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17 Terrorists Killed in Kachhi, Kharan Operations: ISPR

NEWS DKEK:

Security forces killed 17 terrorists in two intelligence-based operations in Balochistan's Kachhi and Kharan districts on November 1, while an army soldier embraced martyrdom during an exchange of fire, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said.

According to the military's media wing, security forces foiled an attempt by terrorists to establish a blockade in the Sanni area of Kachhi district. Ten terrorists were killed during the operation, while a cache of weapons and ammunition was recovered.

In a separate intelligence-based operation in Kharan district, security forces targeted and destroyed a terrorist hideout, killing seven terrorists after an intense exchange of fire.

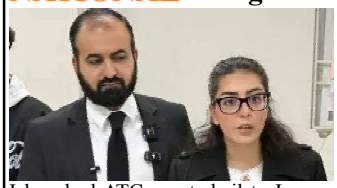
The ISPR said Sepoy Hikmatullah fought bravely during the encounter and laid down his life. The 25-year-old soldier belonged to Karak district.

Weapons and ammunition were also recovered during the Kharan operation, while sanitisation operations were underway in the surrounding areas to eliminate any remaining threats.The ISPR said counterterrorism operations would continue under the vision of Azm-e-Istehkam, in line with the National Action Plan approved by the Federal Apex Committee.

It added that security forces and law enforcement agencies would continue their operations until terrorism was completely eliminated from Pakistan.

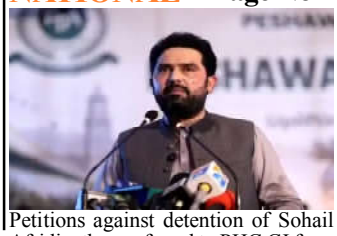
Security forces killed 17 terrorists in two intelligence-based operations in Balochistan's Kachhi

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Quetta Boxer Abida Batool Becomes First Pakistani Woman to Win WIBA World Title

NEWS DESK:

Abida Batool, a 26-year-old boxer from Quetta, has made history by becoming the first Pakistani woman to win a Women's International Boxing Association (WIBA) world title.

Batool claimed the world atomweight championship after defeating Thailand's Wande Sienongkrot at the Brave Hearts-6 boxing event in Pattaya, Thailand, on October 31.



The eight-round title bout at FCC Stadium ended in the fifth round after an accidental clash of heads left the Pakistani boxer with a fractured nose. The ringside doctor stopped the contest, and the winner was determined through the judges' scorecards.

Two judges scored the fight in Batool's favour, while the third supported her Thai opponent, resulting in a split technical decision victory for the Pakistani boxer.

Batool began her boxing career in 2018 and faced financial difficulties and opposition from her family during the early stages of her journey. Despite these challenges, she continued pursuing her ambition and gradually established herself in professional boxing.

Journalists Across Balochistan Observe 'Black Day' Against Media Censorship and Layoffs

ALI HAMZA:

QUETTA — On the central call of the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ), media professionals across Balochistan observed a nationwide "Black Day" on Sunday to protest against media censorship, forced terminations, unpaid salaries, and the closure of bureau offices in the province.

The demonstration also commemorated the anniversary of the November 3, 2007 emergency declared under General Pervez Musharraf, drawing parallels between past and present curbs on press freedom.

Black flags were hoisted at press clubs in Quetta and across various districts in Balochistan,

while journalists wore black armbands as a mark of protest.

Joint Demonstration in Quetta

In the provincial capital, the Balochistan Union of Journalists (BUJ) organized a protest sit-in outside the Quetta Press Club.



Journalists Across Balochistan Observe 'Black Day' Against Media Censorship and Layoffs.

The demonstration drew solid support from civil society organizations, labor unions, human rights activists, and legal professionals.

"Nearly 10 news channels have closed their bureau offices in Balochistan, rendering around 150 journalists and media workers unemployed," speakers stated, describing the situation as an "economic massacre" of media workers across the country.

Women's Workforce Participation in Balochistan Only 8%, Says Dr Rubaba Khan Buledi

NEWS DESK:

Women's workforce participation in Balochistan stands at just 8 per cent, compared to 43.6 per cent among men, reflecting a significant gender gap in employment and economic opportunities, Provincial Adviser for Women Development Dr Rubaba Khan Buledi said on Tuesday.

She called for evidence-based policymaking, reliable gender statistics and stronger institutional coordination to improve women's access to employment, education, healthcare and economic opportunities.

Dr Buledi shared these views while addressing a two-day training workshop on the National Gender Parity Indicators Framework in Quetta on November 3.



The workshop was organised jointly by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Balochistan's Women Development Department, the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) and UNICEF for relevant provincial stakeholders.

Citing the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics Labour Force Survey 2020-21, the adviser said the considerable difference between women's and men's participation in the labour force highlighted the need for targeted measures to increase women's economic inclusion.

She said the National Gender Parity Indicators Framework would help identify gender disparities, assess progress and improve policymaking in education, healthcare, employment, political participation, leadership and decision-making.Dr Buledi stressed that policies aimed at women's empowerment must reflect the ground realities of Balochistan, taking into account differences between urban and rural areas, districts and social groups.

She said improving women's economic independence required vocational training, business opportunities, access to financial resources, safe workplaces and supportive institutional facilities.

The adviser also emphasised the need to prevent gender-based violence, protect women's legal and inheritance rights and increase their representation in public and administrative institutions.

She said the Balochistan government was committed to strengthening initiatives for women's education, healthcare, protection and economic empowerment.

Dr Buledi added that the two-day training would build the capacity of government officials and other stakeholders to collect, analyse and compile gender-disaggregated data in line with national indicators.

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

The Pressing Problems of Urdu and the New Generation

BY ZEESHAN KHAN

Urdu is more than a language. It is a symbol of Pakistan's cultural identity, literary heritage and national unity. Yet, in a society where English increasingly dominates education, official affairs and professional life, an important question arises: are we preparing our younger generation for global competition at the cost of their connection with their own national language?

The growing preference for English in Pakistan has created a linguistic divide that extends beyond communication. For many people, English proficiency has become a symbol of social status, educational achievement and professional success. Meanwhile, Urdu, despite its national status, often receives less attention in classrooms, workplaces and government institutions.

This situation demands serious reflection. A nation can embrace modern education and international opportunities without neglecting the language that represents its identity.

Urdu and Pakistan's National Identity

The progress of a nation depends not only on economic development and scientific advancement but also on its cultural foundations. Language plays a central role in shaping collective identity, preserving traditions and connecting generations.

Urdu has historically served as a common medium of communication among diverse communities in Pakistan. Its literature, poetry, journalism and intellectual traditions have contributed significantly to the country's cultural landscape.

However, the position of Urdu in practical affairs does not always reflect its constitutional status. Article 251 of the Constitution of Pakistan declares Urdu the national language and provides for arrangements for its use for official purposes. Nevertheless, English continues to dominate many administrative, educational and professional settings.

This gap between constitutional recognition and everyday practice raises an important question: why has Urdu struggled to secure a stronger position in the institutions of its own country?

The answer involves historical practices, educational policies, administrative traditions and the widespread perception that English offers better opportunities for social mobility.

English: A Gateway to Opportunity or a Barrier to Equality?

There is no denying the importance of English in the modern world. It facilitates access to international research, scientific literature, technological developments and global employment opportunities. Pakistani students need English-language skills to compete effectively in many academic and professional fields.

The problem begins when English proficiency becomes a substitute for measuring knowledge, intelligence and competence.

In Pakistan, students who speak English fluently may receive greater social recognition, while those who communicate primarily in Urdu or regional languages can face unfair judgments



about their educational abilities. This perception can disadvantage talented students who lack access to expensive English-medium schools or additional language-learning resources.

Consequently, language can become a marker of privilege rather than simply a tool for communication.

A student's ability to understand science, solve mathematical problems, analyse social issues or demonstrate professional competence should not be judged solely by fluency in English. Educational institutions must recognise the difference between subject knowledge and language proficiency.

Pakistan needs an education system in which English opens doors to international opportunities without becoming a barrier that excludes capable students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The Growing Distance Between Young People and Urdu

One of the major concerns is the declining engagement of some younger people with Urdu reading, writing and literature. In certain educational environments, students may become comfortable communicating in English while struggling to express complex ideas in Urdu.

This does not mean that the younger generation is responsible for the problem. Their linguistic habits are shaped by the education system, family environments, digital platforms and social expectations.

When schools give greater prestige to English, parents naturally encourage their children to master it. When employers prioritise English communication, students respond accordingly. When academic resources and professional opportunities are concentrated in English, the preference becomes even stronger.

The result is a cycle in which Urdu is treated as less useful despite its importance in public communication and cultural life.

The solution is not to discourage English-speaking students or restrict their educational choices. Instead, schools and families should create opportunities for young people to read Urdu books, explore literary traditions, write creatively and use the language confidently in academic and professional discussions.

Urdu must become a language of knowledge, innovation and contemporary expression—not merely a subject students study to pass an examination.

Urdu Education Deserves Serious Attention

Language education should develop practical skills rather than focus exclusively on memorisation. Students need opportunities to improve their reading comprehension, vocabulary, writing, critical thinking and ability to communicate ideas clearly.

The same principle applies to Urdu and English.

Educational institutions should invest in modern Urdu textbooks, high-quality digital learning materials, literary activities and translation projects. Scientific and academic concepts should also be made accessible through reliable Urdu resources, helping students understand complex subjects while strengthening their command of the language.

At the same time, English should remain an essential component of education. Students need both languages to participate effectively in national life and the international academic community.

A balanced approach would enable young people to understand global developments in English while communicating their ideas, experiences and knowledge confidently in Urdu.

Urdu in Government and Public Institutions

The use of Urdu in official affairs is another important dimension of the debate. Article 251 of Pakistan's Constitution provides the constitutional basis for promoting Urdu as the national language and arranging its use for official purposes.

However, translating this principle into effective administrative practice requires planning, institutional commitment and consistent implementation.

Government departments could expand access to Urdu-language forms, public information, educational materials and citizen services. Legal and administrative documents should be made understandable to ordinary citizens, with accurate translations and appropriate safeguards where authoritative legal texts are required.

Such measures would improve accessibility and help citizens engage more effectively with public institutions.

Promoting Urdu in official affairs should not mean abandoning English where it is practically necessary. Rather, it should ensure that citizens are not disadvantaged simply because they cannot understand complex English-language documents or administrative procedures. A national language gains strength when people can use it meaningfully in everyday life.

Literature, Writers and the Responsibility of Society

Writers, poets, journalists, teachers and intellectuals have an important role in keeping Urdu relevant to contemporary society. Literature preserves collective memory, challenges established ideas and provides a space for discussing social and political realities.

International literary gatherings and conferences have historically offered opportunities for scholars and writers to examine the challenges facing Urdu, including the influence of other languages and the changing relationship between literature and society.

Guilty of journalism

Arifa Noor:

AS a journalist making a living solely in the industry, the challenging times confronting the profession are rarely far from one's mind. Navel-gazing has become more than a side distraction in some ways. No wonder then that a new book on the industry by a stalwart, Mazhar Abbas, was on the must-read list.

He has been active in both journalism and the trade union politics of media organisations; Abbas is someone who many in my generation look up to for being among the few who have been able to do both journalism and its politics proficiently and with integrity. None of this is insignificant. Since the proliferation of electronic media, union politics has rarely attracted journalists of stature.

It is worth asking at this stage whether he is one of the last Mohicans. His latest book, Media Under the Shadow of Death, covers a wide range of issues — from the origins of the unions formed in the early years of a fledgling country to issues the industry grapples with today: censorship, violence against journalists, and the challenges of technology.

For someone like myself who isn't very well-versed in the history of union politics, the historical account in the early chapters of the book is a fascinating description of how the Sindh Union of Journalists and the Pakistan



Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) came into being, and how journalists pushed back against the earlier undemocratic efforts of the state of Pakistan. Beyond the events themselves, discussions with people such as Roedad Khan also offer insight into the ruling elite's thinking at the time and their attitudes towards democracy and press freedom.

At the same time, this earlier period also reveals how far back some unfortunate trends go. Even then, journalists' biases against one another, or in favour of one political stakeholder over another, allowed the state or government to take advantage. The principles of democracy or freedom of expression never proved bigger than personal likes or dislikes.

He, too, quotes the famous story of journalists who went to Gen Ziaul Haq and asked him to delay the elections for fear of a PPP victory. In recent times, one has seen media groups attack each other at the behest of the powers that be. The second pattern, which seems to date back further than we realise, is the inability of media owners to match journalists in opposing the state's suppressive methods; the latter's decision to sign a code of conduct during the emergency imposed by Gen Pervez Musharraf is a case in point. But there are no sweeping judgements, as the financial pressures on the media owners and their limitations are also understood by the author.

'Media Under the Shadow of Death' documents the key challenges in Pakistani journalism.

The strongest part is perhaps the account of the media under Musharraf. This is partly because it's a recent period when Pakistan's media flourished and expanded but also faced challenges, including increased violence against journalists as well as events such as the emergency.

The latter happened when the author himself was an elected official of the PFUJ and was organising protests against the dictator's actions. For those of us who were present at the time — in the trenches or on the sidelines — those were heady times. It seemed then that the political parties, lawyers' organisations, journalists, and others could push back against a military dictator struggling to sustain his rule. No one thought this was simply a transitory moment; it seemed like a permanent change — though we have grown wiser since. But back then, it was a moment of great hope, and the PFUJ's role was significant. Even now, reading about it brings a sense of satisfaction.

As the author himself notes, it was perhaps the last time the federation acted with unity. However, he doesn't go into the details of what happened later, or how the organisation not only split but has also become a shadow of its former self since then. With his intimate knowledge of union issues, Abbas could have provided an insight into the present mess in journalistic organisations and perhaps kick-started a debate on possible solutions. This omission is disappointing in some ways.

The second strongest part of the book is the section where he discusses the killings of journalists, though given the number of case studies, not each case is tackled with an even hand. Some are detailed and some sketchy. However, the more high-profile the case, the more interesting the details — though they still leave one wanting more. This is especially true of cases such as Wali Babar's, where Abbas provides the details of the deaths that followed the investigations of the journalist's murder — police officers investigating the case, the prosecutor, and even witnesses were killed as the matter progressed. Similarly, the book details high-profile cases (Hayatullah Khan, Musa Khankhel, Arshad Sharif) as well as low-profile ones that may not have garnered much attention.

Overall, the book is a resource compendium rather than a chronological or analytical account. There are historical accounts — a chapter on press laws and then one on the case studies of journalists' killings. This also means the book's tone is a wee uneven.

Perhaps, as the author says at the outset, the book kept getting delayed because of the fast-changing events in the industry and the polity. This might also explain why the writing and editing needed a bit more work. One can only hope some of these issues are addressed in a second edition if there is to be one — for the information in the book is valuable and deserves to be read by those who still haven't fallen out of love with this profession despite the filth we wallow in these days.

Balochistan Governor Calls for Market-Oriented Technical Education to Boost Youth Employment



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has emphasized the importance of market-oriented technical and vocational education, stating that institutions like the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTC) play a vital role in promoting economic self-reliance and creating employment opportunities for young people.

He said that NAVTTC's professional and technical training programmes are particularly important because they are designed to meet market demands and practical human needs. Connecting academic knowledge and theoretical concepts with ground realities and societal requirements can produce meaningful and tangible results.

The Governor expressed these views during a meeting with a delegation led by Member of the National Assembly and NAVTTC Chairman Qamar-ul-Islam Raja at Governor House Quetta. The meeting was attended by NAVTTC Executive Director Nadia Karim Shah, Principal Secretary Abdul Nasir Durrani, and Director General NAVTTC Balochistan Dr. Hussain Bakhsh Magasi. Governor Mandokhail highlighted that the economic requirements of different divisions of Balochistan vary significantly due to their distinct economic and social characteristics. He stressed that technical and vocational training programmes must therefore be designed according to the local economic needs of each division. He said NAVTTC's primary responsibility is to align professional and technical training with market demands, industrial requirements, and the practical needs of everyday life. The Governor emphasized the need for training programmes that go beyond fulfilling academic requirements and equip young people with practical skills, enabling them to secure employment, pursue self-employment, and achieve economic independence. He further stated that technical education is an effective means of promoting employment and economic participation. By acquiring skills such as machine operation, electrical work, solar technology, automobile mechanics, and information technology, young people can create employment opportunities for themselves while contributing to the national economy.

Governor Mandokhail also pointed out that public-sector universities are already offering modern skills training. He said NAVTTC-assisted technical education at the district level could play an estimated 50 percent role in generating employment opportunities.

He clarified that this target is not merely a numerical objective but part of a broader strategy estimated at bridging the gap between higher education and employment. The Governor stressed the need to establish new technical training centres and strengthen existing institutions, providing young people with access to modern equipment.

Chaman District Education Officer Ashok Kumar Rajput Conducts Surprise Inspection of Government Boys Model High School



CHAMAN: District Education Officer (DEO) Chaman, Ashok Kumar Rajput, conducted a surprise visit to Government Boys Model High School Chaman to review educational activities, teaching standards, and overall discipline at the institution.

He was accompanied by PML-N District President and prominent political and social figure Haji Attaullah Khan, along with EMIS Focal Person Jaffar Khan Achakzai.

During the visit, the DEO inspected various classrooms and asked students questions related to their curriculum to assess their academic performance, learning abilities, and the quality of teaching. He encouraged students to pursue their education with dedication, hard work, and commitment.

Later, he chaired a detailed meeting with the school's teachers and staff, during which various educational matters were discussed, including teachers' attendance, classroom activities, institutional discipline, and the timely completion of the prescribed syllabus.

Addressing the meeting, District Education Officer Ashok Kumar Rajput stated that transforming Government Boys Model High School Chaman into a quality and exemplary educational institution was among his top priorities.

He made it clear that negligence, carelessness, and unjustified absenteeism would not be tolerated under any circumstances in the pursuit of educational improvement.

The DEO directed teachers to ensure punctual attendance, perform their teaching responsibilities with honesty and dedication, and complete the prescribed syllabus within the stipulated timeframe.

He emphasized that these measures were essential to providing students with quality education and adequate preparation for their examinations.

Ashok Kumar Rajput further observed that teachers' hard work, professional commitment, discipline, and quality teaching were fundamental to the success and improvement of any educational institution.

He reaffirmed his commitment to continuing effective monitoring and corrective measures to improve the school's academic performance and transform it into a model educational institution in Chaman.

Balochistan Seeks Easier Access to Business Financing as EXIM Bank President Meets BBoIT Vice Chairman Bilal Khan Kakar



QUETTA: Vice Chairman of the Balochistan Board of Investment and Trade (BBoIT), Bilal Khan Kakar, held a meeting with President and CEO of the Export-Import Bank of Pakistan (EXIM Bank), Shehbaz H. Syed, to discuss financial challenges facing the business community in Balochistan, particularly difficulties in securing loans and expanding business activities.

Chief Executive Officer of BBoIT, Abdul Mannan, and Shahryar Khan of the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) were also present during the meeting.

During the discussion, Bilal Khan Kakar highlighted the challenges faced by traders, industrialists, exporters and importers in Balochistan in accessing financial assistance and securing loans to expand their businesses.

He emphasized the need for EXIM Bank to play an effective role in facilitating the province's business community by ensuring access to loans and financial facilities on easier and more flexible terms.

He said improved access to financing would enable local entrepreneurs to expand their businesses, strengthen commercial activities and play a more active role in domestic and international trade.

On the occasion, EXIM Bank President and CEO Shehbaz H. Syed expressed positive interest in extending financial facilities to the business community of Balochistan.

Both sides agreed to strengthen cooperation and explore practical measures to improve access to business financing and support commercial and economic activities across the province.

The meeting focused on enhancing financial inclusion for Balochistan's business sector and creating better opportunities for traders, exporters, importers and industrial investors.

Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ramzan Palal Inspects Anti-Polio Campaign in Usta Muhammad, Reviews Vaccination Arrangements



USTA MUHAMMAD: Deputy Commissioner Usta Muhammad, Muhammad Ramzan Palal, accompanied by District Polio Officer Dr. Khalil Mastoi, visited Union Council Khanpur to monitor ongoing activities under the November Sub-National Immunization Days (SNID) anti-polio campaign.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner conducted a detailed inspection of the area transit point and reviewed the performance of deployed polio vaccination teams, supervision by field area in-charges, arrangements for administering polio drops to children and the overall administrative management of the campaign.

He also observed the ongoing door-to-door vaccination activities and the administration of polio drops to children at transit points. He sought details regarding the attendance of vaccination teams, implementation of micro-plans and the overall coverage of children in the area.

The Deputy Commissioner also inquired about the challenges faced by field teams during the campaign and the measures being taken by concerned officials to address them.

Muhammad Ramzan Palal directed relevant officials and field monitoring teams to prioritize effective supervision throughout the anti-polio campaign and perform their responsibilities with dedication, vigilance and a strong sense of accountability.

He emphasized that the success of the campaign depended on continuous monitoring of vaccination teams deployed in every area, ensuring that no child was missed and immediately covering children who remained unvaccinated.

He further stressed that the complete eradication of polio required close coordination and a well-organized strategy involving all relevant government departments, polio workers and monitoring officers.

The Deputy Commissioner said that collective efforts, effective field supervision and comprehensive vaccination coverage.

Loralai DC Reviews Agricultural Income Tax Collection, Directs Officials to Improve Revenue Recovery and Land Record Management

LORALAI: The 12th review meeting on agricultural income tax collection and administrative affairs of the Revenue Department was held at the Deputy Commissioner's Office in Loralai under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Captain (Retd.) Muhammad Haseeb Shuja.



The meeting reviewed the collection of agricultural income tax, recovery of outstanding government dues, pending revenue cases, land mutations, verification and correction of land records, protection of government-owned land and the overall performance of the Revenue Department.

Relevant officials briefed the meeting on progress made in various areas and presented updates on the current situation.

Deputy Commissioner Captain (Retd.) Muhammad Haseeb Shuja directed the concerned officials to accelerate the collection of agricultural income tax and ensure the achievement of assigned revenue targets. He also emphasized taking effective and practical measures to recover outstanding government dues.

He instructed officials to ensure transparency in land mutation procedures, maintain accurate land records and resolve pending cases within the stipulated time. He stressed that citizens must receive timely and efficient services from the Revenue Department.

The Deputy Commissioner also directed officials to make the weekly Revenue Open Court, held every Thursday, more effective. He said public complaints and long-pending revenue disputes should be addressed on a priority basis to provide citizens with timely relief and justice.

The meeting also discussed measures to prevent illegal occupation of government land, protect public property, resolve land-related disputes promptly, strengthen monitoring of Revenue Department field staff and ensure transparency in revenue records.

Muhammad Haseeb Shuja made it clear that negligence, unnecessary delays, corruption and any form of irregularity in revenue-related matters would not be tolerated.

He directed all officers and staff members to perform their duties with honesty, transparency and professionalism and avoid any negligence in resolving public grievances.

The Deputy Commissioner further stated that efforts would continue to improve the revenue administration system, ensure timely collection of government revenues, safeguard state-owned land and provide better revenue-related services to the public.

Deputy Commissioner Quetta Mehrullah Badini Chairs Meeting to Address Electricity and Gas Supply Issues

QUETTA: An important meeting was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Quetta, Mehrullah Badini, to review public complaints and issues related to electricity and gas supply across the city.



The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue), Executive Engineer (XEN) WAPDA, officials from the Gas Department and Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC), as well as the Assistant Commissioner Sariab. During the meeting, participants held detailed discussions on various public utility issues, including electricity load shedding, disruptions in power supply, low gas pressure, gas supply schedules, voltage fluctuations, and other administrative matters affecting residents of Quetta. On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Mehrullah Badini directed officials of the concerned departments to take effective and practical measures to address public complaints regarding electricity and gas supply.

He emphasized that the district administration would extend full cooperation and support to the relevant departments wherever issues related to electricity and gas supply arise.

The Deputy Commissioner further stressed the importance of ensuring timely resolution of public grievances and improving essential utility services to provide relief to the residents of Quetta.

Duki DC Inspects District Headquarters Hospital, Reviews Healthcare Facilities and New Operation Theatre Project

DUKI: Deputy Commissioner Duki Fazal-ur-Rehman Kabadani visited the District Headquarters Hospital Duki, where he conducted a detailed inspection of various departments and reviewed the provision of healthcare services, attendance of doctors and medical staff, and other administrative matters.



During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner inspected different wards and hospital departments, checked staff attendance and assessed the quality of medical facilities being provided to patients. He also received a briefing from the concerned authorities regarding the hospital's administrative and medical operations.

The Deputy Commissioner also inspected the modern operation theatre being constructed and completed under the Balochistan Structural Development and Improvement (BSDI) Programme and reviewed the progress of ongoing construction and completion work.

He directed the concerned authorities to complete all necessary medical, technical and administrative arrangements within the stipulated timeframe to make the operation theatre functional as soon as possible.

He said that operationalizing the modern facility would help provide better-quality healthcare services to local residents without requiring them to travel to other areas for essential surgical treatment. Deputy Commissioner Fazal-ur-Rehman Kabadani stated that providing quality healthcare services to the public at government hospitals remained a top priority of the district administration.

He directed doctors, paramedical staff and other employees to perform their duties with responsibility, punctuality and professional commitment, ensuring that patients receive timely medical attention.

He further instructed hospital authorities to pay special attention to cleanliness, availability of medicines, staff attendance and the quality of healthcare services provided to patients. He also emphasized maintaining the quality and pace of development work being carried out under the BSDI Programme.

The Deputy Commissioner made it clear that the district administration would not tolerate negligence in providing basic public services, particularly healthcare, and that effective monitoring would continue to improve the hospital's medical and administrative performance.

Respect for a woman's dignity not just a matter of personal morality but constitutional obligation: Supreme Court



NEWS DESK: The Supreme Court (SC) stated on Tuesday that respect for a woman's dignity was not merely a matter of personal morality but a constitutional obligation the state expected of everyone in its service.

The declaration came as a two-member bench, headed by Justice Ayesha Malik and including Justice Shahid Waheed, rejected a plea filed by a former employee of the Intelligence Bureau (IB) against his compulsory retirement over the allegation that he had set his wife on fire.

"Off-duty conduct of sufficient gravity may constitute misconduct and acquittal in a criminal case does not undo misconduct independently established in departmental proceedings," affirmed Justice Shahid Waheed in the nine-page judgement authored by him.The plea was filed by Jawad Abbasi, who used to work as a cook in the IB, against a Jan 15 decision by the Federal Service Tribunal's (FST) to uphold his compulsory retirement from service.

He had faced disciplinary proceedings under the Civil Servants (Efficiency and Discipline) Rules, 2020 over allegations that he had set his wife on fire and was ill-mannered and short-tempered. Abbasi was also accused of conduct that was criminal, unprofessional and prejudicial to good order and service discipline. Moreover, his conduct was said to have adversely affected the reputation and discipline of the IB.

The departmental proceedings found the charges established, and by an order dated June 14, 2024, he was penalised with compulsory retirement. His departmental appeal in the case had also been rejected, and his appeal pertaining to his service had been dismissed by the FST.

However, lower court acquitted him in the criminal case in the matter.Before the SC, his counsel Aftab Alam Yasir argued that the matter at hand was a private and domestic one between the married couple, had no connection with the petitioner's official duties, and that Abbasi's conduct outside his workplace and office hours could not constitute misconduct under the Civil Servants Rules.The counsel pointed out that his client had previously been acquitted by a trial court, further claiming that his wife had attempted suicide. He contended that the rejection of Abbasi's plea following the departmental inquiry was erroneous.In his judgement on the matter, Justice Waheed observed that the dignity of a woman, whether as a wife, sister, daughter, mother or a fellow citizen, was a fundamental value protected by the Constitution.

Petitions against detention of Sohail Afridi, others referred to PHC CJ for constitution of larger bench



NEWS DESK: A Peshawar High Court (PHC) bench on Tuesday referred multiple petitions challenging the detention of PTI leaders, including Sohail Afridi — the non-functional Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister — to the chief justice for the constitution of a larger bench.

Afridi has not been seen since the imposition of governor's rule and emergency in KP on Oct 11. His whereabouts remained unknown on the day governor's rule was imposed, and a federal minister confirmed a day later that he and some of his cabinet members were in preventive custody.The PTI has also alleged the detention and arrests of several of its other members, including lawmakers and ministers. Their whereabouts have not been disclosed by the government so far.Multiple pleas have been filed in the PHC in this connection. A division bench comprising Justice Syed Arshad Ali and Justice Muhammad Faheem Wali took up the petitions on Tuesday.Apart from Afridi's detention, the petitions also pertain to the alleged disappearance of KP Assembly Speaker Babar Saleem Swati, MNAs Junaid Akbar and Dr Amjid Ali, provincial minister Amjid Ali Khan, MPAs Ikramullah and Aurangzeb Khan, former chief minister of Gilgit-Baltistan Mohammad Khalid Khursheed and several other PTI leaders.

Afridi's brother Mohammad Aamir filed one of the petitions, alleging that Afridi was "abducted" from Chief Minister House on the night that the emergency was imposed in the province. He had approached the PHC on Oct 13.On Tuesday, the bench referred the pleas to the chief justice after the KP government and senior police officials failed to file their respective replies in accordance with the court's Oct 20 directives.

"These are not ordinary personalities," remarked Justice Ali during the hearing.Meanwhile, KP Advocate General Sanaullah Khan sought three days to submit the replies, adding that his office was awaiting a response from the provincial home department, police and other law enforcement agencies.

Bashir Vazir, who appeared on behalf of the petitioners, alleged that the PTI leaders had been missing for many days. He contended that, under Article 199 of the Constitution, the PHC had authority to order that Afridi and Swati be produced before the court.He further argued that the KP Assembly had passed an immunity law under which a member of the assembly could not be arrested in such manner, adding that the assembly's speaker also could not be arrested under the law.

Lahore court grants NCCIA further two-dayremand of suspects over US postage stampfraud

NEWS DESK: A judicial magistrate on Tuesday granted the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) a further two-day physical remand of two suspects in a Rs35 billion fraud involving the online sale of counterfeit US postage stamps.

The prime suspect, identified as a 33-year-old resident of Khanewal, had been charged by a Florida jury with defrauding the United States Postal Service (USPS) of $126 million, the US Attorney's Office of the Southern District of Florida said on Sept 28.The Lahore NCCIA announced the prime suspect's arrest in late October, and he was sent on a five-day physical remand on Oct 21. Today's extension of the physical remand is the third for him, and second for the co-suspect.

On Tuesday, the NCCIA produced both men before Judicial Magistrate Naeem Watloo upon the expiry of their latest four-day remand.

The investigating officer (IO) sought custody of the suspects for another five days for interrogation.

However, Magistrate Wattoo granted the agency two more days of physical custody and directed the IO to produce the suspects again on Nov 5.

According to NCCIA, the initial investigation revealed that the prime suspect operated a website to market and sell over 5m fake US postage stamps over a period of more than three years.According to the US Department of Justice, the website run by the Pakistani national was not authorised to sell USPS products and services.



The counterfeit labels allegedly allowed customers to ship packages at rates "far below legitimate USPS prices", it said, adding that it caused losses exceeding $126m to the postal service.

US prosecutors alleged that the website sold the labels for around $2 each, regardless of a package's weight, size or destination. A US court order authorised the seizure and shutdown of the website.

Money trail

In a press conference on Oct 20, NCCIA's Lahore Zone Additional Director Atif Ameer said that 16 bank accounts had been used in the scam. Seven of the accounts were operated by the suspect, five by his brother, two by his wife, and one each by his sister and aunt.

He said the agency had expanded the investigation across several parts of the country.

"Eight special teams were formed in Punjab, Islamabad and Sindh to trace the suspect and investigate the network," he said and added the teams conducted raids at 35 locations and questioned 47 people as part of the investigation.

2 policemen martyred, 1 injured in attack en route to polio duty in KP's Mohmand

NEWS DESK: Two policemen were martyred and another was injured when unidentified gunmen opened fire on them while they were on their way to join a polio team for security duty during the ongoing vaccination campaign in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Mohmand district on Tuesday, police said.

Headquarters Deputy Superintendent of Police Liaquat Ali confirmed these details to Dawn,

adding that the attack took place near the Hashim Kor police checkpost in the Dag Tamanzai area of the Pindiali tehsil.

He identified the martyred cops as Constables Zahoor Khan and Arbai Khan and the injured policeman as Sepoy Sabir Khan.

Later in the day, funeral prayers for the two martyred policemen were offered at the Police Lines in Ghalanai.

The funeral was attended by the Commandant Mohmand Rifles, the deputy commissioner, the district police officer and other officials, as well as local residents.

Senior officials laid floral wreaths on the bodies of the martyred policemen and offered condolences to their bereaved families. They also paid tribute to the sacrifices of the policemen.

Separately, KP Governor Faisal Karim Kundi took notice of reports about the abduction of four polio workers in the province's Tank district and directed relevant authorities to take "immediate and effective measures" for their safe recovery.

Police say the incident took place on Monday.

Governor Kundi noted that polio workers "perform a national duty to protect children and promote a healthy Pakistan" and said the government was responsible for providing security to polio teams.

He added that targeting polio workers was "against humanity and the national interest".

The incidents come as a sub-national polio vaccination campaign began across the country on Sunday, targeting nearly 24 million children in 97 high-risk districts.



Pakistan and Afghanistan are the only two countries where polio is still endemic.

On Sunday, Pakistan reported its eighth polio case of the ongoing year. The affected child was a 13-month-old girl from KP's Khyber district.

Of the eight cases, six have been reported from KP — including four from Bannu division — and two from Sindh.

In July, Pakistan told the global Independent Monitoring Board that the country had entered a decisive phase in its decades-long fight against polio,

claiming the virus had been pushed into a shrinking number of high-risk areas and cautioning that persistent insecurity, particularly in southern KP, remained the biggest obstacle to reaching every child.

termed the incident "extremely regrettable and condemnable", a statement issued by his office on Tuesday said.

The governor

IHC grants protective bail to TikToker booked following stampede at wedding event

NEWS DESK: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday granted protective bail to TikToker Muhammad Ansar Jatt, alias "Mr Pattlo", after a stampede at his mehndi (henna) event in Sialkot claimed two lives.

Jatt had announced holding a mehndi event and prize-distribution ceremony at Faraz Cricket Ground on Daska Road on Friday night; however, with hundreds gathered at the site, a stampede occurred when the stadium gates opened, killing two and injuring 18 people.

Subsequently, a first information report (FIR) was registered on October 31 at the Motra Police Station, naming Jatt, his brother, the owner of Faraz Cricket Ground, six others, and 40-45 unidentified security guards.On Tuesday, IHC Chief Justice Sardar Muhammad Sarfraz Dogar approved the protective — also known as transitory — bail for the TikToker until Nov 10, allowing him to avoid arrest while he approaches the relevant court to seek legal remedy. He surrendered before the court in a wheelchair.Jatt had filed a petition, seeking the court's intervention to prevent his arrest before he could reach the court of competent jurisdiction.

Advocates Barrister Qasim Nawaz Abbasi and Barrister Raja Ali Abbas Jalap filed the petition on his behalf.

According to the legal document, Jatt was named in the FIR, which was registered under Sections 322 (punishment for qatl-i-khata), 440 (mischief committed after preparation made



for causing death or hurt), 431 (mischief by injury to public road, bridge, river or channel), 148 (rioting, armed with deadly weapon), 149 (unlawful assembly), 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant) and 109 (punishment of abetment) of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC), read with Section 16 of the Punjab Maintenance of Public Order Ordinance, 1960.During the proceedings, the petitioner's counsel argued that the FIR was registered outside the IHC's territorial jurisdiction. However, the counsel maintained that the sole object of seeking protective bail was to enable a suspect present within the jurisdiction of one court to safely approach the court where the case was registered without being arrested on the way."The merits of the case are not required to be examined at this stage," the petition stated, adding that without the protection, the petitioner's right to seek pre-arrest bail before a Sialkot court would be rendered illusory.

Islamabad ATC grants bail to Imaan, Hadi in police altercation case

NEWS DESK: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Islamabad on Tuesday granted bail to lawyer Imaan Mazari and her husband, Hadi Ali Chattha, in a case registered against them for allegedly blocking a road outside the National Press Club and engaging in an altercation with police.

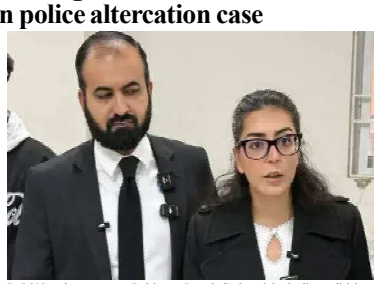
ATC Judge Abual Hasnat Muhammad Zulqarnain announced the decision after hearing the bail applications. The police also produced the case record before the court during the proceedings.

When defence counsel Riasat Ali Azad informed the court that the record had been received that day,

the judge remarked that he would have shown the police the consequences of failing to produce it on Tuesday.

The judge then asked the applicants if they had anything to say before announcing that their bail applications had been accepted.

The court granted bail to both accused against surety bonds of



Rs5,000 each.

The judge also said he would examine the matter regarding the show-cause notice issued to the police over the delay in producing the case record.

Last week, an ATC sentenced Imaan and Hadi to 10 years in prison each in the security breach case.

The court also handed down one-year sentences and imposed fines of Rs50,000 each under Section 186 (obstructing a public servant in the discharge of public functions) of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC).

They were also sentenced to two years each under Section 353 (assault or criminal force to deter a public servant from discharging his duty) of the PPC.

Jailed, sentenced, re-arrested

The couple has been in jail since their arrest on Jan 23 in a case registered against them for protesting outside the IHC and allegedly manhandling the IHC Bar Association president. The arrest prompted criticism by rights bodies, politicians and journalists, who stressed the couple's right to a fair trial.

Just a day later, a sessions court sentenced them to 17 years on multiple charges under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act in the controversial social media posts case. The convictions were widely condemned by lawyers and United Nations (UN) experts.

On September 17, following months of litigation before the courts, the SC suspended their sentences in the case.