

QUETTA VOICE

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26th Amendment case: CJP has power to form full court, lawyer tells Constitutional Bench

CM Sarfraz Bugti Says "No Insurgency in Balochistan, Only Foreign-Fueled Propaganda"

News Desk
Quetta: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has said that there is no insurgency in Balochistan, only a few foreign-backed separatist movements spreading propaganda to destabilize Pakistan. Addressing participants at the 17th National Workshop Balochistan, Bugti said that anti-state elements and India's intelligence agency RAW are actively trying to divide Pakistan and create a false image of deprivation in the province.



"Enemies want to cut Pakistan into pieces like a cake," he said, adding that the term 'disgruntled Baloch' was deliberately coined to justify acts of terrorism. He declared that anyone taking up arms against the state is a terrorist, not a disgruntled citizen, noting that the first insurgent camp was established in June 2002, which trig-

gered militancy. Bugti accused social media campaigns of fueling anti-state sentiment among the youth, but added that the government is engaging universities and communities to bridge this gap. The Chief Minister said that the Balochistan government stands firm in its stance against terrorism, calling it a national struggle in-

volving all citizens, not just the military. "The state comes before politics," Bugti asserted. Highlighting development progress, he revealed that 3,200 closed schools and 164 health units have been reopened, while Rs 100 million have been allocated for the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) to enhance capacity.

Bugti also said that security forces are operating in difficult areas where identifying the enemy is complex, yet recent counterterrorism actions have been highly effective. He noted that for the first time in 12 years, Assistant Commissioners have been appointed in 24 subdivisions, restoring state authority and governance.



Constable guarding polio vaccination team martyred in K-P

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NEWS DESK: A Levies constable, identified as Abdul Kabir by state-run APP, who was assigned to protect a polio vaccination team was killed on Tuesday when unidentified attackers opened fire on him in Swat district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, police said. The incident occurred a day after the government launched a nationwide polio eradication campaign, targeting over 45 million children. A special order had been issued for the campaign, with additional police officers and personnel deployed.



Pakistan remains one of only two countries in the world, alongside Afghanistan, where polio is still endemic. Security risks, vaccine hesitancy and misinformation continue to slow eradication efforts.

Swat District Police Officer Muhammad Umar Khan said the martyred constable was on duty alongside a polio team of two female health workers.

"The workers were administering vaccines inside a house while the constable stood guard outside when he was attacked," he said. "The assailants fled the scene after the incident."

Khan added that police and law enforcement officials reached the scene and launched an investigation. "The area has been cordoned off and a search operation is under way to apprehend the perpetrators. No anti-state elements will be allowed to disrupt peace in Swat," he said, adding that those responsible for the attack would be brought to justice. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif strongly condemned the terrorist attack on the polio vaccination team in Swat's Matta area and offered condolences for the martyred security of-

ficial. "The government is committed to the complete eradication of polio from the country. Despite such resistance from terrorists, the anti-polio campaign continues with full momentum and will go on until the disease is completely eradicated," he said.

Federal Minister Engineer Amir Maqam strongly condemned the attack on a polio eradication team in Teshil Matta, Swat. He paid tribute to the brave Levies personnel, Abdul Kabir, who was martyred in the incident. "Those who lay down their lives in the line of national duty are true heroes of the nation," he said. He added that terrorist elements are threatening the future of the nation's children but stressed that they would not be allowed to succeed under any circumstances.

PHC Orders KP Governor to Swear In Sohail Afridi as Chief Minister by Wednesday 4 PM

Monitoring Desk
Peshawar: The Peshawar High Court (PHC) has directed Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi to administer the oath of office to Chief Minister-elect Sohail Afridi by 4 PM on Wednesday.

The directive was issued by PHC Chief Justice S.M. Attique Shah, who further ruled that if the governor fails to comply, the oath should instead be administered by KP Assembly Speaker Babar Saleem Swat.

The verdict came after a PTI petition requested that the court authorize either the assembly speaker or another suitable person to conduct the swearing-in ceremony in place of the



governor. Afridi's election, held on Monday, took place amid confusion

over the resignation of former Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur. Governor Kundi had returned

Gandapur's two resignation letters, citing inconsistencies in the signatures.

ATC issues non-bailable arrest warrant for Aleema Khan

NEWS DESK: An anti-terrorism court in Rawalpindi issued a non-bailable arrest warrant for Aleema Khan on Tuesday after she failed to appear in court following the rejection of her exemption request.

ATC Judge Amjad Ali Shah issued the warrant, stating that "repeated failure to appear despite summons constitutes obstruction of judicial proceedings."

Aleema Khan is currently en route to Adiala Jail for the hearing of the Toshakhana-II case. According to police sources, a team will proceed to Adiala Jail with the non-bailable arrest warrants. Following the conclusion of the hearing, Aleema Khan is expected to be arrested.

On September 18, ATC granted interim bail to Aleema Khan in the



charges of protesting against the government, chanting anti-government slogans, vandalism and stone-pelting. On November 13, Imran Khan made a "final call" for nationwide protests to be held on November 24, demanding the restoration of PTI's electoral mandate, the release of imprisoned party members, and the reversal of the 26th

Amendment, which he claimed had empowered a "dictatorial regime." The protest took place in D-Chowk, Islamabad, where supporters travelled from different provinces to heed Khan's call. The state rejected any possibility of negotiation, and an operation was conducted against the protesters, prompting the PTI leadership to flee the scene. The protest ended with the operation on November 26.

Due to her failure to appear in court after her exemption request was rejected, the Anti-Terrorism Court has issued a non-bailable arrest warrant for Aleema Khan. ATC Judge Amjad Ali Shah issued the warrant, stating that "repeated failure to appear despite summons constitutes obstruction of judicial proceedings."

26th Amendment case: CJP has power to form full court, lawyer tells Constitutional Bench

NEWS DESK: Senior lawyer Abid Shahid Zuberi on Tuesday told the Supreme Court's (SC) Constitutional Bench (CB) that the chief justice of Pakistan (CJP) had the power to form a full court as it took up a set of petitions against the 26th Amendment.

The 26th Amendment was passed by Parliament during an overnight session in October last year, with the PTI claiming seven of its lawmakers were abducted to gain their favour as the party opposed the legislation. The Balochistan National Party-Mengal (BNP-M) also alleged its two senators were being, with both later defying party line to vote in the tweaks' favour.

The legislation, which altered judicial authority and tenure, has been a lightning rod for debate with both opposition parties and legal experts questioning its impact on the judiciary's independence.

The tweaks took away the SC's suo motu powers, set the CJP's term at three years and empowered a Special Parliamentary Committee for the appointment of the CJP from among the three most senior SC judges. It also paved the way for the formation of the CB, which is now hearing petitions against the very legislation that enabled its establishment.

The bench hearing the pleas is headed by Justice Aminuddin Khan and also includes Justices



Mandokhail, Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Ayesha Malik, Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi, Musarrat Hilali, Naeem Akhtar Afghan and Shahid Bilal Hassan.

Thus far, Zuberi, Lahore High Court Bar Association (LHCBA) lawyer Hamid Khan, Balochistan High Court Bar Association (BHCBA)'s counsel Munir A. Malik, and petitioner Barrister Salahuddin Ahmed have presented their arguments. They have sought the formation of a 16-member full court as per the number of judges present in the SC in Oct 2024, when the Amendment was passed.

Judges have questioned whether the CB has the power to issue orders for the constitution of a full court, as requested by petitioners.

The bench will first determine whether the challenges should be heard by a full court comprising all available SC judges or by the same eight-judge CB, before deciding on the legality of the 26th Amendment.

The case was initially taken up in January, and after the CB's approval of petitioners' request for it, the proceedings were being live-streamed on the SC's YouTube channel since October 8.

Zuberi, also a former Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) president, continued his arguments in the case today. The hearing was later adjourned till 11:30am tomorrow.

The live-stream for the hearing began with a delay of about 40 minutes due to internet issues. The Pakistan Telecommunications Limited (PTCL) has said users would experience degraded internet services today as a submarine cable is being repaired.

There are internet issues today. The live stream will not be possible," Justice Aminuddin said at the outset of the hearing. Justice Mazhar also said the livestream YouTube link was down and asked staff to check this.

Zuberi then cited various past court verdicts to support his arguments. "A party cannot raise an objection on the judge. The judge has the authority [to decide] whether to hear a case or not," the former SCBA president said.

"On the one hand, you are saying 16 judges and on the other, you also talk about 'collective knowledge,'" Justice Mandokhail remarked when Zuberi sought a full court comprising pre-Amendment judges. The judge asked the lawyer to clarify what his request was.

"Do not say a full court; say 'those judges who were present from before the Amendment,'" Justice Mandokhail said. Zuberi referred to the case upholding Practice and Procedure Act 2023 and contended that the current eight-member bench would not give the petitioners the right to appeal.

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Trump's Peace Plan: Legitimising Israel's Occupation



Editorial: A Peace agreement often loses its credibility when it fails to recognize the rights of the oppressed. This is the case with President Trump's much-surfaced Gaza peace plan. Far from being a genuine step toward peace, it presents a surrender document that legitimizes Israel's long-standing occupation of Palestine. Sadly, this so-called peace plan was endorsed by major Muslim countries, including Pakistan.

While standing with Trump, Netanyahu, accused of war crimes, accepted the plan and also threatened to finish the job if Hamas does not accept the plan wholeheartedly. However, outrage sparked among various analysts when Netanyahu claimed victory in Hebrew language at Tel Aviv. The question arises: How can Trump propose a plan for peace without involving an international arbitrator—the United Nations Organisation? Critics have rejected this plan on various grounds.

First, the plan has no two-state solution. In fact, it blurs the possibility of an independent Palestinian state in the future. Sadly, Netanyahu has already repudiated the idea of an independent state. Also, President Trump called Palestine recognition by

France, Britain, Canada, and Spain a reward to Hamas. So far, the United States has stopped Israel from occupying the West Bank, but some government officials of Netanyahu intended to do so.

Second, Hamas and the Palestine National Authority, the only representatives of Gaza and the West Bank, have been eliminated in the process. Even the United States barred the Palestinian Authority from entering New York during the UNGA annual session. It reflects the colonial plan because peace is mutual; it cannot be imposed at the dictate of aggressors. Zahid Hussain in his essay pointed out that it practically brings to an end the concept of a Palestinian state.

Third, in the post-war administration, both Hamas and PA have no share. The proposed plan contains the demilitarization of Hamas. They can live in peaceful coexistence after getting amnesty, and also safe passage will be given to those who want to exit. What kind of peace is this, where those who suffer have no voice in the decisions that shape their future? This is total surrender to be forced on the group.

Fourth, this official instrument lost its credibility when the UN was

excluded. It discredits the international organization. Although the question is raised about the ineffective role of the UN—unable to stop genocide—its sanctity must prevail. Critics always blamed the United States. For instance, every time the US vetoed a resolution to stop Israel's evil deeds. Fifth, Hamas has been given the ultimatum of 72 hours to accept the plan. It is not a plan but a surrender charter for the group. It means Hamas has no choice but to go with the plan. They are not consulted on their fate. The Trump-Netanyahu plan has fortified Israel further. It openly advocates for Greater Israel.

Sixth, this plan also outlines that Gaza will be governed by a political committee under the supervision of a Board of Peace which will be headed by Donald Trump and Tony Blair. Tony Blair, the former prime minister of the UK during 2003, had been widely censured for the invasion of Iraq based on false claims about weapons of mass destruction. He is regarded as a war criminal in the Muslim world. Therefore, his appointment provoked worldwide criticism. Seventh, no future guarantee is mentioned in the proposed framework.

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Asylum as a Human Right in International Law: Theory and Practice in Pakistan

By: Nageeb Ullah Tareen

The right to seek asylum forms one of the most vital pillars of international humanitarian and human rights law. It ensures protection for individuals escaping persecution, conflict, or serious human rights violations in their home countries. This study explores the legal foundations of asylum as a human right within international law and critically assesses how this principle is implemented—or neglected—in Pakistan, a state that continues to host millions of refugees despite not being a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol.

The article examines Pakistan's refugee and asylum policies, highlighting the significant gap between international legal commitments and the country's domestic legal and administrative frameworks. It also proposes ways Pakistan can align its practices with global human rights norms to better safeguard the dignity and safety of asylum seekers.

Theoretical Framework: Asylum in International Law

The modern understanding of asylum as a human right emerged after World War II, culminating in the adoption of Article 14(1) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which declares that "everyone has the right to seek and enjoy asylum from persecution." Although the UDHR is not legally binding, it provided the moral and legal basis for the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol, both of which define who qualifies as a refugee and outline the responsibilities of states towards them.

Key international principles include:

Non-Refoulement (Article 33): States must not return individuals to a country where their life or freedom would be at risk.
Non-Discrimination (Article 3): Refugees

must be treated equally regardless of race, religion, or nationality.

Access to Justice (Article 16): Refugees have the right to access courts and legal assistance. These principles, reinforced by other instruments such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the Convention Against Torture (CAT), have become cornerstones of modern international refugee protection law.

Pakistan's Approach: Between Humanitarianism and Legal Vacuum



Pakistan's response to asylum seekers represents a paradox—the country has shown immense humanitarian generosity in hosting refugees, especially Afghans, for over four decades, yet it lacks a domestic legal framework to regulate asylum procedures.

1. Absence of a National Refugee Law: Pakistan is not party to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol. The existing Foreigners Act of 1946 governs all non-citizens and does not recognize refugees or protect them from refoulement. As a result, asylum seekers face the

constant threat of arbitrary detention, deportation, or harassment due to the lack of legal recognition.

2. Role of the UNHCR:

In the absence of a formal state-run asylum system, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) plays a key role in conducting Refugee Status Determination (RSD) for non-Afghan asylum seekers. Under a 1993 cooperation agreement, Pakistan generally respects UNHCR's decisions, allowing recognized refugees to stay temporarily. However, since this sta-

human rights concerns. The extension of PoR cards only until June 30, 2025, has intensified fears of mass deportations and violations of the principle of non-refoulement.

Challenges and Contradictions

Pakistan's asylum policy is largely ad hoc and reactive, shaped by political, security, and diplomatic pressures rather than a consistent legal framework. While the country has provided de facto protection to millions of refugees, this generosity lacks legal permanence. Refugees remain in a state of legal uncertainty.

that asylum is recognized as a genuine human right, Pakistan should consider the following measures:

Adopt a Comprehensive Asylum Law: Enact national legislation defining refugees in accordance with international standards, ensuring fair asylum procedures and codifying non-refoulement as a legal obligation.

Consider Ratifying the 1951 Refugee Convention and 1967 Protocol: Accession would demonstrate Pakistan's commitment to global human rights and allow for stronger cooperation with international agencies.

Institutionalize UNHCR's Role: Incorporate the 1993 MoU into national law to ensure transparency and legal consistency in refugee protection and status determination.

Guarantee Access to Basic Services:

Ensure asylum seekers and refugees have access to healthcare, education, and employment, aligning domestic policy with international human rights standards.

Promote Awareness and Tolerance:

Launch national awareness programs to combat xenophobia and promote social cohesion, helping the public understand the humanitarian dimension of asylum.

Conclusion

The right to asylum is deeply rooted in the principles of human dignity and protection from persecution.

In Pakistan, despite a long tradition of humanitarian assistance, the absence of a formal asylum framework leaves thousands of refugees vulnerable and unprotected.

By integrating international human rights standards into domestic law and policy, Pakistan can transform its goodwill into legally guaranteed protection—ensuring that the human right to asylum becomes not merely an international ideal, but a practical reality for all those seeking safety within its borders.

Neither Capitalism nor Communism

Aziz ur Rehman Agha
The Cold War may have ended, but the ideological clash between Capitalism and Communism continues to shape global politics, economics, and international relations. Even today, global alliances reflect these old ideological divisions.

However, both Capitalist and Communist systems have failed to manage political and socio-economic affairs effectively. One system suppresses personal freedom; the other deepens inequality. Both carry serious structural flaws that make them unsuitable for modern societies.

This calls for a new, balanced approach—one found in the Islamic socio-economic and political philosophy, which follows a middle path between the two extremes.

The Flaws of Communism

Communism lies at one extreme of the ideological spectrum. It suppresses individual freedoms such as speech, press, and trade.

Historical examples from Maoist China during the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976) show how intellectual expression was crushed—books and music not aligned with party ideology were banned, and private libraries were destroyed. Similarly, in the USSR, any deviation from party thought was treated as a crime.

Economically, Communism eliminates private property and discourages entrepreneurship. Without personal incentive, individuals lose motivation to innovate and work for economic growth. As a result, this system hampers development and limits prosperity. The severe restrictions on basic rights and freedoms combined to control more wealth than the remaining 99% combined.

This system inherently promotes economic inequality, empowering elite industrialists while exploiting the working class. Under Capitalism, profit takes precedence over people—workers are overburdened, and ethical values are often sacrificed for industrial gains.

For their part, Capitalism's obsession with rapid industrialization and profit maximization has led to environmental destruction, resource depletion, and climate crises.

It prioritizes wealth accumulation over sustainable development, creating internal contradictions—growing inequality, moral decay, and ecological harm—make Capitalism an unfit model for an equitable, sustainable society.

The Islamic Socio-Economic Philosophy: A Balanced Approach
Both Capitalism and Communism fail because they represent extremes—one suffocates freedom; the other breeds inequality. Islam, however, offers a balanced socio-economic philosophy that harmonizes justice, freedom, and social welfare.

The Islamic economic system allows private ownership and business freedom, but regulates them through moral and legal checks. The obligation of Zakat (charity) redistributes wealth, preventing concentration in the hands of a few.

Meanwhile, the prohibition of Riba (usury) ensures financial fairness and discourages exploitation. Together, these principles foster economic justice, social cohesion, and sustainable development.

Conclusion
Neither Capitalism nor Communism provides a complete solution to humanity's political and economic challenges. Both contain inherent flaws—one curtails human freedom, the other destroys social equity.

The Islamic socio-economic model, however, offers the ideal middle path—balancing individual rights with collective welfare. With its emphasis on justice, equality, and moral responsibility, Islam presents the most sustainable and humane political and economic philosophy for the modern world.

NEITHER
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NOR COMMUNISM
THE ISLAMIC MIDDLE PATH

Hamas hands over four bodies to Israel after releasing 20 living hostages

GAZA (INP): Palestinian group Hamas handed over the bodies of four hostages to Israel after the release of 20 living hostages under a ceasefire agreement.

Israeli media also confirmed that the military received cas-

kets in the evening holding bodies of four slain hostages from Gaza which were handed over the International Committee of the Red Cross. Earlier, Hamas had said the bodies of Guy Ilouz, Yossi Sharabi, Bipin Joshi and Daniel Perez

would be handed over to Red Cross. Hamas stated that retrieving the remaining 24 bodies may take time, as the locations of all the burial sites are not known. On Monday, Hamas implemented the agreement and released 20 living hos-

tages, all of whom appeared to be in good health and spirits. On the other hand, 1,968 Palestinian prisoners were released from Israeli jails and transported by buses to Gaza and the West Bank. Families, overwhelmed with joy at

seeing their loved ones after years of separation, spoke in media, a Palestinian prisoner thanked Allah and those who secured their release. He said that the conditions in prison were extremely harsh. "We were

taken out of our cells four days ago, and since then, we were beaten and humiliated." Meanwhile, protests broke out in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem following the release of thousands of Palestinian lives could have been saved. They said that

the government delayed the agreement for political interests, which resulted in the deaths of hostages and an escalation of violence in the region. Demonstrators chanted slogans against Prime Minister Netanyahu.

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QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti presides over a meeting on Youth Skills Development Program 2025

Heavy rains flood Mexico towns, leave nearly 130 dead or missing

MEXICO CITY (INP): Torrential rains that lashed Mexico last week killed at least 64 people and 65 more are missing, the government said on Monday, after a tropical depression triggered landslides and flooding in parts of the Gulf Coast and central states.

The unnamed depression came toward the end of the rainy season, battering land and bursting rivers that had already been soaked by months of rains, while forecasters were focused on

tropical storms and two hurricanes on the Pacific coast.

"This intense rain was not expected to be of such magnitude," President Claudia Sheinbaum told reporters. Admiral Raymundo Morales, Mexico's Navy secretary, said the flooding was the result of the coming together of warm and cold air fronts over rivers that were already filled to the brim and mountains weakened by months of rain.

Around 100,000 homes were affected, Sheinbaum said. She

set to meet with the finance ministry later in the day to discuss rebuilding efforts, and visit some hard-hit states.

Laura Velazquez, national coordinator of civil protection, said Hidalgo and Veracruz were the states worst affected, with 29 deaths and 18 missing reported in Veracruz, and 21 deaths and 43 missing in Hidalgo.

The rain also destroyed infrastructure such as bridges and left streets filled with mud. Videos and images from last week showed emergency

responders wading through deep waters to find stranded residents and get supplies to affected communities.

Authorities have deployed thousands of personnel to help evacuate, clean up and monitor the places that were hardest hit. Electricity, which had been knocked out in towns across five states, has largely been restored. Authorities said they will also focus on containing the spread of viruses such as dengue, carried by mosquitoes that breed in stagnant water.

Pakistani scholar champions AI-driven green transition at Int'l Forum

BEIJING (INP): Prof. Abdul Rauf, a Pakistani academic at China's Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology highlighted the transformative potential of artificial intelligence in advancing sustainable development in financial markets," explained the Master Supervisor from the School of Management Science and Engineering.

"Our research helps institutions develop resilience strategies while directing capital toward renewable energy and low-carbon technologies across BRI partner nations," Prof. Abdul Rauf presents on Academic Writing and Research in the Era of AI at the CRID International Scholars Research Workshop, photo provided to GP

by the Center for Research Innovation and Development (CRID), Gwadar Pro reported. "As a key member of the AI for Sustainable Finance Research Group, we're building dynamic models to simulate climate change impacts on financial markets," explained the Master Supervisor from the School of Management Science and Engineering.

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The Pakistani scholar further highlighted China's decade of "dynamic and tremendous progress" in green technology development. "China has demonstrated excellence across technology, AI, and robotics while actively encouraging international collaboration."

Our research explores how AI can reduce brown energy consumption and accelerate the transition to sustainable economies. "Connecting his academic work to wider development objectives, Prof. Abdul Rauf drew on his PhD research on the energy-economy-environment nexus in BRI countries.

"The initiative represents a model of shared prosperity that benefits all participants, not just one

country. I deeply appreciate this approach to international cooperation."

Reflecting on the Pakistan-China collaboration, he characterized the partnership as multidimensional. "The technological and strategic sharing between our nations extends across numerous fields."

This relationship, built on mutual respect and understanding, creates progressive momentum for both countries. "The workshop featured exchanges on AI algorithm optimization and communication protocol innovations, with roundtable discussions generating perspectives on technical ethics and interdisciplinary collaboration, underscoring the event's role as a vital platform for global academic dialogue."



QUETTA: A representative delegation of the (FAO) International Program Coordinator meeting with Additional Chief Secretary (Development) Zahid Saleem.

President urges inclusion, empowerment of visually impaired in socio-economic uplift

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Asif Ali Zardari, reiterating the government's commitment to protect the rights of visually impaired persons, urged society's role for their facilitation through

considerate acts or accommodations, respecting their independence and by offering assistance and integrating their talents into country's social and economic uplift.

The president, in his message on White Cane Safety Day, annually observed on October 15, said that the Day was meant to recognise

and celebrate the extraordinary resilience, determination, and spirit of visually impaired persons.

"On this White Cane Safety Day, I extend a heartfelt call to action to every citizen, as well as all public and private institutions across Pakistan."

I urge you to actively facilitate persons with visual impairments in your daily interactions, whether through simple acts of consideration or more substantial accommodations. Respect their independence and autonomy,

and recognise that assistance should be offered but never imposed," he remarked.

He also called for integrating the remarkable talents and capabilities of visually impaired persons into the social and economic development of the country as their perspectives, skills, and contributions were invaluable assets to collective progress.

He said that the white cane, besides being a mere mobility tool, stood as a powerful symbol of courage in the face of adversity, confidence in one's

abilities, and self-reliance in navigating a world often designed without consideration for diverse needs.

President Zardari said that the instrument also reminded society that a truly civilised and progressive society was measured not by its tallest buildings or strongest economy, but by its commitment to ensuring that every individual, regardless of physical ability,

enjoyed the freedom to move safely through their communities and had equal access to opportunities in all spheres of life.

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QUETTA: A delegation from the Faculty of Life Sciences and Informatics of BUTEMS University, led by Professor Dr. Asma Yousafzai meeting with Governor Balochistan Jaffer Khan Mandokhail.

NADRA introduces nationwide digital birth and death registration System

ISLAMABAD (INP): The National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA), in collaboration with provincial governments, has rolled out a new digital system to register births and deaths in hospitals and healthcare centres across Pakistan, aiming to make the process faster, more efficient and transparent. On the instructions of the Federal Interior Minister, Mohsin Naqvi, NADRA is actively working to improve the country's registration system and address its shortcomings. This initiative is part of the National Biometric and Registration Policy Framework, which was approved by the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Shahbaz Sharif, on 1 January 2025. According to NADRA, the system is currently operating in a trial phase, with plans to expand nationwide once provincial preparations are complete.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Refer to All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PROVINCIAL BARR KOLHU invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2025 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rate Bid Security 5% for each work.

S. No	Name of Works	Estimated Cost	Tender Fee	Last date of bid submission
1	S171 2205.1985 MIDDLE SCHOOL KILLI HAJI WAZAR KHAN KOLHU TSE: 2025.098571	34,00,000	3,000 PKR	Must be submitted electronically latest by 28 October, 2025 @ 09:00 AM through supplier dashboard EPS.
2	S171 2205.2333 UPGRADATION OF PRIMARY GIRLS SCHOOL, HARRIAD KOLHU BMS CODE 0870 TO MIDDLE SCHOOL ALONGWITH NEW BUILDING KOLHU TSE: 2025.098571	34,00,000	3,000 PKR	Must be submitted electronically latest by 28 October, 2025 @ 09:00 AM through supplier dashboard EPS.
3	S174 2205.2333 UPGRADATION OF GOVERNMENT GIRLS MIDDLE SCHOOL, KILLI HAJI ABDULLAH KHAN KOLHU TSE: 2025.098571	28,50,000	5,500 PKR	Must be submitted latest by 28 October, 2025 @ 08:00 AM
4	S204 2205.1987 PROVISION OF SCHOOL, TOP TADON KOLHU TSE: 2025.098571	28,50,000	5,500 PKR	Must be submitted latest by 28 October, 2025 @ 08:00 AM
5	BSD/Kolhu renovation of Govt Spinal unit school, jural UC ward 6 left handward District Killa TSE: 2025.098571	4,00,000	3,000 PKR	Must be submitted latest by 28 October, 2025 @ 08:00 AM

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over mentioned in respective Bidding document(s). Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC)/C-61 C-6 and above, refer to bidding documents in Relevant Category And Specialized Code given in bidding documents. Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee/Deposit at Call of 3% specified above in the name of the under-signatured at a scheduled date. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signatured 5,000 PKR & 2,000 PKR (refer to bidding documents). Issuance of tender Documents can be seen from Bidding document(s). Last Date of bid submission: can be seen from Bidding document(s). Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signatured at 10:30 AM. Address: Office of Executive Engineer (Provincial BARR District Killa). Phone no: 245047008 Email: engg@killa@gmail.com

Executive Engineer (Building)
CWP P & H Department,
District Killa.

PRD No. 1890/14-10-2025
Approved by: Approved by:
Approved by: Approved by:

Pakistanis set to face internet disruption as repair on submarine cable begins

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) has announced that internet services across the country will face degradation for up to 18 hours due to international maintenance work on a submarine cable beginning on Tuesday.

According to a PTCL spokesperson, the maintenance will begin at 11 am Pakistan Standard Time and involves the repair of a repeater system installed within the undersea fibre optic

cable. The work is being carried out by the International Cable Consortium, which oversees the upkeep of key global communications infrastructure. The spokesperson explained that during this time, users across Pakistan may experience intermittent connectivity issues, including slower internet speeds and difficulty accessing online platforms. PTCL expressed regret for the temporary disruption and assured customers that teams are working closely with international partners to minimise the impact.

The scheduled repair work is part of routine global network upgrades and involves critical technical checks to ensure long-term network stability. PTCL emphasised that connectivity will gradually normalise once the maintenance activity is completed. Meanwhile, users have already begun reporting issues with accessing popular social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, and X (formerly Twitter), according to internet monitoring service Downdetector.

These access problems have been attributed directly to the ongoing international cable repairs. Telecom operators and internet service providers across the country also confirmed that mobile data services were experiencing congestion in some areas, especially during peak usage hours. This is not the first time that faults in submarine cables have disrupted internet services in Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif a review meeting on Tuesday.

PMDC Directs Universities to Conduct Pre-Hoc Analysis for MDCAT 2025

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PM&DC) has advised all universities responsible for conducting the upcoming Medical and Dental Colleges Admission Test (MDCAT) 2025 to ensure rigorous pre-hoc analysis of question papers to maintain transparency, fairness, and alignment with the official syllabus.

The MDCAT 2025 will be held nationwide on October 26, 2025 (Sunday), with 140,125 applicants registered to take the test across 35 centers, including one international venue in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The examination will be organized by the following universities: University of Health Sciences (UHS), Lahore; Sukkur IBA University; Khyber Medical



University (KMU), Peshawar; Bolan University of Medical & Health Sciences (BUMHS), Quetta; Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical University (SZABMU), Islamabad. PM&DC clarified that while the exam is conducted by these universities, the Council serves as the regulatory authority, providing the

policy framework, structure, and access to a uniform national item bank to ensure consistency across all centers. The universities have been instructed to conduct pre-hoc analysis, paper development, and printing with the highest standards of accuracy. Ensure strict adherence to the syllabus, preventing any

out-of-syllabus or incorrect questions. Maintain secrecy and confidentiality of all examination materials, only opening papers in the presence of official witnesses. Issue admit cards/roll number slips at least seven days before the test to facilitate candidates. Compile and declare results within seven days after the examination to promote transparency and timely communication.

PM&DC emphasized that these measures aim to uphold merit and ensure the MDCAT 2025 accurately reflects the academic standards necessary for entry into medical and dental colleges across Pakistan. The author is MBBS 4 student and founder of Students Nexus by SMY, an online educational and career counseling platform.

TLP leadership, workers booked under terrorism charges in Muridke

NEWS DESK: At least five people, including a police officer, three Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) workers, and a passerby, were killed as law enforcement agencies carried out a major pre-dawn operation in Muridke on Monday to disperse what officials described as "armed and violent mobs."

According to official sources, the crackdown came amid a multi-day protest march by the TLP supporters moving from Lahore toward Islamabad in what the group called a pro-Palestine demonstration.

In a statement, the Punjab Police spokesperson said the operation began after TLP workers "attacked security personnel with stones, spiked sticks, and petrol bombs."

The police later registered a case against the leadership and workers of the TLP at the City Muridke Police Station under terrorism and multiple other criminal charges.

The protesters, he claimed, opened "indiscriminate fire" on law enforcers when they were ordered to disperse, prompting a "limited defensive response" from the forces. During the firing, one station house officer (SHO) was martyred, while 48 police and Rangers personnel sustained injuries, including 17 hit by gunfire. Three TLP protesters and one passerby also lost their lives, while eight civilians sustained injuries. "Law enforcement agencies were compelled to act in self-defense. The operation was

conducted to restore public safety and clear national highways," the statement said.

Officials added that the rioters torched 40 government and private vehicles, and multiple arrests were made. A search operation remains underway to trace those involved in the violence. "The Punjab Police will never allow armed mobs to endanger citizens' lives or disrupt peace," it concluded.

In a separate statement, Punjab Inspector General of Police (IGP) Dr Usman Anwar reiterated that TLP chief Hafiz Saad Hussain Rizvi was "safe and not in custody," refuting viral social media claims of his arrest or injury. "There is no truth to the rumours," the IGP said, urging citizens to rely on verified information.

The operation in Muridke triggered scattered protests in other parts of the country, including Karachi, where small groups blocked roads in North Karachi and Nagan Chowrang before being dispersed with tear gas. Two children were injured during stone-throwing incidents, while police arrested around a dozen TLP supporters.

According to the First Information Report (FIR), TLP workers allegedly attacked a police party, set government vehicles on fire, and created chaos and fear among the public after authorities moved to disperse their protest camp near Muridke.

The report stated that the mob was armed and resorted to violence when police attempted to clear the route.



WASHINGTON D.C: Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, along with his team, being hosted by the leadership and members of the US-Pakistan Business Council.

Plea filed in PHC against chief minister's election in KP

PESHAWAR (INP): JUI-F leader Maulana Lutfur Rehman on Tuesday filed a petition in the Peshawar High Court (PHC), requesting that the election of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa be "set aside" and declared as null and void.

Rehman was one of the four people in the race for the office of KP CM, along with Sardar Shah Jehan Yousaf of PML-N, and Arbab Zahir Khan of PPP and PTT's Sohail Afridi — who won the election after the opposition staged a boycott.

The candidates filed by the JUI-F, the PPP and the PML-N

received zero votes during the election while Afridi won with 90.

Rehman named six respondents, including the KP government, KP Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, the KP Assembly Speaker Bahar

Saleem Swati, the secretary of the provincial assembly, outgoing KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, and CM-elect Sohail Afridi.

In his petition, he requested the court to set aside the election and declare it "ab initio void" as it was "wholly unlawful, arbitrary, capricious, mala fide, without jurisdiction, coram non iudice,"

Rehman questioned how an election could be held if Gandapur's resignation had not yet been accepted. Citing Article 130(8) of the Constitution, he stressed that elections for the post can not be held unless it was vacant.

The petition asked the court to declare decisions taken by the assembly and the speaker with regard to the CM appointment as "without lawful authority, void, and of no legal effect."

The petition further urged the court to "declare all consequential notifications and actions, including the impugned notification, as

illegal, arbitrary, capricious, without jurisdiction and having no legal effect."

Rehman requested the court to halt any further proceedings in the matter until the governor had "lawfully received and verified" the resignation of Gandapur.

The petition called for a fresh election "in accordance with the Constitution and the assembly rules, after lawful confirmation of vacancy." It concluded by requesting the PHC to suspend the election result in order to "prevent chaos and ensure preservation of the rule of law."

Gwadar Free Zones likely to be exempted from Dollar conversion

ISLAMABAD (INP): Gwadar Free Zones are likely to receive a waiver from the existing Foreign Exchange Policy, as the government has formed a high-level committee to exempt both the Gwadar South Free Zone and the Gwadar North Free Zone from the current foreign exchange policy framework.

This significant move will allow all companies operating in the Gwadar Free Zones to directly convert RMB into Pakistani rupees, effectively eliminating the role of the U.S. dollar once and for all, according to a Gwadar Pro's report on Tuesday.

At present, export-oriented companies—mostly Chinese enterprises—operating in both Gwadar Free Zones must first convert RMB into U.S. dollars, and then convert them into Pakistani rupees

for local payments. This double conversion results in two rounds of exchange deductions—first from RMB to dollar, and then from dollar to rupee—causing substantial financial losses to companies in the Gwadar Free Zones.

A Gwadar Port Authority official told Gwadar Pro that if the government approves the committee's recommendations, in line with the directions issued by the Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives during the 82nd CPEC Progress Review Meeting held last month regarding the agenda item.

"Foreign Currency Pilot Project in Gwadar Free Zone," all Chinese companies operating in the Gwadar Free Zones will be able to directly convert RMB into Pakistani rupees.

They will no longer be required to convert RMB into U.S. dollars first.

"This will eliminate the double conversion process and protect companies from unnecessary financial losses," he added. When asked about the committee's composition, he said it includes representatives from the Gwadar Port Authority, the Ministry of Industries and Production, the CPEC Secretariat, the Federal Board of Revenue, the State Bank of Pakistan, the Ministry of Maritime Affairs, the Board of Investment, and the Ministry of Finance.

He further stated that during the 82nd CPEC Progress Review Meeting, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) briefed participants that the Gwadar Free Zone should be brought at par with other export pro-

cessing zones in the country by granting a waiver from the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947, through suitable amendments to the statutes governing the Gwadar Port Authority—offering a sustainable, long-term solution. As a short-term measure, SBP proposed allowing entities operating in the Gwadar Free Zone to retain up to 50 percent of their export proceeds in Special Foreign Currency Accounts (SFCAs). The retained funds may be freely utilized for current account payments abroad and for settling obligations arising from entities within the zone in foreign currency.

The Ministry of Maritime Affairs will serve as the secretariat of the committee, which is expected to finalize its report and recommendations within one month.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani exchanging views with Sheikh Dr. Mohammed Bin Abdulkarim AL- Issa, Secretary-General of the Muslim World League.

420,000 children administered anti-polio drops on first day of campaign

LAHORE, Oct 14 (INP): More than 420,000 children were administered anti-polio drops on the first day of the ongoing vaccination campaign in Lahore. The progress was reviewed at a joint meeting chaired by National EOC Coordinator Captain (R) Muhammad Anwar-ul-Haq, EOC Coordinator Adeel Tasawur, and Deputy Commissioner Lahore Syed Musa Raza at the DC office on Tuesday.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (General), CEO Health Dr. Asif Arbab, Assistant

Commissioners, WHO observers, and other officials also attended.

CEO Health Dr. Asif Arbab briefed the meeting that over 6,000 polio teams remained active across the city. He said the first-day coverage achieved 87 per cent of the target, with 420,221 children vaccinated, including 31,140 guest children and 57,170 schoolchildren. He added that 11,809 children from flood-affected areas were also reached and vaccinated. WHO observers

appreciated the district administration and field staff for their effective coordination and performance.

National EOC Coordinator Captain (R) Muhammad Anwar-ul-Haq said every missed child must be traced and vaccinated, while special focus should be given to zero-dose and guest children. He welcomed the use of new tally sheets, terming it a positive development, and noted that the number of polio cases in the country had dropped to the lowest level so far.

EOC Coordinator Adeel Tasawur urged accurate registration of guest children and commended frontline workers for their continued commitment to protecting children from polio.

Deputy Commissioner Lahore Syed Musa Raza directed all DDHOs to ensure strict field monitoring, adding that no child should be left unvaccinated. He reaffirmed that the vision of Chief Minister Punjab for a "Zero Polio Punjab" would be fully achieved through collective efforts.