

QUETTA VOICE

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Friday 17
October, 2025

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Balochistan Cabinet Condemns Afghan Aggression, Declares Mines as Industry



34 Indian-Backed Khwarij Eliminated in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Under Operation Azm-e-Istehkam

Balochistan Government Abolishes Levies Force After 142 Years: Historic Merger with Police Sparks Debate

Syed Ali Shah Analysis:
In a landmark administrative reform, the Government of Balochistan has abolished the historic Levies Force after 142 years, merging it into the Balochistan Police. The decision, approved by the Balochistan Cabinet, aims to modernize the province's law enforcement system and enhance its law and order capacity — but it has also sparked reservations among Levies personnel and opposition from several political parties.

A Force Rooted in History

The Levies Force of Balochistan was established in 1883 by Sir Robert Sandeman, the British political agent and administrator of the region. The force's core responsibilities included maintaining law and order, protecting vital installations, and collecting taxes and livestock revenue in tribal areas.

For more than a century, nearly 90 percent of Balochistan's area remained under Levies jurisdiction, while only 10 percent fell under the provincial police.

The Levies operated under Deputy Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners, and

revenue officials, forming an essential pillar of the province's tribal administration and security network.

Chief Minister Jam Muhammad Yousaf. However, the move was reversed in 2008 by Nawab

modern, and well-equipped law enforcement system in the province.

Sarfaraz Bugti stated that integrating the Levies with the police will enhance counterterrorism ca-

Officials emphasize that the reform will strengthen institutional structure, reduce duplication,

reservations, arguing that the merger undermines their historical role, tribal identity, and trust-

areas where the police system remains ineffective.

Critics argue that merging a tribal community-based security structure into a centralized police institution could disrupt local dynamics and alienate the public. Some parties have demanded a parliamentary review of the cabinet's decision before full implementation.

A Divisive but Defining Reform

Despite the opposition, the Balochistan Government remains firm on its stance, describing the merger as a step toward institutional modernization, national integration, and professional law enforcement.

Supporters of the decision believe it will bring uniformity, transparency, and accountability across all districts, enabling the province to better combat militancy and improve coordination with federal security agencies such as the Frontier Corps (FC) and Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD). The coming months will reveal whether this bold reform strengthens Balochistan's security apparatus or fuels administrative and political friction within the province.



Previous Reforms and Political Reversals

The merger of the Levies Force into the police is not unprecedented.

During the tenure of General Pervez Musharraf, the force was initially merged with the police under then-

Aslam Raisani of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), restoring the Levies to their traditional structure.

Now, more than a decade later, the Balochistan Assembly has again legislated to merge the Levies with the police, signaling the government's intent to build a unified,

Government's Stance: Modernization and Uniformity

The provincial government describes the decision as part of a larger strategy to ensure professional policing, better coordination, and modern security management.

Chief Minister Mir

capacity, digital monitoring, and operational effectiveness. "This merger will help establish one uniform policing system in Balochistan.

The government will provide modern equipment and training to all personnel to effectively deal with terrorism and extremism," the Chief Minister said.

and ensure better governance in remote and conflict-prone districts.

Reservations and Political Opposition

However, the decision has not been met with universal approval. Levies personnel across several districts have expressed strong

based relationship with local communities. A number of political parties in Balochistan have also opposed the move, describing it as a "hasty and non-consultative decision." They claim that the Levies Force has historically played a crucial role in maintaining peace in tribal

Balochistan Cabinet Condemns Afghan Aggression, Declares Mines as Industry

News Desk:
QUETTA: The 19th meeting of the Balochistan Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti, strongly condemned the recent Afghan aggression and expressed satisfaction over the Pakistan Army's timely and effective response. The cabinet also offered prayers for the martyrs who laid down their lives in defense of the country.

Chief Minister Bugti said that every Afghan government since 1947 has continued its hostile stance toward Pakistan.

"We hosted Afghan refugees for decades but received animosity in return," he stated, reaffirming that the repatriation of Afghan refugees is a final federal decision to be fully implemented in Balochistan.

The cabinet approved several major policy measures aimed at good governance and public welfare. Amendments to Section 144 were approved, empowering Deputy Commissioners to impose



it for 30 days, Commissioners for 60 days, and the Additional Chief Secretary (Home) for 90 days.

In an environmental milestone, the government approved expansion of the Mangrove Forest Area, while the creation of Anti-Sexual Crimes Units and a Women Protection Force was also sanctioned. The Balochistan Control of Narcotics Substances Bill 2025

was passed to curb drug trafficking, and a committee led by Mir Zahoore Buledi was formed to finalize the Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Bill. The cabinet approved amendments to the Nikah Nama Form-II.

The Balochistan Overseas Pakistanis Commission Bill 2025, and funds for implementing the Balochistan Youth Policy. It also declared the Mines

and Minerals sector as an official industry to boost investment and employment.

The meeting further approved a Journalists Colony for Gwadar Press Club members and the Balochistan Land Lease Policy 2025. CM Bugti reaffirmed the government's commitment to transparent governance, institutional reforms, and a prosperous, stable Balochistan.

34 Indian-Backed Khwarij Eliminated in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Under Operation Azm-e-Istehkam



Monitoring Desk:
From 13-15 October 2025, *thirty four Khwarij belonging to Indian Proxy* Fitna Al Khwarij were killed in *multiple engagements* in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, the military's media wing said.

On reported presence of Khwarij, an intelligence based operation was conducted by the Security Forces

in general area *Spinwam, North Waziristan District*. During the conduct of operation, own troops effectively engaged the khwarij location and after an intense fire exchange, *eighteen khwarij* were sent to hell, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said.

Another intelligence based operation was conducted in

South Waziristan District and in ensuing fire exchange, *eight* Khwarij were neutralized.

In third encounter that took place in *Bannu District*, own troops successfully neutralized *eight more Khwarij*.

Sanitization operations are being conducted to eliminate any other Indian sponsored Kharij found in

the area *as relentless Counter Terrorism campaign under vision "Azm e Istehkam" (as approved by Federal Apex Committee on National Action Plan) by Security Forces and Law Enforcement Agencies of Pakistan will continue* at full pace to wipe out menace of foreign sponsored and supported terrorism from the country.

NETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Pakistan-Saudi Arabia Defense Pact – A Historic Milestone in Bilateral Relations

Editorial:

For over eight decades, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have enjoyed close and cordial relations rooted in faith, friendship, and mutual cooperation. The recent visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to the Kingdom has further strengthened these historic ties, marking a new chapter in the relationship between the two brotherly nations.

SMIDA An Unprecedented Event

The signing of a Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is unprecedented. For the first time, both states have formally pledged that an attack on one will be considered an attack on both. This landmark pact is not only a testament to their shared commitment to peace and security but also a reflection of the growing geopolitical importance of Pakistan in the wider Middle East and South Asia. Over the years, Saudi Arabia has stood firmly by Pakistan, extending support in critical times, whether financial, diplomatic, or strategic. At the same time, Pakistan has successfully managed to maintain positive ties with both Saudi Arabia and Iran, balancing its role in a region often marked by divisions. This ability to uphold cordial relations with diverse regional players demonstrates Islamabad's maturity in diplomacy.

China, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia Fully Support Pakistan

Equally significant is the fact that Pakistan continues to receive consistent and unconditional support from major global actors such as China, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia. These relationships enhance Pakistan's leverage on the international stage and help consolidate its role as a bridge between the Muslim world and the global community. The defense agreement with Saudi Arabia is, therefore, a matter of immense pride for the Pakistani nation. It not only secures Pakistan's strategic interests but also strengthens the balance of power in the region. Such developments assure the people of Pakistan that their country is not isolated but deeply engaged in shaping the future of regional security and cooperation.

This is Indeed A National Achievement

This historic step deserves to be celebrated as a national achievement. It is a reflection of Pakistan's enduring diplomacy and its ability to transform long-standing friendships into strategic partnerships that ensure stability, prosperity, and peace for generations to come.

Land Law and Its Importance in Pakistan

By Amir Hamza Bashir

Land is one of the most valuable and contested assets in Pakistan. The legal framework that governs the ownership, possession, and transfer of land is known as Land Law. It ensures that property rights are protected and that disputes over land are resolved through legal and transparent means.

Historical Background of Land Law in Pakistan

The foundation of land laws in Pakistan was laid during the British colonial era through legislation such as the Land Revenue Act and the Registration Act.

After independence in 1947, these laws continued to guide Pakistan's land management system. Today, major statutes like the West Pakistan



Land Revenue Act, 1967, and the Transfer of Property Act, 1882, remain the cornerstone of land governance and property transfer in the country.

Land Record Management and Reforms

Traditionally, the Patwari system has been responsible for maintaining land

records across Pakistan. However, it has often been criticized for corruption, manipulation, and lack of transparency. In recent years, the government has initiated significant reforms through the Punjab Land Records Authority (PLRA) and other provincial projects to digitize land records and reduce

human interference in property registration and ownership verification.

Challenges in Pakistan's Land System

Despite reforms, Pakistan continues to face issues like illegal possession (land grabbing), forged documents, and slow judicial processes. These

problems create uncertainty for investors and ordinary citizens alike.

To overcome these challenges, there is a strong need for comprehensive digital record-keeping, specialized land tribunals, and public awareness campaigns to educate citizens about their property rights.

Land law is not just a legal framework—it is the foundation of economic stability and social justice in Pakistan. A fair, transparent, and efficient land management system encourages investment, infrastructure development, and public trust in state institutions. Strengthening land laws and ensuring their effective implementation are vital steps toward achieving legal certainty and sustainable growth in Pakistan.

The Author is a Student of LLB (7th Semester).

Quetta's Traffic Chaos: Urgent Reforms Needed to Fix the Crisis

Anjela Kaynat:

Quetta, once a city known for its peaceful ambience, now faces an escalating traffic crisis. Every day, thousands of commuters endure hours of gridlock, navigating congested roads, reckless drivers, and deteriorating infrastructure. From rickshaws and motorcycles to private cars, the overwhelming number of vehicles clogs major roads, while encroachments and illegal parking worsen the situation.

The city's transport system is on the brink of collapse, demanding immediate intervention from both authorities and residents. This article explores the root causes of Quetta's traffic woes, identifies the most affected areas, and outlines urgent solutions to restore order to the roads.

The Strain on Quetta's Road Infrastructure

Quetta's road network, originally designed during the colonial era, was never intended to accommodate the city's rapid population growth and rising number of vehicles. Al-

though the city was rebuilt after the 1935 earthquake, its road capacity has remained largely unchanged, struggling to support over 1.2 million residents and the thousands of vehicles added each year.

Key roads such as Jinnah Road, Sariab Road, Liaquat Bazaar, Masjid Road, and Zarghoon Road have become perpetual bottlenecks, choked by illegal encroachments, unregulated parking, and an ever-increasing number of vehicles. Without a structured urban transport model, these roads remain gridlocked, affecting daily life and economic activity.

Major Traffic Challenges

Severe Congestion on Key Roads

Traffic congestion is worst in commercial hubs such as Liaquat Bazaar, Masjid Road, Jinnah Road, and Zarghoon Road, where vehicles move at a snail's pace during peak hours.

With no alternative routes or bypasses, all traffic is funneled through these roads, causing massive delays. Key intersections, including Balochistan University Chowk, Meezan Chowk, and Prince Road, frequently experience severe traffic jams.

The Surge of Non-Custom Paid Vehicles

The unchecked influx of non-rickshaws, motorcycles, and private cars, further clogging the roads. Over 50,000 rickshaws operate within the city, creating congestion in already packed areas like Masjid Road and Liaquat Bazaar (Traffic Survey: Quetta Smart and Safe City, 2023).

Although the government has revisited the Quetta Mass Transit Train project, financial constraints have delayed its execution, leaving residents without an efficient alternative to private transport.

Encroachments and Illegal Parking Worsen Congestion

Unauthorized stalls and illegal parking occupy nearly 30% of road space in busy commercial zones such as Prince

Road and Jinnah Road (Think Transportation, 2023). Street vendors set up shop on sidewalks, forcing pedestrians onto the roads, while shopkeepers extend their businesses onto public spaces, further restricting traffic flow.

Deteriorating Road Conditions

Over 60% of Quetta's roads are in disrepair, riddled with potholes, cracks, and poor drainage systems (PNRIS, 2024). Roads such as Joint Road, Sariab Road, Sabzal Road, and Nawa Kili are among the worst affected. During rainfall, flooding exacerbates the problem, making navigation nearly impossible.

A tragic reminder of Balochistan's road infrastructure crisis occurred in 2024, when a bus plunged into a ravine in Washuk district due to poor road conditions. Despite promises of road improvements, delays in infrastructure projects continue to endanger commuters.

Weak Traffic Management and Enforcement

A lack of proper traf-

fic regulation has led to frequent violations, reckless driving, and rising accidents.

With an inadequate number of traffic police officers on the roads, many drivers ignore basic rules—running red lights, driving on the wrong side, and engaging in dangerous maneuvers.

Although the Balochistan government announced plans to build flyovers and underpasses in 2024 to ease congestion, financial setbacks have stalled these projects (Balochistan Express, 2024).

Practical Solutions to Fix Quetta's Traffic Woes

To address Quetta's worsening traffic crisis, a multi-faceted approach is needed, combining road expansion, better enforcement, and public transport development. Here are some key solutions:

1. Road Expansion and Maintenance

- Widen key roads such as Masjid Road, Jinnah Road, and Zarghoon Road to accommodate growing traf-

fic.

- Improve drainage systems to prevent road damage and flooding.
- 2. Regulating Non-Custom Paid Vehicles

 - Enforce stricter measures to curb the influx of NCP vehicles.
 - Introduce policies to register or phase out unregistered vehicles.
 - 3. Establishing a Public Transport System

 - Launch a city bus service to provide an affordable alternative to private cars.
 - Develop dedicated bus lanes to improve efficiency and reduce congestion.

- 4. Regulating Rickshaws and Motorcycles

 - Implement route-based restrictions for rickshaws to prevent congestion in commercial hubs.
 - Create designated parking areas for rickshaws and motorcycles.
 - 5. Strengthening Traffic Law Enforcement

 - Deploy more traffic police officers to ensure compliance with traffic rules.
 - Impose heavier fines and penalties on reckless drivers.
 - 6. Removing Encroachments and Illegal

Parking

- Conduct regular operations to clear roads of unauthorized stalls and illegally parked vehicles.
- Establish alternative vending zones to prevent the return of street vendors.
- 7. Traffic Awareness and Public Education

 - Launch awareness campaigns to educate citizens on traffic rules and road safety.
 - Integrate basic traffic education into school curriculums to instill discipline in future generations.

Call to Action: A Collective Responsibility

Every day, Quetta's residents face the frustration of endless traffic jams, reckless drivers, and poorly maintained roads. Yet, the problem persists—not just because of weak governance, but because of collective negligence.

Authorities must act swiftly to expand roads, enforce traffic laws, and implement public transport reforms. Citizens, too, have a role to play—by obeying traffic rules, avoiding illegal parking, and discouraging encroachments.

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 make Communism unsustainable in modern nations.

The Problems with Capitalism

On the other end

lies Capitalism, which has enabled just 1% of the world's population 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.

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

It prioritizes wealth accumulation over sustainability. These 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 equality.

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.



SC's constitutional bench observes it can hear 26th Amendment case

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Supreme Court's constitutional bench on Wednesday observed that it is fully empowered to hear the 26th Constitutional Amendment case, with Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar asserting that judges from all consti-

tutional benches can be included if deemed necessary. An eight-member bench led by Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan took up multiple petitions challenging the amendment passed by Parliament last year. The bench includes

Justices Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Ayesha A. Malik, Syed Hassan Azhar Rizvi, Musarat Hilali, Naem Akhtar Afghan, Shahid Bilal Hassan, and Muhammad Ali Mazhar. The petitions were filed by political parties including PTI, Jamaat-e-Islami, Sunni Ittehad Council, and various bar associations, along with former presidents of the Supreme Court Bar Association and Pakistan Bar Council. During the proceedings, lawyer Abid Zuberi, representing

former bar presidents, argued that the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) could direct the formation of a full court, noting that Article 75 of the Constitution grants wide judicial powers in this matter. Justice Amin-ud-Din, however, re-

marked that a judicial order directing a full court would fall outside the jurisdiction of judges not part of the constitutional bench, adding that the CJP had no administrative powers in this matter. Justice Ayesha Malik questioned

whether Article 191A restricted the bench from issuing such an order and clarified that the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) was not barred from a full court. Justice Musarat Hilali noted that the

CJP himself is a beneficiary of the 26th Amendment, while Justice Mandokhail asked why the counsel opposed inclusion of all judges. After detailed arguments, the court adjourned the hearing till October 20.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani in a meeting with delegation comprising members of the Malam Jabba International Advisory Board (IAB) led by Lord Amir Sarfraz of Kensington (Member of the House of Lords) at Parliament House.

Trump authorizes CIA operations in Venezuela, raising pressure on Maduro

WASHINGTON, Oct 16 (INP): US President Donald Trump confirmed that he authorized the Central Intelligence Agency to conduct covert operations in Venezuela, marking a sharp escalation in US efforts to pressure President Nicolas Maduro's government.

The New York Times first reported the classified directive, citing US officials familiar with the decision, saying the Trump administration's Venezuela strategy aims to remove Maduro from power. The administration has offered \$50 million for information leading to Maduro's arrest and conviction on drug trafficking charges.

The new authority would allow the CIA to carry out lethal operations in Venezu-

ela and conduct a range of operations in the Caribbean, the Times reported.

Asked why he authorized the CIA to operate in Venezuela, Trump told reporters his reasons were migration of Venezuelans to the United States and drug trafficking.

"I authorized two reasons really," Trump said. "Number one, they have emptied their prisons into the United States of America... they came in through the border. They came in because we had an open border," he told reporters in the Oval Office. "And the other thing are drugs," Trump said. Trump has not provided evidence for his claim that Venezuela is sending former prisoners to the US.

He added that the US has made progress intercepting drug ship-

ments at sea, and that additional efforts are now focused on overland routes.

"We are looking at land now, because we've got the sea very well under control," Trump said. Reuters could not independently determine what specific actions Trump has authorized and the White House declined to elaborate on the president's comments.

Historically, the agency's involvement in such operations has varied widely from direct paramilitary engagement to intelligence gathering and support roles with little to no physical footprint.

The CIA has a long history of operations in Latin America, particularly during the Cold War, and helped topple South America's cocaine trafficking empires at

the end of the 20th century. Reuters has reported that the CIA has been running covert operations in Mexico for years to track down the country's most-wanted drug traffickers.

Venezuela's government said Trump's remarks constituted a violation of international law and said US actions were aimed at legitimizing a "regime change" operation with the goal of seizing the country's oil resources.

"Our Permanent Mission to the UN will raise this complaint with the Security Council and the Secretary-General tomorrow, demanding accountability from the United States government," Venezuela said in a statement released by Foreign Minister Yan Gil on his Telegram account.

APHC calls for observance of global Black Day on October 27

SRINAGAR (INP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference has urged Kashmiris in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir and across the world to observe Black Day on October 27, marking the dark anniversary of India's military invasion of Jammu and Kashmir in 1947.

According to Kashmir Media Service, October 27 symbolizes the beginning of India's illegal occupation—carried out in violation of the Partition Plan and against the will of the

Kashmiri people. In a statement in Srinagar, APHC spokesman Abdul Rashid Mirhas said the day should serve as a global reminder of the urgent need to resolve the Kashmir dispute in accordance with UN resolutions. He emphasized that while Kashmiris continue their peaceful demand for the UN-promised right to self-determination, India meets them with brutal military repression.

"Kashmir today is a military garrison," the statement said, where extrajudicial

killings, arbitrary arrests, house raids, torture, and property seizures have become routine under India's colonial grip.

Reaffirming its unwavering resolve, the APHC condemned India's continued crackdown on dissent—including banning pro-freedom parties, sealing homes and silencing voices of resistance. The August 5, 2019 move to revoke Jammu and Kashmir's special status was labeled "illegal" and an assault on the region's Muslim

identity. The APHC warned that the BJP-RSS regime is engineering settler colonialism in IIOJK, mirroring the Israeli model in occupied Palestine, and called for a united front to resist this demographic and cultural onslaught.

The APHC appealed to the United Nations to take urgent cognizance of India's actions and uphold its responsibility by facilitating a just resolution to the Kashmir dispute in line with international law and Security Council resolutions.



QUETTA: Central Muslim League Ameer Hafiz Idrees Mughal addressing a press conference.

Pakistan elected to UNHRC, vows to spotlight rights abuses in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD (INP): The United Nations General Assembly has elected Pakistan to the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) for a three-year term, commencing on 1 January 2026. Pakistan secured its seat with a resounding majority of 178 votes.

This election to the Council marks the sixth time Pakistan has been chosen for this role since the HRC's establishment in 2006, according to a press statement issued by Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The statement said this recurring recognition underscores

the international community's trust in Pakistan's commitment to defending, promoting, and protecting human rights both domestically and globally, as well as its contribution to strengthening the international human rights system. Additionally, it highlights Pakistan's proven track record and persistent efforts as a consensus-builder within the Human Rights Council.

During its term as a member of the HRC, Pakistan will actively engage with the broader UN membership and civil society to advance all facets of

human rights. This includes civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights, alongside the right to development. Pakistan will also lend its full support to the HRC's mandate, ensuring the promotion and protection of human rights grounded in the principles of universality, objectivity, transparency, and non-selectivity.

HRC is the platform for addressing human rights violations worldwide, including in territories under foreign occupation. In accordance with the Council's mandate, Pakistan will continue to draw

attention to the grave human rights violations by the Indian occupation forces in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). Pakistan will similarly highlight the human rights violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

The Human Rights Council, an intergovernmental body based in Geneva within the United Nations system, is responsible for promoting and protecting human rights globally. Comprising 47 Member States, the HRC addresses thematic human rights issues and specific situations requiring urgent attention.

Punjab CM orders to solarize all new roads in province

LAHORE (INP): Punjab Chief Minister (CM) Maryam Nawaz has ordered to solarize all new roads in the province to ensure sustainable and energy-efficient infrastructure.

The CM Punjab ordered this while presiding over a special meeting to review progress

on Communication and Works (C&W) and Lahore Development Authority (LDA) projects across the province. The Secretary C&W and Director General LDA have given a detailed briefing to CM.

On this occasion, Maryam Nawaz also approved a public-private

partnership for the construction, repair, and maintenance of five major highways, under which private organizations will be responsible for the construction, repair, and restoration of roads.

The government of Punjab has claimed to record savings of Rs. 40

billion through e-tendering.

It has been decided in the meeting to replace paper toll slips at all toll plazas in Punjab with a fully digitalized system. A one app one system will be introduced at 38 electronic toll plazas, similar to that used in the motorways.



QUETTA: Provincial Finance Minister Mir Shoaib Khan Noshirwani and Parliamentary Secretary Asfandiyar Khan Kakar are holding a formal meeting.

Pakistan to launch hyperspectral satellite HS-1 from China

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan's Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) has announced the launch of the nation's first Hyperspectral Satellite (HS-1) from China's Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center on October 19, marking a major advancement in Pakistan's space program and a testament to the enduring strategic partnership with China," the agency said in a statement.

"This collaboration aligns with SUPARCO's Vision 2047 and China's support for developing nations in advancing peaceful space technologies."

Officials added that the new satellite will join Pakistan's existing remote-sensing fleet, including the Pakistan Remote Sensing Satellite (PRSS-1) launched from China in 2018 and two additional Earth observation satellites deployed earlier this year. The HS-1 launch highlights how China continues to play a vital role in strengthening Pakistan's technological self-reliance and climate-monitoring capabilities, reaffirming both nations' shared commitment to innovation.

toring of floods and landslides, Gwadar Port reported on Thursday.

"The HS-1 mission represents a transformative leap in Pakistan's space program and a testament to the enduring strategic partnership with China," the agency said in a statement.

"This collaboration aligns with SUPARCO's Vision 2047 and China's support for developing nations in advancing peaceful space technologies."

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TENDER NOTICE

Only electronic bid will be submitted. No physical bid is required. The Deputy Director Agriculture OPVM Hama invites bids from eligible bidders for execution of works under following project for the years 2025-26 based on Composite Schedule Rates 2023 on Percentage Rate basis.

Tender Fee 1000 PKR and Bid Security 2%

Sr.	Name of Work	Estimate
1	Construction of Water Channel & Pipeline, Solar Inversion UC's in District Hama/PSOP No. 18	38,603,211
	(22025 1199) TSE-25281095643	

Procurement shall be made under BPPRA Rules 2014.

Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Bidder's Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work. Turn-over of at least 27,722,247 PKR amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm. Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-2 and above (Up to 65 million) in relevant category and specialized codes is CE0401 (Dam/Water Retaining Structures), CE0801 (Water Supply), CE1001 (General Civil Engineering Works), EE1501 (Solar Installation). Bank Turnover 30.60 Million in last three years/Certificate should not be older than October 2025). Income Tax Registration certificate is required to be submitted. Tax Return of last three years i.e. 2022-23, 2023-24 & 2024-25 Audit Report/Audit Balance Sheet of last three years i.e. 2022-23, 2023-24 & 2024-25. No Litigation History Statement on Rs. 100 stamp paper duly attested by the notary public addressed to procuring agency (Stamp paper should be issued in September 2025). Non-Blacklisting declaration on Rs. 100 stamp paper duly attested by the notary public addressed to procuring agency (Stamp paper should be issued in September 2025). The bidder should be deposited Tender Fee Rs. 1000 (Head of A/c. Receipt A/c. No. 220136).
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 2% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The IT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gov.pk. Issuance of tender Documents: Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gov.pk. **Last Date of Bid Submission:** Bid can only be submitted electronically until 30 October 2025 at 01:00 PM through supplier dashboard. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at 02:30 PM on EPPS System. **Address:** Office of Deputy Director Agriculture On Farm Water Management District Hama. Contact: -03337695742

Deputy Director Agriculture On Farm Water Management Hama

PRO No. 1943/16-10-2025

www.bppra.gov.pk | info@bppra.gov.pk | procurement@bppra.gov.pk

Railways will not leave an inch of its land to anyone: Abbasi

ISLAMABAD, Oct 16 (INP). Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi on Thursday reaffirmed that Pakistan Railways will not leave an inch of its land to anyone, directing authorities concerned to further intensify the anti-en-

croachment campaign against land grabbers. During a meeting to review the overall performance of the Multan Division, the minister reiterated his policy of zero tolerance against encroachments and emphasized the Railways' unwavering commitment

to passenger facilitation. "We will not take an inch of anyone else's land, but we will not leave an inch of railway land to anyone," said the minister.

According to the briefing, the train punctuality during the current fiscal year stood at 88

percent, compared to 86 percent during the same period of the current fiscal year. Despite disruptions caused by recent floods, the division's overall performance remained satisfactory, said Divisional Superintendent (DS) Multan. The division's revenue increased by Rs.

77 million in the first quarter of the current fiscal year compared to the same period last year. Meanwhile, a vigorous campaign against ticketless travel generated Rs. 13.5 million in additional revenue. The strict measures against theft and smuggling, in line with the Minister's zero-tolerance directive.

So far, 87.5 acres of railway land have been retrieved under the ongoing anti-encroachment drive, which the minister ordered to be completed with even greater determination.

Briefing the meeting, the DS informed that the solarization project in Multan Division is progressing successfully under the Minister's direction. Fourteen stations, including the DS Office Multan, have been completely converted to solar energy.

resulting in Rs. 30 million savings in electricity costs during the current fiscal year. The staff rationalization process is also underway to ensure efficient utilization of resources, while pensions to retired employees are being paid timely and without delay.



ISLAMABAD: Secretary General of World Muslim League and Chairman of the Organisation of Muslim Scholars Dr. Mohammad Bin Abdulkarim Alissa calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) CM returns from Adiala Jail without meeting PTI founder

RAWALPINDI (INP). Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi on Thursday returned from Adiala Jail without meeting Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, saying that despite prior intimation, no clearance was granted by the Punjab and federal authorities, ARY News reported.

Speaking to reporters outside Adiala Jail, Sohail Afridi stated that he had formally informed both the Punjab and federal governments about his planned visit but had received no response. "The Prime Minister congratulated me and

said he would check and get back, but I received no answer," he noted.

Sohail Afridi said he had come to meet his party leader to present suggestions regarding the formation of the provincial cabinet. "The KP cabinet will be formed in consultation with the PTI founder," he asserted.

He added that an advisory council would also be established under his leadership. "As Chief Minister, I will form the advisory council — who else will?" he remarked.

Sohail Afridi reiterated that PTI has always believed in

peaceful political struggle. "The option of peaceful protest is always open for us," he said.

Reaffirming his priorities, the KP chief minister stated, "For us, Pakistan comes first — everything else comes after."

Before leaving the Dahgal checkpoint after being denied access to Adiala Jail, Afridi thanked his supporters, saying, "I appreciate all friends who stood with me. We tried all possible means today, and we will try again."

Earlier, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government had formally communicated

with the federal and Punjab governments to make the necessary arrangements for the meeting.

The provincial Home Department has sent an official letter to the Federal Secretary for Interior and the Punjab Secretary for Interior, requesting coordination to facilitate Chief Minister Sohail Afridi's visit.

Officials said the meeting between Sohail Afridi and Imran Khan is expected to cover key political and administrative matters concerning Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the PTI's ongoing political struggle.

PMDC Sets New Fee Cap for Private Medical and Dental Colleges in 2025-26

Syed Muhammad Yasir

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) has increased the maximum annual fee limit for private medical and dental colleges to 1.89 million Pakistani Rupees for the 2025-26 academic year.

This marks a 5% increase compared to the previous year's fee cap of 1.8 million PKR.

According to recommendations by the Prime Minister's Medical Education Committee, the PMDC will link future fee hikes from the 2026-27 session onward to Pakistan's inflation rate, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI). This ensures fees remain aligned with the country's economic conditions.

The PMDC has mandated all private medical and dental colleges to clearly display their fee structures at least three months before admissions start, promoting transparency and helping prospective students plan their education expenses better.

Strict penalties will be enforced on in-



stitutions charging fees above the prescribed limit or submitting false fee details, safeguarding students' rights and maintaining fairness in medical education.

'Ball is in their court': PM Shehbaz says ready for talks if Afghanistan agrees to Pakistan's conditions

NEWS DESK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said Islamabad was ready to fulfil Pakistan's "justified" conditions following recent hostilities between the two countries.

Pakistan and Afghanistan on Wednesday agreed to a temporary ceasefire after a fresh round of deadly cross-border clashes that threatened to escalate into a wider conflict. Pakistan's Foreign Office (FO) said the ceasefire, implemented at the Taliban's request and with mutual consent, took effect at 6pm local time on October 15 and would last for 48 hours.

The announcement followed sustained hostilities between the two

countries over the weekend.

Addressing the federal cabinet today after the latest round of conflict, the premier stated that the Afghan side had requested a ceasefire and made a formal request. "Yesterday we decided the temporary 48-hour ceasefire [and] the message has been sent that if they want to fulfil our justified conditions through talks, then we are ready. The ball is in their court," he added.

He added that if the Afghan side was sincere and serious, then it would initiate steps to hold talks, adding that Pakistan's allied nations, particularly Qatar, were also making efforts to resolve the situation. The premier expressed hope that the

latest situation between the two countries would be resolved on a long-term basis, including the elimination of the Fima al-Khawarj from Afghan soil so the neighbouring country's territory would no longer be used by terrorists.

Fima-al-Khawarj is a term the state uses for terrorists belonging to the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan.

PM Shehbaz reiterated his hope that the ceasefire be maintained for the future on the basis of "solid demands".

"If this was only done to buy time then we won't accept it," the premier warned. He elaborated that officials from Pakistan had visited Kabul many times and engaged in cordial dialogue on resolving their issues to-

gether with mutual agreement for the sake of peace and prosperity. "Unfortunately, despite all efforts, this was not possible and when this attack was ongoing on Pakistan, on India's complete incitement, their (Afghan) Foreign Minister [Amir Muttasir] was in New Delhi, so we were forced to give a comprehensive response," the premier said.

The premier said the Qatari emir had condemned the entire episode in talks with him in Egypt and expressed his desire to play a role in cooling down tensions. Shehbaz also commended the armed forces and Field Marshal Asim Munir for their response to the Afghan side during the conflict.

Section 144 extended as Punjab govt mulls TLP ban after violent protests

NEWS DESK: The Punjab government is considering banning the right-wing Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan following violent protests, as it extends Section 144 across the province, prohibiting all forms of public gatherings, rallies, processions, and sit-ins. The provincial government is weighing a ban on the right-wing party after scores of policemen were injured while trying to prevent the party from marching to Islamabad from Lahore.

This would be the second time the party risks being banned; the first was briefly in 2021, following similar street clashes.

The TLP had planned to march to Islamabad to protest outside the U.S. Embassy in a show of solidarity with Palestinians. As police and protesters clashed, demonstrators set fire to scores of vehicles, and 48 policemen were injured.

Following failed negotiations, the government moved to crack down, launching a six-hour operation at 3 am in Muridke to disperse the protest. This led to mass arrests, with the TLP claiming the deaths of several workers, including conflicting reports that party chief Saad Rizvi had been shot and injured.

In light of the violence, Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and her law-and-order team decided to place TLP on the Fourth Schedule of the Anti-Terrorism Act—a law that allows the government to restrict the travel, speech, and business activities of individuals linked to a banned organization.

Meanwhile, with a crackdown underway against TLP that could potentially trigger widespread protests in the province, the Punjab government has imposed Section 144 across the province. An official notification issued by the Home Department states that the ban applies to all public gatherings of four or more people, aiming to maintain law and order and safeguard lives and property amid growing security threats.

The section, which was initially imposed on October 8 due to looming TLP protest, has been extended until October 18, citing threats to public order and security.

Under the order, display of weapons in public has been strictly prohibited, while the use of loudspeakers has also been banned except for azan and Friday sermons. The notification further states that the publication and distribution of hate speech, provocative material, or sectarian material is completely banned throughout Punjab.

Authorities warned that large gatherings could serve as soft targets for terrorists, while anti-state elements

might exploit public protests to carry out subversive activities. However, the government clarified that the restrictions do not apply to weddings, funerals, or burial ceremonies, and that government officials on duty are exempt from the order.

The Punjab Home Department has directed widespread public awareness campaigns about the imposition of Section 144 to ensure compliance and maintain peace across the province.

The TLP was formed in 2015 by Saad Rizvi's father, the cleric Khadim Hussain Rizvi, to act as a pressure group on the blasphemy laws.

Under the ban, TLP's properties and assets would be taken over by the Awaq Department. Its posters, banners, and advertisements are banned. Its social media accounts will be blocked, and its bank accounts frozen.

reflects the exceptional operational capabilities and unwavering resolve of Pakistan's armed and security institutions.

"I pay rich tribute to our brave security forces for sending 34 Indian-sponsored terrorists to hell," Naqvi stated, adding that Pakistan's valiant officers and soldiers were the nation's pride.

The interior minister emphasized that the country's fearless security forces have achieved remarkable



RAWALPINDI: President Asif Ali Zardari offering condolence to the family of Lt Colonel Junaid Shaheed at their residence. Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi also present.

Mohsin Naqvi lauds security forces for killing Indian-sponsored terrorists in KP

ISLAMABAD (INP). Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has lauded Pakistan's security forces for conducting successful operations against Indian-sponsored terrorists in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, commending their courage, professionalism, and dedication to national security.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, the federal minister praised the forces for eliminating 34 Indian-backed terrorists, saying the achievement

reflects the exceptional operational capabilities and unwavering resolve of Pakistan's armed and security institutions.

"I pay rich tribute to our brave security forces for sending 34 Indian-sponsored terrorists to hell," Naqvi stated, adding that Pakistan's valiant officers and soldiers were the nation's pride.

The interior minister emphasized that the country's fearless security forces have achieved remarkable

successes in the war against terrorism," Naqvi remarked. "We will completely eradicate all Indian-sponsored terrorist elements from every corner of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa."

The interior minister reaffirmed the government's determination to defend Pakistan's sovereignty at all costs and to continue supporting security agencies in their mission to ensure peace and stability across the region.

"Our professional security forces have achieved remarkable



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry talking to Sudan's Ambassador, Salih Mohamed Ahmed Mohamed Siddiq, who called on him.