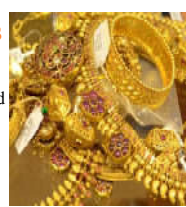




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Governor Balochistan Hosts Job Fair 2025 to Boost Employment Opportunities for Youth

Syed Ali Shah:

Universities Equipped to Provide Advanced Training

Governor Balochistan, Jafar Khan Mandokhail, highlighted the growing capabilities of the province's public universities, stating that their senior scholars and researchers are now fully equipped to provide advanced training to officers in major companies and government departments. He emphasized that degrees and certifications awarded by these institutions are fully credible, and their expertise

should be leveraged for the benefit of the country.

Addressing Youth Unemployment through Job Fairs

The remarks were made during the "Job Fair 2025" held at the BUTEMS University, Takatu Campus. The event was attended by Vice Chancellor Dr. Khalid Hafeez, Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr. Maroof Kasi, Principal Secretary to the Governor Kaleem Allah Babar, Vice Chairman of the Balochistan Investment Board Bilal Khan Kakar, along with representatives from various universities, national and international

companies, and banks.

Governor Mandokhail pointed out that one of the province's most pressing challenges is youth unemployment. Unlike Punjab and Sindh, employment opportunities in Balochistan are limited, leaving many young people struggling to find work. He said job fairs play a crucial role in bridging the gap between academia and industry, helping students explore new career paths and employment opportunities.

Bridging Academia and Industry for Career Development

He added that such initiatives provide students with practical insights into the professional world, demonstrating the strong link between education and employment.

The universities aim not only to provide quality education but also to equip students with modern skills, professional networks, and opportunities that enable them to succeed in their chosen careers.

Governor Mandokhail further emphasized the need to strengthen collaboration between academia and the private sector, noting that the government alone cannot provide employment for

millions of youth. Strengthening the private sector is therefore essential for sustainable job creation.

The eighth BUTEMS Job Fair 2025 featured stalls from national and international companies and banks, where representatives briefed students on their organizations, products, and career opportunities.

The Governor personally visited over 100 stalls, encouraging students to take advantage of the opportunities available and congratulated the university administration for successfully organizing the event.

KP CM Afridi stages sit-in after being denied meeting with Imran for eighth time

NEWS DESK:

After being denied a meeting with PTI founder Imran Khan for the eighth time, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi staged a sit-in at Factory Naka, near Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail on Thursday.

CM Afridi was also denied a meeting with Imran at the jail last Friday. Speaking to reporters, he stated that it was unfortunate that, despite having orders from the Islamabad High Court (IHC), he was not permitted to meet the patron-in-chief of his party. He added that he wrote to the chief justice but received no response regarding the issue.

The CM and party supporters originally intended to march to the prison, where Imran is incarcerated, but were stopped by a heavy contingent of police personnel at Factory Naka.

The CM offered prayers at the sit-in, which were led by Punjab lawmaker Hafiz Farhat Abbas.

Speaking to reporters earlier today, Afridi said that police had stopped him this afternoon at Factory Naka, near the jail. This is the same area where the party staged a sit-in after being denied a meeting with Imran earlier this week.

"I told the police that I was stopped last time, and I am also being stopped this time," CM Afridi said. "I told them, 'If you stop me, then tell me why you are defying court orders in writing.' They did not give me a reason."

The KP CM added that the situation is "worsening" and questioned why the authorities are not complying with court orders. "A province is being treated like a stepmother," CM Afridi remarked. "If the representative of 25 million people is being treated like this, then it is not a good thing."

"Would you like it if it happened to someone else in another province tomorrow?" The CM added that nobody was allowed to meet the PTI founder, be it his sisters, doctors, lawyers or party leadership. "These people (authorities) need to decide who they are standing with. If they continue with this attitude, then we will take a final option," he said, not elaborating on the "final option" itself. PTI concerned about Imran's health. The PTI expressed concern over Imran's health while incarcerated, as he has been barred from seeing his family and lawyers for over three weeks.

IHC summons DIG over woman, children abduction case

NEWS DESK:

The Islamabad High Court has summoned the Islamabad Director Inspector General of Investigation on December 9 over the alleged abduction of a woman and her minor daughters from Lahore and Bahawalpur, linked to a financial dispute involving former PIA Chief Executive Officer Musharraf Rasool.

The court has directed the DIG to clarify whether statements from the Lahore police involved in the raid on the woman's house have been recorded, and whether those who carried out the raid had valid search warrants. Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani emphasized that any removal of individuals without a warrant constitutes abduction, adding that the court seeks to establish the truth in a case involving the humiliation of a woman and her children. "If someone is taken without a search warrant, it is considered abduction."

Quetta Police Bust Organised Crime Gangs: Stolen Vehicles, Gold, and Arms Recovered

Qaseem Shah,
News Desk:

QUETTA: Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police Quetta, Imran Shaukat, has announced major breakthroughs in the city's intensified crackdown on organised crime, revealing that police have made significant progress over the past five weeks.

Speaking at a press conference, DIG Imran Shaukat said Quetta Police accelerated operations across the city, resulting in the arrest of suspects involved in vehicle theft, robberies, and other criminal activities. He said coordinated efforts are underway to dismantle organised criminal networks operating in and around Quetta.

According to the DIG, police had been receiving frequent complaints about vehicles stolen from other provinces and sold in Balochistan. Acting on these reports, police launched targeted operations which led to the recovery of several snatched and stolen vehicles from Karachi and other areas. A major gang involved in vehicle theft was also



busted, with 20 vehicles recovered from their possession. FIRs have been registered in multiple cases. He further said that progress has been made in a Rs 20 million robbery case in Sariah, where a special police team arrested two suspects and recovered

stolen items. In another robbery case in Sariah, police arrested three suspects and seized gold worth Rs 7 million, mobile phones, and other valuables.

DIG Imran Shaukat confirmed that weapons and ammunition were also recovered during

various operations. In the last six weeks, police conducted over 80 raids targeting organised crime groups.

He warned that money generated through organised crime is often used to fund terrorism, making these operations even

more crucial for public safety. He added that Quetta Police remain committed to restoring peace in the city and eliminating criminal elements completely.

"We are determined to make Quetta a peaceful and secure city," the DIG said.

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Balochistan's Climate Fund – A Lifeline Against Growing Disasters



Editorial: Balochistan has taken a historic and timely step by establishing its first-ever Climate Fund, a move that signals the province's recognition of the existential threat posed by global warming and climate change. In his recent meeting with British High Commissioner Jane Marriott, Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti rightly underscored the urgency of mobilizing resources to safeguard communities from natural calamities that are growing in frequency and intensity.

Floods In Buner

The tragic flash floods in the Buner area of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa this month, which claimed precious human lives, are a grim reminder of Pakistan's extreme vulnerability. The province sits on a fragile ecological and seismic zone — prone not only to floods but also to recurring droughts, earthquakes, and the looming threat of desertification. Each disaster further strains an already fragile infrastructure, displaces

communities, and deepens poverty.

Stop Deforestation

The Climate Fund, implemented transparently and effectively, has the potential to become a lifeline for millions. It can provide the financial base for disaster preparedness, early warning systems, reforestation, water management, and community resilience projects. Equally important, it can build trust between the government and people by showing that saved resources — like the Rs. 14 billion curtailed from non-developmental expenditures — are being invested in protecting lives and livelihoods.

The Battle Cannot Be Fought Alone

However, climate change is not a battle that Balochistan can fight alone. Partnerships with international allies, such as the United Kingdom, are essential in bringing technical expertise, innovative solutions, and funding support. Training local institutions, particularly in areas like disaster management and

saster management and environmental governance, should be a top priority.

The provincial government's commitment to reforms in governance, education, and healthcare is commendable, but the climate emergency must remain at the center of its development agenda.

Without climate resilience, all other reforms risk being washed away by the next flood or crippled by the next drought.

Balochistan has shown leadership by creating this Climate Fund. The next step is to ensure that it does not become another underutilized policy initiative. Effective monitoring, independent oversight, and community involvement will be key to making it a success.

In the face of global warming, every dollar carries a cost in human lives and economic stability. The Chief Minister must now take all possible steps to translate the promise of the Climate Fund into tangible protections for the people of Balochistan.

Advocate Babar Azam
The Reality Check After Law School

The journey of young lawyers in Pakistan begins long before they ever argue a case — it starts in law school, filled with excitement, ambition, and dreams of serving justice. Students immerse themselves in theory, case studies, moot courts, and research projects, often inspired by seminars and court visits where senior lawyers present the profession as a noble and rewarding path. This idealism fuels their passion to defend rights and uphold the law. However, the real world often tells a different story. The gap between classroom learning and courtroom realities becomes obvious when fresh graduates — particularly first-generation lawyers — enter practice. Without structured guidance, many struggle to figure out how to join a chamber, seek a legal specialization, or decide between pursuing an LLM, Bar-at-Law, or directly entering litigation. While a fortunate few find genuine mentors who involve them in case preparation and court appearances, many are left to navigate the profession with little to no support.

Challenges Faced by Junior Advocates

Once they begin practicing, junior advocates in Pakistan encounter multiple challenges that hinder their growth. In some chambers, instead of being taught drafting skills, le-

gal research, and court procedure, juniors are tasked with clerical work — carrying files, making photocopies, or rushing between courtrooms to seek adjournments. They might prepare one case but be sent at the last moment to argue

individuals to leave the profession altogether, which is a significant loss for Pakistan's legal system.

The Role of Mentorship and Supportive Seniors

Despite these

Councils should organize career guidance seminars in universities, where senior lawyers can advise students on chamber selection, career paths, and skill development. Law schools should also offer internships in litigation, cor-

For the legal profession in Pakistan to thrive, respect and dignity must be restored for junior lawyers.

Article 14 of the Constitution guarantees the dignity of every citizen, yet many juniors face disrespect within their own chambers. This culture must shift — seniors should treat juniors

as future colleagues rather than assistants, while juniors must remain patient, diligent, and committed to continuous learning. Giving young lawyers opportunities to argue even simple matters can greatly enhance their skills and confidence, preparing them for more complex cases in the future.

Mutual respect and collaboration between seniors and juniors can close the gap between theory and practice, creating a legal community that values mentorship and professional development.

The future of justice in Pakistan depends on how well we support today's young lawyers. By bridging the gap from classroom to courtroom, we can shape a generation of confident, competent advocates who carry forward the values and integrity of the profession.

Author's Bio:

Advocate Babar Azam Umrani is a young practicing lawyer in Balochistan, committed to advocating for the professional development, mentorship, and rights of junior lawyers.

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From Classroom to Courtroom: Navigating the Journey of Young Lawyers in Pakistan



another they know nothing about, resulting in embarrassment before judges. Even as they start gaining basic skills, they endure long working hours, heavy workloads, and little recognition. Many are not taken seriously by clients, court staff or even fellow lawyers. Public criticism from seniors in front of clients — instead of constructive private guidance — damages their confidence and undermines their advocacy skills.

These hurdles, combined with financial pressure and lack of respect, push some talented in-

dividuals to leave the profession altogether, which is a significant loss for Pakistan's legal system.

struggles, there are exemplary seniors and judges who actively support the professional growth of young lawyers. Good mentors involve juniors in real legal work, allow them to argue simple applications, and offer patient guidance when mistakes are made. They share fees, provide stipends, and help their juniors build courtroom confidence step by step. Some judges also encourage young advocates by explaining procedures and giving them space to argue, fostering an environment of learning and respect. To expand such support, Bar

porate, and judicial fields to help students identify their areas of interest early. Financial support — such as stipends, books, and uniforms — could be funded through court cost awards under Section 35 of the Civil Procedure Code. These measures would ease the financial and professional burden on junior lawyers, allowing them to focus on building their careers.

Building a Respectful and Sustainable Legal Culture

Israel and Iran Conflict and Its Impact on Middle East Stability

Syed Muhammad Waseem:

Israel and Iran are exchanging deadly attacks. Israeli strikes have hit homes, hospitals, and aid workers in Tehran. Iran responded with missile and drone attacks on cities like Tel Aviv and Haifa. Many civilians have been killed or injured on both sides.

The conflict is drawing global attention. President Trump left the G7 early due to the crisis. UK leaders warn against military action without approval. Tensions are rising, and the risk of a wider war is growing. Global powers are urging both sides to de-escalate.

The violence is shaking the region's stability. Political alliances are shifting, economies are under pressure, and millions fear what comes next. Behind the strikes and statements lies a deeper struggle for military power, especially between Iran and Israel. From the origins of their rivalry to current military actions, regional fallout, and global reactions, this article breaks down what you need to know.

Historical Background

The Iran-Israel conflict history began with the 1979 Iranian Revolution, which transformed Iran from a close ally of Israel to one of its fiercest opponents. Iran's support for armed groups like Hezbollah and Hamas, along with Israel's targeted assassinations and airstrikes, deepened the divide. The October 7 Hamas attack and Israel's retaliation marked a sharp escalation, pushing the conflict into more direct and dangerous territory.

Over the years, the tensions have played out through a timeline of provocative events. Iran's controversial nuclear program has drawn repeated warn-



ings and attacks from Israel. Both nations have launched cyberattacks against each other, with incidents like the Stuxnet virus and strikes on nuclear sites. Proxy wars have continued across Lebanon, Syria, and Gaza, keeping the region in a constant state of unrest.

External powers have also shaped the conflict's course. The U.S. strongly supports Israel with military aid and intelligence, while Iran receives political backing from Russia and economic support from China. These global ties have made the situation more complex, raising the stakes and limiting diplomatic solutions.

Current State of the Conflict

The conflict between Israel and Iran is intensifying with Israel intercepting 30 drones and multiple ballistic missiles from Iran.

Israel's airstrikes targeted missile storage and launch sites, while also killing Iranian chief of staff Ali Shadmani.

Iran retaliated with missile strikes on Israel, causing damage in places like Herzliya, though no injuries were reported. The conflict has led to at least 224 Iranian and 24 Israeli casualties, with countries like India and Pakistan evacuating their citizens from Tehran.

Israel's attacks have disrupted Iranian energy infrastructure, including the South Pars gas field. The violence has strained support for Iran's hardliners, with global concerns rising over the ongoing conflict.

Impact on Middle East Stability

The Israel-Iran conflict is deeply affecting nearby nations. Syria's

new Sunni-led government has moved away from Iran. It sees Israel's strikes as helpful in reducing Iranian influence. Iraq is under pressure as Iran-backed militias grow more aggressive. Lebanon's Hezbollah has lost strength and is avoiding direct involvement, though tensions remain high.

Jordan and Egypt are walking a careful line. Jordan fears instability and has warned against any attacks from its territory.

Egypt is worried about its energy supply and trade routes like the Suez Canal. Disruptions could hurt its economy, which depends heavily on imports and stable fuel access. Both nations aim to avoid being drawn into the conflict.

As the war drags on, regional alliances are shifting. Syria is moving closer to the West. Iraq struggles to balance relations with Iran and the

U.S. Egypt and Jordan are working to protect their own security. This conflict is not just about two nations — it's changing the political map of the Middle East.

Security and Military Impact

The Israel-Iran conflict has triggered a regional arms race. Countries like Saudi Arabia, UAE, and Egypt are increasing their defense spending.

They want to upgrade weapons, air defenses, and missile systems. This rise in military buildup reflects growing fears of future attacks.

The chances of a wider war are also rising. Iran's support for militias and Israel's direct strikes have already pulled Syria, Iraq, and Lebanon into tension.

Any miscalculation or surprise attack could quickly expand the con-

flict. This creates constant fear across the Middle East.

To prepare, nations are strengthening military ties with global powers. U.S. bases in Jordan and Iraq are on high alert. At the same time, Russia and China are showing more interest in the region. The Middle East is turning into a major zone of power competition and possible war.

Economic Consequences

The conflict has sent shockwaves through oil markets. Brent crude spiked by nearly 7%, reaching \$74.60 per barrel. Investors fear Iran could close the Strait of Hormuz, a vital route for global oil. Any disruption here could push oil prices above \$100, hurting both producers and consumers.

Trade routes and airlines are also affected.

Several carriers suspended flights to Iran, Iraq, and nearby nations. Jordan, Iraq, and Iran closed their airspace, halting traffic on some of the world's busiest air corridors. These changes hurt tourism and slow cargo movement across continents.

Humanitarian and Social Consequences

The human toll is rising fast. Over 220 Iranians, including women and children, have been killed. Israeli casualties are also growing. Missiles and airstrikes are displacing families, destroying homes, and leaving civilians trapped in unsafe areas.

Humanitarian and Social Consequences

Anger is spreading across the region. Anti-Israel protests have erupted in Iraq, Lebanon, and Egypt.

At the same time, anti-Iran sentiment is growing in countries like Jordan and Syria. The conflict is deepening political divides and fueling mistrust among neighboring populations.

Conclusion

The Israel-Iran conflict has triggered political instability, military escalation, and economic shockwaves. Neighboring countries like Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq face serious risks, while oil prices and trade routes are under pressure.

Civilian lives have been lost, and public anger is growing. Global powers are taking sides, but some are also pushing for peace.

This conflict is not just about two nations, it affects the whole region and beyond. With rising deaths and economic damage, urgent diplomacy is needed. Only strong regional cooperation and global mediation can stop the violence and bring long-term peace.

International Reactions and Mediation Efforts



3 cops martyred in terrorist attack on police checkpoint in Hangu: CTD

NEWS DESK: Three police personnel were martyred as law enforcers responded to a terrorist attack on a checkpoint in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Hangu on Wednesday night, according to an official statement from the provincial Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD).

The statement, issued last night, said terrorists carried out a "cowardly attack on the Qazi Talab checkpoint in the dark of the night."

Responding to the attack, Hangu District Police Officer (DPO) Khan Zeb Mohammad led the operation and was martyred among the terrorists, the statement said. It added that while the operation was underway, police personnel "surrounded the area and stood firm against the enemy like a wall of lead."

"Eventually, police foiled the attack," the statement added. However, three police personnel, Head Constable Wahid Shah, Head Constable Hikmat Khan and Abdul Samad, were martyred during the operation.

The CTD statement detailed that "intense fighting" had continued between police and the terrorists for two hours, and there were reports of several deaths among the terrorists.

"The terrorists took

advantage of the darkness of the night and the rocky mountainous terrain and fled, taking their dead and wounded with them. However, the body of an armed terrorist was recovered during the search and strike operation," the statement said.

Condemnations pour in KP Chief Minister Sohail Afridi strongly condemned the attack, a statement issued by his office, adding that the terrorists would be brought to justice and the sacrifices of the martyrs "will not go in vain".

He sought an immediate report on the incident from the KP police inspector general and also called for the immediate provision of medical treatment to those injured in the attack, the CM Office's statement said.

"The fight against terrorism will continue with an even stronger resolve," the statement further quoted the CM as saying, adding that he

also prayed for the martyred personnel and their families. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi also condemned the attack and paid tribute to the martyred personnel.

A statement on the interior ministry's X account said that Naqvi extended condolences to the bereaved families.

"Sacrifice of the martyred personnel will not go in vain," he was quoted as saying. "These sacrifices are a testament to Pakistan's unwavering resolve in the fight against terrorism."

Naqvi said, adding that KP police were on the front lines of this fight. Pakistan has seen a rise in terrorist attacks in the recent past, particularly in KP and Balochistan, since the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) declared its ceasefire with the government in 2022.

With the end of the ceasefire, the TTP had vowed to attack security forces, police, and personnel of law enforcement agencies.

Last night's attack comes roughly three weeks after an improvised explosive device struck a police convoy conducting search operations near a cemetery in the Doaba area of Hangu.

Imaan Mazari, Hadi Ali Chattha object to new court-appointed lawyer after previous counsel's vanishing act

NEWS DESK: Lawyer and rights activist Imaan Mazari and her husband, Advocate Hadi Ali Chattha, on Thursday objected after the court-appointed lawyer representing them in the controversial social media posts case and the appointment of a new counsel.

Judge Afzal Majoka, who has been presiding over the case's proceedings, too, was also seemingly unaware of the finalisation of the appointment of the new counsel when Advocate Iamur Janjua showed up in the Islamabad district and sessions court instead of Advocate Shakel Jatt.

Advocate Jatt, who attended the case's hearing as Imaan and Hadi's court-appointed defence counsel for the first time on Tuesday, had previously refused to cross-examine the prosecution's witnesses, saying that he could not "ask questions dictated" to him.

"I am in favour of a fair trial. I cannot ask questions that are dictated [to me]. My conscience does not allow

this," he had said. The counsel had alleged without sharing any specific details that he had "received 15 questions with the instructions that he should ask them during the cross-examination."

Advocate Jatt had also sought more time from the court to prepare for the case, but Advocate Janjua showed up at the hearing today to represent Imaan and Hadi.

When he informed the court that he had been appointed as the couple's counsel, Judge Majoka said the court had not yet received a notification in this regard.

A three-member prosecution team present at the hearing assured the court that the relevant notification would be submitted.

For her part, Mazari objected to the change, questioning who had made the new appointment and through what process. She also raised concerns over the "disappearance" of Advocate Jatt. Mazari contended that she or Chattha had not expressed any lack of confidence in Advocate Jatt and requested the court

to record their statements on the matter.

She further raised doubts over an application said to be submitted by Advocate Jatt for his removal as the duo's lawyer. Moreover, she questioned why the court had not objected to the disclosures made by Advocate Jatt at the previous hearing.

After the court provided a copy of Advocate Jatt's application to Chattha, the latter requested the judge to summon the lawyer. He also contended the defence had "not rejected" the counsel.

However, the prosecution objected to Chattha's request, arguing that "while a sessions judge is the appropriate authority to summon a state-appointed counsel, the court hearing the case is not the relevant forum for such an action".

The proceedings were suspended for a while after Mazari and Chattha requested for time to consult the newly appointed counsel. Judge Majoka accepted their request and granted them time until 1:30pm.

Earlier in the day, the court had suspended the proceedings twice. The actions came after a crack down on migrant smuggling after last year's Greece boat tragedy that claimed several Pakistani lives. Earlier this month, FIA Director General Riffat Mukhtar acknowledged that incidents of people being offloaded had been reported at Lahore and Karachi airports, and that investigations were underway.

In a video-statement shared today, FIA

50pc of Afghans travelling abroad used Pakistani passports: senator

NEWS DESK: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Pakistan (JUI-P) Senator Attal Haq on Thursday stated that Afghans with Pakistani passports travel abroad and if they engage in crime, it reflects badly on Islamabad.

Speaking during a meeting of the Senate Functional Committee on Human Rights, he said, "Fifty per cent of Afghans travel abroad using Pakistani passports. Whenever Afghans are caught by authorities abroad, they are carrying Pakistani passports."

An official from the interior ministry acknowledged that this had occurred, but assured the committee that the practice had stopped.

In the past, when people were deported from Saudi Arabia, it was found that deportees were Afghan citizens carrying Pakistani passports.

Earlier today, the committee condemned Justice Ali Baqar Najafi's remarks in the Noor Mukadam case that surfaced during the hearing, calling them "ridiculous".

Justice Najafi, who



is now part of the Federal Constitutional Court (FCC), observed that the Noor Mukadam case was the direct result of a "vice" spreading in society known as "living relationship".

It appeared the judge was referring to a live-in relationship, where two unmarried individuals in a romantic relationship cohabit.

In a meeting today, the committee questioned what "would happen to the conviction rate in cases against women, which is already shameful, if a judge himself has made such remarks."

The committee

summoned advocate generals, prosecutor generals, police officials and all relevant authorities due to the low conviction rate.

Conviction rate in cases of gender-based violence (GBV) is reportedly as low as 1.2 per cent due to weak prosecution and judicial delays.

Women's rights advocates say there is also no centralised GBV database, hindering data analysis. Furthermore, due to resource constraints, shelters and crisis centres, GBV courts, police protection cells, and the like are underfunded.

Noor, aged 27 years, was found murdered at the Islamabad residence of Zahir Zakir Jaffer in July 2021. In May, a three-judge Supreme Court bench, led by Justice Hashim Kakar and Justices Ishaq Ibrahim and Najafi, had upheld the death sentence awarded to Zahir, who was convicted by an Islamabad trial court in 2022.

Last month, the apex court had taken up Zahir's review petition challenging the capital punishment awarded to him. During the hearing, Justice Najafi told senior counsel Khawaja Haris Ahmed, representing

the convict, that it would be more appropriate for him to start arguments after going through the additional note he had not yet issued at the time. Later, Justice Najafi was sworn in as a judge of the FCC, established earlier this month after the 27th Constitutional Amendment.

In an additional note on the Noor murder case, which was uploaded on the SC website on Wednesday, Justice Najafi upheld the sentence handed to Zahir and observed that the present case is a direct result of a vice spreading in the upper society which we know as 'living relationship' [sic].

He stressed that including Justices Ishaq Ibrahim and Najafi, had upheld the death sentence awarded to Zahir, who was convicted by an Islamabad trial court in 2022. The judge's observations, which surfaced just a day after the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, also triggered criticism from various social media, including lawyers and journalists.

Sindh Assembly rejects Indian defence minister's 'delusional' remarks on province as attempt to distort history

NEWS DESK: The Sindh Assembly on Thursday rejected the remarks of India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh regarding the province as "delusional" and said they were a deliberate attempt to distort history.

On Sunday, Singh said that "civilisational" Sindh will always be a part of India, and that "who knows, tomorrow Sindh may return to India again". His words were strongly rebuked by the Foreign Office as "dangerous" and "delusional", revealing an expansionist Hindutva mindset.

The Sindh Assembly unanimously passed a resolution, stating that the House "unambiguously condemns the Defence Minister of India's statement as delusional, inflammatory, and a deliberate distortion of history, made in violation of diplomatic norms and international law."

The resolution, moved by Excise Minister Mubesh Kumar Chawla, said the assembly asserted "with absolute clarity that Sindh is, and will forever remain, an inseparable and integral part" of Pakistan, and rejected any narrative, however absurd, which suggested otherwise.

The resolution also called upon the government to "pursue decisive diplomatic, legal, and multilateral action to protect the Indus River, defend Pakistan's rights under international treaties, and hold India accountable for violations of water, environmental, or humanitarian norms."

New Delhi unilaterally held the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance in April this year based on unsubstantiated claims regarding the Pahalgalam attack, which were strongly refuted by Islamabad. A Sydney-based think-tank warned last month that India could manipulate river flows in the near term, presenting an "acute" danger for Pakistan.

In its resolution, the House expressed "firm solidarity with all communities, within Pakistan and across India, who respect the sanctity of the Indus, reject extremism and revisionism, and uphold the principles of justice, coexistence, and peace."

The resolution presented by Chawla noted that Sindh was an "ancient civilisation with its own enduring identity, culture, a political consciousness, rooted in history far older and deeper than any modern state."

It highlighted that the "people of Sindh, asserting their right to autonomy and dignity, chose in 1936 to separate river flows in the near term, presenting an 'acute' danger for Pakistan."

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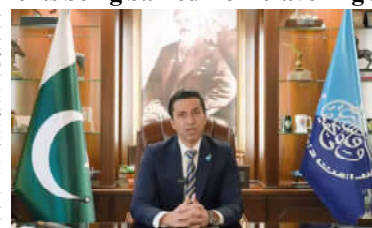
Amid reports of arbitrary offloading of passengers, FIA official says only those without valid documents being barred from travelling abroad

NEWS DESK: Amid reports regarding the arbitrary offloading of passengers travelling abroad, an official from the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Thursday clarified that people were only being offloaded or denied boarding if they did not have valid documents or authorities suspected them of working with migrant smugglers.

Over the past few months, numerous incidents have been reported of travellers being offloaded from flights at various airports, despite possessing valid travel documents. The actions came after a crack down on migrant smuggling after last year's Greece boat tragedy that claimed several Pakistani lives.

Earlier this month, FIA Director General Riffat Mukhtar acknowledged that incidents of people being offloaded had been reported at Lahore and Karachi airports, and that investigations were underway.

In a video-statement shared today, FIA



Lahore Zone Director Captain (retired) Muhammad Ali Zia addressed the recent issue of "misleading AI-generated videos and false information circulating on social media regarding alleged offloading incidents at airports."

"All those who are denied boarding at airports abroad are refused due to them not having valid documents, or if they have permits or visas wherein the companies stated do not exist, and we have suspicions that they are deceiving us by trapping them and taking them abroad." "We have

seen cases where people get deceived by these human smugglers and change their routes mid-transit, or take an accomplice with them in the form of their mother or sister, through which they can exit here with the [safeguard] of an Umrah [visa]." Zia said.

He added there had been past cases where such people were deported from other countries, following which the FIA's Anti-Human Trafficking Cell registers human smugglers as a case, conducts an inquiry and "such human traffickers are brought

to a halt". He urged the public not to be fooled by migrant smugglers. The FIA officer said those networks were negatively portraying the matter to "create unrest" and secure financial gains for themselves.

He recalled the Mauritania and Greece boat capsize incidents, saying that innocent people were shown "dreams of Europe" and smuggled out of Pakistan via dunki (illegal land routes) or by transiting in other countries, only to be pressured into handing over exorbitant amounts of cash or even losing their lives.

"Not only does Pakistan's name on an international level get maligned and the value of our green passport declines, but many court cases have also created difficulties for us in obtaining visas," the FIA Lahore director said. Zia assured the public that immigration staff would facilitate all those who were travelling abroad for legitimate reasons with valid documents.



Major pipeline bursts in Peshawar; gas, CNG supply disrupted in KP

PESHAWAR (INP): A major gas pipeline burst in Peshawar's Matni area on Thursday, disrupting supply to Peshawar, Swat and Mardan.

Authorities have restored limited household supply through al-

ternative lines, but strict restrictions have been imposed as repair work continues. According to the Peshawar commissioner, a 24-inch diameter pipeline supplying gas from the southern districts to Peshawar

ruptured near Matni. The disruption immediately affected gas availability in Peshawar, Swat and Mardan, leaving several areas dependent on fallback systems.

Sui Northern Gas officials rushed to the

site and began emergency repair operations to restore full supply.

Officials confirmed that domestic gas supply has been partially restored using alternative pipelines. A 16-inch diameter line running

from the Indus River to Nowshera is currently feeding the system, allowing limited distribution to households.

However, due to reduced pressure and limited capacity, domestic consumers will only re-

ceive gas for four hours a day – morning, afternoon, and evening.

The Peshawar commissioner announced that all CNG stations in the Peshawar, Mardan and Swat divisions have been closed until further

notice. The decision was made to prioritize household consumption and prevent system overload during the ongoing shortage. Authorities said stations will remain closed until the damaged pipeline is repaired

and normal pressure is restored. Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) teams are working around the clock to repair the burst section. Officials said the pipeline suffered significant damage.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani in a meeting with H.E. Salem Mohammed Salem Alzahrani, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to Pakistan. Malik Wasif Maqsood, Member of Provincial Assembly Punjab was also Present in the meeting.

Pak-GCC FTA to be signed soon to boost regional trade: PM

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has said the Pakistan-GCC Free Trade Agreement, to be signed very soon, will help enhance trade between Pakistan and the GCC member countries particularly with Bahrain.

Addressing the business community in Manama today, the Prime Minister said his government is ready to support joint ventures, facilitate investment plans and assist in mutually rewarding journey of progress.

He asked the Bahrain leadership and businessmen to go forward and work together and make Pakistan's economy particularly, industry, agriculture, IT and Fintech sectors more vibrant.

Shehbaz Sharif said Pakistan and Bahrain are two brotherly countries

and our decades old relations are based on culture, religion, mutual respect and trust. He said we have also decades old strategic cooperation as well and now we have to transform these relations into more vibrant economic cooperation.

The Prime Minister said Pakistan is ready to enhance economic cooperation with brotherly country Bahrain in all areas of mutual interest including agriculture, IT, AI and Fintech.

The Prime Minister also extended his gratitude to the Bahrain leadership including the King, the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister,

the Crown Prince and the Foreign Minister for unwavering commitment towards Pakistan saying that our meetings with their governments remained extremely productive.

Shehbaz Sharif also praised and saluted to the most vibrant Pakistani community living in Bahrain for their hard work and unflinching resolve and dedication towards the development of Pakistan and Bahrain.

He said the Pakistani community living in Bahrain dispatched their hard earned money and remittances of worth 484 million dollars during the last financial year which are highly commendable.

The Prime Minister expressed his profound gratitude to the leadership of Bahrain particularly the King of Bahrain Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa for extending gracious and warm hospitality to him and his delegation during the two day visit to Bahrain.

Earlier in his well-composed remarks, Bahrain's Minister for Finance and National Economy, Shaikh

Salman Bin Khalifa Al Khalifa thanked Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his delegation for visiting the State of Bahrain.

The Minister appreciated the role of Pakistani diaspora and financial institutions in development and progress of Bahrain.

He said the whole region is witnessing a generational transformation and becoming a center of innovation, sustainability and technological excellence.

Highlighting the leading transformational role of Bahrain in modern and emerging technologies, the Prime Minister offered huge investment opportunities for Pakistani business and tech companies in multiple sectors including artificial intelligence, cyber security, metals, automotive components, electronics and other advanced technologies.

PTI announces major public rally in Peshawar on Dec 07

PESHAWAR (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has announced plans to hold a large-scale public rally in Peshawar on December 7, coinciding with the initiation of a comprehensive development strategy for the provincial capital, says in media reports.

Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sohail Khan Afridi revealed these decisions during an important meeting of parliamentarians and elected representatives from Peshawar.

The gathering, which included current and former members of the provincial assembly, local representatives, and senior political leaders, focused on formulating a detailed development vision to address the city's longstanding challenges.

A unanimous decision was reached to organize a major public rally on December

7, which will serve as a platform to outline the provincial government's commitments to Peshawar's development.

In parallel, the government has decided to convene a grand consultative meeting next week to finalize a mega development plan valued at Rs100 billion.

Addressing the participants, Chief Minister Afridi emphasized the pivotal role of Peshawar, stating, "Peshawar is our identity, our face, and the heart of the province. We will take all possible steps to restore its glory."

He outlined key priorities for the proposed development initiatives, including the acceleration of mega projects, restoration of infrastructure,

improved traffic management, enhanced cleanliness, beautification efforts, and the provision of essential public facilities.

AJK govt to take priority steps to boost Kashmir cause: AJK minister

MUZAFFARABAD (INP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Minister for Kashmir Cause, Arts and Languages, Nabila Ayoub, has said that the AJK government will take a series of priority measures to reinvigorate the Kashmir cause at home and abroad by strengthening media outreach, activating relevant institutions and introducing necessary legislation.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the minister was briefed through multimedia slides by Secretary Kashmir Cause, Arts and Languages, Rafiqat Hussain Khan, and Director Dr Sajid Latif on the performance, structure and emerging needs of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Cell (JKLC) and the Kashmir

Cultural Academy (KCA). Ms Ayoub said the government was committed to "mobilising maximum public and media support for the freedom struggle" and would adopt a more organised strategy over the next six months under the guidance of Prime Minister Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore.

"If required, necessary legislation will also be introduced in the Legislative Assembly, while the administrative and financial needs of the JKLC and KCA and their attached wings will be addressed without delay to enhance their effectiveness," she added, announcing that staff performance would be reviewed fortnightly.

The minister directed the secretary to activate all wings of the JKLC, including the Kashmir Centres established at divisional headquarters, and to media projection and organise events across all districts under the banners of JKLC and KCA. She stressed that the research output of both institutions must be publicised locally and internationally through digital, social, electronic and print media in multiple languages.

Relevant literature, she added, should also be sent to major universities, research bodies and public institutions "so that all segments of society remain informed about the latest developments related to the Kashmir cause."

Highlighting the need for broader out-

reach, Ms Ayoub said regular cultural and Kashmir-related events should be held at divisional and district headquarters, with strong media projection and greater engagement of civil society.

Youth participation, she noted, was essential for strengthening society's connection with Kashmir culture, heritage and the freedom movement. The minister also announced plans for structural reforms, including the establishment of a Board of Governors for the KCA, similar to the high-level Board of the JKLC. Officials assured that with the support of the prime minister and the minister-in-charge, the institutions would become more dynamic in the coming months.

ECP notifies winners of by-elections

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Thursday notified successful candidates in the recently-held by-elections from NA-104 Faisalabad.

The notification of NA-96 Faisalabad has been withheld due to violation of the election code of conduct. According to the ECP, the overall voter turnout in the by-elections was 28.58 percent, while the voter turnout in NA-18 Haripur was 42.09 percent.

All the six National Assembly seats were won by the ruling PML-N candidates. Babar Nawaz Khan was declared successful from NA-18 Haripur.

Muhammad Tufail Muhammad Noman and Mahmood Qadir Khan were the winners from NA-127 Lahore and NA-185 Dera Gazi Khan respectively. On Monday, the Election Commis-

sion of Pakistan (ECP) had withheld the victory notification of Bilal Chaudhry's victory from NA-96 Faisalabad, following allegations that his brother, Minister of State Talat Chaudhry, repeatedly violated the by-election code of ethics and failed to appear before the commission to explain his conduct.

According to the ECP's legal team, three separate complaints were filed against Talat Chaudhry for breaching the code of conduct in the NA-96 constituency.

The District Election Officer (DEO) had issued Talat a notice on November 16, warning him and barring him from further involvement in election activities. Despite the notice, the minister continued to participate in his brother's campaign, prompting the ECP to impose a fine of Rs50,000 on November 20 for repeated violations.

The overall voter turnout in the by-elections was 28.58 percent. Highest voter turnout was recorded in NA-18 Haripur with 42.09 percent. On Monday, the Election Commis-

South Waziristan Upper's dist steering committee meets

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (INP): Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) South Waziristan Upper Faisal Wadood has said that improving education and ensuring transparency are among the top priorities of the district administration.

He expressed these views while chairing a meeting of the district steering committee on education.

According to the administration, the meeting reviewed in detail the monthly monitoring reports, institutional performance, and the current educational situation.

While also formulating a comprehensive strategy for the coming month, the District Education Officers (male and female), Additional DEOs, the District Monitoring Officer (EMO) attended the meeting and presented performance reports from their respective domains.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Syed Imran Ahmad Shah delivering the closing remarks at the seminar closing ceremony of National Poverty Graduation Programme (NPGP).



KARACHI: Consul General of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Balcheet Ateeq Al Remethi called on First Lady, Bibi Aseefa Bhutto Zardari at Bilawal House.

QR code activated for payments in Islamabad markets and transport

ISLAMABAD (INP): Islamabad's transition to a smart, fully digital capital has advanced further as the Capital Development Authority (CDA) activated QR code-based payments across Sasta Bazars, metro services and urban transport under its expanding cashless economy project.

CDA Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa said the authority's One Window Centre has also been integrated into the system, forming part of a wider plan to eliminate cash transactions across the city.

Randhawa said

the QR payment network is being extended to commercial centres, major shopping malls and Class III markets, with guesthouses, petrol stations and restaurants also adopting the system.

He urged commercial banks to intensify awareness campaigns to help merchants and citizens shift to digital payments, noting that Islamabad is being developed as a model cashless city in line with the prime minister's vision. The chairman called on traders and shopkeepers to offer greater in-

centives and discounts to motivate customers to use RAAST QR codes for everyday transactions.

Complementary initiatives, including M-Tag integration and digital parking systems, are also being introduced as part of the digitalisation drive. These steps, he said, will pave the way for a fully cashless, technology-driven urban environment in the capital.

Earlier, on 14 October 2025, reported that Islamabad had begun the city-wide rollout of QR-based payments in major markets, with full implementation expected by the end of

the year Randhawa had said that every shop in the capital would soon support QR payments, adding that taxi drivers, hiring services such as Bykea and goods transporters would also accept fares through the system.

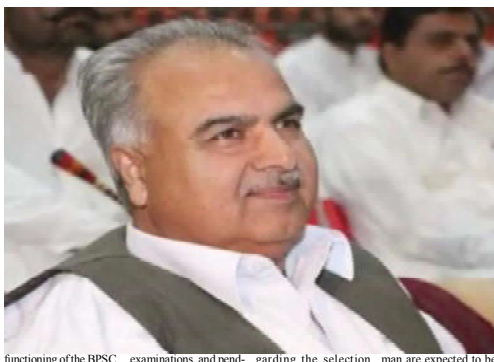
He noted that the payment infrastructure has been linked to the State Bank of Pakistan's Raast ID platform to ensure secure and rapid digital transactions. The project, he added, is being supported by major banks and telecom operators and is expected to significantly transform everyday commerce in the capital.

Ghulam Ali Baloch Appointed Acting Chairman BPSC

NEWS DESK:
QUETTA: The Balochistan government has appointed Ghulam Ali Baloch as the acting Chairman of the Balochistan Public Service Commission (BPSC). He will serve in this role until a permanent Chairman is officially appointed.

Ghulam Ali Baloch has previously held several high-ranking positions, including Additional Chief Secretary, Home Secretary, Education Secretary, and key roles in the Communication and Works Department.

The notification states that Ghulam Ali Baloch will oversee all administrative and operational responsibilities of the Commission during this interim period. The temporary appointment aims to ensure continuity in the



functioning of the BPSC, examinations, and pending official processes. Further details regarding the selection and appointment of the new permanent Chairman are expected to be announced in due

Balochistan Govt Reviews Grant-in-Aid Projects: Advisor Stresses Timely Completion



News Desk
Quetta: A review meeting on the progress of Grant-in-Aid developmental projects for FY 2024-25 was held under the chairmanship of Advisor to the Chief Minister Balochistan for Local Government & Rural Development, Nawabzada Mir Amir Hamza Zehri.

The meeting was attended by Secretary Local Government Abdul Rauf Baloch, Director General Muhammad Ayub

Qureshi, Secretary Balochistan Local Board Shujaat Ali, senior officials of the Local Government Department, and chief officers of municipal committees, district councils, and metropolitan corporations across the province.

Addressing the meeting, the Advisor emphasized that the Local Government Department must utilize all available resources for the timely and quality completion of ongoing develop-

mental projects. He instructed officials to immediately finalize all schemes facing delays and directed municipal committees to convene their meetings without postponement to ensure effective planning for resolving public issues.

He stressed that negligence or obstruction in completing the approved projects under the Grant-in-Aid 2024-25 would not be tolerated. He directed officers to accelerate developmental activi-

ties and prioritize public welfare schemes. Secretary Local Government Abdul Rauf Baloch stated that the overall progress on the Grant-in-Aid projects for FY 2024-25 is satisfactory, though there is room for improvement.

A detailed review of ongoing projects across various districts was also conducted, with directions issued to ensure field presence and timely completion of all schemes based on public needs.

Balochistan Revenue Authority (BRA) Holds Key Meeting on Improving Balochistan's Tax System



News Desk
QUETTA: An important meeting of the Balochistan Revenue Authority (BRA) was held under the chairmanship of Provincial Finance Minister Mir Shoaib Noshewari, in which the province's tax collection system and measures for its improvement were thoroughly reviewed. The meeting was attended by Secretary Finance Imran Zarkoon, Special Secretary Finance Jahangir Kakar, NFC Consultant for Balochistan Mahfooz Ali Khan, BRA Chairman Abdullah Khan, and

senior officials of the Finance Department. During the briefing, BRA Chairman Abdullah Khan apprised the participants of the current tax collection situation in the province and the future strategy. On the occasion, Finance Minister Mir Shoaib Noshewari stated that aligning the tax collection system of Balochistan with modern requirements is essential.

He directed that a comprehensive plan be adopted to bring non-registered sectors into the tax net so that sustainable

growth in provincial revenue could be ensured. He added that strengthening the capacity of BRA and reorganizing it on modern lines is crucial for enhancing revenue collection, which will leave a positive impact on the province's economy. The Finance Minister appreciated the efforts and progress of the BRA team and reaffirmed the government's commitment to accelerating and ensuring transparency in the ongoing tax reforms to achieve financial self-reliance for the province.

Jhalawan Zamindar Committee Meets DC Khuzdar

NEWS DESK
KHUZDAR: A delegation of the Jhalawan Zamindar Action Committee Khuzdar, led by Advocate Eid Muhammad, held an important meeting with Deputy Commissioner Abdul Razzaq Sasoli in the DC Conference Room. The delegation included Hafiz Muhammad Anwar Zehri, Hail Khan Bizenjo, Muhammad Anwar Raisani, Rais Qadir Bakhsh Zangijjo, Abdullah Qatani, while Assistant Commissioner Khuzdar Abdul Hafeez Kakar, Assistant Commissioner Wadh Ali Akbar Mazraai and Deputy Director Agriculture Mr. Nadir were also present.

The meeting focused on matters of mutual interest and key issues faced by local landowners.

The committee briefed the Deputy Commissioner in detail about several

pressing concerns, including the early registration of Benazir Kisan Cards, return of confiscated electrical equipment, and payment of compensation for land acquired by the NHA.

Deputy Commissioner Abdul Razzaq Sasoli listened attentively to the concerns raised and assured the delegation that the relevant departments would be instructed to provide significant relief to the region's farmers.

viewing the issues presented. He emphasized that resolving the problems of local landowners is a priority and requires mutual cooperation.

Advocate Eid Muhammad and other committee members thanked the Deputy Commissioner, expressing hope that implementation of the proposed measures would provide significant relief to the region's farmers.

Balochistan Chief Secretary Chairs Key Conference on Governance and Public Welfare



News Desk
Quetta: A high-level conference of Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners was held under the chairmanship of Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan, in which key governance and administrative matters were reviewed. The meeting focused on temporary appointments of teachers and paramedical staff in the Health and Education Departments, price control of essential commodities, enforcement of the ban on plastic bags, and the provision of public services

through open kutcheries. Speaking at the conference, the Chief Secretary said that the provincial government is utilizing available resources to launch various developmental schemes and provide public facilities aimed at improving the quality of life of the people. He emphasized that all administrative bodies and institutions must accelerate their efforts so that every citizen can access better and more satisfactory living conditions.

He directed that in the third phase, transparent recruitment

should be ensured for vacant posts in the Education and Health Departments. Highlighting environmental conservation measures, he said that a ban on plastic bags has been imposed in Quetta and across Balochistan, and citizens are being encouraged to use eco-friendly alternatives. The Chief Secretary stressed the need for strict monitoring of essential commodity prices to ensure their sale at government-approved rates.

The meeting was informed that during the month of November, over 17,000

market inspections were conducted across the province. He further instructed that open kutcheries be regularly organized to establish direct contact with the public and resolve their issues promptly. The Chief Secretary added that developmental projects are vital for public welfare, as they provide fundamental facilities and improve social living standards. Timely completion of these projects, he noted, will create employment opportunities and foster progress in key sectors such as education and health.

RECOVERY NOTICE

To: Mr. Inayatullah son of Niamatullah, Ex-Food Grain Supervisor / Incharge P.R. Centre Sarsar, C.O. Sharan, poriflow Khannu, Sarsar, District Balochistan.

SUBJECT: RECOVERY OF RS.356,042.58 (LUSATYR) OF BEEEDA, 2011 ON ACCOUNT OF SHORTAGES OF WHEAT CAUSED TO THE GOVERNMENT EXCHEQUER.

Reference this Directorate General Letter No. E-Adm/PF/IGS/2025/886-87, dated 30th October, 2025 on the above noted subject.

1. An inquiry was conducted against you for embezzlement of Government wheat stocks from P.R. Centre Sarsar Quetta according to the provisions of BEEEDA, 2011 and penalties were recommended by the inquiry officer endorsed by Personal Hearing Officer which were agreed upon and approved by the competent authority (Chief Secretary).

2. One of the penalty imposed upon you to deposit the cost of Rs.356,042.58 (LUSATYR) of BEEEDA, 2011 on account of embezzlement of wheat caused by the Government exchequer.

3. You are once again directed to deposit the said amount Rs.356,042.58 (LUSATYR) into the Government Treasury immediately, taking which departmental and criminal proceedings will be initiated against you under BEEEDA, 2011.

PRO No.2577/27-11-2025

DIRECTOR GENERAL FOOD BALOCHISTAN

TENDER NOTICE

The Assistant Director Police invites bids from eligible bidders for supply of following items. TBE-3261919451 Only electronic bid will be submitted. No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA. GOB Tender Fee 1000 PKR

S.No	Class of Object	Bid Security
1.	Clothing & Linens (Total Items Count: 10)	2.5%

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules-2014. Eligibility of Bidders: 1. Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity Worth PKR. 1 Million each in Previous 5 Years Accumulated Turn over of at least PKR. 3 Million in 5 Subsequent Previous Years Presence in Active Tax Payer List Sales Tax Certificate The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. IV is Permissible Submission of the required Bid Security in case Bid Security is not found as required during financial evaluation the bidding firm shall be declared as ineligible and non-responsive Submission of the required Bidding Document Fee All bidders are required to upload verified work order and subsequent document from concerned department in response to the eligibility criteria mentioned above 60 days from the date of issuance of Acceptance Letter. Provision of Samples: The bidder must agree to bear all his test expenses which include lab charges as well as courier etc. Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at Call of 2.5% specified above in the name of the undersigned from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The 10th & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gov.pk. Issuance of Tender Documents: Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gov.pk. Last Date of bid submission: Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 16 December, 2025 11:50 AM through supplier dashboard. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 11:30 AM on EPPS System Address: Central Police Office, Guidan Road Quetta Cantt Phone No. 0815203479 Email: aggen123@gmail.com

AIG GENERAL FOR INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE BALOCHISTAN, QUETTA

PRO No.2588/27-11-2025

Pakistan ready to enhance economic cooperation with Bahrain, says PM during visit to kingdom

NEWS DESK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Thursday that Pakistan was "ready to enhance economic cooperation" with Bahrain in various fields, including agriculture, information technology and artificial intelligence.

He made the remarks while addressing the business community in Manama. The premier had arrived in the country's capital a day earlier and held delegation-level talks with Bahrain's leadership at Al Qudabiyah Palace. In his address, PM Shehbaz said that strategic cooperation had existed between the two countries for decades.

Addressing Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, he said: "Pakistan is ready to enhance economic cooperation with Bahrain in the fields of agriculture, information technology, artificial intelligence, financial technology and all other areas where our two countries can really work together, and create synergy through our efforts and our

knowledge and our experience and our commitment to support each other."

He said ties between Islamabad and Manama were based on cultural, religious, mutual respect and trust. These "are the pillars of our relations," he added.

He termed his recent meetings with Bahrain's leadership "extremely productive".

"I am not a visitor here. I have come here to meet my family members, our Bahraini brothers and sisters," he said.

"This is what our relationship is all about. Now we have to convert these wonderful relations into economic cooperation," he added.

The premier highlighted that Pakistan possessed a "great youth bulge".

"Sixty per cent of our population comprises young boys and girls within the [age] bracket of 15 to 30 years," he said.

He added that the country was "committed" to converting this challenge into an opportunity by empowering the youth and training them in the



fields of information technology and artificial intelligence, along with providing vocational and skills training.

"Together with our Bahraini brothers, entrepreneurs, we will create a great momentum in this field," he said.

"I think this is the time to really catch up because time and tide wait for none," PM Shehbaz stressed.

He also talked about the Pakistani community

in Bahrain. The premier added that in every country he visited, he interacted with Pakistani communities and listened to the "stories of men and women whose love for Pakistan has never faded, even as they have dedicated their talent, loyalty and hard work to the progress of other nations and cultures".

"The more I learn of these journeys, the more convinced I become that

the Pakistani identity is not bound by geography. It is in the hearts of our people wherever they may be. Here in Bahrain, that spirit is visible beyond any ray of doubt," he emphasised.

PM Shehbaz appreciated the Pakistanis living in Bahrain for their services to both countries.

"You are great ambassadors of Pakistan, and we are very proud of your contribution to Pakistan's national economic development," he said.

"Your hard-earned money, valuable remittances amounting to \$484 million in the last financial year, is indeed highly appreciated."

He also expressed gratitude to the Bahraini leadership for its love, affection, and support for the Pakistani diaspora. PM Shehbaz

added that Islamabad offered scale, talent, resources and a growing consumer market that was "strategically located, connecting to the wider region".

"Combined with Bahrain's financial expertise, business acumen and global outlook, the potential is huge and enormous," he said, adding that Pakistan was undergoing a structural transformation, embodying economic reforms, digital modernisation and a decisive push for a private sector-led growth.

"We have cut red tape forever, strengthened our regulations and opened new sectors such as agriculture, information technology, minerals, energy and tourism for long-term partnership," he highlighted. He added that Pakistan wanted to work with Bahrain and learn from its experience and expertise.

He further mentioned that the Gulf Cooperation Council Free Trade Agreement (GCC FTA) had been "nearly finalised and is

expected to be signed soon".

"This will enhance trade between Pakistan and the GCC countries, particularly with Bahrain," he said. The premier ended his address by encouraging Bahraini investors interested in collaborating with Pakistan to "let this moment be your launching pad for a bold and meaningful collaboration".

Dar meets Bahrain's finance minister, discusses economic cooperation

Earlier today, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, who is accompanying the premier on his visit, met Bahrain's Finance Minister Sheikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa.

In a press release, the Foreign Office said that the two ministers had a "fruitful discussion" that focused on enhancing cooperation in the finance sector.

"Bahrain has made significant progress in fintech and offered to share its expertise with the Pakistani banking sector," the FO said.

Govt raises over Rs1tr in treasury auctions

NEWS DESK: The government raised more than Rs1.03 trillion on Wednesday through auctions of treasury bills, Pakistan Investment Bonds (PIB) and the Government of Sindh Sukuk (GIS). The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) conducted the three auctions, which attracted strong investor participation across conventional and Islamic instruments.

In the T-bill auction, the SBP targeted Rs650 billion but received an overwhelming response as bids totalled Rs1.803 billion. It accepted Rs749 billion across all four tenors. The one-month paper attracted the highest bids of Rs648 billion against the target of Rs100 billion, though only Rs61 billion was accepted at a cut-off yield of 0.89%, slightly lower than the previous auction. The three-month T-bill saw bids of Rs211 billion against the target of Rs150 billion, with Rs251 billion accepted at a stable cut-

off yield of 11%.

For the six-month tenor, bids amounted to Rs177 billion versus the target of Rs200 billion, but acceptance was restricted to Rs69 billion, also at 11% cut-off yield. The 12-month paper received substantial bids of Rs767 billion in total, of which Rs368 billion was accepted at a cut-off yield of 11.2%.

Yields across all tenors registered minor downward adjustments compared to the previous auction and the secondary market, indicating continued confidence in short-term government securities. In the PIB segment, the government raised Rs28 billion through the 10-year Pakistan Floating Rate Semi-Annual (PFL-SA) bond against total bids of Rs524 billion and the target of Rs50 billion. The cut-off price was 95.4, reflecting a cut-off rate of 11.70% with a spread of 0.80% over the benchmark. Separately, the SBP conducted the out-

right purchase of the Government of Sindh Sukuk (GIS) VRR-22 on a deferred payment (Bai Muajjal) basis. Against the offered face value of Rs176.43 billion, the government accepted Rs175.16 billion at a Bai Muajjal cut-off price of 144.97. Under Plan A, it had to seek financing from lenders. They said that the Pakistan rupee edged up slightly against the US dollar, closing at 280.56 in the inter-bank market, a gain of Rs0.01. The local unit had ended Tuesday at 280.57. Meanwhile, gold prices in Pakistan rose, tracking gains in the international market. The price per tola increased by Rs2,300 to Rs438,862, while 10-gram gold climbed Rs1,972 to Rs376,253, according to the All-Pakistan Gems and Jewellers Sarafis Association. International prices were up \$23 at \$4,165 per ounce.

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A legal adviser of lenders briefed Pakistan's petroleum minister and the managing director of Oil and Gas Development Company (OGDC) about the financial close.

They were informed that financial arrangements for the Reko Diq project had been completed and the lenders were engaged in documentation. Pa-

Financial close for Reko Diq project soon

NEWS DESK: Pakistan and its partners are set to achieve financial close in the next two weeks and secure \$3.5 billion in funding for the multibillion-dollar Reko Diq copper and gold mining project.

Sources said that Pakistan had formulated Plan A and B to execute the project. Under Plan A, it had to seek financing from lenders. They said that the Pakistan rupee edged up slightly against the US dollar, closing at 280.56 in the inter-bank market, a gain of Rs0.01. The local unit had ended Tuesday at 280.57. Meanwhile, gold prices in Pakistan rose, tracking gains in the international market. The price per tola increased by Rs2,300 to Rs438,862, while 10-gram gold climbed Rs1,972 to Rs376,253, according to the All-Pakistan Gems and Jewellers Sarafis Association. International prices were up \$23 at \$4,165 per ounce.

They reviewed key developments in the energy and resource sector, including the current status of financing for the Reko Diq project. Briefing the minister and the

OGDC leadership, Hussain, who represents the project's financiers, shared positive updates on achieving financial close. The meeting also discussed additional opportunities across Pakistan's mining and oil & gas sectors, with all parties expressing their commitment to supporting strategic investments and sector-specific growth.

Despite its huge potential, the mineral sector currently contributes around 3.2% to the gross domestic product (GDP), with

exports accounting for only 0.1% of the world's total. However, with increasing exploration, foreign investment and infrastructure, the mining industry is poised for significant expansion. Pakistan's mineral-rich landscape covers an outcrop area of 600,000 square kilometres. With 92 known minerals, 52 of which are commercially exploited, Pakistan produces an estimated 68.52 million metric tons of minerals annually. The sector supports over 5,000 operational mines and 50,000 small and medium enterprises (SMEs), providing direct employment to 300,000 workers.

The local mining sector is increasingly attracting foreign investment as global firms are eyeing the untapped mineral reserves. The Reko Diq copper and gold project, located in the Chagai district of Balochistan, has the world's largest unreported copper reserves and stands as a milestone for Pakistan's mining ambitions.

The project, revived by Canada's Barrick Gold, is expected to start producing copper and gold by 2028, with an initial investment of \$5.5 billion. According to Mark Brister, CEO of Barrick Gold, which owns a 50% stake in the project, the reserves are expected to generate \$74 billion in free cash flow over the next 37 years.

The mine is anticipated to generate 32.8 billion in annual exports and create thousands of jobs.



C/A deficit weighs on GDP growth

NEWS DESK: The fragile economic recovery of Pakistan is once again under pressure as the current account deficit widens, undermining growth expectations for the ongoing fiscal year.

A new analysis of the Lahore School of Economics (LSE) shows that GDP growth for FY 2025-26 is projected at just 2.4%, the same level as recorded in the previous year, after the current account slipped back into deficit during the first quarter.

The report, prepared by the LSE's Modeling Lab and Innovation & Technology Centre, warns that the economy's Achilles heel remains its vulnerability to external shocks. It notes that while Pakistan entered FY26 with optimism due to a current account surplus of nearly \$2 billion in the previous fiscal year, the trend reversed quickly.

During July-September 2025, the current account posted a deficit of \$0.6 billion, which, if extended across the year, could widen to \$2.4 billion. According to the authors, including economists Dr Mazhar Mahmood and Dr Azam



Amjad Chaudhry, this reversal has significantly dampened hopes for acceleration in growth. Their model shows that the weakening external position is the biggest factor dragging GDP growth down to 2.4%, despite incremental improvements in key domestic sectors such as manufacturing and agriculture.

The report notes that GDP growth could still improve during the remainder of the year, but only marginally. It imports cool off and other macro indicators strengthen, the economy may reach an upper-bound growth

rate of 2.9% in FY26. Even this figure would remain below projections of international institutions, with the government targeting 3.3%, the IMF estimating 3.6% and the World Bank predicting 3.1%.

On the supply side, the study highlights slight improvements in key domestic sectors. Large-scale manufacturing, which had contracted for the past three years, finally returned to positive territory with 0.5% growth in the first quarter. The agriculture sector is also expected to recover to its trend range of 2.5-3%, supported by low flood

damage and the possible reconsideration of long-standing crop support prices, which were removed in recent years. However, the LSE team concludes that these internal gains are overshadowed by external pressures.

A surge in imports, despite stable exports and steady remittance flows, has tilted the current account back into deficit. This demand-side shock, the report says, is now the strongest downward force on the overall economy.

Alongside growth concerns, the study also provides a fresh estimate for inflation. It projects

consumer inflation at 7.1% for FY26, which is broadly aligned with the government's expectation of 5% to 7% but slightly higher than the IMF's forecast of 6%.

The researchers attribute the bulk of earlier double-digit inflation, peaking at 38% three years ago, to steep exchange rate depreciation.

They note that the exchange rate has finally stabilised over the past two fiscal years due to tighter monetary policy and improved market management by the State Bank.

Energy prices remain the second major driver of inflation. The analysis shows that energy-related costs contributed around 4% to inflation last year and will continue to add approximately 3.2% this year. Interestingly, the study finds that 60% of the rise in energy prices comes from government taxes, while only 40% stems from supplier price adjustments.

The researchers argue that Pakistan needs a clearer and more balanced strategy to handle its external vulnerabilities.

Undocumented gold market to face scrutiny

NEWS DESK: Pakistan may come under the radar of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) due to failure to regulate its gold market as 90% of the metal is still traded without formal channels.

Undocumented trade and the smuggling of gold dominate the Pakistan market. FATF had urged Islamabad to regulate its bullion market but the bulk of gold is traded outside of formal channels while the gold association sets prices though no price mechanism exists.

A majority of gold dealers are not registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The Competition Commission (CCP) has highlighted the grey area in gold trade. It said that annual consumption of gold in Pakistan was estimated at 60 to 90 tons and proposed to the government to establish a separate authority to monitor and document bullion trade.

The CCP on Wednesday released its maiden Competition Assessment Study of the

Gold Market in Pakistan, providing evidence-based analysis of the sector's structure, regulatory landscape and competitiveness challenges. The study, conducted by the CCP's Centre of Excellence in Competition Law, maps a market historically dominated by informality, fragmented oversight and pricing opacity.

According to the report, Pakistan's annual gold consumption ranges between 60 and 90 tonnes, driven largely by cultural demand, including weddings and religious offerings. Most trading occurs outside of formal channels. The market relies almost entirely on informal price setting, with an estimated \$17 million worth of gold imported in financial year 2023-24. The study highlights the transformative potential of Reko Diq copper and gold project, expected to generate an up to \$74 billion over its useful life of 37 years and significantly reshape domestic supply chains.

The report identified deep-rooted barriers that suppress competition and distort market functioning. There was

dominance of the informal market as weak documentation and cash-based transactions allowed large informal networks to set prices and influence supply.

The CCP questioned the opaque price setting as daily gold rates are largely influenced by associations rather than transparent market mechanisms. "Fragmented regulation also dominates. Overlapping and unclear mandates of the Ministry of Commerce, Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), State Bank, Pakistan Petroleum Development Company and Trade Development Authority of Pakistan create policy inconsistencies and enforcement gaps," it said.

The report pointed to high tax and compliance costs, saying that complex procedures and inconsistent tax treatments create uncertainty. It also noted that the lack of refining capacity and inadequate assaying and hallmarking facilities, leading to widespread purity issues and weak consumer protection.

Germany eye revenge in Nations League showdown with Spain

NEWS DESK: Germany head into their Women's Nations League final against Spain this weekend with a "score to settle", months after their painful extra-time elimination in the Euro 2025 semi-finals.

Germany play host to the reigning world champions in Friday's first leg in Kaiserslautern, with the return match in Madrid on December 2.

Aitana Bonmati's 113rd-minute strike in Zurich in July sent the Germans packing and robbed them of a chance to avenge their 2-1 extra-time Euro 2022 defeat by eventual winners England.

Four months on, revenge is again in the air for Christian Wueck's side, along with a chance to see how they stack up against the world's best.

Manchester City midfielder Rebecca

Knaak was on the pitch in July and said the Germans would use the disappointment of the defeat as motivation.

"We definitely want to show we can beat Spain. The defeat still hurts," Knaak said on Tuesday.

"We've learned our lessons from our last encounter and we know what we need to work on. There's definitely a score to settle and now we have a chance to do better across two games."

The most successful European team in women's football history, Germany have lost their advantage in recent years as other nations drastically improved.

Eight-time European champions and twice World Cup winners, Germany's last major honour came a decade ago, with a gold medal at the 2016 Olympics in Rio de



Janeiro.

Missing players Wueck took over after the 2024 Olympics and has steadied the ship despite retirements and a wave of

injuries. Long-time striker Alexandra Popp and goalkeeper Merle Frohms stepped down from international duty last year, while stars Giulia

Gwin, Lena Oberdorf and Sarai Linder have all missed out with serious injuries. Oberdorf will be out for several months

after tearing her ACL again in October, but Gwin is back from a ligament strain and will captain Spain.

Germany welcomed back goalkeeper Ann-Katrin Berger on Wednesday. Berger arrived in camp late after winning the NWSL championship with Gotham FC and enjoying the victory parade in New York. The 52-year-old Wueck avoided talk of revenge but said his team would relish the chance to test themselves against the World Cup holders, calling Spain "the best team in Europe".

"We're incredibly excited for these two games and we're also incredibly excited to be playing Spain, because we know we will not only be challenged, but that it will truly require an absolute top performance just to have a chance," said Wueck.

"But I do believe we have the potential to win these games."

Lyon midfielder Jule Brand agreed, saying a victory would "send a message to

other opponents and boost confidence".

Brand said the atmosphere at Kaiserslautern's 47,000-seat Fritz Walter Stadion, which sits high on the Betzenberg hill in the middle of town, could be crucial on Friday.

"Grandma, everyone was a Kaiserslautern fan," the 23-year-old said, having attended matches at the historic stadium as a child.

Despite the advantage of playing the second leg -- and potentially extra time and penalties -- at home, Spain promised to attack. "I'm not playing for a draw," said Spain coach Sonia Bermudez. "I would like to win it there, with hopefully lots of goals. Germany are a fantastic team. We have the utmost respect for them and we are all very aware that what lies ahead will be difficult."

Ashes pitch rated 'very good' after two-day Test in Perth

NEWS DESK: The Perth Stadium pitch that saw Australia complete a thumping eight-wicket Ashes win inside two days over England has earned the International Cricket Council's (ICC) highest rating. Cricket Australia said on Thursday.

The ICC match referee gave the surface a "very good" rating, denoting good carry, limited seam movement and consistent early bounce despite the rapid finish to the series-opener.

"The match referee's 'very good' rating justifies our belief Perth Stadium produced a pitch that provided a fair balance between bat and ball."

"A chief of cricket James Alseop said in a statement.

"The dominance of some brilliant pace bowling from both sides and



the frenetic nature of the contest meant the match lasted only two days.

"This was disappointing for fans holding tickets for days three and four, but we saw some incredible mo-

ments." Australia took a 1-0 lead in the five-test series after their first bowlers tore through England twice, setting up a modest chase completed late on day two with the help of a match-

winning century by Travis Head.

With day three a sell-out, Cricket Australia missed out on millions of dollars in revenue from ticket sales, while tens of thousands of

fans were left at a loose end. Some good came from the rapid finish, though, with Perth Stadium donating hundreds of kilograms of surplus food to people in need.

Pakistan, riding a wave of dominant home performances, have stitched together three consecutive wins to secure their place in the final. Sri Lanka, meanwhile, face a must-win encounter to keep their campaign alive.

With qualification

Pakistan win toss, bowl first against Sri Lanka in T20 tri-series match

NEWS DESK: Pakistan won the toss and chose to bowl first in the Twenty20 International tri-series match against Sri Lanka at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Thursday.

Pakistan, riding a wave of dominant home performances, have stitched together three consecutive wins to secure their place in the final. Sri Lanka, meanwhile, face a must-win encounter to keep their campaign alive.

With qualification

already assured, Pakistan have continued to test pace duo Shaheen Shah Afridi and Naseem Shah as Mohammad Wasim and Salman Mirza get more game time.

The fixture also provides the team management another chance to fine-tune their combinations and bolster the confidence of emerging talent ahead of the T20 World Cup.

PAKISTAN: Saim Ayub, Sahibzada Farhan, Babar Azam,

Salman Ali Agha (c), Usman Khan (wk), Fakhar Zaman, Mohammad Nawaz, Faheem Ashraf, Mohammad Wasim, Salman Mirza, Abrar Ahmed

SRI LANKA: Pathum Nissanka, Kusal Mendis (wk), Kamil Mishara, Kusal Janith Perera, Janith Liyanage, Dasun Shanaka (c), Pavan Ratnayake, Wanindu Hasaranga, Dushmanta Chameera, Mahesh Theekshana, Eshan Malinga

Gambhir under fierce pressure as India suffer biggest Test defeat

NEWS DESK: Underfire Gautam Gambhir said it was up to the Indian cricket board to decide his fate as coach after overseeing a 2-0 Test series defeat to South Africa on Wednesday.

India went down to South Africa by 408 runs in the second Test to suffer their biggest defeat by runs and a fifth loss in seven home matches.

The hosts were whitewashed 3-0 by New Zealand a year ago and the heavy defeat in Guwahati has once again raised doubts over Gambhir's tactics.

"It is up to BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) to de-

termine when I took over as the head coach -- Indian cricket is important, I'm not important. And I sit here saying exactly the same thing."

Former batsman Gambhir, 44, replaced Rahul Dravid after the T20 World Cup triumph last year and has lost 10 out of 19 Tests since being appointed coach.

His contract runs until the 2027 ODI World Cup.

"People can keep forgetting I'm the same guy who got results in England as well, with a young team,"

"And I'm the same guy under who we won the Champions Trophy

and Asian Cup as well," he added.

Stalwarts Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma quit T20 cricket after the World Cup win in Barbados earlier this year called time on their Test careers.

Shubman Gill was appointed Test captain ahead of the 2-2 draw in England.

He then led India to a 2-0 sweep of the West Indies at home. Gill was injured in the opening match of the South Africa series and missed the second Test.

Rishabh Pant stood in as skipper of the team in transition. India crashed to

"I don't give excuses and I have never done that in the past," said Gambhir.

"But if you see four or five batters in his top eight have literally played less than 15 Tests. And they will grow."

They are learning on the job."

The Indian spinners were also outdone on favourable home pitches with South Africa's Simon Harmer returning 17 wickets with his off-spin.

"I do not think so ever in a Test cricket something like this has happened where the transition is happening in the spin-bowling department and in a bat-

South Africa condemn India to biggest Test loss for series sweep

NEWS DESK: Spinner Simon Harmer took six wickets as South Africa thrashed India by 408 runs in the second Test on Wednesday to condemn the hosts to a record loss and sweep the series.

It was South Africa's first series win in India in 25 years, after bowling the home team out for a dismal 140 in an unlikely case of 549 on day five at the Barsapara Cricket Stadium in Guwahati.

India suffered their biggest Test defeat by runs and a fifth loss in seven home matches, having been whitewashed 3-0 by New Zealand little more than a year ago.

Off-spinner Harmer, 36, returned figures of 6-37 as world champions South Africa clinched a Test series in India for only the second time, the first in 2000 under Hansie Cronje.

"Winning a Test match and series in India is very special," said left-arm quick Marco Jansen, who took 6-48 in India's first innings 201 after smashing a quickfire 93 with the bat as the visitors piled up 489.

India lost the opening Test in Kolkata inside three days on a pitch with uneven bounce and South Africa once again beat the hosts at their own game of spin on a batting-friendly track.

Indian coach Gautam Gambhir, under fierce pressure following the latest home whitewash, refused to point the finger of blame squarely at his players.

"It lies with everyone in that dressing room and starts with me," he told reporters. "I have said it before as well -- that we win to-

gether, we lose together."

Asked if he was the right man to lead India, he referred reporters to the Indian cricket board.

"I've said it during my first press conference when I took over as the head coach," said the former batsman.

"Indian cricket is important, I'm not important."

A confident South Africa led by Temba Bavuma were always in control.

All-rounder Senuran Muthusamy scored 109, his maiden Test century, before Jansen's blast after electing to bat.

The hosts were bundled out for 201 in reply to concede a first-innings lead of 288 but South Africa did not force the follow-on and decided to bat again.

South Africa declared their second innings on 260-5 on day four to hand India a record chase but the hosts' batting once again failed and they never threatened to get close.

"Whether you're playing at home or away, cricket demands that determination and the extra effort," said India captain Rishabh Pant.

"As a batting unit

you need to capitalise on certain moments. As a team we didn't do that for a longer period of time, and that cost us the whole series."

Pant further said that they should not be complacent about home success. "They (South Africa) definitely played better cricket, but at the same time, in cricket you can't take anything for granted," said the home skipper.

Starting day five at 27-2 as they attempted to avoid defeat, India rode their luck early when Jansen had Sai Sudharshan caught behind for four, but the delivery was declared a no-ball after the bowler overstepped.

In the next over Kuldeep Yadav survived a reprieve on four when Aiden Markram dropped him at first slip off Harmer.

The relief was short-lived for India as a relentless Harmer bowled Kuldeep for five for the first wicket of the day.

Three balls later the spinner dismissed Dhruv Jurel for two and soon sent back Pant for 13 as India slumped to 58-5.

Ravindra Jadeja resisted with 54 before Keshav Maharaj had

him stumped and the spinner soon got the final wicket of Mohammed Siraj, with Jansen pulling off a stunning catch in the deep.

B A V U M A SAVOURS 'DREAM' WIN

Bavuma said that South Africa have endured "dark days" and their 2-0 sweep in India reflects their new mindset.

Despite being the reigning world champions, few expected South Africa to dominate India in the way they did -- winning the series opener in Kolkata inside three days before beating the hosts in Guwahati.

"It's massive," Bavuma said at the presentation ceremony. "These are the type of things that we're working towards and dreaming of. It's not every day where you get to think that you can come to India and walk away with a 2-0 series win."

"I think what makes it sweeter for some of us within the group is the fact that we've been on the other side of the result. We've had dark days, and we know how tough it can be. I think for this group of gentlemen, again, another incredible achievement."



cide," Gambhir said, asked in the post-match press conference whether he was the right man for the job.

"I've said it during my first press confer-

"And I'm sure you guys will forget very soon because a lot of people keep talking about New Zealand."

Their highest total was 201 in the first innings in Guwahati.

140 all out in a mammoth chase of 549, with their batting faltering consistently in the two-match series.

giving them time and I am sure they have got the talent, they have got the ability."

"All of us need to give them time and I am sure they have got the talent, they have got the ability."

2 National Guard soldiers shot near White House; Trump terms incident 'act of terror'

NEWS DESK: Two US National Guard soldiers were critically wounded on Wednesday after being shot in a brazen daytime attack a few blocks from the White House, with US President Donald Trump terming the incident an "act of terror".

The incident, which left two Guard members critically wounded, was "an act of evil, an act of hatred and an act of terror," Trump said. "It was a crime against our entire nation."

He confirmed that the man taken into custody after the daylight shooting two blocks from the White House was "a foreigner who entered our country from Afghanistan".

The suspect had arrived in the United States in 2021 "on those infamous flights," Trump said, referring to the evacuations of Afghans fleeing as the Taliban took over the

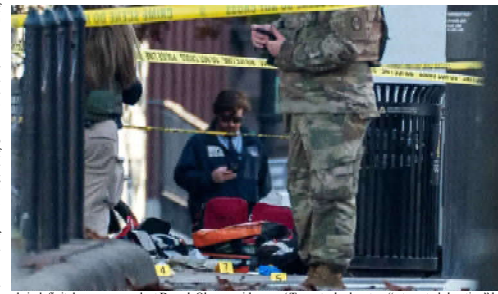
country in the wake of the US retreat after 20 years of war.

"We must now re-examine every single alien who has entered our country from Afghanistan," under former president Joe Biden, Trump said.

"We must take all necessary measures to ensure the removal of any alien from any country who does not belong here, or add benefit to our country if they can't love our country, we don't want them."

The Department of Homeland Security identified the suspect as Rahmatullah Lakanwal, an Afghan national. According to CNN, the suspect applied for asylum in 2024, which was granted by the Trump administration in April 2025.

Separately, the US Citizenship and Immigration Services said it had stopped processing all immigration requests relating to Afghan nation-



als indefinitely.

"The protection and safety of our homeland and of the American people remains our singular focus and mission," the US Citizenship and Immigration Services said in a post on X.

Reacting to the incident, former US presi-

dent Barack Obama said

"violence has no place in America".

"Michelle and I are praying for the servicemembers shot in Washington, DC today, and send our love to their families as they enter this holiday season under the most tragic of circumstances," he said.

'Targeted shoot-

ing. Trump was in Florida at the time of the attack, which prompted the White House to go into lockdown as law enforcement from multiple federal and city agencies swarmed the area.

Washington Mayor Muriel Bowser called it

"a targeted shooting" by

a single assailant.

"That individual has been taken into custody," she said.

The shooting occurred around 2:15 pm local time, when the two soldiers — a man and a woman — were conducting what authorities described as a "high-

visibility patrol".

According to DC Police Executive Assistant Chief Jeffrey Carroll, the attacker rounded a corner, raised a firearm, and "ambushed these members of the National Guard" without warning.

Both soldiers were struck multiple times and rushed to local trauma centers, where they remain in critical condition.

The suspect was also injured during the encounter. Carroll said investigators were still working to determine whose gunfire wounded him, but confirmed that there were no additional suspects and no ongoing threat.

Senior counterterrorism officials confirmed to ABC News that the FBI was examining the shooting as a possible act of terrorism, and investigators were looking into whether the attack may have been inspired by a foreign militant group.

Authorities

stressed, however, that no motive had been established.

Trump was the first to announce the incident publicly, writing on social media that "the animal that shot the two National Guardsmen"

was "also severely wounded and would 'pay a very steep price'".

He praised the National Guard and federal law-enforcement agencies as "truly great people".

Following the shooting, US Secretary of Defence Pete Hegseth said the president directed him to deploy an additional 500 National Guard troops to Washington "immediately," saying "This happened just steps away from the White House. It will not stand."

A brief security lockdown was also imposed at the White House as the situation unfolded, though Trump was not in the capital at the time.

Hong Kong fire kills 55, leaves hundreds missing; police blame 'grossly negligent' construction firm

NEWS DESK: A huge fire still burning in a Hong Kong apartment complex that has killed at least 55 people and left nearly 300 missing may have been caused by a "grossly negligent" construction firm using unsafe materials, police said on Thursday.

Almost a full day after the fire began, firefighters were struggling to reach residents, some potentially trapped on the upper floors of the Wang Fuk Court housing complex due to dense heat and thick smoke from the blaze that erupted on Wednesday afternoon.

The tightly packed complex in the northern Tai Po district has 2,000 apartments in eight blocks that are home to more than 4,600 people in a city struggling with chronic shortages of affordable housing.

"We bought [a place] in this building more than 20 years ago. All of our belongings were in this building, and now that it has all burned like this, what's left?" asked a 51-year-old resident with the surname Wan.

A firefighter was among the 55 killed, with dozens in hospital in critical condition, Hong Kong authorities said on Thursday afternoon. Around 279 people remain uncontactable.

Among the dead was a 37-year-old firefighter, who was found with burns on his face half an hour after losing contact with colleagues, according to the fire service director Andy Yeung.

A government spokesman told AFP that 56 people were being treated in hospital. Sixteen were in a critical condition, 24 in a serious

condition and 16 were stable. Eileen Chung, a Hong Kong police superintendent, said 900 residents were spread across eight shelters.

The fire was still burning on Thursday afternoon, more than 24 hours after it started.

Sections of charred scaffolding fell from the burning blocks, and flames could be seen rising from the building. At one point, flames belching out through windows into the night sky, casting an eerie orange glow on the surrounding buildings. An AFP reporter heard loud cracking sounds, possibly from the burning bamboo.

A 65-year-old resident, surnamed Yuen, said he had lived in the complex for more than four decades and that many of his neighbours were elderly and might

not be mobile.

"The windows were closed because of the maintenance, [some people] didn't know there was a fire and had to be told to evacuate via phone calls by neighbours," Yuen told AFP. "I'm devastated."

A woman surnamed Ng, 52, was distraught as she searched for her daughter outside a shelter. "She and her father

believe that the company's responsible parties were grossly negligent, which led to this accident and caused the fire to spread uncontrollably, resulting in major casualties," said police superintendent Chung.

Three men from the construction company, two directors and one engineering consultant, had been arrested on

suspicion of manslaughter over the fire, she added.

Police said in addition to the buildings being covered with protective mesh sheets and plastic that may not meet fire standards, they discovered some windows on one unaffected building were sealed with a foam material, installed by a construction company carrying out year-long maintenance work.

Indonesia's foreign ministry said on Thursday that two Indonesian migrant workers "in the domestic sector" died in the fire and two others were injured.

The death toll is now the highest in a Hong Kong fire since 1948, when 176 people were killed in a warehouse blaze. Hong Kong's corruption body

is also investigating the fire.

Police officers searched the housing estate's building maintenance company on Thursday morning, seizing documents that mention Wang Fuk Court, local media reported.

The company did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

"We have reason to

believe that the company's responsible parties were grossly negligent, which led to this accident and caused the fire to spread uncontrollably, resulting in major casualties," said police superintendent Chung.

Three men from the construction company, two directors and one engineering consultant, had been arrested on

suspicion of manslaughter over the fire, she added.

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"demonstrates a persistent corruption mindset rooted in entitlement, unchecked power, and a greedy eye for public property", ruled judge Abdullah Al Mamun.

"Treating public land as a private asset, she directed her greedy eye toward state resources and manipulated official procedures to benefit herself and her close relatives."

Hasina's US-based son Sajeeb Wazed and daughter Saima Wazed, who has served as a top United Nations official, were sentenced to five years each.

Pope Leo arrives in Turkey on first foreign trip of papacy

NEWS DESK: Pope Leo XIV has arrived in Turkey at the start of the first foreign trip of his papacy, where he will mark an historic Christian anniversary, before heading to Lebanon days after Israeli airstrikes on its capital, Beirut.

As he travelled to Ankara, the Pope summed up the message of his trip by saying that "all men, women can truly be brothers and sisters, in spite of differences, in the face of different religions, in spite of different beliefs".

Visits to both countries had originally been planned by the late Pope Francis, but the overarching theme — building bridges — is one Pope Leo has made his own from the moment he stepped on to the balcony of St Peter's Basilica after his election in May.

Since he became pontiff six months ago, he has conveyed a sense of being extremely measured, even cautious. But on this trip, his powers of diplomacy will be closely scrutinised.

A key moment of the trip will take place in the Turkish town of Iznik, the site of the ancient city of Nicaea. Pope Leo and leaders of other Christian traditions will gather to mark the anniversary of an ancient council that took place there 1,700 years ago. In 325 AD, among other key decisions, more than 200 bishops at the council affirmed the belief that Jesus was the son of

God, eventually leading to what is known as the Nicene Creed.

Eastern and Western branches of Christianity later dramatically split, but during this trip there will be messages of togetherness and healing divisions.

In Turkey, the Pope will also visit the Blue Mosque, as both his immediate predecessors Pope Francis and Pope Benedict XVI had done. He will have meetings with other religious leaders in a gesture of inter-religious dialogue before flying on to the second leg of the trip.

He will meet more faith leaders and hear from young people in Lebanon, his visit giving a boost in particular to the estimated third of the country that is Christian.

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On the final day of the trip, Pope Leo will operate very differently, gently holding on to some of the progressive ideals of his predecessor while paying heed to the views of traditionalists.

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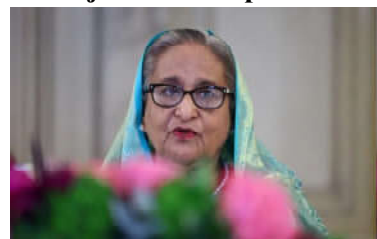
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Bangladesh ex-PM Sheikh Hasina gets 21 years in jail for corruption

NEWS DESK: A court in Bangladesh sentenced ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina on Thursday to 21 years in prison for corruption, a week after she was given the death penalty for crimes against humanity.

Hasina, 78, is currently residing in India and has defied court orders that she return to Bangladesh.

She was sentenced in absentia on November 17 to be hanged for crimes against humanity after ordering a deadly crackdown against a student-led uprising last year that eventually ousted her. But three other cases had been brought against the ex-leader by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) over land grabs of lucrative plots in a suburb of the capital Dhaka. Hasina received



seven years' imprisonment in each of the three cases, Dhaka Tribune reported. Several other accused were also handed varying prison terms, it added.

It is unclear if the sentences will run concurrently.

Hasina's conduct

sources and manipulated official procedures to benefit herself and her close relatives."

Hasina's US-based son Sajeeb Wazed and daughter Saima Wazed, who has served as a top United Nations official, were sentenced to five years each.

UAE not issuing visas to Pakistanis, interior ministry official tells Senate body

NEWS DESK: Additional Interior Secretary Salman Chaudhry said on Thursday that the United Arab Emirates had not been issuing visas to Pakistanis.

Pakistan and the UAE share close diplomatic, economic, and cultural ties.

The UAE is one of Pakistan's largest trading partners in the Middle East and a major source of remittances, with a large Pakistani expatriate population living and working there.

The secretary made this revelation during a meeting of the Senate Functional Committee on Human Rights, further stating that Saudi Arabia and



the UAE had "stopped short of imposing a ban on the Pakistani passport holders."

"If a ban is imposed, getting it removed would be difficult," he warned.

The official said that currently, the UAE was only issuing visas to blue and dip-

lomatic passport holders.

Separately, Senator Sami Mumtaz Zehri, who heads the Senate committee on human rights, also confirmed that the interior ministry official's remarks to Dawn. She said the bar was attributed to concerns

about people travelling to the UAE and "getting involved in criminal activities".

The committee was told that the UAE was not issuing visas to Pakistanis and that very few had been issued in the recent past "after much difficulty," she said.