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## Regional peace, stability linked to collective restraint, respect for sovereignty: army's top brass

**NEWS DESK:**

Army's top leadership asserted on Tuesday that peace and stability in the region were intrinsically linked to collective restraint, responsibility and respect for sovereignty, a statement issued by the military's media affairs wing after the 275th Corps Commanders' Conference said.

Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir presided over the meeting at the General Headquarters in Rawalpindi, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said.

The military leadership's observation comes against the backdrop of a conflict between the US and Iran. It began with US-Israeli strikes on Iran in late February and later broadened into a regional crisis, involving disruption of traffic in shipping lanes attacks on Gulf countries.

"The conflict is paused for now, following a fragile ceasefire that continues to be tested," the Corps Commanders' Conference, while deliberating on the broader regional security environment, "noted that emerging geopolitical developments carry significant implications for regional stability," the ISPR statement said.

The top brass emphasised the importance of restraint and "avoidance of escalation" and "acknowledged Pakistan's continued responsible role in advocating stability and supporting efforts aimed at preventing further deterioration of the situation."

As per ISPR, the conference "reiterated that peace and stability in the region are intrinsically linked to collective restraint, responsibility and respect for sovereignty."

Chairing the meeting, CDF



Munir "expressed satisfaction over the high standards of operational preparedness, professionalism, and combat readiness of Pakistan's armed forces."

He commended "commanders and formations for their unwavering commitment, vigilance, and success" in counter-terrorism operations across the country.

Operation Ghazab lil-Haq

The ISPR statement said the meeting comprehensively reviewed the internal and external security environment and "resolved to maintain current operational tempo to decisively dismantle terrorist networks, disrupt their support infrastructure, and deny them any operational space within Pakistan."

Participants of the meeting also noted "continued degradation of terrorists and their support infrastructure" by means of Operation Ghazab lil-Haq.

Operation Ghazab lil-Haq was launched by Pakistan's armed forces on the night of Feb 26 following cross-border firing by the Afghan Taliban. The military action also targets terrorists' hideouts.

Islamabad has repeatedly accused Kabul of providing space to the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban. UN monitoring reports over the past two years have noted the TTP's presence in eastern Afghanistan, though the Taliban deny offering support to them.

According to ISPR, the Corps Commanders' Conference noted that the "irrational and perverted policy of the Afghan Taliban regime to provide safe havens to klawarij and other terrorist organisations, with total disregard to [the] interests of [the] Afghan people, is increasingly backfiring and stands fully exposed."

ISPR said that the forum also took note of the "propaganda campaign" by the Afghan Taliban to "falsely portray Pakistan as targeting civilians inside Afghanistan."

The army's top brass termed "such misleading narratives a part of a coordinated disinformation strategy by the regime to distract attention from their internal failures and play [the] victim card."

### JUI-F to hold nationwide protests on Wednesday, Friday over killing of cleric Maulana Idrees



**NEWS DESK:**

JUI-F Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has announced that the party will hold protests all over the country on Wednesday and Friday against the "martyrdom" of prominent cleric Maulana Idrees.

The renowned cleric and former Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) MPA was killed on Tuesday after unidentified assailants opened fire on him, police said.

"Full and peaceful protests will be held tomorrow (Wednesday) and on Friday against the martyrdom of Sheikh Idrees," said JUI-F spokesperson Aslam Ghouri in a statement.

He said the provincial and district organisations would arrange protest demonstrations at all four provincial headquarters and across districts.

Terming the death of Maulana Idrees an irreparable loss, Ghouri said they were exhausted by carrying the bodies

of senior scholars.

"How long will the state continue to test us?" Ghouri asked, alleging that the federal and provincial governments have failed to maintain law and order.

He asked public to participate in the protests and register their protest against lawlessness.

"The government has failed. The public will have to step forward to protect themselves," the JUI spokesperson concluded.

PM Shehbaz sends condolences to JUI chief

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday contacted the JUI chief and conveyed his condolences on the martyrdom of Maulana Idrees, the spokesperson said.

The prime minister prayed for the cleric and assured the early arrest of the killers, he said.

State-run APP reported earlier that the premier expressed deep grief over the cleric's killing in a statement and extended his condolences to the bereaved family. Praying for the elevation of

### JUI-F Stages Walkout in Balochistan Assembly Over Alleged Madrassa Crackdown

**Qaseem Shah, News Desk:**

uncertainty among religious communities.

However, he assured lawmakers that the government did not intend to seal madrassas or harass students.

"We respect religious institutions and will ensure their sanctity is fully protected," the minister said during the session.

The issue continued to spark debate as opposition lawmakers questioned why educational institutions such as universities and colleges were not closed when suspects linked to terrorism had previously been arrested from those campuses.



benches over recent actions taken against some religious seminaries in the province.

Opposition Leader Younis Aziz Zehri alleged that students of madrassas were being harassed while mosques and seminaries in several areas had been shut down.

He said the government's actions had created fear and

Members from the treasury benches assured the assembly that no discrimination would be carried out against any madrassa in Balochistan.

Speaker said Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti was expected to hold talks with JUI-F leadership soon, expressing hope that the matter would be resolved through dialogue.

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

SBKWU Teacher Recruitment Scandal Raises Alarms for Pakistan's Education System



Editorial: Serious questions have emerged over the secondary teacher recruitment process conducted by Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University (SBKWU), triggering widespread concern about merit, transparency, and accountability in Balochistan's education system. It is essential to clarify a point that has caused public confusion: the advertised posts were NOT for SBKWU itself. The university was only assigned the responsibility of conducting tests and interviews for Secondary School Teacher recruitment across Balochistan. According to initial findings, hundreds of candidates who had failed were allegedly declared successful during the teacher recruitment process. Given the scale of the exercise, involving

thousands of applicants for secondary teaching positions across the province, such irregularities cannot reasonably be described as clerical mistakes. The magnitude strongly suggests organised manipulation, carried out with the involvement or protection of influential individuals rather than the actions of a single official. This issue strikes at the heart of education governance in Balochistan. Secondary school teachers shape the academic foundation of students, and any compromise on merit directly damages learning outcomes. In Balochistan, where literacy rates remain among the lowest in the country, flawed teacher recruitment further deepens an already critical education cri-

sis. Reports that deserv- ing candidates were sidelined only intensify public frustration and mistrust. All anti-corruption and accountability institutions must take immediate notice. A transparent, independent, and time-bound investigation is necessary to identify those responsible for manipulating the recruitment process conducted under SBKWU's authority. Accountability must reach every individual involved, regardless of status or influence. This is not merely an administrative controversy; it is a matter of justice and the future of Balochistan's education system. If credibility in teacher recruitment collapses, public trust in institutions will collapse with it. Balochistan cannot afford silence where integrity is at stake.

Balochistan's Education Crisis: Beyond Numbers and Empty Promises

Syed Ali Shah Analysis: The Balochistan government's claim that around 45,000 children have returned to schools is being pre-

mismanagement, and hollow commitments by successive provincial governments. For years, education in Balochistan has been treated more as

open skies or abandoned education altogether. Shelterless schools are not an exception but a norm across vast parts of the province. Equally alarming

important, but without strict monitoring and enforcement, such reviews risk becoming yet another bureaucratic exercise. The return of

government is serious about change, it must move beyond statements and statistics. Massive investment in school infrastructure, transparent teacher



sented as a major breakthrough in addressing the province's deep-rooted education crisis. While any increase in enrollment deserves acknowledgment, this figure pales in comparison to the magnitude of the challenge. More than 3.1 million children in Balochistan remain out of school, a reality that exposes decades of neglect,

a slogan than a serious policy priority. Governments have consistently paid lip service to the issue, announcing plans, committees, and reforms that rarely translate into meaningful change on the ground. The result is a broken system where thousands of schools remain without proper buildings, forcing children to study under

is the issue of so-called "ghost teachers" and ineffective staffing. Despite repeated claims of reforms under the School Based Recruitment (SBK) system, absenteeism, political interference, and lack of accountability continue to cripple public education. Reviewing recruitment processes is

45,000 children to schools should not be used to mask the harsh truth: millions are still deprived of their fundamental right to education. Poverty, insecurity, poor infrastructure, and weak governance continue to push children out of classrooms and into labor, vulnerability, and hopelessness. If the Balochistan

management, community-based enrollment drives, and sustained political will are essential. Without tangible action, promises will remain empty, and another generation of Balochistan's children will be left behind. Education cannot survive on rhetoric alone; it demands urgent, honest, and decisive action.

Climate Tides and Raising Injustices: The Climate-Gender Violence Nexus in Balochistan

Chandni Kakar: Throughout history, crisis situations, be they wars, natural disasters, or extreme economic downturns, inevitably unmask the ugly face of social inequality. Among the different types of inequality, gender-based violence (GBV), often considered a shadow pandemic, regrettably seizes these crisis situations as a breeding ground, leveraging emotions of fear and uncertainty. Strikingly, in the wind-swept terrains of Balochistan, a menacing overlap of climate change and GBV rises like a monstrous specter, particularly in the flood-prone areas. Catastrophic Climatic Events and GBV-Mysterious Puppets on the Same String Here's the curious case: aggravated climate change, leading to increased flood events, and a rising tide of GBV are not isolated instances of social trauma but deeply intermingled phenomena in Balochistan. Official reports show a disturbing trend 157 cases of domestic violence were reported in Balochistan in 2022, with 35 individuals being killed on the pretext of Karo Kari, half of whom were women, and 40 women becoming victims of sexual abuse. Before this, in 2021, the number of reported cases of domestic violence was



127, with 30 women being victims of sexual violence. In 2021, according to the Balochistan Gender-Based Violence Case Management System, close to 3726 cases of GBV were reported. The following year, in 2022, this figure swelled to 4082, illustrating a staggering increase of nearly 9%. Digging deeper reveals an uncanny coincidence. An upward trend in extreme climate events in the

same timeline correlates with this rise, painting a chilling picture. This correlation isn't incidental but consequential, a nexus amplified by the continuous environmental changes and socio-economic fallout they induce. Climate Change in Balochistan: More Than Just an Environmental Issue. Climate change in Balochistan isn't calming down, like a seemingly ceaseless sand-

storm it obliterates ways of life. In July 2022, unprecedented torrential rains in Quetta led to submerged communities, damaged infrastructure, and homeless families. Similarly, Naseerabad faced daunting floods in August, with farmlands, the vital backbone of their economy, laid to waste. This consistent harsh climate rattles Balochistan isn't calming down, like a seemingly ceaseless sand-

temic patriarchy and gender biases, bear the heavy toll. Societal roles designate farming, household work, and gathering water and firewood as feminine duties, all of which become perilous with fluctuating climatic conditions. Recent Case: An Appalling Tale from Naseerabad. Consider the heart-wrenching drama that unfolded in Naseerabad. Amidst the devastating floods, several women and

girls reported being victims of horrific violence when they went out to collect clean water or seek shelter. A specific case that sounds alarm bells was that of a seven-year-old girl, who, seeking refuge during the floods, was brutally assaulted. The Future: Deciphering the Complex Jigsaw Puzzle. So, how do the convoluted cogs of climate change and GBV work in unison?

A deeper scrutiny suggests, that with rising environmental instability, women are forced into vulnerable situations, escalating GBV rates. Additionally, the diversion of resources and law enforcement focus to disaster relief further aggravates these incidences. The growing climate crisis in Balochistan is more than an environmental problem. It is a socio-economic menace, a cata-

lyst for gender-based violence, and a glaring testament to the intricate relationship between humanity and Mother Earth. A multi-faceted approach that intertwines climate strategy with gender justice is the need of the hour. The time is ripe to refine our lenses. Climate change comes not just with roaring winds but also with silent whispers of rising injustice against vulnerable sections of society.

# 7 cases of deadly hantavirus confirmed or suspected on stranded cruise ship

**NEWS DESK:** Two cases of the deadly hantavirus have been confirmed, and five more are suspected among people who were on a luxury cruise ship now held in the Atlantic near Cape Verde.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) said in its most detailed update on the outbreak.

Around 150 people are still stuck on the *Hondius* that was carrying mostly British,

American and Spanish passengers on a trip that set off from Argentina in March and is now off the coast of West Africa.

The seven cases included three people who had died, one who was critically ill and three with mild symptoms.

The WHO said in a statement late on Monday.

The three fatalities were a Dutch couple and a German national, and a British national was evacuated from the ship from Ascension and is being treated in South Africa, officials have said.

The United Na-



on the ship now stuck off Cape Verde, disembarked in Saint Helena with "gastrointestinal symptoms" on April 24.

Her condition "deteriorated during a flight to Johannesburg" and she died on April 26, WHO said.

"Contact tracing for passengers on the flight has been initiated," it said.

Risk to wider public low, says WHO

The atmosphere on board *Hondius* remains calm, with passengers generally "composed", the ship's operator,

Oceanwide Expeditions, said in a statement late on Monday.

It said it was working on getting the passengers screened and disembarked, and was considering sailing to Spain's Las Palmas or Tenerife.

WHO reiterated its advice that the risk

to the wider public was low from the disease typically spread from infected rodents that only rarely passes between humans.

Cape Verde — an island nation off the coast of West Africa — has asked the ship to stay at sea as a precaution.

The first stricken passenger, the Dutchman, died on April 11 as the ship steamed towards Tristan da Cunha.

His body remained on board until April 24, when it "was disembarked on St Helena, with his wife accompanying the repatriation."

South African authorities have confirmed that the British patient, who is being treated in a Johannesburg hospital, tested positive for the hantavirus.

The Netherlands has confirmed the virus in the Dutch woman who died.

Data from maritime analytics provider MarineTraffic shows the ship had been visiting some of the most remote places on Earth,

including Tristan da Cunha, an island in the south Atlantic between Argentina and South Africa.

The *Hondius* left Ushuaia in southern Argentina in March, according to company documentation, on a voyage marketed as an Antarctic nature expedition.

with berth prices ranging from 14,000 to 22,000 euros (\$16,000 to \$25,000).

## Indian pilots demand further probe of last year's Air India crash

**NEWS DESK:** An Indian pilot group has submitted a letter to the aviation ministry suggesting that electrical failure, and not pilot action, could have caused the deadly Air India crash last year.

The submission by the Federation of Indian Pilots (FIP), which has more than 5,000 members, comes ahead of the expected final report

into the crash of the Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner that killed 260 people shortly after takeoff on June 12, 2025.

As required by international law, India's Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) published a preliminary report on July 12, one month after the disaster, when the plane exploded into flames

shortly after takeoff from Ahmedabad in western India.

That 15-page document said the fuel supply to the jet's engines was cut off moments before impact, raising questions about possible pilot error.

It did not mention whether the turning off of the fuel switches could have been caused by pilot manoeuvre, or by any kind

of malfunction.

The FIP letter, dated May 1 and seen by AFP, offers what it called a "technical note" that "suggests a credible cause" requiring further investigation.

"A preflight-off electrical disturbance could have caused unintended relay operation and dual engine fuel cut-off without pilot input," it read.

"Media reports ... continue to suggest pilot action," it added.

"However, the International Civil Aviation Organisation ... requires all credible technical causes be ruled out first."

The final report is expected by next month, within a year of the crash.

"It is submitted that this may be treated as a testable hypothesis and examined through detailed electrical analysis... Technical causes cannot be ruled out till this analysis is made," it argued.



## Blast at fireworks factory in China's Hunan kills 21, state media says

**NEWS DESK:** A blast at a fireworks factory in China's Hunan province has killed 21 people and injured 61, prompting a call from President Xi Jinping for a thorough investigation, state media reported on Tuesday.

The explosion in Liuyang, under the administration of Hunan's capital city of Changsha and a hub for fireworks manufacturing, occurred on Monday at around 4:40 pm (0840 GMT), according to reports by CCTV and Xinhua.

Social media footage showed massive plumes of smoke billowing up into clear blue skies against a backdrop of lush, green mountains.

Reuters verified the location shown in the footage, which was posted on social media on May 4, as Changsha.

A Xinhua video showed thick clouds of smoke rising from a large site littered with collapsed buildings and

debris. Five rescue teams of nearly 500 personnel, together with three rescue robots, were dispatched to the scene, adopting a "human machine coordinated approach" to conduct grid-style searches, according to Xinhua.

Two black powder storage warehouses within the factory compound posed high-risk hazards, the report said, adding that authorities

had evacuated residents from danger zones, established a 1 km rescue area and a 3 km control zone.

The blast happened at Huasheng Fireworks Manufacturing and Display Company, state media said.

The person in charge of the company to seek comment.

The person in charge of the company has been detained and

of the accident was being investigated, state-run China Daily reported.

Xi called for a speedy investigation to determine the cause of the explosion and strict accountability for the incident, Xinhua reported.

Last year, China exported \$1.14 billion worth of fireworks, more than two-thirds of global sales, data from the Observatory of Economic Complexity showed.



## Fact check: Viral video does not show cargo ship near UAE on fire after Iranian attack; it's old and unrelated

**NEWS DESK:** Multiple accounts, including Iranian media, have been sharing a video since Monday on several social media platforms, showing a cargo ship engulfed in flames.

The attacks shattered a period of relative calm in the UAE since a Pakistani-mediated ceasefire between Washington and Tehran took effect on April 8, pausing more than a month of intense fighting in the Gulf region.

How it started

On Monday, Iranian media outlet Fars News shared a video on its of-

icial Telegram account showing a cargo ship engulfed in flames without specifying which country the vessel belonged to.

The post was captioned: "Image attributed to one of the ships that was hit near the UAE."

The post gained 17,000 likes. Another social media account shared the same video in a similar context on X with the following caption:

"Iran State TV Fars claims: Image attributed to one of the ships that was struck in the vicinity of the UAE."

The post attracted 116,000 views. Another user also

shared the same video on X in a similar context with the following caption:

"The ship in the footage: HMM Namu, a South Korean cargo vessel operated by HMM shipping. Engine room fire broke out while anchored in the Strait of Hormuz near the UAE."

The video, which was struck in the vicinity of the UAE, was further shared by several users on Instagram and X, as can be seen here, here, here, here, and here, collectively accumulating 135,000 views.

A fact-check was initiated to determine the veracity of the claim due to its high virality and keen public interest in recent strikes on the UAE.

A keyword search was conducted to corroborate whether any credible international media outlets had reported that Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) struck a cargo ship near the UAE; however, no such reports were found.

India, which has been building up domestic defence manufacturing for local use and exports, has already sold the super-nuclear cruise missiles to the Philippines and signed a contract with Indonesia in March.

A deal with Vietnam could be worth about 60 billion Indian rupees (\$629 million), including training and logistical support, said

of the sources.

India considers Vietnam a key part of its strategy to ensure stability in the Indo-Pacific region amid China's growing influence.

A third source said some defence cooperation announce-

ments could be made during To Lam's May 5-7 visit, though no signing of a weapons deal was expected.

To Lam arrived on Tuesday in the eastern city of Bodhi Gaya, a Buddhist pilgrimage site, on Tuesday.

All the sources declined to be identified as they were not authorised to talk to the media on government negotiations.

The foreign ministries of India and Vietnam, as well as missile maker BrahMos Aerospace.

## India may discuss BrahMos missile sale to Vietnam during presidential visit, sources say

**NEWS DESK:** Vietnamese President To Lam is expected to discuss expanding defence ties with India during a visit to New Delhi this week, including the potential purchase of BrahMos missiles jointly developed with Russia, two sources said.

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Three days later, the man's wife also fell sick and later died, while another passenger, a Briton, became "seriously ill and was medically evacuated to South Africa", the company said.

South African authorities have confirmed that the British patient, who is being treated in a Johannesburg hospital, tested positive for the hantavirus.

The Netherlands has confirmed the virus in the Dutch woman who died.

Data from maritime analytics provider MarineTraffic shows the ship had been visiting some of the most remote places on Earth,

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# Pakistan maintains firm, responsible stance amid India tensions

RAWALPINDI (INP): Pakistan adopted a firm and responsible stance at the global level during heightened tensions with India, clearly conveying its position while avoiding escalation.

Despite responding strongly to India's so-called "Operation Sindoor" Pakistan demonstrated restraint and repeatedly warned India on multiple international forums against any form of adventurism or aggression.

Pakistan's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Dr Mohammad Faisal, had cautioned India ahead of Marka-e-Haq, stating that Pakistan possesses the full capability to respond decisively to any aggression, similar to February 2019. He emphasized that any future attack by India would be met with an appropriate

response. He further stated that Kashmir remains a disputed issue and must be resolved through United Nations intervention or bilateral agreements.

Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, Rizwan Saeed Sheikh, also issued a strong warning to India to refrain from aggression. Rizwan Saeed Sheikh stated that any attack on Pakistan's territory would be met with full force, adding that there was no room for war to break out between two nuclear neighbors, its consequences would be unpredictable.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding Ministry of National Health Services and Regulations, coordination.

## Rescue 1122 responds to 833 emergencies over last month

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (INP) Rescue 1122 Lakkhi Marwat has released its performance report for April 2026, highlighting its response to hundreds of emergencies and efforts to save valuable lives during the past month.

According to a Rescue 1122 spokesperson, the report was compiled under the directives of Director General Rescue 1122 Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Shah Fahad and Director Operations South Region Arif Khattak and under the supervision of District Emergency Officer Bilal Afridi.

The report states that a total of 13,587 calls were received during April, including 6,738 fake calls and 6,016 informational calls. It shows that

## Children's fight results in killing of three people in Bannu

BANNU (INP): A minor fight between children that occurred two months ago escalated into a deadly incident in Bannu, resulting in the killing of three people, including a young child.

According to police on Monday, the incident took place within the jurisdiction of City Police Station on Jaman Road, near Rashid Bakery, inside a welding shop.

The alleged suspect, identified as Imran, son of Imayyathulla, a resident of Jaman Road, reportedly opened fire without warning.

As a result, Zafar Ali, his brother Adnan and Zafar Ali's seven-year-old son, Haroon, were killed on the spot. Police have launched a search operation to arrest the suspect.

## NDMA predicts rain, thunderstorms across Punjab, KP, AJK, Gilgit-Baltistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) issued a rain and thunderstorm alert for different parts of the country during the next 12 to 24 hours.

According to NDMA, several upper and northern regions may experience rain with strong winds and thunderstorms. Islamabad and surrounding areas are likely to remain partly cloudy with chances of strong winds and thunderstorms, while hail may occur at a few locations.

In Punjab, most districts will continue to experience hot and dry weather, southern and central areas may face dust storms and strong winds. Cities including Murree, Galiyat, Rawalpindi, Gujrat Khan, Jhelum,

Sialkot, Narawal, Layyah, Gujrat, Peshawar, Sindh and Lahore are expected to receive scattered rain along with possible hail.

In upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, conditions will remain partly cloudy, with rain accompanied by strong winds and thunderstorms.

Met Office Deputy Director Anjum Nazir Zaigham has said that Karachi's temperature is likely to reach 43 degrees centigrade while the current temperature of the city is 41 degrees centigrade. The humidity in the air is 48 percent, and there is no chance of rain in the City. He said that Sindh will remain in a severe heatwave.

He said that after May 13, 2025, the temperature will further rise in Karachi. He advised the citizens to adopt precautionary measures during the season.

## Punjab CM sets July as deadline for completing 27 new Sahulat markets

LAHORE (INP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has set July as the deadline for completing twenty-seven new convenience markets across Punjab.

She announced the timeline while chairing a meeting in Lahore today. The meeting was informed that thirteen "Sahulat on-the-go" markets will also be set up in different districts.

During the briefing, officials said around 1,300 new businesses will be established and create more than 600 direct jobs benefiting over 90 million people annually.

The Chief Minister was informed that shopkeepers will be provided free electricity and sanitation, while about 53 million rupees will be saved annually on security through centralized CCTV monitoring.

## Medical experts to provide free treatment to cleft lip patients

ISLAMABAD (INP): Specialized team of senior doctors will start free checkup and necessary surgeries for cleft lip and palate, in Islamabad.

The surgeries, hospitalization, stay and food will be provided absolutely free to the patients by Islamabad Cleft Lip and Palate Association (ICLAPA).

The patients will be given exact date and time of the surgery when their examination (OPD) takes place.

Children with cleft lip and cleft palate will be operated upon, by a team of distinguished team of doctors and para-medical staff members who have been performing this task over several years.

The children were operated upon with 100 percent success.

## IHC orders Adiala Jail to decide Bushra Bibi plea in two days

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad High Court has directed the Adiala Jail superintendent to decide within two days a petition regarding access to Bushra Bibi's personal doctor and family meetings, and has summoned him in person on May 6.

Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir of the Islamabad High Court heard a petition filed by Bushra Bibi's daughter, Mubashira.

The court inquired whether any application had been submitted to the Adiala Jail authorities. The petitioner's lawyer, Salman Akram Raja, submitted a copy of the application sent to the jail authorities and stated that the request had been delivered both through courier and in person. He further stated that Bushra Bibi underwent surgery in the night between April 16 and 17.

charged after around two days, following the surgery and removal of stitches.

The ICLAPA operates as a registered charitable institution, and is funded by purely private donations, and contributions from 'zakat' and mainly from its own mem-

bers. The ICLAPA also has invited volunteers of all age groups, especially doctors, medical and other students, from all cities, to assist in its charitable work. For further information and appointments please contact at 03005192490 & 03335157676.

## Strong message of national unity, peace and institutional harmony delivered at Istehkam-e-Pakistan Conference

RAWALPINDI (INP): A strong message of national unity, peace and institutional harmony was delivered at the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Conference titled "Ma a r k a - e - H a q, Bunyan-un-Marsoos" held here on Monday, where speakers reflected collective resolve to safeguard Pakistan's stability, sovereignty and ideological foundations.

Chairman of the Central Kue-e-Haq Committee, Maulana Syed Muhammad Abdul Khabir Azad, in his address said that national unity and cohesion were the only way to tackle challenges facing the country, while paying tribute to the sacrifices of Pakistan's armed forces in the fight against terrorism.

He said the entire

nation stood united with its armed forces and would foil every conspiracy against the country through collective resolve and awareness.

The conference was attended by Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Engineer Aamir Khattak, Regional Police Officer Babar Sarfraz Alpa, religious scholars, traders, civil society representatives and members of different faiths.

Abdul Khabir Azad said Pakistan was a constitutional state where rule of law, justice and protection of citizens' rights were fundamental principles. He said terrorism, unrest and anti-state activities had no place in society.

He stressed the need to promote peace, tolerance and interfaith harmony, calling it a shared responsibility of

all segments of society. He said any attempt to breed division and chaos would be countered with unity by the nation, scholars and all stakeholders.

Referring to operation Bunyan-un-Marsoos, he said it reflected national solidarity and sent a clear message to the world that Pakistanis were committed to safeguarding their sovereignty and dignity.

He also highlighted the importance of resolving global conflicts through dialogue, saying peace and mutual understanding were the only viable solutions to international disputes.

Khabir while presenting tribute to valour armed forces and the military leadership highlighted the courageous role of religious leaders in promoting unity.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan addressing the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Conference.

<p><b>PUBLIC NOTICE</b></p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration to the deceased late Mr. M. A. Khan (D.O. 1935) who died on 15/04/2025. The deceased left behind a net estate of Rs. 1,00,00,000/- (One Hundred Lakhs only) consisting of immovable and movable properties. The applicant is the only surviving legal heir of the deceased. Following information is being furnished: 1. Name of the deceased: M. A. Khan. 2. Date of death: 15/04/2025. 3. Name of the applicant: M. A. Khan. 4. Address of the applicant: [Address]. 5. Name of the court: District Court, Islamabad. 6. Name of the advocate: [Name]. 7. Name of the witness: [Name]. 8. Name of the witness: [Name]. 9. Name of the witness: [Name]. 10. Name of the witness: [Name]. 11. Name of the witness: [Name]. 12. Name of the witness: [Name]. 13. Name of the witness: [Name]. 14. Name of the witness: [Name]. 15. Name of the witness: [Name]. 16. Name of the witness: [Name]. 17. Name of the witness: [Name]. 18. 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# BNP Chief Akhtar Mengal Granted Bail by Quetta Anti-Terrorism Court

**Staff Reporter:**  
**QUETTA:** An anti-terrorism court in Quetta on Tuesday approved the bail plea of BNP chief Sardar Akhtar Mengal in a case linked to a public gathering held at Shahwani Stadium last year.

According to court proceedings, the court granted bail to Akhtar Mengal against surety bonds worth Rs50,000.

The case against the Balochistan National Party (BNP) leader was registered following a political gathering held at Shahwani Stadium in Quetta during the previous year.



Shahwani Stadium in Quetta during the previous year. Legal proceedings in the matter are expected to continue as per the court's directions.

# Balochistan Boosts Development Efforts with IFAD-Supported Livelihood Project Initiative



**QUETTA:** A significant development has emerged in Balochistan's efforts to promote large-scale development projects, as a high-level consultative meeting was held under the chairmanship of Secretary Communications and Works, Babar Khan.

The meeting focused on the design of the Balochistan Livelihood Support Project, supported by the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

The meeting was attended by Chief Engineer Federal Projects Dr. Sajjad Baloch, Technical Advisor Ihsanullah Khan Dautani, and an IFAD delegation led by Rab Nawaz.

During the session, Rab Nawaz provided a detailed briefing on ongoing and completed development projects across Balochistan.

He highlighted the effectiveness, positive outcomes, and future potential of the Livelihood Support Project, stating that it plays a crucial role in strengthening the rural economy, creating employment opportunities, and modernizing the agriculture and livestock sectors.

He emphasized that the government's commitment to continued collaboration with IFAD, particularly in improving road infrastructure across Balochistan, will ensure that the people of Balochistan will not only facilitate better transportation but also stimulate economic activities.

Babar Khan further stated that future development initiatives will focus on being more effective, sustainable, and aligned with local needs through strengthened cooperation.

He expressed confidence that these efforts will ensure that the people of Balochistan fully benefit from development projects in real terms.

# Balochistan Chief Secretary Chairs Secretaries Committee Meeting, Emphasizes Good Governance and Digital Reforms

**QUETTA:** A high-level meeting of the Secretaries Committee was held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan, focusing on improving governance and public service delivery across the province.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary emphasized the implementation of a comprehensive Good Governance.

He also directed officers to ensure regular attendance in offices and improve the quality of service delivery, particularly at district-level offices.

Shakeel Qadir Khan instructed all departments to digitize their systems to reduce reliance on paperwork and improve overall efficiency.

He noted that these reforms would serve as a milestone in improving government performance and public welfare in Balochistan.

Strict directives were also issued to ensure regular attendance of officers and staff in the Civil Secretariat and line departments.

According to a briefing presented during the meeting, attention was given to public issues, effective field-level monitoring, and timely completion of development projects.



Roadmap aimed at enhancing administrative efficiency and ensuring the timely provision of essential services to citizens.

He highlighted that immediate resolution of public issues, effective field-level monitoring, and timely completion of development projects are being given top priority.

Reforms would serve as a milestone in improving government performance and public welfare in Balochistan.

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# First Transshipment Vessel of May 2026 Docks at Gwadar Port, Highlighting Rising Strategic Importance

**GWADAR:** In line with the vision of Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, Gwadar Port's growing strategic importance has once again been demonstrated as the first transshipment cargo vessel of May 2026, "MV Shu Long," successfully docked at the port.

The vessel marks the beginning of a new commercial ship to arrive at Gwadar this month, showcasing the port's active and improved operational capabilities.

According to a media coordinator, the ship is carrying a total of 16,077 metric tons of transshipment cargo, including over 13,000 packages of Chinese-manufactured industrial machinery and pipes.

The shipment was originally destined for Kuwait but was rerouted to Gwadar Port as a safer alternative due to uncertain maritime conditions in the Strait of Hormuz.

Chairman of Gwadar Port, Noorul Haq Baloch, stated that four transshipment vessels were recorded at the port during April 2026.

He noted that this reflects Gwadar's emergence as a reliable and efficient alternative route for Gulf and regional markets.

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# Revenue Reforms in Loralai: Officials Directed to Boost Tax Collection, Digitize Records

**LRALAI:** A key meeting of the revenue department was held in Tehsil Bori, Mekhtar, under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Muhammad Ismail Mengal to review critical revenue matters and administrative performance.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Loralai Nadeem, Tehsildar Bori, Naib Tehsildar Mekhtar, along with patwaris and revenue staff from all circles.

During the session, a detailed review of revenue-related affairs was conducted, with special focus on challenges in the collection of agriculture income tax, illegal allotment of state land, removal of encroachments, and compliance with tax payments under the ordinance.

Officials also presented a comprehensive update on the implementation and progress of decisions taken in previous meetings.

He further instructed authorities to take indiscriminate action against illegal occupation of government land and adopt an efforts. Special emphasis was placed on expanding the tax net, identifying defaulters, and initiating targeted campaigns to bring them were strictly directed to perform their duties with integrity and professionalism, ensuring the achievement of government targets at all costs.

Addressing the participants, ADC Revenue Muhammad Ismail Mengal directed that timely and transparent tax collection must be ensured. He stressed the importance of maintaining accurate revenue records and prioritizing their digitization to reduce public difficulties and improve efficiency.

He further instructed authorities to take indiscriminate action against illegal occupation of government land and adopt an effective strategy for the removal of encroachments. The meeting highlighted that agriculture income remains a key source of government revenue, urging all concerned officials to play an active role in strengthening collection under the legal framework. Authorities also stressed the need to create awareness among farmers and landowners regarding tax obligations and voluntary compliance.

At the conclusion of the meeting, officials

**TENDER NOTICE**

The Inspector General, Prisons Head Quarters invites bids from eligible bidders for supply of following items: TSE-2520051941351 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. Tender Fee 1,000 PKR

S.No	Class of Object	Bid Security
1	Manufactured Vehicles Accessories (Total Items Count: 1)	7%

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: 3 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity 4,000,000 in Previous 3 Years Turnover of at least 4,000,000 PKR in Subsequent Previous Years Presence in Active Tax Payer List Sales Tax Certificate The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. It is not permissible to submit a bid without Bid Security. If Bid Security is not found as required during financial evaluation the bidding firm shall be declared as ineligible and non-permissible. Submission of the required Bidding document: Fee Remission of the required Bidding document Fee Registration with Securities & Exchange Commission of Pakistan The bidder must be authorized dealer having Sales, Spares & Service outlet in Quetta Final award of contract is dependent upon the satisfaction of the ban on purchase of vehicle by the S&EAD. Authority cannot be

**Procedure of Procurement:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Cash or Cash Equivalent in the name of the undersigned from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the undersigned 1,000 PKR (one thousand) from the date of publication of NT to 20 May 2026 during office hours on working days. Last Date of Bid Submission: The tenders must be submitted latest by 20 May 2026 at 10:30 AM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the undersigned at 11:00 AM. Address: Inspectorate general/prisons Samungai road Phone no: 0819202495 Fax no: 8021587 Email: Ageneralprisons@gmail.com

**AG (Admin. & Finance)**  
 Inspector General of Prisons  
 Balochistan Quetta

PRG No.49705-05-2026

**TENDER NOTICE**

The Health Department, Government of Balochistan, through the Health Sector Reform & Management Unit (HSRMU) / Project Management Unit (PMU), invites bids from eligible bidders for the procurement of the following Goods for the year 2026: TSE No. 2520051041041. Bids shall be submitted in accordance with the method and timelines stated in the bidding document. Note: As per GOB rules, all bidders must be registered with the BPPRA (Electronic Procurement System (EPPS)) before submitting a bid. Bid Security 2%

S.No.	Class of Object (Goods)	E/CoSt
1	Printing and Supply of Registers, Forms, EIC Material and Training Material under Village Support Program Balochistan (Total Items Count: 46)	1,000,000/-

Procurement shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules, 2014. Eligibility Criteria: As per NT requirements, minimum two (02) assignments of similar nature and complexity worth PKR 800,000 in the previous three (03) years turnover of at least PKR 750,000 in three subsequent previous years, presence in Active Taxpayer List (ATL) with Sales Tax registration/certificate; bidder must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan; joint venture (JV) is not permissible; required bid security must be submitted, along with the bid; the bidder shall be declared ineligible and non-responsive during financial evaluation; bidder must have the ability to provide paper/material samples and pre-production print proof; and delivery must be completed within thirty (30) days from issuance of work/supply order after proof approval. Procedure of Procurement: Single Stage, One Envelope Bidding Procedure. Bid Security: The bids must accompany bid security in the form of a Bank Guarantee / Deposit at Call of 2% in the name of the undersigned from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the undersigned. Issuance of Tender Documents: From the date of publication of NT to 20 May 2026, during office hours on working days. Last Date of Submission of Bids: The tenders must be submitted no later than 20 May 2026, at 09:30 AM. Tender Opening: All tenders (technical) will be opened on the same day at the office of the undersigned at 10:30 AM. Address: House No. 26-A, Chaman Housing Scheme, Airport Road, Quetta. Phone: 881-2864749. Email: atshahidh@q.gov.pk

**Section Officer (Admin)**  
 Health Department,  
 Government of Balochistan

PRG No.491835-05-2026

**REDAMCO RAILWAY ESTATE DEVELOPMENT AND MARKETING COMPANY (PVT) LTD**  
 MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS - STATE OWNED ENTERPRISE

**PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP INVITATION OF SEALED BIDS**

RAILWAY ESTATE DEVELOPMENT & MARKETING COMPANY (Pvt) Ltd (REDAMCO), a subsidiary of the Ministry of Railways, invites Sealed Bids under a Single-Stage, Two-Envelope procedure for grant of Lease Rights for Design, Finance, Build, Operate and Transfer (DFBOT Model) at Budens Retail Complex (Front Station with Allied Facilities, By Changing Station, International/National Food Chain Outlets, Convenience Store/Mart and Pharmacy). Bidders shall submit offers against the Benchmark of One-Time Non-Refundable Commitment Fee and Annual Rent, as per the following Terms and Conditions:-

Purpose	Modern Retail Complex
Period of lease	21 years (Extendable for another term of 21 Years)
Annual increase in Rent	6% Compound
Mobilization period	12 Months from the date of Possession
Pre-Bid Meeting	12-05-2026 at 02:00 PM at REDAMCO Head Office or can be attended on Zoom
Submission of Bids	On or before 21-05-2026 at 02:00 PM at REDAMCO Head Office
Date of Technical Bid opening	21-05-2026 at 02:30 PM at REDAMCO Head Office
Date of Financial Bid opening	02-06-2026 at 02:30 PM at REDAMCO Head Office

The Commitment Fee (One-time, Non-refundable) will be payable upfront within Fifteen (15) days of issuance of Letter of Intent (LOI) along with advance First Year Annual Rent by the successful bidder

S. No.	Location	Area (Sqft)	Coordinates	Bid Security PKR (in Millions)	Benchmark Commitment Fee (Non-refundable) PKR in Millions (Exclusive of Taxes)	Benchmark for Annual Rental PKR in Millions
1.	Peshawar, Roshakai M-1 Interchange Plot C	47,078	34° 05' 50.72" N, 72° 1' 18.33" E	03	45	6.0
2.	Islamabad, G-1 Faisal, Sangani	52,708	33° 42' 04.94" N, 72° 49' 47.16" E	03	70	8.8
3.	Faisal Dadar Khan, Station Yard	31,508	32° 39' 32.05" N, 73° 23' 1.06" E	03	12	3.0
4.	Bhakkar, Station Yard	26,740	31° 38' 58.86" N, 71° 35' 6.33" E	03	16	5.0
5.	Muzaffargarh, West Bank Canal	54,400	30° 44' 31.74" N, 71° 16' 59.98" E	03	15	5.0

- List of sites & Google Imagery available on [www.redamco.com](http://www.redamco.com) and can be obtained from the address given below. The areas shall be subject to the actual measurement at the time of possession.
- Bidding process shall be conducted in accordance with PPPRA Rules 2004.
- Bids shall be submitted on REDAMCO's prescribed Bid Forms, issued by REDAMCO, along with **Rs. 20,000,- (non-refundable) processing fee for each site separately** in the shape of Bank Draft/Cash/Pay Order, in favor of Railway Estate Development and Marketing Company (Private) Limited.
- Bidders to offer their Bids on the Commitment Fee and Annual Rent against each of the site separately.
- Duly filled sealed Bid Forms (site name marked on top right corner of the sealed envelope) along with prescribed documents for each site, along with bid security in favor of Railway Estate Development & Marketing Company (Pvt) Limited should be submitted at the address given below up to 02:00 PM on 21-05-2026 and technical proposal shall be opened on the same date at 02:30 PM in the presence of bidders or their authorized representatives.
- As per clause 33 of PPPRA Rules 2004, REDAMCO reserves the right to reject all bids at any time prior to the acceptance/approval of a bid, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder(s) or any obligation to inform the affected bidder(s) of the grounds for REDAMCO's action.
- For further queries/information, please contact on the numbers mentioned below. PFD/6862/25

**MANAGER ESTATE NORTH - (CELL 0332-9087945 - 0302-5269452)**  
 RAILWAY ESTATE DEVELOPMENT & MARKETING COMPANY (PVT) LTD. (REDAMCO)  
 1<sup>st</sup> FLOOR, CORPORATE OFFICE, SERVICE ROAD (SOUTH), SECTOR 4-I/1, ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN  
 PHONE:051-9277817-20, WEBSITE: [www.redamco.com](http://www.redamco.com)

## International Monetary Fund (IMF) seeks removal of SWF powers

**NEWS DESK:** Pakistan has given a commitment to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to strip the Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF) of its legal powers to directly sell assets of state-owned enterprises (SOEs) to foreign nations and to retain revenues or take loans.

According to these assurances, Pakistan will not make the SWF operational until parliament approves new amendments to its law that withdraw all those powers and lower the fund's status to that of a holding company. However, the finance ministry again missed the extended deadline to submit these amendments to parliament by the end of March. To prevent any backpedalling by the government, the IMF has imposed a condition that the wealth fund cannot be made operational until its law is drastically revised to the global lender's satisfaction.

The Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) government had enacted the Pakistan Sovereign Wealth Fund Act in 2023 to transfer shares of seven profitable entities in the first phase and then sell them overseas to raise money. The fund remains



non-operational because of objections raised by the IMF. Those entities are Oil and Gas Development Company, Pakistan Petroleum Limited, Mari Petroleum, National Bank of Pakistan, Pakistan Development Fund, Government Holdings (Private) Limited, and Neelum/Jhelum Hydro-

power Company. The IMF objected to the governance structure and the legal mandate that allowed the sovereign fund to directly sell state assets to foreign nations without a competitive process.

As part of the understanding under the third programme review, Finance Minister

Muhammad Aurangzeb has now assured the IMF that the agreed amendments will be implemented. The IMF is set to approve two loan tranches worth \$1.2 billion this Friday.

The execution of the SWF Act and any other action aimed at preparing the SWF for its operation will only be

carried out after these amendments become law," according to the written commitments. Sources said a major amendment would change the fund's legal status, reducing it to a holding company. Under the deal, the wealth funds' role would also be narrowed to holding and managing SOEs on be-

half of the state and creating value through their operational and financial improvement. The wealth fund would attract foreign direct investment by facilitating and mobilising co-investment in strategic commercial ventures that generate financial returns in line with the SWF's investment man-

date. In a major change, the wealth fund cannot directly sell assets to local or foreign players. Instead, the privatisation or sale of assets of the seven SOEs that the fund currently holds must follow international standards and best practices, ensuring "open, competitive, transparent and non-discriminatory procedures, requiring minimum disclosure requirements for each stage of the process, including on beneficial ownership".

Likewise, the finance ministry would ensure that appropriate fiscal safeguards are in place, including requiring that all revenues from wealth fund and its sub-funds' operations be provided directly to the government. Unlike the original law, the wealth fund cannot retain any money needed for investments; any such requirement would be met by allocating funds in the budget and under the Public Financial Management Act, sources added.

There would be a complete ban on the wealth fund incurring debt or borrowing in any way. The fund cannot provide guarantees or collateral, including over

the SOE shares or assets it holds. It cannot lend to public or private entities, or to any persons, foreign or domestic. It cannot participate in public/private partnerships, cannot acquire financial assets or instruments of any kind, and cannot receive any contributions from the central bank, SOEs or any other public body, sources said.

The government would also ensure that appointments to the SWF's board and advisory committee are made through transparent, merit-based and participatory processes to safeguard professionalism and independence from undue public and private influences, including by introducing effective cooling-off periods for stronger independence.

The accountability mechanism defined under the SOEs Act would also apply to the wealth fund and its managed companies. The exemptions granted under current section 50 of the SWF Act will be withdrawn.

The government has also given fresh commitments to the IMF on the privatisation front — an area where it lags behind all its commitments.

## Gas utilities seek 21-121pc tariff hike

**NEWS DESK:** An independent consultant, hired by Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra), has proposed a nominal scale-down in the billing of unaccounted-for gas to gas consumers over the next five years, as the two gas utilities seek about 21 and 121 per cent increases in the prescribed tariffs to meet their revenue requirements for 2026-27.

Ogra has called public hearings on May 12 and 13 in Lahore and Karachi to consider petitions from the Sui Northern Gas Company Ltd (SNGPL) and Sui Southern Gas Company Ltd (SSGCL).

Ogra had earlier postponed the public hearings on April 21 and 22 on the premise that gas prices, particularly LNG prices, had become unpredictable given the ongoing crisis in the Middle East.

However, the law required the regulator to issue its determination at least 40 days before June 30, allowing the government to propose any changes to the consumer tariff. The government has also committed to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to provide timely biannual notifications of gas

rates to avoid a further build-up of circular debt, which has already exceeded Rs3 trillion. The gas tariff must be revised with effect from July 1.

On Monday, it was disclosed that independent consultant KPMG Taseer Hadi & Co has suggested scaling down the gas allowance in the gas tariff to 6.5pc for FY27, 6.3pc for FY28, 6pc for FY29, 5.8pc for FY30 and 5.5pc for FY31 for both utilities. In addition, SNGPL would be given an additional allowance of 0.5pc for FY31 for both utilities. In addition, SNGPL would be given an additional allowance of 0.5pc for FY31 for both utilities. In addition, SNGPL would be given an additional allowance of 0.5pc for FY31 for both utilities.

The consultant, hired by Ogra, also highlighted that, under the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) decision of 2016, transmission loss was to be determined and charged at actual, subject to a maximum of 0.5pc (to be shared by gas companies based on the length of the transmission line involved), while distribution loss was to be determined and charged at actual.

The decision further provided that such loss for customers located on high-pressure transmission lines, as well as for those willing to lay dedicated lines from SMS/FBS, shall also be determined and charged at actual.

This will take SNGPL's UFG to 7pc for FY27 and about 6pc for FY2031 while SSGCL's UFG allowance would be in the range of 8.2pc for FY27 and 7.3pc for FY31. At present, the system loss allowance in the prescribed gas prices stands at about 7.6pc, including a 2.6pc performance-based UFG allowance.

The actual UFG losses for SNGPL stand at 8.8pc compared to 13.6pc for SSGCL. The consultant, hired by Ogra, also highlighted that, under the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) decision of 2016, transmission loss was to be determined and charged at actual, subject to a maximum of 0.5pc (to be shared by gas companies based on the length of the transmission line involved), while distribution loss was to be determined and charged at actual.

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Oil-marketing companies (OMCs) recorded sales of 1.36m tonnes in April, mainly due to higher fuel prices amid the US-Israel war on Iran affecting the Middle East.

Total cement despatches, including local and export, increased 11.14 per cent year-on-year to 3.89 million tonnes in April. According to the All Pakistan Cement Manufacturers Association (APCMA), local cement despatches during April this year stood at 3.217m tonnes, compared to 2.677m tonnes in April 2025, showing an increase of 20.17pc.

However, exports declined by 18.22pc from 823,032 tonnes in April 2025 to 673,058 tonnes in April this year.

## April fuel sales fall on higher prices

**NEWS DESK:** Oil sales declined by seven per cent year-on-year and 6pc month-on-month to 1.36 million tonnes in April, mainly due to higher fuel prices amid the US-Israel war on Iran affecting the Middle East.

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alternative amid rising prices and constrained fuel supply. However, total FO sales in 10MFY26 declined by 11pc year-on-year to 529,000 tonnes.

Cement despatches and mobilising co-investment in strategic commercial ventures that generate financial returns in line with the SWF's investment man-

date. In a major change, the wealth fund cannot directly sell assets to local or foreign players. Instead, the privatisation or sale of assets of the seven SOEs that the fund currently holds must follow international standards and best practices, ensuring "open, competitive, transparent and non-discriminatory procedures, requiring minimum disclosure requirements for each stage of the process, including on beneficial ownership".

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## FBR shortfall puts budget targets under question

**NEWS DESK:** Every year, Pakistan's budget exercise begins the same way, ie, ambitious targets are set, confident projections are made, and shortfalls arrive quietly, long after headlines have faded.

This year, however, the shortfall has not waited for the budget to be announced. It is already here, and voices from the business community are growing louder in their demand that the upcoming Finance Bill face facts rather than sidestep them.

"Budget document should not be given a cosmetic makeover, it must reflect ground realities so that tangible results can be achieved," said Mudassar Masood Chaudhry, former executive committee member of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry, on Monday. He added that economic policies ought to be formulated on realistic and sustainable foundations.

His concern is backed by the troubling



The government has set the FBR's revenue target at Rs15.54 billion for fiscal year 2026-27, implying a growth rate of 19% over a base that is itself falling short. It realised, this will raise the tax-to-GDP ratio by approximately 1.1 percentage points. Whether that is achievable, Chaudhry suggests, is the central question budget planners must answer honestly.

Beyond the revenue arithmetic, an outlined broader set of structural

reforms, he believes are essential for sustainable growth. He called for the industrial sector to be provided with incentives and facilitation to boost exports, arguing that without competitive energy costs, Pakistani manufacturers could not compete internationally. He urged the government to carry out reforms in power and gas sectors to reduce the cost of doing business, a concern that has dominated chamber meetings across the country for years.

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## Refinery output up 10.7%, OMC sales down 7%

**NEWS DESK:** Pakistan's oil supply chain delivered a mixed but telling performance in April 2026, reflecting contrasting trends across upstream and downstream segments. While refinery operations strengthened on the back of improved product output and higher utilisation, retail fuel demand came under pressure due to elevated prices and shifting consumption patterns amid geopolitical uncertainty.

The report highlighted that capacity utilisation remained broadly stable at 58.1% in April 2026, compared with 58.0% in March, although slightly higher than 52.5% in April 2025. Among key refiners, utilisation trends were mixed, with Attock Refinery operating at 59.4%, while Pakistan Refinery posted a higher utilisation rate of 76.1%.

National Refinery operations recorded a 7% YoY increase in month-on-month decline in sales during April 2026 to 136 million tonnes, largely due to higher fuel prices caused by the US-Israel war against Iran affecting the Middle East. Export output due to shifting demand patterns.

(HSD), which increased 15.1% YoY to 502,000 tonnes, and motor spirit (MS), which rose 5.8% YoY to 235,000 tonnes. The improvement reflects stronger demand from oil marketing companies (OMCs), partly supported by expectations of higher imports amid changing global oil dynamics.

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HSD remained the dominant driver of refinery output, accounting for 50.5% of throughput, while MS and furnace oil (FO) stood at 23.6% and 19.7% respectively. FO trends showed mixed movement across refiners, with some companies reporting higher output due to shifting demand patterns.

On the OMC side, a separate report by Topline Securities noted that oil marketing companies recorded a 7% YoY increase in month-on-month decline in sales during April 2026 to 136 million tonnes, largely due to higher fuel prices caused by the US-Israel war against Iran affecting the Middle East. Export output due to shifting demand patterns.

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As highlighted in the report, company-wise, Pakistan State Oil saw a decline in volumes but retained a 43.48% market share, while Attock Petroleum posted marginal MoM growth of 5%, making it the only listed OMC to show improvement. Hascol Petroleum continued to underperform with a sharp decline in sales, whereas Wafar Energy remained relatively stable on a YoY basis.

The report also noted that the government collected Rs1.21 trillion under the petroleum development levy (PDL) during 10MFY26, achieving 82% of its annual target of Rs1.47 trillion, indicating strong fiscal flow despite weaker fuel consumption trends.

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# First step in Europe, a long road ahead for Pakistan's U-16 footballers

**NEWS DESK:** Abdul Samad, the captain of Pakistan's Under-16 football team, still remembers the moment he asked his coach to let him play as a striker. One minute later, he was celebrating a goal.

"We were 4-0 down against Kazakhstan, trying our level best to get a goal but it was just not coming," Samad told Dawn. "I asked the coach to play as a striker, and one minute later I received a cross from the right. I positioned myself and headed the ball home."

It was a bullet header, the kind that etches itself into memory. But Samad did not celebrate wildly. "I wasn't very excited considering we had already conceded four goals," he said. His coach, Mohammad Essa, was delighted. But for the 16-year-old from Swat, the moment was bittersweet.

That goal — one of only two Pakistan scored in the tournament — came in a 4-1 loss to hosts Kazakhstan. Two more defeats followed: 2-1 to Russia and 1-0 to Azerbaijan.

Pakistan finished bottom of their group. Yet for a team making its first appearance in a UEFA competition, the scoreline tells only half the story.

This was the first time a Pakistan side had ever played in a European tournament. For



the players, many of whom had grown up watching European football on screens, stepping onto the pitch in Shtymet was a kind of arrival.

"You know, this was the first time a Pakistan team participated in a European competition," Essa, a former national team captain himself, told Dawn. "The players really wanted to play nations outside of South Asia. We need to test

ourselves against strong opponents to improve our game. Playing better opponents not only improves your game but also your confidence."

The tournament was not just about results. It was about exposure, about measuring themselves against teams from completely different football cultures. And by that measure, Essa believes the mission was accomplished.

But the experience also laid bare the vast gap between what Pakistan's young footballers have and what their counterparts in other nations take for granted.

Just to play is a task. Samad, who plays for Islamabad-based Popo FC, was overwhelmed by what he saw in Kazakhstan.

"The grounds, the facilities and the level of

coaching assistance they have there is very professional," he said.

Then he contrasted it with home. "In Pakistan, just to be able to play is a task. We don't even have grounds to play in. We have the field, but different people to give us a ground to play in. That is something we are lagging far behind in."

He added: "We have a lot of self-belief. If we get facilities like

that, we can improve massively."

The facilities gap extended to the pitch itself. Pakistan received two red cards in three matches — a second yellow against Russia, and a straight red against Azerbaijan. Essa offered an interesting explanation.

"The pitches there are very levelled, soft and fast," he said. "In Pakistan, the pitches are massively different.

When you tackle here, you slide pretty slow.

So when our players tackled, they were sometimes a bit late due to a developed habit. Our players weren't used to playing on such a high-quality surface."

Despite the three losses, Pakistan was competitive. The Russia match was level at 1-1 until the red card. Against Azerbaijan, it dominated long stretches but lost to a

late counter-attack.

"The goal we conceded against Russia, their player tackled our defender from the back, which is always a foul," Essa said. "But the referee let the play continue and we conceded a goal. Even the Russian coach said that some of the referee's decisions went their way."

Samad believes the team could have won both matches.

"I felt we could have won against Russia, but the defence made a mistake which cost us the match," he said. "Against Azerbaijan, one of our main midfielders [Mohammad Essa] was suspended due to a red card in the earlier match, but we still created a lot of chances and just couldn't finish. We really felt that we were better than Azerbaijan and would emerge victorious, but unfortunately it wasn't meant to be."

Essa, meanwhile, had planned specifically for both opponents. Against Russia, he had studied their reliance on crosses and set up his defence accordingly. Against Azerbaijan, he opted for a high press to disrupt their build-up from the back.

"From what I had noted from Azerbaijan's previous matches, they build up from the back," Essa said. "So we decided to press them and were successful in it."

## Sadaf Shamas's 98, Najiha Alvi onslaught help Pakistan rout Zimbabwe

**NEWS DESK:** Sadaf Shamas' superb 98 and a late onslaught by Najiha Alvi powered Pakistan to a comprehensive 168-run victory over Zimbabwe in their first

women's One-Day International on Monday over a 50-over, high-intensity 168-run victory over Zimbabwe in their first women's One-Day International on Monday over a 50-over, high-intensity 168-run victory over Zimbabwe in their first

innings with fluent 98 of 130 balls, striking 17 fours, while Gull Feroza provided a solid start with a 60-ball 50.

The pair laid a strong foundation with a 162-run opening stand. Sidra Amin then maintained the momentum with a brisk 67 of 59 deliveries.

Facing with nine boundaries, as Pakistan kept Zimbabwe's bowlers under pressure through the middle overs.

However, it was Najiha who provided the final flourish, remaining unbeaten on a 34-ball 56, smashing eight fours and a six.

Captain Fatima Sana also chipped in with a quickfire 11 not out off just three balls as Pakistan added valuable runs at the death.

For Zimbabwe, Precious Marange was the pick of the bowlers with three wickets for 39 runs, while Kudzai Chigora and Nonvelo Sibanda claimed one wicket each.

Chasing a daunting 331, Zimbabwe never re-

covered after early setbacks. Fatima struck twice in the opening spell to leave the visitors reeling.

Beloved Bizaz offered some resistance with 53 off 53 balls, hitting eight fours, but lacked support from the other end as wickets fell at regular intervals.

Syedra Aroob Shah and Tasnia Rubab

claimed two wickets apiece, while Moina Riasat and Nashra Sandhu took one each to wrap up the innings comfortably.

Zimbabwe captain Nonvelo Sibanda's 17 was the next best contribution as the side failed to build any meaningful partnerships, eventually being dismissed well short of the target.



## FIFA faces World Cup broadcast crisis as India's Reliance offers \$20m

**NEWS DESK:** Millions of football fans in the world's two most populous nations may not be able to watch the World Cup that starts next month, due to a deadlock over broadcast rights in India and no official decision in China.

In India, a Reliance-Disney joint venture has offered \$20 million for 2026 World Cup broadcast rights, a fraction of FIFA's ask, which was not acceptable to football's global governing body, two sources told Reuters on Monday.

Sony held talks but also decided not to maintain confidentiality at this stage, the statement said.

Reliance-Disney, a joint venture led by billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance, did not respond to requests for comment, and neither did Sony.

The lack of a confirmed broadcast agreement with India or China is unusual at this stage. In past World Cups, including 2018 and 2022, Chinese state broadcaster CCTV secured the rights well in advance and began airing promotional content and sponsor-driven advertise-



ments weeks before the start of the tournament.

CCTV, which has extensive reach across television and digital platforms, did not immediately return a request for comment.

China accounted for 17.7pc and India 2.9pc of the global reach of the 2022 tournament. The two countries together accounted for 22.6pc of total global digital streaming reach for that World Cup. The 2026 tournament kicks off on June 11, leaving barely five weeks for a deal to be finalised, broadcast infrastructure to be set up

and advertising inventory to be sold.

For India, FIFA initially sought \$100 million for broadcast rights for the 2026 and 2030 World Cups, the sources said, declining to be named because the talks are private. When the World Cup last aired in India in 2022, Reliance's then-standalone media arm secured the rights for about \$60 million, which was announced around 14 months before the event in Qatar. "FIFA is looking for a similar amount for this edition of the tournament," a FIFA source told Reuters.

## Gladbach sink Dortmund, St Pauli edge closer to drop

**NEWS DESK:** Borussia Moenchengladbach ensured they will remain in Germany's top flight next season when Hans Tabakovic scored with who was almost a novice at this level when he

needed the 1-0 win at home to be mathematically safe. Dortmund, who secured a Champions League qualification last week at the other end of the table, were toothless in attack against a Gladbach side who needed the 1-0 win at home to be mathematically safe.

In the dying moments, Tabakovic broke through and finished past Dortmund goalie Gregor Kobel.

Despite a third defeat in four games, Dortmund need just two points to take second spot behind champions Bayern Munich for the fifth time in the past eight seasons.

"It wasn't good," Dortmund coach Niko Kovac said to DAZN. "Gladbach were sharp, they had bite -- they played like they had a lot at stake, and it looked like we did not."

The defeat was justified," Nico Elvedi had a strike ruled out by the hosts midway through the opening half for offside.

Tabakovic, Gladbach's most dangerous attacker, then forced Kobel into a close-range save and fired just off target early in the second period.

With two minutes remaining, Tabakovic put the hosts ahead. His goal, ruled offside by the linesman but reinstated after a VAR check, gave

Gladbach their first win over Dortmund since November 2022.

Earlier on Sunday, goals from Phillip Tietz and Philipp Mwene took Mainz to a 2-1 win at St Pauli, securing their top-flight status next season while pushing the hosts closer to relegation.

Wolfsburg's 1-1 draw at Freiburg took them above St Pauli into the relegation play-off spot, while ensuring that both Hamburg and Union Berlin are also mathematically safe from relegation.



## Inter Milan win Italian title

**NEWS DESK:** Inter Milan won their third Serie A title in six seasons on Sunday thanks to a 2-0 victory over Parma that ignited the celebrations at a jubilant San Siro and across the city.

Marcus Thuram's side-footed finish just before half-time set Inter on their way before Henrik Mkhitaryan's second-half goal put the Scudetto beyond doubt.

With three matches left, Inter have a 12-point lead over reigning champions Napoli and 15 more points than third-placed AC Milan.

The San Siro was a sea of blue and black and thousands of fans also gathered in front of Milan's Duomo cathedral to celebrate their team's 21st Italian title.

Inter have successfully overcome the traumatic end to last season during the calm guidance of coach Cristian Chivu, who was almost a novice at this level when he took over last summer.



Less than a year after losing the 2025 title race by a point and collapsing to a 5-0 humilia-

tion by Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League final, Inter are back at the top.

"Today, we are all happy, but we must not forget all the work accomplished, because it was very difficult to start again after the end of last season when we were relegated," Inter captain Lautaro Martinez said.

Inter can complete the third league and cup double in their history if they beat Lazio in the Coppa Italia final on May 13 at the Olympic Stadium in Rome. Juventus missed a chance to exploit AC Milan's earlier slip and

take third place in Serie A as they drew 1-1 at home with relegated Verona.

The Turin giants did, however, climb three points clear of Como in the chase for the fourth Champions League qualifying spot.

AC Milan had relinquished their last, slim, hope of catching Inter at the top as they subsided 2-0 at mid-table Sassuolo.

Milan endured a nightmare afternoon in Reggio Emilia, crashing a fourth defeat in their last seven matches.



# Prominent cleric Muhammad Idrees gunned down in KP's Charsadda

**NEWS DESK:**Renowned cleric and former Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) MPA Maulana Muhammad Idrees was killed on Tuesday after unidentified assailants opened fire on him, police said.

Police Personal Relations Officer Saifullah told Dawn that Idrees left for Darul Uloom Nounama from his home in Tarangzai. He said that shortly before he arrived at his destination, armed assailants fired at the vehicle in the Tariqabad Utmanzai area.

He said that two officials were also injured in the incident, adding that police had obtained CCTV footage of the incident.

The cleric's body was subsequently shifted to the District Headquarter Hospital.

The deceased's father-in-law, Maulana Hassan Jan, who had defeated Awami National Party (ANP) leader Abdul Wali Khan in his native Charsadda constituency, was also gunned down by the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) for opposing armed struggle.



Charsadda's Tarangzai area. He was also the JUI-F district ameer and was considered one of Maulana Fazlur Rehman's trusted advisers.

Meanwhile, KP Inspector General Zulfikar Hameed took notice of the incident. According to a post on X by KP police, the IG sought a report from the Mardan

regional police officer. He also told the official to take the necessary steps to arrest those responsible for the incident. IG Hameed also expressed his condolences to the bereaved family and expressed his resolve to arrest those responsible soon.

President Asif Ali Zardari expressed sorrow at the attack and offered condolences to the family of the deceased cleric, state broadcaster PTV reported.

"Such cowardly acts cannot demoralise the nation," the president was quoted as saying. He stressed that the country's resolve to eradicate terrorism remained "strong and unwavering".

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, in a statement, also expressed deep grief over the cleric's killing and extended his condolences to the bereaved family, state-run APP reported.

Praying for the elevation of the deceased's ranks and for patience for his family, the premier wished the injured policemen a speedy recovery.

KP Chief Minister Sohail Afridi took notice of the incident and strongly condemned it. According to an official statement, he also sought a report from the police.

"The martyrdom of Maulana Muhammad Idrees is regrettable. We stand with the family members in this hour of difficulty," he said. He also directed to provide the best possible medical treatment to the police officials injured in the incident.

KP Governor Faisal Karim Kundi also expressed sorrow at the incident and sought a peace in the country.

report from the authorities concerned. According to a statement issued by his office, he termed the Maulana's death an "irreparable loss" for the country.

JUI-F Secretary General MNA Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri also expressed grief over Maulana Idrees's demise, terming it a "national tragedy", a statement issued by the party said.

Haideri was quoted as saying that the void left by his death "will not be filled for a long time".

The JUI-F secretary general said targeting clerics was a "conspiracy to spread unrest in the country".

He acknowledged Maulana Idrees's "valuable services for the religion and the country", and demanded that the government should "immediately" arrest the cleric's killers.

Haideri said ensuring clerics' security was state's responsibility and that such incidents were not to be tolerated. "If effective measures are not taken against terrorism, the situation will worsen," he warned, stressing the need for "concrete steps" for peace in the country.

## Hot weather to persist in Karachi but temperature to stay below 40°C

**NEWS DESK:**The Pakistan Meteorological Department has predicted the temperature in Karachi Division to remain hot but below 40°C.

According to the PMD's weather forecast till Thursday, "hot and humid" weather is expected to persist on Tuesday, with the maximum temperature forecasted to be between 37-39°C.

Similar conditions will persist on May 6 (Wednesday) and May 7 (Thursday), PMD said in its advisory, when the maximum temperature will be between 36-38°C and 35-37°C, respectively.

As per the forecast, "hot/very hot and dry weather" was likely to prevail over most parts of Sindh.

Meanwhile, K-Electric's Head of Distribution Operations,

Khuram Abdullah, said on Tuesday that there will be no loadshedding in "any areas where the 'feels-like' temperature reaches 45°C".

Addressing a live session from the utility's Facebook account, he added, "maintenance shutdowns have been suspended due to the heatwaves".

He further stated that illegal connections (kumdas) caused overloading, leading to localised faults and accidents.

"Cooperation from residents is essential to resolve local faults," he said.

A day earlier, the metropolis witnessed its highest temperature since 2018 at 44.1°C accompanied by gusts of continental winds that persisted throughout the day, claiming the lives of at least 10

people. Despite the record temperature in eight years, it was notable that the "feels-like" temperature did not exceed 40°C due to relatively low humidity.

A PMD official said the maximum temperature recorded in the city on Monday was 44.1°C with 17pc humidity.

Based on current trends and data, he said, the temperature was expected to start declining from Tuesday (today) as dry winds subsided, and would gradually drop further over the week.

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Tuesday also issued sweeping emergency protocols and placed hospitals on alert as extreme, above-normal summer temperatures persisted throughout the country.

## Imran family irked at PTI leadership

**NEWS DESK:** Frustration within the family of jailed PTI leader Imran Khan has resurfaced, with his sisters openly expressing dissatisfaction over the party leadership's response as they call for renewed pressure on the government to ensure medical treatment and family access.

In a fresh push, the family has urged PTI lawmakers and senior leaders to assemble outside Adiala Jail on Tuesday (today), seeking to compel authorities to allow access and provide proper medical care for the former prime minister.

Aleema Khanum, one of Imran's sisters, on Monday called on PTI MNAs, MPs, senators and senior leaders to gather at the jail. In a post on X, she said the move was aimed at forcing authorities to allow access and ensure proper medical care for her brother.

She said the family was demanding immediate access for lawyers and relatives, transfer of Imran

Khan to Shifa International Hospital for specialist treatment in the presence of his personal doctor and family, and urgent hearing of bail applications of Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi.

She also alleged that both Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi were being held in solitary confinement, describing it as unlawful and in violation of human rights standards.

The development comes as another sister, Noreen Khan, expressed clear disappointment over PTI lawmakers for failing to exert sufficient pressure from within parliament. Speaking to The Express Tribune, she said: "Those who are in assemblies came through Imran Khan's votes."

It is their responsibility to raise their voice for him. We cannot do what they can from within parliament."

However, Noreen Khan clarified that there are no differences with political allies, including

Tehreek-e-Tahaffuz-e-Pakistan (TTAP). "We are not involved in political matters. Our only demand is access to Imran Khan and that his party and allies continue to raise their voice for his medical treatment," she said.

Responding to a question regarding a recent meeting between Imran Khan's sisters and TTAP leaders, Mehmood Khan Achakzai and Allama Raja Nasir Abbas, she described it as an informal tea

gathering with no political agenda. TTAP spokesperson Akhunnazda Hussain Yusufzai said Noreen and Uzma Khan conveyed disappointment over PTI's role during a meeting with the family on Sunday. Importantly, Yusufzai revealed that back-channel contacts with the government have been re-established at a "hard line" level after a considerable gap. He, however, declined to provide further details.

On Aleema Khanam's call for a gathering outside Adiala Jail, Yusufzai said a large turnout of PTI leaders would increase pressure on the government, which he described as necessary in the current situation.

The Express Tribune reached out to PTI Secretary Information Sheikh Waqas Akram, PTI K-P President Junaid Akbar and Chairman PTI Barrister Gohar Ali Khan for their response to Aleema Khanam's call, but none responded till the filing of this report.

## CM Afridi announces pen-down strike on May 6 over Centre's 'discrimination' against KP

**NEWS DESK:** Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi on Tuesday announced a province-wide pen-down strike tomorrow (May 6) over the federal government's alleged "discrimination" against KP.

In a statement, CM Afridi contended that the Centre was discriminating against KP because the province has a government led by former premier Imran Khan's PTI.

"The federal government is deliberately discriminating against the province in the NFC (National Finance Commission) Award, electricity and gas," the chief minister claimed.

Since becoming the provincial chief executive in October 2025, Afridi has repeatedly accused the federal government of stalling the release of funds allocated for KP, particularly those com-



mitted for the merged districts under the NFC Award. In his announcement, the CM said that emergency services would be exempt from the pen-down strike. He urged all lawyers "who uphold the Constitution and the law" to participate in the strike. He also lamented that Imran and his wife Bushra Bibi were not

being allowed to be treated by their personal doctors.

"Not allowing Imran Khan to meet his family and lawyers is inhuman and illegal," Afridi asserted.

In January, CM Afridi had written a letter to PM Shehbaz over what he dubbed the Centre's "persistent failure" to release "constitutionally guaranteed"

walked out of the NFC subgroup meeting on merged areas after the other three provinces refused to include the region's population in the new resource distribution formula, which could have increased KP's share from the existing 14.62 per cent to 18.96pc.

KP also requested the federal government to revise the NFC resource distribution formula.

Subsequently, on March 31, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb assured his

"full support" to Afridi for the "resolution of all legitimate issues" as the two met in Islamabad.

Late last month, supporting the KP government's stance on the issue, the Qaumi Watan Party (QWP) urged the Centre to give the province,

including the merged districts, its due share under the NFC Award.



## PM Shehbaz condemns drone attack on UAE's 'civilian infrastructure'

**NEWS DESK:**Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has condemned the "missile and drone attacks on civilian infrastructure" in the United Arab Emirates in an X post on Tuesday.

"Pakistan stands firmly with our Emirati brothers and sisters as well as with the Government of the United Arab Emirates at this difficult time," he wrote on X. He followed up the message by saying that the ceasefire needed to be

upheld and respected to "allow necessary diplomatic space for dialogue leading to enduring peace and stability in the region."

Authorities in the United Arab Emirates' Fujairah said on Monday that a fire broke out at the Fujairah Oil Industry Zone following what they described as a drone attack originating from Iran. Civil defence teams were deployed immediately to contain the blaze, Fujairah Media Office

said in a statement. The UAE defence ministry said in a post on X, "The UAE has intercepted three missiles fired from Iran over its territorial waters, with a fourth missile crashing into the sea".

The statement added that, "The Ministry of Defence affirmed that the sounds heard in different parts of the country are a result of air defence systems engaging threats". "The ministry urged the public to obtain information from official sources and comply with all public safety procedures when warning messages are issued to the public," it said. "There was no immediate comment from Iran. However,

Iranian state media citing a senior military official, said that Iran had no plan to target the UAE.

