthcare, food security, and energy.

He stressed that government-to-government engagement would encourage robust private-sector collaboration, thereby boosting trade and investment between the two nations.

President Zardari expressed his gratitude to Oman for supporting Pakistan's candidature as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for 2025-2026.

He also appreciated Oman for hosting over 400,000 members of Pakistani diaspora, who not only contribute to Oman's development but also act as a vital bridge of friendship between the two brotherly countries.

Omar Ayub, Shibli and Zartaj Gul approach PHC in connection with May 9 riots

PESHAWAR (INP): Senior Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders Omar Ayub, Shibli Faraz, and Zartaj Gul have all approached the Peshawar High Court (PHC) in response to legal actions taken against them in connection with the May 9 riots.

According to reports, the three PTI leaders, facing similar terrorism-related convictions and political disqualification, are seeking relief through the judicial system.

Omar Ayub and Shibli Faraz have filed petitions challenging their disqualification by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

Both PTI leaders argued that the ECP removed them from their parliamentary seats without giving them a fair hearing. Shibli Faraz, a sitting PTI senator, was sentenced to 10 years in prison by an Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC), after which his Senate membership was revoked.

Omar Ayub was also sentenced to 10 years imprisonment in absentia by the ATC. In their joint plea, they requested the court to declare the ECP decision unconstitutional and void.

Simultaneously, Zartaj Gul has filed a protective bail application to avoid immediate

arrest. She was also sentenced to 10 years imprisonment in absentia by the ATC.

In her petition, Zartaj Gul stated she intends to appeal the conviction in the Lahore High Court, and requires protective bail to do so without being detained.

The three PTI leaders are contesting similar charges stemming from anti-terrorism cases, with convictions that have led to disqualifications and risk of arrest.

All petitions have been submitted to the Peshawar High Court, with urgent hearings requested.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal addressing the launching ceremony of 7th Agricultural Census.

Pakistan-China breakthrough in Agricultural Research Wins Praise

ISLAMABAD (INP): In a breakthrough gaining international attention, scientists from Pakistan and China have unveiled a new hybrid rice seed—PU786—that has the potential to triple per-acre yields.

The innovation is set to revolutionize Pakistan's agricultural sector and significantly improve food security. Gwadar Pro reported on Wednesday.

Developed jointly by Punjab University (PU) and China's Wuhan University, PU786 increases yields from approximately 1,600 kg to 5,600 kg per acre.

What makes it especially promising is its resistance to heat, pests, and bacterial diseases—critical traits for farmers facing climate-related challenges in Pakistan.

"PU786 isn't just a rice seed—it's a seed of prosperity, innovation, and food sovereignty. From 1,600 kg to 5,600 kg per acre—that's a game changer for Pakistani agriculture," said a local farmer leader following the announcement.

PU786 is Pakistan's first-ever Honglian-type hybrid rice, the result of over a decade of collaborative research and field trials conducted across all four

provinces.

The initiative was led by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashfaq, Chair of PU's Department of Plant Breeding and Genetics, in partnership with Dr. Muhammad Ali Klasra and Chinese experts including Prof. Renshan Zhu, Dr. Xianting Wu, and Mr. Xu from Wuhan University.

After rigorous testing and technical evaluations, the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) officially approved PU786 for nationwide use. "This is a big deal," wrote one agricultural expert on social media. "A seed like PU786 that boosts yields and withstands heat and pests? That's a total game-changer for farmers in Pakistan. Big props to the teams at Punjab and Wuhan. That's years of hard work paying off."

Another citizen posted, "Thank you, China, for supporting Pakistan—not just in defense, but in development and food security too!"

According to Dr. Ashfaq, PU786 does more than increase yields—it also opens doors for scientific collaboration, research exchange, and agricultural exports.

"This breakthrough isn't just about rice. It's about research-driven progress that benefits farmers, strengthens our economy, and enhances food security for millions," he said.

In addition to boosting crop production, the new seed is expected to improve local nutrition and strengthen Pakistan's position in the global rice market, especially in Asia.

"Rice is fundamental in Asia. Every country should treat it as a priority—it's one of our most essential needs," noted a policy analyst.

While the innovation has been widely praised for its productivity and climate resilience, experts say future efforts should focus on combining yield gains with quality. Pakistani rice—especially Basmati—is globally prized for its aroma, grain length, and flavor.

Analysts stress that ongoing research should aim to integrate these premium traits into high-yield hybrids like PU786 to help Pakistan maintain its competitive edge and meet growing global demand for high-quality rice.

Pakistan Army rejects rumours about Field Marshal Asim Munir becoming President

RAWALPINDI (INP): The Pakistan Army has rejected rumors about Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir becoming president.

Director General of Army Media Wing ISPR, Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, in an exclusive interview with The Economist, dismissed the reports of Field Marshal Munir becoming president as false.

Lt Gen Chaudhry stated categorically that Field Marshal Munir has never shown interest in ascending to the presidency. "No such proposal is under consideration," he continued.

"These claims are irresponsible and purely fictional. Dragging the military into politics is

dangerous and misleading," he added.

The Pakistan Army's spokesperson also rejected political analyses made after the recent military operation (referred to as 'Ma'rakah-e-Haq'—Battle for Truth).

When The Economist asked General Chaudhry what Pakistan's response would be to any Indian military action, he gave a clear and firm reply: "If India attacks, this time we will start from the east."

The response will begin with a deep strike inside India," he said that India needs to understand that they can be targeted anywhere.

It may be recalled that Indian rumour machines started

circulating news that Field Marshal Munir would soon take over Pakistan as president.

The Indian media frenzy was based on an article in the British magazine The Economist published on August 3, in which Field Marshal Munir's leadership qualities were acknowledged for "giving a new direction to US-Pakistan relations" and his private meeting with President Donald Trump at the White House on June 18.

Pakistan Army chief Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir's leadership has been acknowledged at the global level for his role in improving the country's image in the eyes of nations and "strengthening ties with the United States."



ISLAMABAD: A group photo of Chairman PM Youth Program Rana Mashood Federal Minister for Education, Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Provincial Education Minister Balochistan Raheela Hameed Durrani and others pose for group photo after a meeting regarding Students Laptop Scheme.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting to review progress regarding Jinnah Medical Complex.

Balochistan Speeds Up Strategic Projects to Boost Development and Public Services

Quetta: Chief Secretary

Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan has directed all provincial departments to fast-track key strategic projects aimed at transforming infrastructure, improving public services, and ensuring long-term stability in the province.

Chairing a meeting of the Secretaries Committee, the Chief Secretary emphasized that the initiatives are designed to accelerate economic growth while enhancing the quality of life for citizens.

He highlighted major undertakings such as expanding road networks, installing solar systems, activating 164 Basic Health Units (BHUs), opening 1,200 schools (555 of which are ready), implementing the Safe City Project in eight cities, and establishing meat packaging plants along with fruit and vegetable markets.

The construction of additional classrooms in 3,000 schools and improvements in municipal services, clean drinking water supply, and urban development also remain top priorities.



He instructed officers to remain at their posts to address public issues swiftly, warning that absenteeism hampers service delivery. The meeting also reviewed measures to ensure the timely completion of development projects so citizens can benefit from improved government facilities.

The session was attended by senior officials including Board of Revenue Senior Member Qambar Dashedi, CMIT Chairman Muhammad Ali Kakar, Additional Chief Secretary (Development) Zahid Saleem, Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Hamza Shafigat, and all provincial secretaries.

NA adopts resolution reaffirming Pakistan's historic, unwavering support for Palestinians

ISLAMABAD (INP): The National Assembly on Wednesday adopted a resolution reaffirming Pakistan's historic and unwavering support for the Palestinian people and their struggle for freedom, dignity and justice.

The resolution, moved by PPP lawmaker Shazia Marri, expressed deep concern over the continuing and escalating Israeli military aggression in Gaza, which has resulted in the killing of civilians and widespread destruction of homes and infrastructure.

It strongly condemned recent statements and actions by Israeli authorities indicating plans for the long-term occupation of Gaza, forced displacement of its popu-

lation, and attempts to erase the Palestinian identity of the territory. The resolution also denounced the use of starvation, siege, and collective punishment as tools of war, emphasizing that these acts constitute war crimes under international law.

The House called upon the United Nations and the international community to fulfill their moral and legal responsibilities by taking immediate and concrete steps to end Israeli military aggression in Gaza, ensure the protection of civilians, and guarantee unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance. It further urged that the occupying power be held accountable for war crimes and

crimes against humanity, and that the Palestinian people be supported in their quest for justice and self-determination.

The resolution also urged the government to continue to raise its voice for the Palestinian cause at all international forums, including the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

In another resolution, moved by Syeda Nosheen Iftikhar of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), the House urged the federal government to strengthen the legal framework to ensure strict punishment for unauthorized video recording, cyber harassment, and digital defacement.



ISLAMABAD: Japanese Ambassador Akamatsu Shuichi calls on Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Haroon Akhtar Khan in Ministry of Industries and Production.

Heavy rainfall inundates low lying areas of Capital, Rawalpindi

ISLAMABAD (INP): Low lying areas of the federal capital and adjoining Rawalpindi were inundated due to intermittent heavy rainfall on Wednesday.

Streets led by water flowing from the Margalla Hills overflowed.

As a result of the flooding, water entered homes in Bara Kahu, Chak Shahzad, and other areas.

In New Chatha Bakhtawar, streets and roads were inundated.

Rescue teams from the Capital Development Authority (CDA) and the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) have reached the affected areas, and rescue operations are ongoing. With the help of volunteers, women,

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer, Public Health Engineering Division Quetta invites the bidders from the approved Government Contractors, Bid Security 2% in shape of Call deposit

Sl	NAME OF WORK	Estimated Cost	Tender Fee	TSE NO
1	CONSTRUCTION OF WBS AT SUPREME COURT BRANCH REGISTRY QUETTA PROF No. 8963			
	Drilling & Development of bore	8,150,000	1500	2508802073
	Installation of Pumping Machinery	4,500,000	1500	2508808040
	Procurement and laying of pipe line	3,250,000	1000	2508808240
	Call work	1,700,000	500	2508808051
2	CONSTRUCTION OF WBS AT HIGH COURT BALUCHISTAN QUETTA PROF No. 8964			
	Drilling & Development of bore	8,150,000	1500	2508808073
	Installation of Pumping Machinery	4,500,000	1500	2508808040
	Call work	2,300,000	500	2508808051

The procurement shall be carried out in accordance with Balochistan Public Procurement Regulatory Authority rules, 2014, ELIGIBILITY: a. Three Years Relevant Work Experience in PHE Department, b. Turn-Over of at least three years showing financial capacity of the firm, c. The contractor must have registration with tax authorities, d. NTN/Sales tax department and Balochistan Revenue Authority (BSTS) valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council in relevant category who have deposited anti-tender fee for the year 2025-2026. Tender fee deposited in head of account C2072642 through green channel form original in State Bank of Pakistan/National Bank of Pakistan Quetta Ra. 1500 and 1000 of each work detail given as above. e. The detail of each work are available on B-PFRA website. Method of Procurement: - Single stage, one envelope procedure will be adopted. Bidding/Tender documents: - Issuance: The tender form/documents will be issued to bidders/contractors on publishing of notice in newspapers upto 15-08-2025 11:00 A.M from the presentation of requisites documents (a tender fee (Non-refundable), Bid Security (Cash or money 2% in shape of call deposit). The tenders will be open in presence of all bidders/firms. Submission: - Last date for submission is 22-08-2025 at 11:00 A.M. Opening: The tender will be opened on 22-08-2025 at 12:00 PM. Place of Issuance, advertisement, inquiry and opening write: - Address: Office of the Executive Engineer PHE Division/jail road near Market Factory Quetta. Telephone No 9201431 and 9201228 E-mail Address: - XEN@pheed.gov.pk

It may be noted that no play order will be accepted and tender and form complete title name should be written on call deposit. Only original contractor are allowed to participate in the tenders with original CNIC. Agent/Representative will not be allowed. COVID-19: All the terms and conditions of the detail works can be seen obtain from the office of the undersigned in any office hours.

PRO No.448/06-05-2025

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DIVISION QUETTA