



**BALUCHISTAN**  
Qila Saifullah  
Administration Reviews...  
Page No 5



**INTERNATIONAL**  
5 dead, including 2 teen suspects,  
after shooting at San Diego's...  
Page No 3



**NATIONAL**  
CTD official killed by  
unidentified assailants...  
Page No 8

**SPORT**

CA chief  
downplays  
fears  
Indian  
investment  
in Big Bash  
League  
could...



Page No 7

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# QUETTA VOICE

## PM Announces New Security Corridor to Protect Minerals, Empower Balochistan Youth

Syed Ali Shah, Ali Hamza,  
News Desk:

**QUETTA:** In a high-level move to safeguard economic assets and restore investor confidence, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed the immediate deployment of the Frontier Corps (FC) to Balochistan's Rakhshan division, establishing a dedicated "security corridor" to protect the province's vast mineral wealth.

The decision was finalized during a meeting of the National Action Plan's (NAP) Provincial Apex Committee in Quetta.

The session was attended by high-ranking civil and military leadership, including Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff, and Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti.

The newly approved security corridor will feature additional FC wings, highway security checkpoints, an advanced surveillance grid, and reinforced border posts.

"Pakistan is blessed with immense natural resources, particularly minerals," Prime Minister Sharif stated during the meeting.

"Providing a secure environment in Balochistan is absolutely vital to maintaining the confidence of local and international companies working on these mega projects."

The Prime Minister lauded the Pakistan Army and the Chief of Defence Forces for their relentless counter-terrorism efforts across the country.

He also commended Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti for his governance initiatives, particularly for enforcing strict meritocracy and transparency in district administration ap-



pointments. Addressing long-term stability, PM Sharif emphasized that modern technology and superior training for the police and law enforcement agencies remain critical to permanently eradicating terrorism.

### A Focus on Youth and Infrastructure

Beyond security, the Apex Committee focused heavily on socio-economic development. The Prime Minister de-

tailed a comprehensive federal strategy aimed at integrating Balochistan's youth into the national mainstream.

The federal government's initiatives include expanding higher education opportunities, vocational and technical training, digital skills programs, scholarships, and sports initiatives.

"We are committed to providing our youth with a seat at the decision-making table and ensuring they have equal growth opportunities through

aggressive development in infrastructure, health, education, and connectivity," Sharif said.

### Key Progress Indicators Shared in Briefing

The committee was briefed on several landmark achievements and ongoing developments in the province:

Zero Polio Cases: No new polio cases have been reported in Balochistan since November 2024. Healthcare Boom:

Major health facilities, including a Cancer Institute, Dialysis Center, and Trauma Center, are now fully operational, with more projects underway. Education Revival: Currently, 99% of schools in Balochistan are active and functional.

### Solar Energy Savings:

A massive solar energy initiative has powered over 15,000 homes, resulting in re-

ported savings of approximately PKR 105 billion.

Economic Modernization: Progress is underway on digitization and transitioning toward a cashless economy.

The apex huddle was also attended by federal ministers Khawaja Asif, Ahsan Iqbal, Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi, Attaulah Tarar, Khalid Margi, Jam Kamal Khan, Advisor to the PM Rana Sanaulah, and senior civil and military officials.

## Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Arrives in Quetta on One-Day Visit



### Qaseem Shah:

**QUETTA:** May 19, 2026: Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, has arrived in Quetta

on a one-day official visit. Upon his arrival, the Prime Minister was received by Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhtail, Chief Secretary Balochistan

Shakeel Qadir Khan, and Inspector General of Police Balochistan Tahir Khan.

During the visit, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is also expected to chair a high-level meeting to review the law and

order situation in the province. He will receive briefings on ongoing development projects and discuss key issues related to governance, security, and public welfare in Balochistan.

## KP CMAfridi, Imran Khan's sisters stopped from meeting former premier at Adiala Jail

### NEWS DESK:

Capital police on Tuesday stopped Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi from reaching Adiala jail in Rawalpindi to meet incarcerated PTI founder Imran Khan. Imran — imprisoned since Aug 5, 2023, for concealing details of Toshakhana gifts — is serving a 14-year sentence at Rawalpindi's Adiala jail in a \$190 million corruption case, also known as the Al-Qadir Trust case.

The Islamabad High Court (IHC) allowed the ex-premier to meet visitors for several months. Afridi set off for the Rawalpindi jail earlier today. He was accompanied by Imran's sisters and a number of PTI workers and leaders.

However, police stopped the delegation at Islamabad's Chungi No. 26 from proceeding towards Adiala Jail, despite heated arguments. Meanwhile, a number of PTI leaders, including Salman Akram Raja, Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, and Bushra Bibi's daughters, reached Adiala Jail but were not allowed to meet the PTI founder. It is worth noting that the cut-off time for visiting Imran Khan was 4pm.

Meanwhile, according to media reports, a medical team has reached Adiala jail in order to conduct a medical checkup of the PTI founder, whose health during im-

prisonment has been the subject of concern and alarm.

Imran underwent a medical procedure at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (Pims) in Islamabad on the night of January 24 — a development confirmed days later amid an apparent lack of knowledge by the family. He has since been undergoing follow-up treatments at Pims.

The attempted visit follows a suggestion made by Imran Khan's sister Aleema Khan a few weeks ago that the KP chief minister visit Adiala Jail.

Aleema herself has regularly been visiting Adiala Jail in attempts to meet the PTI leader but has been denied access. Since her suggestion, Afridi has also begun visiting the jail. The chief minister being stopped midway resulted in severe traffic congestion, affecting a large number of commuters. Those en route to the airport were the worst affected and resorted to driving on the wrong side of the road to reach their destination. Speaking to reporters regarding the obstacles in meeting Imran Khan, Afridi said that stopping the chief executive and the entire cabinet of a province on their way to a peaceful meeting with him amounted to discrimination against the province.

He also highlighted the disrespect shown to Imran Khan's sisters on multiple occasions during their previous visits to the jail, including the use of water cannons, but stressed that the party's actions had remained peaceful despite the hostility.

## QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

## Call for Immediate Launch and Expansion of Pink Bus Service in Quetta



### Editorial:

The Balochistan government's recent approval of the Pink Bus Service in Quetta is a landmark step toward providing women with safe, reliable, and dignified public transportation.

Launched by Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti and executed by Dr. Faisal Ahmed Khan, Chief of Public-Private Partnership, this initiative marks a first in Balochistan and follows the successful model implemented in Sindh.

To effectively address the transportation challenges women face, the government should ex-

pand this service to include at least a dozen pink buses.

A more extensive fleet would significantly enhance women's mobility, providing not only a safe travel option but also empowering access to education, employment, and healthcare facilities.

Female commuters often encounter issues like overcrowding, harassment, and long wait times. A larger pink bus fleet would offer them timely, comfortable, and safe transportation, reducing the daily struggles they face on public transport. Such an expansion aligns with the

government's agenda for social inclusion and gender-focused urban development, creating

a supportive environment where women can travel freely.

The Pink Bus Service represents more than just transportation; it's an investment in women's empowerment and independence. By increasing the fleet, Balochistan can set a strong precedent for gender-responsive policies that promote equal access to public spaces.

Expanding this service in Quetta can serve as a model for other cities, creating a safer, more inclusive society for women across the province.

Let's call on the Balochistan government to enhance this project by committing to a dozen buses, meeting the demand for decent and secure transportation for women in Quetta.

## Malnutrition in Balochistan

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

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

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

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



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

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

Balochistan Nutrition Program for Mother and Children (BNPMC)

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

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

(41%) was allocated to strengthen institutional arrangements which include staffing, technical assistance for capacity building, strengthening coordination mechanisms, addressing malnutrition among children and PLW (37%), and addressing micronutrient malnutrition (13%).

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

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

The author is a program officer in PPHI

## THE DILEMMA OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) WEAPONS

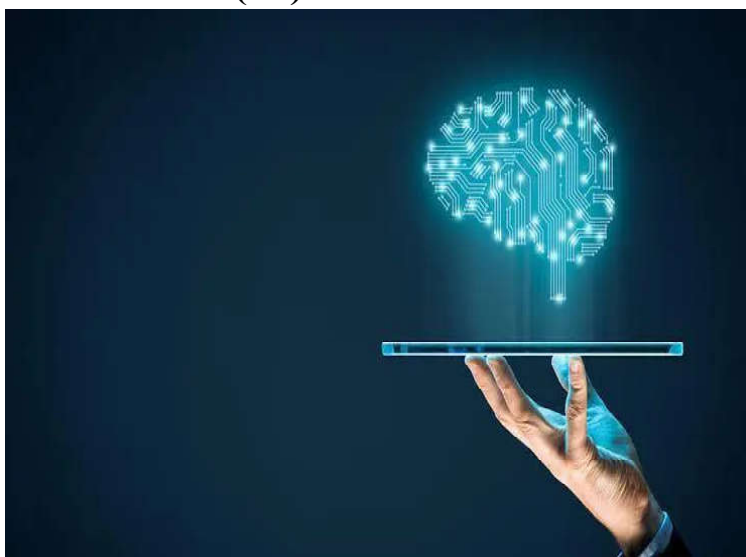
Masoor ul Hassan The danger associated with autonomous and semi-autonomous weapons systems is unacceptable. There exist a near consensus that such weapons must not be completely AI-controlled.

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

### The Genesis of warfare

The history of warfare is as old as the human race. The Book of Genesis states that Cain killed Abel to satiate his vengeance. Ever since vengeance, confrontation and bellicosity have

remained more pervasive than cooperation and amiability in human relations. The perception of life as a zero-sum game breeds selfishness and consequent animosity between in-



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

### War, being one of the forms of human relations,

received due attention. However, what distinguishes Homo

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

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

today took centuries over centuries to materialize.

### The use of electromagnetic spectrum was considered a game-changer

The use of electromagnetic spectrum was considered a game-changer before Counter Measures (ECM) were devel-

oped which then was countered by Electronic Counter Measures (ECM).

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

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

### Exercising restraint was never so important

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

nuclear. The Perils and Promises of Artificial Intelligence

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

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

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

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

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

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

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# 10 countries, including Pakistan, condemn Israel's interception of Gaza aid flotilla

**NEWS DESK:** Pakistan and nine other countries on Tuesday issued a joint statement condemning Israel's interception of the Global Sumud Flotilla.

The joint statement by the foreign ministers of Pakistan, Turkey, Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, Indonesia, Jordan, Libya, Maldives and Spain was shared by the Foreign Office on the social media platform X.

It said that the ministers "condemn in the strongest terms the renewed Israeli assaults against the Global Sumud Flotilla, a peaceful civilian humanitarian initiative aimed at drawing international attention to the catastrophic humanitarian suffering of the Palestinian people".

"The ministers recall with grave concern the Israeli interventions against previous flotillas in international waters and condemn the continuation of hostile acts targeting civilian vessels and humanitarian activists," it said.

"Such assaults, including attacks against the vessels and the arbitrary detention of activists, constitute blatant violations of international law and international humanitarian law," the statement added.

"The ministers express serious concern



regarding the safety and security of the civilian participants of the flotilla and call for the immediate release of all detained activists, as well as for full respect for their rights and dignity," it said.

"They also stressed that repeated attacks

against peaceful humanitarian initiatives reflected the "continued disregard for international law and freedom of navigation".

"They call on the international community to assume its legal and moral responsibilities, ensure the protection of

civilians and humanitarian missions, and take concrete steps to end impunity and ensure accountability for these violations," the statement concluded.

Saad Edhi, the son of prominent social worker Faisal Edhi and the grandson of late phi-

lanthropist Abdul Sattar Edhi, was detained by Israeli forces on Monday along with other members of the Global Sumud Flotilla, after its boats were intercepted in the eastern Mediterranean.

Indonesian newspaper Republika said nine Indonesians were

part of the detained group, including two of its journalists.

Fifteen Irish citizens were on the flotilla, including Margaret Connolly, sister of President Catherine Connolly, organisers said.

Earlier on Monday, Israel's foreign ministry

had said on X that it "will not allow any breach of the lawful naval blockade on Gaza".

Ships from the Global Sumud Flotilla had set sail for a third time on Thursday from southern Turkey, after earlier attempts to deliver aid to Gaza were in-

tercepted by Israel in international waters.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had condemned the latest attempt to deliver aid to Gaza by sea.

He told the commander of the interception force, "Believe you are doing an extraordinary job... thwarting a malicious scheme designed to break the blockade".

"We have imposed on Hamas terrorists in Gaza," according to a statement from his office.

"You are carrying this out with outstanding success... and certainly with far less fanfare than our enemies had anticipated," Netanyahu said.

Israel controls all entry points into Gaza, which has been under an Israeli blockade since 2007.

During the Gaza conflict, the territory has suffered severe shortages of food, medicine and other essential supplies, with Israel at times halting aid deliveries entirely.

A previous flotilla attempt was intercepted last month in international waters off Greece, with most activists expelled to Europe.

Mushtaq Ahmed was among the activists detained by Israel.

## Bolivia riot police clash with anti-govt protests

**NEWS DESK:** Bolivian riot police on Monday clashed with throngs of demonstrators demanding the resignation of embattled President Rodrigo Paz, AFP observed.

The center-right leader took office less than six months ago following two decades of socialist rule, promising to end the South American country's worst economic crisis in four decades.

He scrapped two-

decade-old fuel subsidies that had drained the treasury's international dollar reserves, but so far he has failed to stabilize fuel supplies.

Thousands of farmers, miners, teachers, workers from other sectors and Indigenous communities have led weeks-long protests that have blocked routes into La Paz and caused supplies to run low and the majority of shops in the capital to shutter.

The demonstrators

are calling for wage increases, economic stability and an end to the privatization of state-owned companies.

The country's largest trade union, the Bolivian Workers' Center (COB), has also joined calls for Paz to step down.

"We want him to resign because he's incompetent.

Bolivia is going through a moment of chaos," 60-year-old farmer Ivan Alarcon,

who traveled around 90 kilometres (55 miles) from Caquiaviri in western Bolivia to protest, told AFP.

Riot police used tear gas to prevent protesting miners from entering the main square, where government buildings are located, while the demonstrators hurled explosives and stones back at them.

Supporters of former socialist president Evo Morales, who was in power from 2006 to 2019, arrived in La Paz on Monday after marching for seven days from Oruro, about 180 kilometres south of the capital.

After clashing with protesters Saturday, police and military forces managed to temporarily open some roads into La Paz as the city suffered severe shortages of food, medicine and fuel.

One protester died in those skirmishes after falling into a ditch, deputy interior minister Hernan Paredes said Monday.

Protesters regained their positions on Saturday and resumed their blockades on Monday.



## 5 dead, including 2 teen suspects, after shooting at San Diego's largest mosque

**NEWS DESK:** Two teenage gunmen opened fire on Monday at the Islamic Centre of San Diego, California, killing a security guard and two other men outside the mosque before the suspects were found dead, apparently from self-inflicted gunshot wounds, police said.

San Diego Police Chief Scott Wahl said local law enforcement and the FBI were investigating the attack on the largest mosque in San Diego County as a hate crime.

However, no precise motive or precipitating incident for the gun violence has been publicly suggested by authorities.

All of the children attending a day school at the mosque complex were accounted for and safe after the shooting, which erupted at about 11:40am PDT (18:40 GMT), officials said.

At an evening news conference, Wahl disclosed that the mother of one of the two suspects had called police about two hours before the shooting to report that her son, whom she described as suicidal, had run away from home,

taking three guns she owned and her vehicle.

Two teens dressed in camouflage. According to the chief, the mother said her son was with a companion and the two were dressed in camouflage.

Police initiated efforts to track down the youths and were dispatching patrols to a nearby shopping mall and the son's high school as a precaution when calls came in reporting the mosque shooting.

The chief declined to disclose the contents of a note he said was

found by the runaway's mother.

Prior to the shooting, police were not made aware of any "specific threat" to the mosque or any religious centre, school, shopping area, or any other place, Wahl said.

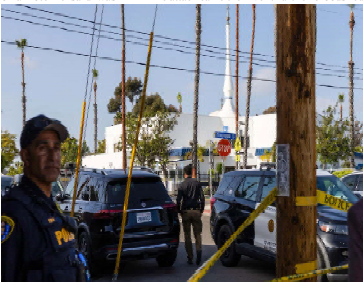
Police instead were confronting a case of "generalised hate rhetoric and hate speech," which together with reports of a runaway teenager with multiple weapons wearing camouflage "triggered a much bigger threat assessment".

The attack came the

week before Eidul Azha and the Hajj pilgrimage.

"We have never experienced a tragedy like this before," Taha Hassane, the imam and director of the Islamic Centre, told reporters. "It is extremely outrageous to target a place of worship."

Scores of law enforcement officers called to the scene encountered the bodies of the three men affiliated with the mosque shot dead. Officials credited the slain security guard as likely having helped prevent further bloodshed.



## Trump puts off 'planned Iran strikes' at Gulf request

**NEWS DESK:** US President Donald Trump said on Monday he halted a planned military strike on Iran after urgent appeals from Gulf Arab leaders, while warning that Washington remains prepared for a "large-scale assault" if diplomatic efforts fail.

In a post on his social media platform Truth Social, Trump said he had been contacted by senior regional leaders seeking time for negotiations aimed at securing a nuclear agreement with Tehran. He said the leaders were optimistic about a deal.

Trump said that he was asked by Emir of Qatar Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and United Arab Emirates President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to hold off on their planned military attack, which was scheduled for tomorrow," Trump said.

"Serious negotiations are now taking place, and that, in their opinion, as Great Leaders and Allies, a Deal will be made, which will be very acceptable to the



United States of America, as well as all Countries in the Middle East, and beyond," he added.

The president said that this deal will include no nuclear weapons for Iran. "Based on my respect for the above-mentioned leaders, I have instructed Secretary of War, Pete Hegseth, The Chairman of The Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Daniel Caine, and The United States Military, that we will NOT be doing the scheduled attack of Iran tomorrow," he

announced. "But have further instructed them to be prepared to go forward with a full, large-scale assault of Iran, on a moment's notice, in the event that an acceptable Deal is not reached. Thank you for your attention to this matter!"

"The announcement came amid already heightened tensions in the Gulf region, where diplomatic efforts to de-escalate the Iran-US standoff have shown limited progress in recent days, as differences over Iran's nuclear programme and

sanctions relief. Against this backdrop of uncertainty, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi returned home on Monday after a three-day visit to Tehran, where he held high-level meetings with Iranian leadership, including President Masoud Pezeshkian, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf.

Naqvi was originally scheduled to return on Sunday but extended his stay for further consultations.

## Tehran moves to tighten Hormuz chokehold

**NEWS DESK:** Iran's Revolutionary Guards (IRGC) said on Monday that fibre-optic internet cables passing through the Strait of Hormuz could be brought under a permit system, as Tehran announced the formation of a new body to manage the key waterway.

The Strait, through which about 20% of global oil supplies pass, is currently a flashpoint amid tensions between Iran and the United States linked to the wider regional conflict. A tenuous ceasefire announced on April 8 still holds, but the broader peace process remains stalled.

Following the imposition of control over the Strait of Hormuz, Iran, citing its absolute sovereignty over the bed and subsoil of its territorial sea, could declare that all fibre-optic cables passing through the waterway are subject to permits," the IRGC said in a social media post.

Simultaneously on



Monday, Iran's Supreme National Security Council announced on its official X account the formation of the Persian Gulf Strait Authority (PGSA), saying it would provide "real-time updates" on operations and developments in the Strait.

The PGSA later said in another post that it was "the legal and official representative authority of the Islamic

Republic of Iran responsible for managing transit through the Strait of Hormuz." It added that "navigation within the designated jurisdictional area of the Strait of Hormuz" would require "full coordination" with the authority, and that passage without authorisation would be considered illegal.

Earlier, Iranian English-language broadcaster Press TV had said

the arrangement constituted a "system to exercise sovereignty over the Strait of Hormuz" and that ships passing through the strait would be sent instructions by email.

According to data from Kpler, traffic through the strait was slightly higher between May 11 and 17, returning to average levels recorded since the start of the Middle East conflict.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) calls for enhanced field operations against dengue threat

SAHIWAL (INP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Sahiwal, Captain (Retd.) Samiullah Farooq on Monday directed all relevant departments to further enhance field activities for dengue prevention and ensure strict implementation of anti-dengue SOPs to effectively combat emerging situation in a timely manner.

The meeting was chaired by a review meeting at Montgomery Hall regarding the ongoing anti-dengue campaign across the district. Dr. Muhammad Tahir Chaudhry and other concerned officials were informed that 25 confirmed dengue patients were currently reported across the province.

The meeting was further informed that dedicated beds for dengue patients had been allocated at Sahiwal Teaching Hospital, DHQ Hospital, THQ hospitals and Rural Health Centers to deal with any possible situation.

Deputy Commissioner Samiullah Farooq said that although the current weather conditions remained satisfactory, the risk of dengue could increase by early August. He directed authorities to further accelerate surveillance, sanitation and public awareness activities to keep the district dengue-free.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, Shaifqat Ali Khan, called on Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, on the sidelines of the Regional Envoys' Conference.

New twist in £190m case as PTI Founder's lawyers object to court order

ISLAMABAD (INP): A significant development has emerged in the 190 million pounds case at the Islamabad High Court, where counsel for former prime minister Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi has objected to the court's order granting a final deadline for arguments on appeals.

The petitions requested the court to order jail authorities to allow meetings with Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi and to ensure that signatures on vakalatnamas are obtained for filing appeals in the Supreme Court. It was further stated in the petitions that no adjournment request had been made between March 19, 2025 and April 30, 2026, and that the first adjournment request was made on May 7 on genuine grounds.

The plea argued that both petitioners were affected by the April 30 court decision and are entitled to file appeals against it. It was also stated that jail authorities were not allowing meetings for instructions, nor facilitating signatures required for legal appeals. The court has been requested to direct prison authorities to arrange meetings and complete all formalities related to legal documentation.

PIEAS concludes its Open House and Career Fair 2026.

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Institute of Engineering and Applied Sciences (PIEAS), under the auspices of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC), successfully concluded its Open House and Career Fair 2026.

The event brought together students, academia, industry leaders, national and international companies, and media representatives on a vibrant platform dedicated to promoting innovation, research, and professional development. During the event, final-year students from various engineering and scientific disciplines presented more than 120 innovative projects.

The ceremony commenced with the recitation of the Holy Quran followed by the national anthem. In her welcome address, Rector, PIEAS, Dr. Anila Usman, described the capabilities of young engineers and scientists as a guarantee for Pakistan's bright future. She emphasized that the PIEAS Open House and Career Fair 2026 perfectly reflected the talent, hard work, and innovative thinking of the students.

Pakistan's Panda Bond debut signals investor confidence in economic recovery

BEIJING (INP): Pakistan has tapped China's onshore bond market for the first time, raising Rmb1.75bn in a closely watched panda bond that gives Islamabad a cheaper source of funding and offers Beijing a fresh test case for the international use of the renminbi. The three-year bond, priced on May 14 and announced the following day, carries a coupon of 2.5 per cent and was more than five times subscribed, according to people involved in the transaction.

The deal, equivalent to roughly \$250m-\$258m, marks Pakistan's debut in China's domestic renminbi bond market, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Monday. For Pakistan, the appeal is straightforward. The country has long relied on dollar funding, Eurobonds and sukuk to meet part of its external financing needs. But with dollar borrowing rising steeply and external debt pressures persistent, the panda bond offers a lower-cost alternative — not a replacement for dollar markets, but a useful addition to the sovereign funding toolkit.

The bond is the first tranche of a Rmb7.2bn panda bond programme approved for Pakistan. Aurangzeb said the initial Rmb1.75bn issue would not be a one-off transaction. Once the first bond settles, Pakistan plans to move quickly to launch the request-for-proposal process for the next tranche. The deal was arranged by China International Capital Corporation, Bank of China, Standard Chartered and Hongta Securities. Standard Chartered was the only foreign bank among the joint lead underwriters. A key feature of the transaction is its credit structure.

The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the Asian Development Bank provided a partial credit guarantee covering about 95 per cent of principal and interest, helping the bond secure a domestic AAA rating in China. That structure matters because weaker sovereign borrowers have typically needed full guarantees to achieve the highest rating in China's domestic market. The Pakistan deal suggests that multilateral development banks may be able to help emerging-market sovereigns access renminbi financing without relying on a fully wrapped structure.

Official notice from the Government of Punjab regarding the issuance of a bond, including details on the amount and terms.

Official notice from the Government of Punjab regarding the issuance of a bond, including details on the amount and terms.

Balochistan universities receive Rs2.93b in support from HEC in FY 2025-26

ISLAMABAD (INP): Balochistan universities have received Rs2.93 billion in support from the Higher Education Commission (HEC) in FY 2025-26, reflecting continued funding assistance for higher education institutions across the province.

According to an official document available with Wealth Pakistan, the HEC has continued extending financial support to universities in Balochistan. The province has received Rs948.805 million in FY2025-26. In addition, the university received Rs10 million in supplementary funding and Rs39.549 million under tenure-track support.

Similarly, the Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUTEMS), Quetta, received Rs698 million during FY2025-26. The province has received Rs722 million in FY2024-25 and Rs825 million in FY2023-24.

Like-wise, the University of Lorelai received Rs136 million during FY2025-26. It had received Rs152 million in FY2024-25 and Rs175 million in FY2023-24. Lasbela University of Agriculture, Water and Marine Sciences, Uthal, received Rs327 million in FY2024-25 and stood at Rs282 billion in FY2025-26.

Other universities across the province also continued receiving HEC support. Sardar Sarbajit University, Quetta, received Rs291 million in FY2025-26 compared with Rs113 million in FY2024-25 and Rs293 million in FY2023-24. The University of Turbat received Rs948.805 million in FY2025-26. It had received Rs192 million in FY2024-25 and Rs202 million in FY2023-24.

Experts stress need for global scientific cooperation, evidence-based policymaking to address climate change

RAWALPINDI (INP): Experts at a three-day international conference on Friday with a theme of 'Global Scientific Cooperation, Evidence-based Policymaking to Address Climate Change' stressed the need for global scientific cooperation, innovation and evidence-based policymaking to address climate change, biodiversity loss and sustainable development challenges.

The conference and expo, organized by Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR), in collaboration with Himalaya Hemp and Health (PH) Ltd and Evolution EduTech Pakistan, commenced on Monday with a panel discussion of experts from several countries.

Former vice chancellor of the university and former president of Pakistan Academy of Sciences ProfDr Khalid Mehmood Khan was the chief guest at the opening session. Addressing the ceremony, he described climate change, biodiversity loss, food insecurity, glacier melting and environmental pollution as major global challenges, and called for interdisciplinary collaboration and science driven solutions.

Vice Chancellor PMAS AAUR Prof Dr Qamar-uz-Zaman said that the global climate change challenges and the need for interdisciplinary collaboration and science driven solutions. He said fundamental rights, including freedom of speech, peaceful protest and assembly, continue to be severely curtailed, while Kashmiri leaders.

APHC-AJK holds prayer meeting to pay tributes to late Sheikh Ghulam Hassan

ISLAMABAD (INP): A prayer and condolence meeting was held at the office of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference - AJK (APHC-AJK) on Monday under the chairmanship of Convener Ghulam Muhammad Saif to pay tributes to the former Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami of occupied Jammu and Kashmir, prominent religious leader and sincere advocate of the Kashmiri freedom movement, Sheikh Ghulam Hassan, on his demise. The participants of the meeting paid glowing tributes to the late leader for his religious, intellectual, social, moral and national services. Addressing the gathering, Prof Dr Qamar-uz-Zaman said that the late leader was also significant. Saif said Sheikh Ghulam Hassan was a visionary, simple and dignified personality who dedicated his entire life to Islam, moral values, national awareness and the Kashmiri freedom movement. He said the deceased always raised his voice for truth and justice with patience, steadfastness and dignity despite difficult circumstances and political pressure.

DFP urges Pakistan to raise Kashmir rights violations at OIC, UN forums

ISLAMABAD (INP): Jammu Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party acting president Mehmood Ahmed Saghar has urged the Government of Pakistan to use its growing diplomatic influence to safeguard the fundamental rights and religious freedoms of Kashmiris and an intensifying crackdown in India illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

In separate letters to Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and President Asif Ali Zardari, Saghar felicitated Pakistan's leadership on the first anniversary of Operation Bunyan-um-Marsoos, calling it a historic battle that "compelled an enemy to retreat in utter humiliation" and earned Pakistan global recognition as an "invincible, nuclear and responsible major power."

He said the Marka-Hat reflected Pakistan's unwavering resolve to defend its ideological and geographical frontiers and sent a clear message that the "country" could neither be coerced nor intimidated. Saghar alleged that India had used the Pahalgam incident as a pretext to launch attacks on Pakistan and intensify repression in Kashmir.

A large official notice from the Government of Punjab regarding the issuance of a bond, including details on the amount and terms.

### NoKundi Master Plan to Transform Town into Modern Urban Hub: Mir Ejaz Khan Sanjrani

**Yousaf Sasoli:** NOKUNDI: Former Adviser to the Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Ejaz Khan Sanjrani visited multiple locations included in the Nok Kundi Master Plan and reviewed the ongoing GPS survey and demarcation work for the construction of a modern sports complex and the widening of key roads in the town.

During the visit, engineers and planning consultants briefed him on the progress of the survey, upcoming development projects, and the long-term urban planning strategy aimed at transforming Nok Kundi into a modern, well-planned city in Balochistan.

Tribal elders, political and social personalities, and members of the Khan Panel also accompanied him. Speaking to the media, Mir Ejaz Khan Sanjrani said the successful implementation of the Nok Kundi development project will place the town among the leading modern urban centers of Balochistan. He stated that the master plan includes the construction of a commercial market, wide roads, a state-of-the-art sports complex, family parks, a modern bus terminal, and an upgraded traffic management system to improve civic amenities and public infrastructure.

He further explained that the Nok Kundi urban development, organized city planning, and a cleaner environment for future generations.

Highlighting the significance of sports infrastructure, Mir Ejaz Khan Sanjrani said the proposed sports complex in Nok Kundi would promote healthy activities among youth and help nurture local sporting talent. He added that the road expansion project would reduce traffic congestion, improve transportation networks, and support economic growth in the region.

Local tribal and social elders welcomed the initiative and expressed optimism that the timely completion of the Nok Kundi Master Plan would enhance the town's beauty, infrastructure, investment opportunities, and overall economic development.

During the session, participants discussed in detail the ongoing development schemes under the (BSDI), the law and order situation, resolution of public complaints, and the performance of different government institutions.

Addressing the meeting, Syed Rehmatullah Shah



Mir Ejaz Khan Sanjrani and other officials reviewing documents on a table.

### Two Road Construction Workers Mysteriously Go Missing in Dukki, Search Operation Underway

**Hussain Zarkoon:** DUKKI: BALUCHISTAN: Two laborers working for a road construction company in the Kanbar Camp area of Dukki have mysteriously gone missing, prompting police to launch an investigation and intensify search efforts.

According to police, the missing workers were employed at a site camp of a construction company working on the Dukki-Chamalang Highway project. After completing their work, the two men reportedly left for Ismail



A road construction site with workers and machinery.

### Anti-Polio Campaign Officially Launched in Barkan

**BARKAN:** Deputy Commissioner Saeed ur Rehman Kakar officially inaugurated the district-wide anti-polio campaign alongside District Health Officer Dr. Mubeen Bugti and WHO District Polio Officer Dr. Nasir Khetran.

During the inauguration ceremony, the deputy commissioner administered polio drops to children, formally launching the campaign across the district.

Authorities Stress Importance of Complete Polio Eradication. Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Saeed ur Rehman Kakar said that the complete eradication of polio is a national responsibility and all relevant institutions are actively working to achieve this goal.

He appealed to parents to ensure that all children under the age of five receive polio drops



Deputy Commissioner Saeed ur Rehman Kakar administering polio drops to children.

### Qila Saifullah Administration Reviews Progress of Ongoing Anti-Polio Campaign

**QILA SAIFULLAH:** Deputy Commissioner Sagar Kumar chaired an important evening review meeting regarding the ongoing anti-polio campaign in the district, where officials assessed campaign performance, vaccination coverage, and operational challenges in detail.

The meeting was attended by District Health Officer Dr. Waheed ur Rehman, the District Polio Officer, monitoring officers, representatives of the World Health Organization, ERA officials, and other officers associated with the campaign.

Field Performance and Coverage Reviewed. During the meeting, field supervisors and UCMOs presented detailed performance reports from their respective areas. District Health Of-



Deputy Commissioner Sagar Kumar reviewing documents with officials.

ficiers Dr. Waheed ur Rehman briefed participants on the overall progress of the campaign, the number of vaccinated children, and areas where vaccination coverage still requires improvement. Officials also discussed field-level challenges and strategies to

protect them from lifelong disability caused by the virus.

Instructions issued for Full Campaign Coverage. The deputy commissioner directed health authorities and field teams to ensure that no child is left unvaccinated during the campaign.

He emphasized that vaccination teams must perform their duties responsibly and with full dedication to achieve maximum coverage.

Health department officials, members of polio teams, and other concerned authorities were also present during the launch ceremony.

Monitoring and Public Cooperation Emphasized. The deputy commissioner instructed monitoring officers to maintain an active field presence and further improve the daily reporting system to ensure accurate tracking of campaign progress.

He also appealed to parents to fully cooperate with polio teams and ensure that every child under five years of age receives polio vaccination to protect them from lifelong disability.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the deputy commissioner thanked all participants and expressed hope that collective efforts would help make Qila Saifullah a polio-free district.

He appreciated the technical support being provided by WHO and

ERA representatives, emphasizing that coordinated efforts among all institutions are essential for the success of the campaign.

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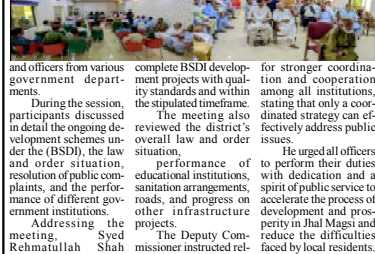
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### DC Syed Rehmatullah Shah Chairs District Coordination Committee Meeting in Jhal Magsi

**JHAL MAGSI:** A meeting of the District Coordination Committee (DCC) was held at Nuhar Hall, Gandakha, under the chairmanship of Syed Rehmatullah Shah to review development projects, public issues, and overall administrative performance across the district.

The meeting was attended by Asim Khan, Rehmatullah Durani,



DC Syed Rehmatullah Shah and other officials in a meeting.

and officers from various government departments. During the session, participants discussed in detail the ongoing development schemes under the (BSDI), the law and order situation, resolution of public complaints, and the performance of different government institutions.

Addressing the meeting, Syed Rehmatullah Shah

stated that ensuring the provision of basic facilities to citizens, timely completion of development projects, and maintaining transparency in official affairs remain the top priorities of the district administration.

He directed all departmental heads to ensure the immediate resolution of public complaints and emphasized their responsibility to

evant authorities not to compromise on quality in any ongoing development project and to ensure timely completion of all schemes.

Officials from different departments presented performance reports and highlighted challenges along with recommendations for their resolution.

Syed Rehmatullah Shah stressed the need

for stronger coordination and cooperation among all institutions, stating that only a coordinated strategy can effectively address public issues.

He urged all officers to perform their duties with dedication and a spirit of public service to accelerate the process of development and prosperity in Jhal Magsi and reduce the difficulties faced by local residents.

The Deputy Commissioner instructed relevant

### DC Muhammad Ramzan Palal Reviews First Day Performance of Polio Campaign in Gandakha

**U S T A M U H A M M A D / G A N D A K H A:** An evening review meeting regarding the May 2026 Sub-National Immunization Days (SNID) anti-polio campaign was held at Rural Health Center Gandakha under the chairmanship of Muhammad Ramzan Palal.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Muhammad Nasir Kakar, health department officials, UCMOs, and cam-

plete BSDI development projects with quality standards and within the stipulated timeframe.

The meeting also reviewed the district's overall law and order situation, performance of educational institutions, sanitation arrangements, roads, and progress on other infrastructure projects.

He further instructed authorities to immediately resolve operational chal-

lenges, strengthen micro-planning, and utilize all available resources to make the campaign fully successful.



DC Muhammad Ramzan Palal reviewing documents with officials.

### Balochistan High Court Orders Timely Completion of Sariab Service Road and Samungli Road Projects

**QUETTA:** A two-member bench of the Balochistan High Court, comprising Chief Justice Justice Muhammad Kamran Khan Mulkhail and Justice Justice Muhammad Najmuddin Mengal, directed authorities to ensure the timely completion of the Samungli Road and Sariab Service Road development projects while hearing a case related to ongoing development and traffic management plans in Quetta. During the hearing, the Additional Attorney General presented an interim report on behalf of the Cantonment Board Quetta, while the Project Director of the Chief Minister Package for Quetta Development (CMPQD) and legal representatives submitted a proposed master plan concerning improvement in traffic management and traffic management.

The court was informed that joint meetings and site visits with the Cantonment Board had already been completed, a topographic map had been prepared, and the detailed master

plan had been forwarded to the central committee for final approval. Representatives of the Methodist Church also presented 3D proposals aimed at beautification and traffic improvement around Imdad Chowk and Zarghoo Road.

The Director General of the Balochistan Traffic Engineering Bureau briefed the court on ongoing projects to regulate traffic flow on Hali Road, Zarghoo Road, and areas surrounding the intersection of the Balochistan High Court.

During proceedings, the petitioner highlighted concerns regarding potential traffic congestion and public inconvenience caused by proposed U-turns near Railway Station and Colony Road. Immediate completion of asphalt work on both Samungli Road and Sariab Service Road and certain restrictions imposed by the Cantonment Board Quetta.

The court ordered the immediate completion of asphalt work on both Samungli Road and Sariab Service Road and stated that no institution would be allowed to obstruct development activities. Authorities were further instructed to submit regular progress reports before the court. During the hearing, the Additional Advocate General informed the court that he had been de-notified from his position.

The bench also expressed displeasure over delays in laying the asphalt layer on Samungli Road due to certain restrictions imposed by the Cantonment Board Quetta.

The court ordered the immediate completion of asphalt work on both Samungli Road and Sariab Service Road and stated that no institution would be allowed to obstruct development activities. Authorities were further instructed to submit regular progress reports before the court.

During the hearing, the Additional Advocate General informed the court that he had been de-notified from his position.

The court directed the CMPQD Project Director and the DG BTB to conduct a detailed review of the identified locations and submit a





# After escaping Iran war, Haiti's Nazon awaits World Cup dream

**NEWS DESK:** Haiti's record goal scorer Duckens Nazon was already strapped into his seat, the aircraft on the tarmac at Tehran airport ready to take off, when his phone lit up with a message from a friend playing in Israel.

The alarm, the war in Israel was just ringing, Nazon, 32, recalled his friend saying, "Isaid, wow, I'm so lucky because I'm on the plane right now, ready to take off."

Ten seconds later, his luck ran out.

The cabin chief said, "Everybody has to get off the plane. The war has started."

The sky is closed, Nazon told Reuters. And now you start survival mode.

Nazon, who plays for Tehran-based Esteghlal FC, was trying to reach Paris to secure a visa ahead of the World Cup.

where Haiti will be competing after a 52-year absence.

Instead, he began an improvised escape by road that would take him across a country at war and out via Azerbaijan.

For Nazon, the danger was immediate but adrenaline dulled the fear.

His main concern was reaching his Moroccan wife and their four children to let them



know he was safe, after they had returned to her home country having struggled to settle in Tehran, a decision he now considers crucial.

"I'm so happy and glad my family was not with me at this moment," the former Coventry City striker said.

"When you are alone, you can think quicker, and move

faster."

After being ordered off the plane, Nazon ran into team-mate Munir El Haddadi, who had to disembark another flight.

"His instinct was to leave the country as quickly as possible, but the club needed to organise transport for several players."

As they drove, he saw explosions nearby.

"We saw one strike

wards Tehran even as others tried to flee."

"We took the highway on the way to the city, and the other highway was blocked for kilometers," Nazon said.

"Nobody wanted to go in the city because the bombs were striking there."

As they drove, he saw explosions nearby.

"We saw one strike

100 metres away," he said. When you think about it after, it's a bit, wow."

With communications largely down, Nazon had a brief window of connectivity through a team security official's phone.

In that time, he contacted his family, asked his wife to book him a flight from Azerbaijan

and bought an e-SIM in the hope it would connect near the border, a decision he believes saved his life.

After hours waiting for delayed transport, he set off on a long drive towards Azerbaijan.

"In total, I spent maybe 20 hours on the road," he said. "I was seeing some strikes... in the sky."

At the border, officials refused to let him through and demanded additional paperwork, but with intermittent signal from his Azerbaijan e-SIM he managed to reach the French Embassy and his representatives, eventually securing passage out.

Two days later, he boarded a flight to Paris.

The experience has

left him reflecting on the human cost of conflict.

"People lose their life, they lose their family... for what?" he said. "I pray for peace."

His future at club level remains uncertain. Nazon still has a year left on his contract with Esteghlal and said he would return if conditions stabilised.

"If the war is finished and calm, I'm going back to play football," he said.

For now, his focus is on the World Cup in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Haiti's qualification has ended a 52-year wait — achieved despite playing all their matches away from home due to gang violence — a milestone Nazon is struggling to fully process.

"I don't even have some words to describe it," he said.

"I think the day I will realise is when I'm going to be on the pitch and they say it's the World Cup game."

"It gives me goosebumps."

Drawn against Brazil, Morocco and Scotland, Haiti face a daunting task, but Nazon insists they will not be intimidated.

"We are not scared of anybody," he said. "We come humble, but also proud because we are Haitian."

## CA chief downplays fears Indian investment in Big Bash League could lead to loss of control

**NEWS DESK:** Cricket Australia chief executive Todd Greenberg said fears that private investment in the Big Bash League (BBL) could lead to the tournament ceding control to IPL franchise owners who now control or hold stakes in teams in T20 competitions in England, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates and the West Indies.

"I think that's overblown,"

members. New South Wales rejected the proposal while Queensland deferred its decision.

Some concerns stem from the growing global footprint of IPL franchise owners who now control or hold stakes in teams in T20 competitions in England, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates and the West Indies.

"I think that's overblown,"

Greenberg told SEN Radio on Monday. "India are such a huge part of cricket, but we're not looking to sell the game to India."

"That's it, full stop. We are looking to add value to our clubs and bring good partners in, and the decision on who those partners are at the best of the states. So, it's on them to choose their partners."

CA had hoped to raise up to \$427 mil-

lion to future-proof the sport, boost its finances and improve Australia's competitiveness in T20 cricket.

Greenberg said Australian cricket should not shut the door on Indian investors.

"What I find a little polarising is almost every business (and) every government agency I talk to are desperately keen to do business in India to create diplomacy, trade and opportunity," he said.

"So, the flip of that is that we would look to do that in our country as well, in some parts of the BBL, not the entire part."

"I think we've got to have a very open mind," Greenberg added that CA was examining whether the BBL could operate with some teams having private capital and ownership and others being run under a more traditional model.



## Mushfiqur ton leaves Pakistan needing record run chase to beat Bangladesh

**NEWS DESK:** Veteran batter Mushfiqur Rahim hit a glittering century as Bangladesh set Pakistan an imposing target of 427 to win the second Test after another commanding day for the hosts on Monday.

Bangladesh posted 390 all out in their second innings on day three with Mushfiqur, who made 137, and Litton Das, who hit 69, putting together 123 runs for the fifth wicket.

The 39-year-old Mushfiqur rolled back the years as he scored his 14th Test century, surpassing Mominul Haque's record of 13 for Bangladesh.

Pakistan openers Azan Awaiz and Abdullah Fazal survived the last two overs of the day without scoring before Bangladesh rolled back the years as he scored his 14th Test century, surpassing Mominul Haque's record of 13 for Bangladesh.



International Cricket Stadium in Sylhet, Bangladesh on May 18, 2026.

West Indies currently hold the record for the 418 they scored to beat Australia in Antigua in 2003, while Pakistan have never successfully chased more than 377.

Starting the day on 110-3 with a lead of 156 runs, Bangladesh lost skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto for 15, but Mushfiqur and Litton put the Pakistan bowlers to the test.

Litton, who scored off-spinner Sajid Khan dismissed him for 22.

Mushfiqur was the last man out as he became Sajid's third wicket in the innings.

Pakistan's players celebrate after the dismissal of Bangladesh's Najmul Hossain Shanto during the third day of the second Test match between Bangladesh and Pakistan at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium in Sylhet, Bangladesh on May 18, 2026.

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Pakistan's players celebrate after the dismissal of Bangladesh's Najmul Hossain Shanto during the third day of the second Test match between Bangladesh and Pakistan at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium in Sylhet, Bangladesh on May 18, 2026.

## Sinner extends Masters streak

**NEWS DESK:** Jannik Sinner has his eyes on a first Roland Garros title after winning the Italian Open on Sunday to claim a record-extending sixth consecutive Masters 1000 tournament victory.

World number one Sinner beat Casper Ruud 6-4 to complete the Golden Masters by winning all of the ATP's top-ranked events, in the process becoming the first Italian men's champion in Rome since Adriano Panatta 50 years ago.

Only Novak Djokovic had previously won all nine Masters 1000 events before Sunday, but there was little doubt about Sinner triumphing over the last 10 days.

Sinner heads into Roland Garros, which starts next weekend, on a 29-match winning streak and will be intent on banishing the ghosts of last year's final when he wasted three championship points before losing to Carlos Alcaraz.

And his run of match wins is even longer in Masters 1000 tournaments — now at 34 — another record he has established in a season

in which he has dominated the men's tour.

Sinner can complete his collection of Grand Slams and, with his great rival Alcaraz out of action, few would bet against him securing a first title on Paris clay.

"I need to keep my form because that's there's my most important tournament of the year coming up," Sinner told reporters.

"I don't want to put too much pressure on myself because the pressure comes anyway. The most important thing to do right now is take a

break and do the right things. I don't even want to think too much about tennis right now."

Ruud has won more matches and tournaments on clay than anyone else on the tour since the start of 2020 — his last title on the surface coming at the Madrid Masters last year — but he couldn't beat Sinner for the first time. Norwegian Ruud had never won a set against Sinner in any of their previous four meetings, but immediately improved on the feather hammering he received

here from the Italian last year by winning the first two games.

But Sinner broke straight back and took the lead in the match after an opening set in which the world number 25 held his own against a player he'd previously said "cannot lose."

Sinner then broke Ruud again at the start of the second set and from there it was just a matter of time before he won the championship, even though Ruud performed with credit in front of a packed centre court crowd.



## Sevilla safe despite Real defeat

**NEWS DESK:** Viničius Junior earned Real Madrid a 1-0 win at San Siro in the penultimate round of fixtures, but results elsewhere mean the hosts have secured safety from relegation.

Levante earned a vital 2-0 win over Malloca, who are 19th and in grave danger, along with Girona, 18th after a 1-0 defeat at Atletico Madrid.

Raphinha struck twice for champions Barcelona in a 3-1 victory over Real Betis at Camp Nou, meaning the Catalans have won all of their home matches this season in the top flight.

Their rivals Real Madrid will finish the season without a major trophy for the second year running but produced a focussed display to beat Sevilla.

After Kylian Mbappe complained midweek he had been told by coach Alvaro Arbeloa he was Madrid's "fourth forward" after he came on as a substitute against Real Oviedo, the French superstar started against Sevilla.

Mbappe teed up his strike partner Viničius to send Madrid ahead in Andalusia, bringing down a cross which the



Brazilian powered home.

Viničius returned the favour in the second half but Mbappe blazed over the bar when well placed. Franco Mastantuono hit the post for the visitors from outside the box as Madrid sought a second goal.

Mbappe rounded the goalkeeper and slid home but was offside and the goal was disallowed.

"Today it was Vin's turn to score, but Kylian did a great job — let's see if he has better luck next weekend," said Arbeloa.

"I'm very satisfied

with all my players, with their effort. We're aware that we haven't met our objectives (this season)." In the capital, Atletico's Antoine Griezmann started against Girona in his final match at the Metropolitano stadium before joining MLS side Orlando City.

The French forward, Atletico's all-time top goalscorer, arrived for the match visibly emotional.

"It's always Antoine playing for the 500th time in Atletico colours, Griezmann set

up Ademola Lookman for the game's only goal. "I always have to say goodbye to people I love. Now my brother is leaving. Atletico Madrid's all-time top scorer. Thank you for making us happy every day," said Atletico captain Koke.

"In the tough times, it's always Antoine who appears and puts a smile on our faces."

Griezmann's former club Barca also bid farewell to veteran Polish striker Robert Lewandowski in his final home game.

# Field Marshal Asim Munir Visits Quetta, Stresses Modern Warfare and Lasting Peace in Balochistan

News Desk: Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, COAS & CDF, visited Quetta Garrison today, the military's media wing said.

During the visit, the Field Marshal addressed student officers and faculty members at Command and Staff College, Quetta, the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) said.

During his address, the Field Marshal appreciated high standards of training, intellectual rigour and professionalism that remain the hallmark of Command and Staff College, Quetta.

He noted with satisfaction that the graduates of the College have continued to distinguish themselves through their exceptional performance and dedication to the profession.

The COAS & CDF highlighted rapidly transforming



character of modern warfare and stressed the importance of remaining abreast with emerging technologies, multi-domain operations, tri-services synergy and future battlefield challenges. He

advised the officers to continuously train themselves and their troops to effectively respond to the changing character of war while maintaining highest standards of professionalism, pre-

paredness and operational excellence. Later, the Field Marshal interacted with officers and troops of formations deployed in Balochistan. He interacted with the contingents of

prevailing security environment, he reaffirmed that Pakistan Armed Forces, with the steadfast support of the people, remain fully committed to the eradication of terrorism in all its forms and

manifestations. The Field Marshal emphasized that Pakistan's progress through proxies and propaganda will ultimately fail due to the resilience of the state and the unity of its people.

He reiterated that hostile forces attempting to derail Pakistan's progress through proxies and propaganda will ultimately fail due to the resilience of the state and the unity of its people.

Underscoring the importance of sustainable peace and stability in Balochistan, the Field Marshal highlighted that long-term progress depends upon a people-centric approach, inclusive development and improved governance alongside security efforts. He appreciated the ongoing efforts of the Government of Balochistan focused on public welfare, socio-economic uplift and strengthening the bond between the state and the people of the province.

The Field Marshal also appreciated the high morale, operational readiness and professional commitment of officers and troops in maintaining peace, stability and the writ of the state in Balochistan.

Earlier, upon his arrival at Quetta, the COAS & CDF was received by Commander Quetta Corps.

## CTD official killed by unidentified assailants in Turbat: police

NEWS DESK: A Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) official was killed in an attack by unidentified armed men in Turbat, according to police.

According to reports, the incident took place in the Dastri Bazar area of Turbat.

Following the incident, police and other law enforcement agencies cordoned off the site and initiated an investigation. A search operation was also launched in the general area. According to police, the body was

shifted to the Teaching Hospital Turbat for legal formalities.

On Saturday, police constable Shakeelah was gunned down in Turbat. She was on a motorcycle along with her husband and child when armed men targeted her near Apsar Research Farm. She was on her way to perform court duty.

"The lady constable died on the spot as she suffered multiple bullet injuries, while her husband and child were injured in

the firing," a police official in Turbat said.

In late April, a policeman was martyred and four others injured in attacks on two police stations by unidentified men in Kachhi and Noshki districts of the province.

Police officials said unidentified armed assailants riding motorcycles attacked the Phadar police station, firing rockets and grenades. The police personnel deployed at the site took defensive positions and retaliated.

## Social media posts case: IHC raises objections over failure to submit certified copies of SC order

NEWS DESK: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday raised objections over the non-submission of certified copies of Supreme Court orders during the hearing of miscellaneous petitions seeking early hearing of appeals filed by convicted human rights lawyers Imaan Zainab Mazari-Hazir and Hadi Ali Chhattha in the controversial social media posts case.

Justice Muhammad Azam Khan heard the petitions seeking fixation of the sentence suspension petitions at an early date in light of directions issued earlier by the SC directing the IHC to decide the plea within a fortnight.

Senior lawyer Faisal Siddiqi appeared before the court on behalf of the couple on Tuesday. Former president of the Islamabad High Court Bar Association (IHCBA) Riasat Ali Agha, District Bar President Chaudhry Naem Gujjar, former federal minister and Imaan's mother Shireen Mazari and other lawyers were also present in the courtroom during the proceedings.

At the outset of the hearing, Siddiqi informed the court that

miscellaneous petitions had been filed for the early hearing of the sentence suspension pleas. He submitted that the SC had already directed the IHC to decide the matter within two weeks.

Justice Khan, however, observed that the court had not yet received a certified copy of the SC order.

"You should read the SC order. I do not have the order before me," the judge remarked. Siddiqi responded that a copy of the apex court's order had been attached to the miscellaneous petitions. The judge then pointed out that the SC order specifically mentioned that the two-week period would commence after receipt of the certified copy.

"We have not received the certified order yet. Do you have one?" Justice Khan asked.

The counsel replied in the affirmative and offered to hand over the copy during the hearing.

However, the judge declined to accept it directly and directed the lawyer to place it on record through the court office. "This is not the proper way to submit an order. You should file it through the regular office," the judge observed.

Siddiqi urged the court to accept the copy, saying the substance of the order was already before the court. However, Justice Khan reiterated that judicial orders could not be taken on record informally and

must be filed in accordance with procedural requirements.

"I cannot take a copy like this. You should file a miscellaneous application," the judge remarked.

During the exchange, Siddiqi questioned why the court was reluctant to receive the copy of the SC order, maintaining that the matter involved the implementation of directions already issued by the apex court.

Justice Khan then asked why a certified copy had not been filed along with the miscellaneous petitions in the first place.

The counsel explained that when the petitions were moved, the certified copy had

not yet been issued by the SC registry. He added that the petitions had initially been filed based on the order available on the SC's official website.

The judge observed that such practice was procedurally improper and directed the counsel to formally place the certified copy on record through a separate miscellaneous application.

Siddiqi subsequently assured the court that the required application would be filed the same day. Following the exchange, the court adjourned further proceedings.

During the SC hearing on May 12, Siddiqi had complained that the IHC had kept his clients' pleas for the suspension of their sentences pending despite the passage of two months.

Imaan and Hadi have been in jail since their arrest in January in a case registered against the two for protesting outside the IHC and allegedly manhandling the IHCBA president. While the arrest prompted criticism by rights bodies, politicians, and journalists, who stressed the couple's right to a fair trial.

## Sindh IG vows transparency in cases against Anmol alias Pinky stretching across 'multiple domains'

NEWS DESK: Sindh Inspector General Javed Alam Odho on Tuesday vowed transparency in investigations into drug queenpin Anmol alias Pinky, noting that the probes stretch across multiple "domains".

Anmol was arrested last week from her apartment in Karachi in connection with the possession of narcotics and an unlicensed weapon. She is in police custody till May 22 in two of the 15 cases active against her, while her judicial remand in other cases extends till May 30. Responding to media queries at an event held at the Karachi Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the Sindh police chief said multiple agencies were involved in probing Anmol's alleged criminal activities.

"There are now different institutions involved... so these agencies will be found," he said, adding that the CIA would also register cases. "You are right that this is not just one account, it is our apprehension and hope in making such accounts will be found," he said, adding that the CIA would also register cases. "You are right that this is not just one account, it is our apprehension and hope in making such accounts will be found," he said, adding that the CIA would also register cases.

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He highlighted that the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and the National Cyber Crime Investigation

Agency (NCCIA) were among the institutions working to probe crimes unfolding in the investigation process.

The officer explained that the FIA handles cases that matter pertained to money laundering and the NCCIA would act when it came to the issue of reaching out to children and students using cyberspace.

"We have already written to the FIA and included them in our investigation," the IG said, explaining that the police could not directly obtain details about bank accounts or probe money laundering. "You are right that this is not just one account, it is our apprehension and hope in making such accounts will be found," he said, adding that the CIA would also register cases.

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Similarly, the busi-

ness of narcotics was transferred to cyberspace as well, and we are working together with NCCIA and FIA on this," he highlighted.

"Sensitive federal institutions are also working with us, so I believe that, God willing, we will get all the information to a great extent," he added.

Addressing the strict security present with Anmol during her court appearances, he emphasised that the police were keeping several "risks" in mind.

"The nature of her business is such that there is a risk of many names emerging. One risk is that someone can harm her, so [investigations] do not proceed ahead," he said.

Anmol, during her court appearances, has alleged she was facing pressure from the police to take names of politicians and other influential persons.

Odho went on to cite police expertise, according to which suspects facing multiple cases remained "under stress". "The objective is not only to protect others from them, but also to protect them from themselves," he said.

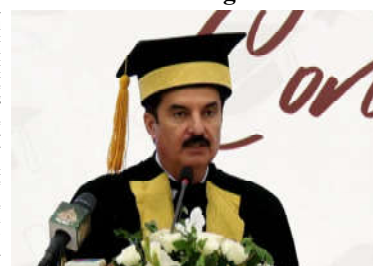
At the same time, he stressed, "We have not provided security to her as such; only what was appropriate and needed."

## 'We don't want wheat from federation, we want our share of water': K-P governor

NEWS DESK: Governor Faisal Karim Kundi said on Tuesday that Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa does not seek wheat from the federation but instead demands its due share of water, stressing that constitutional rights must be upheld. He added that if the province is contributing electricity, gas, and minerals to the country, it must also receive its fair share under the Constitution.

Speaking at the convocation of Abaseen University in Peshawar, the governor said Punjab had been made to ensure that the federal government listens to the concerns of residents to struggle with access to affordable fuel. The situation has also disrupted the province.

Governor Kundi added that a meeting with the committee will be held soon, where representatives of the provincial government and opposition will participate. He said wheat transportation is being restricted, while smuggling has forced people to purchase expensive wheat in the market. "We don't want wheat from Punjab which has damaged our share of water," he asserted, adding that if



the province got its share of water, "then we will supply wheat to Punjab."

A day earlier, K-P Chief Minister Shahid Afridi criticised the Punjab government, saying it was committing "atrocities" against the people of K-P by restricting wheat supplies. "Article 151 of the Constitution does not allow Punjab to inter-provincial movement of food items," he said, adding that the people of K-P were forced to buy the most expensive flour in the country.

"The federal government has damaged national unity by stopping flour sup-

plies," Afridi had said, warning that the federal government's failed policies were being blamed on the K-P government.

Also on Monday, Afridi wrote a letter to PM Shehbaz, demanding immediate intervention over the federal government's decision to cut gas supply to the CNG sector in the province.

"The CNG sector's requirement of approximately 36-40 MMCFD of natural gas against a requirement of around 130 MMCFD," yet people continue to face difficulties. Referring to constitutional provisions, he said that "Under Article 158 of the Constitution of Pakistan, the province producing natural gas has the first right and precedence over its usage."

Kundi stressed that "the constitutional rights of the people of K-P must be upheld." He also thanked the K-P government and all political parties for supporting the issue. "On matters concerning the welfare of K-P and the welfare of our people, we must rise above political differences and speak with one voice," he said.

In December, the Punjab government imposed what the K-P provincial government has termed unconstitutional and illegal restrictions on inter-provincial transportation of wheat and flour.