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QUETTA VOICE

Friday 24, April, 2026

Deadly Chagai Mine Attack Claims 9 Lives, Foreign Worker Kidnapped



Balochistan: Security Forces Kill 3 More Terrorists in Zhob, Recover Weapons – ISPR

Riaz Hussain Baloch:

QUETTA: In a deadly late-night assault, unidentified armed men attacked a mining site in Chagai district, leaving at least nine workers dead and abducting a foreign worker.

According to officials, the attackers entered the remote site under the cover of darkness and opened indiscriminate fire, catching both workers and security staff off guard. The sudden attack resulted in multiple fatalities, while several others sustained injuries. During the incident, the assailants also took a foreign worker

hostage. Authorities believe the abducted individual may be a Turkish national, though formal confirmation is still awaited. Before fleeing the scene, the attackers torched machinery and vehicles, causing extensive damage and spreading panic among those present.

Security forces reached the area shortly after and initiated a search operation, however, the attackers had already escaped into the rugged terrain. Law enforcement agencies have launched efforts to trace those responsible and ensure the safe recovery of the kidnapped

worker. The attack once again underscores the persistent security concerns in Balochistan, where workers and development projects have frequently been targeted. Meanwhile, grieving families of the victims are left mourning an irreparable loss.

For 2nd consecutive week, PTI leaders no-show at Adiala jail on court-mandated day for meeting with Imran

NEWS DESK:

Amid murmurs of divisions within the PTI, not a single party leader arrived at Adiala jail on Thursday, one of two days on which former premier Imran Khan is allowed visitors. The Islamabad High Court has allowed Imran twice-a-week meetings — on Tuesdays and Thursdays — with his family, lawyers and other associates. Despite the order, the ex-premier has been largely restricted from meeting visitors for several months as the court's directives have not been implemented.

On Wednesday, PTI Secretary General Salman Akram Raja had sent a list of six leaders to the jail administration, as per the court orders, to meet Imran.

PTI leaders Falak Naz Chitrali, Fazal Elahi, Ehtesham Khan, Sardar Ghulam Ali, Asghar Khan Lehri,

Syed Naseebullah Agha and Chaudhry Javed Akhtar Gujjar were included in the list.

However, on Thursday, none of the party leaders managed to reach Adiala jail till 4pm, the cutoff time for meeting with inmates.

Speaking to Dawn, PTI Central Information Secretary Sheikh Waqas Akram said that the party had taken strict notice of the situation and would discuss the

“unfortunate development” in a meeting with prominent leaders.

“There are thousands of leaders and workers who want to meet Imran. Many workers go to Adiala jail every week despite the fact that their names are not included in the list and they will not be allowed to meet Imran. We will make sure that those who cannot come to Adiala jail should not give their names [for meetings],” he said.

Akram asserted that the issue would be addressed and the party would take strict action over it.

Separately, PTI's Lehri told Dawn that he was aware that his name was included in the list sent to the jail administration.

“I could not come as my daughter-in-law was admitted to the hospital in Lahore,” he said, adding that he had welcomed a grandchild.

“It was a matter of pride for me that my name was included in the list of people who had to meet Khan sahib. I have been in the party since 2011 and contested two elections,” he said.

Lehri said that Imran was the most popular leader in Pakistan and the party had a bright future. The same situation had also occurred last week.

The party's secretary general had sent a list of party members to meet Imran, including the heavyweights Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, Sardar Latif Khosa, Babar Awan, and Hamid Khan. But none showed up at Adiala jail.

On the other hand, Imran's sisters have consistently shown up outside Adiala jail on Tuesdays in an effort to meet their brother, even as such meetings have not been allowed by authorities.

Gwadar Grand Jirga 2026: Balochistan Pledges Peace, CPEC Security, and Development

NEWS DESK:

GWADAR: A high-profile Gwadar Grand Jirga in Gwadar brought together top civil and military leadership, tribal elders, and key stakeholders to advance peace, stability, and fast-track development across Balochistan.

The jirga was attended by Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail, Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, senior military officials including the Corps Commander Quetta, and the GOC Gwadar.

A large number of tribal elders, elected representatives, district officials, security personnel, business leaders, fishermen, and civil society members also participated.

Peace, Public Participation, and Inclusive Growth

Addressing the gathering, Governor Mandokhail emphasized that Balochistan's sustainable development depends on public participation, tribal harmony, and consistent governance policies.

He stated that institutions are actively working to ensure that Gwadar's development benefits reach local communities, with a focus on empowering youth, women, and the fishing sector.

Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz



Bugti highlighted that the provincial government is accelerating development projects across Balochistan, with Gwadar as a top priority.

He stressed the need to engage Baloch youth through education and positive opportunities, noting that steering them away from conflict is essential for long-term peace. He further underlined that public cooperation with security forces is critical for the

success of Gwadar Port and mega development initiatives, including infrastructure, water supply, education, and healthcare projects aimed at improving living standards.

Security, CPEC, and Regional Stability

The Corps Commander Quetta reaffirmed that security forces are taking robust measures to ensure peace and protect development projects,

particularly in Gwadar and the Makran Division.

He stated that maintaining a secure environment is vital for the uninterrupted progress of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, a key driver of regional connectivity and economic growth.

He emphasized that trust and cooperation between the public and security institutions remain the foundation of lasting peace in Balochistan.

Participants discussed Gwadar's transformation into a major tourism hub, highlighting its strategic coastal location and economic potential.

The jirga also stressed the importance of the traditional dispute resolution system, agreeing that local conflicts should be resolved through dialogue to strengthen social cohesion and stability.

Martyrs Honored in Gwadar

The Governor and Chief Minister listened to public concerns and assured participants that legitimate demands would be addressed on a priority basis, reinforcing confidence in government-led development efforts. On the sidelines of the jirga, the leadership inaugurated a memorial for Police Constable Muhammad Khamarri Baloch, who was martyred in a terrorist attack in Gwadar on May 11, 2025, paying tribute to his sacrifice for peace and security.

The jirga concluded with a strong consensus to enhance cooperation between government, security forces, and citizens to ensure peace, prosperity, and sustainable development. Participants reaffirmed their commitment to transforming Gwadar into a peaceful, modern, and globally recognized economic hub.

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Trump's Peace Plan: Legitimising Israel's Occupation

Editorial: A Peace agreement often loses its credibility when it fails to recognize the rights of the oppressed. This is the case with President Trump's much-surfaced Gaza peace plan. Far from being a genuine step toward peace, it presents a surrender document that legitimizes Israel's long-standing occupation of Palestine. Sadly, this so-called peace plan was endorsed by major Muslim countries, including Pakistan.

While standing with Trump, Netanyahu, accused of war crimes, accepted the plan and also threatened to finish the job if Hamas does not accept the plan wholeheartedly. However, outrage sparked among various analysts when Netanyahu claimed victory in Hebrew language at Tel Aviv. The question arises: How can Trump propose a plan for peace without involving an international arbitrator—the United Nations Organisation? Critics have rejected this plan on various grounds.

First, the plan has no two-state solution. In fact, it blurs the possibility of an independent Palestinian state in the future. Sadly, Netanyahu has already repudiated the idea of an independent state. Also, President Trump called Palestine recognition by France, Britain, Canada, and Spain a reward to Netanyahu. So far, the United States has stopped Israel from occupying the West Bank,



but some government officials of Netanyahu intended to do so.

Second, Hamas and the Palestine National Authority, the only representatives of Gaza and the West Bank, have been eliminated in the process. Even the United States barred the Palestinian Authority from entering New York during the UNGA annual session. It reflects the colonial plan because peace is mutual; it cannot be imposed at the dictate of aggressors.

Zahid Hussain in his essay pointed out that it practically brings to an end the concept of a Palestinian state.

Third, in the post-war administration, both Hamas and PA have no share. The proposed plan contains the demilitarization of Hamas. They can live in peaceful coexistence after getting amnesty, and also safe passage will be given to those who want to exit. What kind of peace is this, where those who suffer have

no voice in the decisions that shape their future? This is total surrender to be forced on the group.

Fourth, this official instrument lost its credibility when the UN was excluded. It discredits the international organization. Although the question is raised about the ineffective role of the UN—unable to stop genocide—its sanctity must prevail. Critics always blamed the United States. For instance, every time the

US vetoed a resolution to stop Israel's evil deeds.

Fifth, Hamas has been given the ultimatum of 72 hours to accept the plan. It is not a plan but a surrender charter for the group. It means Hamas has no choice but to go with the plan. They are not consulted on their fate.

The Trump-Netanyahu plan has fortified Israel further. It openly advocates for Greater Israel. Sixth, this plan also

provoked worldwide criticism.

Seventh, no future guarantee is mentioned in the proposed framework. It fails to prevent Israel from occupying. Most important, the aggressor's accountability has not been outlined. In fact, Israel has impunity in its every action. The President assured Tel Aviv that they can do what they want if Hamas rejects the plan.

Eighth, no recognition, no peace. Durable

peace hinges on the recognition of Palestine. Both the US and Israel have rejected recognition. Seemingly, they have no plan to recognize Palestine in the near future. The record of history demonstrates that illegal occupation and peace cannot move together. Peace remains impossible without an end to illegal occupation.

On the positive side of the plan, if this project is implemented, it will end ruthless killing and Gaza genocide. The aid blockade will be drawn. The supporters of this plan also cited the same reason. The deputy prime minister, Ishaq Dar, also said that the first priority of Pakistan is to end uncontrolled killing of Gazans. He further said that we are on a bid to remove all Netanyahu's excuses to continue war.

In the end, occupation, annexation, and illegal settlements cannot run with peace. Two states are the only answer to long-term peace. This controversial plan is biased and destined to crumble.

Gazans cannot be left to the mercy of warmongers. It is a wake-up call for the United States and the World to let Gazans live a free life in their own independent state. Netanyahu's transgression must not go with impunity. The only solution lies in an independent Palestinian state.

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Quetta has a better environment, rich culture, manageable population

Amjad Rashid
Quetta is not a case of deprivation related to lack of resources, not a case of unemployment, not a case of climate change, and not even a case of poverty. It's a true and real case of the richness of culture, environment, climate, natural resources, and manageable human population. Unfortunately our planners, thinkers, decision-makers proved to be very selfish and greedy.

In Quetta, we had municipal water posts (I wish I can get the pictures). Quetta was a natural habitat with a small population of trees, flowers. The city had few streets with few vehicles and dynamic socio-political harmony.

We did establish universities but abandoned knowledge. Unfortunately, global and regional influences badly affected the capital with less modernization and more adversity. We did establish a university, but abandoned consciousness, we did build plazas, but without building codes. If we look back at the pictures of Quetta of the sixties. It was like Zurich but evolved as little Karachi or Mumbai. Transformed from little London to huge slums (full of garbage and filth). Bad governance, poor education, corruption, and poor planning converted Quetta into an ugly place.

We don't see green Koh e Mur Daar a multi-lingual culture which was its beauty and uniqueness has vanished and replaced by the bricks and cement which after few more years will look like a dumping place of garbage. We must listen and learn from our heroes like Rehman

its true beauty and culture. Climate change poses a serious threat to the developing world. Environment, Cli-

Now we from Adams to twenty-first century experienced, slavery, the industrial revolution, conflict of ideologies, various version of world orders

chambeli, bitakh, surkahi and places like hanna, thandi Sarak, and associated culture of art and poetry. Masses of a green economy,

motherland is demanding the attention of all irrespective of our international commitments. It's a matter of our survival. We need a green economy,

chambeli, bitakh, surkahi and places like hanna, thandi Sarak, and associated culture of art and poetry. Masses of a green economy,

motherland is demanding the attention of all irrespective of our international commitments. It's a matter of our survival. We need a green economy,



ness influenced by regional inhuman and unnatural drama. We lost our green Quetta with wild roses which was its aroma and identity.

Balochistan and Quetta need our attention. Balochistan in general and Quetta, in particular, need our at-

sick and looking toward her siblings for help and cure. Our water level reduced, our population increased, our poor justice system, and our greed for material gain will never make it a little London but will change its fate like the city full of garbage supported/fixed by

Baba, Atta shad, Asher Jallil and take their vision as guiding torch. Quetta does not need more engineers but needs Thinkers, guides who should work to replace the current citizenry struggling for self-interest with the soft power and values of Quetta, which can bring back

mate change, global warming, deforestation and desertification, and many such terms were alien to humanity and especially to developing world like Pakistan. We were used to singing and telling stories to our siblings (younger generation) about the kindness of nature.

driving to save and benefit humanity. But all our efforts to take humanity to its peak are bring ended up as a disaster. The temperature of the motherland is increasing. habitat of Balochistan and once called as "mass" it's jangly Gulab, chakore,

Balochistan facing a host of issues. First time after seventy-two years and since the establishment of Balochistan Province, its habitats are frequently faced by challenges like conservation.

In the context of the above-mentioned scenario, our beloved

Quetta has a better environment, rich culture, manageable population

In Gaza, first local vote in years offers gauge of Hamas popularity

NEWS DESK: Palestinians in one of the only Gaza cities not overrun by Israeli ground forces during the war will vote this weekend in municipal elections that will feature some pro-Hamas candidates, offering a rare barometer of the group's popularity.

The vote in Deir al-Balah is part of Palestinian Authority municipal elections that Palestinians have cast as a display of national unity against a US plan for Gaza that they believe intends to entrench their separation from the occupied West Bank.

It will be Gaza's first vote of any kind since 2006, when Hamas won the PA's legislative elections and later seized control of Gaza following a brief civil war with PA President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah party, dominant in the West Bank.

The polls will be the fifth municipal elections in the West Bank since 2006. In January, the PA said it would extend those elections to Gaza "wherever possible" as a move analysts see as a symbolic effort to show Gaza remains part of a future Palestinian state.

The resistance group has not explicitly fielded a list or endorsed any candidate.

"Change the reality imposed on us" For Palestinians in Deir al-Balah, including Adham Al-Bardini, the vote on Saturday marks an opportunity for political expression after the Hamas-led raid of Octo-



ber 7, 2023 that sparked Israel's devastating two-year assault on Gaza.

"For the first time in my life, in 20 years, I will have this feeling."

I have been hearing about elections since I was born but because of the circumstances no elections are done," said Al-Bardini, 34.

"We are eager to take (part) so we can change the reality imposed on us."

In Deir al-Balah, large banners bearing the logos of rival candidate lists decorate the streets.

Four lists are fielding candidates in the election, including one that has several candidates who residents and analysts regard as pro-Hamas.

Fareed Taamallah, spokesman for the PA Central Elections Commission, said roughly 70,000 Palestinians were eligible to vote in Deir al-Balah, a city he said was

chosen because it suffered less damage than the rest of the largely ruined territory.

Four lists are fielding candidates in the election, including one that has several candidates who residents and analysts regard as pro-Hamas.

Hamas has not explicitly fielded a list or endorsed any candidate, citing disagreements with Abbas over a PA

decree that requires candidates to accept terms including recognition of Israel. Other factions are also boycotting the vote, meaning Fatah is expected to sweep larger city councils in the West Bank.

But despite its official boycott of the vote, Hamas "may be betting on winning in this election" and could use pro-Hamas candidates' performance to gauge its

popularity, said Hani Al-Masri, a West Bank political analyst.

Hamas spokesperson Hazem Qassem said the group would respect the election results.

Sources in the group said that it will deploy police and security forces to secure voting sites.

From which Israeli forces withdrew under an October 2025 ceasefire, Israel retains control of more than 53pc of Gaza.

Some public opinion polling shows Hamas remains popular in Gaza and the West Bank, despite the devastation wrought by the war. In Gaza, an October 2025 poll by the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research found that 41pc of Pal-

estians there support Hamas, followed by 29pc for Fatah.

A symbolic step The vote comes as US President Donald Trump's so-called "Board of Peace" pushes a plan for Gaza's future that would see the territory rebuilt from scratch under the administration of an apolitical committee of Palestinian technocrats.

The plan calls on Hamas to hand over Gaza governance to the committee as it lays down its weapons and Israeli forces withdraw from the Strip.

Hamas has so far rejected disarmament, accusing Israel of failing to abide by the October ceasefire.

The plan notably does not mention the West Bank, which, along with the Gaza Strip, Palestinians have long sought for a future state, and where the PA exercises limited self-rule.

Palestinian political analyst Reham Ouda said the municipal elections were "a symbolic step to send a message to the world, to the Board of Peace, and to Israel that the Gaza Strip is an inseparable part of the Palestinian political system."

For 25-year-old Abdul-Rahman Al-Shauf, the vote, even at the local level, offers an opportunity to rebuild lives after conflict.

"Everyone wants to improve the country, especially after two years of war, what we witnessed, and the destruction," he said.

AI startup Cursor with Pakistani co-founder set for \$60bn deal with SpaceX

NEWS DESK:Cursor, an AI code-generation startup co-founded by Pakistani-born Sualish Asif, has secured a \$60 billion acquisition deal with Elon Musk's SpaceX, according to multiple reports on Thursday.

Along with OpenAI and Anthropic, Cursor is one of several Silicon Valley startups that have drawn waves of artificial intelligence to automate coding, a business where AI companies

have found early commercial traction, according to Reuters. SpaceX announced in a post on X that Cursor gave SpaceX the right to acquire the company later this year for \$60 billion.

If SpaceX doesn't buy Cursor, it will pay \$10 billion for their work together, the company said.

"The combination of Cursor's leading product and distribution to expert software engineers with SpaceX's mil-

lion H100 equivalent Colossus training supercomputer will allow us to build the world's most useful models," it added.

Originally from Karachi, Asif attended Nixor College before attending the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and represented the country in the international Math Olympiad from 2016 to 2018.

While there, he co-founded Anysphere, the maker of the popular AI

code editing tool Cursor, with three friends from MIT.

The company now claims to have more than \$1bn in annualised revenue, making it one of the fastest growing AI startups according to Forbes.

Umar Saif, the former federal minister for IT, praised the co-founder, calling him "the kind of role [model] Pakistani youth needs".

"Not property dealers, tax evaders, bank defaulters, rent seekers, born into wealth etc. But a self-made kid from a middle-class family in Karachi," he pointed out.

"Studied at MIT, started a hugely impactful company, changed the way people write code, now worth over \$1 billion at the age of 26".

Cursor reached a \$29.3bn valuation in November 2025, after raising \$2.3bn in a funding round co-led by VC heavyweights Accel and Coatue.

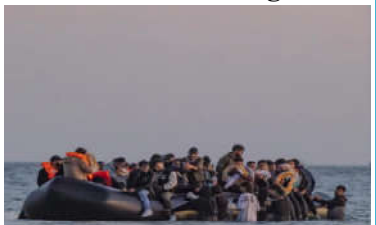


UK, France agree to nearly \$900m deal to curb small boat crossings

NEWS DESK: Britain and France have agreed to a nearly \$900 million deal aimed at reducing small-boat migrant crossings across the English Channel, with the two countries expected to sign the deal on Thursday.

Riot-trained police will be sent to beaches in France as part of a new £662 million (\$893 million) deal with the UK to stop illegal migrants from crossing the English Channel, BBC reported.

UK Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood is due to sign the three-year agreement with France on Thursday, which will see at least 50 police officers, trained in "riot and crowd control tactics," drafted in to tackle violence and "hostile crowds."



The deal will see France deploying millions of pounds worth of drones,

two helicopters, and a camera system to intercept people and smugglers and illegal migrants.

Ahead of the signing, Mahmood said joint work with France has stopped tens of thousands of illegal migrants from boarding boats headed to Britain.

"But we must do more."

This landmark deal will stop illegal migrants making the perilous journey and put people smugglers behind bars," she was quoted by the BBC as saying.

Meanwhile, more than 600 people crossed the English Channel via small boats on Saturday, making it the highest day for crossings so

far this year.

So far, more than 6,000 migrants have crossed the Channel to reach the UK this year, despite enhanced measures by the UK government to curb irregular migration.

The UK reported a year of elevated migration levels as a total of 41,472 migrants navigated the English Channel in small boats last year, nearly 5,000 more than in 2024.

Voting underway in key Indian states of West Bengal, Tamil Nadu

NEWS DESK: Voting began on Thursday in two of India's politically key opposition-held states, with tens of millions casting ballots in West Bengal and the southern Tamil Nadu.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the ruling party in the national parliament, is hoping to make inroads in the opposition strongholds.

In West Bengal, which has a population of over 100 million, polling opened in the first phase to elect members from 152 constituencies of the 294-seat legislative assembly.

The second phase, covering the remaining 142 seats, will be held on April 29.

"Nearly 36 million people are eligible to vote," said Manoj Agarwal,

the state's chief electoral officer, adding that around 8,000 polling stations had been designated "supersensitive".

Modi's BJP has waged an aggressive bid to dislodge West Bengal's Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee,

the firebrand leader of the All India Trinamool Congress (TMC), which has been in power in the state since 2011.

Banerjee's party won 213 of the 294 seats in the previous election held in 2021.

Paramilitary forces

were deployed, with security heightened along the Bangladesh border.

The campaign was marked by protests over the removal of millions of names from voter rolls during a Special Intensive Revision — meant to remove ineligible voters but which critics say is skewed against marginalised and minority communities.

"We want employment in our state. We want to live with social dignity," first-time voter Pratik Maity told AFP.

Women's safety and corruption also featured prominently during the campaign.

In Tamil Nadu, which has a population of over 80 million, polling for the 234-member

assembly is being conducted on Thursday in a single phase, with the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) facing off against its long-time rival,

the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK).

The BJP, a junior ally of AIADMK in Tamil Nadu, has struggled to make significant electoral gains in the southern state.

Results for both elections will be released on May 4.

On the same day, results will also be announced for state elections in Assam and Kerala, as well as the smaller coastal territory of Puducherry.



South Korea's special envoy seeks Iran's cooperation on Strait of Hormuz transits

NEWS DESK:South Korea's special envoy to Iran has sought Tehran's cooperation to ensure the swift and safe transit of all vessels, including South Korean ships,

through the Strait of Hormuz during a meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi in Tehran, the Foreign Ministry said on Thursday.

The envoy Chung Byung-ha, also expressed hope that Iran-US peace talks

would resume to help restore regional peace and stability, according to Yonhap News Agency.

Chung also noted the importance of developing bilateral relations between Seoul and Tehran.

of global liquefied natural gas and oil flows.

Seoul has been in contact with Iran and neighboring countries to ensure the safety of the vessels and crews, sharing relevant details with authorities.

Araghchi, in turn, said that Iran has "taken measures under international law to defend its security and interests."

responsibility for consequences "lies with the aggressors,"

according to a statement from the government on social media.

South Korea, earlier this month, decided to provide humanitarian aid worth \$500,000 to Tehran as tensions persist despite a ceasefire between the US and Iran.

The country also said that it has "no plans at this stage" to pay tolls for transits to get its stranded ships out of the Strait.

to pay tolls for transits to get its stranded ships out of the Strait.

President urges nation to plant trees, reduce plastic waste on World Earth Day

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Asif Ali Zardari on World Earth Day urged the nation to pledge to plant more trees, reduce plastic waste, adopt sustainable practices and educate youth about im-

portance of environmental conservation. The president, in his message on Earth Day celebrated across the world on April 22nd, said a cleaner and greener Pakistan is not only a necessity "but a

duty we owe to our upcoming generation". He said "the day serves as a vital reminder of our collective responsibility to protect our planet and preserve its natural resources for future generations."

Pakistan, he said is acutely aware of the environmental challenges it face, from the impacts of climate change to the degradation of its natural ecosystems and from flash floods to landslides. "As a nation, we

have witnessed the devastating consequences of floods, droughts and extreme weather events. These are not distant threats but present realities that affect the lives and livelihoods of our people," he added.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on preparedness for Monsoon season and strategy to counter Climate Threats.

Sherry urges collective action to tackle climate crisis

ISLAMABAD (INP): Vice President of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Senator Sherry Rehman Wednesday said climate change had emerged as a serious challenge for Pakistan and the entire world, urging immediate and collective action to protect the planet. In her message on World Earth Day, she said Pakistan was among the countries most severely affected by climate change and was suffering annual economic losses equivalent to six to nine percent of its GDP due to environmental disasters and related impacts. She said the devastating floods of 2022 affected 33 million people and claimed 1,700 lives, while in 2025 around 800 people lost their lives and two million were displaced because of climate-related calamities.

Making earth green is the strongest weapon against climate change: Maryam Nawaz

LAHORE (INP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has said that making the earth green is the biggest tool to combat climate change. In her special message on Earth Day, she emphasized collective efforts for environmental protection, environmental improvement, and reducing the impacts of climate change. She added that making the earth greener is the strongest measure against climate change, while every individual should adopt tree-plantation along with avoiding the use of plastic. The Chief Minister directed all provincial ministers to carry out plantation activities and launch public awareness campaigns for environmental protection. Maryam Nawaz Sharif highlighted the importance of forest protection, reduction in carbon emissions, and promotion of a green economy. She said that individuals and organizations working for environmental protection and harmony with nature deserve appreciation. She added that the earth is not only for the present generation but also an trust for future generations, therefore everyone must work together to protect natural resources and trees. The Chief Minister said that Punjab has adopted a plastic zero-waste policy and established the first "Smart Environment Force" for environmental protection. She further stated that Earth Day serves as a reminder to raise awareness about environmental challenges.

Gwadar witnesses soaring sale of Chinese solar systems

ISLAMABAD, April 22 (INP): Sale of affordable China-made solar systems has surged in the electronic markets of Gwadar during more than one month. The development has not only been driving a boost in the earning of shopkeepers but also offering a stable relief to the residents from long-hour power load shedding in the wake of Gulf energy crisis that has battered Pakistan severely. According to a Gwadar Pro's report, "During the March and ongoing month of April, sales of affordable and high-quality solar systems in my store have increased by about 60 percent, as well as revenue has been on an upward trend. Chinese brands are particularly popular be-

cause they are good value for money compared to other costly foreign brands in the Gwadar region," said Muhammad Baloch running business at Dasht market, one and only trading hub of electronics and solar systems in the Gwadar city. "Chinese brands have an adequate supply of high-quality solar panels, inverters, kits and batteries in our local market, so sales growth is an inevitable trend," he added. Noor Muhammad, another shopkeeper claimed that in January and February sale of China-made solar systems ranged between Rs 0.2 million and 0.3 million but it ballooned to Rs 1 million in March and till April 20. In previous years, the Chinese government

donated a batch of solar systems to the Gwadar region, and the public feedback was very good, so the public's tendency to choose to buy solar panels and systems has also shown an astonishing growth momentum," he maintained. Majid Baloch, shopkeeper at the Airport Road Market, agreed. "By using solar energy to power their homes, homeowners can reduce their reliance on the unstable grid and significantly reduce their monthly utility bills. Years back, solar panels, batteries and operating systems were not available in these markets. After China announced to popularize solar systems among the neediest sections of society in Gwadar, the people of Gwadar began to realize that off-grid solar systems are the key to solving the electricity problem. According to an official with Gwadar Chamber of Commerce and Industry, business of selling China-made solar panels and systems is in high gear. "Combined with past, residential and commercial buildings are also being solarized with solar apparatus," he added. When asked to Fazal Muhammad a customer at Airport Road Market about his reason to purchase solar sets, he said that "due to perpetual power failure has become pain in the neck. "Going solar is the sole

Pakistan not to compromise on its sovereignty, dignity: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (INP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Attaullah Tarar has stated that a year has passed since the Pahalgam false flag operation, but India has failed to present any credible evidence to support its claims. In a special televised statement, he said the Pahalgam incident "reflects a mindset based on hollow, illogical thinking, false pride, arrogance, and greed. He noted that India has been unable to provide satisfactory answers to the questions raised over the incident. The Minister said India has consistently portrayed its internal matters as external issues, while terming internationally recognized disputes as internal affairs. He emphasized that terrorism is India's internal issue, which it projects as an external problem, whereas the Jammu and Kashmir dispute is a recognized international issue that India labels as domestic. Attaullah Tarar said India's deceptive approach has been fully exposed. He said the Pahalgam incident followed a familiar pattern of false flag operations historically associated with India. He said India adopted

crude methods in handling the incident. He further said when Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif offered an independent and impartial investigation into the Pahalgam incident, India avoided it out of fear and failed to provide any meaningful response. He added that Pakistan's intentions and commitment were clear, and India's refusal for an inquiry into the incident was a staged operation. The Minister pointed out that the registration of an FIR within just ten minutes of the incident suggests that the document had already been prepared, which is highly unusual given the distance between the site and the police station. He said international media, Indian civil society, politicians, and think tanks have also raised serious questions over the incident. He said propaganda built around false flag operations and fabricated narratives is difficult to sustain globally, which is why, India has failed to establish a convincing narrative on the issue. He added that India neither presented credible evidence nor provided solid proof regarding the incident. Attaullah Tarar

Punjab signs MoU with Chinese firm to boost boiled meat exports to China

LAHORE (INP): The Livestock and Dairy Development Department Punjab signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with a Chinese company, Global International, and several local exporters to enhance the production and export of boiled meat to China. The agreement would help drive sectoral growth and increase foreign exchange earnings. This memorandum of understanding between meat exporters and the Livestock Department Punjab will lead to growth in the livestock sector and an increase in foreign exchange. The agreement was signed at the Livestock Complex in Lahore, aims to strengthen Pakistan's value-added meat exports, improve processing standards, and expand access to international markets. Gwadar Pro quoting an official statement stated, under the MoU, the department will partner with its leading Pakistani meat exporters including Taj Meats, Syed Traders, Abdeen International, Khan Dairy, Go Foods

Govt approves joint strategy to improve airport security, passenger facilitation

ISLAMABAD (INP): An important meeting was held under the chairmanship of Federal Interior Minister Moin-ud-Din Khan for a joint strategy between the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Defence. The meeting focused on improving passenger facilitation at airports and strengthening the security system. This meeting aimed to modernize airport screening systems by installing advanced technology while also introducing joint counters and a unified screening system where all agencies will operate from a single point. Progress on the installation of gates was also reviewed, which will enable faster clearance and reduce immigration processing time for passengers. The meeting was attended by Federal Minister of State for Interior, Tahir Chaudhry, Interior Secretary Muhammad Khuram Agha, Defence Secretary Lt Gen Muhammad Ali, Additional Secretary Interior Maj Gen Noor Wali Khan, Additional Secretary Defence Maj Gen Qaiser Suleman, Director General Anti-Narcotics Force Maj Gen Abdul Mueed, and DG FIA Dr Usman Anwar, along with other senior officials. It was decided that effective coordination and communication between all relevant institutions will be ensured to provide quick and smooth services to passengers. The meeting agreed to modernize airport screening systems by installing advanced technology while also introducing joint counters and a unified screening system where all agencies will operate from a single point. Progress on the installation of gates was also reviewed, which will enable faster clearance and reduce immigration processing time for passengers.

China-Pakistan study links public attitudes to Climate-Friendly behavior

ISLAMABAD (INP): A joint study by Chinese and Pakistani researchers has found that public attitudes, social norms, and climate awareness play a key role in shaping environmentally sustainable behavior in both countries. The research was conducted by Zahida Iqbal, Liu Youjun and Naidi Zhang of the School of Business, Hunan University of Science and Technology, China, along with Haroon Imtiaz from the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), Islamabad, according to Gwadar Pro's report. The study was published on March 11 in Frontiers in

Psychology, a peer-reviewed international academic journal by Frontiers Media that focuses on behavioral and social psychology research. The study analyzed survey data from 380 participants in China and Pakistan, focusing on behavioral factors such as energy saving, waste sorting and reducing single-use plastics. The study found that "intentions related to climate change were positive and significantly associated with all three targeted behaviors." Using the Theory of Planned Behavior, the researchers examined how different psychological factors influence environmental intention, "attitudes, perceived behavioral control, subjective norms, and climate change concern are significant predictors of pro-environmental intention." The study also identified notable differences between the two countries. It found that "attitudes and climate change concern in China significantly predict environmental intention," whereas "in Pakistan, environmental intentions significantly predict single-use plastic use behavior."

NOTICE FOR AUCTION TENDER. Open Bid Auction for Demolishing of Existing Building Structure of "BALUCHISTAN PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY BUILDING, QUETTA". Includes details on scope of work, bid amount, and terms and conditions.

Rakhni-Bikar Road Project to Boost Regional Development, Says Secretary C&W Babar Khan



QUETTA: Secretary Communications and Works Balochistan, Babar Khan, stated that the construction of the Rakhni to Bikar Road will usher in a new era of development and prosperity in the region.

He expressed these views while chairing a review meeting on the progress of the Rakhni-Bikar road project. The meeting

was attended by Chief Engineer Sibi Zone Zubair Ahmed Khoso, Chief Engineer Federal Projects Dr. Sajjad Baloch, SE Nasirabad Circle Muhammad Akram Khwaja Khel, Executive Engineer Roads Dera Bugti Shams-ul-Haq, consultants, and other concerned officials.

During the session, Executive Engineer Shams-ul-Haq provided a detailed briefing on the project, stating that construction work is progressing rapidly and the department is committed to completing the project ahead of schedule. He noted that some technical issues related to funding are being faced; however, efforts are underway to resolve them promptly and further accelerate the pace of work.

Addressing the meeting, Secretary C&W Babar Khan highlighted the strategic importance of the project.

He said that after Rakhni was granted the status of a divisional headquarters, traffic from Bikar and Upper Dera Bugti on this route is expected to increase significantly. Therefore, timely and high-quality completion of the road is essential.

He directed the concerned authorities to immediately resolve all technical hurdles to avoid any delays in the project.

He added that the road will not only enhance regional connectivity but will also play a vital role in boosting economic activities and improving public convenience in the area.

Loralai: SSP Dr. Fahad Ahmed Visits Civil Hospital, Inquires After Injured ATF Personnel

LORALAI: SSP Loralai, Dr. Fahad Ahmed, visited Civil Hospital Loralai to inquire after an Anti-Terrorism Force (ATF) personnel who was injured in a firing incident in the Talaw area of Loralai. During the visit, the SSP detailed briefing from police force prioritizes the safety and welfare of its personnel and that complete care of the injured officer will be ensured. He also appreciated the courage and high morale of the injured official, noting that such brave personnel are always ready to sacrifice their lives.

BEFORE THE JUDGE BANKING COURT QUETTA DISTRICT COURT/KACHEHRY SHARA-E-JQBAL QUETTA SUIT NO. 36/2026

Bank Alfalah Limited, M.A.Jinnah Road Branch Quetta. Plaintiff

VERSUS

Saleem Ahmed Nabi Siddiqui So Gulshan Nabi Siddiqui.

R/o H.No. 4-J/C Secretariat Colony, White Road, Quetta.

Permanent Address: H. No. 273-N-1 Mohallah Satellite Town, Block 5, Quetta.

Official Address: Designation Accountant, ICMA Pakistan (NGO), C/O Banglow No. 5, Killa Shaboo, Tajikabad Road, Quetta.

Loan# AA220354585SD422000012078748

CNIC No: 54400-0400192-3

Cell No: 0333-7860963. Defendant

SUIT FOR RECOVERY OF RS: 653,237/82- BEARING PERSONAL LOAN FACILITY LOAN ACCOUNT NO: 40021007086957 AA220354585SD AND RS: 551,474/05- BEARING CREDIT CARD FACILITY LOAN A/C NO: 4220700012078748 OF TOTAL RS: 1,204,611/87- ALONG WITH COST OF FUND AND COST OF SUIT UNDER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (RECOVERY OF FINANCES) ORDINANCE XLVI/2001

Notice to:- The above noted defendant.

WHEREAS the plaintiff has instituted a suit against you under section 9(5) of the Banking Companies Ordinance XLVI of 2001 for RS: 1,204,611/87-balance of principal & interest/mark up/rent due to him of which copy can be obtained from this court, on or, hereby summoned to obtain leave from the court within 30 (thirty) days, from the service hereof to appear and defend the suit, and within such time to cause an appearance to be entered for you.

In the default whereof the plaintiff will be entitled at any time after expiration of such 30 (thirty) days to obtain decree as prayed in the plaint.

Leave to appear may be obtained on an application to the court supported by an affidavit or declaration showing that there is defense to the suit on the merits, or i.e. if, it reasonable that you should be allowed to appear in the suit. Date of hearing is 02-06-2026.

GIVEN under my hand and seal of the court, this 22 day of April, 2026.

(SAIFULLAH KHAN)
Registrar
Banking Court Quetta

BEFORE THE JUDGE BANKING COURT QUETTA DISTRICT COURT/KACHEHRY SHARA-E-JQBAL QUETTA SUIT NO. 35/2026

National Bank of Pakistan, through its manager, BMC Branch Quetta. Plaintiff

VERSUS

M/S Al-Akhtar Motors, through its proprietor,

Mir Hussain S/o Kazim Ali.

R/o Main Kirani Road, Opposite Petrol Pump, Hazara town, Quetta.

CNIC No: 54401-3736057-1.

Cell No: 0300-3858551. Defendant

SUIT US9 OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (RECOVERY OF FINANCES) ORDINANCE 2001 FOR RECOVERY OF RS: 24,778,335/- ALONG WITH COST OF FUND AND COST OF SUIT.

Notice to:- The above noted defendant.

WHEREAS the plaintiff has instituted a suit against you under section 9(5) of the Banking Companies Ordinance XLVI of 2001 for RS: 24,778,335/- balance of principal & interest/mark up/rent due to him of which copy can be obtained from this court, on or, hereby summoned to obtain leave from the court within 30 (thirty) days, from the service hereof to appear and defend the suit, and within such time to cause an appearance to be entered for you.

In the default whereof the plaintiff will be entitled at any time after expiration of such 30 (thirty) days to obtain decree as prayed in the plaint.

Leave to appear may be obtained on an application to the court supported by an affidavit or declaration showing that there is defense to the suit on the merits, or i.e. if, it reasonable that you should be allowed to appear in the suit. Date of hearing is 02-06-2026.

GIVEN under my hand and seal of the court, this 22 day of April, 2026.

(SAIFULLAH KHAN)
Registrar
Banking Court Quetta

BEFORE THE JUDGE BANKING COURT QUETTA DISTRICT COURT/KACHEHRY SHARA-E-JQBAL QUETTA SUIT NO. 34/2026

National Bank of Pakistan, through its manager, Brewery Road Branch Quetta. Plaintiff

VERSUS

M/S Salaar Bargain Center, through its proprietor,

Ali Raza S/o Sadiq Ali.

R/o Sare Hussainabad, near Sakhi Medical Hazara town, Quetta.

CNIC No: 54400-2867398-1. Defendant

SUIT US9 OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (RECOVERY OF FINANCES) ORDINANCE 2001 FOR RECOVERY OF RS: 8,545,916/- ALONG WITH COST OF FUND AND COST OF SUIT.

Notice to:- The above noted defendant.

WHEREAS the plaintiff has instituted a suit against you under section 9(5) of the Banking Companies Ordinance XLVI of 2001 for RS: 8,545,916/- balance of principal & interest/mark up/rent due to him of which copy can be obtained from this court, on or, hereby summoned to obtain leave from the court within 30 (thirty) days, from the service hereof to appear and defend the suit, and within such time to cause an appearance to be entered for you.

In the default whereof the plaintiff will be entitled at any time after expiration of such 30 (thirty) days to obtain decree as prayed in the plaint.

Leave to appear may be obtained on an application to the court supported by an affidavit or declaration showing that there is defense to the suit on the merits, or i.e. if, it reasonable that you should be allowed to appear in the suit. Date of hearing is 02-06-2026.

GIVEN under my hand and seal of the court, this 22 day of April, 2026.

(SAIFULLAH KHAN)
Registrar
Banking Court Quetta

NAB Balochistan Holds Anti-Corruption Seminar at Government Postgraduate College



QUETTA: As part of its ongoing anti-corruption awareness campaign, the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Balochistan organized a seminar at Government Boys Postgraduate College Quetta titled "NAB's Working Mechanism and the Role of Students in Eradicating Corruption."

Director Colleges Balochistan, Hussain Baloch, also attended the event.

The seminar aimed to educate young students about the harmful effects of corruption and to promote collective efforts toward building a corruption-free society.

A delegation of

NAB Balochistan officers, led by Additional Director Elitesham-ul-Haq, engaged with students and faculty members, discussing NAB's vision, mission, and the vital role students can play in eliminating corruption.

Referring to Islamic teachings, he highlighted that self-accountability and integrity are fundamental principles of Islam, and corruption is unacceptable in any form.

Practices such as nepotism, bribery, favoritism, coercion, and bias were identified as forms of corruption, with concern expressed over their increasing prevalence in society.

He further stressed the importance of raising awareness among students to promote honesty, transparency, and accountability.

He noted that students, as responsible members of society, can collectively contribute to establishing a corruption-free environment.

On the occasion, the Additional Director NAB responded to students' questions regarding corruption and accountability mechanisms.

At the conclusion of the seminar, a commemorative shield was presented to the principal.

The event concluded with an awareness walk against corruption within the college premises, attended by NAB officials, the Director Colleges, the principal, faculty members, and students.

Hussain Baloch and Principal Manzoor Hussain appreciated NAB Balochistan's efforts and assured full cooperation in future anti-corruption initiatives.

At the conclusion of the seminar, a commemorative shield was presented to the principal.

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Nasirabad: Commissioner Salahuddin Noorzai Chairs Meeting on Recovery of Government Dues



NASIRABAD: A key meeting regarding the recovery of government dues was held under the chairmanship of Commissioner Nasirabad Division, Salahuddin Noorzai. Deputy Commissioner Nasirabad, Captain (R) Zulfiqar Ali Kakar, attended the meeting in person, while Deputy Commissioners from other districts joined via video link.

Participants included Deputy Commissioner Jaffarabad Khalid Khan, Deputy Commissioner Usta M u b a m n a d Muhammad Ramzan Palal, Deputy Commissioner Sohbatpur Fareeda Tareen, Deputy Commissioner Kachhi Mumtaz

Khran, and Deputy Commissioner Jhal Magzi Rehmatullah Shah. During the meeting, all Deputy Commissioners presented detailed briefings on the recovery of government dues in their respective districts and highlighted measures taken to achieve assigned targets. Addressing the participants, Commissioner Salahuddin Noorzai issued clear directives stating that

the recovery targets set by higher authorities must be achieved at all costs.

He warned that any negligence or laxity in this regard will not be tolerated.

He instructed all Deputy Commissioners to issue strict daily directives to revenue staff and ensure continuous monitoring of the recovery process.

He emphasized that slow performance by revenue officials is

unacceptable, and strict action will be taken against those found negligent.

Furthermore, he directed that immediate notices be issued to defaulting landowners to ensure timely recovery of dues.

The Commissioner also stressed the importance of ensuring full recovery of Agricultural Income Tax (AIT) and Ushr and Abiana.

He added that officials and revenue staff showing good performance should be encouraged and recognized to further improve efficiency.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Commissioner reviewed the performance of all districts and directed that significant improvement in recovery targets must be visible in the next meeting, with no leniency shown in this regard.

Food Minister Noor Muhammad Dummar Meets NADRA DG to Address Sanjavi ID Card Issues



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Food and Chairman Balochistan Food Authority, Haji Noor Muhammad Khan Dummar, held an important meeting with Director General NADRA Balochistan, Naveed Jan, to discuss public issues faced by residents of Sanjavi in District Ziarat, particularly the long-standing problem of blocked national identity cards.

During the meeting, the provincial minister highlighted the difficulties faced by citizens due to blocked ID cards, stating that the issue has caused serious hardships for the local population.

He emphasized the need for urgent and sustainable solutions and proposed the formation of a special committee that would visit Sanjavi on a monthly basis to address public complaints on the spot.

Haji Noor Muhammad Dummar also shared that key decisions have been made to improve facilities at the Sanjavi NADRA center.

These include the approval of additional male and female staff to ensure timely and efficient services for the public.

Furthermore, to ensure uninterrupted power supply at the center, both a solar

system and a generator have been approved, which is expected to provide significant relief to residents in addressing the challenges faced by underdeveloped regions like Sanjavi, ensuring long-term and effective solutions for the public.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to enhance mutual cooperation in addressing the challenges faced by underdeveloped regions like Sanjavi, ensuring long-term and effective solutions for the public.

He also approved the establishment of a one-window service system to provide all necessary services under one roof, making the process more convenient for citizens.

He reiterated that NADRA is committed to delivering modern, efficient, and quality services, especially in remote areas, by utilizing all available resources.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to enhance mutual cooperation in addressing the challenges faced by underdeveloped regions like Sanjavi, ensuring long-term and effective solutions for the public.

Generation capacity of at least 62,000MW needed by 2035 to support economic growth

NEWS DESK: The government has projected additional power generation capacity needs of 62,640 to 70,720 megawatt (MW) till 2035 to support the country's economic growth of 3.5 per cent (low) to 6.4pc (high).

This is part of the revised Indicative Generation Capacity Expansion Plan (IGCEP) 2025-35 and the Transmission System Expansion Plan (TSEP) 2025-35 prepared by the Independent System and Market Operator (ISMO) — a power division entity — in consultation with all the relevant stakeholders, including the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra). The two plans cover the entire power network, including those of distribution companies and K-Electric.

A distinguishing feature of the revised IGCEP is the consideration of Least Cost Violation (LCV) for Diesel/Bhaisha, and ACWA solar power plants.

The plan also considers the impact of liberalisation on the end-consumer tariff, the inclusion of strategic power plants using LCV, and the induction of a significant quantum of net metering (8,120 MW), and the consideration of an 800 MW market-based solar quantum.

The revised IGCEP covers a 10-year time frame from 2025 to 2035, encapsulating power generation additions required to meet the country's future energy



demand, including the National Grid Company and KE systems.

Three scenarios of long-term load forecast were prepared, including low (business as usual), medium and high at gross domestic product (GDP) growth projections of 3.52 per cent,

4.95pc and 6.37pc for the next ten years, respectively.

The plan is based on studies that found that the historical load factor of 70-73pc had gradually declined to 58-60pc.

Therefore, another load forecast scenario also incorporates de-

mand side management (DSM) activities to gradually raise the current Load Factor (LF) of around 58pc up to 70pc till the end of the horizon.

The least costly, long-term generation expansion plan for the power system was developed using state-of-

the-art generation planning software, PLEXOS, with rigorous data modelling and an optimisation exercise based on the existing and future generation power projects, existing policy framework, existing contractual obligations, natural resource allocations, relevant legal conditions, the ISMO said.

The IGCEP also considered a transmission line for the national grid system from South to Centre and North, and another line from NGC to the KE system as also been modelled to assess the requirements of any new transmission line.

There is minimal reliance on imported fuels, with residual furnace oil (RFO) having no contribution at all in the capacity mix, whereas imported coal and re-gasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) are contributing just 7pc and 13pc in the total capacity requirements, respectively.

The share of indigenous fuels stands 15pc, i.e. 5.2pc of local coal, 2.6pc of local gas and 7.5pc of nuclear. The overall capacity mix, As such, the capacity addition in the low growth case has been projected at 62,657MW, followed by 66,459MW for medium growth and 70,720MW for high growth (6.4pc) rate.

Customs increases import valuation for 62 old and used mobile phone models

NEWS DESK: The Federal Board of Revenue's (FBR) Directorate General of Customs Valuation has increased the customs value for 62 models of older and used mobile phones, saying the move was aimed at aligning assessed values for duty and tax purposes with prevailing market rates, it emerged on Thursday.

The development comes after senior FBR officials had assured a National Assembly parliamentary committee last week that mobile phone rates would be reduced in the upcoming budget.

The directorate issued the revised benchmarks through the Valuation Ruling No. 2070 of 2026 on Thursday, replacing the earlier Ruling No. 2035 issued in January. Ahead of finalising the revised values in the Directorate also held a meeting with relevant stakeholders on April 13.

The new values will apply to imports of old and used mobile phones in commercial quantities without packing or accessories.

According to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) increased its financial commitments to Pakistan in 2025, approving \$3.672 billion, which is 22 per cent higher than the \$2.995 billion recorded in the previous year. The expansion reflects the bank's growing engagement in new sectors, including Pakistan's mineral resources industry.

According to ADB's Annual Report 2025, the institution also provided \$1.485 billion in new support to Pakistan's public sector during the year, marking a rise of around one-third compared to \$1.113 billion in 2024. A large share of these funds was extended under ordinary capital resources on commercial terms.

The bank highlighted a policy-backed guarantee mechanism in Pakistan designed to reduce lending risk for commercial banks and encourage financing for small and medium-sized enterprises. Through this mechanism, around \$1 billion in private sector financing was mobilised.

ADB also supported Pakistan's mineral development strategy by approving financing

large, such as older Samsung and Google Pixel devices.

Importers dealing in second-hand, mid-range and older flagship phones will see sharper cost escalation than traders in new Apple flagship phones. The FBR is also likely to raise its revenue owing to an increase in value across the board of all mobile sets.

The comparison of the data in the two rulings showed that Apple devices experienced steady increases, particularly in mid-range and older models. However, the increase is uneven.

Recent premium models, such as the iPhone 15 Pro Max, rose only 7.79pc, while some older and cheaper models rose sharply, including the iPhone SE 2 and the original SE. The two models with no change are iPhone XS Max and iPhone SE 3, which stand out as the most stable Apple valuations across both rulings.

Samsung has recorded one of the steepest upward increases in values. The most striking jumps were recorded in older but still marketable premium and upper mid-range devices, such as the Galaxy S22+ 5G, S21+ 5G, S21 5G and S10 series.

The Galaxy S23 Ultra increased only 19.61pc, which is modest relative to the broader Samsung basket. That pattern suggests that the earlier ruling may have particularly undervalued non-flagship and slightly older Samsung models, while the very top flagship was already closer to the customs' new valuation rates.

Google Pixel showed the highest average increase of all major brands.

The steepest increase in re-valuation was concentrated in the Pixel 5, 5A, 6, and 6A lines, where increases range from 16.1pc to nearly 19.4pc.

That scale of upward revision was too large to be seen as a minor update. It pointed to a substantial reassessment of customs value in the resale market for used Pixel devices.

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'Strict security' triggers food, fuel shortages in twin cities

NEWS DESK: Suspension of goods transport in Rawalpindi and Islamabad has led to a shortage of edibles and fuel.

Traders and goods transporters have demanded that the district administration reopen the roads, as it has done for public transport.

Oil Tanker Contractors' Association spokesman Noman Ali Butt said on Wednesday that oil tanker movement had halted, affecting supply.

"The ban on the entry of goods transport vehicles is severely hampering the supply of petroleum products. Supply problems have been ongoing in Rawalpindi and Islamabad for the past two to three days as tankers are not being allowed," he said.

He added that oil supply vehicles for Peshawar and Islamabad airports were also parked at depots, and fuel supply to the airports was likely to be affected.

The association urged the district administration to allow transporters to enter immediately.

Rawalpindi Goods Transport Association President Shaqeeb Qureshi told Dawn that due to the closure of roads since April 19, the goods transport system had been affected and no goods had been delivered to grain, fruit, and vegetable markets.

He said that daily wage workers were also affected.

He added that transport terminals were empty and labourers turned after finding no work. He said they had suggested to the district administration that goods transport be allowed to use the motorway to bring supplies from other parts of the country.

"Public transport vehicles on Peshawar Road have been allowed to bring passengers to other parts of the country via the motorway; therefore, we should also be allowed to use this route," he said. However, he noted that transport charges would increase if goods were brought via the motorway, though shortages of grains and edibles could be avoided.

"If goods transport remains suspended for a day or two, there will be a shortage of edibles in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan, and adjoining areas, as all supplies to these regions are delivered from Rawalpindi," he said.

Fruit and Vegetable Traders Association President Qadir Mir said that prices of fruits and vegetables would increase in the coming days if goods transport remained suspended in the garrison city.

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ADB increases Pakistan engagement to \$3.67b in 2025

NEWS DESK: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) increased its financial commitments to Pakistan in 2025, approving \$3.672 billion, which is 22 per cent higher than the \$2.995 billion recorded in the previous year. The expansion reflects the bank's growing engagement in new sectors, including Pakistan's mineral resources industry.

According to ADB's Annual Report 2025, the institution also provided \$1.485 billion in new support to Pakistan's public sector during the year, marking a rise of around one-third compared to \$1.113 billion in 2024. A large share of these funds was extended under ordinary capital resources on commercial terms.

The bank highlighted a policy-backed guarantee mechanism in Pakistan designed to reduce lending risk for commercial banks and encourage financing for small and medium-sized enterprises. Through this mechanism, around \$1 billion in private sector financing was mobilised.

ADB also supported Pakistan's mineral development strategy by approving financing



for a copper-gold mining project, aimed at strengthening global supply chains for critical minerals. The bank said it is also assisting in developing links between mineral extraction and manufacturing industries.

In addition, ADB is providing advisory assistance to Pakistan for preparing frameworks related to digital skills development, while also supporting investments aimed at improving girls' participation in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education.

The report noted that Pakistan continues to face significant fiscal

constraints that limit public investment in essential services. In response, ADB approved an \$800 million programme consisting of a \$300 million policy-based loan and up to \$500 million in guarantees. This package is expected to help Pakistan raise an additional \$1 billion in financing.

In education, ADB approved funding for at least 1,700 STEM laboratories across schools, with half of them planned for girls' institutions, alongside a \$100 million loan and a \$7 million grant.

Globally, ADB's total commitments from its own resources reached

\$29.3 billion in 2025, reflecting a 20 per cent increase from the previous year. The bank also reported a strong private sector engagement, with \$5.5 billion directed towards private sector development.

Across the region, South Asia received \$9.7 billion, making it the largest recipient, followed by Southeast Asia, Central and West Asia, East Asia, and the Pacific.

ADB said it undertook major institutional reforms during the year, including changes to its charter to expand lending capacity by 50 per cent without requiring additional capital from shareholders.

Oil supply to Attock refinery restored after transport disruption

NEWS DESK: The movement of crude oil and petroleum products to and from Attock Refinery Limited resumed late Wednesday night after authorities stepped in to ease disruptions, the refinery's management said.

The restoration was facilitated through the intervention of Petroleum Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik, enabling road transport to return to normal.

A day earlier, in a mandatory regulatory filing to the Pakistan Stock Exchange and the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan, the company said its main crude distillation unit has been shut down after disruptions in oil supply and product dispatch caused by traffic restrictions in the federal capital.

The unit, with a capacity of around 32,400 barrels per stream day, was taken offline as the refinery could not sustain operations amid mounting logistical constraints.

The Petroleum Division, along with other

relevant institutions, played a key role in restoring road transport that had been suspended due to security arrangements for foreign delegations attending the refinery's management said.

The curbs had led to a halt in oil tanker movement to and from the refinery, disrupting both crude supply and product dispatch.

The disruption resulted in a sharp decline in crude receipts while preventing the evacuation of refined products, leading to a build-up of motor spirit and high-speed diesel stocks.

The sustained logistical constraints ultimately forced the shutdown of operations.

The main processing unit of the refinery had impacted fuel supply to Punjab, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan.

They further noted that the refinery also provides furnace oil to power plants, amplifying the impact of the disruption.

With the restoration of supply routes, the refinery's operations would fully normalise in the coming hours.

The Petroleum Division, along with other

relevant institutions, played a key role in restoring road transport that had been suspended due to security arrangements for foreign delegations attending the refinery's management said.

The curbs had led to a halt in oil tanker movement to and from the refinery, disrupting both crude supply and product dispatch.

The disruption resulted in a sharp decline in crude receipts while preventing the evacuation of refined products, leading to a build-up of motor spirit and high-speed diesel stocks.

The sustained logistical constraints ultimately forced the shutdown of operations.

The main processing unit of the refinery had impacted fuel supply to Punjab, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan.

They further noted that the refinery also provides furnace oil to power plants, amplifying the impact of the disruption.

With the restoration of supply routes, the refinery's operations would fully normalise in the coming hours.

Ali Raza hat-trick, Kusal Mendis's whirlwind knock keep Zalmi unbeaten

NEWS DESK: Fast bowler Ali Raza's superb hat-trick in the final over and fine half-centuries by Kusal Mendis and Farhan Yousaf led Peshawar Zalmi to a clinical seven-wicket victory over Karachi Kings in their HBL Pakistan Super League match here at the Gaddafi Stadium on Wednesday.

The win kept Zalmi firmly at the top with eight wins in nine games while Kings after suffering their fifth loss in eight outings lie at the seventh spot in the eight-team league.

Chasing 183, Zalmi came home in 18.5 overs for the loss of three wickets as Mendis and Yousaf scripted the win with a record 119-run partnership for the fourth wicket for Zalmi, surpassing the 116-run stand set by Shoaib Malik and Haider Ali against Lahore Qalandars in the 2020 edition.

Despite losing openers James Vince and Babar Azam, who is currently enjoying a purple patch with the bat in powerplay, Zalmi made sure they maintain their magnificent unbeaten run in the ongoing edition.

Babar (25 off 19



run. Earlier after electing to bat first, Kings rode on an impressive knock by opener Jason Roy to earn a fighting total of 182-9 in 20 overs.

The final over of the Kings' innings saw the fall of four wickets, including a hat-trick by the 19-year-old Ali, without the addition of a run to the total.

After Abbas was run out, tall paceman Ali in a magnificent show dismissed Khushdi (12), Shahid Azziz and Hasan on consecutive deliveries to end the innings on a high. Ali's 4-41 show prevented Kings from launching a late onslaught that proved decisive in the end.

Prior to the hat-trick, Kings' innings revolved around Roy's 51-ball 85, the 35-year-old's first fifty of the ongoing PSL. Ali gave Zalmi the huge wicket of Warner (11) when the southpaw was bowled in the fifth over.

Kings raced to 55-1 courtesy Roy's fast-paced batting but the batter did not find any reliable partner in the middle until Azam (35 off 19) came to the crease as Salman Ali Agha and Reeza Hendricks did not last long.

pacers Hasan Ali to leave Zalmi at 45-2 in the sixth over as they posted 54 in powerplay.

And when Aaron Hardie was cleaned up by Khushdi Shah (five) in the eighth over, the task looked tougher with Zalmi at 67-3. However,

Mendis and Yousaf had other ideas as they completed the task without any further loss.

Maintaining his sublime batting form that he exhibited earlier in Karachi, Mendis batted with command alongside Yousaf to

steer Zalmi past 100 in the 12th over.

The pair changed gears as they reached 150 in 16.1 overs as the required run-rate came down.

Mendis, who reached fifty in just 28 balls, faced only 43 balls

in smashing 80 not out — his fourth half-century of the ongoing PSL — adorned with five fours and six sixes while Yousaf cracked 58 off 36 with the help of five fours and three sixes. He faced just 35 balls to complete the half-century.

Hasan (11-52), Khushdi (1-40), Abbas (1-46), Moeen Ali (0-21 from two overs) proved expensive as opening bowler Shahid Azziz was injured after delivering only one over in which he conceded just one

run. Kings raced to 55-1 courtesy Roy's fast-paced batting but the batter did not find any reliable partner in the middle until Azam (35 off 19) came to the crease as Salman Ali Agha and Reeza Hendricks did not last long.

Yamal stars as Barca edge Celta

NEWS DESK: Barcelona moved a step closer to winning La Liga with a tight 1-0 victory over Celta Vigo on Wednesday but lost their goalkeeper Yamal to an apparent hamstring injury.

The teenage Spain star won and converted a penalty to clinch a narrow triumph but hurt himself as he took it and was replaced before half-time.

Joao Cancelo also went off injured for a Barca team who moved nine points clear of Madrid at the top of the table with six matches remaining, including a Clasico on May 10.

Hansi Flick's side, playing for the first time since their Champions League quarter-final elimination by Atletico Madrid last week, lacked their usual attacking spark.

Barca goalkeeper Joan Garcia saved well from Pablo Duran and

Ferran Jutgia in the opening exchanges at Camp Nou.

With little between the teams it came down to Yamal's fleet footwork to help Barca open the door.

The forward skipped into the box, exchanging passes with Dani Olmo, and was felled by Yoel Lugo as he tried to evade the Celta defender.

Yamal beat Inaki Rada with a low penalty, with the goalkeeper diving the right way.

Another Atletico defeat Atletico Madrid fell to a 3-2 defeat at lowly Elche, their seventh loss in their last eight matches across all competitions.

The Champions League semi-finalists, who host Arsenal next Wednesday in Europe, could not bounce back from their Copa del Rey final defeat on penalties by Real Sociedad last weekend to build morale.

Barca battled

through the second half without creating much until Ferran Torres lashed home with a volley from Pedro's pass.

The Catalans' joy was short-lived though as the goal was disallowed for a marginal offside call against the Spanish forward.

Former Barca defender Marcos Alonso smashed a free-kick into the wall as the hosts held on to claim three potentially vital points.

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Diego Simeone's

Eala sails into second round of Madrid Open

NEWS DESK: Filipina star Alexandra Eala enjoyed a strong start to her Madrid Open campaign on Wednesday, moving at the Rafa Nadal Academy in Mallorca for almost eight years.

"Every time I come here, I feel very comfortable, I feel like I'm at home," Pavlyuchenkova, who was playing with a heavily-strapped right upper thigh, committed close to 40 unforced errors in what was her first meeting with Eala.

The 44th-ranked leffy needed one hour and 31 minutes to dismiss Pavlyuchenkova, who was a semi-finalist in the Spanish capital in 2021.

The 34-year-old Pavlyuchenkova, a former French Open runner-up currently ranked 116 in the world, is 0-6 in tour-level main draw matches so far this season.

Eala saved all four break points she faced and broke Pavlyuchenkova twice in a tightly-contested 54-minute opening set.

The 20-year-old phenom briefly lost her advantage in the second set but swept eight points in a row to regain her lead and book a clash with 19th

seed Elise Mertens.

"I feel really great. I love Madrid, it's an amazing tournament," said Eala, who has been training at the Rafa Nadal Academy in Mallorca for almost eight years.

"Every time I come here, I feel very comfortable, I feel like I'm at home," Pavlyuchenkova, who was playing with a heavily-strapped right upper thigh, committed close to 40 unforced errors in what was her first meeting with Eala.

"Every match at

this level is a battle, all of us players we fight until the end and she's been on the tour for many years. So I'm really happy with this win. She's a great player and I'm really happy to be in the next round," Eala added.

In ATP action at the Caja Magica, 2021 Madrid finalist Matteo Berrettini crashed out to Croatian qualifier Dino Prizmic 6-3, 6-4.

"It's definitely a big thing for me and it's a pleasure to share the court with him," said the 20-year-old junior Roland Garros runner

champion. Prizmic will next take on American fourth seed Ben Shelton.

Meanwhile, former US Open champion Marin Cilic claimed his first Madrid Open win since 2022, with a hard-fought 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 performance against world number 44 Zizou Bergs.

It was the 37-year-old Croatian's first top-50 victory on clay in four years and it earned him a second-round meeting with Brazilian teenager Joao Fonseca.

Man City go top and relegat Burnley with narrow Turf Moor win

NEWS DESK: Manchester City ended Arsenal's six-month stay on the Premier League summit and condemned Burnley to relegation with a laboured 1-0 victory at Turf Moor on Wednesday.

Erling Haaland's clinical finish after five minutes could have paved the way for a boost to City's goal difference but they lacked a cutting edge as Burnley dug deep.

Haaland hit the post and had other chances as City tried to give themselves a safety margin but Pep Guardiola's side had to make do with a surprisingly narrow victory.

After reeling Arsenal in they now lead the table on goals scored with both sides on 70 points from 33 games and with an identical goal difference of plus 37.

For Scott Parker's Burnley the inevitable has now become a reality as they are stuck on 20 points, 13 points behind the safety zone with only four games remaining.

"We played a really good game, unfortunately we missed a lot of chances. We defended better in the second half. Second half we had less problems," Guardiola, whose side face Southampton in the FA Cup semi-final on Saturday, told Sky Sports.

"It was such a demanding game on Sunday. It is not easy after



three days but in the Premier League you have to adjust.

We are used to doing it. We competed really well, we made a really good game but it's a pity, the chances we had."

Burnley produce spirited play as City's fans sang "we are top of the league" at the final whistle as their team hit the top but it was with a mixture of relief as they could "never truly relax as Burnley betrayed their lowly status with a spirited display.

Arsenal have led the race since early October but have stalled in April and Haaland's winner "in a 2-1 victory against them at the stadium on Sunday has given City the edge.

With the race so tight, however, they would have expected to sweep Burnley aside by

a wider margin on Wednesday and given themselves the edge on goal difference.

It certainly looked that way at the start as Burnley keeper Martin Dubravka made a great save from Rayan Cherkh before Haaland's threat with Jordan Anderson advanced before dinking a subtle left-footed finish past the keeper.

City had 10 goal attempts "before the break although Burnley were a threat with Jordan Anderson having an early shot saved by Gianluigi Donnarumma while Zian Flemming shot wide.

Antoine Semenyo poked a chance over the bar early in the second half and Haaland struck a shot against "the post as City strained for a second goal.

In the end it was a nervous finale as Burnley won a corner

deep in stoppage time with Dubravka sent forward, but City avoided any stumble to take the points.

While they may have hit the top after stretching their unbeaten league run to 11, City will need to play better in a relatively tough run-in to win a fifth title in six seasons.

They also "are at a disadvantage with Arsenal playing twice in the league before City's next league game away at Everton.

For Burnley it is a second relegation in three seasons, having come up from the Championship with 100 points.

"I came here with a dream to keep this club up," Burnley captain Kyle Walker, a multiple title winner with City, said. "Hopefully we can do the fans proud next season."

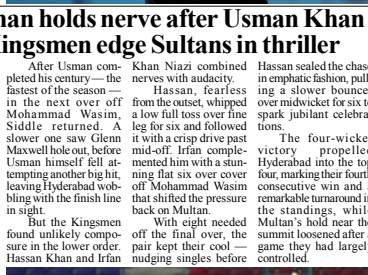
Hassan Khan holds nerve after Usman Khan as Kingsmen edge Sultans in thriller

NEWS DESK: Entering their debut HBL Pakistan Super League season with four losses in a row, Hyderabad Kingsmen had come a long way into Wednesday's night fixture against the high-flying Multan Sultans, winning the next three on a trot.

With their eyes on the playoff spot, their hopes were boosted by Hassan Khan, who held his nerves, and captain Marnus Labuschagne at the other end, anchoring with authority.

The Kingsmen needed 52 off the last six overs to cancel out Steve Smith's century effort earlier. And then Sultans captain Ashton Turner edged a low Australian Peter Siddie.

The 41-year-old, 67-Test veteran, steamed in, got hit by Usman for a six over deep fine leg. But bounced back instantly, hitting the deck hard to get Labuschagne caught at short time, breaking a 123-run partnership.



Khan Niazi combined nerves with audacity.

Hasan, fearless from the outset, whipped a low full toss over line leg for six and followed with a crisp drive past mid-off. Irfan complemented him with a stunning flat six over cover off Mohammad Wasim that shifted the pressure back on Multan.

With eight needed off the final over, the pair kept their cool — nudging signals before

Hasan sealed the chase in emphatic fashion, pulling a slower bouncer over midwicket for six to spark jubilant celebrations.

The four-wicket victory propelled Hyderabad into the top four, marking their fourth consecutive win and a remarkable turnaround in the standings, while Multan's hold near the summit loosened after a game they had largely controlled.

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PM Shehbaz meets astronauts selected for human space mission, calls it historic milestone

NEWS DESK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday met Pakistani astronauts Khurram Daud and Muhammad Zeeshan Ali,

selected for a human space mission by China, and described their participation in space research as a landmark achievement for the country and a matter of national pride.

China selected the two Pakistani astronauts as candidates for its manned space programme.

Both will travel to China for training, and one will participate in a flight mission as a payload specialist and become the first foreign astronaut in China's space station.

Upon completing all training courses and passing relevant assessments, one of them will be selected for a mission crew as a payload specialist to participate in a space flight, becoming the first foreign astronaut to visit the Chinese space station.

The Pakistani astronaut will conduct several scientific experiments



in microgravity, which span areas including material science, fluid physics, life and bio science, and biotechnology.

The two met the premier today in a meeting at the PM House, during which he expressed "deep

pleasure" over meeting the young astronauts and termed their selection for space research a "significant milestone" for Pakistan.

"I am confident that you are going to write a new chapter in Pakistan's history," the prime minister told

the astronauts, appreciating their dedication and hard work that enabled them to reach this important stage.

The prime minister, amid highlighting Pakistan-China cooperation in the space sector, said the astronauts' mission through

Chinese collaboration would further strengthen the longstanding ties between the two countries.

adding that bilateral cooperation in space research reflected a "shared commitment to exploring new frontiers and

reaching greater scientific heights together".

Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong present in the meeting, welcomed the prime minister's remarks and described expanding cooperation between Pakistan and China in space re-

search as encouraging and forward-looking.

The astronauts expressed gratitude for the opportunity and termed their participation in space research a "unique honour and a source of pride for Pakistan".

They reaffirmed their resolve to meet the nation's expectations through dedication and hard work.

Astronaut Attaché Hasnain Iftikhar from Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) was also present during the meeting.

The meeting was attended by Deputy PM and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal,

Information Minister Attullah Tarar, Special Assistant to the PM Tariq Fatemi, Foreign Secretary Anna Baloch, and SUPARCO Chairman Muhammad Yousof Khan.

This is not the first time Pakistan and China have collaborated on space projects.

Last year in Oc-

tober, SUPARCO successfully launched the country's first-ever Hyperspectral Satellite (HS-1) from China.

The HS-1 satellite was engineered to capture ultra-precise hyperspectral imagery across hundreds of narrow spectral bands, offering unprecedented resolution for the analysis of land, vegetation, water, and urban features.

Through its advanced imaging capability, HS-1 empowered the nation to precisely map crop vitality, soil moisture, and water quality.

while rigorously tracking deforestation, pollution, and glacial melt.

In July 2025, Pakistan successfully launched its latest remote sensing satellite from China's Xichang Satellite Launch Centre. The launch was carried out by SUPARCO Chairman Muhammad Yousof Khan.

In collaboration with the China Electronics Technology Group Corporation and MICROSAT China.

FO rubbishes India's 'false narrative' linking Pakistan to Pahalgam attack

NEWS DESK: The Foreign Office (FO) on Thursday rejected what it described as India's propaganda campaign of "baseless allegations" linking Pakistan to the Pahalgam incident, and called on New Delhi to demonstrate responsible behaviour and refrain from inflammatory rhetoric and actions.

The FO did not specify what statements or allegations it was referring to. However, an Indian media outlet claimed in a recent investigation that the mastermind behind the Pahalgam attack was taking shelter in Pakistan. It claimed the suspect allegedly possessed a Pakistani identity card with a Rawalpindi address.

international community will call on India to demonstrate responsible behaviour and to refrain from all rhetoric and actions that may serve as a spoiler to ongoing efforts aimed at regional and international peace and security," the statement concluded.

A day ago, Information Minister Attullah Tarar marked one year since what he described as the "Pahalgam false flag operation", stating that India had failed to present evidence for its allegations against Pakistan over the attack.

The situation had further deteriorated following the Pahalgam attack in the early hours of May 7, 2025, when missile strikes hit six cities in Punjab and Azad

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3 SHOs suspended, probe ordered after 4 killed in alleged drone strike in Khairpur

NEWS DESK: Three station house officers (SHOs) were suspended on Thursday after an alleged drone incident in Sindh's Khairpur district resulted in four deaths.

A statement issued by the office of Sindh Home Minister Ziaul Hasan Lanjar said "four civilians were killed in a drone attack in Saeed Khan Lakho village".

Both Lanjar and Sindh Inspector General (IG) Javed Alam Odho also took strict notice of

the incident and sought a report from the Sukkur deputy inspector general (DIG).

IG Odho also issued directives for the suspension of the Kandhra, Patni and Saleh

"strict legal and departmental action" against them.

Subsequently, an order issued by the Sindh Police Department stated that Kandhra SHO Shoukat Ali Arain, Patni SHO Imran Khan Bhayo and Saleh

the police order

Allaiddin Phulphoto have been placed under suspension and "closed to 'B' Company PHQ/Garden Karachi".

"During the period of suspension, they will draw their pay and allowances as admissible under the rules,"

the police order

said. They would be reporting to 'B' Company PHQ/Garden Karachi.

According to the statement issued by IG Odho's office, a committee

headed by the Ghotki senior superintendent of police (SSP) was formed to probe the reported in-

cident. The police chief directed that the individuals

"violating the order and the SOPs in the incident" be arrested and legal action be ensured against them.

The home minister also ordered a "transparent and comprehensive investigation" into the incident.

"All aspects of the incident should be reviewed in detail," he was quoted as saying by his office.

Lanjar also appointed the Counter Terrorism Police Additional IG Zulfiqar Larik as the inquiry officer.

The minister asserted that any kind of negligence or unlawful action would not be tolerated,

ordering that strict action be taken under the law against those responsible.

Naqvi, US envoy discuss diplomatic efforts for holding 2nd round of US-Iran talks in Islamabad

NEWS DESK: Interior Minister Moin Naqvi met US Chargé d'Affaires to Pakistan, Natalie Baker, in Islamabad, where the two discussed ongoing diplomatic efforts to hold a second round of US-Iran talks, the interior ministry said.

According to the interior ministry's statement, during their "important meeting", Naqvi and Baker exchanged detailed views on the regional situation and discussed diplomatic efforts regarding the possible second round of US-Iran negotiations in Islamabad.

Naqvi commended US President Donald Trump's initiative to extend the ceasefire, calling it a "welcome development that made significant progress towards reducing tensions.

"We also hope for positive progress from Iran's side," the interior minister was quoted as saying.

The meeting emphasised the need for continuity in diplomatic channels for a lasting resolution to the conflict.

Wednesday and no confirmation by Tehran about its participation.

The second round of negotiations has been delayed due to continued friction between the two countries, particularly regarding Iran's closure of the Strait of Hormuz and the US blockade of Iran's ports.

As the ceasefire extension created space for further diplomacy, Trump on Wednesday hoped a second round of talks could take place within two to three days, despite persistent mis-

trust. "It's possible!" Trump reportedly told the New York Post by text message, after the newspaper reached out to him to confirm whether the talks were "expected in Islamabad within the next 36 to 72 hours".

However, Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baghai did not give a clear answer on resuming talks with the US.

When asked about the possibility of a second round of talks, Baghai replied, "Diplo-

macy is a tool to secure national interests and security, and whenever we conclude that the necessary and logical groundwork is in place to use this tool for realising national interests and consolidating the Iranian nation's achievements in frustrating enemies from achieving their sinister goals, we will take action."

On Monday, the interior minister held separate meetings with the Baker and Iran's Ambassador to Pakistan Reza Amir Mojtahid, to discuss arrangements for a second round of Islamabad talks.

During his meeting that day, Naqvi informed Baker about the security measures taken for holding the talks, saying that "special security arrangements have been made for all our special guests".

The first round of historic direct US-Iran talks was held in Islamabad on April 11 and 12, following a Pakistan-brokered ceasefire on April 8. It had ended without an agreement, but also without a breakdown.



Meanwhile, Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh issued a veiled warning to Pakistan a day ago.

On April 22 last year, unidentified attackers killed 26 people in Pahalgam in Indian illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK). India immediately blamed Pakistan without presenting evidence, an allegation Islamabad categorically rejected. Tensions escalated the following day, April 23, 2025, when India undertook a series of hostile measures, including suspending the 65-year-old Indus Waters Treaty.

In a statement issued today, the FO said: "At a time when Pakistan, along with its international partners, is undertaking concerted diplomatic efforts for re-

ating a smokescreen for its continued sponsorship of terrorism across the region," it added.

The FO said such propaganda campaigns could not distract the international community from India's continued occupation of IOJK and Kashmir (IOJK). India immediately blamed Pakistan without presenting evidence, an allegation Islamabad categorically rejected.

It further stated that such "gimmicks" could not conceal what it termed India's undermining of regional peace and security through inflammatory rhetoric, repeated provocations and aggressive military posturing, including its unilateral move to hold the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance, which it said violated international law.

Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), destroying a mosque and killing dozens of civilians, including women, children and the elderly.

In response, Pakistan's armed forces shot down Indian warplanes, including three Rafale jets.

Later, Pakistan launched Operation Bhanuwan Marsoons in retaliation, targeting Indian military installations, including missile storage sites, airbases and other strategic locations. On May 10, 2025, United States President Donald Trump announced that a ceasefire had been reached following overnight diplomatic efforts. The agreement was subsequently confirmed by Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and the Indian foreign secretary.

