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Thursday 13
November, 2025

Balochistan Government Temporarily Suspends Transport Services on Loralai Route (N-70) Amid Security Concerns

Internet and Cellular Services Suspended Across Balochistan Amid Heightened Security Threats



Qasem Shah, News

Desk: QUETTA: Internet and mobile phone services have been suspended for the second consecutive day in various parts of Balochistan, including the provincial capital Quetta and its suburban areas, due to serious security threats, sources in the Home Department confirmed.

According to officials, the suspension was imposed as a precautionary measure fol-

lowing intelligence alerts regarding possible terror activities. The Home Department stated that the step aims to ensure peace and prevent any untoward incidents across the province.

Security has been tightened throughout Balochistan, particularly in Quetta, where a heavy contingent of police, Frontier Corps (FC), and other law enforcement agencies has been deployed. Strict checking

is being carried out at all entry and exit points of the provincial capital, with authorities maintaining close surveillance on movements in and out of the city.

The shutdown of internet and cellular services has caused severe disruption for citizens. Students, journalists, doctors, business professionals, and other segments of society have been among the worst affected, struggling to carry out routine

tasks due to the communication blackout.

Meanwhile, several private educational institutions in Quetta have announced temporary closures until November 16, citing security concerns.

Officials have urged citizens to remain calm and cooperate with law enforcement agencies as security operations continue. Services are expected to be restored once the threat level decreases.



At least 14 security forces personnel injured in DI Khan bomb attack

KP CM calls for 'policy shift' by including stakeholders in counterterrorism decisions

NEWS DESK: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi on Wednesday called for a "shift" in the Centre's counterterrorism policies by including all stakeholders in the decision-making process, as his government convened a multi-party jirga.

The peace jirga had been called by the KP government to discuss the law and order situation in KP and discuss strategies for re-establishing peace in the province. At the previous jirga held in the Khyber district on October 25, CM Afridi had warned against launching any new military operation in the tribal districts.

"I expect that a durable and permanent solution to this menace of terrorism, which has been eating away at Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for more than 20 years, will be found," CM Afridi said while addressing the moot.

The KP CM called for a policy shift, which he said would entail "coming out of the closed rooms, considering other individuals intelligent, considering politicians as wise", and including security forces, stakeholders of KP, leaders of all political parties, and members of all schools of thought

are participating in the moot as well.

KP Speaker Babar Saleem Swati is chairing the jirga, with PTI MNA Junaid Akbar and PML-N's Ibadullah Khan, the opposition leader in the KP Assembly, also seated on the stage.

At the outset of his remarks, CM Afridi welcomed all attendees from various segments of political circles and civil society.

"We repeatedly speak of peace, but unfortunately, some people dislike it," the chief minister said. Noting that terrorism needed to be eliminated for peace to be achieved, CM Afridi said militancy had not been eradicated by "decisions taken behind closed doors and imposed on us".

"Our politics is each of our own, but our peace is shared," the chief minister said, highlighting that all political parties and the public of the province had given sacrifices in the war against terrorism.

"Our security forces, whether it's the army, the police or the CTD, they all gave sacrifices and then peace was established in 2018," Afridi noted.

The chief minister said war should be the last option for resolving any issue. CM Afridi reiterated the call for KP being given its complete due share in the National Finance Commission (NFC), which he said amounted to around Rs400 billion. He added that while erstwhile Fed-

dian involvement, the Fitra al-Khawarij and said "footprints of Afghanistan are also seen", the prime minister said India had subsequently issued remarks rubbishing the allegations.

"I don't need to say a lot. The terrorists who abducted a train in Balochistan, the Jaffer Express, we brought its evidence before the whole world how TTP and BLA were active from Afghanistan and were in contact with terrorists there and also with their supporters in India."

"We presented these facts before the whole world and no one challenged or rebuted them."

Thus, the prime minister said the notion that Pakistan's terrorist enemies were not involved in the attacks was akin to calling day

as night and vice versa. "I want to say something with great satisfaction and force to these terrorist elements and enemies of Pakistan that we are fully aware of your actions and we have given you a befitting response before and will do so again as well."

Referring to the negotiations with Afghanistan in Turkey, he said Pakistan had only one demand in the talks and for the past two years, that the Afghan Taliban rein in terrorist outfits operating from their soil and waging attacks here.

He said Pakistan wanted peace and for Afghanistan to become an equal partner in the endeavour because "we believe what is good for Pakistan is good for them and vice versa but this cannot happen that they make false promises and then don't clamp down [on terrorists]."

NA passes 27th Amendment Bill in chaotic session attended by political bigwigs

NEWS DESK: The National Assembly on Wednesday passed the 27th Constitutional Amendment Bill during a ruckus-marred session attended by political heavyweights, including Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, PML-N President Nawaz Sharif and PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari.

The bill was passed by a two-way voting process — voting by division and clause-by-clause voting. Presented in the house for voting by Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar, the bill will now be referred back to the Senate for the new amendments to be debated upon again and then will be passed by the upper house.

National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq said the bill received 234 votes in favour and four against.

Major amendments: Addition of Federal Constitutional Court to list of courts that cannot ratify act of high treason. Incumbent chief justice will continue to be known as the chief justice of Pakistan (CJP) during his term. CJP now means the senior among the chief justices of the Supreme Court and Federal Constitutional Court. Speaking on the occasion, PM Shehbaz said the house exhibited solidarity and national unity was promoted. He thanked the lawmakers on his behalf and that of the nation.

The prime minister also paid tribute to deceased PML-N senator Irfan Siddiqui, hailing him as the "teacher of teachers", and lauded his loyalty to Nawaz.

The premier also condemned the "dastardly" attempt by terrorists to carry out an incident in Wana, say-

ing the event made one think of the Army Public School massacre. "These khawarij, in which unfortunately Afghans were also involved, were all sent to hell and all cadets, students and teachers were safely rescued. I want to congratulate the nation on this and want to thank the army and law enforcement agencies who exhibited professionalism and saved the nation's youth," he added.

PM Shehbaz also addressed the suicide blast in Islamabad and said it was no hidden matter now that the hand of terrorists was plain to see in such incidents. Referring to his statement yesterday in which he had blamed In-



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Balochistan Government Temporarily Suspends Transport Services on Loralai Route (N-70) Amid Security Concerns

Staff Reporter: QUETTA, November 12, 2025: The Government of Balochistan has announced the temporary suspension of all transport services on the Loralai Route (National Highway N-70) due to security concerns and to maintain law and order in the region. According to an official statement issued by the Home Department, the suspension will remain in effect from November 12 to November 14, 2025.

The notification stated that all intercity transport services, including taxis, buses, and private vehicles, will remain halted along the N-70 route during this period. However, the restriction will not apply to local traffic within city or district limits, allowing



residents to travel for daily needs within their respective areas. The Home Department has directed all district administrations, police, and relevant authorities to ensure immediate implementation of the decision and make necessary arrangements to minimize inconvenience for citizens. Citizens have been advised to verify official travel advisories before planning any journey through the Loralai route to avoid possible disruption or delays. The Balochistan government expressed appreciation for public cooperation and urged residents to support the administration in implementing this temporary measure to preserve peace and stability across the province.

THE BALUCH VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

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



EDITORIAL: 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.

Previous Reforms and Political Reversals
The merger of the Levies Force into the police is not unprecedented. During General Pervez Musharraf's tenure, the force was initially merged with the

police under then-Chief Minister Jam Muhammad Yousaf. However, the move was reversed in 2008 by Nawab 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, modern, and well-equipped law enforcement system in the province.

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 Sarfraz Bugti stated that integrating the Levies with the police will enhance counterterrorism 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. Officials emphasize that the reform will strengthen institutional structure, reduce duplication, 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 reservations, arguing that the merger undermines their historical role, tribal identity, and trust-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 areas where the police system is 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.

The role of the federal government enhanced in HEC affairs

This is clear from the fact that the tenure of the chairman is reduced to two years and the role of the federal government has been enhanced in the HEC affairs. Inevitably, the same wizards in the government will oversee HEC, who have earned some interesting distinctions for us. For example, according to a UNICEF report, we have the second-largest number of out-of-school children after Nigeria, i.e., about 22.8 million children out of school. Only about 67% of our kids finish primary school; and only 55% of those in grade 5 can solve a two-digit subtraction (reported in a survey by South Asia Forum for

Education Development), not to mention the evil of evils—the class disparity ingrained in the system up to grade 12. As a result, the standard of higher education in the country will be, in no way, better than what we have at the primary and secondary levels.

Another consequence of the above scenario is that higher education will inspire attention at the helm in the provinces. While there is no harm in overseeing higher education at the provincial level, if unchecked, this will, however, incur its own heavy cost—one that is exemplified in the recent developments in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Initiating new universities with arbitrary plans, mysterious appointments of key university officials, increasing political influence in the university management, and wrecking the already scarce financial resources are among a few recent proceedings in higher education at KPK.

Similar occurrences are likely to follow in other provinces given the frail existence of the HEC. At the provincial level, higher education is merely treated as part of the riches to distribute among the stakeholders of the government.

The push for a subdued HEC will cause more than just saying goodbye to Dr. Binuri. The status of the Higher Education Commission has evolved as an institution in two decades, assimilating many essential attributes and continually weeding out ill practices along the way. Exactly when the institution was in the middle of its development, it was struck with an unneeded blow of an arbitrary ordinance. The events that followed, it has directly exposed higher education to the whims of the power corridors for good.

The push for a subdued HEC will cause more than just saying goodbye to Dr. Binuri.

The Future of Pakistan's Higher Education – Where Are We Heading

Dr. Faisal Ahmed Khan
One year on, the chaos continues at the highest institution mandated to oversee higher education in the country. At the Higher Education Commission, the current chairman, Dr. Tariq Binuri, is still battling for his survival. While Dr. Binuri might barely complete his term this May, the future of higher education in Pakistan is set on a downward spiral.

The Higher Education Commission had evolved as an institution in two decades, assimilating many essential attributes and continually weeding out ill practices along the way. Exactly when the institution was in the middle of its development, it was struck with an unneeded blow of an arbitrary ordinance. The events that followed, it has directly exposed higher education to the whims of the power corridors for good.

The status of the Higher Education Commission is fast on its way to becoming a mere equivalent of a board of intermediate and secondary education overseeing tertiary education. It is approaching being completely subsumed in the black hole of public officialdom. Perhaps it was frowned upon as a peculiar case in the public sector for its relatively superior standards in education and governance. Therefore, it was felt that it needed to be governed by colleagues who oversee the rest of the education domain.

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Current Financial position of PPL

The government of Balochistan only got slightly above Rs.3.0 billion as Royalty from the Sui Field Legal position. Legally after 18th Constitutional Amendment, Article 172(3), province of Origin should have an equal share in the profit of oil and gas companies operating in a province. In this case, no such arrangement has been made even after a lapse of 10 years. So it is the right of the province to claim its interest in the profits of the company.

The company divested 5% shares to the public in 2014 and the government of Balochistan was not consulted in violation of the Constitution.

PPL and the Case of Balochistan

Mehfooz Ali Khan
As Secretary of Finance, I had initiated a case for getting Balochistan in PPL, the biggest oil and gas producing company. This company owes all its assets based on Balochistan's Sui Gas Field. Unfortunately, political leadership didn't press for its due share.

Here is my analysis of PPL from inception (E&P) sector. Recent developments have not been captured, but it tells the story.

Overview
Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) has been a major player in the energy sector since the mid-1950s.

As a major supplier of natural gas, PPL today contributes over 20 percent of the country's total natural gas supplies besides producing crude oil, Natural Gas Liquid, and Liquefied Petroleum Gas.

The company's history can be traced back to the establishment of a public limited company in June 1950.

With a major shareholding by Burma Oil Company (BOC) of the United Kingdom for exploration, prospecting, development, and

production of oil and natural gas resources.

PPL employees were allotted 12 percent shares from the government's equity

In September 1997, BOC disinvested from the Exploration and Production (E&P) sector worldwide and sold its equity in PPL to the Government of Pakistan (GoP). Subsequently, the government reduced its holding through an initial public offering in June 2004, which was further decreased with the initiation of the Benazir Employees' Share Ownership Scheme (BESOS) in August 2009 when PPL employees were allotted 12 percent equity from the government's equity.

More recently, GoP further disinvested its 5 percent share, reducing its 55.5 percent of the total paid-up capital, in PPL through a Secondary Public Offering in 2014. Currently, the company's shareholding is divided between the government, which owns

about 68 percent, PPL Employees Empowerment Trust which has approximately 7 percent, and private investors, which hold nearly 25 percent. PPL has acquired 100 percent shareholding of MND E&P Limited, a company incorporated in England and Wales. The name of the subsidiary has been changed to PPL Europe E&P Limited.

PPL operates eight producing fields across the country



The company has also established a wholly-owned subsidiary, PPL Asia E&P B.V., with a corporate seat in Amsterdam, Kingdom of Netherlands. The subsidiary will focus on the exploration and production of oil and gas in the region. PPL has assigned its interest in Block 8, Iraq, under the Exploration, Development, and Production Service Contract with Midland Oil Company, Iraq to PPL Asia E&P B.V.

PPL operates eight producing fields across the country at Sui (Pakistan's largest gas field), Adhi, Kandhkot, Chachar, Mazrani, Adam, Adam West and Shaddad and holds working interest in fifteen partner-operated producing fields, including Qadirpur the country's second-largest gas field.

As a major stakeholder in securing a safe energy future for the country, PPL pursues an aggressive exploration agenda aimed at enhancing hydrocarbon recovery and replenishing reserves. PPL, together with its subsidiaries has

a portfolio of 47 exploration assets of which the company operates 27, including one contract in Iraq, while 20 blocks, comprising three offshore leases in Pakistan and two onshore concessions in Yemen, are operated by joint venture partners.

PPL has developed a reliable foundation and infrastructure for providing clean and safe energy

Over the years, PPL has developed a reliable foundation and infrastructure for providing clean and safe energy through sustainable exploitation of indigenous natural resources while adhering to best practices of corporate governance and employee health and safety and constraining the ecological footprint of its operations. As a result, Monitoring and Inspection, Design and Construction, Drilling and Well Engineering, Joint Operations, Operational Technical Support Ser-

vices and Projects departments, Mazrani, Adhi and Kandhkot fields, Sui Field Gas Compressor Station, Sui Production, Sui Field Engineering and Sui Purification stand certified for ISO 9001 Quality Management System.

Similarly, Kandhkot, Mazrani and Adhi fields, Sui Production, Sui Field Gas Compressor Station, Sui Field Stores, Sui Field Engineering and Drilling and Well Engineering, Design and Construction, Projects, Health, Safety and Environment and Exploration departments and Sui Field Hospital have been certified for ISO 14001 Environmental Management System and OHSAS 18001 Occupational Health and Safety Assessment Series. Sui Purification is certified for OHSAS 18001.

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ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr. Musadik Malik held a meeting today with a World Bank delegation led by Ms. Melormaa Amgaabazar, Country Director for Pakistan.

Dr. Musadik Malik and World Bank Delegation Explore Partnership and Development Priorities

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Senator Dr. Musadik Malik, held a meeting today with a World Bank delegation led by Ms. Melormaa Amgaabazar, Country Director for Pakistan, and Mr. Gallus Drangalis.

The meeting centered on the factors contributing to Pakistan's macroeconomic instability and inflationary pressures. Dr. Malik highlighted that one of the key challenges faced by Pakistan is the presence of tactical hurdles in project implementation, which often delay progress and diminish impact.

The Minister stressed the need for

strategic clarity and noted that many current development projects are high-budget but low-skill, lacking scalability and cost-efficiency. "Our focus must be on projects that are both scalable and sustainable, capable of delivering large-scale benefits to the people," he emphasized.

He further pointed out that the repositioning of development funds away from their intended sectors, such as education, population benefits, women empowerment, and health, creates long-term systemic inefficiencies and undermines national priorities.

The World Bank delegation reaffirmed its commitment to Pakistan, outlining a 10-year en-

agement framework across six key areas: starting redoubt, climate resilience, private sector development, education, population management, and energy sector reform.

During the meeting, the World Bank also presented the Country Partnership Framework (FY26-FY35), which is a culmination of two years of extensive consultations defining the strategic roadmap for the institution's collaboration with Pakistan. Both sides discussed ongoing and prospective projects under this framework, agreeing to enhance coordination to ensure effective delivery and alignment with Pakistan's climate and development priorities.

Sri Lankan High Commissioner Meets Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi; Expresses Satisfaction Over Security Arrangements for Visiting Team

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Interior Minister and PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi met today with Sri Lankan High Commissioner Rear Admiral (R) Fred Siriweera. Team managers of the Sri Lankan and Pakistani cricket teams, PCB Chief Operating Officer Sameer Ahmed, Chief Commissioner Islamabad, and Inspector General Islamabad Police were also present on the occasion.

During the meeting,

the Chief Commissioner and the IG Islamabad Police gave a detailed briefing on the security being provided to the Sri Lankan team. The Sri Lankan High Commissioner expressed deep grief over the loss of precious lives in the recent terrorist attack in Islamabad. He conveyed heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and expressed solidarity with the Government of Pakistan. Talking to the Sri Lankan High Com-

missioner, Mohsin Naqvi said that the players of the Sri Lankan cricket team are our state guests and all necessary measures have been ensured for their footproof security. He emphasized that the Sri Lankan High Commissioner expressed satisfaction over the security arrangements made for the team.

Federal Minister for Investment Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh Highlights Reform-led Growth at the 5th Pakistan Prosperity Forum 2025

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Investment and Chairman, Board of Investment (BOI), Mr. Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, attended the 5th Pakistan Prosperity Forum 2025 as Chief Guest at the Marriott Hotel, Islamabad. The event, organized by the Policy Research Institute of Market Economy (PRIME), focused on the theme "Reforms for Growth."

In his keynote address,

Mr. Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh emphasized that sustainable economic growth is impossible without deep structural reforms. He stated that Pakistan's investment policy revolves around predictability, transparency, and investor con-

fidence, which are the cornerstones of the country's economic reform strategy. The Minister highlighted the passage of the Asaan Karobar Act 2025 as a landmark step toward legally ensuring investor-friendly reforms. "This Act guarantees that no agency can impose any business condition not notified in the national regulatory registry—reform is now a legal duty," he said. He further noted that the Cabinet Committee on Regulatory Reforms (CCRR) and the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) are working in close cooperation to sustain the reform momentum and create an enabling business environment.

"Pakistan is now transitioning from a negotia-



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Board of Investment Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh Highlights Reform-led Growth at the 5th Pakistan Prosperity Forum 2025.

SAPM Highlights Structural Reforms and Industrial Revival at Pakistan Prosperity Forum 2025

ISLAMABAD (INP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Industries and Production, Mr. Haroon Akhtar Khan, reaffirmed the government's commitment to comprehensive economic reform and industrial revival while addressing the Pakistan Prosperity Forum 2025, hosted by the Policy Research Institute of Market Economy (PRIME) in Islamabad.

The event, titled "Charting a New Path Toward Limited Government and Lower Taxes," brought together leading policymakers, economists, and thought leaders to deliberate on the role of liberty, economic freedom, and private sector dynamism in shaping Pakistan's economic future.

In his keynote remarks, Mr. Haroon Akhtar Khan emphasized that Pakistan stands today at a critical inflection point in its economic journey, where the government is determined to replace short-term fixes with long-term, systemic reforms. "Economic stability is not achieved by 5% growth, it is built through consistency, credibility, and competence," he stated, echoing the vision of Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Mr. Khan outlined the government's reform agenda across three major areas — tariff rationalization, regulatory modernization, and industrial revival.

He announced that under the New National Tariff Policy, Pakistan is transitioning from protectionism to competitiveness. The government has simplified the tariff structure into just four slabs—0%, 5%, 10%, and 15%—and is phasing out all Additional and Regulatory

Duties. "We are making three reform packages, saving businesses more than Rs. 250 billion annually in compliance costs. The Asaan Karobar Act 2025 will be-

been delivered under the SECP, State Bank, and Pakistan Banking Association. This framework will enable the re-structuring of non-performing industrial assets and promote strategic

"We are shifting the paradigm from protectionism to productivity, from ad-hoc incentives to performance-based rewards, and from import dependence to



ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Haroon Akhtar Khan addressed the Pakistan Prosperity Forum as chief guest at National Industrial Policy.

in annual cost savings for industries."

Highlighting industrial diversification, Mr. Khan said the policy encourages value addition and technology-intensive sectors, including artificial intelligence, electric vehicles, chemicals, and green technologies.

While some nations weaponize tariffs, Pakistan is rationalizing them, lowering costs, building resilience, and integrating into global value chains," he remarked.

Mr. Khan also elaborated on the government's second major initiative—the Regulatory Guillotine and Reform Initiative, being implemented through the Board of Investment. He stated that 465 regulatory simplifications have already

gally anchor these reforms," he added.

Turning to the centerpiece of the government's economic transformation, Mr. Khan unveiled the National Industrial Policy 2025, describing it as "a blueprint for national revival."

Formulated after extensive consultations with stakeholders from the State Bank of Pakistan, SECP, FBR, and major chambers of commerce, the policy aims to restore investor confidence, revive manufacturing capacity, and integrate Pakistan into regional and global value chains.

He announced the launch of the Revival and Debt Resolution Framework for Sick Industrial Units, developed in partnership with

partnerships through the newly established National Industrial Commission (NIC).

Reiterating the government's resolve to ensure a business-friendly environment, Mr. Khan stated that the has-rassment-free regulation, grievance redressal mechanisms, and investor facilitation are being strengthened to encourage compliance through government, private sector, and academia to work together for a future defined by shared prosperity and sustainable growth.

The SAPM further highlighted energy and tax reforms, including preferential electricity tariffs for high-tech greenfield industries such as EVs, batteries, and data centers, as well as plans to phase out the super tax and move toward a balanced, growth-oriented tax regime.

"The path to prosperity is neither easy nor instant," he concluded, "but as the saying goes, 'The best time to plant a tree was 10 years ago; the second best time is now.'"

Cowardly suicide attacks can never shake Pakistanis' determination: Minister

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhary on Wednesday condemned the tragic suicide attack in Islamabad, saying such cowardly acts could never shake the determination of the Pakistani nation or its security institutions to root out terrorism.

During his visit to the hospital to inquire about the condition of those injured in the suicide attack outside the Islamabad district courts, he said,

"Those who think they can destabilize Pakistan through such heinous acts are mistaken. Our people and our forces remain steadfast and united."

The minister expressed deep gratitude to doctors, hospital staff, and security forces for their prompt and dedicated response following the attack, which claimed 12 lives and left dozens injured.

He specially thanked Dr. Imran and the entire medical team for efficiently handling the emergency situation.

"I am grateful to our doctors, nurses, and administration who worked tirelessly to save lives and provide the best possible care to the injured," he added.

Dr. Tariq Fazal said 35 injured persons were brought to the hospital, of whom 13

Pakistan Customs Seizes 15.2 KG of Crystal Methamphetamine Worth RS: 910 Million from Passenger Bus in D.I. Khan

ISLAMABAD (INP): In a major anti-smuggling operation, the Customs Enforcement team, acting on credible information conveyed by the Deputy Collector Customs, D.I. Khan-II, under the directions of the Collector Customs (Enforcement), Peshawar, successfully intercepted a large quantity of foreign-origin narcotics from a passenger bus during a routine vigilance check at IP-JCP Aman Mela.

Upon thorough inspection of the suspected Daewoo bus bearing Registration No. CAI-4488, Customs officials recovered foreign-origin narcotics ICE (Crystal Methamphetamine) concealed inside three specially designed inverters placed in the bus.

The driver and conductor were arrested on the spot, and an FIR was lodged against them. The recovered narcotics comprised 15 packets of foreign-origin substance resembling ICE (Crystal Methamphetamine), weighing a total of 15,350 grams (net 15,200 grams after sampling).

The estimated value of the narcotics is Rs. 910,200 million, while the value of the seized Daewoo bus is Rs. 15,000 million, bringing the total estimated value of the case to Rs. 925,200 million.

As the recovered narcotics were being transported from IP-JCP Aman Mela to the State Warehouse, the Customs staff came under attack by unidentified miscreants, who opened straight and indiscriminate fire on the bus.

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The driver and



Khawaja Asif hints at military action against terrorist sanctuaries inside Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): Defence Minister Khawaja Asif hinted at possible military action against terrorist sanctuaries inside Afghanistan in response to the recent surge in terrorist attacks in Pakistan. Speaking during a

private TV talk show, he said Pakistan would not ignore the escalating wave of terrorism and would respond decisively if the situation regarding militant sanctuaries in Afghanistan worsens. "The Afghan

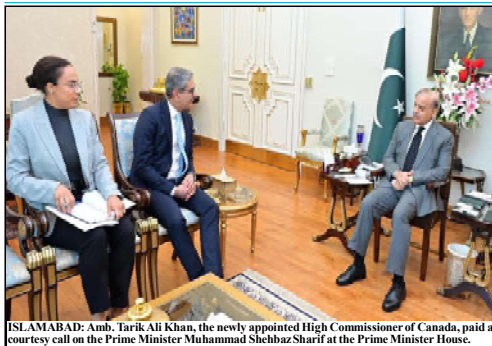
Taliban's words of condemnation and regret are limited to statements only, they do not reflect sincerity," Asif said. He added that terrorists operating from Afghan soil continue to target Pakistan, stressing that most recent attacks have been carried out by Afghan nationals. Referring to the recent Cadet College Wana attack, the minister said the Pakistan Army conducted a successful operation, saving the lives of all ca-

dets by the grace of Allah. Commenting on India's role, Khawaja Asif claimed that India is using Afghanistan's territory to carry out hostile activities against Pakistan. "There should be no misunderstanding — our

neighbour's animosity is now fully exposed," he added. The defence minister warned India and Afghanistan against any misadventure, saying Pakistan would "pay back in the same coin." He emphasized

that Pakistan remains on high alert regarding India's intentions and is fully prepared to respond to any aggression. Khawaja Asif further said that while friendly countries are welcome to mediate, Pakistan has no trust in

mere verbal assurances from the Afghan Taliban. "Even the mediators know that India is behind these acts," he asserted, adding that terrorists receive funding from Indian consulates in Afghanistan.



ISLAMABAD: Amb. Tarik Ali Khan, the newly appointed High Commissioner of Canada, paid a courtesy call on the Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at the Prime Minister House.

Senate Deputy Chairman visits Siddiqui's residence to offer condolences, sympathy to bereaved family

ISLAMABAD (INP): Deputy Chairman Senate, Syedda Khan, visited the residence of late Senator Irfan Siddiqui to offer heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the bereaved family.

He prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul and for strength and patience for the family to bear this irreparable loss.

Expressing deep sorrow over the demise of Senator Irfan Siddiqui, the Deputy Chairman described him as "a towering figure of intellect, dignity,

and grace." He said Senator Siddiqui's services in the fields of politics, journalism, and literature would be remembered with great respect and admiration.

"Senator Irfan Siddiqui leaves behind a remarkable legacy of thought, writing, and statesmanship," said Syedda Khan. "His contributions to parliamentary democracy and his role in promoting democratic values will always be remembered."

Chairman further remarked that Senator Siddiqui's role in the Pakistan Muslim League (N) and within the Parliament was both an honour and a learning experience. "Every decision he made reflected his principles, tolerance, and dignity," he added.

Highlighting the late senator's multidimensional persona, Syedda Khan said: "He was not only an accomplished politician but also a distinguished scholar, writer, and a man of refined character. His

literary, social, and political contributions are truly unforgettable."

"Working alongside Senator Irfan Siddiqui was both an honour and a learning experience," the Deputy Chairman noted. "He inspired everyone around him through his intellect, humility, and unwavering commitment to values." It may be recalled that Deputy Chairman Senate Syedda Khan also attended the funeral of late Senator Irfan Siddiqui a day earlier.

IMCG G-10/4 celebrates funfair with colour, music and joy

ISLAMABAD, Nov 12 (INP): Islamabad Model College for Girls (Postgraduate) G-10/4s radiated festive splendour on Wednesday as the much-anticipated Funfair transformed the campus into a vibrant celebration of colour, laughter, and youthful energy. Organised under the dynamic leadership of Principal Prof. Sadia Ibrar, the event was graced by the distinguished presence of Prof. Shazia Harris as the chief guest.

The festivities commenced with a ceremonial cake cutting and ribbon-cutting ceremony, followed by rhythmic drumbeats that echoed across the college grounds, setting the tone for a joyous day.

The college lawns blossomed into a lively carnival scene — alive with exhilarating rides, playful swings, and bustling food stalls. From aromatic biryani and sizzling pizza to crispy sandwiches,

Maqbool Siddiqui stresses need for full implementation of Article 140-A of the Constitution

ISLAMABAD, Nov 12 (INP): Federal Minister for education and Professional Training Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui on Wednesday stressed the need for the full implementation of Article 140-A of the Constitution to ensure devolution of powers to the grassroots level and safeguard the democratic and economic rights of the people.

Speaking in the National Assembly during debate on the 27th Constitutional Amendment, Dr. Khalid said the proposed amendment could become a source of justice, stability, prosperity, unity, and national defence.

However, he was of the view that the benefits of democracy

in Pakistan had yet to reach the common people due to insufficient devolution of power. "The goal of Pakistan's prosperity must not be limited to the rulers; it must reflect the well-being of all 250 million Pakistanis," he said.

Dr. Khalid added that MQM-Pakistan supported the amendment in good faith, believing it would strengthen the country's defence, stability, security, and democratic institutions.

He warned that whenever democracy takes root at the national level, basic governance often fades, depriving citizens of meaningful participation in decision-making. "Article 140-

A was introduced precisely to enable devolution so that people's fundamental rights and basic needs could be met," he said.

He clarified that MQM-P had made no personal or political demands, but sought only the implementation of the Supreme Court's ruling on Article 140-A. "Our call to make '140-A Plus' part of the Constitution is not for ourselves, but for the people," he emphasized.

The minister urged the government to ensure effective devolution of powers, enforcement of Article 140-A, and genuine public participation in governance so that true democracy could take root across the country.

No new cases reported in Capital's urban areas uring past 24 hours

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Federal capital has moved closer to becoming dengue-free as no new cases were reported in the urban areas during the past 24 hours, according to the latest dengue surveillance report. The only two sites reported during the past 24 hours, issued by the Islamabad District Administration, revealed that only eight new dengue cases were recorded across the capital, all from rural localities. Currently, 22 patients are under treatment in different hospitals of the city.

District Commissioner (DC) Irfan Nawaz Memon said the sharp decline in dengue cases was the result of the administration's zero-tolerance policy and continuous efforts by field teams. "The zero-case record in urban sectors is proof of the effective operations carried out by the dengue control teams," he

stated. According to the surveillance data, 29,241 sites across Islamabad were inspected during the ongoing campaign. During anti-larvae operations, dengue larvae were found positive at 80 sites while only two sites were declared negative. The district administration's teams conducted spray operations at 594 houses and carried out fogging in 815 high-risk zones within the last 24 hours. These targeted measures are part of the administration's broader plan to completely eliminate dengue from the capital.

DC Memon said the focused operations had helped declare most parts of the city dengue-free. He reiterated that any negligence in implementing dengue Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) would lead to strict legal action.

"Anyone found responsible for ignoring SOPs will be taken into custody," he warned. To ensure sustainable control over dengue, the administration plans to further intensify the spraying campaign in high-risk rural areas over the coming days. The DC also urged citizens to maintain cleanliness and support the ongoing anti-dengue drive by ensuring there is no stagnant water in their surroundings. "Public cooperation remains vital to achieving our goal of making Islamabad completely dengue-free," Memon

said, expressing confidence that with joint efforts of the administration and residents, the city will soon be rid of the disease. The district administration continues to issue daily surveillance reports to assist the teams in keeping the public informed about the current dengue situation and preventive measures being undertaken. The remarkable reduction in dengue cases demonstrates the impact of coordinated surveillance, rapid response, and consistent monitoring at the community level. The campaign — involving house-to-house inspections, targeted fumigation, and strict oversight — reflects the administration's commitment to sustaining zero dengue transmission in the capital's urban zones.

Officials confirmed that ongoing activities will continue until all rural and peri-urban localities are cleared of the virus risk. Residents have also been encouraged to report any potential breeding sites to the district control room to assist the teams in timely response and eradication.

Abbottabad Police recover large quantity of weapons, ammunition

ABBOTTABAD (INP): Abbottabad Police recovered a large quantity of weapons and ammunition, while also tightening security and expanding the crackdown against drug peddlers across the district.

According to police, DSP Mirpur Shaheen Khan and SHO Mangal Ahsan Shakoor inspected security arrangements at the CPEC route, rest areas, foreign residential zones, and adjoining localities. During the visit, they reviewed patrolling systems, checkpoints, and the performance of personnel deployed at key security points.

DSP Shaheen Khan directed officers to maintain strict vigilance on suspicious activities and ensure foolproof security arrangements. Blockades were also established at public entry and exit points, while SHO Mangal Ahsan issued further instructions to enhance patrolling effectiveness.

Acting on the special directives of District Police Officer (DPO) Abbottabad Haroon Rashid Khan, SHO Cantonment Zubair Khan intercepted a suspicious van during patrolling.

Upon search, police recovered a large cache of weapons from the suspect, identified as Mudassar, son of Yaseen, resident of Peshawar. The recovered arms included seven 30-bore pistols, two 9mm pistols, and 6,000 rounds of ammunition. A case under the Arms Prohibition Act was registered, and the accused was taken into custody.

Meanwhile, under the supervision of DSP Cantt Circle Tahir Saleem, SHO Sherwan Ayaz Khan arrested a drug dealer, Fazal Rehman, son of Ghulam Rabbani, resident of Thathi Ahmad Khan, and recovered 1,395 grams of hashish from his possession. A case was registered under the Narcotics Prohibition Act.

In another action, SHO City Inspector Cadet Muhammad Nawaz continued the crackdown against narcotics dealers, arresting two suspects Sabeel ur Rehman, son of Asaf Jan, resident of Kunj Jaded, and Abdul Latif, son of Abdul Hameed, resident of Jabriyan and recovering 30 liters of liquor from their possession. Both were booked under the Narcotics Prohibition Act.

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ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq met with the Parliamentary delegation from the Federal Republic of Somalia led by Deputy Speaker House of People of the Federal Republic of Somalia Sadiya Yassin Haji at the Parliament House.

Ongoing development projects will serve as milestones for urban growth: Memon

KARACHI (INP): Sindh's Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon said that all institutions are working in complete coordination under the directives of the Chief Minister. Giving project updates, Sindh minister Sharjeel Memon said a new water pipeline is being laid from Aziz Bhatti Park to Urdu University to ensure long-term convenience for residents. "Although citizens may face temporary inconvenience,

these efforts are a step toward permanent solutions," he remarked, urging the public to cooperate as these projects are designed for their better future. Sharjeel Memon urged that initiatives such as the K-IV and Red Line projects are not merely construction activities but part of the Sindh government's broader vision to transform Karachi into a modern, well-facilitated city.

He added that the pace of all ongoing development projects has been accelerated, and immediate measures are being taken wherever public difficulties arise. "The Sindh government is working with a strong sense of public service, and very soon, the people of Karachi will witness the positive outcomes of these projects," he added.

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RAWALPINDI: Parliamentary Secretary for Information & Broadcasting, Barrister Dnyal Chaudhary at the inaugural ceremony of the new swimming pool and athletes' hostel at Liaquat Bhag Sports Complex. The ceremony was attended by Provincial Sports Minister Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar and other dignitaries.

Lashkari Raisani Condemns Opposition's Silence on Reinstatement of Balochistan Mines and Minerals Act

News Desk: QUETTA: Veteran politician and former senator Lashkari Raisani has criticized the "criminal silence" of opposition parties—both within and outside the Balochistan Assembly—over the reinstatement of the Balochistan Mines and Minerals Act, calling it a major threat to the province's control over its natural resources.

Addressing reporters at Sarawan House, Raisani revealed that his party had already filed a petition in court demanding a fresh review of the controversial law to ensure public ownership, transparency, and fair resource management. He expressed disappointment that no practical action had been taken so far. To address this, he said he had formally written to the leaders of all political parties, urging them to defend Balochistan's economic and mineral rights.

Raisani emphasized that Balochistan's natu-



ral wealth has fueled Pakistan's economy since the discovery of natural gas in Sui in 1954, which helped the country emerge as an "Asian Tiger." However, he lamented that federal governments and ruling elites have consistently exploited Balochistan's resources, leaving nearly 80 percent of its people below the poverty line, according to a United Nations subsidiary report.

He accused federal institutions and their local collaborators of enacting laws that legitimize the exploitation of Balochistan's minerals, warning that such actions undermine provincial autonomy and public welfare. "Through political movements and awareness campaigns, we are mobilizing citizens to stop the looting of our resources," he said.

Raisani noted that his party had raised the

issue in multiple All Parties Conferences (APCs) and through the opposition leader in the provincial assembly, eventually pressuring the Balochistan government to review and withdraw the disputed act through a joint resolution.

He recalled that Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti had announced the law's withdrawal through an executive order, promising to

reintroduce it after consultation with all stakeholders to address its flaws.

"Yet, no political party has been provided a copy of that executive order," Raisani revealed, adding that his group had again approached the judiciary to obtain it.

Calling the continued silence of opposition parties alarming, Raisani urged lawmakers, political leaders, and opposition figures to take responsibility for amending flawed legislation and safeguarding Balochistan's natural wealth.

Drawing comparisons, he said, "The chief ministers of Sindh and Punjab take concrete measures to protect their provinces' rights over water and finances, but when it comes to Balochistan, the focus remains on exploitation instead of protection."

He warned that future generations will not forgive today's leadership if they fail to protect provincial resources.

Balochistan High Court Upholds Appointment of SBK Women's University Registrar



NEWS DESK QUETTA:

The Balochistan High Court has issued a significant judgment approving the constitutional petition filed by Dr. Raheela Manzoor regarding her appointment as Registrar of Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University (SBKWU) Quetta. The division bench, comprising Justice Iqbal Ahmed and Justice Muhammad Najm-ud-Din Mengal, directed the concerned authorities to issue the official appointment notification and pay all dues and privileges effective from April 22, 2025.

Case Background

The petitioner contended that after fulfilling all legal requirements, the 19th Selection Board meeting was held on April 17, 2025, where she was shortlisted among candidates interviewed, and the Board unanimously recommended her for the post of Registrar. Subsequently, on April 22, 2025, the University Syndicate approved the Selection Board's recommendation.

However, despite the completion of all legal formalities, the office of the Chancellor/Governor of Balochistan halted the issuance of the appointment notification through a letter dated

April 24, 2025, citing alleged procedural irregularities. This compelled the petitioner to seek judicial intervention. The respondents argued that the process was questionable due to dissenting notes from some members of the Selection Board and the Syndicate, and that the Chancellor had referred the matter to the Senate under Section 24(2) of the Balochistan Universities Act, 2022. The Senate, in its meeting held on August 21, 2025, decided not to approve the appointment and directed that the post be re-advertised.

Court's Observations and Ruling

After examining the records and arguments, the Court observed that the recruitment process began through a public advertisement, was supervised by the Higher Education Commission (HEC), and the interviews were conducted by the duly constituted Selection Board. Under Section 24(2) of the Balochistan Universities Act, 2022, the Syndicate is the competent authority to approve such administrative appointments and its approval carries final legal effect.

(Reference: Balochistan University Act 2022 —

balochistancode.gov.pk) The bench further stated that the Chancellor/Governor's office had no judicial or appellate authority to suspend or annul a Syndicate decision unless bad faith or illegality was proven. The dissenting opinions of a few members could not override the majority decision of the Syndicate.

The Court termed the act of withholding the notification as arbitrary, unlawful, and contrary to Articles 4 and 27 of the Constitution of Pakistan (1973), which ensure protection of law, fair treatment, and equality before the law.

Key Directions The respondents must issue the official appointment notification of Dr. Raheela Manzoor as Registrar of Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University.

Quetta, within 15 days of receiving the judgment.

All salary dues and privileges must be paid retrospectively from April 22, 2025.

Copies of the order shall be sent to all relevant parties for compliance. This decision is seen as a landmark judgment emphasizing institutional autonomy, legal accountability, and transparency in university governance across Balochistan.

A meeting was held regarding the Measles & Rubella vaccination campaign.

LORALAI: An important meeting regarding the Measles and Rubella vaccination campaign was held at the DC Office Lorailai under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Lorailai Miran Baloch.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Bori Nadeem Akram, Deputy DHO Dr. Abdul Halim Omankhel, Deputy DHO Dr. Zaman Hanzaizi, WHO Dr. Zarak Khan, PHD Dr. Farhan Kakar, MMS Dr. Anwar Mandukhel, N-Staff Dr. Farhan CCO Muhammad Hashim, Focal Person Mukhtar Ahmed, representatives and heads of various line departments.

On this occasion, Dr. Zarak Khan of WHO said that like other parts of the country, the campaign against measles and rubella is being launched in Lorailai district on November 17, 2025, which will continue till November 29, 2025, so that children can be protected from

these deadly diseases by vaccination. He said that this vaccine is being given to children from 6 months to 4 years and 11 months.

The target is 38,000 so that they can be protected from diseases. On this occasion, Deputy DHO Dr. Abdul Halim Omankhel said that this is a national vaccination campaign in which representatives of all line departments and union councils will have to support the health department.

May the campaign be successful. In the concluding remarks of the meeting, Deputy

Commissioner Miran Baloch assured the health department officials that the district administration would provide all possible support. He said that the councilors of union councils and officers of the education department would be instructed to facilitate the success of the campaign in their areas.

On this occasion, he directed District Education Officer (Female) Fawzia to issue a letter to the headmasters of schools so that they fully cooperate with the health department during the awareness sessions.

In the meeting, the Project Director gave a detailed briefing on the project

A meeting was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Quetta Mehrullah Badini regarding the ongoing construction work of Samangali Road.

QUETTA: The meeting was attended by CEO Quetta Cantonment Board Mansoor Alam Khan, Project Director Quetta Development Project Rafique Baloch, Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Muhammad Anwar Kakar and officers of the relevant departments.

In the meeting, the Project Director gave a detailed briefing on the project



through a map. On this occasion, a detailed discussion was held on the obstacles hindering the Samangali Road project, especially the issues related to the boundaries of the Cantonment Board.

During the meeting, important decisions were also taken for the timely completion of the project. Deputy Commissioner

The Balochistan Food Authority's actions against substandard bakery products continue.

QUETTA: In this regard, BFA inspection teams conducted detailed inspections of several bakeries and baking units in Quetta, including the Balali and Kuchlak bypass areas. During the recent operations, a total of 86 bakery centers were checked, out of which 34 bakeries and baking units were fined for violations of food safety laws, including extremely inadequate sanitation arrangements.

While corrective notices were issued to the owners of 23 centers for minor defects. During the inspection, BFA teams seized a large quantity of stale, expired and substandard bakery products, while some harmful items were destroyed on the spot.

According to a BFA spokesperson, the campaign has been launched in light of public complaints to improve the quality of

Turbat: Border Trade to Resume at Sorab-Mand Point in Early December

TURBAT (News Desk): Deputy Commissioner Kech, Bashir Ahmed Badini, held an important meeting with Iranian officials at the Basnet Pargah Labd Border, focusing on enhancing bilateral trade and reopening the border trade route.

According to sources, the meeting discussed the revival of cross-border commerce, facilitation for the business community, and the establishment of a

more organized transportation system. It was decided that the border pillar No. 214 (Sorab-Mand Border) will be officially reopened for trade during the first week of December.

Deputy Commissioner Badini stated that the resumption of border trade will create new employment opportunities for local residents and strengthen the economy of the Sorab-Mand area. Officials from both sides will visit the

Sorab-Mand border point, while Iranian authorities are scheduled to inspect the site on December 1. Following these visits, the border will be formally opened for trade during the same week. Local residents and traders have welcomed the decision, expressing hope that the revival of border trade will boost the regional economy and further strengthen friendly and cooperative ties between Pakistan and Iran.



Balochistan Health Secretary Dawood Khan Khilji and Special Health Secretary Shahak Baloch visit to Shaheed Benazir Bhutto General Hospital

QUETTA: Balochistan Health Secretary Dawood Khan Khilji and Special Health Secretary Shahak Baloch paid a detailed visit to Shaheed Benazir Bhutto General Hospital, Gulistan Town, Quetta. Medical Superintendent Dr. Hassan Baloch, doctors, nursing staff and in-charges of related departments were also present on the occasion. The Health Secretary and Special Secretary inspected various departments of the hospital including Emergency, OPD, Laboratory, X-ray Unit, Operation Theatre. He inspected

the pharmacy and inpatient wards. He also reviewed the medical facilities provided to the patients, availability of medicines, cleanliness arrangements and staff attendance. Secretary Health Dawood Khan Khilji directed the hospital administration to leave no stone unturned in providing better and quality treatment to the patients.

While discipline and transparency should be ensured in all departments of the hospital. He also sought feedback from the patients regarding treatment and assured them of resolving their

problems. Secretary Health Dawood Khan Khilji said on the occasion that the health department is taking steps to further improve the provision of facilities in government hospitals of the province.

He said that the government of Balochistan is committed to providing basic health facilities to the people at their doorsteps.

At the end of the visit, the Health Secretary and Special Secretary appreciated the work of the hospital administration and offered further suggestions for improvement.



PM Shehbaz to meet CEOs of Amazon, Alibaba, and Walmart

NEWS DESK: A high-level meeting on Tuesday finalised a list of Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of global retail companies, including Amazon, Alibaba and Walmart, to arrange a meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

These companies represent several countries, including the United States (US), China, the United Kingdom (UK), Germany, the Netherlands and France. Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, Federal Minister for National Food Security Rana Tanveer Hussain, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) Haroon Akhtar Khan, and Minister of State for Finance and Railways Bilal Azhar Kayani attended the meeting in Islamabad.

The meeting discussed preparations for the upcoming interaction between PM Sharif and the CEOs of the top 20 companies in Pakistan. The federal ministers reviewed arrangements and the invitation process for the



CEOs to meet the prime minister. Participants also deliberated on strategic measures to promote investment in Pakistan and highlight the country's economic and geopolitical significance on the global stage.

SAPM Haroon Akhtar Khan emphasised that Pakistan holds immense strategic importance and offers vast investment opportunities across multiple sectors. He added that the prime minister's upcoming meeting with the top CEOs would be a "game-

changer for Pakistan's economy." Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan stated that trade policies are being aligned with modern global trends to ensure sustainable economic growth, while Food Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain highlighted the need to adopt modern technology to enhance agricultural productivity.

Minister of State Bilal Azhar Kayani noted that stability in the investment sector would lead to employment opportunities and sustainable economic development.

PM Shehbaz also mentioned that the government's outreach to ambassadors and global stakeholders is part of a broader effort to project Pakistan's positive image internationally. The ministers reiterated that the government views the private sector as a strong and essential partner in national development. They affirmed that PM Sharif's investment-friendly policies are yielding tangible, positive outcomes for Pakistan's economy.

PSX suffers 3,668 point plunge, as 27th Amendment, terror reports trigger sell-off

NEWS DESK: Following a robust rally a day ago, the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) saw a sharp reversal on Tuesday as heavy selling pulled the benchmark KSE-100 index down by 3,668 points.

Investors turned cautious amid political uncertainty after the approval of the 27th Constitutional Amendment by the Senate with a two-thirds majority. In addition, reports of terrorist attacks added to investor unease, leading to broad-based offloading across key sectors.

During the session, the index moved between the intra-day high of 161,517 and low of 157,766, before closing at 157,870.50. Auto assemblers, cement, commercial banks, oil and gas exploration, oil marketing companies, power generation and refineries were the main sectors that faced selling bouts.

K-Trade Securities equities trader Ahmed Sheraz commented that PSX witnessed a steep downturn on Tuesday as the KSE-100 index plunged 3,668 points. The sell-off was broad-based, with major sectors like banking, oil and gas, cement and fertiliser suffering notable losses. Market sentiment

took a hit from terror incidents in Islamabad and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, leading to loss of human lives. Also, fears of potential tension on the Indian border sparked caution, he said.

The selling spree was observed in blue-chip stocks including Engro Oil & Gas Development Company, Hub Power, Fauji Fertiliser, Lucky Cement, Mani Energies, National Bank and Pakistan Petroleum, which primarily contrib-

uted to the market's decline. Anif Habb Limited (AHL) noted that a damaging session took the KSE-100 index down to the bottom of the 157k-170k range following conflicts and heightened political uncertainty after the proposed constitutional amend-

ment. Overall trading volumes increased to 836.4 million shares against Monday's tally of 783.3 million. The value of traded stocks stood at Rs38.1 billion.

Shares of 484 companies were traded. Of these, 79 stocks closed higher, 364 declined and 41 remained unchanged.

First National Equities was the volume leader with trading in 77.2 million shares, gaining Rs1.39 to close at Rs22.61. It was followed



by K-Electric with 66.9 million shares, falling Rs0.22 to close at Rs1.12 and WorldCall Telecom with 46.8 million shares, losing Rs0.07 to close at Rs1.70. Foreign investors were net sellers of shares worth Rs198 million, according to NCCPI.

tumbled on Tuesday, marking one of the steepest declines in recent sessions. The sell-off was fuelled by renewed security concerns amid geopolitical conflicts and heightened political uncertainty after the proposed constitutional amend-

ment. Overall trading volumes increased to 836.4 million shares against Monday's tally of 783.3 million. The value of traded stocks stood at Rs38.1 billion.

IMF mission tackles Pakistan's Rs448b budget discrepancy

NEWS DESK: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has launched a technical assistance mission at Pakistan's request to improve budget management. The country faces the challenge of a persistent statistical discrepancy that peaked at Rs448 billion in the first quarter of this fiscal year.

The nearly two-week-long mission will scrutinise Pakistan's laws, rules and practices relating to fiscal reporting to fix loopholes, said government sources. The four-member technical mission on Monday began discussions with representatives of federal and provincial governments.

Nito Tchelishvili from the fiscal affairs department is leading the IMF delegation, which will stay in Islamabad till November 21. Pakistan requested the IMF to field the mission to support data-driven decision-making in budget management. The mission's findings will be shared with IMF executive directors and sponsor countries, mainly Belgium, Denmark, the European Union, France, Germany, Saudi Arabia and the

United Kingdom, said the sources.

Technical missions are separate from IMF programme missions. However, advisory reports of these missions eventually become structural benchmarks of bail-out packages. The mission has arrived at a time when Pakistani authorities and the IMF headquarters are finalising the Governance and Corruption Diagnostic Assessment technical mission report.

IMF to delete certain parts of the draft governance report before it is made public. The IMF has set the condition that Pakistan must release the report before the IMF board meeting for approval of two loan tranches totalling \$1.2 billion in the first week of December.

Sources said the objective of the budget mission is to strengthen fiscal data governance to support data-driven decision-making in budget management. The mission will focus on fiscal data governance aspects to enhance data interoperability. It will also support the implementation of the Government Integrated Fi-

nancial Management Information System.

The mission will utilise a Fiscal Data Governance framework to gauge the compatibility of Pakistan's budget.

The IMF fiscal governance framework outlines nearly three dozen practices across six areas. These mainly include legal framework, fiscal data strategy, data architecture, storage and privacy, digital technology, organisational set-up, and internal controls.

Pakistan has long been taking advice from the World Bank and IMF to improve its budget practices. This includes loans from the World Bank to develop better systems. However, despite these efforts, it has not been able to accurately book expenses and revenues.

The Ministry of Finance last week released the fiscal operations summary for the July-September quarter of this fiscal year. The summary showed a total Rs448 billion worth of statistical discrepancy in the accounts of federal and provincial governments.

Details showed the federal government did not have visibility of Rs93 billion in expenses. The provinces' accounts also had Rs354 billion in revenue-related discrepancies. The finance ministry said the federal government's discrepancy was related to a decrease in commercial bank deposits and be-

stemmed from variations due to time lag in reporting and book adjustments amongst the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and Economic Affairs Division.

The finance ministry said the statistical discrepancy for Punjab was recorded at Rs209 billion due to "non-clearance, delayed payments or late presentation of cheques relating to assignment accounts – increase in commercial bank deposits and be-

low-the-line inflows". The finance ministry said Sindh's statistical discrepancy was Rs47 billion, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Rs33 billion and Balochistan Rs6 billion.

These were due to movement in their commercial bank deposits. Sources said the IMF mission will cover all aspects of the budget from allocations to releases and reporting. The mission will also hold discussions on Public Finance Management laws, fiscal data strategy and internal controls.

The IMF will look into treasury and cash management, including the collection and booking of non-tax and tax revenues. Sources said there are also serious issues about the booking of non-tax and tax revenues, which often vary from Rs10 billion to Rs15 billion per month. The IMF will scrutinise data architecture and storage facilities to ensure privacy. The mission will review the process of determining budget ceilings and bottom-up budget submissions, including budget planning and implementation. There will also be

discussions on provincial budget planning and execution. The mission will conduct a deeper assessment of electronic public procurement systems.

The central bank's payment systems will also come under IMF review, sources said.

Sources said the IMF will also give recommendations on debt management and a report, which remains fragmented. There are significant delays and accuracy issues.

Former Director General of Debt Management Office of the Ministry of Finance, Abdul Rahman Warriach, said last week that Pakistan's public debt definition was below international standards. A few critical and major debt figures were not reported, including circular debt and pension liabilities.

However, the incumbent DC Debt Office, Mohsin Chandra, claimed that the debt definition was reflective of international standards. Sources said the mission will produce a report and its findings will be subsequently implemented.

Government touts cheaper electricity for factories, but businesses aren't buying it

NEWS DESK: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) and businessmen have raised questions about the incremental consumption package announced for industrial and agricultural consumers, saying it appears discriminatory, overly complex and may not succeed.

The Power Division emphasised that the package was based on "lessons learnt in the past" and was a result of wisdom. However, the industries rejected the plan and demanded that the price be fixed at nine cents per unit for its successful implementation. They also called for reducing the load factor from 60% to 40%.

An official of the Power Division said that the package would contribute Rs1.16 trillion to the country's gross domestic product (GDP). However, the minister added that the package may be reviewed or terminated, if marginal cost rose.

The division made a shocking revelation that consumers would be paying Rs1.7 trillion in capacity charges to

those power plants that were not generating a single unit, which translated into Rs17 per unit.

It also broke silence over the impact of solarisation, saying that electricity demand had not changed due to net metering. Consumers using a cumulative 1,300 megawatts have exited

the national grid and they are off-grid now. In the agriculture sector, electricity demand has dropped 40-50% due to solarisation.

Officials of the Power Division said that demand for electricity had not increased significantly but its consumption shifted from day to night time due to solarisation. Now, peak hours have been extended from 10 pm to morning time. They stressed that the incremental package had been prepared to encourage increase in power consumption for

provided at Rs22.98 per unit to industrial and private agricultural consumers, including both time-of-use (ToU) and non-ToU categories of ex-Wapda distribution companies (DISCOs) and K-Electric, on peak and off-peak incremental consumption over the corresponding refer-

ence period. The reference months for determining the incremental consumption shall be from December 2023 to November 2024. The package will remain in force for three years from the date of approval. It will be subsidised

neutral for both DISCOs and K-Electric consumers. "We want the industry to run more shifts as it will reduce the capacity burden," a Power Division official said, adding that the drop in demand came in the wake of high tariffs, which encouraged solarisation demand.

The officials pointed out that industrial units were shutting down, which also resulted in lower power demand. NEPRA said that industries would remain confused due to uncertainty about tariff adjustment. "We will come to NEPRA for review in case marginal cost rises," as the review had been incorporated into the package to hedge against risk to other consumers, the Power Division said.

Nepra snubs govt over industrial tariff push

NEWS DESK: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on Tuesday criticised the Power Division for attempting to fast-track approval of its proposed cheaper power package for industrial and private agricultural consumers without prior consultation.

"You are compromising your case by seeking instant regulatory approval. This is unfair to the regulator and those who make payments," said NEPRA's Sindh Member (Technical), Rafique A. Shaikh. Textile Mills Association (Aptma) criticised the package as inadequate, saying discounts of Rs2-6 per unit on incremental consumption were insufficient. They called for the base tariff to drop to 9 cents per unit and for cross-subsidies to be removed, noting that competitors such as Bangladesh, Vietnam, and India offer rates between 4 and 9 cents per unit. Officials responded that the scheme had been cleared by the federal cabinet



ity demand, boost industrial growth, and reduce blackout risks without fiscal outlays. Industrialists reject package. Representatives from the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) and All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (Aptma) criticised the package as inadequate, saying discounts of Rs2-6 per unit on incremental consumption were insufficient. They called for the base tariff to drop to 9 cents per unit and for cross-subsidies to be removed, noting that competitors such as Bangladesh, Vietnam, and India offer rates between 4 and 9 cents per unit. Officials responded that the scheme had been cleared by the federal cabinet

and the ministries following a lengthy consultation process. "The industry is free to take it or leave it. The package is not subject to change," they said.

Regulator says rushing approval undermines process as industrialists call package insufficient. The ministry said solar penetration had grown to 6,035MW in the net-metering segment and 12,000MW in the off-grid segment, creating stability challenges. The incentive package, it said, would help stabilise the grid. When asked about conflicting federal and provincial solar policies, Mr Bhatti avoided a direct response, noting only that the centre supports Punjab's solar tubewells.

Domestic toil pays off for Haris in lethal spell against Sri Lanka

NEWS DESK: Hit to all parts by India in the Asia Cup final at the end of September, Haris Rauf turned to domestic cricket to rediscover his mojo.

On his return to international cricket, the grind of first-class cricket paved the way for a fiery spell of fast bowling that clinched victory for Pakistan with the 32-year-old ripping through the Sri Lankan top-order, and finishing with figures of 4-61, as the hosts scraped to a six-run win in the first One-Day International at the Pindi Cricket Stadium on Tuesday night.

"It wasn't easy to win tonight," Haris said at the post-match press conference. "It wasn't easy to bowl in the dew but you keep trying as a bowler to pick wickets and in the end we won, which was important." "The performance was important for Haris as well. Slammed for being too easy to put away in the highly-charged Asia Cup final against arch-rivals India, the right-arm got back to work with Islamabad in the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy.

"You keep giving your best effort and try to make an impact," he said. "In our field, there is no forgiveness. Expectations are always high but sometimes you win, some times you lose. We are not machines. As a player, you have to keep believing in yourself as there is always the next morning after the night."

The first Quaid-e-Azam Trophy outing at the start of October against Lahore Whites didn't give Haris much of a chance to flex his arm. In a match that petered out to a draw, he bowled just eight overs, picking 1-21.

The second match, at the end of last month, also didn't go very much to plan with the speedster returning figures of 2-82 in 17 years in the first

innings before getting 1-34 in 10 overs of the second innings as Islamabad were handed a crushing 311-run defeat.

The key, though, as he noted on Tuesday, was about getting the overs in the tank. "As a player, as a bowler, you start preparing for the next assignment," he told reporters, adding that was also looking to return to the Test side.

"One-dayers demand longer spells so I played four days, which helped. You aim to bowl around 40 overs during the match and fine-tune your body."

Having been dropped for the T20 series against South Africa,

century by Salman Ali Agha and a maiden ODI half-century by Hussain Talat to post 299-5 and after Sri Lankan openers had given their side a solid start in the chase, Haris made the difference.

He broke the 85-run opening partnership between Kamil Mishara and Pathum Nissanka, getting the former caught at mid-off and then had Kusal Mendis chop him onto his stumps on the very next delivery.

Haris then found the seam movement that led to Nissanka's undoing, the opener getting caught behind, and Sri Lanka having been reduced to 90-3. The pacer, though, wasn't done for

The second match of the series is on Thursday and Sri Lanka will look to hit back, having lost their way after they had given their side a solid start in the chase, Haris made the difference.

Haris, who picked up 3-54, had reduced Pakistan to 95-4 halfway through their innings only for Salman (105 not out) and Hussain (62) to wrest back momentum and power the hosts to what proved to be a winning score.

"That was the turning point," Harisanga said at the post-match press conference. "Credit should go to Salman and Hussain as they batted really well. In the first 20-25 overs, we did really well but then



Haris was set to return for the three-match ODI series against South Africa in Faisalabad last week, only to be suspended for the first two games after being found guilty of violating ICC's Code of Conduct during the Asia Cup match against India.

He played the third ODI, but bowled just three overs as spinners took charge and led Pakistan to a series win over the Proteas.

On Tuesday, however, it was a different story. Pakistan had rode on a brilliant unbeaten

the night as he returned to end a fourth-wicket stand of 57 by sending back Sadeera Samarawickrama, after a brilliant catch in the slip by Babar Azam.

Sri Lanka were down and out at 210-7 and although Wanindu Hasaranga made a 52-ball 59, Pakistan got over the line.

"It was a team effort that took us to victory," said Haris. "You win as a team and you bowl in partnerships. Sometimes you don't get wickets from one end but get it from the other end."

our plans and their execution went wrong." It was a sentiment that his captain Charith Samarawickrama, after a brilliant catch in the slip by Babar Azam.

The way Salman and Hussain batted, it took the game away," said Asadkhan. "We gave away too many runs, it should have been under 270." Pakistan skipper Shaheen Shah Afridi admitted the partnership between Salman and Hussain was key but added a word for Haris: "A target of 300 was good and I think Haris gave us crucial wickets."

Haris, who picked up 3-54, had reduced Pakistan to 95-4 halfway through their innings only for Salman (105 not out) and Hussain (62) to wrest back momentum and power the hosts to what proved to be a winning score.

Alcaraz wins thriller with Fritz at ATP Finals, Musetti downs De Minaur



NEWS DESK: Carlos Alcaraz came under extreme pressure before overcame Taylor Fritz 6-7(2) 7-5 6-3 in a thrilling match at the ATP Finals on Tuesday, before Italy's Lorenzo Musetti beat Alex de Minaur in a dramatic encounter.

Musetti's 7-5 3-6 7-5 win means that all four players can still make the semi-finals, with the Italian facing Alcaraz, on two wins from two, and Fritz taking on De Minaur on Thursday to close out the Jimmy Connors Group, with the top two making the last four.

Last year's finalist Fritz played the tennis of his life, as both men served up the best encounter of the season-ending championships so far, but the American ran out of steam as Alcaraz turned on the style and took the deciding set with ease.

Alcaraz and Fritz had won their opening group matches, and

the Spaniard looked in real trouble when the American took the opening set on a tiebreak. Alcaraz faced break points in the second set but rallied back to draw level.

Fritz began to tire, and Alcaraz broke to lead 4-2 in the final set before wrapping up the win in two hours and 48 minutes by serving out to love.

"It was pretty tight, I was struggling more than him in the first set," Alcaraz said.

"I wasn't serving well, and I think he was pretty comfortable from the baseline, but I was pretty comfortable from everywhere."

Alcaraz needs one more victory to guarantee the year-ending world number one spot.

Tuesday's clash was a battle from the opening game, with Fritz taking nine minutes to hold after hitting three aces but also facing two break points. The American forced three break

points in the next game before the pair traded breaks.

Fritz raced into a 5-2 lead in the tiebreak and smashed two aces to take the set.

At 2-2 in the second, Alcaraz was rattled, his drop shots, which earlier beat Fritz began to fall short but, after losing advantage five times, the Spaniard held on.

Alcaraz got lucky with a shot that hit the net but crept over in the second set and broke to take the match to a third, where the Spaniard outclassed an exhausted Fritz.

"I was really relieved after the win because of everything I went through during the match," Alcaraz said.

"I wasn't feeling the ball as well as I was in the first round, but I'm really happy that I found a way to come back."

Musetti looked down and out with De Minaur serving for the match but those few

who left early to beat the traffic missed out on a stunning comeback.

The Italian took the first set after breaking serve at 5-5, and De Minaur survived three break points in the second set opener before finding his first break points of the match at 4-4 and making them count.

De Minaur had control in the final set at 2-0 up, but when it came to the crunch Musetti found energy from somewhere to pull off a great escape, as defeat would have meant elimination.

After two spectators died from cardiac arrests on Monday, play was held up again for a medical emergency in the crowd in the final set of Musetti's win.

The match was suspended for several minutes before resuming. Local media reported a fan was transported to hospital in a serious but not life-threatening condition.

Stokes bats away criticism of England's Ashes preparations

NEWS DESK: England captain Ben Stokes denied on Wednesday that his side were undercooked for the Ashes series against Australia after a chorus of criticism led by legends Ian Botham and Geoffrey Boycott.

England's full squad only assembled in Perth last weekend, some coming from a white-ball series in New Zealand where they crashed 3-0, while others arrived in dribs and drabs.

They only have one red-ball warm-up game before the opening Test in Perth on November 21 — a three-day clash against a second-tier England A starting on Thursday.

In contrast, almost all of Australia's Ashes squad have been playing domestic Sheffield Shield matches around the country.

Boycott wrote in a recent column for British newspaper The Telegraph that

England's preparations were "madness".

"If they win in Australia it will be in spite of their lack of match practice, not because of it. Match practice would give them a better chance," he said.

Botham last month said a lack of warm-ups against Australian state sides "borders on arrogance," and renewed his criticism this week.

"I think historically, you have to acclimatise when you come down here," he said in Melbourne. "You've got to remember there's 24 million people down here, not 11. And you have to take that on board."

"The ball does seem to get to you quicker [in Perth] and the light's different. There's all kinds of things going into the melting pot."

But Stokes is adamant England are ready for what will be a gruelling five-Test

showdown as they bid to win a first series in Australia since 2010-2011.

"I don't really know what we're supposed to do, to be honest," said the talismanic all-rounder, who has not played any cricket since July after a shoulder injury.

"The schedule is pretty jam-packed to be able to sort of prepare the way our teams probably would have done 10-15-20-30 years ago. There's a lot of factors that have changed over the years of cricket."

"So in terms of preparation, we've been preparing for this for a very long time. We put a lot of time and effort into how we prepare for every series, and that hasn't changed with this one."

"So from the 21st of this month, we know that we would have put everything possible that we could have done to be in the right place."

Assistant coach Marcus Trescothick also defended England's lead-up, saying "Times have dramatically changed in the way that cricket is done."

"If you look at the situation around the world, everyone does the same nowadays. You turn up, play a game and into the series you go."

England, who last lifted the Ashes urn at home in 2015, have a terrible record in Australia, losing 13 of the last 15 Tests. The other two were drawn.

Stokes insisted past results meant little. "They're a phenomenal team, especially in their home, so we know the next two-and-a-half months is going to be tough for us," he said of Australia.

"But I think all the series that have gone past, whether that be in Australia or England, I don't think count for much."

National women's one-day cricket tournament to start from 14th

NEWS DESK: The National Women's One-day tournament will be held in Faisalabad from Nov 14 to Dec 6.

The five-team event will be played on a double-league basis with top two teams contesting the final.

Stars will be looking to defend their title as they had beaten Conquerors by five wickets in the final of previous season's edition held in Rawalpindi.

Challengers, Invincibles and Strikers are the other three teams taking part in the 50-over tournament.

The 20-member preliminary squads of the five teams assembled in Faisalabad on Monday and from them 15 players of each team will be selected after a short training camp at the High Performance Centre in Faisalabad.

A cash prize of Rs1.5 million will be received by the tournament winners while runners-up will earn Rs1 million. Player-of-the-match in each of the 21 matches will get Rs25,000 while the player-of-the-tournament will pocket Rs200,000.

The tournament will see 10 rounds with two matches played in each round followed by the final.

All the matches will take place at the Iqbal Stadium and the PCB High-Performance Centre Ground except the Nov 22 Challengers-Strikers fixture which will be staged at the Jawad Club Cricket Ground.

CONQUERORS: Fatima Sana (captain), Fatima Masood, Amber Kainat, Aqsa Bibi, Ayesha Bilal, Eisha Naeem, Esha Rahupoto, Farzana Farooq (wicket-keeper), Gull Feroza, Iram Javed, Lubna Behram, Maheen Irfan, Maham Anes, Muqaddas Bukhari,

Sabiha Noor, Saima Malik, Saira Jabeen, Sidra Nawaz (wicket-keeper), Umme-Hani, Zunash Abdul Sattar

STRIKERS: Nasra Sundhu (captain), Aliya Kiz, Aliza Sabir, Amna Bibi, Areesha Noor, Ghulam Fatima, Humna Bilal, Javeria Siddique, Laiba Fatima, Laiba Nasir, Mahnoor Aftab, Najiba Alvi (wicket-keeper), Noreen Yaqoob, Rabia Rani, Rehmat Noreen, Saieqa Riaz, Samina Aftab, Sania Rasheed (wicket-keeper), Shauwal Zulfiqar, Zab-un-Nisa Niaz

CHALLENGERS: Rameen Shamin (captain), Aleena Shah, Ayesha Zafar, Eymaan Fatima, Fatima Shahid, Haleema Dua, Hayana Sajjad, Jannat Rashed, Maham Manzoor, Memona Tipu, Neha Sharmin, Nadeem, Quratulain, Ramana Nazir, Sadaf Shamas, Sana Talib, Tania Saeed, Tayyaba Imdad, Waheedza Akhtar, Wasifa Hussain

INVINCIBLES: Muneeba Ali (captain), Ayesha Rehman, Bakhtawar Asad, Dua Majid, Fatima Khan, Hafsa Khalid, Khadija Chishti, Laiba Mansoor, Minhail Javid, Momina Riasat, Nayab (wicket-keeper), Natalia Parvaiz, Neelam Mushtaq, Rida Aslam, Saba Sher, Samiya Afzar, Sana Urooj, Subica Shahzadi, Tasmia Rubab, Tuba Hassan

STARS: Omama Sohail (captain), Anam Amin, Anosha Nasir, Arijah Haseeb, Diana Baig, Fatima Zahra, Gull Rukh, Hanah Ahmer, Kaynat Hafeez, Manahil Rafiq, Noor-ul-Iman, Seema Gul, Shabnam Hayat (wicket-keeper), Sidra Amin, Soha Fatima (wicket-keeper), Syeda Aroob Shah, Syeda Masooma, Syeda Taskin Fatima, Warda Yousuf, Yusra Ehtesham

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Trump says he has 'obligation' to sue BBC over speech edit

NEWS DESK: US President Donald Trump has said he has an "obligation" to sue the BBC over the way a section of his speech was edited in a Panama documentary.

Speaking to Fox News, he said his 6 January 2021 speech had been "butchered" and the way it was presented had "defrauded" viewers.

It is the first time Trump has spoken publicly about the matter since his lawyers wrote to the BBC and said he would sue for \$1bn (£759m) in damages unless the corporation issues a retraction, apologises and compensates him.

A spokesperson for the BBC said: "We are reviewing the letter and will respond directly in due course." BBC chair Samir Shah has previously apologised for an "error of judgement" over the edit.

Appearing on Fox News's The Ingraham Angle, the president was asked if he would



go ahead with the lawsuit, responding "well I guess I have to, you know, why not, because they defrauded

the public, and they've admitted it". Trump continued: "They actually changed my January 6

speech, which was a beautiful speech, which was a very calming speech, and they made it sound

radical. "And they actually changed it. What they did was rather incredible."

Asked again if he would proceed with the legal action, he said: "Well I think I have an obligation to

do it, because you can't get people, you can't allow people to do that." The Fox News in-

terview was recorded on Monday, though the section concerning the BBC was not published by Fox News until late on Tuesday evening in the US.

The BBC received the letter from Trump's lawyers on Sunday. It demands a "full and fair retraction" of the documentary, an apology, and that the BBC "appropriately compensate President Trump for the harm caused".

It sets a deadline of 22:00 GMT (17:00 EST) on Friday for the corporation to respond.

The BBC has said it will respond in due course.

BBC News has contacted the BBC for comment on the president's latest remarks.

If Trump sues in Florida, he would also need to establish the BBC Panorama documentary was available there. There is no evidence so far to suggest that it has been shown in the US.

Israeli settlers set fire to Palestinian warehouse and land as West Bank attacks surge

NEWS DESK: Dozens of Israeli settlers launched arson attacks targeting a Palestinian warehouse, a Bedouin village, and farmland in the north of the occupied West Bank on Tuesday.

Several Palestinians were injured. The incidents were the latest in a recent surge in settler violence coinciding with the olive harvest season, when Palestinians head to their agricultural land around towns and villages.

It comes just after the UN's humanitarian office said the number of violent attacks by settlers last month was the highest since it began collecting figures nearly 20 years ago.

Israel has built about 160 settlements housing 700,000 Jews since it occupied the West Bank and East Jerusalem - land Palestinians want, along with Gaza, for a hoped-for future state - during the 1967 Middle East war. An estimated 3.3 million Palestinians live alongside them.

The settlements are illegal under international law.

Footage from Tuesday shows dozens of masked men on a hillside

east of Tulkarm. A Palestinian warehouse in Beit Lid was attacked, with lorries set on fire.

Tents can be seen ablaze in the Bedouin village of Deir Sharaf, with the sound of women shouting in the background.

Palestinian Authority Minister Muayyad Shaaban, the head of the Wall and Settlement Resistance Commission, said the attacks were part of a campaign to impose "a hostile environment through intimidation and terror".

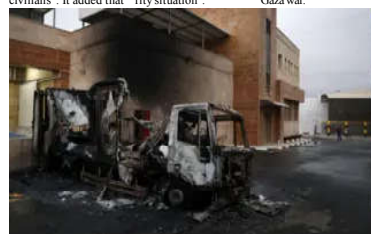
The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said that troops went to the scene "to disperse the confrontation using riot dispersal means and apprehended several Israeli civilians". It added that

soldiers were then attacked by settlers gathering nearby and their vehicle was damaged.

Israeli police stated that four suspects were arrested. In a post on X, Israeli President Isaac Herzog called the latest events "shocking and serious", blaming "a handful of violent and dangerous individuals".

He went on: "Such violence against civilians and against IDF soldiers crosses a red line and I condemn it severely."

The head of the IDF Central Command, Major-General Avi Bluth, also condemned the attacks, saying that such incidents "undermine the stability of the security situation".



Thailand extradites owner of Myanmar scam city to China

NEWS DESK: She Zhijiang, a Chinese national accused of building an illicit gambling empire in South East Asia, is being extradited to China - ending his years-long battle against the order.

He has been detained in Thailand since 2022, after the Thai police arrested him acting on a Chinese request to Interpol.

China accuses She Zhijiang of running illegal online gambling rings, and this week a Thai court upheld the decision to extradite him. He arrived at a Bangkok airport on Wednesday, flanked by two security officials.

His extradition comes ahead of a landmark visit by Thailand's King to Beijing - the first state visit to China by a

reigning Thai monarch and a sign of deepening ties.

She Zhijiang is one of the biggest names linked to the vast cyberscam hubs in South East Asia, which have trapped thousands of Chinese nationals and sparked a crackdown from Beijing.

One of his most notorious projects is Myanmar's Shwe Kokko city, near the Thai border. It's por-

trayed in promotional videos as a resort city for Chinese tourists, but its glittery buildings are allegedly home to fraud, money laundering and human trafficking. During a visit to the city earlier this year, the BBC saw very few overseas visitors. Local people there said that scam businesses were still operating.

She Zhijiang and his company Yantai is sanctioned by the UK

and the US for his links to rights abuses in the scam farms in their development.

Speaking to the BBC from prison earlier this year, She Zhijiang maintained that his company would "never accept telecom fraud and scams" - though he also noted admitted that scammers were likely to enter Shwe Kokko since the city was "completely open to anyone".



Venezuela announces 'massive mobilization' of military forces as America's largest warship sails into region

NEWS DESK: says it is launching a "massive mobilization" of military personnel, weapons and equipment in response to the build-up of US warships and troops in the Caribbean Sea.

Land, air, naval and reserve forces will carry out exercises through Wednesday, according to Defense Minister Vladimir Padrino

the country. The move comes amid increasing tension between the two countries as the US build-up continues. On Tuesday, the US Navy announced the aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford - America's largest warship - had arrived in the US Southern Command area of operations, which includes most of Latin America.

really trying to force regime change and some Trump administration officials have privately conceded their strategy is aimed at removing Maduro. Last month, Trump said he had authorized the CIA to operate in Venezuela and he has previously suggested he was weighing the possibility of strikes inside the country - though

as the quality of the troops' training. With the arrival of the Ford, there are thought to be roughly 15,000 US personnel in the region. A significant percentage of all deployed US naval assets were already in the region before the arrival of the Ford group, including the two Jima Amphibious Ready Group and the 22nd Marine Ex-



López, who described the deployment as a response to the "imperialist threat" posed by the US build-up.

In addition to regular military units, the exercises will involve the Bolivarian Militia - a reserve force made up of civilians that his company would "never accept telecom fraud and scams" - though he also noted admitted that scammers were likely to enter Shwe Kokko since the city was "completely open to anyone".

Padrino López, who attributed the order directly to Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, said the objective of the exercise was to "optimize command, control and communications" and ensure the defense of

US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth ordered the Ford to make its way to the Caribbean from Europe late last month. The strike group accompanying the Ford brings with it nine air squadrons, two Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyers - the USS Bainbridge and USS Mahan - the integrated air and missile defense command ship USS Winston S. Churchill, and more than 4,000 sailors. The US has framed its build-up of forces in the region as aimed at combating drug trafficking and the flow of drugs into the United States, and has carried out strikes on numerous alleged drug boats in recent weeks.

However, Caracas believes the US is

administration officials have since said the US is not currently planning such action.

In his statement Tuesday, Padrino López framed the deployment of the Venezuelan forces as part of Maduro's wider "Independence Plan 2007" - a civic-military strategy aimed at mobilizing conventional military forces alongside militia and police forces to defend the country. Venezuela's conventional military, the Bolivarian National Armed Forces, has some 123,000 members.

Maduro has also claimed that his volunteer militias now have more than 8 million reservists, though experts have called into question that number as well

peditionary Unit, amounting to more than 4,500 Marines and sailors, three guided-missile destroyers, an attack submarine, a special operations ship, a guided missile cruiser and P-8 Poseidon reconnaissance aircraft.

At the same time, the US has deployed 10 F-35 fighter jets to Puerto Rico, which has become a hub for the US military as part of the increased focus on the Caribbean. The US has also deployed at least three MQ-9 reaper drones to the island, according to images captured by Reuters in Aguadilla, Puerto Rico. Alongside the hardware, there are thought to be around 5,000 US troops in Puerto Rico.