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QUETTA VOICE

3 Excise Officials Abducted by Armed Men on Dalbandin-Taftan Highway in Balochistan

Riaz Baloch:

CHAGHAI: Three Excise Department officials were abducted by unidentified armed men in a serious security incident on the Dalbandin-Taftan Highway in Balochistan's Chagai district,



raising fresh concerns about law and order along one of the province's key transit routes.

According to initial reports, the officials were carrying out routine duties at a temporary checkpoint near the Dhadar area when heavily armed attackers set up an illegal checkpoint and launched a surprise assault.

The assailants reportedly disarmed the officers before taking all three officials hostage.

The attackers also seized two government vehicles and official weapons before fleeing the area.

Police and security forces

rushed to the scene soon after the incident was reported.

A large-scale search and cordon operation has been launched across Chagai district to locate the abducted officials, recover the stolen government property, and apprehend those responsible.

The Dalbandin-Taftan Highway, which connects Quetta with the Taftan border crossing,

is considered a strategically important route for trade and travel. The latest abduction has once again highlighted the ongoing security challenges in Balochistan, particularly along the Quetta-Taftan corridor.

Authorities have increased security and surveillance in the region while investigations into the attack continue.

Officials say every effort is being made to ensure the safe recovery of the kidnapped Excise personnel.

Iran's Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni arrives in Pakistan

NEWS DESK:

Iran's Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni on Monday night arrived in Islamabad on an official visit.

Upon his arrival in Pakistan, the senior Iranian official was received by Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi.

During his visit, Momeni will meet Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of the Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, reported state-run Pakistan TV.

Earlier reports had suggested that Momeni was likely to engage with Pakistani officials who previously mediated a now-collapsed interim ceasefire between the US and Iran.



Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi greets his Iranian counterpart upon his arrival.

Momeni's visit comes as mediator Pakistan continues its diplomatic efforts to rescue the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed last month between the US and Iran.

In the ninth consecutive night of attacks on Monday, Washington expanded its strikes across Iran, including a city hosting a nuclear power plant.

Iran kept up its own attacks across the region in response, with its Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) announcing they had hit targets in Bahrain, Jordan and Syria, while Bahrain said Tehran had targeted

its air navigation systems.

After US President Donald Trump's remarks earlier this month that the ceasefire was "over", his Iranian counterpart Masoud Pezeshkian also said on Monday that they were fighting a "full-scale war". Tehran has blamed Washington for breaching the MoU.

Despite the latest attacks, Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Bagaei said diplomatic exchanges with the US via mediators were ongoing.

The Middle East war resumed after a weeks-long lull prompted by an agreement signed in June, and oil prices surged to a one-month high as the foes battled to control the vital Strait of Hormuz. As its truce with the US collapsed, Tehran reimposed its blockade of the waterway,

while Washington hit back by again blockading Iran's ports.

Pakistan has been leading the peace efforts since the US and Israel launched attacks on Iran on February 28, setting off a war and global fuel crisis as Tehran took measures to disrupt traffic in the Strait of Hormuz—a vital maritime corridor for the supply of oil and gas.

The Pakistan-mediated interim peace deal aimed at ending the war and reopening the Strait of Hormuz was signed between the US and Iran on June 18.



RAWALPINDI: Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Anita Anand, met with Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces

Pakistan Army Chief Asim Munir, Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand Discuss Regional Security, Defence Cooperation

NEWS DESK:

RAWALPINDI: Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Anita Anand, met with Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, at the General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi on Monday

to discuss regional security, bilateral relations and defence cooperation.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR),

the meeting focused on matters of mutual interest, the evolving regional security situation, and ways to further strengthen Pakistan-Canada bilateral ties.

During the meeting, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir shared Pakistan's perspective on global peace and regional stability,

emphasizing the importance of international cooperation and coordinated efforts to address shared security challenges.

Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand acknowl-

edged Pakistan's continued sacrifices and efforts in the fight against terrorism and pre-empted the country's constructive role in promoting regional peace and stability.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing Pakistan-Canada relations and expanding cooperation in defence, security and other areas of mutual interest.

Balochistan CM Sarfraz Bugti, UK High Commissioner Jane Marriott Discuss Development, Investment and Governance



From Our Correspondent:

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti met British High Commissioner to Pakistan Jane Marriott in Quetta on Sunday to discuss bilateral cooperation, development partnerships, and investment opportunities in the province.

During the meeting, both sides exchanged views on matters of mutual interest, with a particular focus on expanding cooperation in education, healthcare, governance reforms, and economic development across Balochistan.

Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti briefed the British High Commissioner on the provincial government's ongoing re-

forms and development initiatives aimed at improving public services, strengthening institutions, and accelerating socio-economic progress.

He said that peace, sustainable development, and public welfare remain the top priorities of the Balochistan government, adding that the administration is committed to creating a stable environment

for investment and long-term growth.

Bugti also emphasized that collaboration with international partners, including the United Kingdom, is opening new avenues for development, investment, and prosperity in Balochistan, benefiting local communities and supporting the province's economic transformation.

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Poverty and inequality

UMAIR JAVED:

The release of the Household Integrated Economic Survey and Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement data presents a clearer picture of poverty and economic distress in Pakistan. This data has appeared after a gap of nearly six years, during which several important events and shocks took place.

In 2018-19, the country had to go through a painful macroeconomic adjustment to counteract the yawning current account deficit left behind by the then departing PML-N government. Between 2020 and 2021,

the global economy faced massive contraction on account of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The expansionary policies designed to mitigate this contraction then led to increased inflation and monetary tightening the world over, which dried up dollar liquidity and raised commodity prices.

During this cycle, the PTI government pursued ill-advised growth via the expansion of domestic consumption,

which once again increased imports and reintroduced another balance-of-payments crisis.

That crisis, coupled with the global oil price shock, sent Pakistan into its worst inflationary period in decades; it took an extraordinarily painful stabilisation period to



tame the cost spiral, though at the cost of growth and any notion of increased prosperity.

This precarious stability is threatened once more by regional geopolitical events.

Given the frequency of shocks — self-inflicted and external/global in nature — and the painful adjustments needed to fight them off, it is little surprise that poverty rates have gone up in the country.

The government's own poverty estimates narrate an increase of seven per cent between 2018-19 (21.8pc) and 2024-25 (28.9).

Rural areas were impacted more, reporting an 8pc increase, compared to 6pc for urban areas.

We're stuck in a doom-loop of low growth, recurrent stabilisation, and half-hearted attempts at poverty alleviation.

Likely for the first time ever on record, average household inflation-adjusted incomes and consumption actually fell during two successive survey cycles.

In real terms, households on average are both earning less and consuming less than six years ago. Stretch that back to 10 years, and the num-

bers remain flat.

In other words, Pakistan has witnessed a lost decade in both incomes and consumption. On its own, this story is distressing enough.

For a country of 250 million with a young and large labour force, enhancing shared prosperity should be the central plan of economic policymaking.

Instead, we're stuck in a doom-loop of low growth, recurrent stabilisation, and half-hearted attempts at poverty alleviation.

But what makes it worse is that there is a creeping inequality story that is becoming

more apparent via data and anecdotes.

By now, it is clear that the story of the past decade is of economic slowdown interspersed with outright stagnation.

The recently released survey data adds the increase in poverty to this story too.

But what about the fact that growth has actually not been zero during this time? The average annual growth rate from the past six years is around 3pc.

And yet poverty has gone up during this time. As my colleague Dr Ali Hasanain and several others have

noted, these two parallel trends (low but positive average growth and increased poverty) show that the benefits of even anaemic growth are being accrued to a narrower sliver of the population.

If the gain from all economic growth was distributed equitably, we would not see a real-term decline in average incomes or consumption and an increase in the poverty rate (using a fixed threshold).

Breaking the income and consumption data by quintile predictably shows that the lowest quintiles have seen greater erosion

compared to the upper ones.

However, it's the missing top 10pc or so that is likely benefiting from the growth that has taken place.

In large-scale consumption and income surveys, it is standard practice to assume that the top 10pc of the distribution is unlikely to be captured by standard sampling frames.

These are richer households in smaller elite communities that are both a very small fraction of the overall urban landscape and are less likely to entertain door-to-door survey requests.

Given the absence of these households from the data, we don't know what the impact of the past six years (or the past 10) has been on their incomes and consumption patterns.

For those at the very top (the top 1pc to 5pc), there may have been a slowdown in income and consumption growth, but probably not an absolute decline.

The basis for this speculative assessment is the classic distinction between asset-owning households and non-asset owning households. Keeping farmland, livestock, and personal residence aside, most Pakistanis are asset poor.

They especially do not have access to assets that can be used to generate rents, profits, dividends, or any other form of capital income.

During periods of

high inflation (especially coupled with devolution), asset owners may see a temporary erosion in the real value of their assets, but this is often mitigated by the rise in interest rates, which ultimately benefit net savers.

Think about some of the other steps taken by governments in the recent past. Concessional finance for employers is a direct subsidy to owners of capital.

The real estate amnesty scheme/package from 2021 helped spur growth in the construction sector but it had the (likely intended)

effect of raising land values of urban residential and commercial real estate, owned by a small sliver of the population.

Even shocks are experienced differently — higher energy prices have been offset by high-income households through access to low-tax solar products and now new energy vehicles.

In recent months, various forms of conspicuous consumption in big urban centres — expensive real estate, leisure opportunities, coffee shops and restaurants — provide anecdotal evidence of an increasingly bifurcated economy.

Combined with the statistical picture shared earlier, prognosis of a k-shaped economy might seem speculative right now, but the signs are all pointing in that direction.

Benazir Bhutto: A Legacy of Courage, Democracy and Reform

Bashir Niehari:

In the story of nations, some figures transcend their personal identity and come to represent an entire era. Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto stands among those rare names — a leader whose memory brings pride, inspiration, and an enduring sense of loss.

From a young age, she confronted the realities of power, exile, imprisonment, and sacrifice, embracing politics not as privilege, but as duty.

The execution of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto placed an extraordinary burden of leadership on her shoulders while she was still very young.

Instead of retreating, Benazir chose defiance over fear and perseverance over silence. Neither prison walls nor exile broke her determination.

Her influence extended far beyond Pakistan's borders. On the world stage, Benazir Bhutto earned respect as a defender of democratic values and human rights.

Honors from international institutions,



recognition from global leaders, and her celebrated appearance at the Oxford Union all reinforced her reputation as a visionary voice for the developing world.

These acknowledgments reflected both her intellect and

her unwavering political struggle.

When she took oath as Pakistan's first woman prime minister in 1988, it was more than just a change of government — it was a defining moment in history. She emerged as a symbol of

women's leadership not only in Pakistan, but across the Muslim world. Reconciliation, respect for constitutional order, and tolerance formed the essence of her political approach, rather than bitterness or revenge. Although she as-

sumed office twice, she was denied the opportunity to complete her terms. Even then, Benazir Bhutto remained committed to democratic principles.

During moments of political crisis, including the no-confidence motion, she refused to

undermine parliament or weaken democratic institutions.

She believed that true authority must rest with the people, not be concentrated in the state.

For her, democracy could not exist alongside poverty, in-

justice, and deprivation. Guided by this vision, she introduced policies aimed at empowering women, workers, and disadvantaged communities. Initiatives such as women police stations, the Women's Bank, the Lady

Health Workers Programme, and social-economic reforms addressed longstanding inequities and opened new opportunities.

The global media regarded her as a poised and courageous leader who spoke the language of democracy, rights, and dialogue.

Through her, the world witnessed a Pakistan striving toward constitutional order and political inclusion.

Her final speech at Liaquat Bagh in Rawalpindi still resonates — a message of hope, defiance, and commitment to constitutional struggle.

Her assassination was a devastating blow to the nation, but the ideals she championed continue to shape Pakistan's democratic conversation.

Though Benazir Bhutto is no longer physically present, her legacy — anchored in constitutional supremacy, tolerance, and trust in the people — remains a guiding force for Pakistan's political journey today.

The writer is a PPP worker and can be reached out @BashirNiehari1

BUIITEMS, Beaconhouse Strengthen Academic Partnership with Student Outreach Initiative

WEBDESK: BUIITEMS and the Beaconhouse School System have agreed to expand their academic collaboration through student outreach programmes, campus visits, and admissions awareness initiatives, marking a significant step towards strengthening higher education opportunities for students in Balochistan.

The agreement was reinforced during the Beaconhouse A-Level Graduation Ceremony, where Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Khalid Hafeez attended as the Guest of Honour. During the event, Beaconhouse invited BUIITEMS to conduct a dedicated admissions and academic outreach session in August 2026 to introduce graduating students to the university's academic programmes, research facilities, scholarships, and career opportunities.

As part of the en-



hanced collaboration, both institutions also agreed to organize regular educational visits for Beaconhouse O-Level and A-Level students to the BUIITEMS campus. The visits will provide prospective students with firsthand exposure to the university's classrooms, laboratories, research centres, and student life, helping them make informed decisions about their higher education.

Addressing the ceremony, Prof. Dr. Khalid Hafeez congratulated more than 70 A-Level graduates on completing an important academic milestone. He encouraged them to pursue higher education with confidence, embrace innovation, and develop the skills needed to succeed in an increasingly competitive world.

The ceremony was hosted by Beaconhouse Principal Mrs. Qurat-ul-Ain Khalid and Head of

the Beaconhouse College Programme Ms. Mehr Mariam, who welcomed the BUIITEMS delegation and emphasized the importance of stronger institutional collaboration to support students in their transition to higher education.

A notable highlight of the event was the enthusiastic response from students towards BUIITEMS' newly introduced four degree programmes. Three graduating A-Level students met the Vice Chancellor and expressed their intention to apply for admission, reflecting the university's growing appeal among prospective students.

With nearly 250 students expected to graduate from Beaconhouse this year, the expanded partnership is expected to create greater opportunities for accelerated engagement, university outreach, and quality higher education across Balochistan.

Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail Calls for Youth Inclusion and Political Dialogue to Ensure Balochistan's Peace and Development

QUETTA: Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has emphasized that the province's complex challenges require serious, long-term, and sustainable solutions, stating that Pakistan's economic future is closely linked to peace, stability, and development in Balochistan.

The governor expressed these views during a meeting at Governor House Quetta with Liaquat Baloch, Central Vice President of Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan, and Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman, Provincial Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Balochistan and Member of the Provincial Assembly.

Governor Mandokhail said that sustainable development cannot be achieved without lasting peace, while peace itself cannot endure without social justice and public trust.

He stressed that



strengthening public confidence and ensuring equitable development are essential for the province's long-term stability.

Highlighting the importance of youth participation, the governor said that young people must be actively involved in policymaking

and decision-making processes so they can play a meaningful role in Pakistan's progress and prosperity.

He noted that recognizing the true potential of the younger generation is the first step toward building a brighter future, adding that youth constitute the

largest segment of Pakistan's population and represent the country's greatest strength through their energy, innovation, and creativity.

Governor Mandokhail further urged political leaders, religious scholars, and influential members of society to rise above personal interests and work collectively for the country's development and national unity.

He emphasized the need to promote political dialogue, strengthen social harmony, and encourage constructive public engagement to address the province's challenges through consensus and cooperation.

Concluding his remarks, the governor expressed confidence that through joint efforts and collective responsibility, it is possible to build a peaceful, prosperous, and developed Balochistan.

Jaffar Khan Mandokhail, Governor of Balochistan, Liaquat Baloch, Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman, Balochistan development, yet encompassing political dialogue, social harmony, Pakistan economy, Quetta news, Balochistan peace.

port to athletes who achieve excellence at national and international levels.

On the occasion, Abdul Razzaq Khilji thanked the Balochistan government, the Sports Department, and Adviser for Sports and Youth Affairs Meena Majeed Baloch for their support and encouragement. He said that government backing and appreciation motivate young athletes to work harder and achieve greater success.

Abdul Razzaq Khilji, Mr. Asia bodybuilding champion, World Men's Physique Championship, Balochistan sports, Meena Majeed Baloch, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, Pakistan bodybuilding, Thailand championships, Balochistan athletes, sports achievements.

The provincial adviser highlighted that, in line with the vision of Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, the provincial government remains committed to promoting sports, enhancing public security, and improving inter-agency cooperation.

Discussions focused on ensuring the protection of development schemes, the uninterrupted execution of construction activities, and strengthening coordination among law enforcement agencies to ensure a secure environment for development activities and the well-being of the public.

The committee also reviewed the overall law and order situation in Ziarat and exchanged recommendations aimed at maintaining peace, enhancing public security, and improving inter-agency cooperation.

The meeting concluded with a commit-

Deputy Commissioner Nasirabad Inspects Road Development Projects, Stresses Quality and Timely Completion

NASIRABAD: Deputy Commissioner Virender Lal conducted a comprehensive inspection of several ongoing and completed road infrastructure projects across Nasirabad district, emphasizing quality, pace, and transparency of the ongoing and completed projects.

He directed the concerned authorities to

and facilitate the timely transportation of agricultural produce to markets.

He noted that a modern and efficient road network not only boosts economic activity but also enhances the overall quality of life for local communities.

Virender Lal further instructed officials to maintain the highest standards of transparency, durability, and construction quality in all development projects, warning that negligence or substandard work would not be tolerated.

Nasirabad road projects, Virender Lal, Deputy Commissioner Nasirabad, Balochistan infrastructure, blacktop roads, rural connectivity, road development, Pakistan, Balochistan development projects, transportation infrastructure, Nasirabad news.

ensure that all road schemes are completed according to approved standards and within the stipulated timeline so that residents can benefit from improved transportation facilities without delay.

Speaking during the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner said the Government of Balochistan has prioritized the construction of quality road infrastructure to improve public mobility, strengthen connectivity between rural and urban areas,

city will extend to the entire Kalat Division, providing improved surgical healthcare to thousands of residents.

Citizens credited the district administration for working tirelessly to turn the project into reality.

The new operation theatre complex is being designed according to international standards so that patients can access a wide range of surgical services under one roof.

Residents noted that for several decades, people from Khuzdar and the wider Jhalawan region had to travel to Quetta, Karachi or Karachi for major surgeries.

After the completion of this Rs1 billion project, Khuzdar is expected to become largely self-sufficient in surgical healthcare, allowing poor patients to receive free and quality treatment within their own district.

The project is expected to be the earliest.

The people of Khuzdar thanked the Government of Balochistan and the district administration for this landmark initiative and expressed hope that the project will be completed at the earliest.

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PM says modernisation of Pakistan Railways instrumental in establishing country as a regional hub



NEWS DESK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said that the modernisation of Pakistan Railways' infrastructure will be instrumental in establishing the country as a regional trade and logistics hub.

He made the remarks while presiding over a review meeting on the progress of the Pakistan Railways Transformation Plan. During the meeting, he directed the swift upgradation of Pakistan Railways to make it a more effective and revenue-generating mode of transport.

He also remarked that the railway was the most cost-effective and efficient mode of transport for both passengers and freight.

He added that a modern and efficient railway system would play

a pivotal role in strengthening Pakistan's economy, promoting trade and enhancing regional connectivity.

PM Shehbaz directed that all railway development projects be completed within the stipulated timelines while maintaining the highest quality standards. He instructed the relevant authorities to present proposals regarding the upgradation of the Rohri-Multan section of Main Line-1 (ML-1). The meeting was briefed on the progress of ML-1 and ML-3 upgradation projects. Thar Coal railway was also discussed.

According to the briefing, the Detailed Engineering Design

(DED) for the Karachi-Rohri section of ML-1 has been completed. The ML-3 Rohri-Nok Kundi upgradation will be carried out under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) and through bridge financing.

Of the 112-kilometre Thar Coal Railway Connectivity Project, linking Thar Coal to Chhor Railway Station, 60 per cent of the work has been completed, and the project is expected to be completed by December 2026. The services of an international consultant have been engaged to support reforms in Pakistan Railways, the meeting was told.

The premier informed that services at a railway-operated schools and hospitals have been outsourced,

while work was being initiated on the commercialisation of six major railway stations.

The meeting was attended by federal ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Ahmad Khan Cheema, Hanif Abbasi and Shazia Fatima, along with PM's Adviser on Privatisation Muhammad Ali, Minister of State for Finance and Railways Bilal Azhar Kayani and other senior government officials.

Last month, PM Shehbaz approved a strategic roadmap for comprehensive reforms in Pakistan Railways, including improvements in services, digitisation, track upgradation and the implementation of

Return to pre-July 9 position to resume talks: Pakistan and Qatar tell US, Iran in joint proposal

NEWS DESK: A joint de-escalation proposal by Pakistan and Qatar has urged the United States and Iran to return to their pre-July 9 positions "as a first step" to resume stalled talks to permanently end their months-long war, Pakistani government sources told Anadolu on Monday.

The proposal, jointly drafted by Islamabad and Doha after "consulting regional partners", called on both sides to return to the positions they held before the beginning of the fresh hostilities, the sources added.

"Returning to the pre-July 9 position will be the first step to halt the raging hostilities and pave the way for the resumption of talks either in Islamabad or Doha," a Pakistani source close to the ongoing mediation efforts said.

According to the proposal, the sources added, Iran will "immediately" reopen the Strait of Hormuz, where the US will end the blockade of Iranian ports and lift sanctions on the sale of Iranian oil.

The sources further said that Washington and Tehran, if they agree, will "immediately" resume the stalled talks, and the implementation of the ceasefire in south-

ern Lebanon will be at the top of the agenda. Pakistani sources said mediators are hopeful for a "positive" response from both sides and expect talks to resume "very soon."

Iran engaged in full-scale war with the US, Pakistani President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Monday that Iran is

engaged in a "full-scale war" with the United States and Iran must accept the repercussions of the conflict. "The reality is that today the Islamic Republic of Iran is engaged in a full-scale war. We must be realistic and accept the natural consequences of this resistance," Pezeshkian said, according to a presidential statement reported by Al Jazeera.

Pezeshkian added that the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding signed with the US largely favours Iran. "In none of the 14

clauses ... have we backed down from our rights, principles, national interests, revolutionary values, and beliefs," he said. "A major part of the achievements has been in favour of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and practically no clause can be found that has created a unilateral benefit for the American side,"

he said, criticising the contradictory rhetoric and actions of the US government, adding that Iran recognises the "American games."

Ghalibaf added that "on that basis, we have prepared ourselves."

"Actions must confirm claims, not contradict them."

US identifies soldiers killed in Iran attack

On Saturday, the US Central Command said two troops were killed in Jordan while defending against Iranian ballistic missile and drone attacks.

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3 bodies found after vehicle carrying Afghans swept away by flash flood in KP's Khyber

NEWS DESK: A vehicle carrying Afghan families returning to the neighbouring country was swept away in a flash flood triggered by rains in the Landi Kot Tehsil of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Khyber district on Monday, Rescue 1122 said.

Rescue workers have so far recovered the bodies of three people travelling in the car, the emergency service said, adding the search for the others was under way.

Rescue 1122 said in an initial statement that the vehicle was swept away near Sultan Khel Market, following which rescue teams were dispatched to the site and a search operation was launched.

In subsequent statements, it said the bodies of a woman and a man were found by Rescue 1122 divers after the assistance of local residents, in the Jamrud town, while the body of a child was recovered from the Parang Sanga area.

The bodies were

initially taken to Type D Hospital in Jamrud and later to the Afghan refugee camp in Landikotai, Rescue 1122 said.

During their search, rescue personnel also found the body of a man who was identified as a resident of Jamrud.

Separately, the roof of a room collapsed in Mardan's Kulu Dheri village, leaving two children dead, according to Rescue 1122.

The emergency service said in a statement that the children's mother and 14-year-old sister were injured in the incident. The injured were shifted to Mardan Medical Complex Hospital, it added.

Last week, the Pakistan Meteorological Department had predicted widespread rains in the country for this week, with showers expected in Khyber, Mardan and several other areas of KP between July 19 and July 23.

Emergency meeting was held on July 19, where he was sent on five days physical remand.

According to the prosecution, the latest suspect, Waheed Tahir alias "boss", is alleged to have played a key role in the offence.

Earlier, the Lahore High Court (LHC) disposed of a petition seeking the recovery of Tahir, the prime suspect, after police informed the court that he had already been arrested, produced before a magistrate and sent on physical remand to the police.

Justice Abbar Gul Khan heard the petition filed by the suspect's mother, Mumtaz Bibi, who claimed that police had taken her son into custody in connection with a petition seeking case but had failed to produce him before a competent court within the constitutionally prescribed 24-hour period.

The petitioner had prayed to the court to declare her son's detention "illegal" and order his release from where she termed unlawful custody.

Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) polls shaping up to be 'Nawaz vs Bilawal' contest

NEWS DESK: With less than a week to go in the Azad Jammu and Kashmir elections, the PML-N and the PPP have stepped up their election campaigns, with their top leadership taking charge of the election campaign to galvanise their support base.

PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari is already in AJK for canvassing — just like he did in Gilgit-Baltistan, where his party ended up forming the government. Hoping to prevent a repeat of the Gilgit polls, PML-N President Nawaz Sharif, who has hitherto kept a low profile, has decided to step in and lead the election campaign in Kashmir. He is expected to address multiple rallies in Azad Kashmir. Observers see this election as 'Nawaz vs Bilawal' — with some

noting how smooth he was in Kashmir. "We learnt a lot from Gilgit-Baltistan elections where we did not expect that PPP leader Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari took the PML-N to task in his Kotli speech. According to the PPP spin, the PML-N leadership is

proactively running the election campaign and aims to defeat the PPP. On the other hand, PPP leader Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari took the PML-N to task in his Kotli speech. According to the PPP spin, the PML-N leadership is

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Three suspects sent on 14-day judicial remand in foreign women abduction case

NEWS DESK: A magisterial court on Monday sent three suspects on 14-day judicial remand in a case regarding the kidnapping and rape of two foreign women.

Defence-C police produced the three suspects before the court on the expiry of their physical remand. The investigating officer asked the court to remand the suspects in judicial custody.

The magistrate accepted the request and sent the suspects to the judicial lockup with directions to the police to submit their investigation report by the next hearing.

Police had earlier arrested seven other suspects in connection with the alleged kidnapping and rape of two foreign women. Four of them, Sajid, Sikandar, Hassan and Raza Dar (close relative of a prominent political figure), were initially placed on

physical remand thrice for investigation and then sent to judicial remand.

The remaining three, Rizwan, Nawaz and Amir, were also sent on judicial remand on July 20.

Meanwhile, another main suspect "boss" was arrested on July 18 and produced before the magisterial court on July 19, where he was sent on five days physical remand.

According to the prosecution, the latest suspect, Waheed Tahir alias "boss", is alleged to have played a key role in the offence.

CJP-led body decides to recommend constitutional tweak to govt for establishment of international commercial court

NEWS DESK: The Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan (LJC) decided on Monday to recommend a constitutional amendment to the federal government to pave the way for the establishment of an "International Commercial Court of Pakistan".

The decision was taken at the 49th meeting of the LJC, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Yahya Afridi, a statement issued by the Supreme Court said.

Recognising the pivotal role of a modern commercial justice system in promoting investment, economic growth and international trade, the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan, under the chairmanship of the chief justice of Pakistan, today recommended the establishment of the International Commercial Court of Pakistan through a proposed constitutional amendment, "the statement read."

The statement added, "The International Commercial Court of Pakistan has been proposed as an independent federal superior court through the insertion of a new Article 212-A in the Constitution."

It said that the proposed new court was envisaged to "provide swift and efficient resolution of international commercial disputes, strengthen enforcement of arbitral awards, promote consistency and predictability in commercial jurisprudence, en-

hance investor confidence, and position Pakistan as a credible destination for international trade and investment."

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
The Executive Engineer-Road, CW, PPAH Department District Khyber invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2026 based on Composite schedule rates 2020 on Percentage Rates - Earnest Money 2% and Tender Fee 2000 for each work

Work No. 1: CONSTRUCTION OF LINK ROAD FROM ZUBKHA JALAL ROAD TO ZUBKHA INCHAR SAROWAN AT TURBAT DISTRICT KECCH (UNDER BALUCHISTAN SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE PHASE-II)
Work No. 2: CONSTRUCTION OF BLACK TOP ROAD ALI ABAD KOSKHALATAT TURBAT DISTRICT KECCH (UNDER BALUCHISTAN SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE PHASE-II)

The procurement shall be carried out in accordance with BPPRA rules, 2014. Presence in Active Tax Paper List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Bidders must have completed 2 Assignment of similar nature of work. The bidder must have valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council in relevant category C-5 for S.No. 1 and C-6 for S.No. 2. Relevant Category And Specialized Code is C21001 (General Civil Engineering Works), C21010 (Road and Powerhouse Damages & Repairing, Structure). Turn-over 70% of EIC/last three years. METHOD OF PROCUREMENT: Single stage - One envelope Bidding Procedure. BIDDING / TENDER DOCUMENTS: The contractors/firms having registered with PEC in aforementioned category in relevant discipline can obtain the bidding documents from the address mentioned below on production of green challan form for an amount of Rs. 2000/- (Non-Refundable) deposited in the head of account C-02116 through Government of Pakistan. The tender documents will be available for sale from the date of publication of this invitation in newspapers 90 one day prior to the last date of submission. The contractors/firms who obtain bidding documents by downloading them from BPPRA website will also be required to produce deposit green challan form of above mentioned fee. Earnest Money as mentioned above should be submitted in the shape of Bank Guarantees or Deposit at Call from a scheduled Bank. Dead line of Submission: The Bidding Documents duly filled and attached with copies of supporting documents (must be delivered) in sealed envelopes to hand or through registered mail to the address mentioned below on or before 19th August, 2026 at 11:00 Hrs. Opening: The tender document will be opened on 19th August, 2026 at 12:30 Hrs. before procurement committee in the presence of contractors or their authorized representatives. Bid Validity: Ninety (90) Days.

Place of issuance and submission will be: Address: Office of the Executive Engineer-Road, CW, PPAH Department District Khyber. Telephone No. : 0952-412011 Fax No. : 0952-412011 Email Address: engg@khyber.gov.pk Terms and Conditions: The detail terms and conditions are mentioned (incorporated) in detail in bidding documents.

Executive Engineer-Road, CW, PPAH Department, Turbat.
DPR/PPH No. 254/20-07-2026
www.dgppa.gov.pk, www.dgppa.gov.pk, www.dgppa.gov.pk, www.dgppa.gov.pk