

QUETTA VOICE


<https://www.quettavoice.com>

ABC Certified



Quetta Voice.

Email address:

dquettavoice@gmail.com

Tuesday 25
November, 2025

11 hand grenades seized from five suspects in Balochistan's Ziarat district



3 FC men martyred in suicide attack on force's headquarters in Peshawar

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia Reinforce Strategic Military Ties During GHQ Visit



News Desk: H.E. General Fayyadh Bin Hameed, Al Rowaili, Chief of General Staff (CGS), Saudi Armed Forces, called on General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, Chief of Army Staff (COAS), at General Headquarters (GHQ) today. During the meet-

ing, both leaders discussed matters of mutual interest, with a particular focus on strengthening the longstanding and strategic military cooperation between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. They emphasized the importance of further enhancing defence collaboration,

security cooperation, and counter-terrorism efforts, which continue to be pillars of the deep-rooted bilateral relationship. The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan's cooperation in multiple fields with Saudi Armed Forces and reaffirmed

his commitment to furthering the strong bonds of cooperation. Upon arrival at GHQ, General Fayyadh Bin Hameed Al Rowaili, laid a floral wreath at Yadgar-e-Shuhada and was presented a Guard of Honour by a smartly turned-out contingent of the Pakistan Army.

How Long Will Quetta Pay the Price for SSGC and Federal Negligence?

Syed Ali Shah: Quetta: Quetta is once again at the mercy of a winter crisis that has become all too familiar: low gas pressure, unannounced load shedding and complete administrative silence. Every year, citizens are told to "bear with the situation" as temperatures fall and heaters, stoves, and geysers turn useless. Yet the authorities responsible — Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) and the federal energy managers — continue to operate without accountability.

A City Freezing While Authorities Look Away

The people of Balochistan are right to ask: Why must Quetta suffer the same crisis every winter while no structural reform is introduced? Why are consumers forced to pay heavy bills for a service that barely exists? And why do officials in Karachi and Islamabad continue to treat Balochistan's gas issues as a seasonal inconvenience rather than a governance failure?

Despite Balochistan being an energy-producing region, its residents struggle every winter for the very resource extracted from their own soil. This contradiction reflects a deep-rooted policy imbalance in the federation, where Balochistan remains last



on the priority list — not because of a shortage of resources, but because of a shortage of political will.

SSGC's Repeated Excuses and Decades of Mismanagement

The SSGC's performance adds another layer of frustration. Each year, the company offers the same explanations — "excessive demand," "pipeline pressure issues," "technical challenges." Yet no one explains why these problems remain unresolved despite decades of complaints. Why have there been no significant infrastructure upgrades? Why has the company failed to introduce a winter management plan for Quetta? Why is communication with consumers absent?

The unannounced nature of the load shedding exposes a complete

Federal Government's Weak Oversight and Balochistan's Low Priority

The federal government cannot escape responsibility either. Energy management is a national issue, and the pattern of winter mismanagement in Balochistan reflects weak oversight, poor planning, and an unfair

disregard for public convenience. When outages are not scheduled or announced, families cannot plan meals, heating, or even basic daily routines. Hospitals and clinics struggle to maintain warm environments for patients. Small businesses suffer. And in a city where temperatures can drop below freezing, such negligence is not just inconvenient — it is dangerous.

What Quetta needs is not another round of hollow statements. It needs a transparent winter gas plan, proper infrastructure investment, honest communication with the public, and real accountability for SSGC. Most importantly, it needs the federal government to finally treat Balochistan as an equal stakeholder in national resource management.

The people of Quetta have endured enough. Their patience should not be mistaken for acceptance. Without decisive action, this recurring winter crisis will continue to expose not only the inefficiencies of SSGC but also the federal government's unwillingness to address longstanding injustices.

Balochistan HC Orders Re-Polling in NA-251, Suspends Maulana Samiuddin's Victory

News Desk: In a major development concerning the NA-251 election dispute, the Balochistan High Court Election Tribunal has ordered re-polling at 22 polling stations, where the General Elections 2024 were originally held in February 2024. The tribunal has also suspended the victory notification of Maulana Samiuddin, the candidate of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F).

The ruling was issued by Justice Amir Nawaz Rana on a petition submitted by Khushal Khan Kakar, Chairman of the Pashtunkhwa National Awami Party (PKNAP). Kakar challenged the February 2024 election results, alleging irregularities, mismanagement, and discrepancies at several polling stations within the constituency.



According to the tribunal's decision, the concerned electoral authorities have been directed to conduct fresh polling at the 22 identified stations of

NA-251 to ensure a transparent, credible, and fair outcome. The case is expected to play a significant role in shaping the political landscape of the constituency as both parties prepare for the re-election process.

This development has renewed public and political attention toward electoral transparency, election disputes, and judicial oversight in Balochistan's political system.

11 hand grenades seized from five suspects in Balochistan's Ziarat district

NEWS DESK: The Levies Force arrested five suspects in the Ziarat district, Balochistan, on Monday, through an intelligence-based operation. The suspects were taken into custody near the Spira Ragha Levies check post.

A senior official of the district administration stated that the operation was the result of the expertise of the Levies Force's intelligence and field teams, with the support of the district administration.

A large cache of weapons, explosives, and communication devices was recovered from the suspects, including 11 hand grenades, 15 SMG grenades, three submachine guns (SMGs), two M4 rifles (in parts), nine M4 magazines, 14 SMG magazines, 420 SMG rounds, 230 M4 rounds, 1kg of explosive material, one grenade launcher, two RPG rockets, six wireless sets, four



mobile phones, one dagger, 13 ammunition bags, 16 power cells, one Suzuki Carry van, one motorcycle, and literature of the proscribed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti lauded the successful operation and congratulated the Levies

Force and the district administration. He said that local forces like the Levies are the backbone of peace and stability in Balochistan, and their sacrifices and timely actions are thwarting terrorist ambitions.

The chief minister affirmed that the government stands fully behind all security agencies and that the fight against terrorism will continue until it is eliminated. Security sources stated that interrogations of the arrested suspect are ongoing, which are expected to reveal key information about further terrorist networks in the province.

Force and the district administration. He said that local forces like the Levies are the backbone of peace and stability in Balochistan, and their sacrifices and timely actions are thwarting terrorist ambitions.

3 FC men martyred in suicide attack on force's headquarters in Peshawar

NEWS DESK: Three Federal Constabulary (FC) men were martyred in a suicide attack on the force's headquarters in Peshawar's Saddar area on Monday morning.

The attack occurred on one of the city's busiest roads just after 8am. Video footage of the incident showed one terrorist, clad in a chador, approaching the gate and detonating himself. Seconds later, two other terrorists tried to enter the compound.

The attack occurred as an assembly for the week was being held at the main compound. "Initially, three militants tried to attack the headquarters. One terrorist blew himself up at the gate, while two others



were neutralised at the gate."

The Jamat-ul-Ahrar faction of the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claimed re-

sponsibility for the attack.

The paramilitary force, originally called the Frontier Constabulary, was renamed by the

government in July. The headquarters of the force is located in a crowded area, close to a military cantonment. The headquarters building

houses barracks, hospitals, and residential quarters. Meanwhile, an emergency was declared at Lady Reading Hospital (LRH), Peshawar's largest public sector hospital, and Khyber Teaching Hospital (KTH).

The spokesmen of the hospitals confirmed that 11 injured had been brought to LRH while one injured person had been brought to KTH.

Today's incident is the second major terrorist attack on a security installation in Peshawar in the last three years. In February 2023, 84 people were killed in a suicide attack on a mosque in Peshawar's Police Lines.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif strongly

condemned the terrorist attack and lauded security forces for their "timely action," as per a statement issued by the PM Office.

"Timely action taken by security forces saved us from major harm," he said, praying for the recovery of the injured.

He reaffirmed that the government remained resolute in eradicating terrorism, and vowed to crush any terrorist plots against Pakistan.

President Asif Ali Zardari also condemned the attack, offering condolences to the families of the martyrs.

He affirmed that "externally backed Fim-al-Khawari cannot weaken Pakistan's unity,

resilience or resolve". Fim-al-Khawari is a term that the state uses to refer to the TTP.

In a statement condemning the attack, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said that the sacrifices of the martyred personnel would always be remembered.

Naqvi also paid tribute to the "brave soldiers of FC, who foiled the Fim-al-Khawari attack by taking timely action". He also expressed "heartfelt sympathies for the families of the martyred".

KP Chief Minister Sohail Afridi, in a statement, paid tribute to the martyrs and security forces, stressing that "such cowardly attacks can not weaken our morale".

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Balochistan's Child Marriage Prohibition Bill: A Long-Awaited Step in the Right Direction



Editorial:

The recent passage of the Child Marriage Prohibition Bill by the Balochistan Provincial Assembly is a landmark moment in the province's journey toward protecting children and promoting social justice. While many have long awaited this legislation, its adoption now is a cause for immense satisfaction, reflecting the government's commitment to addressing a critical societal issue. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti, the provincial government has demonstrated professionalism, transparency, and determination in ensuring that this bill was enacted through proper legislative procedures. The thorough review by assembly committees over the past six months shows a deliberate and consultative approach, prioritizing

consensus-driven lawmaking. This methodical process ensures that laws are not only enacted but are sustainable, widely supported, and rooted in the public interest.

While opposition voices, including those from JUI-F, have criticized the bill on religious grounds, their dissent is part of a healthy democratic debate. However, it is crucial to note that protecting children from early and forced marriages is a universal responsibility recognized by human rights concerns. The government's decision to move forward, despite protests and a walkout by opposition lawmakers, underscores its dedication to the welfare of Balochistan's younger generations.

Indeed, the enactment of this bill, though delayed, is a step in the right direction. It signals a commitment to ending

harmful traditional practices that compromise children's health, education, and future prospects.

By taking this decisive action, the Balochistan government has set a precedent for social reform, human rights advocacy, and legislative responsibility in Pakistan. In conclusion, the passage of the Child Marriage Prohibition Bill is more than just a legal milestone—it is a moral and social imperative. The government deserves praise for prioritizing the welfare of children, implementing professional legislative processes, and taking a bold step that will benefit countless lives across the province. While dialogue and debate will always be part of democracy, today marks a day when governance acted in favor of justice, progress, and the future of Balochistan.

National Nutrition Survey (2011): The NNS 2011 covered all provinces: Gilgit Baltistan (GB), Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Sindh, Punjab, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). This included 1,500 enumeration blocks (EBs)/villages and 30,000 households, with a 49% urban and 51% rural distribution.

National Nutrition Survey (2018): The 2018 Pakistan National Nutrition Survey (NNS 2018)

Malnutrition in Balochistan

Amber Munir in Balochistan shared in Quetta Voice on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 page 04. The article highlights the role of essential nutrients in human resource development along with a brief introduction of malnutrition, characterization of malnutrition, procedure of taking measurements of SAM and MAM cases, medical complications, community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM), infant and young child feeding (IYCF), etc.

Background: Surveys regarding National Nutrition Survey (2001-2002): The National Nutrition Survey conducted in 2001-2002 assessed the nutritional levels and health status of mothers and children in Pakistan. Data was collected through a questionnaire consisting of four modules including a household questionnaire, biochemical and clinical questionnaires, and a dietary form. Additional biochemical samples including serum retinol, serum ferritin, and zinc, were collected from mothers and children under-5. Urine samples were collected from mothers and children ages 6-12 years for iodine deficiency. The survey sampled 10,656 households from 700 primary sampling units.

National Nutrition Survey (2019): The aim of NNS 2019 is to undertake a field survey and generate district-specific nutrition information related to malnutrition (both undernutrition and overnutrition) and micronutrient deficiencies among women and children in Pakistan.

Malnutrition status in Balochistan: Balochistan is the most under-developed of Pakistan's provinces, with a high proportion of children under five years of age who are stunted (52%) and 16 percent of who are wasted. Moreover, the prevalence of anemia among children in this age group is 57%



is the largest national nutrition survey carried out in Pakistan. It is designed to provide policymakers, program managers, and academicians a unique set of nutrition-related data including environmental, anthropometric, and biochemical indicators.

National Nutrition Survey (2019): The aim of NNS 2019 is to undertake a field survey and generate district-specific nutrition information related to malnutrition (both undernutrition and overnutrition) and micronutrient deficiencies among women and children in Pakistan.

Malnutrition status in Balochistan: Balochistan is the most under-developed of Pakistan's provinces, with a high proportion of children under five years of age who are stunted (52%) and 16 percent of who are wasted. Moreover, the prevalence of anemia among children in this age group is 57%

and nearly 49% among women of childbearing age. Numerous factors are thought to contribute to child undernutrition in Balochistan, including sub-optimal infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices; frequent child infections (especially diarrhea diseases and measles); maternal nutritional deficiencies and/or illness and death; absence/inadequacy of micronutrient supplementation; and household food insecurity and gender inequity.

A survey conducted by the National Nutrition Cell revealed that 49% of women in Balochistan were suffering from malnutrition. Moreover, the ratio of maternal anemia was 49%, anemia among children below five years was 57% and iodine deficiency among women was 29%.

Balochistan Nutrition Program for Mother and Children (BNPMC)

In response to the challenging nutrition situation in the province, the Department of Health (DoH) launched the Nutrition Program for Mothers and Children (BNPMC) in 2016. They implemented nutrition activities among the rural and urban population of seven selected districts. The total population of these districts is 1,654,613, of which estimated target populations include 132,369 pregnant and lactating women (PLW). Stakeholders include the DoH, Peoples Primary Healthcare Initiative (providing health services at Basic Health Units in the districts), and local NGOs.

The total cost of the above project was 1,492.62 million PKR (US\$14.21 million) of which 80% were provided by the World Bank and 20% by the Government of Balochistan. A major part of the funding

(41%) was allocated to strengthen institutional arrangements which include staffing, technical assistance for capacity building, strengthening coordination mechanisms, addressing malnutrition among children and PLW (37%), and addressing micronutrient malnutrition (13.6%).

Future Plans: The aforesaid program ended in December 2019 and was limited to seven districts; whereas the malnutrition situation continues to exist in 22 districts of Balochistan.

Therefore, the Government of Balochistan has assigned DoH and PPHI to extend nutrition intervention in 22 districts for which project proposals are ready; implementation is expected from July 2021.

The author is a program officer in PPHI

THE DILEMMA OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) WEAPONS

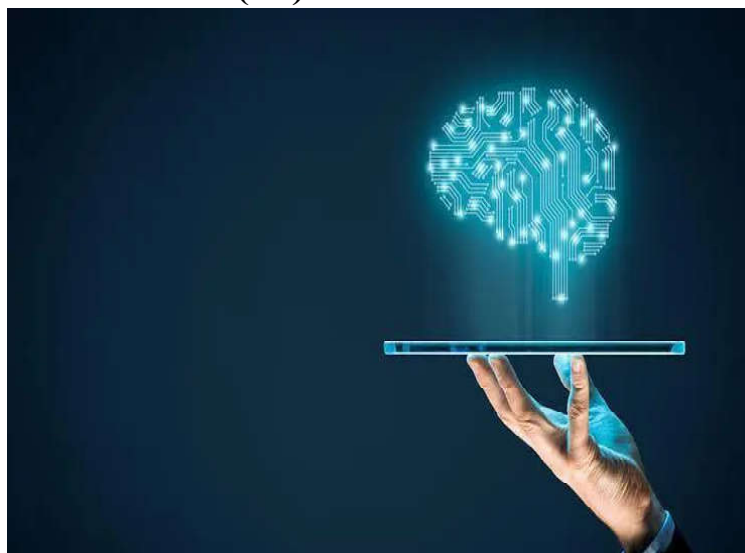
Masoor ul Hassan

The danger associated with autonomous and semi-autonomous weapons systems is unacceptable. There exist a near consensus that such weapons must not be completely AI-controlled.

The design must include appropriate levels of human judgment while resorting to them. This line of thought gains more credence when the present degree of global polarization is taken into view. The international order is tilting towards autocracy and the likelihood of employment of these weapons is becoming a reality. The norms and values of world politics were subjected to heavy Trumpian Strain in the recent past when the competition of naked power showed its ugliness in international relations.

The Genesis of warfare

The history of warfare is as old as the human race. The Book of Genesis states that Cain killed Abel to satiate his vengeance. Ever since vengeance, confrontation and bellicosity have remained pervasive than cooperation and amiability in human relations. The perception of life as a zero-sum game breeds selfishness and consequent animosity between in-



dividuals, groups, or states. Instincts of survival and protection are reflexive thus natural for all living organisms including us humans.

War, being one of the forms of human relations,

received due attention. However, what distinguishes Homo

sapiens from other living entities is the quest for controlling the forces of nature like wind, water, fire, and Sunlight for enhancing the level of physical comfort and peace of mind. This pursuit did improve amenities of life over time but alongside increased societal complexities. War, being

one of the forms of human relations, received due attention of social scientists for defining ethical and moral issues. Cain, who may have used a sharp stone, a strong branch of a tree, or simple brute force to strangle Abel, would be flabbergasted if he were to visit our times. The civilization we live in

today took centuries over centuries to materialize. The use of electromagnetic spectrum was considered a game-changer

The use of electromagnetic spectrum was considered a game-changer before Counter Measures (ECM) were developed which then was countered by Electronic Counter Measures (ECM).

When the lethality of weapons created a situation of mutually assured destruction (MAD) the situation became unacceptable. Various treaties like Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty

(START), and many more were signed to avert the unacceptable destruction of the human race.

Exercising restraint was never so important

Exercising restraint was never so important before the development of autonomous weapons: chemical, biological, radiological, and

nuclear. The Perils and Promises of Artificial Intelligence

Harnessing the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in warfare brought a paradigm shift in

the modus operandi of warfare. It eliminated the requirement of direct human involvement in selecting and engaging targets. Even the smartest of the weapons were hitherto launched and guided by humans.

This development has given rise to the debate of ethics and morality all over

again. António Guterres, the UN Secretary-General joined the skeptics on Twitter where he

wrote in March 2019, "Autonomous machines with the power and discretion to select targets and take lives without human involvement are politically unacceptable, morally repugnant and should be prohibited by international law."

Word count (592) Group captain Masoor ul Hassan served as Fighter Pilot in the PAF.

He holds an M.Sc. degree in Defence & Strategic Studies (DSS) from

QAU and another M.Sc. Strategic Studies from KU. He can be reached at masoorulhassan@gmail.com

© 2000 Blackwell Science Ltd, *Journal of Internal Medicine* 247: 395–402

PM vows to strengthen Pak-Saudi ties across all domains

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has reaffirmed Pakistan's resolve to further strengthen fraternal ties with Saudi Arabia in all domains, including

defence, security and economic cooperation. He was talking to Chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces of Saudi Arabia General Fayyad bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili who called on

him in Islamabad, today. The Prime Minister welcomed General Al-Ruwaili and conveyed Pakistan's deep appreciation for the unwavering support and solidarity extended by Saudi Arabia to Pakistan at all times. He underlined that the relationship between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia is rooted in shared faith, common values, and mutual trust.

Recalling his recent highly successful visits to Riyadh, the Prime Minister said Pakistan is committed to further deepen bilateral defence collaboration, including joint training, exercises, and exchange of expertise. The Prime Minister also highlighted the shared resolve of both countries to combat terrorism and extremism in all its forms and manifes-

tations, and to promote peace and stability in the region. General Al-Ruwaili conveyed the warm greetings of the Saudi leadership to the Prime Minister and the people of Pakistan.

He reiterated the Kingdom's strong desire to elevate the existing excellent defence and strategic partnership with Pakistan to new heights.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Joint Chief of Staff Committee General Sahir Shamshad Mirza called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

ECP halts victory notification of Talal Chaudhry's brother

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), Sikandar Sultan Raja, has withheld the victory notification of Bilal Chaudhry, the winning candidate from NA-96 Faisalabad, following allegations of violating the by-election code of ethics by his brother Talal Chaudhry and failing to appear before the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to explain his position. The Election Commission's legal team informed the CEC that three oral complaints had been filed against Minister of State Talal Chaudhry for violating the code of conduct in the NA-96 constituency, prompting the District Returning Officer (DRO) to issue him a notice on November

16. The DRO had warned him and barred him from further participation in election activities. The legal team stated that Talal Chaudhry again breached the code of ethics by participating in his brother's campaign, leading to a fine of Rs50,000 imposed on November 20 for repeated violations. The legal team added that under the Election Act, no government official or public representative, including the president, prime minister, Senate chairman, or speakers, is permitted to take part in an election campaign. Recommending strict action, the legal team noted that despite being issued notices, Talal Chaudhry and Bilal Chaudhry had failed to appear before the commission, although the lawyers for both Talal Chaudhry and Bilal Chaudhry were present. During Monday's hearing, CEC Raja remarked that not only had Talal Chaudhry violated the code of conduct, but he had also ignored the commission's summons, criticising the federal government and the minister for not considering themselves bound by the law. The CEC then asked whether the candidate whose campaign Talal Chaudhry had joined had actually won, and officials confirmed that he had. According to the legal team, the notification of the winning candidate had not yet been issued, meaning he could still face disqualification under the law. Talal Chaudhry's lawyer told the commission that the minister had been unable to appear due to prior commitments and had submitted a request for exemption from the day's hearing. Bilal Chaudhry's lawyer likewise stated that the candidate could not appear due to election engagements. The Chief Election Commissioner accepted their requests for exemption from personal appearance but ordered that the NA-96 victory notification of Bilal Chaudhry be withheld. The CEC clarified that the commission was "not disqualifying Bilal Chaudhry at this stage, only stopping the notification. The hearing was adjourned until December 2.

Ameer Muqam slams Peshawar attack, salutes FC heroes

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit Baltistan and SAFRON, and President of PML-N in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Engineer Ameer Muqam, strongly condemned the suicide attack that took place at the Frontier Corps Headquarters in Peshawar on Monday. The attack occurred just after 8:00 a.m. on one of the city's busiest roads, where precious lives were lost and several were injured. The minister issued the statement from Islamabad, where he described the attack as a grave act of violence carried out by enemies of peace. Ameer Muqam paid rich tribute to the FC personnel who embraced martyrdom. He said the nation would always remember their

Oath-taking held at University of Gujrat

GUJRAT (INP): The University of Gujrat's Centre for Media and Communication Studies (CMCS) held the oath-taking ceremony for the newly elected office-bearers of its student society, the Video Club, at Hafiz Hayat Campus on Monday. Dr. Muhammad Yousaf, In-charge of Media, was the chief guest at the event. The ceremony was hosted by Video Club Coordinator Sobia Farooq, with Dr. Faiza Bajwa, Bushra Sarwar, and other guests of honor in attendance. Dr. Yousaf administered the oath and presented badges to the new office-bearers, including President Atika Mughal, Vice President Ali Hassan, and General Secretary Warda. In his address, Dr. Yousaf emphasised the evolving role of media and the importance of knowledge and personal development for ethical media professionals. Dr. Faiza Bajwa highlighted the significance of television, radio, and social media as key tools for news dissemination and women's empowerment. Sobia Farooq shared that the Video Club aims to train students in short video production and filmmaking, fostering creativity and practical skills for future media projects.

Voters preferred peace over politics of chaos: PM

ISLAMABAD, Nov 24 (INP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has congratulated candidates of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz for their resounding win in the by-elections. In his message, PM Shehbaz Sharif felicitated Muhammad Tufail Jutt and Hafiz Muhammad Nauman on their convincing victories in the NA-143 Chichawatni and NA-129 Lahore by-elections. The prime minister said, "The victory in the by-elections is due to the vision of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and his exemplary leadership and the hard work of the party workers." Shehbaz Sharif further said, "The victory in the by-elections is a reflection of the public's trust in the hard work of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz for the development of the province."

"Undoubtedly, with the victory in NA-143 and NA-129 the public has expressed its trust in the spirit of public service of the PM-N," he said and added: "The victory in the elections shows the public's faith in the government's performance."

He said the victorious candidates of PM-L-N will work day and night to serve the people, representing the aspirations of their constituencies. Later in a post on X platform on Monday morning, PM Shehbaz said "By the boundless grace and mercy of Allah, the streak of victories for PM-L-N candidates in the by-election results continued. The people have expressed their trust in PM-L-N's objectives of development, stability, and public welfare, for which the people are grateful." He said "The success of Sardar Mahmood Qadir Khan

Federal Constitutional Court throws out IHC judges' petitions over transfers

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Federal Constitutional Court has rejected the request to send back to the Supreme Court the petition filed by five Islamabad High Court judges in the judges' transfer case. It should be noted that the case was related to the transfer of three judges from other high courts to the federal capital, and in June the Supreme Court did not declare the transfers unconstitutional. Against this decision, five Islamabad High Court judges had filed intra-court appeals. The Constitutional Court has dismissed the intra-court appeals of Islamabad High Court judges and others, thereby upholding the Supreme Court's earlier decision. A five-member Supreme Court bench had upheld the judges' transfer under Article 200 by majority. Similarly, intra-court appeals filed by the Lahore High Court Bar, the founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, Tahir Faraz Abbasi, Karachi Bar Association, Riyasat Ali Azad, and Shoaib Shaheen have also been dismissed due to non-prosecution. The Federal Constitutional Court also rejected the request to meet or seek instructions from the founder of PTI.

Chief Justice Ameeruddin Khan clarified that the court cannot issue such an order and advised that any request for a meeting should be made to the authority where the sentence was awarded.

Customs Enforcement Gadani Destroys Huge Quantity of Illicit and Hazardous Goods
ISLAMABAD: The Collector of Customs Enforcement, Gadani has destroyed a large cache of illicit, banned, contraband and expired goods which included 614.6 MT of betel nuts, 85.7 MT of pulka drosupari, 21,261 orders of foreign-origin cigarettes, and 21.25 MT of China salt in a major operation at FEU Khurkhra. The action was conducted with full transparency and in strict compliance with all legal and procedural requirements. The goods seized comprised of items deemed harmful to public health, illegal under import regulations or unfit for human consumption. Their seizure and subsequent destruction reflects the strong commitment to preventing the circulation of prohibited and hazardous products in the local market.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari meeting Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to the Russian Federation Faisal Niaz Tirmizi at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

LHC grants bail to YouTuber Ducky Bhai in gambling app promotion case

LAHORE (INP): The Lahore High Court on Monday granted bail to YouTuber Saad-ur-Rahman, also known as Ducky Bhai, in a case related to the promotion of gambling apps. The court approved his bail petition and directed him to submit surety bonds worth Rs 1 million. Justice Shahram Sarwar Chaudhry delivered the verdict, while Saad-ur-Rahman was represented in court by lawyers Imran Chaudhry and Shaharyar Goraiha. Ducky Bhai was arrested by the NCCLA on August 17, 2025, at Lahore Air. The FIR claimed that the public had lost their hard-earned money through these apps. Saad-ur-Rahman was accused of promoting multiple gambling apps on his YouTube channel and serving as a "Country Manager" for one app. The FIR included 27 video links from his account promoting these apps, many of which are now unavailable. Earlier, Saad-ur-Rahman had applied for bail in the District

Sessions Courts, but his applications were rejected, prompting him to approach the High Court. Earlier this month, the court had issued notices to NCCLA to submit arguments regarding the case. The YouTuber stated that he had not received any notice from the agency prior to his arrest. In late October, nine NCCLA officials were also accused of missing their authority and allegedly taking bribes from Saad-ur-Rahman.



DUBAI: Consul General of Pakistan in Dubai, United Arab Emirates Hussain Muhammad formally inaugurates the Pakistan pavilion at the Big 5 Global 2025.

Governor Mandokhail Highlights Vision for Inclusive Development in Balochistan

News Desk
QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Jaffer Khan Mandokhail has said that his vision for the province is one of inclusive and comprehensive development, where every citizen has access to quality education, healthcare facilities, and economic opportunities.

He emphasized that collective efforts are needed to address the major challenges currently faced by the people of the province. Speaking with parliamentarians and leaders of the Pakistan Muslim League-N, the Governor stated that all elected representatives carry a significant responsibility to meet the expectations of their constituents.

He added that along with public service, building trust, promoting civic participation, and creating awareness about rights and responsibilities at the grassroots level are also essential duties.

Present at the meeting were Speaker Balochistan Assembly Captain (R) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai, Parliamentarian



tary Leader of PML-N Mir Saleem Khosa, MNA Jamal Shah Kakar, Senator Saeed-ul-Hassan Mandokhail, Provincial Ministers Mir Asim, Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani, Mir Shoaib Nosherwan, Mir

Zareen Khan Magsi, Haji Muhammad Khan Lehri, Naseem ur Rehman Malakhail, Zarak Khan Mandokhail, PM Youth Affairs Coordinator Haider Khan Achakzai, and other provincial leaders and party cadres.

The delegation also briefed the Governor on local government candidates, their profiles, and the performance of the committee formed to advance the election process.

Governor Mandokhail reiterated that the party has always stood for justice, equality, and equal opportunities for all. He described party workers as the backbone of the organization whose dedication, enthusiasm,

and hard work drive its success. He further stated that as local government representatives, they will play a crucial role in shaping the future of communities, urging them to uphold party values.

Listen to the concerns of their constituents, and work tirelessly to meet their fundamental needs.

Jaffar Express Fired Upon Near Mach, No Casualties Reported

NEWS DESK:
The Quetta-to-Peshawar Jaffar Express was fired upon by unknown assailants near Mach and Aab-e-Gum in the Bolan region on Monday, railway officials con-

firmed. Fortunately, no loss of life or injuries was reported in the attack.

According to railway sources, security teams immediately responded, and the train was granted security

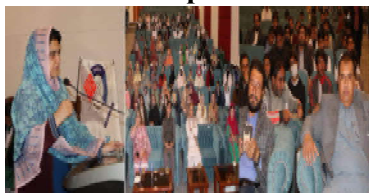
clearance after inspection. The Jaffar Express later continued its journey safely, and officials confirmed it reached the next railway station without any further incident. The attack has once again raised concerns regarding the security of passenger trains, particularly along the vulnerable Bolan railway section, where such incidents have occurred in the past.



Balochistan Education Minister Emphasizes Merit, Integrity and Anti-Corruption in Education Sector

News Desk
QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Education, Ms. Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani, said that we live in a society where corruption emerges in various forms despite hard work and performance. She emphasized the urgent need to guide the thoughts of female students and the younger generation in a positive direction. She said that Pakistan is a blessing, a country founded in the name of the Kalima and created through the sacrifices of our forefathers. Today, it is our responsibility to base the nation's development and progress on honesty and integrity.

She expressed these views while addressing a ceremony held at Government Girls Postgraduate College Quetta Cantt, organized by the Directorate of Colleges & Higher Education Balochistan in collaboration with the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Balochistan, on the successful conclusion of



provincial-level competitions. The Education Minister said that Islam provides us with a complete code of life, offering clear guidance in every aspect. If we correct our thinking and behavior, society can automatically improve. At times, a single sentence can change a life; she prayed that even one word spoken at the ceremony today brings positive change in the students' lives.

Ms. Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani reiterated that the current provincial government's policy is clear: eliminating corrup-

tion from the Education Department is its top priority. Under Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti's vision, the government has taken practical steps to ensure transparency and merit in the entire system.

She stated clearly that no job in the Education Department has been sold, nor will it be allowed. All recruitment processes have been made transparent, with merit being the foremost criterion. The teachers recruited are selected purely on the basis of merit and capability. The Education

Minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to continue taking all necessary measures to eradicate corruption and promote transparency in the education sector, so that the younger generation can be provided with a better, cleaner, and stronger educational system.

It is noteworthy that these competitions were organized in collaboration with NAB Balochistan to promote honesty, transparency, creativity, and positive activities among students. Additional Director NAB Balochistan Inran Akhtar Majid, Director Colleges Profes-

15 Acres of Illegal Poppy Crop Destroyed in Loralai Crackdown

News Desk
LORALAI: Commissioner Loralai Division, Wali Muhammad Badeech, received a detailed briefing from Assistant Commissioner Bori Nadeem Akram and SSP Malik Asghar regarding the recent operations carried out against illegal poppy cultivation.

During the briefing, officials informed

the Commissioner that poppy crops were destroyed on:

1 acre in Killi Dhund,
 11 acres in Shah Karez Khidranzai, and 4 acres in Ghulam Haider Karez.

In total, 15 acres of illegal cultivation were eliminated.

Authorities further reported the following actions during the operations: Three

submersible motors and tube wells were sealed. Multiple solar panels were disabled, and water supply sources were cut off to prevent further irrigation.

Commissioner Wali Muhammad Badeech appreciated the efforts of the teams involved and directed that joint anti-narcotics operations should continue on a daily basis to protect the younger generation from the menace of drugs.

placed on the Fourth Schedule, and their equipment has also been confiscated.

Commissioner Wali Muhammad Badeech appreciated the efforts of the teams involved and directed that joint anti-narcotics operations should continue on a daily basis to protect the younger generation from the menace of drugs.



Kech Border Trade to Reopen on December 7, Announces Deputy Commissioner

TURBAT: An important meeting on the restoration of border trade was held at the DC Office Turbat under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Kech, Basheer Ahmed Badich.

The meeting was attended by businesspersons, representatives, and other relevant stakeholders associated with cross-border trade.

During the meeting, the DC emphasized the need for effective measures to promote Pakistan-Iran border trade and resolve the issues

faced by local traders.

He announced that the Sourap Border, Pillar No. 214, will officially be reopened for trade activities on December 7, 2025.

The DC further informed that on September 1, a high-level delegation—including border-related traders, civil society representatives, and district administration officials—will visit the border area to review preparations for trade restoration.

He stated that trade activities will resume from the same point where they were

previously halted, and the border will gradually be fully restored to normal operations.

The DC assured traders that the Kech district administration will provide full support to ensure that business activities resume in a stable and organized manner.

Meanwhile, traders associated with border commerce welcomed the announcement,

terming it a significant step toward improving the local economy and creating new employment opportunities.



Pakistan seeks to buy 100,000 tonnes of rice for supply to Bangladesh

NEWS DESK: The Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) has issued a tender to purchase 100,000 tonnes of rice for supply to Bangladesh, it emerged on Monday.

After decades of troubled relations, Islamabad and Dhaka have seen improved ties and increased bilateral engagement since the August 2024 ouster of ex-premier Sheikh Hasina.

The deadline for submission of price offers is 11:30am on November 28, according to the TCP tender issued on November 20, which was seen by Dawn.

The tender invites "separate sealed bids" from companies, partnerships and sole proprietors for buying 100,000 tonnes of long grain white rice (IRRI-6) for export to Bangladesh in the shape of break bulk cargo through Karachi ports.

Price offers must be valid for 21 working days after submission. The rice must be available for shipment within 45 days after the contract award.

The bids shall be submitted for a minimum quantity of 25,000 tonnes, or multiples thereof, and a maximum quantity of 100,000



tonnes, +/- 5 per cent MOLS (5pc variance margin).

As per the tender, the rice should be supplied from the "stocks of latest crop of Pakistan origin", and must be fit for human consumption without any unpleasant odour, sign of mould, poisonous weed seeds, insects, and infestation.

According to Reuters, traders regarded the tender as a possible move to bring Pakistani rice into Bangladesh's import supplies, with market expectations that Indian-origin rice will be used to

supply some recent purchases. Bangladesh also announced another rice tender today, continuing a series of import tenders in the last few weeks to cool local prices.

Pakistan and Bangladesh started direct government-to-government trade in February with imports of 50,000 tonnes of rice.

At the 9th Joint Economic Commission (JEC) last month, Pakistan offered the use of Karachi Port Trust as a gateway for Dhaka's trade with regional countries, including

China and the Central Asian states. Pakistan's rice exports fell 28pc in the first quarter of FY26, raising concerns within the sector about policy and regulatory barriers that continue to undermine competitiveness.

A Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan official had attributed the decline to India's 2024 decision to resume rice exports, remove the basmati minimum export price (MEP), and zero-rate rice exports. However, as Pakistani exporters avoided a direct price war, India's re-entry failed to significantly

disrupt Pakistan's rice trade in the following six months. October 2024 to March 2025, with the latter retaining its foothold in high-end markets.

Moreover, a 50 per cent tariff imposed by the United States on Indian goods, including basmati rice, in August has provided Pakistan an opportunity to expand its share in the American market. Data from Volza's Global Trade platform showed that between November 2023 and October 2024, the US accounted for 24pc of Pakistan's total basmati exports.

Reforms & governance: unlocking Pakistan's growth potential

NEWS DESK

Pakistan's economic trajectory in late 2025 is defined by a rigorous yet essential framework of discipline imposed by the government, following the approval of the \$7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) in September 2024.

The country embarked on a 37-month journey of stabilisation that has begun to reshape the fundamental contours of the national economy.

While early indicators such as the reduction of the policy rate to 11% and a projected inflation rate of 4.1% suggest a macroeconomic

turnaround, the core of the challenge lies beyond mere fiscal arithmetic. It rests on governance, the IMF's November 2025 Governance and Corruption Diagnostic Assessment

highlights, Pakistan's growth potential depends not just on balancing the books but on dismantling the systemic inefficiencies that have long stifled competition and innovation. The stabilisation measures implemented since late 2024 have yielded undeniable results, though the cost has been substantial. According to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Annual Report released

in October 2025, the country's foreign exchange reserves have stabilised around \$18.3 billion, providing a much-needed buffer against external shocks and currency volatility.

The SBP's aggressive monetary tightening, followed by a calculated easing cycle starting in early 2025, successfully anchored inflation expectations, bringing the Consumer Price Index (CPI) down to single digits for the first time in years.

However, this stability has come at a steep cost to industrial output and employment. Real GDP growth is projected at a modest 2.7%, a figure that is insufficient to absorb the country's growing youth labour force. The constraint is clear: Pakistan cannot stimulate growth through traditional fiscal expansion without reigniting the twin deficits — fiscal and current account — that have historically plagued its economy. Instead, growth must now come from structural efficiency and export orientation.

A pivotal element of the current economic strategy is the implementation of the IMF's 15-point governance reform plan. Unlike previ-

ous programmes that focused heavily on quantitative performance criteria, the current EFF explicitly links disbursements to qualitative governance reforms. The Governance and Corruption Diagnostic Assessment paints a stark picture of systemic failures in accountability and identifies critical areas for immediate rectification. Key among these is the restructuring of the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA). For decades, state-owned enterprises (SOEs) have enjoyed preferential treatment in government contracts, effectively crowding out private competitors and inflating public costs.

The new framework mandates a level playing field, requiring that SOEs compete on equal terms with the private sector. This is not merely a procedural change; it is a fundamental shift in the state-led growth model intended to foster a more competitive market environment. Furthermore, the report demands unprecedented transparency from the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC). While the SIFC has been pivotal in fast-tracking investments in agricul-

ture and order for the people," he said, adding that traffic accidents in the city have decreased since the launch of the Sindh Safe City Project.

In March, Mayor Wahab had demanded that the federal government provide Rs25 bn to strengthen the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) plants in Keamari. "We have to ensure the megacity could be ensured.

briefed that the cost of Karachi's development work was estimated at Rs25 billion. "Funds are not the issue; I want immediate and quality work for the citizens," the CM was quoted as saying.

CM Murad congratulated the mayor on the inauguration of reverse-osmosis RO plants in Keamari. "We have to ensure the megacity could be ensured.

mayor Wahab

Pakistan's economy cannot grow while women remain unsafe, excluded

NEWS DESK: No economy can grow while half its population remains unsafe, unseen, or silenced. Women's protection is not just a moral or legal concern; it is an economic necessity. Pakistan's ongoing challenge in ensuring women's dignity translates directly into lost productivity, declining labour force participation, and weakened competitiveness.

The Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act, 2010, was Pakistan's first national effort to create safer workplaces, requiring organisations to adopt codes of conduct and inquiry committees. The Act defined harassment narrowly, focusing primarily on sexual misconduct in formal work settings. The 2022 Amendment slightly expanded coverage to include freelancers, domestic workers, virtual spaces, and gender discrimination.

Yet both laws share the same structural limitation: they presume for-

mal employment, informal committees, and HR mechanisms. For the majority of women in informal, home-based, or field work, these protections remain theoretical — the law exists, but they do not.

With female labour force participation hovering around 21-22%, Pakistan ranks among the lowest in South Asia. Safety, mobility, and social constraints prevent most women from joining or remaining in the workforce, highlighting both a social and economic blind spot.

The new legal definition of harassment leaves broader forms of gender-based hostility, ridicule, or exclusion unacknowledged. In Nadia Nazir's 2021 SCMR 1004, the Supreme Court interpreted the law narrowly, addressing only sexual harassment. This reduces a structural social problem to isolated incidents and masks the economic consequences of women excluding workplaces out of fear or marginalisation.

Sensationalist media further corrodes societal respect for women.

Reactive institutions, failing prevention. The law is complaint-driven, assuming women can safely report, have access, and possess the courage to come forward. In reality, stigma, retaliation, and job insecurity deter most victims.

Over 1,300 workplace harassment complaints in the past 10 months signal growing awareness but not prevention. True success lies not in case numbers but in deterrence — creating workplaces and economic spaces where women feel safe enough to participate and thrive.

Battlefield beyond the office. Pakistan's real challenges lie far beyond office walls: in homes, classrooms, markets, and digital platforms. Domestic workers harassed in private homes, commuters abused on buses, and freelancers targeted online all face fragmented or absent redress mechanisms.

Media further corrodes societal respect for women.

CM Murad approves Rs25bn to reconstruct Karachi; orders installation of streetlights, drainage system

NEWS DESK: Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah on Monday approved Rs25 billion for the reconstruction of 315 internal streets and 60 major roads across Karachi while

ordering the proper installation of streetlights throughout the metropolis. Karachi's road networks have been in shambles with thoroughfares riddled with potholes, posing serious dangers to commuters across the city, particularly after the latest spell of rains.

According to a statement by CM Sindh's spokesperson, Abdul Rashid Channa, a meeting on the reconstruction of Karachi's roads and streets was chaired by CM Murad today. Minister for Local Government Nasir Shah, Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab, Chief Secretary Asif Haider Shah, Principal Secretary Agha Wasif, Senior Member Board of Revenue Khalid Haider Shah,

among others, also participated. After heavy rains, Karachi's roads are in a state of disrepair," CM Murad was quoted as saying.

"Mega projects are underway, causing traffic problems. I want development work to be accelerated in the city so that people do not suffer further," he said. Mayor Wahab stated that 315 internal streets of the

city were in a state of disrepair. The CM ordered that all internal street schemes be approved and that work be done quickly.

He also instructed the authorities concerned to ensure a regular drainage system is made in the streets being constructed, along with one on the 60 important highways, as per the statement.

Mayor Wahab



Alarmed by weakness of audit mechanism, IMF calls for independent AGP office

NEWS DESK: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has expressed serious concern over the absence of an internal audit mechanism and weak constitutional and parliamentary audit supervision in Pakistan, warning that these gaps pose major fiduciary risks to public funds estimated at about Rs40 trillion at the federal level and even higher in the provinces.

It has called for a fully independent Office of the Auditor General of Pakistan (AGP) to ensure better value for taxpayers' money.

In a detailed section in its Governance & Corruption Diagnosis Assessment (GCDA), the IMF has identified a series of weaknesses in Pakistan's internal financial controls, internal and external audit systems and practical supervisory of the AGP. The executive director's constitutional autonomy, besides insufficient capacity and role of the parliamentary oversight through the Public Accounts Committee (PAC).

It is therefore unsurprising that cases



of financial irregularities, embezzlement and corruption running into trillions of rupees continue to surface year after year.

The Fund said an effective internal control system was essential for creating an environment that ensured appropriate decision-making regarding the use of public resources, with clear accountability for such decisions, including via administrative structures, as well as external audit institution and the legislature.

"Both internal and external audits are vital in maintaining the integrity of an organisation's

operations and financial reporting, thereby reducing the risk of corruption," the Fund observed and highlighted a series of weaknesses and vulnerabilities.

Saying that internal audit was weak in Pakistan, the report noted that the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act 2019 required the creation of a Chief Internal Auditor (CIA) in each division to work directly with principal accounting officers no later than 2020. "Despite this provision, there has been no implementation and appointment of CIAs," the IMF said.

It said that 25 chief

finance and accounts officers (CFAOs) were working in ministries for financial management — a distinct role — but CIAs have not been posted in all ministries and divisions and CFAOs are also missing in 15 provinces and territories.

The full implementation of the PFM Act 2019 still remains a dream after six years. In addition, ministries and divisions with CFAOs lack consistency, interest, and follow-up on the findings of internal audit reports," it said. The Fund also questioned why the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) was still

operating as an attached institution of the Federal Secretariat, which resulted in a lack of full independence.

According to Article 171 of the Constitution and Article 7 of the Pakistan Audit Ordinance, 2001, the AGP has to attest the Appropriation accounts and financial statements of federal, provincial and local governments' entities and the certified accounts and financial statements of the federal and provincial/local governments are submitted to the president and the governors of provinces, respectively.

"Due to its status as an attached institution, the Auditor General does not report directly to the parliament but instead through the Federal Secretariat, the prime minister, and the president. This indirect reporting structure can potentially compromise the independence and objectivity of the audit process," it said.

In addition, as an attached institution, the OAG has to obtain approval from the federal Public Service Commission to hire auditors.

Chicken rates fall significantly in Karachi amid border closure with Afghanistan

NEWS DESK: The poultry prices across the metropolis have witnessed a significant decline, thanks to the closure of borders with Afghanistan which has resulted in suspension of trade.

Consumers in local markets express surprise at the decline in rates and suspect it is due to the "spread of some kind of disease" among the birds. However, Sindh Poultry Wholesalers Association (SPWA) general secretary Kamal Akht Siddiqui ruled out any disease in the poultry.

Speaking to Dawn, he said suspension of trade and export of poultry products — birds, feed, eggs, etc. — to Afghanistan since the border closure had caused the prices to fall.

Live bird is selling at Rs350-Rs370 per kg, while eggs are sold at Rs40-Rs45 per kg, he said. The government urged to take notice of high prices of chicken dishes at eateries.

Currently, retailers are seen charging Rs350-Rs370 per kilogram for live poultry birds compared to Rs460-540 per

kg in September.

Even in mid-October when the border closure began, the price of live birds crashed to Rs310-360 per kg, while boneless meat was available at Rs60-70 per kg.

Retailers offer poultry meat with giblets at Rs400-480 while others ask for Rs330-380 per kg for clean meat. Boneless rates now hover between Rs700-800 per kg versus Rs1,000-1,100 in September.

Stakeholders believe that price differentials are due to the quality of the birds and their meat which may differ in various retail outlets.

Contrary to market rates, the commissioner of Karachi on November 23 issued the rate of live bird and its meat (without giblets), which are Rs288 and Rs435 per kg, respectively, but these rates are not followed by retail shops due to absence of the official price list.

Some shops, although displaying the official price list, openly sell poultry products at their own rates.

"Cheaper than red meat"

The SPWA's general secretary said that besides border closure, farmers faced the issue of overproduction at their farms coupled with an overweight of birds.

"Chicken is still cheaper than red meat. It is a big relief for many low and middle income people, who can easily buy it as the rates of mutton and beef are still too high," Mr Siddiqui said.

He said people holding wedding parties prefer to put multiple chicken dishes rather than focusing on an expensive beef or a mutton dish.

Mutton is sold at Rs2,300-2,500 per kg while live meat (kacha) with bones and without bones are available at Rs1,400 and Rs1,600 per kg, respectively.

No relief in eateries prices. Despite the fall in rates, the prices of chicken tikka, broasted chicken, Seekh kebab and Boti, Chinese dishes, etc. have not yet recorded any decrease.

Nawaz, Sahibzada star as Pakistan romp to seven-wicket victory against Sri Lanka

NEWS DESK: Spinner Mohammad Nawaz set it up for Pakistan before opener Sahibzada Farhan finished it off to the joy of a packed crowd at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium.

With Nawaz (3-16) weaving his magic with the ball, including two wickets in two balls, in the Twenty20 tri-nation clash, Pakistan restricted Sri Lanka to 128-7 before romping to their target with 4.3 overs to spare in their Twenty20 tri-nation series clash on Saturday.

Sahibzada led the batting effort with his sixth T20 half-century, hitting five sixes and six fours in an explosive 80 not out off 45 balls, as Pakistan eased to a six-wicket victory that made in two in two for the hosts, who beat Zimbabwe by five wickets in the series opener.

Sri Lanka, meanwhile, have no wins in two with the defeat following a humbling at the hands of Zimbabwe on

Thursday.

But it had seemed all so different at the start when skipper Dasun Shunaka won the toss and elected to bat with openers Kamil Mishara and Pathum Nissanka tearing into Pakistan's bowling with the latter cutting away Salman Mirza for four on the first ball of their innings.

Mishara then pulled Mohammad Wasim Jr. in for the injured Shaheen Shah Afridi, for six and then smashed Salmaan for four and a six off consecutive deliveries in the third over.

Mishara then slashed at Faheem Ashraf and got a top-edge that ran for four but his enterprising 22 off 12 ended on the next ball when he was undone by the change of pace and found Fakhar Zaman at mid-off.

One-drop Kusal Mendis didn't last long as he was run out in an attempt to scamper a quick two and Sri Lanka ended the powerplay at



44-2 after the incoming Kusal Perera pulled Faheem away past mid-on for four.

Spinner Abrar bowled an expensive first over, giving away 11 — four of them wides, with Perera raising Sri

Lanka's 50 with his second four. But Abrar hit back in his second over, having Nissanka caught at long-off for a sluggish 23-ball 17 and Sri Lanka trudged to 65-3 by the midway point of their innings.

Perera, who made 25 off 19, welcomed Saim Ayub into the attack with a six over deep square leg but Nawaz's double-wicket burst left Sri Lanka reeling. First Perera was cleaned up with a ball that was

tossed outside off but turned enough to find a way between bat and pad and hit the off-stump before Shanaka was sent packing in similar fashion.

From 78-3, Sri Lanka slipped to 86-6 when

Nawaz had Kamindu Mendis caught thanks to a superb display of athleticism by Wasim in the deep.

A first boundary in six overs came when Janith Liyanage, who hit a valiant 41 not out, lifted Abrar straight back over his head for six on the first ball of the 17th and as Sri Lanka crossed 100, Wanindu Hasaranga got a four over extra cover two balls later.

An upper-cut for off Wasim got Liyanage his first four and he followed it up with another off Salmaan in the penultimate over before Hasaranga (11) holed out in the deep.

Liyanage, though, couldn't give Sri Lanka the lift they were looking for in the last over with just seven coming off it. Pakistan got off to a flyer in the chase, Saim (20) getting the first boundary when he dispatched a full toss by Eshan Malinga and the left-hander ended the

second over with two fours through the offside.

Sahibzada got on the act, lifting Hasaranga over mid-off for four and then hitting Dushmantha Chameera for a four and six — over square leg.

Samuellic Shanaka for four to bring up his 1000 runs in T20s but was stumped two balls later.

Sahibzada, though, was unfazed by losing his opening partner, crashing Vijayakanth Viyakanth for four and six, both in the square leg area, off consecutive balls before the right-hander raised his half-century off 33 balls.

A glorious cover drive by Sahibzada off Malinga ended a 24-ball boundary drought and Pakistan were well-placed after ending the first 10 overs at 68-1.

Viyakanth was then crashed by Sahibzada for a four and six, both in the square leg area, off consecutive balls before the right-hander raised his half-century off 33 balls.

Sindh swimmers dominate at national age group championships

NEWS DESK: Swimmers from Sindh province put in a commanding performance at the 29th National Age Group Swimming Championship, claiming the best swimmer awards in three out of four boys' categories as the event concluded here at the Pakistan Sports Complex on Sunday.

Mohammad Rafi (U-12), Ali Usman (U-14) and Syed Azlan Sohail (U-16) were all crowned best swimmers in their respective age groups.

The sole exception was in the U-10 category, where Punjab's Mohammad Ahan Kashif took the



honour after winning five gold medals.

The competition saw several new national records set. In the boys' U-16 event, Azlan from Sindh set a new record in the

200m Individual medley with a time of 2:13.82 on his way to being named best swimmer.

Other record-breaking performances came from

Zayyan Ali Khan of Punjab in the U-10 50m backstroke (38.10 seconds), and a Pun-jab team in the U-10 4x50m freestyle relay (2:19.02).

Sindh's swimmer

dominated the U-12 category with Mustafa Makhool winning two gold medals (200m breaststroke and freestyle) while Rafi also bagged a gold in 50 meter free style.

In the concurrently held 24th National Age Group Championship for girls, Zoya Omair Hafiz from Sindh set a new national record in the U-12 200m Individual Medley, clocking 2:51.78.

The championship also saw strong team performances in the relays, with teams from Sindh and Punjab trading victories across the various age groups.

Jansen takes six as South Africa close on historic Test series win

NEWS DESK: Towering pace spearhead Marco Jansen took six wickets to put South Africa in sight of a first Test series win in India in 25 years after bundling out the hosts for 201 in the second match on Monday.

Replying to South Africa's 489, India were 288 behind in their first innings but the tourists did not enforce the follow-on and decided to bat again on day three in Guwahati.

After winning the first Test in the two-match series in Kolkata, South Africa are closing on a first series win in India since Hansie Cronje's team triumphed in 2000.

India are under massive pressure once more, having suffered their fourth defeat in six Tests at home in the first

match.

A dominant South Africa reached 26-0 at stumps to extend their lead to 314 in the second innings.

Left-handed Ryan Rickelton, on 13, and Aiden Markram, on 12, were batting when bad light ended the day's play in the northeastern city, where the sun sets early.

Jansen, a left-arm quick, claimed his fourth five-wicket Test haul before wrapping up his sixth strike of the day in the final session.

India slumped to 122-7 despite Yashasvi Jaiswal's 58 as wickets kept tumbling on what still seems like a good pitch to bat on.

Washington Sundar, who made 48, and fellow left-hander Kuldeep Yadav resisted in a partnership

of 72 off 208 balls before off-spinner Simon Harmer struck to end Sundar's defiance.

Jansen then dismissed Kuldeep for 19 and Jasprit Bumrah for two to pack a shell-shocked India off in under three sessions.

Earlier, the left-handed Jaiswal lost overnight partner KL Rahul for 22 in the first hour of play before reaching his 13th Test half-century. Jaiswal used the sweep to good effect and took on the bowlers, hitting seven fours and one six until his departure off Harmer.

Harmer had Sai Sudharsan caught at mid-wicket for 15 and Jansen removed Dhruv Jurel for a duck to further put India on the back foot at the first break.

Mohammad Asif and Asjad Iqbal clinch IBSF World Cup title for Pakistan

NEWS DESK: Pakistan's cue masters, the veteran duo of Mohammad Asif and Asjad Iqbal, etched their names in history by clinching the IBSF Team World Cup title in a thrilling final against Hong Kong in Muscat on Sunday.

The showdown began with Hong Kong's Chau Hon Man taking on Asjad.

Mandisplayed formidable long potting, dominating the first frame. He capitalised on an early opening from Asjad, who recently reached the

cagey affair, with both players tentative and avoiding easy openings.

Wan managed to build a 17-point lead, but fortune turned when he fouled while playing a safety shot using the rest. The seasoned Asif pounced on the opportunity, masterfully building a sublime break of 82 to claim the frame 95-17 and level the match.

The pivotal third frame, a doubles contest, was another tight battle.

Asif initially struggled, conceding

Pakistan conceded the frame 84-41, handing the lead back to Hong Kong.

With their backs against the wall, Pakistan sent their most successful cueist, Asif, to face Wan in the fourth frame.

Wan started strong, extending his lead to 36 points before missing a tricky shot. Under immense pressure, Asif produced a moment of pure brilliance.

He executed a perfect century clearance, potting the final black to win the frame 100-36 and send the

onship in sight, the Pakistani cueist, who had missed chances earlier, showed immense composure.

The 34-year-old Asjad confidently and carefully crafted a magnificent century break of 104, securing the title before missing an inconsequential yellow ball.

Amidst roaring applause from the crowd, the victorious Pakistani duo shook hands with their opponents, embracing the praise after a well-earned and memorable victory.

The path to the



final of the individual event — to meticulously construct a decisive break of 85, sealing the frame 94-0 and putting Pakistan on the back foot.

Needing a response, the 43-year-old Asif stepped up against Nansen Wan in the second frame. What ensued was a

12 points from three consecutive fouls. Although Hong Kong established a commanding 75-point lead through breaks of 31 and 37 from Wan, the Pakistani pair fought back.

However, after Asif added 24 points, and with the deficit too large,

final into a nail-biting decider.

The title now rested on the decisive frame between Pakistan's former national champion, Asjad, and the youngster, Wan.

After a brief safety exchange, Asjad seized his opening. With the champi-

title saw the Pakistani duo deliver a series of commanding performances.

On Saturday, they secured a convincing 3-1 victory over arch-rivals India in the semi-final, a win that was preceded by a dominant 3-0 win against Qatar in the quarter-finals.

Berrettini, Cobolli lead Italy past Spain for third straight Davis Cup title



NEWS DESK: Italy captured a remarkable third consecutive Davis Cup title on Sunday with Matteo Berrettini and Flavia Cobolli winning their singles matches for a 2-0 triumph over Spain in the best-of-three tie in Bologna.

Inspired by loud support from the home crowd, Berrettini dispatched Pablo Carreno Busta 6-3 6-4 in the opening match before Cobolli overcame Jaume Munar 1-6 7-6(5) 7-5 to seal the triumph for Filippo Volandri's team.

The victory over six-times winners Spain marked Italy's fourth Davis Cup crown overall, following wins in 1976, 2023 and 2024. Italy also became the first nation to win three consecutive Davis Cup titles since the Challenge Round was abolished following the 1971 event.

Both teams were

missing key players, with Spain deprived of Carlos Alcaraz and Italy without Jannik Sinner and Lorenzo Musetti.

But Berrettini and Cobolli rose to the occasion magnificently.

After a series of tight service games to start the opener, Berrettini broke Carreno Busta for a 5-3 lead and closed out the set with ease in just over 30 minutes.

With the second set finely poised at 4-4, the 2021 Wimbledon runner-up struck again at the decisive moment, breaking for a 5-4 lead before serving out the match to love. Berrettini, ranked 56th in the world, banged down 13 aces and unleashed 21 winners as the 29-year-old extended his Davis Cup singles winning streak to 11 matches.

The team is big, we're guys who love each other, a big team.

And now come on Flavio, go for it," Berrettini said after his win. He was also key to Italy's Davis Cup success last year when he won all six matches he contested.

Munar had raced to a double break and a 5-0 lead before Cobolli finally got on the board. The 28-year-old Spaniard, ranked 36th, remained composed under pressure, and from the baseline he was relentless, closing out the set 6-1. Cobolli faced another early setback when he was broken in the opening game of the second set, but the 23-year-old Italian roared back, sending the home crowd wild with his spirited response.

Cobolli, ranked 22nd, eventually forced a deciding second set that lasted 90 minutes. The Italian finally converted on his seventh set point,

three of which came in the tiebreak.

The drama continued into the third set, where Cobolli earned the first break at 6-5 and then served out the match with remarkable composure to complete a stunning comeback.

His triumph was followed by jubilant celebrations as his Italian teammates embraced him on the court.

"It's impossible to describe this feeling," Cobolli said. "I dreamed a lot for this night. I played an amazing match today. I don't know how I won. The match was tough. Jaume played so good. We cannot lose for our country. Sometimes you learn, but you never lose. If you give all you have in your heart... I don't know what I did today. I don't know where I am. The only thing I know is that I'm world champion."

'No one will support it': Ukraine's soldiers react to US peace plan

NEWS DESK: Ukraine's frontline soldiers have reacted to draft US peace proposals with a mixture of defiance, anger and resignation.

The BBC spoke to half a dozen who sent us their views via social media and email in response to the original US plan — details of which were leaked last week.

Since then, American and Ukrainian negotiators have been working on changes to the proposals — and are set to continue talks about the "peace framework".

Of the original US plan, Yaroslav in eastern Ukraine, says it "sucks... no one will support it" while an army medic with the call sign Shutter dismissed it as an "absolutely disgraceful draft of a peace plan, unworthy of our attention".

But one soldier with the call sign Snake told us "it's time to agree at least on something".

This is what the soldiers who spoke to the BBC had to say about some of the key points

in the original US draft peace plan.

Giving up territory The US put forward a draft peace proposal at a time when Russia is making significant advances on the battlefield. Over the past month alone Ukraine has lost a further 450 sq km to Russia.

Kyiv still controls around 15% of the Donbas region, the eastern part of Ukraine encompassing the Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts which is a key war goal for Russia. But the original US plan proposes that Ukraine give up the entire region — even parts it has successfully defended for nearly four years of full-scale war.

"Let them take it," Snake told the BBC. There's practically no one left in the eastern villages... We're not fighting for the people but for the land, while losing more people.

Andrii, an officer in Ukraine's general staff, says that what is being proposed for Luhansk and Donetsk is "painful



and difficult" but he suggests the country may have no other choice.

Ukraine has been defending the region since 2014, when Russia annexed Crimea and its proxy forces seized parts of the Donbas. "We are not fighting for the land, but we won't be able to hold it by military force and resources," Andrii says.

Eastern Ukraine has been the scene of the heaviest fighting in this war, and Ukraine has lost tens of thousands of troops defending it.

Matros, who has been fighting since 2018, told us giving up the Donbas would "nullify everything — all the efforts of the armed forces".

"It will disregard the lives of fallen soldiers and civilians," he said.

Cutting the size of Ukraine's armed forces The US draft peace plan envisages limiting the size of Ukraine's armed forces to 600,000. That is still significantly more than before the full-scale invasion when its full-time strength was

around 250,000, but smaller than its current size. The most recent estimates suggest Ukraine's military strength is more than 800,000.

Snake believes the country will need many of those currently in uniform to help rebuild Ukraine when the war ends. "What's the point of having so many

people in the army if there will be security guarantees?" he asks.

Andrii the staff officer agrees. "If there are security guarantees, then of course there's no point in keeping such a large army," he says. "People are tired and want to return to their families. There's no reason to keep them in a peacetime army after the war." He believes Ukraine's economy would be unable to sustain such large armed forces in peacetime.

Army medic Shutter does not agree, saying that Ukraine's army "is the only thing separating us from defeat and enslavement" while Matros calls the proposal to reduce the size of the armed forces "absurd and manipulative". Security guarantees

Ukraine's willingness to agree to the proposals will depend on its future security guarantees.

The US draft plan rules out Ukraine's membership of Nato, but not of the European Union.

There is a promise of US security guarantees if Russia were to attack again, though no further detail on the measure of that support. The draft also rules out the presence of Nato forces in Ukraine, if there is a deal.

But Yevhen, a drone operator in eastern Ukraine, thinks the presence of foreign troops in the country is an important security guarantee. The UK and France have been leading efforts to provide a "reassurance force" in the event of a ceasefire, through a "Coalition of the Willing".

"Like the UK's plan to put troops into Ukraine [through this coalition]," he says. "This is the only plan that will help us win, to introduce allied troops."

But staff officer Andrii does not believe Europe can provide much in the way of security guarantees. "Europe has turned out to be completely spineless and divided," he says. "It seems all hope rests only on the United States."

Washington, Kyiv say peace deal must 'fully uphold' Ukraine's sovereignty

NEWS DESK: Washington and Kyiv said that any eventual deal to halt the war with Russia must fully uphold Ukraine's sovereignty, after "constructive" talks between US, Ukrainian and European officials in Geneva.

After a day of meetings that kicked the sides had based on a United States' proposal that was criticised as being in Russia's favour, negotiators have drafted "an updated and refined peace framework", a US-Ukraine joint statement said on Sunday.

US President Donald Trump had given Ukraine until November 27 to approve his plan to end the nearly four-year conflict, which began late on Nov 23, 2025, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

But Kyiv was seeking changes to the draft that accepted a range of Russia's headline demands, with the 28-point plan requiring the invaded country to cede territory, cut its army and pledge never to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (Nato).

"The talks were constructive, focused, and respectful, underscoring the shared commitment to achieving a just and lasting peace," the joint statement said.

"They reaffirmed that any future agreement must fully uphold Ukraine's sovereignty and deliver a sustainable and just peace," it said, noting "meaningful progress".

Both sides pledged to keep working on joint proposals "in the coming days".

But even as the White House said in a separate statement that the talks marked a "significant step forward", a Russian drone strike on

the major Ukrainian city of Kharkiv killed four people, its mayor said. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio spoke of "tremendous progress" after a day of meetings, while the head of Ukraine's delegation Andriy Yermak also told the press that the sides had made "very good progress".

The Ukrainian delegation referred to a new version of the US draft plan, which has yet to be published, saying it "already reflects most of Ukraine's key priorities".

This photo shows a general view of a room inside a house that was partially destroyed by a Russian drone strike in Kharkiv late on Nov 23, 2025, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine. — AFP

Rubio, whose delegation included Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner and diplomatic envoy Steve Witkoff, told reporters that the work to narrow the areas of disagreement had advanced "in a very substantial way".

"I can tell you that the items that remain open are not insurmountable," he said, adding, "I honestly believe we'll get there."

His comments came after Trump earlier lashed out at Ukraine, saying he had "expressed zero gratitude for our efforts," Trump wrote in an update on his Truth Social platform, also accusing European countries of not doing enough to stop the war, but offering no direct condemnation of Moscow.

Not long after, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on X that his country was "grateful to the United States... and personally to President Trump" for the assistance that has been "saving Ukrainian lives".

Announcing a deadly Russian drone strike, Kharkiv Mayor Igor Terekhov said on Telegram yesterday it was "truly horrible" that despite the negotiations, "Russian troops are attacking civilian objects, civilian infrastructure, residential buildings".

At the end of the day, Rubio said he thought Trump was "quite pleased at the reports we've given him about the amount of progress that's been made".

Asked about whether he believed a deal could be reached by Thursday, he said the "deadline is we want to get this done as soon as possible".

"I think we have a tremendous amount of progress. I feel very optimistic that we're going

to get there in a very reasonable period of time, very soon." The US plan was drafted without input from Ukraine's European allies, who were scrambling on Sunday to make their voices heard and boost Kyiv's position.

EU countries plan to discuss the Ukraine situation on the sidelines of a meeting with African leaders in Angola today.

His comments came after Trump earlier lashed out at Ukraine, saying he had "expressed zero gratitude for our efforts," Trump wrote in an update on his Truth Social platform, also accusing European countries of not doing enough to stop the war, but offering no direct condemnation of Moscow.

Not long after, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on X that his country was "grateful to the United States... and personally to President Trump" for the assistance that has been "saving Ukrainian lives".

Announcing a deadly Russian drone strike, Kharkiv Mayor Igor Terekhov said on Telegram yesterday it was "truly horrible" that despite the negotiations, "Russian troops are attacking civilian objects, civilian infrastructure, residential buildings".

At the end of the day, Rubio said he thought Trump was "quite pleased at the reports we've given him about the amount of progress that's been made".

Asked about whether he believed a deal could be reached by Thursday, he said the "deadline is we want to get this done as soon as possible".

"I think we have a tremendous amount of progress. I feel very optimistic that we're going

to get there in a very reasonable period of time, very soon." The US plan was drafted without input from Ukraine's European allies, who were scrambling on Sunday to make their voices heard and boost Kyiv's position.

EU countries plan to discuss the Ukraine situation on the sidelines of a meeting with African leaders in Angola today.

His comments came after Trump earlier lashed out at Ukraine, saying he had "expressed zero gratitude for our efforts," Trump wrote in an update on his Truth Social platform, also accusing European countries of not doing enough to stop the war, but offering no direct condemnation of Moscow.

Not long after, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on X that his country was "grateful to the United States... and personally to President Trump" for the assistance that has been "saving Ukrainian lives".

G20 grapples with splintering world order

NEWS DESK: G20 leaders wrapping up a summit in South Africa on Sunday hailed multilateralism even as they struggled to adapt to a changing world order beset by go-it-alone US policies, wars and deepening geopolitical rivalries.

"Too many countries are retreating into geopolitical blocs or the battlegrounds of protectionism," Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney told reporters.

He added: "We are not experiencing a transition, but a rupture."

He and the other leaders at the summit — which was boycotted by the United States — held a searching discussion on how the G20 can survive in a fragmenting world.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said, just before bringing the gavel down on the summit, that the meeting took place "at a crucial time, calls around the world grow louder for progress on the imperatives of our time".

Despite challenges to international cooperation, Ramaphosa said a joint declaration by G20 leaders issued early in the meeting "reaffirms our renewed commitment to multilateral cooperation and our recognition that our shared goals outweigh our differences".

Dozens of leaders from key economies

around the world — including Europe, China, India, Japan, Turkey, Brazil and Australia — attended the summit, the first to be held in Africa.

In their G20 summit, they said their meeting was held "against the backdrop of rising geopolitical and geo-economic competition and instability, heightened conflicts and wars, deepening inequality, increasing global economic uncertainty and fragmentation".

French President Emmanuel Macron on Saturday warned that the G20 may be coming to the end of a "cycle".

Noting difficulties in finding a common stance on conflicts around the world, he argued it should refo-

multilateralism, these events, both at the COP (UN climate talks in Brazil) and here in South Africa, demonstrate that multilateralism is more alive than ever."

He said that Trump "is trying to practically advocate for the end of multilateralism, strengthening unilateralism" but added he believed that "together we are much stronger... and it is easier to solve the world's problems".

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said he thought "it was not a good decision" for America to skip the summit, but "that is for the US government to decide".

"What has really fascinated me a bit here today and yester-

day is the fact that you can see that the world is currently reorganising itself and that, here, new connections are being formed," Merz told reporters.

He said that emerging economies and the Global South were becoming more important in the G20.

Lula told reporters: "If anyone thought they could weaken

the G20 — comprising 19 nations plus the European Union and the African Union — was founded in the

wake of the 1997-1998 Asian financial crisis, and its original mission was to boost global economic and financial stability.

US President Donald Trump's government snubbed the event, saying South Africa's priorities — including cooperation on trade and climate — ran counter to its policies.

Trump's officials have also made unfounded accusations of a "white genocide" in South Africa.

The United States is to host next year's G20 summit, with Trump planning to hold it at a Florida golf club he owns.

Several leaders, including Carney, Ramaphosa and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva,



just on strategic economic issues going forward.

The G20 — comprising 19 nations plus the European Union and the African Union — was founded in the

said that emerging economies and the Global South were becoming more important in the G20.

Lula told reporters: "If anyone thought they could weaken

the G20 — comprising 19 nations plus the European Union and the African Union — was founded in the

said that emerging economies and the Global South were becoming more important in the G20.

Lula told reporters: "If anyone thought they could weaken

India's Hindustan Aeronautics calls T ejas jet crash 'isolated occurrence' caused by 'exceptional circumstances'

NEWS DESK: India's Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd said on Monday the crash of a Tejas fighter jet in Dubai last week was an "isolated occurrence" caused by "exceptional circumstances", without providing further details.

On Friday, India's Tejas fighter jet crashed in a ball of fire in front of horrified spectators during an aerial display at the Dubai Airshow.

The Indian Air Force has said it is setting up a court of inquiry to investigate the cause. State-owned Hindustan Aeronautics manufactures the aircraft, which is powered by General Electric engines. Both companies have said they will support the investigation. Tejas, which means



brilliance in Sanskrit, is seen as crucial for India's efforts to modernise its air force fleet of mainly Russian and ex-Soviet fighters.

The crash, which killed the pilot, dampens New Delhi's hopes of exporting the home-built jet and leaves it reliant

on Indian military orders to sustain its role as a showcase of domestic defence technology.

Such a public loss could overshadow India's efforts to establish the jet abroad after a painstaking development over four decades, experts have said.

Hindustan Aeronautics said on Monday that the crash will not affect its business operations, financials or future deliveries. Shares of the company, which were trading three per cent lower since morning, were unchanged after the statement.

Hindustan Aeronautics said on Monday that the crash will not affect its business operations, financials or future deliveries. Shares of the company, which were trading three per cent lower since morning, were unchanged after the statement.

Canada, India agree to restart trade talks, New Delhi says

NEWS DESK: Canada and India have agreed to restart stalled talks for a new trade deal, the Indian government said on Sunday, after discussions between the two countries paused following a diplomatic spat two years ago.

Prime Minister Mark Carney met with India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi for a bilateral discussion on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Johannesburg, South Africa.

"The leaders agreed to begin negotiations on high-ambition Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), aimed at doubling bilateral trade to USD 50 billion by 2030," the statement from India's Prime Minister's Office said.

"PM Modi and I

met at the G20 summit today, and launched negotiations for a trade deal that could more than double our trade to more than C\$70 billion," Carney said in a post on social media platform X.

"India is the world's fifth largest economy, and that means big new opportunities for Canadian workers and businesses."

Both sides reaffirmed their long-standing civil nuclear cooperation and noted the ongoing discussions on expanding collaboration, including long-term uranium supply arrangements, it added.

The restart of talks highlights thawing relations between the two countries as Carney pushes to expand trade ties beyond the United States, its biggest trading partner.

Carney has vowed to double Canada's non-US exports over the next decade.



Both sides reaffirmed their long-standing civil nuclear cooperation and noted the ongoing discussions on expanding collaboration, including long-term uranium supply arrangements, it added.

The restart of talks highlights thawing relations between the two countries as Carney pushes to expand trade ties beyond the United States, its biggest trading partner.

Carney has vowed to double Canada's non-US exports over the next decade.