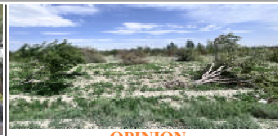


FRONT PAGE
Petition Filed in Balochistan High Court Against...
Page No 1



OPINION
Balochistan: Qila Saifullah Hailstorm Destroys 7M Fruit Trees, 18,000...
Page No 2



BALUCHISTAN
Governor Mandokhail Launches 'Won-it' Digital...
Page No 3



NATIONAL
525 families repatriated as 3 Afghan refugee camps completely vacated...
Page No 4

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Wednesday 15, July, 2026

Petition Filed in Balochistan High Court Against Proposal to Rename Kalat Division as Khuzdar Division

News Desk,
Ali Hamza:

QUETTA: A constitutional petition has been filed in the Balochistan High Court challenging the Balochistan government's proposal to rename Kalat Division as Khuzdar Division, with the petitioner arguing that the move would undermine the area's historical identity and cultural heritage.



Filed under Article 199 of the Constitution, the petitioner states that Kalat has held a central place in Balochistan's history for centuries and that changing the division's name would erase an important part of the province's historical legacy.

According to the petitioner, Kalat is not only one of the oldest historical regions in present-day Pakistan but also served as the capital of the former State of Kalat.

While acknowledging Khuzdar's importance as a major district, the petitioner

argues that replacing Kalat's name with Khuzdar lacks historical and administrative justification.

The plea further maintains that renaming the division could create confusion in official records, government notifications, public administration, and historical documentation, while diminishing Kalat's long-standing historical significance.

The petitioner has requested the Balochistan High Court to declare the proposed

renaming illegal and restrain the provincial government from implementing the decision.

The court has also been asked to direct the provincial authorities—including the Chief Secretary, Board of Revenue,

Police Department, Levies Force, and other relevant departments—to continue using the name Kalat Division in all official records and correspondence.

The Balochistan High Court is expected to hear the petition under its constitutional jurisdiction in the coming days.



Operation Shabaan: Four More Terrorists Killed in Balochistan, Total Reaches 83.

Operation Shabaan: Four More Terrorists Killed in Balochistan, Total Reaches 83, Security Sources

Our Correspondent:

Joint counterterrorism operations by the Pakistan Army, Frontier Corps (FC) Balochistan, and Balochistan Police are continuing under Operation Shabaan, with security sources claiming that four more terrorists have been killed during the latest phase of the operation.

According to security sources, security forces are targeting terrorist hideouts through coordinated air and ground operations in the affected areas.

The ongoing offensive is aimed at dismantling terrorist networks and clearing the region of armed groups.

The sources said the latest action has increased the number of terrorists killed in

Operation Shabaan to 83.

They added that the sustained operations have inflicted significant losses on terrorist elements operating in Balochistan.

Security sources further claimed that since July 5, a total of 121 terrorists have been killed in Operation Shabaan and other intelligence-based operations (IBOs) carried out across the province. The op-

erations are part of an intensified campaign against terrorism in Balochistan.

According to security sources, the joint operation will continue until the last terrorist is eliminated.

The Pakistan Army, FC Balochistan, and Balochistan Police remain engaged in coordinated efforts to eliminate terrorist threats and strengthen security across the province.

Balochistan CM Says No Compromise on National Security, Constitutional Dialogue Remains Open

News Desk:

Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Monday declared that Pakistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national security were non-negotiable, stressing that the provincial government remained open to dialogue only within the framework of the Constitution of Pakistan.

Speaking to participants of the 20th National Workshop Balochistan, Bugti said Pakistan and Balochistan were inseparable, describing their relationship as permanent and unbreakable.

He maintained that while the government welcomed constitutional dialogue, there could be no negotiations with anyone seeking to undermine the country's unity or challenge its sovereignty.

The chief minister warned that terrorist groups, along with coordinated anti-state propaganda on social media, were attempting to spread hatred and instability.

He said such campaigns were part of a broader effort to weaken Pakistan and create divisions, adding that the state would decisively counter every attempt aimed at destabilizing the country.

Bugti dismissed claims that underdevelopment was



the root cause of terrorism in Balochistan.

He argued that districts such as Turbat had experienced considerable development over the years, yet violence persisted, demonstrating

that extremist ideology—not a lack of development—was the driving force behind terrorism.

He further alleged that anti-state elements were not interested in improving the lives of the people but were pursu-

ing an agenda to impose their ideology through violence.

According to the chief minister, such groups sought to fragment Pakistan, an objective that would never be allowed to succeed.

Reaffirming the government's position, Bugti said the administration was prepared to discuss all legitimate political and public issues within the constitutional framework.

However, he emphasized that any agenda aimed at weakening or dividing Pakistan was beyond the scope of dialogue.

The chief minister acknowledged that citizens could have legitimate concerns regarding governance, public service delivery, and administrative performance.

He said the provincial government was introducing reforms to improve governance while making it clear that there would be no compromise on Pakistan's security, sovereignty, or national unity.

Highlighting efforts to promote transparency, Bugti announced that the Balochistan government would introduce artificial intelligence (AI) in the recruitment process for public-sector jobs.

He said the technology would ensure merit-based, transparent, and impartial hiring, providing equal opportunities to qualified candidates and helping restore the confidence of the province's youth.

Following his address, the chief minister engaged in an extensive question-and-answer session with participants of the workshop, responding to a wide range of issues.

The interactive session continued for more than two and a half hours.

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Artificial Intelligence Just Taking Baby Steps

Syed Muhammad Qaseem:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is the simulation of human intelligence in computer systems. In simple words, AI enables machines to perform tasks that require human intelligence. These tasks can be learning from past experiences, solving problems, and making predictions based on provided data. Until now, AI has just started taking baby steps but it is growing at a much rapid rate.

Every invention had various positive and negative impacts on human civilization. According to Google's CEO, Sundar Pichai "AI will have a more profound impact on human beings than fire, electricity, and the internet". This innovation also has both positive and negative impacts on human beings. If it is left unchecked it will have adverse impacts on human creativity, the job market, and the flow of information. However, the positive use of AI will bring major advancements in medical science, education, agriculture, etc. In the following paragraphs, the impacts of AI on humans are described.

Negative Impacts of AI:

AI is a technological tool and its use can be both positive and negative, although, it is in the hands of human beings on how to use it. Following are some negative impacts of AI on humans.

Deep Fakes Through Generative AI:

In the age of information technology, misinformation is a major issue.

The introduction of generative AI into public space has further worsened the predicament of information flow. Through generative AI, deep fakes are generated.

These deep fakes are difficult to judge, as original or fake, for a person who has no knowledge of AI.

The deep fakes can be an image, a video, or a voice note. Recently, in Slovakia's 2023 elections, a fake voice of a party's leader and a journalist was shared on social media, in which they were talking about purchasing votes from the poor population. This voice badly reduced the vote bank of that party during elections.

Another example of the deep fakes that created uncertainty was pictures of the former US president, Donald Trump's arrest, which provoked his supporter's sentiments against the state. Therefore, if the use of generative AI is left unchecked, bad actors in society will use it for their own purposes and spread wrong information.

AI's use in War

Using AI for the purpose of AI will have ferocious results. Because AI unlike humans has no fear, doesn't commit mistakes, doesn't get tired, and has no mercy. So, it can fight much better than a soldier.

Thus, Countries are trying to develop AI fighters, robots, and drones for the maximization of power. This will attract the attention of their rival countries to build AI war machines for the purpose of power. Hence, like nuclear weapons, AI will further worsen security dilemma as it used for the purpose of war.

AI is a Major Threat to Human Creativity

Creativity is a unique characteristic of human beings due to which they bring development, prosperity, modernization, and easiness in their lives. But man-made intelligence is growing so rapidly that



it has posed a grave threat to the creativity of God's humankind. With only a few clicks and in some seconds, an AI program can write a book, a novel, a poem, an assignment and an article. Furthermore, it can sing a song, draw a painting, solve a problem, and make a prediction. On the other side, it takes much effort and time for a human to do all these tasks. Due to the lazy and comfort-seeking nature of human beings, now they mostly rely on AI to perform these tasks. With the passage of time AI is learning more skills and human's reliance on AI is further increasing. AI will cause the death of creativity in humans.

AI and Job Market

"AI is coming to take your job", this news was seen on many news platforms when

ChatGPT was launched in Nov 2022. As stated earlier, AI is efficient and less time-consuming in performing a task. Therefore, it has made millions of people jobless in almost every field, whether they are hotel waiters, drivers, journalists, software engineers and content writers etc.

AI-driven cars neither cross the speed limit nor have sleep problems, consequently, companies are manufacturing AI-driven cars to avoid road accidents. Journalists and content writers demand huge salaries for their work, while, ChatGPT is a free AI app that can do the same tasks freely and quickly.

More interestingly, AI will replace its own founders (Software Engineers) who developed AI, as AI can write code and find errors in it. To sum up, AI has much potential to replace the human workforce.

Positive Impacts of AI

Along with negative impacts, AI can also be advantageous for humans if used for welfare purposes. In the following paragraphs, some advantages of AI are described if AI is used positively.

AI can Revolutionize the Medical Field

AI along with synthetic biology can transform the world shaped until now. AI and synthetic biology can eradicate debilitating diseases, and find treatments for pandemics, thus providing health benefits. AI has also made a lot of achievements in the field of surgery. Last year, an AI robot performed a successful egg surgery in which the inner layer of an egg was stitched. Additionally, an AI Chatbot

can also prescribe medicines and treatment for a disease based on the provided symptoms. In the coming years, AI will further advance itself in the medical field and people will take numerous benefits from it.

Prediction Based on Provided Data

Humans remain curious to predict things or the outcome of events. If data is fed to an AI, it can find patterns in that data, and based on those patterns it can give predictions. For example:

AI can predict election results, market demand for a product, predict weather etc. In the US 2020 presidential elections, an AI model was trained to predict the outcome of elections.

Tweets and Facebook posts were fed to the model from which AI separated positive and negative sentiments

efficient in saving the loss of water during irrigation. Secondly, it will provide a suitable environment for the plants to grow through maintaining soil fertility and water needs.

To sum up, equipping agriculture with AI systems will boost agricultural production and prevent heavy water losses.

Recommendations for the Pakistani Government

The world has entered into the race of AI development. Fortunately, Pakistan has a huge human resource, but making them skillful in the field of AI is a hard task to do. All provincial governments should include AI in the school curriculum.

There should be an AI portal for students, from where they can get updates about AI developments around the globe and jobs announced by the government. Furthermore, universities must be directed to increase practical work in AI rather than theoretical.

Conclusion

In conclusion, AI nevertheless advantageous, poses a grave threat to human civilization. If AI is left unchecked, it can spread misinformation through deep fakes, worsen the status quo of security dilemmas, cause the death of human creativity, and take jobs. So, all countries should sit on a single platform and form laws to control the development and introduction of AI tools in public space. In addition,

AI companies should include a watermark to the content generated through AI to cope with misinformation. In the end,

AI will be more hazardous if it gets consciousness and moves physically freely without being dependant on humans.

Boosting Agriculture Through AI

Pakistan is an agriculture-based country, and enhancing the agriculture sector will boost the country's economic performance.

AI can increase agricultural production by predicting the best time to cultivate and harvest a crop.

It is also capable of identifying soil conditions, plant diseases, weather forecasts, and when plants need to be irrigated. Moreover,

AI can analyze the market's supply and demand chain. AI will be ef-

Balochistan: Qila Saifullah Hailstorm Destroys 7M Fruit Trees, 18,000 Farmers Hit

Atta Kakar:

A devastating hailstorm accompanied by powerful winds has caused widespread destruction across Qila Saifullah district in Balochistan, damaging more than 7 million fruit trees and affecting nearly 18,000 farmers and landowners.

The storm struck on April 18, severely impacting one of the province's most important horticultural regions and leaving thousands of rural families facing major economic uncertainty.

The disaster caused extensive damage to orchards, agricultural land, and seasonal crops, particularly apple, apricot, and grape farms that form the backbone of the local economy.

Farmers say years of hard work and investment were wiped out within minutes as hail and strong winds tore through villages and farming areas across the district.

Local growers have described the situation as catastrophic,



warning that many families may struggle to survive financially without immediate government assistance.

Agriculture remains the primary source of income for a large portion of Qila Saifullah's population, and the destruction of fruit orchards is expected to have long-term economic consequences for the region.

Residents and farming communities have expressed frustration over delays in relief and compensation efforts.

Many affected farmers claim that official assessment and rehabilitation measures have been slow despite the scale of destruction.

Calls are growing for the provincial and federal governments to announce emergency compensation packages, interest-free agricultural loans, and recovery support for affected communities.

Farmers and local representatives are also demanding restoration of damaged irrigation systems and the introduction of crop insurance mechanisms to help

rural communities recover from climate-related disasters.

They argue that without urgent intervention, the crisis could deepen poverty and unemployment across the district.

The Qila Saifullah hailstorm has once again highlighted the vulnerability of Balochistan's agriculture sector to extreme weather events.

Experts warn that climate-related disasters, including hailstorms, droughts, and flash floods, are becoming increasingly frequent in the province.

placing additional pressure on farmers already struggling with limited infrastructure and rising production costs.

Analysts say stronger disaster management systems, climate-resilient agricultural policies, and faster

emergency response mechanisms are essential to protect rural livelihoods and ensure long-term stability in Balochistan's farming sector.

Governor Mandokhail Launches 'Won-it' Digital Entrepreneurship Platform to Empower Youth Startups in Quetta

QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has hailed the establishment of Won-it, Quetta's first digital entrepreneurship platform, describing it as a landmark initiative aimed at promoting innovation, startup culture, and economic self-reliance among the province's youth.

Speaking at a Won-it Digital Entrepreneurship event hosted at Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUTEMS), the Governor said the platform is designed to align young entrepreneurs with modern digital business trends, encourage innovative business models, and create new opportunities for sustainable economic growth.

He said Won-it provides talented young entrepreneurs and startup founders with a national platform to



present their business ideas, receive mentorship from industry experts, build professional networks, and compete for business grants to transform innovative concepts into successful enterprises.

Governor Mandokhail commended Won-it Chairman Prince Agha Omar Ahmedzai and his team for launching the initiative, calling their efforts

a significant contribution to fostering entrepreneurship in Balochistan.

During the event, finalists of the digital entrepreneurship program presented their startup ideas in a competitive business pitch session, which the Governor, praised for demonstrating the creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurial potential of Balochistan's youth.

The ceremony was attended by Parliamentary Secretary for Population Welfare Prince Agha Omar Ahmedzai, BUTEMS Vice Chancellor Dr. Khalid Hafiz, Pro Vice Chancellor Dr. Mir Wais Kasi, Won-it Chief Executive Officer Omar Ajmal, faculty members, and other distinguished guests.

Governor Mandokhail said the many objectives of the

Won-it platform are to promote entrepreneurship and emerging business trends in Balochistan, showcase innovative startup ideas at the national level, and provide aspiring entrepreneurs with access to investment, mentorship, networking opportunities, and business development support.

He added that initiatives like Won-it will help project a positive, progressive, and innovation-driven image of Balochistan while encouraging economic self-sufficiency and job creation.

Highlighting the potential of the province's youth, the Governor said Balochistan's young people possess immense talent and creativity and will be provided with the necessary opportunities, resources, and guidance to contribute to the modern digital economy.

Balochistan C&W Department Reviews Road Development Projects for Kalat and Kohlu

QUETTA: Secretary of the Balochistan Communications and Works (C&W) Department, Babar Khan, chaired an important meeting of the Departmental Sub-Committee (DSC) to review proposed road infrastructure projects for the districts of Kalat and Kohlu.

The meeting was held as part of the provincial government's ongoing efforts to accelerate the implementation of development schemes under the vision of Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti and the directives of Provincial Minister for Communications and Works Nur Saleem Ahmed Khosa.

Participants included Chief Engineer Sibi Zone, Zahair Ahmed Khosa, Chief Engineer Kalat-Khuzdar Zone, Azzullah Kasi, and Superintending Engineer Kalat Circle Zafar



Bangulzai, officials from the Planning and Development (P&D) Department, and the concerned Executive Engineers.

During the meeting, officials conducted a detailed review of several proposed road development schemes under the Communications and Works Department.

A comprehensive briefing was presented on the feasibility studies, estimated project costs, technical specifications, and proposed completion timelines.

He reiterated the department's commitment to delivering high-quality infrastructure projects that improve connectivity, support regional development, and contribute to the socio-economic progress of Balochistan.

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

It was decided that all legal, administrative, and technical requirements for the approved projects should be completed promptly to ensure the early commencement of construction work.

The Departmental Sub-Committee also recommended approval of several new road infrastructure projects, including schemes related to the construction, rehabilitation, and maintenance of roads in Kalat and Kohlu.

He emphasized that all ongoing

ment to delivering high-quality infrastructure projects that improve connectivity, support regional development, and contribute to the socio-economic progress of Balochistan.

Balochistan Communications and Works Department, Babar Khan, Kalat road projects, Kohlu road development, and the District of Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti, Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa, road infrastructure, Departmental Sub-Committee, Balochistan development projects, Quetta news, transport infrastructure Pakistan.

The session was convened in light of the directives issued during the Central Recruitment

Kech Deputy Commissioner Reviews Power Supply Issues, KESCO Promises Improvement After July 18

TURBAT: Deputy Commissioner Kech, Yasir Iqbal Dashti, held a meeting with KESCO Executive Engineer (XEN) Asif Aziz Magi and representatives from the Malikabad, Miri, and Gogdan feeders to discuss electricity supply issues affecting consumers in the district.

During the meeting, community representatives highlighted the public's regular payment of electricity bills and expressed hope that, through close coordination between the district administration and KESCO, the 20-hour electricity supply schedule would soon be restored.

The Deputy Commissioner reaffirmed that ensuring the uninterrupted provision of essential public services remains one of the district administration's top priorities and said that coordinated efforts would continue to improve service delivery across Kech.

Local community representatives appreciated the Deputy Commissioner's proactive role in addressing public issues and expressed confidence that his leadership would

meeting that significant improvements in electricity supply are expected after July 18, once the upgrade work is completed, adding that the power distribution system will become more stable and reliable.

He also stressed the importance of fulfilling the commitments made to the public regarding the restoration of electricity services.

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Nasirabad Recruitment Committee Reviews Merit-Based Hiring Process for Education Department

NASIRABAD: Deputy Commissioner Virender Lal chaired an important meeting of the District Recruitment Committee (DRC) to review the recruitment process and ensure timely compliance with all decisions.

Addressing the participants, Deputy Commissioner Virender Lal instructed officials to maintain transparency and impartiality at every stage of recruitment, including advertisement of vacancies, receipt of applications, scrutiny, shortlisting, interviews, and final selection.

He emphasized that there should be no room for favoritism or discrimination against any candidate and directed

participants conducted a detailed review of the minutes of the previous meeting and finalized an implementation strategy to ensure timely compliance with all decisions.

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issues identified during record scrutiny or other stages of the recruitment process should be rectified immediately in accordance with the relevant regulations to prevent future objections or complaints.

He urged all concerned officers to perform their duties with professionalism, integrity, and accountability, stressing that the supremacy of merit must be upheld at all times.

Virender Lal concluded by stating that a transparent and merit-based recruitment process is essential for strengthening public confidence in govern-



Committee (CRC) meeting with the primary objective of ensuring that the recruitment process remains transparent, impartial, and fully compliant with the prescribed rules and regulations.

During the meeting,

officials to strictly follow the applicable recruitment rules and procedures.

The Deputy Commissioner further instructed that any deficiencies, discrepancies, ambiguities, or technical

ment institutions and ensuring equal employment opportunities for all eligible candidates.

Nasirabad District Recruitment Committee, DRC meeting, Deputy Commissioner Virender Lal.

Jaffarabad Coordination Committee Reviews BSDI Development Projects, Emphasizes Quality and Transparency

JAFFARABAD: Deputy Commissioner Khalid Khan chaired an important meeting of the District Coordination Committee (DCC) to review the progress of development projects being implemented under the Balochistan Special Development Initiative (BSDI) Phase I and Phase II.

The meeting was attended by Executive Engineer Public Health Engineering Muhammad Kazim Loni, Executive Engineer Communications and Works Irfan Ali, along with officers and representatives from various government departments.

During the session, participants conducted a detailed review of the progress of ongoing development schemes, utilization of allocated funds, payment of contractors' bills, construction quality, and other administrative matters.

Concerned officials informed the committee that work on several projects is progressing at a satisfactory pace and provided updates on their current status.

Addressing the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Khalid Khan stressed that all development projects should only be released after comprehensive technical inspections and verification.

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He stressed that effective supervision and timely follow-up are essential to achieving the campaign's objectives and protecting children from the lifelong effects of polio.

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would not be tolerated.

He further stated that the district administration is committed to strengthening project monitoring to ensure that all development schemes are completed on time, with full transparency and quality, enabling the people of Jaffarabad to benefit from improved infrastructure and public services.

Jaffarabad development projects, BSDI Phase I, BSDI Phase II, Deputy Commissioner Khalid Khan, District Coordination Committee, Balochistan Special Development Initiative, public infrastructure, development monitoring, transparency in development, Public Health Engineering, Communications and Works Department, Jaffarabad news, Balochistan development.

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Balochistan Food Authority Destroys Sewage-Irrigated Vegetable Crops in Quetta, Warns of Legal Action

QUETTA: The Balochistan Food Authority (BFA) has continued its crackdown against vegetables cultivated with sewage water, such as illegal farming practices cannot be tolerated.

He emphasized that vegetables produced with contaminated wastewater pose significant public health risks and contribute to the spread of foodborne illnesses rather than providing nutritional benefits.

The DG clarified that while non-edible crops may be cultivated using treated or permitted wastewater under applicable regulations, the use of sewage water for growing vegetables and other edible crops is strictly prohibited.

He warned that the Balochistan Food

Authority will continue its enforcement campaign, and any farmer or landowner found violating food safety laws will face destruction of the crops and legal action in accordance with the relevant regulations.

The authority reaffirmed its commitment to protecting public health by ensuring that only safe and hygienic agricultural produce reaches consumers across the province.

Balochistan Food Authority, BFA crackdown, sewage water vegetables, Spinnay Road Quetta, CP&C Road Quetta, unsafe vegetables, food safety Pakistan, contaminated crops, DG Balochistan Food Authority, public health, legal action against farmers, Quetta news, sewage irrigation ban.

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'Diminished martyrs' sacrifices': Ministers rebuke Fazl over 'insensitive' remarks about military personnel

NEWS DESK: Ministers, mostly from the ruling PML-N, have rebuked Jamiat Ulama-Islam-Fazl's (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman over his recent remarks about security personnel, it emerged on Tuesday.

Fazl made the statement during a recent party rally in Punjab's Kasur, where he spoke about the security and terrorism situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. In this context, he mentioned that soldiers' martyrdom was often cited, adding that personnel were drawing salaries to fight for the country.

In a post on X, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif reacted to his statement by expressing disappointment and terming his words "unfair". Asif said he expected a seasoned politician such as Fazl to be more responsible in his choice of words.

"Linking the sacrifice of military personnel for the homeland to their salary is not only unfair but tantamount to hurting the sentiments of our martyrs and their families. No one sacrifices their life merely for a salary; there is an ideology, a belief, a duty, and a deep association with the homeland behind it," he said.

"One can disagree with the words [of an entity], but cannot insult that ideology, association, love and sacrifice,"



he asserted. The defence minister went on to say that declaring the security personnel's sacrifices "a result of salaries" was not political criticism but "moral insensitivity".

He said Fazl had hurt the sentiments of security personnel, as well as martyrs, their widows and orphaned children.

Information Minister Attaulah Tarar also appeared to be criticising Fazl in a post on X, in which he did not explicitly mention the JUI-F chief or his speech.

"The entire nation is indebted to the brave martyrs who sacrifice their lives for the homeland," he said, further saluting the soldiers' families who he said had farrowed to their loved ones while praying for their martyrdom.

"Such courageous and valiant sons are the

nation's asset. There is no room for political discourse over their sacrifices, as their worth cannot be measured," he said.

Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal posted on X that he had always respected Fazl, and with that sentiment, he wanted to make some requests.

"Your recent statement has created the impression [...] you have diminished the value and significance of the great sacrifices of our martyrs. This has not only hurt my feelings but those of millions of Pakistanis."

"Our military personnel and officers do not merely perform their professional duties; rather, they fulfil the duty of defending the homeland with their lives on the line all the time," he added.

He added, "To describe such an unparalleled sacrifice as merely

a compensation for a salary is neither fair, nor in accordance with the demands of ethics, and not aligned with Islamic teachings."

Iqbal also said the nation was indebted to the martyrs and could never repay them.

"Acknowledging their favour, honouring their sacrifice, keeping their memory alive and holding them above all kinds of politics is our national, political, moral, and religious responsibility," he said.

Iqbal also said that while having a difference of opinion was an individual's right, words that hurt martyrs' families, companions and the entire nation should be avoided when speaking about martyrs.

Prime Minister's Adviser on Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah also seemingly reacted to Fazl's statement, but in a more implicit manner.

NEWS DESK: Police on Tuesday said the mastermind behind the attack on a Karachi Rangers camp, identified as Qari Bashir, had been arrested, adding that the "entire planning of the attack took place in Afghanistan."

"Qari Bashir was called from Pakistan to Afghanistan and assigned this task. Rangers later arrested him, and he has confessed to all the crimes related to planning the attack," said Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) Irfan Bahadur while speaking at a joint press conference alongside Sindh Inspector General of Police Javed Alam Odho and Home Minister Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar.

The investigation stemmed from an attack on a Pakistan Rangers (Sindh) camp in Karachi on June 27, when armed terrorists attempted to storm the facility after detonating explosives at its main gate. According to the military's media wing, Rangers personnel repelled the assault, killing three of the attackers and capturing a fourth in an injured condition.

The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said three Rangers personnel were killed and four others wounded during the exchange of fire. It identified the attackers as members of Jamaat-ul-Ahrar and said one of the captured terrorists was an Afghan national.

'Mastermind' of Rangers camp attack in Karachi arrested: police

During the presser, Bahadur said that "the entire planning of the attack took place in Afghanistan," where the terrorists were selected and trained before being sent to Pakistan.

"This terrorist operation can be divided into four parts. The first stage was planning in Afghanistan. The second

was bringing the terrorists to Pakistan. The third stage involved the facilitators' network. The final stage was the supply of weapons and suicide jackets," he said.

According to Bahadur, investigators recovered videos from Bashir's mobile phone allegedly showing preparations for the operation. "Bashir bid farewell to the terrorists before the attack and recorded a video," he said, adding that investigators also recovered footage showing the terrorists leaving for the attack after completing their

preparations. "One of the attackers, identified as Janan, was an Afghan national and a suicide bomber, while another was from Bajaur. A third suspect, Umar Farooq, was from Afghanistan's Kunar province, and the fourth attacker, identified as Usman, was captured alive after being injured

during the operation," he said.

Bahadur said the terrorists selected for the Karachi attack were chosen in Afghanistan, and before being sent to Karachi, they were trained at two camps. He said Usman told investigators he had been recruited from a religious seminary in Afghanistan and had received training at multiple camps before entering Pakistan.

According to Bahadur, the terrorists travelled through different parts of Afghanistan before entering Pakistan via Balochistan. They

reached Hub before travelling by car to Karachi, where Bashir rented accommodation for them near Chandra Chowring. Bahadur said Bashir also took Usman on a reconnaissance mission on a motorcycle to survey the Rangers facility.

Detailing the logistics, Bahadur said, he said that Tehreek-e-



Country's overall situation, AJK comes under discussion as Dar meets Bilawal

NEWS DESK: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Tuesday met with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

According to the PPP, the two discussed the "overall situation in the country, including matters relating to Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK)".

Tuesday's meeting comes ahead of the upcoming elections in the region, scheduled for July 27.

Last month, PPP's Bilawal and Jamiat Ulama-Islam (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman announced that their parties would jointly contest the AJK general elections.

Meanwhile, ahead of the elections, the proscribed Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) has called for widespread protests demanding the abolition of 12 reserved seats.

Bilawal had also met with Dar last week

to discuss the "situation in AJK and Gilgit-Baltistan," according to Radio Pakistan.

"Both leaders also agreed on the importance of holding free, fair, and transparent forthcoming general elections in AJK," the report said.

It is worth mentioning that last month, the PPP formed a government in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) with the support of the PML-N, mirroring the arrangement at the federal level.

Pakistan reaffirms support for Saudi Arabia at United Nations (UN), condemns Houthi attacks

NEWS DESK: Pakistan on Tuesday reaffirmed its support for Saudi Arabia at a United Nations Emergency Briefing on the situation in the Middle East, on Yemen.

The Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN wrote in a post on X that Ambassador Usman Jadoon noted Islamabad's condemnation of Houthi ballistic missile attacks against Saudi Arabia. "We express our full solidarity with the brotherly Kingdom and reaffirm our steadfast support for its security, sovereignty, and territorial integrity," he said.

Further, he noted, "We also reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Yemen, consistent with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and international law. The ambassador called on concerned parties to resolve differences through dialogue, diplo-

macy, and a steadfast commitment to de-escalation," particularly during "a time when the region continues to face heightened tensions and multiple interconnected crises". According to Jadoon, "A comprehensive, inclusive and sus-

tainable peace can only be achieved through a Yemeni-led and Yemeni-owned political process, facilitated by the UN, which addresses the legitimate aspirations and concerns of all

Yemenis." He cited the agreement on the exchange of prisoners earlier this year as having demonstrated that "dialogue can yield tangible outcomes even in a difficult environment".

All parties, the ambassador noted,



"should build on this momentum and continue engaging constructively towards a durable nationwide ceasefire and an inclusive political settlement". He added that the

people of Yemen have endured years of conflict, displacement, economic hardship, food insecurity, and the collapse of essential services. "Any further escalation risks undermining prospects for peace and deepening the suffering of civilians," Jadoon stated.

He reiterated Pakistan's condemnation of the continued arbitrary detention of UN humanitarian personnel and diplomatic staff, as well as the unlawful seizure of UN premises and assets by the Houthis. "These actions contravene international law and undermine humanitarian work," the ambassador said, adding that Islamabad calls for "the immediate and unconditional release of all detained personnel and for full respect for the privileges and immunities of UN personnel, facilities and assets".

Further, Jadoon reaffirmed Islamabad's firm commitment to strengthening dialogue, diplomacy and regional de-escalation, encouraging all concerned parties to maintain channels of communication, avoid actions that could heighten tensions and pursue peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with the UN Charter and international law.

"Pakistan will continue to support all sincere efforts aimed at fostering peace, stability and mutual understanding in the region," the ambassador concluded.



525 families repatriated as 3 Afghan refugee camps completely vacated in KP's Bannu

NEWS DESK: Three Afghan refugee camps in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Bannu district have been completely vacated, with the successful repatriation of 525 families to Afghanistan, it emerged on Tuesday.

Speaking to Dawn, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Umar Khattab Khan said that the phased repatriation of all Afghan refugees was being carried out in line with the directives of the KP government, whether they resided in refugee camps, urban areas, or villages.

He said that under this policy, all 525 families living in the refugee camps at Bizan Khel, Ghorwala, and Munand Khel were repatriated to Afghanistan. According to the ADC, the families were repatriated through the Torkham border crossing, with the government providing transportation and other necessary facilities to facilitate the repatriation process.

He added that the administration was now focusing on Afghan nationals living in rented houses or private residences across the city of Bannu and its surrounding villages.

He said that their records have been prepared and, in accordance with government directives, efforts are being made to ensure their early repatriation. The ADC further said that Afghan families willing to return voluntarily may stay at the

temporary transit centres established by the district administration. From there, transporta-

tion will be arranged to take them to the Torkham border for their return to Afghanistan. The repatriation of Afghan families via the Torkham border has gained momentum, with the federal government ordering the arrest and repatriation of those living in the country without valid visas.

Officials at the Home Department in Landi Kotal said earlier this week that the numbers exceeded the 10,000 figure on a daily basis since Pakistan re-



Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) Dar meets Bangladesh minister, discuss stronger bilateral ties

NEWS DESK: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Tuesday reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to strengthening ties with Bangladesh

during a meeting with Bangladesh's Minister for Women, Children and Social Welfare, Dr AZM Zahid Hossain, in Islamabad, according to a statement issued by the Foreign Office (FO).

Dr Hossain was visiting Pakistan to attend the 9th Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Ministerial Conference on Women, being held in Islamabad.

Welcoming the Bangladeshi minister, Dar appreciated Bangladesh's participation in the conference and reaffirmed "Pakistan's commitment to advancing cooperation on women's empowerment within the OIC framework

and beyond," according to the FO.

Recalling his visit to Dhaka last August, Dar also reaffirmed "Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening bilateral relations" and underscored "its readiness to expand cooperation across diverse fields of mutual interest".

The two leaders also exchanged views on enhancing bilateral cooperation in trade,

education, social welfare, and people-to-people contacts, the FO said.

The Ninth Ministerial Conference on Women of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on Monday adopted the Islamabad Declaration, reaffirming member states' commitment to the social, economic, and political empowerment of women and girls while

launching a new initiative to promote digital inclusion for women across the Muslim world. According to the Islamabad Declaration, available on the OIC's official website, ministers and heads of delegations pledged to further strengthen policies and institutional mechanisms to ensure the effective and meaningful participation of women in political, economic and

public life. The declaration urged member states to remove barriers to women's education and employment, expand access to quality education, technical and vocational training, and leadership development opportunities, and promote women's economic stability by improving access to jobs, financial resources, entrepreneurship support and social protection systems.

It also stressed the need to promote inclusive financial systems, including Islamic finance, microfinance and digital financial services, while recommending improved access to capital, innovation and trade opportunities for women-led small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The declaration described women's participation in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

