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QUETTA VOICE

IHC grants final adjournment to Imran's counsel in £190m corruption case

NEWS DESK:

The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday granted a final adjournment to the counsel for former prime minister Imran Khan in the £190 million corruption case.

The court warned that no further delay would be tolerated and the appeal would be decided on the available record if arguments were not presented at the next hearing.

the next hearing, no further adjournment would be granted, and the appeal would be decided on the basis of the available record after hearing the counsel for the respondents.

The court adjourned the case till a date to be fixed by the registrar's office.

During the hearing, senior counsel Salman Akram Raja and Fatehullah Barki also appeared on Imran's behalf, while Special Prosecutor Javed Arshad and Senior Special



File photo: Former prime minister Imran Khan in the £190 million corruption case.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Sarfaraz Dogar and Justice Muhammad Asif issued a written order on a criminal appeal filed by Imran against his conviction in the Al-Qadir Trust case, commonly referred to as the £190m corruption reference, by an accountability court in January 2025.

When the matter came up for hearing on Tuesday, Sardar Latif Khosa, Imran's counsel, sought a two-week adjournment.

The court accepted the request after Khosa gave an unequivocal undertaking that he would not seek any further adjournment on any ground whatsoever and would argue the appeal on its merits at the next hearing.

"The request for adjournment is acceded to. It is, however, made abundantly clear that this shall constitute the final opportunity," the order stated.

The bench further directed that if the learned counsel failed to advance arguments at

Prosecutor Muhammad Rafay represented the accountability watchdog.

Islamabad Advocate General Naveed Malik also appeared along with state counsels.

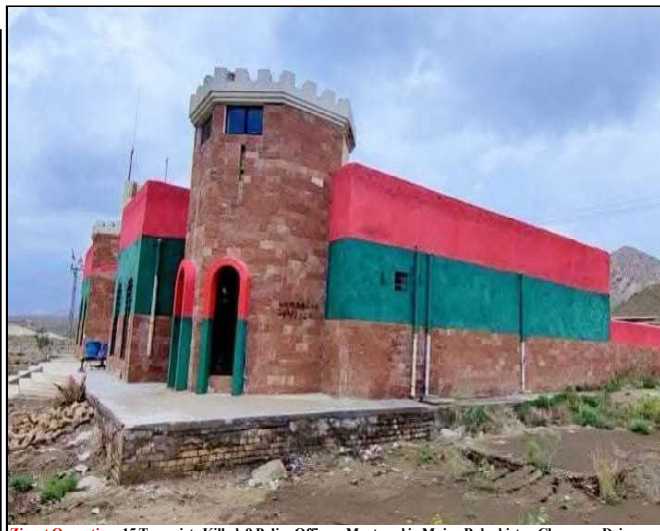
The £190m pound case pertains to the Al-Qadir Trust settlement, where NAB alleged that Imran and his wife Bushra Bibi obtained billions of rupees and land worth hundreds of kanals from a real estate firm for legalising Rs50 billion

that was identified and returned to the country by the United Kingdom during the previous PTI government.

The amount was deposited in the Supreme Court account as part of a settlement with the property tycoon.

An accountability court in Islamabad had sentenced Imran and Bushra to 14 and seven years in prison, respectively.

on Jan 17, 2025, in the case. Subsequently, both had challenged their convictions before the IHC.



Ziarat Operation: 15 Terrorists Killed, 9 Police Officers Martyred in Major Balochistan Clearance Drive

Ziarat Operation: 15 Terrorists Killed, 9 Police Officers Martyred

From Our Correspondent:

ZIARAT: A massive, high-stakes security operation in the rugged mountains of the Ziarat district has successfully concluded, resulting in the elimination of 15 terrorists belonging to the outlawed Fina-al-Khawarij group.

However, the victory has brought immense grief to the nation. Nine brave personnel of the Balochistan Police—including senior field commanders who led from the front—embraced martyrdom (shahadat) while defending the soil.

The comprehensive update was confirmed today by Shahid Rind, the Spokesperson and Assistant to the Chief Minister of Balochistan.

A Fierce Battle on Frontlines: The Casualties: The intelligence-based operation was a sweeping, coordinated effort. Units from the

Frontier Corps (FC), Balochistan Police, Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD), Special Operations Wing (SOW), and the Anti-Terrorism Force (ATF) closed in on deep-mountain terrorist hideouts.

While the joint forces successfully neutralized the threat, the frontline police units bore the brunt of a fierce ambush. The fallen heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice have been identified as:

The Station House Officer (SHO) of Mangi Police Station
The SHO of Kawas Police Station Head Constable Saifullah, the frontline in-charge of the Anti-Terrorism Force (ATF)

Six dedicated police constables whose families are currently being notified.

The bodies of the martyrs are being transported to the District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital in Ziarat for final legal procedures

before being sent to their hometowns for state-honored funerals.

Survival and Tactical Rescue in Treacherous Terrain
Amid the heavy gunfire and the unforgiving, jagged terrain of Ziarat, stories of incredible grit and survival have emerged from the battlefield:

Hostage Rescued: In a high-risk, tactical rescue operation, security forces successfully recovered Constable Rizwan from captivity.

A Brave Trek to Safety: Cut off by the terrain during the initial ambush, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Ghulam Sarwar and eight of his men fought their way through difficult mountainous paths under heavy cover, successfully reaching the

Kach Police Station alive.

State News Retribution: "No Safe Havens"
The Balochistan govern-

ment has expressed profound grief over the loss of its law enforcement personnel, honoring their deaths not as a setback, but as a defining moment of bravery.

"The terrorists of Fina-al-Khawarij have paid a heavy, irreversible price for trying to play with the peace of Balochistan," stated spokesperson Shahid Rind.

"The state is responding with its absolute, full might. Let it be clear: there are no safe havens for terrorists here. Every single attack will be met with a crushing, decisive response."

Rind reiterated that the blood of the martyred officers would not go in vain and that intelligence-led operations would only intensify.

"The protection of our citizens and the absolute eradication of terrorism remains our topmost priority. The writ of the state will be maintained at all costs."

BREAKING: CM Sarfraz Bugti Storms Tense Ziarat Cross Sit-In to Confront Protesters Face-to-Face

Qaseem Shah:

In a stunning, high-stakes political move, Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has bypassed tight security protocols to arrive directly at the tense Ziarat Cross sit-in, confronting protesting crowds face-to-face.

Stepping straight into the heart of the mass demonstration, the Chief Minister's sudden, dramatic appearance at the blockaded junction has sent shockwaves through the region.

Surrounded by passionate demonstrators who have brought local transport to a grinding halt,

Bugti took the microphone to engage in an intense, direct dialogue with the crowd in a desperate bid to defuse the escalating standoff.

While official state channels are already claiming a breakthrough—announcing the formation of a high-level com-



CM Sarfraz Bugti Storms Tense Ziarat Cross Sit-In to Confront Protesters Face-to-Face

for formal negotiations—independent verification from the Chief Minister's Secretariat ground remains fluid. It remains to be seen whether the protesters will accept the government's terms or maintain their defiant blockade on the strategic highway.

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan Recognised for Driving Governance Reforms in Balochistan

By Sheikh Abdul Razaq:
QUETTA: The role of an efficient bureaucracy remains central to effective governance, particularly in provinces facing complex administrative and developmental challenges. In Balochistan, the recent recognition of Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan, by the provincial cabinet and Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti during the provincial budget session has highlighted the significance of strong institutional leadership in advancing governance reforms.

Governance experts argue that while elected governments provide policy direction, successful implementation depends largely on a capable and professional civil service.

In Balochistan, where issues such as vast geography, infrastructure gaps, developmental disparities, and security concerns continue to pose challenges, an effective administrative framework is essential for sustainable progress.

Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan, widely regarded as an experienced and competent civil servant, has played a pivotal role in enhancing interdepartmental coordination, strengthening



administrative efficiency, and supporting the provincial government's reform agenda. His tenure has coincided with renewed efforts by the Balochistan government to promote institutional reforms, fiscal discipline, transparency, and performance-based governance.

Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has consistently emphasized the importance of governance reforms, institutional strengthening, and improved public service delivery. Analysts believe that translating these policy objectives into tangible outcomes requires a bureaucracy capable of aligning administrative priorities with the government's

development vision. The formulation of the provincial budget served as a key example of this collaborative governance model. Modern budget-making extends beyond financial accounting and reflects a government's development priorities, fiscal management strategy, and long-term planning objectives.

Effective budget preparation requires strong interdepartmental coordination, data-driven decision-making, and prudent allocation of resources. The acknowledgment extended to Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan by both the provincial cabinet and the Chief Minister on the floor of the Balochistan As-

sembly reflects a broader recognition of the critical role played by the civil service in ensuring policy implementation and institutional continuity. Observers note that such recognition promotes a culture of merit, professionalism, and accountability within the public sector, encouraging civil servants to maintain high standards of pub-

lic service. Balochistan's unique governance landscape demands administrative foresight, continuity, and strategic leadership. Effective oversight of development projects, monitoring mechanisms, departmental coordination, and accountability systems remains vital for achieving sustainable development goals

across the province. Experts maintain that institutional reforms are ultimately measured by their implementation. Strong institutions are built through consistent leadership,

professionalism, and efficient governance practices. Public officials who uphold these principles contribute significantly to strengthening government institutions and enhancing administrative performance.

The recognition accorded to Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan underscores the growing importance of a professional and responsive civil service in supporting Balochistan's development agenda.

It also sends a positive message throughout the bureaucracy that dedication, competence, and commitment to public service continue to be valued.

As Balochistan advances towards improved governance and sustainable development, the partnership between political leadership and an effective administrative structure will remain essential.

The province's long-term progress will depend not only on visionary policies but also on the institutional capacity required to implement them successfully.

Forced Marriage in Islam: A Clear Violation of Women's Rights and Human Dignity

By Musavir Durrani:

Forced marriage remains one of the most damaging cultural practices in parts of the Muslim world today. Despite being justified in the name of honor, tradition, or family unity, Islam itself strictly forbids forcing any woman, or man, into a marriage they do not want. Islamic teachings make consent the core of marriage, while coercion makes a marriage *batil* (invalid).

The Qur'an Clearly Forbids Forced Marriages. Allah states in Surah An-Nisa:

"O you who believe, it is not lawful for you to inherit women against their will."

(Qur'an 4:19)
 This verse was revealed to abolish the *jahiliyyah* practice of controlling or forcing women into marriages.

Islam replaced oppression with dignity, choice, and responsibility.

Prophetic Example: Forced Marriages Declared Invalid

A woman once came to the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)



complaining that her father had married her without her permission. The Prophet (PBUH) gave her the full right to reject or accept the marriage, proving that consent is mandatory. Hadith References: Sahih al-Bukhari, Hadith 5138.

Sahih Muslim, Hadith 1419. These narrations all confirm that the Prophet (PBUH) allowed the woman to annul her forced marriage. One narration even states that she chose to remain married but wanted to teach women that fa-

thers have no right to force their daughters. Parents Can Advise, But They Cannot Force. Islam highly respects parents, but marriage choice is not their right. They can guide, suggest, and advise, but they have ab-

solutely no power to force their child into marrying someone. Even if parents think they "know what is best," they cannot override the choice of their daughter or son. The final decision always belongs to the person getting married.

Statements such as: "If you don't marry this one, who will marry you?" "You have no choice." "Do it for family honor." "You must obey your parents." These are pure emotional manipulation, and Islam does

not allow it. Emotional or Psychological Pressure is Also Haram. Forced marriage is not only when someone is physically pressured. Even emotional, mental, or family pressure counts as force. Any *Nikkah* done under fear, pressure, or

threats is invalid (*Batil*) in Islam. This ruling is based on multiple *hadith* in which the Prophet (PBUH) annulled marriages done without consent.

Modern Forced Marriages, A New Way of Burying Women Alive. Before Islam, Arabs used to bury baby girls alive. Today, many scholars say:

"We no longer bury women in the ground, we bury their dreams on the day of their *Nikkah*."

When a girl is forced into a marriage, pressured emotionally, or told she has no other choice, we destroy her life while she is still alive. This is the new form of burying women alive, and Islam came to end this injustice completely.

Forced marriage has no place in Islam. It is against the Qur'an, against the Sunnah, and against the dignity that Islam gives to every woman and man. Parents must love, support, and guide, but never control or force marriage decisions.

"Allah gave women this right, and no one can take it away!"

Governor of Balochistan Visits New Trauma Center, Inquires About Hanna Urak Attack Victims

QUETTA: Governor of Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhail visited the New Trauma Center on Sariab (Spini) Road to inquire about the condition of those injured in the recent Hanna Urak terrorist attack.

Provincial Minister Mir Asim Kurd Gello accompanied the Governor during the visit.

Governor Mandokhail personally met each injured patient, asked about their health, and directed the concerned authorities to ensure the immediate provision of all required medical facilities and treatment.

He expressed satisfaction over the medical care being provided to the victims and praised the doctors and paramedical



staff for their dedicated efforts in treating and supporting the injured.

The Governor reiterated that the provincial government stands with the victims and their families and will continue to ensure the best possible healthcare facilities for

those affected by the attack.

Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail, Hanna Urak attack, Quetta Trauma Center, Balochistan news, terrorism victims, New Trauma Center, Spini Road, healthcare in Balochistan, Mir Asim Kurd Gello.

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Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail, Hanna Urak attack, Quetta Trauma Center, Balochistan news, terrorism victims, New Trauma Center, Spini Road, healthcare in Balochistan, Mir Asim Kurd Gello.

Balochistan C&W Department Reviews Road Development Projects for Five Districts

QUETTA: Secretary of the Balochistan Communications and Works (C&W) Department, Babar Khan, chaired an important meeting of the Departmental Sub-Committee to review proposed road infrastructure and development projects for the districts of Kachhi (Bolan), Sibi, Nasirabad, Jaffarabad, and Sohatpur. The meeting was attended by Chief Engineer Sibi Zone Zubair Ahmed Khoso, Chief Engineer Nasirabad Zone Muhammad Bashir Nasir, Technical Advisor Ahsanullah Khan Durrani, officials from the Planning and Development (P&D) Department, and the concerned Executive Engineers.

During the session, participants con-



ducted a detailed review of various road development projects proposed under the Communications and Works Department for the five districts. Relevant officials presented comprehensive briefings on the feasibility of the projects, estimated costs, technical specifications, and proposed completion timelines.

The committee emphasized the importance of completing all ongoing development projects within the stipulated

timeframe while maintaining high construction standards to ensure the provision of safe, reliable, and improved transportation facilities for the public.

The Departmental Sub-Committee also recommended approval of several new road infrastructure projects, along with multiple schemes for the construction, rehabilitation, and maintenance of existing roads across the concerned districts.

It was decided that all legal, adminis-

trative, and technical requirements for the approved projects would be completed on a priority basis to facilitate the early commencement of construction work.

Addressing the meeting, Secretary Communications and Works Babar Khan stressed that transparency, quality, and timely completion must remain the top priorities in the execution of all development projects.

He directed the concerned officers to further strengthen the monitoring and supervision mechanisms for development projects, warning that negligence or unnecessary delays in project implementation would not be tolerated.

Balochistan C&W Department, Babar Khan, road development projects, Quetta, Kachhi Bolan, Sibi, Nasirabad, Jaffarabad, Sohatpur, infrastructure development, road construction, Balochistan news.

Quetta Deputy Commissioner Reviews Progress of Development Projects, Orders Action Against Encroachments

QUETTA: Deputy Commissioner Mehrullah Badini chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of ongoing development projects across Quetta and directed authorities to ensure their timely completion while removing obstacles affecting implementation.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Hafiz Muhammad Tariq, Assistant Commissioner Sadr,

Assistant Commissioner Sariab, the concerned Tehsildars, the Settlement Officer, officials from the



Communications and Works (C&W) Department, the Quetta Development Authority (QDA), and other relevant departments.

Officials presented a detailed briefing on the status of various development schemes currently underway in the provincial capital.

The meeting also reviewed measures to remove illegal huts

and encroachments established on QDA-owned land and discussed plans to reclaim government property from unlawful occupants.

Deputy Commissioner Mehrullah Badini instructed the concerned departments to ensure that all development projects are completed within the stipulated timeframe.

He also directed officials to expedite the removal of encroachments on public land and resolve any administrative or technical hurdles delaying project execution.

He emphasized that the timely and high-quality completion of development projects would accelerate Quetta's growth and prosperity while

providing improved public services and infrastructure for residents.

Quetta development projects, Deputy Commissioner Mehrullah Badini, Quetta Development Authority, QDA, encroachment removal, government land, C&W Department, Quetta infrastructure, Balochistan development, Quetta news.

Quetta District Compensation Committee Reviews Relief Cases for Hanna Urak and Other Incident Victims



QUETTA: Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Muhammad Anwar Kakar chaired a meeting of the District Compensation Committee to review compensation cases for the victims of the Hanna Urak incident and other recent incidents in the district.

During the meeting, officials presented detailed information

regarding those who lost their lives and those who were injured.

Participants also reviewed the progress of compensation payments to the affected families in accordance with the government's compensation policy.

Representatives of all relevant government departments attended the meeting and submitted reports

and updates related to their respective responsibilities to facilitate the compensation process.

Addressing the participants, Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Muhammad Anwar Kakar directed the concerned departments

to expedite the processing of compensation cases for the families of the deceased and injured victims.

He instructed officials to complete all legal and administrative formalities without delay to ensure that financial assistance reaches the affected families as quickly as possible.

He emphasized that timely relief and support for the victims and their families should remain a priority and that unnecessary delays in the compensation process must be avoided.

Quetta District Compensation Committee, Muhammad Anwar Kakar, Hanna Urak, Quetta compensation, victims compensation, Balochistan relief, martyr families, injured victims, Quetta administration, Balochistan news.

Gwadar Development

Projects Reviewed as MPA Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman Meets GDA Chief

GWADAR: Member of the Balochistan Provincial Assembly, Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman, met with Director General of the Gwadar Development Authority (GDA), Moeen-ur-Rahman Khan, at the GDA office to review the progress of ongoing development

them under the current fiscal year's Public Sector Development Program.

Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman assured GDA officials that he would actively engage both the provincial and federal governments to secure the required fund-



projects and discuss funding challenges affecting key infrastructure schemes.

The meeting was attended by GDA Chief Engineer Haji Syed Muhammad, Director of Town Planning Shahid Ali, Chairman of the Municipal Committee Gwadar Majid Johar, and other senior officials.

During the meeting, participants conducted a comprehensive review of various development projects underway in Gwadar, including issues related to funding availability, implementation challenges, and matters concerning the Fishermen Colony.

pleted, while work on the Model Mohalla Project is expected to commence shortly.

He added that the Sarbandar Fishing Jetty Mall and several other development projects are currently in the tendering phase.

The DG further stated that construction work on the Marine Drive Causeway, the ICT Building, and other major infrastructure projects is advancing rapidly.

The Marine Drive Causeway has entered its final stage of completion.

However, he noted that several development schemes are facing delays because funding was not allocated for

ing for the authority's development projects.

He revealed that he has already discussed the matter with Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal, and an important follow-up meeting is expected soon.

He emphasized that GDA should continue work on the Marine Drive Causeway, adding that every possible effort would be made to ensure the timely release of funds.

The meeting also reviewed proposals for the installation of sewerage lines in the Model Mohalla area and improvements to the drainage system in TTC Colony.

PPP Leader Haji Ali Madad Jattak Condemns Terrorist Attack on Police Personnel in Ziarat

QUETTA: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) central leader and Provincial Deputy Director of Jattak has strongly condemned the terrorist attack targeting police personnel in Ziarat, describing it as a cowardly, brutal, and inhumane act.

In a statement, the provincial minister stated that attacking police officers while they are performing their duty is equivalent to an attack on the entire nation.

He added that those responsible are enemies not only of the law but also of humanity and must be brought to justice.

Haji Ali Madad Jattak said that every conspiracy aimed at undermining peace, development, stability in Balochistan would be defeated.

He expressed confidence that state institutions would take decisive action against the

terrorists and those facilitating their activities.

Tribute to Fallen Police Personnel: The minister stated that the sacrifices of the fallen police officers would never be forgotten and vowed that those responsible for shedding innocent blood would be held accountable.

He said the people of Balochistan stand firmly alongside the police security forces, and all law enforcement agencies in the fight against terrorism.

According to him, the national campaign to eliminate terrorism will continue with full determination until lasting peace is achieved.

Haji Ali Madad Jattak, Ziarat terrorist attack, police attack Balochistan, PPP Balochistan, terrorism condemnation, Balochistan security, police martyrs, law enforcement Pakistan, Quetta news, July 2026.

Balochistan Food Authority Destroys Toxic Vegetables Grown with Sewage Water in Quetta

QUETTA: Director General of the Balochistan Food Authority (BFA), Habibullah Khan, has reaffirmed the authority's commitment to eliminating the cultivation and sale of unsafe vegetables grown with sewage-contaminated water across the province.

He said the campaign is being carried out on the special directives of Provincial Minister and Chairman of the Balochistan Food Authority, Haji Noor Muhammad Durrani, emphasizing that vegetables irrigated with polluted sewage water pose a serious threat to public health.

The complete eradication of toxic and unsafe vegetables from Balochistan is the mission of the Balochistan Food Authority," Habibullah Khan stated, adding that strict action against violators will continue without discrimination and no leniency will be shown.

The DG warned that despite repeated public warnings, officials at the High Court, anyone

continuing to cultivate vegetables using sewage water will face legal action.

He further stated that criminal cases will be registered against landowners who obstruct the ongoing operation to destroy contaminated crops or violate food safety regulations.

He stressed that access to safe and healthy food is essential for public well-being and that there is no place for the production or sale of toxic vegetables in the province.

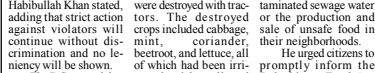
Meanwhile, BFA operational teams, with the assistance of the police, carried out a large-scale enforcement operation on CPEC Road in Quetta, where crops grown on approximately 36 acres using sewage-contaminated water were destroyed with tractors. The destroyed crops included cabbage, mint, coriander, beetroot, and lettuce, all of which had been irrigated with polluted wastewater. During the operation, officials also disconnected the con-

taminated water sources supplying the fields to prevent the illegal cultivation of vegetables in the future. According to the Director General, the special operation forms part of the authority's ongoing campaign to ensure the availability of safe, high-quality, and hygienic food for the people of Balochistan.

He added that the Balochistan Food Authority is continuously monitoring areas across Quetta where vegetables are suspected of being cultivated with sewage water. Any future violations, he said, will be met with immediate and strict enforcement action.

Habibullah Khan also appealed to the public to report any instances of vegetables being grown with contaminated sewage water or the production and sale of unsafe food in their neighborhoods.

He urged citizens to promptly inform the Balochistan Food Authority so that timely action can be taken to protect public health.



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Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan reaffirm commitment to boosting bilateral ties, stress importance of deepening trade

NEWS DESK: President Asif Ali Zardari and Kyrgyzstan President Sadyr Zhaparov on Tuesday reaffirmed their commitment to boosting bilateral ties between Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan, particularly deepening trade, economic and investment cooperation.

President Zardari arrived in Kyrgyzstan a day earlier for a two-day official visit, from July 6-9.

According to a joint statement issued on Tuesday, the two expressed satisfaction over the "development of Kyrgyz-Pakistan relations".

The two reaffirmed their commitment to deepening bilateral cooperation and urged the "consistent implementation of the agreements reached during the Kyrgyz president's visit to Pakistan in December."

As per the statement, the two leaders stressed the need for maintaining "active political dialogue, further expand contacts at the highest and high levels, and strengthen interaction between the parliaments, government and foreign ministries of the two countries."

They also expressed readiness to establish "a strategic partnership" between Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan, with a focus on trade, economic and investment cooperation.

Relevant ministries and agencies were directed to "intensify joint efforts to implement the agreements reached and to take practical measures aimed at developing trade, investment and business ties."

The statement further stated: "The sides underscored the need to further enhance inter-agency cooperation mechanisms, improve the effectiveness of the Kyrgyz-Pakistan Inter-governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation, as well as the relevant Joint Working Groups."

The two leaders also pledged "comprehensive support" for ties between the business communities of each country, including in chambers of commerce and industry, investment promotion agencies, and banking and financial institutions.

The implementation of joint projects and joint ventures was encouraged. "The sides noted the considerable potential for expanding cooperation in the energy sector, particularly through the effective implementation of the CASA-1000 Project, which serves as a vital link connecting Central and South Asia."

The two also discussed the potential for bilateral relations in mining, agriculture, textiles, light industries, halal industry, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, particularly medical education, regulatory harmonisation, vaccine and biological product manufacturing.

Joint ventures in the pharmaceutical production and facilitation of market access through closer cooperation between the respective drug regulatory authorities, the digital economy, information and communication technologies,

tourism, as well as the banking and financial sector. "They also discussed the need for improving transport connectivity between Central Asia and South Asia. At this, the two reaffirmed the importance of the practical implementation of the agreements reached in the Climate Support Levy, alleging that the funds were not being spent on environmental protection or climate-related projects."

Under IMF conditions, the government doubled the climate support levy to Rs5 per litre with effect from July 1, while correspondingly reducing the petroleum levy. As a result, the petroleum levy on diesel currently stands at about Rs80 per litre.

Additional measures were discussed in an effort to boost the volume of cargo transportation on petrol now stands at about Rs70 per litre, in addition to the Rs5 climate support levy.

"Gas prices have been increased despite the discovery of new reserves," the JI chief said, adding that the absence of major international companies in the latest energy exploration bidding round reflected the government's incompetence.

He added that LPG officially priced at Rs241 per kilogramme, was being sold for as much as Rs500 per kilogramme, while electricity, fuel and food prices continued to rise.



President Asif Ali Zardari and Kyrgyzstan President Sadyr Zhaparov during their meeting.

Jl chief announces countrywide protests against 'extortionary' petroleum levy on Friday

NEWS DESK: Jamaat-i-Islami Pakistan (JI) Emir Hafiz Naecrum Rehman on Tuesday announced nationwide protests and sit-ins on Friday, July 10, against what he described as the government's "extortionary" petroleum levy. Addressing a press conference in Lahore, Rehman said the petroleum levy had become an "unbearable burden" on ordinary Pakistanis, claiming that the government was collecting Rs118 per litre in taxes and levies on petrol.

"Nearly Rs8.5 trillion has been collected through the levy to meet revenue targets rather than improve petroleum infrastructure," he alleged.

He also criticised the collection of around Rs60 billion under the Climate Support Levy, alleging that the funds were not being spent on environmental protection or climate-related projects.

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He added that LPG officially priced at Rs241 per kilogramme, was being sold for as much as Rs500 per kilogramme, while electricity, fuel and food prices continued to rise.

Announcing nationwide protests and sit-ins against the petroleum levy, Rehman called on the public, particularly the youth, to participate in Friday's demonstrations. "Petrol should

not be used to pay the government's debt," he said, adding that the government's actions were "deeply shameful" and demanded an open court trial to ensure transparency. "Justice must not only be done but also be seen to be done, regardless of the accused's influence."

Expressing grief over the recent roof-collapse tragedy in Kahna, Rehman urged the Punjab government not to use the incident as a pretext to target tuition centres.

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JI chief Hafiz Naecrum Rehman speaking at a press conference.

One killed, 4 injured in quadcopter attack in KP's Bannu: police

NEWS DESK: One person was killed and four others were injured in a quadcopter attack in the Bakakhel area of Bannu district, police said on Tuesday.

According to Bannu's District Police Officer (DPO) Muhammad Furqan Bilal, terrorists dropped an explosive device from a quadcopter within the jurisdiction of Baka Khel Police Station.

As a result, one person was killed on the spot, while four others sustained injuries, including a teenager, he said. The injured were immediately taken to the District Headquarters Hospital, where they are receiving medical treatment, he added.

Assistant Commissioner Sajjad Hussain and former provincial minister Malik Shah Muhammad Khan visited the hospital to enquire about the condition of the injured and expressed solidarity with the affected families.

The DPO stated that the deployment of anti-drone guns and enhanced security measures at police stations, checkpoints and other sensitive locations had recently foiled several quadcopter attacks targeting police and security forces.

According to Bilal, following these failed attempts, the terrorists had allegedly redirected their attacks toward unarmed civilians in an apparent effort to spread fear and panic among the local population.

In a separate incident, a bridge on the CPEC Circular Road in Saigda area of Baka Khel was blown up, disrupting traffic in the area, according to local sources.

On Sunday, three girls were killed and four other members of the same family were injured in a suspected quadcopter attack in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Lower South Waziristan.

He said the IHC had initially fixed the matter for May 20 and later adjourned it to June 4. However, the cause list for June 4 was cancelled, and the case had not been fixed for hearing since then.

The counsel further stated that an application seeking an early hearing had also been filed before the IHC but was returned without being entertained.

Our only request is that the high court fix the case and decide it, even if the decision goes against us. The matter should at least be

erally does not interfere even in interim orders passed by high courts, whereas in the present case, the IHC had not even issued notices to the prosecution.

Accepting the request made by the petitioners' counsel, the apex court issued notices to the additional attorney general and other respondents and adjourned the matter to July 21.

The petition seeks suspension of the sentences awarded to Imaan Mazari and Barrister Hadi Ali Chattha while their appeal remains pending before the IHC.

Earlier, on May 12, a three-member SC bench headed by Justice Shahid Waheed directed the IHC to decide the applications "preferably within two weeks" while hearing petitions filed by the couple. The matter on June 1, when the prosecution sought time to prepare its arguments. The hearing was adjourned until June 4. However, the cause list for June 4 was cancelled on June 2, and the case has not been relisted since then.

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