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CM Mir Sarfraz Bugti Pays Tribute to Karsaz Tragedy Martyrs, Honors Benazir Bhutto's Democratic Legacy



Brother of Balochistan MPA Rahmat Saleh Shot Dead in Panjgur; National Party Condemns Killing

Pakistan, Afghanistan Reach Immediate Ceasefire After Doha Talks Mediated by Qatar and Turkiye

Monitoring Desk:

DOHA/ISLAMABAD:

In a major diplomatic breakthrough, Pakistan and Afghanistan have agreed to an immediate ceasefire following high-level talks in Doha, mediated by Qatar's intelligence leadership with support from Turkiye. Both sides pledged to respect each other's sovereignty and resume dialogue on October 25 in Istanbul to discuss long-term security and counterterrorism cooperation. Pakistan travel deals The announcement came after a day-long negotiation between a Pakistani delegation led by Defence Minister Khawaja Asif and Afghan Taliban officials, amid escalating border clashes. Qatar's intelligence chief, Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Khulaifi, hosted and facilitated the closed-door discussions.

"A ceasefire agreement has been finalised. Cross-border attacks from Afghan soil will stop immediately. Both nations will respect each other's territorial integrity," Defence Minister Asif announced on X (formerly Twitter).

Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar welcomed the move, calling it "a significant step toward regional peace." In a state-

ment, he said:

"Pakistan appreciates the constructive role of brotherly Qatar and Turkiye. This is the right direction toward restoring stability in the region."

tively prevented.

Taliban Confirm Bilateral Agreement
In a statement is-

affirmed their commitment to peace, mutual respect, and non-aggression," Mujahid said. He added that neither side will support any militant group or engage

implementation of the agreement.

Qatar's Role in Regional Stability

tion of hostilities. The ministry said both sides agreed to form a permanent bilateral peace committee that will monitor the ceasefire's continuation.

Background: Weeks of Cross-Border Tension
The ceasefire

prompting Pakistan's precision airstrikes on militant camps in Kandahar and Kabul. Pakistan's military stated that its operations targeted TTP-linked groups, including the Hafiz Gul Bahadur faction. Tensions escalated further when Fitna al Khawarij—a state term for the TTP and allied militant groups—claimed responsibility for recent attacks in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. Pakistan's Foreign Office repeatedly urged Kabul to take verifiable actions against these groups.

Next Phase: Istanbul Meeting

Both sides are now preparing for the next round of talks in Istanbul on October 25, which will focus on developing a long-term counterterrorism and security framework. Analysts say the move signals a renewed commitment to diplomacy after months of rising tensions. Regional observers believe the Qatar-mediated Doha agreement could serve as a turning point in Pakistan-Afghanistan relations, provided the ceasefire holds and trust-building continues.



gon."

Dar also expressed hope for the creation of a "concrete and verifiable monitoring mechanism" to ensure that militant activities from Afghan territory are effective.

sued in Kabul, Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid confirmed that the Doha meeting concluded with the signing of a bilateral peace understanding. "Both countries re-

in actions that threaten the other's security. According to the Taliban's statement, both sides will establish a joint review mechanism, assisted by neutral countries, to ensure full

A statement from Qatar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs later confirmed that the 13-hour-long negotiations focused on border security, counterterrorism cooperation, and the cessa-

Qatar's proactive mediation reflects Doha's growing influence as a regional peace facilitator, following its previous roles in U.S.-Taliban and Hamas-Israel backchannel talks.

agreement comes after several days of intense border clashes between Pakistani and Afghan forces. On October 11, Afghan forces attacked Pakistani posts, killing 23 Pakistani soldiers.

Hand Grenade Blast in Killa Abdullah Injures 3, Including 2 Children



News Desk:

QUETTA: A sudden hand grenade explosion inside a residential home in the Habibzai area of Killa Abdullah district, Balochistan, left three individuals injured, including two children.

According to Levies Force officials, the blast occurred when a grenade, reportedly present within the house, detonated unexpectedly. Emergency responders swiftly transported the injured victims to a

nearby hospital for medical treatment. Security forces have cordoned off the area and launched a detailed investigation to determine the origin of the explosive and the circumstances surrounding the incident.

Brother of Balochistan MPA Rahmat Saleh Shot Dead in Panjgur; National Party Condemns Killing

PANJGUR: The brother of Balochistan Assembly member and National Party leader Rahmat Saleh was gunned down by unidentified assailants in Panjgur district on Friday, according to police sources.

The victim, Waleed Saleh, the youngest brother of MPA Rahmat Saleh, was standing at the gate of his residence in the Chitkan area when armed men opened fire, killing him on the spot. The attackers fled immediately after the incident.

Law enforcement agencies arrived at the scene soon after the shooting and launched a search operation to trace the perpetrators. Police said the attack appeared to be targeted, though the motive remains under investigation.

The body of the deceased was shifted to a local hospital for medico-legal formalities, while security was tightened in the area to prevent further untoward



incidents.

In a strongly worded statement, the National Party condemned the killing of its worker and the brother of MPA Rahmat Saleh, call-

ing it a cowardly act of violence. The party demanded that the government and law enforcement agencies immediately arrest those responsible and ensure

justice for the victim's family.

The statement further emphasized that such acts of targeted violence are attempts to destabilize peace in

Balochistan and discourage democratic voices, but the party vowed to continue its struggle through democratic and peaceful means.

CM Mir Sarfraz Bugti Pays Tribute to Karsaz Tragedy Martyrs, Honors Benazir Bhutto's Democratic Legacy

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti paid glowing tribute to the martyrs of the Karsaz Tragedy on its 18th anniversary, acknowledging their ultimate sacrifice in defending democracy, political stability, and the people's rights in Pakistan.

In his message, CM Bugti said that the Karsaz attack marked a dark yet historic chapter in Pakistan's political journey. He stated that the assault on Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto's convoy was not just an act of terrorism, but an attack on democratic values and the spirit of public resistance.

He highlighted that more than 150 Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) workers were martyred and hundreds injured, adding that their sacrifice symbolizes courage, resilience, and



the unwavering commitment to the preservation of democracy in Pakistan. CM Bugti emphasized that Benazir Bhutto's leadership inspired hope, unity, and a renewed belief in the power of democratic institutions.

The Chief Minister said that Shaheed Benazir Bhutto devoted her life to strengthening the federation, promoting democratic values, and ensuring the protection of public rights.

Her martyrdom, he added, remains a timeless symbol of democratic strength and sacrifice that continues to inspire generations of Pakistanis.

He further said that the Balochistan Government is fully committed to political tolerance, national unity, and the promotion of democratic harmony across the country. He also expressed solidarity with the families of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto and other martyrs who laid down their lives for a democratic Pakistan.

"The Karsaz tragedy teaches us that democracy can only survive through sacrifice, steadfastness, and public service," CM Bugti concluded.

QUETTA 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.

SMDAan 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 in 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

tance 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 the 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.

By Fared Ullah Khan Nestled in the northeast of Balochistan, the scenic hill station of Ziarat — once known as Ghauski (meaning "cold place" in Pashto) — stands as one of Pakistan's most breathtaking natural treasures. Surrounded by snow-capped peaks and ancient juniper trees, Ziarat's crisp air and cool climate make it a haven for tourists escaping the country's sweltering summer heat.

But behind this beauty lies a crisis. The Ziarat Juniper Forest, once celebrated as the pride of Balochistan, is now on the brink of collapse — the result of climate change, deforestation, and government negligence.

Asia's Largest Juniper Forest — A Natural Wonder in Peril

The Ziarat Juniper Forest is no ordinary woodland. It is Asia's largest juniper forest and the second largest in the world, home to trees that are thousands of years old. Locally known as Sanobher, these trees grow incredibly slowly — just one inch every two years. Some are estimated to be over 2,000 years old, making this forest a living natural museum and a vital part of Pakistan's ecological heritage.

The junipers are not just trees — they are natural climate regulators, carbon sinks, and water cycle stabilizers. Yet, their survival is now threatened by the very communities who rely on them for survival.

The Local Dilemma: "We Cut Trees Because We Have No Gas"



Speaking to a local resident revealed the heartbreaking reality behind Ziarat's deforestation.

"We're not destroying the forest out of greed," he said. "We have no choice. The government claims we have gas connections, but there's no gas in the pipelines. It only flows when VIPs visit Ziarat — then it stops again."

During the harsh winters, when temperatures drop below freezing, residents have no alternative but to cut juniper trees for firewood. Locals estimate that 600 to 1,000 juniper trees are cut down daily — a devastating rate given their centuries-long growth cycle.

Climate Consequences: Disappearing Snow and Rain

The impact of this rapid deforestation is already visible. Over the past five years, rainfall and snowfall in Ziarat have drastically declined. According to recent reports, rainfall in

Balochistan during April and May has dropped by nearly 57% since 2025.

Experts warn that the juniper forest plays a key role in regulating rainfall and temperature in the wider region — including Quetta, Peshawar, and Kalat. As the forest disappears, rising temperatures, soil erosion, and water shortages threaten both human life and biodiversity.

Government Silence and Weak Enforcement

When asked about the crisis, PS Ahrar, Personal Secretary at the Forest Department, admitted, "No one has permission to cut these trees under forest law. If it's happening, then it's a failure of our forest officers and local administration."

Similarly, Ibrahim Baloch, Director General of Balochistan, acknowledged, "Deforestation is illegal. If one tree is cut, a thousand should be

planted. Our department focuses on awareness, while the Forest Department handles enforcement."

However, when asked whether awareness campaigns were conducted in Ziarat, he admitted none had taken place there yet — only in Quetta and other districts.

Repeated attempts to reach the Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) for a statement were unsuccessful. The silence reflects a broader pattern of institutional neglect and lack of coordination.

Ecological Importance: More Than Just Trees

The Ziarat Juniper Forest sustains a fragile ecosystem — home to diverse wildlife and bird species that depend on these trees for shelter and food. The forest also prevents soil erosion, stores carbon, and regulates the local water cycle.

For the people of Ziarat, the junipers rep-

resent heritage, resilience, and identity. One elderly resident summed it up poignantly:

"If these trees disappear, Ziarat will lose its soul."

Government Neglect and the Way Forward

Environmental protection has rarely been a national priority in Pakistan. In the latest provincial budget, only PKR 500 million (50 crore rupees) was allocated for climate change — an insignificant amount compared to the scale of the crisis.

Experts emphasize immediate government intervention as essential to save the Ziarat Juniper Forest.

Ensure consistent gas supply to mountainous districts to reduce dependence on firewood. Strengthen forest law enforcement and penalize illegal logging. Launch awareness and reforestation campaigns involving local communities. Promote eco-tourism to generate sustainable livelihoods that do not harm the environment.

A Call to Action: Saving Ziarat's Living Heritage

The Ziarat Juniper Forest is not just a local attraction — it is a global ecological asset. Its destruction would not only devastate biodiversity but also worsen Pakistan's climate vulnerability.

The government must understand that protecting forests is protecting life — the economy, tourism, and the future stability of Balochistan's environment all depend on it. Time is running out. Once these ancient trees are gone, they will never return.

Artificial Intelligence Just Taking Baby Steps

Syed Muhammad Qaseem:

A r t i f i c i a l Intelligence (AI) is the simulation of human intelligence in computer systems. In simple words, AI enables machines to perform tasks that require human intelligence. Those tasks can be learning from past experiences, solving problems, and making predictions based on provided data. Until now, AI has just started taking baby steps but it is growing at a much rapid rate. Every invention had various positive and negative impacts on human civilization. According to Google's CEO, Sundar Pichai, "AI will have a more profound impact on human beings than fire, electricity, and the internet". This innovation also has both positive and negative impacts on human beings. If it is left unchecked it will have adverse impacts on human creativity, the job market, and the flow of information. However, the positive use of AI will bring major advancements in medical science, education, agriculture, etc. In the following paragraphs, the impacts of AI on humans are described.

Negative Impacts of AI

AI is a technological tool and its use can be both positive and negative, although it is in the hands of human beings on how to use it. Following are some negative impacts of AI on humans.

Deep Fakes Through Generative AI

In the age of information technology, misinformation is a

major issue. The introduction of generative AI into public space has further worsened the predicament of information flow.

Through generative AI, deep fakes are generated. These deep fakes are difficult to judge, as original or fake, for a person who has no knowledge of AI. The deep fakes can be an image, a video, or a voice note. Recently, in Slovakia's 2023 elections, a fake voice of a party's leader and a journalist was shared on social media, in which they were talking about purchasing votes from the poor population. This voice badly reduced the vote bank of that party during elections. Another example of the deep fakes that created uncertainty was pictures of the former US president, Donald Trump's arrest, which provoked his supporter's sentiments against the state. Therefore, if the use of generative AI is left unchecked, bad actors in society will use it for their own purposes and spread wrong information.

AI's use in War for the purpose of AI will have ferocious results. Because AI unlike humans has no fear, doesn't commit mistakes, doesn't get tired, and has no mercy. So, it can fight much better than a soldier. Thus, Countries are trying to develop AI fighters, robots, and drones for the maximization of power. This will attract the attention of their rival countries to build AI war machines for the balance of power. Hence, like

nuclear weapons, AI will further worsen security dilemmas if used for the purpose of war.

AI is a Major Threat to Human Creativity

Creativity is a unique characteristic of human beings due to which they bring development, prosperity, modernization, and easiness in their lives. But man-made intelligence is growing so rapidly that it has posed a grave threat to the

AI and Job Market "AI is coming to take your job", this news was seen on many news platforms

the lazy and comfort-seeking nature of human beings, now they mostly rely on AI to perform these tasks. With the passage of time, AI's learning more skills and human's reliance on AI is further increasing. This increase in reliance on AI will cause the death of creativity in humans. AI and Job Market "AI is coming to take your job", this news was seen on many news platforms

creativity of God's mankind. With only a few clicks and in some seconds, an AI program can write a book, a novel, a poem, an assignment and an article. Furthermore, it can sing a song, draw a painting, solve a problem, and make a prediction. On the other side, it takes much effort and time for a human to do all these tasks. Due to

nor have sleep problems, consequently, companies are manufacturing AI-driven cars to avoid road accidents. Journalists and content writers demand huge salaries for their work, while ChatGPT is a free AI app that can do the same tasks freely and quickly. More interestingly, AI will replace its own workers.

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scribed if AI is used positively.

AI can Revolutionize the Medical Field AI along with synthetic biology can transform the world shaped until now. AI and synthetic biology can eradicate debilitating diseases, and find treatments for pandemics, thus providing health benefits. AI has also made a lot of achievements in the field of surgery. Last year, an AI robot performed a successful

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on Provided Data

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soil fertility and water resources. To sum up, equipping agriculture with AI systems will boost agricultural production and prevent heavy water losses.

Recommendations for the Pakistani Government

The world has entered the age of AI development. Fortunately, Pakistan has a huge human resource, but making them skilled in the field of AI is a hard task to do. All provincial governments should include AI in the school curriculum. There should be an AI portal for students, from where they can get updates about AI developments around the globe and jobs announced by the government. Furthermore, universities must be directed to increase practical work in AI rather than theoretical.

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Torkham border remains closed for seventh consecutive day

PESHAWAR (INP) The Torkham border crossing between Pakistan and Afghanistan has remained closed for the seventh consecutive day, bringing all bilateral trade and pedestrian movement to a complete standstill.

The closure, prompted by escalating border tensions, has caused severe disruption to the flow of goods and people between the two neighbouring countries.

Long queues of vehicles have piled up along the Torkham Highway, stretching for kilometres, as transporters wait for clearance to cross. Many of the trucks are

carrying perishable food items that have begun to spoil due to prolonged delays in scorching temperatures.

Traders have expressed alarm that if the situation continues, significant quantities of their stock may be lost, leading to further financial strain.

According to sources, the week-long border closure has already led to a sharp rise in the prices of essential food items on both sides.

The disruption in the movement of fruit, vegetables, and other commodities has severely affected local markets, where supply shortages are now being felt. Residents in

the border regions are facing particular difficulties, as the flow of daily supplies has nearly halted.

The Torkham route is one of the busiest trade corridors between Pakistan and Afghanistan, handling thousands of tonnes of goods every week. Its closure has therefore not only im-

pected local economies but also hindered broader regional trade activities dependent on this vital crossing.

Merchants and transporters from both countries have urged their respective governments to engage in meaningful dialogue to resolve the standoff.

They stressed that continued tensions at

the border serve the interests of neither nation and that stability is essential for trade and livelihoods.

Calls for reopening the border have grown stronger as both sides experience economic losses and mounting frustration.

Officials, however, have yet to confirm when

the crossing will reopen, leaving hundreds of stranded traders and drivers waiting for a resolution.

Beyond the economic toll, the closure has also disrupted the daily cross-border movement of workers, patients, and families who depend on the route for essential travel.



QUETTA: Additional Chief Secretary (Development) Zahid Saleem (PDWP) is presiding over a meeting of the GDA Department.

Pakistan says IMF cannot impose conditions against national interest

WASHINGTON (INP) Federal Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb said that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) cannot impose any condition on Pakistan against national interest.

Addressing a press conference in Washington, the Finance Minister said reforms made under the IMF program have stabilised the economy.

M u h a m m a d Aurangzeb said the IMF and World Bank talks were positive.

He said Pakistan expects to receive \$1.2 billion instalment from the IMF by December 31. The Finance Minister said many American companies are keen to invest in Pakistan. Muhammad Aurangzeb said Chinese investment will create more opportunities for development in the coming days.

Earlier, addressing the 15th V20 Ministerial Dialogue on "Cost of Capital, Debt & Growth

Pathways" held on the sidelines of the IMF-World Bank Annual Meetings in Washington, the Minister said Pakistan continues to bear the cost of devastating floods through its own resources while supporting rescue and relief efforts.

Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb has reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to strengthening climate resilience and sustainable growth. He appreciated the assistance of the CDF-V20 Secretariat in preparing Pakistan's Climate Prosperity Plan, and informed that financing under the Country Partnership Framework is helping to operationalise the plan.

M u h a m m a d Aurangzeb also called for the early operationalisation of the Loss and Damage Fund and urged fast-tracking decision-making at the Green Climate Fund to ensure timely climate action for vulnerable nations.

Earlier, Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb met with Turkey's Minister of Treasury and Finance, Mehmet Imre, in Washington, DC. In their meeting, both sides acknowledged the consistent and ongoing high-level engagements between the leadership of Pakistan and Turkey.

During his ongoing visit to the United States, they also reaffirmed their shared commitment to further strengthening the deep-rooted brotherly relations between the two countries. Finance Minister Aurangzeb briefed his Turkish counterpart on the ongoing economic reforms underway in Pakistan, highlighting measures being undertaken in areas such as tax policy, energy, state-owned enterprises, privatisation, and public finance.

He informed him about the reform jour-

ney of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), which was recently presented at a World Bank event, and Pakistan's efforts to enhance its tax-to-GDP ratio. He also discussed Pakistan's progress on integrating data across various government departments to improve financial management and increase transparency.

Separately, Finance Minister Aurangzeb held a meeting with International Finance Corporation (IFC) Managing Director Mahkhar Dhop. He thanked the International Finance Corporation for designating Pakistan as a regional hub under its recent organisational restructuring.

The minister described this recognition as a reflection of growing confidence in Pakistan's economy. Aurangzeb also briefed Mahkhar Dhop on developments in the Reko Diq mining project and expressed hope that the EXIM Bank would soon join the venture.

Israel said it had so far received nine of 28 bodies held in Gaza. Hamas said it needed heavy machinery and excavating equipment to locate bodies buried beneath rubble.

Israeli officials, however, accused Hamas of stalling, in-

Sherry pays tribute to martyred, survivors of Karsaz tragedy

HYDERABAD, Oct 18 (INP) Vice President of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Senator Sherry Rehman has paid tribute to the martyrs and survivors of the tragic Karsaz attack on Saturday, the 18th anniversary of its 18th anniversary on Saturday.

On October 18, 2007, the convoy of democracy was attacked by terrorists at Karsaz, Sherry Rehman said, adding that it was the deadliest attack in Pakistan's political history against any political party, said in a message through press re-

lease received here on Saturday.

She noted that more than 180 PPP workers were martyred and hundreds were injured in the horrific incident.

"The workers of Karsaz remain fresh even today. We salute the martyrs and the injured for their unmatched sacrifice and courage," she stated.

Senator Rehman said, "The PPP workers set a new example of loyalty and bravery, standing firm in the face of terror." October 18 was not just the day

Hamas to hand over body of another Israeli hostage held in Gaza

GAZA CITY (INP) Hamas said on Friday (Oct 17) it would transfer the body of another Israeli hostage to the Red Cross, with Israel confirming the handover would take place shortly after mid-night on Saturday amid tensions over delays in returning remains under their ceasefire deal.

Israel said it had so far received nine of 28 bodies held in Gaza. Hamas, citing technical difficulties, said it needed heavy machinery and excavating equipment to locate bodies buried beneath rubble.

Israeli officials, however, accused Hamas of stalling, in-

sisting the group knows the locations of the hostages' remains and was "running out of time" under the terms of the ceasefire.

Hamas said it remained committed to the ceasefire agreement and to handing over all remaining bodies. In a statement, the group's armed wing said it had received a new body and would release it to the International Committee of the Red Cross at the latest on Thursday (2000 GMT).

An Israeli security official confirmed the handover, saying it would occur at 0030 local time in Israel (2130 GMT).

The dispute has



QUETTA: Deputy Commissioner Sibi Major (R) Ilyas Kabzai and Wing Commander 52 Wing Colonel Zubair inaugurating the solarization project completed at Circuit House C under BSD.

Death of three Afghan cricketers in airstrike: Pakistan rejects ICC's claim as biased, premature

ISLAMABAD (INP) Pakistan has rejected ICC's claim as selective, biased and premature that three 'Afghan cricketers' died in an airstrike. Taking to X, Federal Information Minister Attaullah Tarar has rejected the ICC claim that three Afghan cricketers were killed in an airstrike. The federal minister said that the ICC should abstain from definitive attributions, avoid certifying unverified claims on the behalf of others, refrain from allowing certain actors

to draw political mileage, and uphold even-handed standards irrespective of the nationality of offence-bearers.

He further said, "Pakistan, a prime victim of cross-border terrorism, rejects the ICC's selective, biased and premature comment that advances a disputed allegation, as established, that three 'Afghan cricketers' died in an 'airstrike'."

"The ICC has cited no independent verification to substantiate these claims. Pakistan strongly rejects the characterization and contests the ICC's

claim and call for immediate correction. We also note a troubling pattern of amplification without any attempts at evidence gathering.

"Within hours of the ICC release, its Chair, Jay Shah, publicly echoed the same claim on X, and the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) then posted a statement on the same lines, explicitly invoking the ICC's claim rather than providing details or proof. This sequencing is an attempt at manufacturing an ostensible echo chamber.

Turkish experts await Israeli go ahead to help recover bodies in Gaza

ANKARA, Oct 18 (INP) A team of Turkish disaster response specialists is stationed at the Egyptian border, awaiting Israeli authorisation to enter Gaza and help in search and recovery operations, a Turkish official told.

The 81-member team from Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) is equipped with specialised search-and-rescue tools, including life-detection devices and trained search dogs.

They are currently

waiting at the border on the Egyptian side," the official said. The group is prepared to locate and recover bodies trapped under rubble.

"It remains unclear when Israel will allow the Turkish team to enter Gaza," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Initially, Israel preferred to work with a Qatari team, but we are hopeful that our delegation will be granted access soon.

AFAD personnel are experienced in operating under extreme conditions, having responded to numerous natural disasters, including the devastating earthquake in south-eastern Turkey in February 2023 which claimed over 53,000 lives.

The Turkish official noted that the team's mission includes locating both Palestinian and Israeli bodies, including hostages believed to be buried or hidden in collapsed structures.

However, the task is complicated because some Israeli hostages may have been dis-



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Planning and Development Mir Zahoore Ahmed Bokhedi is offering Fataha for the departed soul of the mother of Provincial Minister for Education Raheeda Hameed Khan Durani.

PCT&VI approves new technical courses Including Boat Making

GWADAR (INP): The Pak-China Technical & Vocational Institute (PCT&VI) at University of Gwadar (UG) has approved a series of new skill-based training programs including boat making, boat engine repair, general and solar electrical work, mobile phone repairing, and logistics and supply chain management, during its third Board of Studies meeting.

Chaired by Prof. Dr. Syed Manzoor Ahmed, Executive Director of PCT&VI, the meeting took place in the institute's Conference Room. Other attendees included Prof. Dr. Jan Muhammad, Dean of Social Sciences at the University of Gwadar, and Dr. Mohibullah, Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology at the University of Gwadar, along with departmental heads, faculty members, and administrative officers, according to Gwadar Pro news network.

The Board reviewed the various academic and administrative matters, with a focus on aligning curricula with evolving industry needs. Other than the newly introduced courses, in a major revision, the existing Mechatronics program was replaced with a newly designed Robotic Engineering program, reaffirming PCT&VI's

commitment to offering cutting-edge, industry-relevant education. The proposals were formally approved by the Competent Authority.

Admissions for all newly approved and existing programs will be announced soon, expanding opportunities for students from Gwadar, Makran and beyond.

The latest decisions build on the institute's recent efforts to expand training opportunities in line with economic trends. In September, PCT&VI opened admissions for short-term courses in artificial intelligence, e-commerce and other digital skills, with support from Chinese faculty.

The three-month programs, covering data analytics, generative AI, Python programming, mobile application development, freelancing and digital marketing, are designed to equip local youth with in-demand skills for the digital economy under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Earlier this week, when the list of successful candidates was announced, a significant number of female students from Gwadar were among those enrolled in various short courses, a promising sign of increasing female participation in technical education and digital trades.



KHANEWAL: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday visited Khanevali to offer condolences to Member of the National Assembly, Muhammad Khan Daba on the demise of his father, senior PML-N leader and former provincial minister Haji Irfan Ahmed Khan Daba.

COAS warns India no room for war in nuclearised environment

KAKUL (INP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Field Marshal Asim Munir on Saturday cautioned India that there was "no space for war in a nuclearised environment" as he hailed Pakistan's "clear victory" during the May conflict with the neighbouring country.

Addressing a passing-out parade at the Pakistan Military Academy (PMA) in Kakul, COAS Munir said, "I advise and firmly caution India's military leadership that there is no space for war in a nuclearised environment."

Calling on New Delhi to settle core issues as per international norms, the army

chief asserted, "We will never be intimidated nor coerced by your rhetoric and shall respond decisively, beyond proportions, to even a minor provocation without any qualms." "Should a fresh wave of hostilities be triggered, Pakistan would respond much beyond the expectations of the initiators," COAS Munir warned. The army chief declared, "The battle-hardened army, which has fought for over two decades in the sub-conventional domain, has successfully displayed its capabilities in the conventional domain, as well as by delivering a swift and decisive blow to the adversary."

"Ever since the creation of Pakistan, the armed forces, with full support of the nation, have defended the external and internal passing out parade of cadets of 152nd PMA Long Course, 71st Integrated Course, 26th Lady Cadet Course, 37th Technical Graduate Course was held at Pakistan Military Academy Kakul.

Cadets from several friendly countries including Iraq, Palestine, Qatar, Mali, Nepal, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Yemen, Bangladesh and Nigeria also graduated from Pakistan Military Academy. Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir graced the

occasion as chief guest.

The Chief of Army Staff reviewed the parade and gave awards to distinguished cadets. The coveted Sword of Honour was awarded to Academy Senior Under Officer Ahmed Mujtaba Arif Raja of 152nd PMA Long Course. The President's Gold Medal to Battalion Senior Under Officer Zohair Hussain of 152nd PMA Long Course.

Commandant's Canes were awarded to Course Under Officer Sayed Abdul Hadi of 71st Integrated Course and Course Under Officer Hafiz Fayyaz of 26th Lady Cadet Course.

Country moving forward to gain economic growth: PM Shehbaz

JAHANIAN (INP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Saturday said that Pakistan's economy had achieved stability, financial indicators were positive and the country was moving forward to gain economic growth.

He was speaking to ministers, members of Parliament and the Punjab assembly at the residence of member National Assembly Chaudhry Iftikhar Nazir.

He said when his government came in power, the country was facing difficult economic conditions and the government

had to sign an agreement with International Monetary Fund (IMF) to save Pakistan from economic default.

He said that during the last one and a half year, the federal and Punjab governments had served Pakistan and Punjab well. During a recent meeting, he said he appreciated Chief Minister Punjab and her team for their efforts to help people during floods.

He appreciated the Punjab government for its excellent performance in the areas of health, education, transport, communication and road

construction. "We are serving Pakistan day and night with hard work, honesty and sincerity," he remarked.

He said Pakistan defeated India in the four day war and achieved victory with the prayers of the people and bravery of the Pakistan army, navy and air force.

Pakistan's armed forces led by Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir and Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber wrote a new chapter as they resoundingly defeated India, he observed adding the government also achieved success on the diplomatic front and signed a defence

pact with Saudi Arabia.

The Saudi leadership expressed its strong affinity with Pakistan, he mentioned.

The Prime Minister said during his visit to New York and Washington, he held meetings with the US President Donald Trump and along with leaders of the Islamic countries, played role to stop the oppression in Gaza.

The situation in Gaza was very bad as women, children, youth and elders were getting martyred and schools and hospitals were being destroyed, he continued.

October 27 stands as a stark reminder of India's forceful occupation of Kashmir

ISLAMABAD (INP): The October 27 stands as a stark reminder of India's forceful occupation of Kashmir as Kashmiris in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and across the globe observe it as Black Day, marking the day in 1947 when India forcibly landed its troops in Jammu and Kashmir against the will of its people, beginning an unlawful occupation that continues to suppress their aspirations and deny their right to self-determination.

According to the Kashmir Media Service, October 27 is remembered as the darkest chapter in Kashmir's history, marking the start of decades of military occupation, repression and the systematic denial of fundamental rights.

On this day in 1947, India invaded Jammu and Kashmir in blatant violation of the Partition Plan a move widely regarded as illegal under international law.

Since then, the deployment of Indian forces has only intensified the suffering, subjugation, and dispossession of the Kashmiri people.

Every year, Kashmiris around the world commemorate

October 27 with protests, public gatherings, and solidarity events, reaffirming their unwavering resolve to resist Indian rule and reject New Delhi's unlawful occupation of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

Despite numerous United Nations resolutions affirming the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination through a free and impartial plebiscite, India continues to defy international commitments.

Under the BJP-led Hindutva regime, repression has worsened marked by a brutal crackdown on political dissent, demographic manipulation, and a sweeping erosion of civil liberties leaving Kashmiris stripped of their basic rights and freedoms.

Observers note that India's persistent denial of the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination stands as a grave affront to the global conscience.

The unwavering resistance of Kashmiris, in the face of decades of oppression, demands urgent international attention, support, and meaningful action to uphold justice and restore peace in the region.

WAPDA hands over Plots, Final Payments to Dasu HPP-affected families

ISLAMABAD (INP): In a significant step towards community rehabilitation, Pakistan's Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) distributed final payments and handed over resettlement plots to 65 households displaced by the Dasu Hydropower Project (DHPP), one of Pakistan's largest clean energy initiatives being developed with the expertise of Chinese companies.

The Final Payment Distribution and Plot Handover Ceremony was held at the GM/PO Office in WAPDA Colony, Choochang, District General Social Safeguard Brig (Retd.) Khalid Khan Jadoon of WAPDA and

Achlie Gullepo, Project Manager of Dasu Hydro Consultant (DHC), handed over resettlement plot certificates and Temporary Relocation Package (TRP) cheques to the affected families.

Gwadar Pro reported on Saturday. According to the project statement, this milestone marks a major advancement in the Dasu HPP's comprehensive resettlement program, aimed at ensuring displaced communities receive fair compensation, improved housing, and opportunities to rebuild their lives in the newly established Khush-i-Risalat Villages.

"This handover is more than a transaction; it's a promise of renewed livelihoods and better futures," said Brig (Retd.) Jadoon.

"We are committed to ensuring that all families affected by the Dasu project are resettled with dignity and support." The DHPP required the acquisition of 4,643 hectares of land, directly affecting 767 households from 34 hamlets and villages.

The project has also documented and protected several community assets, including mosques, schools, health units, rock carvings, and a historic mosque, under a Resettlement Framework that guides land acquisition and ensures fair compensation and rehabilitation.

Chinese companies play a central role in the project's development. China Gezhouba Group Co. Ltd. (CGGC) is the main contractor for Main Works-01, including the RCC dam, spillways, and river diversions. China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC) is building the Right Access Road, while China Gansu International Corporation for Economic and Technical Cooperation (CGICOP) constructed the Project Colony. Power Construction Corporation of China (PCCC) holds the contract for the transmission line between the Dubai Khwar HPP and Dasu HPP.

The incident took place in Block No. 14 of Federal B Area in Karachi. Senior Superintendent of Police Central Zeeshan Siddique said that a case is registered against the accused in Joharabad Police Station in Karachi.

Earlier, on October 10, 2025, a polio worker was killed in a suspected targeted attack on the Super Highway.

Site Superhighway Industrial Area SHO Wilayat Shah said that Rehmanullah, 30, was on his way to Surjan Town on a motorcycle when he was killed. The police team remained safe, according to the police.

opened fire on him near Jamia-tu-Rashed. He sustained critical bullet wounds and was taken to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital, where doctors pronounced him dead.

The victim was a resident of Quetta Town near Madras Chowk.

On October 15, militants had killed a police officer guarding polio vaccination workers in Nowsheer District.

The policeman was killed on the third day of a nationwide anti-polio campaign targeting 45 million children.

Two standing guard outside when he was attacked. Pakistan is one of two countries, along with Afghanistan, where polio remains endemic, but militants have killed hundreds of police officers and health workers over the past decade as

part of a campaign against the Pakistani state.

Pakistan recorded a surge in polio cases last year, with 74 infections reported, compared to just six in 2023.

So far this year, 29 polio cases have been recorded, with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa accounting for 18 cases, the highest in the country.

Polio, a highly infectious virus mainly affecting children under five, can result in lifelong paralysis but is easily prevented by the oral administration of a few drops of a vaccine.

There is a raft of misinformation circulating about the vaccine in rural Pakistan, including that it is a CIA plot to stop Muslims from having children.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Jafar Khan Mandokhail offering Fatcha on the death of late Haji Naseeb Khan Mandokhail.

Four arrested for torturing polio team in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): Police have arrested four people for torturing members of a polio team as they were taking part in a vaccination campaign in Karachi.

The incident took place in Block No. 14 of Federal B Area in Karachi. Senior Superintendent of Police Central Zeeshan Siddique said that a case is registered against the accused in Joharabad Police Station in Karachi.

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Wednesday's attack was claimed by a militant group called Ittehad-ul-Mujahideen Pakistan, a local offshoot of the Pakistani Taliban.

A day earlier on Tuesday (October 14), a Levies constable deployed for the security of a polio team was killed when unidentified assailants opened fire on him in Swat district.

The polio workers were administering vaccines inside a house while the constable was standing guard outside when he was attacked.

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HYDERABAD: Irrigation Kotri Barrage employees union level allegations General Secretary M asraf Kolachi speaking at a press conference at HPC.