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Elimination of 33 terrorists in Balochistan commendable achievement: President

Security Forces kill 33 Indian-sponsored Khwarij terrorists in Balochistan
PM Shehbaz says complete eradication of foreign-sponsored terrorism, including Fitna al-Khawarij and Fitna al-Hindustan, is the government's top priority

RAWALPINDI, (APP): Security Forces have killed 33 Indian-sponsored Khwarij terrorists belonging to Fitna Al-Khwarij and Fitna Al-Hindustan during a series of comprehensive counter-terrorism operations in Balochistan since September 21.

"On 24 September, in continuation of Operation Shaban, security forces busted additional terrorist hideouts, and after an intense fire exchange, five Indian sponsored Khwarij were killed making a total of twenty two khwarij killed so far," said a news release issued by (ISPR).

Weapons, ammunition and explosives were also recovered from the Khwarij locations. Clearance Operation will continue till complete neutralization of threat from the area.

In another engagement on 25 September 2026, an intelligence based operation was conducted in Nushki district. During the conduct of operation, own troops effectively engaged terrorists hideout and after an intense fire exchange, 11 terrorist were sent to hell.

"Relentless Counter Terrorism campaign under vision "Azm e Istehkam" (as approved by Federal Apex Committee on National Action Plan) by Security Forces and Law Enforcement Agencies of Pakistan will continue at full pace to wipe out menace of foreign sponsored and supported terrorism from the country," it further said.

Meanwhile, President Asif Ali Zardari Friday paid tribute to security forces for successful operations against the Indian-backed Fitna al-Khawarij and Fitna al-Hindustan elements in Balochistan.

The President commended the bravery and professional competence of the security forces for eliminating more Indian-backed Khawarij during Operation Shaban.



NEW YORK: A delegation of Business Council for International Understanding (BCIU) and US-Pakistan Business Council called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif



NEW YORK: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar meets his Saudi and Turkish counterparts Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud and Hakan Fidan on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly

Increasing capacity of human resources vital for Balochistan's sustainable development: CM Bugti

QUETTA, (VoM Report): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti met with Dr. Qurrat-ul-Ain Bakhtiar, head of the Institute for Development Studies and Practices (IDSP).

During the meeting, various matters relating to human resource development in Balochistan, education and training of youth, community development, women's empowerment and social development were discussed.

The need to provide young people in the province with education and practical training in line with modern requirements, utilise their capabilities and effectively include them in the process of economic and social development was also discussed.

Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that increasing the capacity of human resources is of fundamental importance for the sustainable development of Balochistan.

He said that youth are the province's valuable asset and can be made an active part of the development process by providing them with better opportunities for education, skills and employment.

He said that the Government of Balochistan is taking effective measures in the fields of education, technical training, women's economic and social empowerment, and community development, while the experience and expertise of organisations working in these areas can also be utilised.



QUETTA: Provincial Finance Minister Mir Shoaib Nosherwani chairs a meeting of socio-political steering committe.

Documented evidence exposes Taliban's patronage of terror groups using Afghan soil as launchpad against Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, (APP): A report has identified 260 Afghan terrorists killed in various military operations in Pakistan, exposing a deeply entrenched terrorist nexus operating directly from Afghan soil.

The security report featuring full names, home addresses, and detailed family records has debunked the continuous denials by the Afghan Taliban regime regarding its provision of sanctuary, support, and patronage to terrorist organizations.

As the toll strictly accounts for identified fatalities and excludes unidentified or active militants, the deaths represent only a fraction of the broader Afghan terrorist involvement inside Pakistan.

According to the report, public funerals for these slain Afghan terrorists have been held in their hometowns across Afghanistan, openly attended and participated in by Afghan Taliban regime officials, which demonstrates the regime's direct patronage.

The regime, which claims to have no connection with cross-border terror, faces stark questions over why its official representatives stand side-by-side with families mourning terrorists killed while attacking Pakistan.

This state-backed nexus extends straight into tactical infiltration and direct military assistance. As per record, up to 70 percent of Fitna al Khawarij infiltrators entering Pakistan are of Afghan origin. The Afghan Taliban regime has actively provided leftover US and NATO weaponry to terrorists belonging to Fitna al Khawarij and Fitna al Hindustan. High-powered military equipment, including M4 assault rifles, Remington sniper rifles, and advanced night-vision gear, is currently being deployed by these terrorists against Pakistani targets. The human toll of this Afghan-based terror infrastructure has reached alarming levels. In 2026 alone, terrorism emanating from Afghan soil has resulted in 1,327 Pakistanis martyred and 2,484 injured.

The United Nations estimates confirm that Fitna al Khawarij maintains a force strength of approximately 6,000 to 6,500 terrorists inside Afghanistan.

Pakistan, KSA, Turkiye to hold urgent meeting of military chiefs under MJDA

NEW YORK, (Monitoring Desk): The military chiefs of Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye will hold an urgent meeting to discuss ways to support Saudi Arabia under the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement (MJDA) amid Houthi attacks, the Saudi foreign ministry said on Friday.

The ministry confirmed the development in a statement following a meeting between Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud and Turkiye's Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan on the sidelines of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

The meeting comes amid Houthi strikes on the Yemeni government and repeated strikes inside Saudi territory, disrupting oil flows from the world's largest energy exporter, as part of a wider Middle East war that began with US and Israeli strikes on Iran in February.

Iran seeks deal with US, not war: Pezeshkian

Says Houthis are responsible for their own actions

NEW YORK, (Monitoring Desk): Iran does not seek war with the US and remains prepared to pursue a negotiated agreement, President Masoud Pezeshkian said late on Thursday as tensions between the two countries continue.

In an exclusive interview with Fox News' Bret Baier, Pezeshkian was asked if Iran was choosing war or a deal.

"We do not choose war. The war was imposed on us. We do not seek war," Pezeshkian said.

He said Iran remains willing to move forward with an agreement with Washington, referring to the June memorandum that called for a final peace deal within 60 days but collapsed due to differences over navigation in the Strait of Hormuz. "We did reach an agreement with your president (Donald Trump)," he said. "Based on that, we are willing and still wish to move forward."

The Iranian president said it is America that must choose whether it wants to end the war or not.

Asked whether Iran would give up its 60% enriched uranium, Pezeshkian said the country would comply with its obligations under international law and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. "Yes," he said. "Within the framework of international law, based on the Non-Proliferation Treaty, whatever we are supposed to adhere to, we will." Pezeshkian also rejected the suggestion that Iran had closed the Strait of Hormuz, a strategically important waterway through which a fifth of the world's oil passed before the war.

Pakistan rejects Afghan claim, says 13 Taliban personnel killed in Gulistan sector

ISLAMABAD, (APP): The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on Friday rejected a claim by Afghanistan's Ministry of Defence that a Pakistani post near Spin Boldak was destroyed and that Afghan forces suffered no casualties, terming it fake and fabricated.

According to the ministry, an attempted Afghan aggression in the Gulistan sector was thwarted on the night of September 24/25. It said that during the engagement and subsequent action against opposing Taliban posts, at least 13 Afghan Taliban personnel were killed and several others injured.

The ministry said visuals of the incident had also been attached, adding that these had already been widely covered by the media and circulated extensively on social media, which it said provided visual evidence of the border engagement and subsequent action against the Afghan Taliban.

Youth should be empowered through skills: Nosherwani

QUETTA, (VoM Report): The fourth meeting of the Socio-Political Steering Committee was held in Quetta under the chairmanship of Provincial Finance Minister Mir Shoaib Nosherwani.

Additional Chief Secretary Development Zahid Saleem, Additional Secretary Finance Hafiz Muhammad Qasim and other relevant officials attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the Provincial Finance Minister was given a detailed briefing on progress made on decisions taken during the previous meeting and the implementation of various measures.

The chairman of the committee, Provincial Minister for Finance and Minerals Mir Shoaib Nosherwani, stressed the promotion of positive activities, education and skills development among young people. He said that youth should be empowered and encouraged through skill development programmes

PM Shehbaz invites US firms to explore investment opportunities in Pakistan

NEW YORK, (APP): Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif, on Friday invited the American businesses to tap into Pakistan's vast economic potential, highlighting the country's investor-friendly policy framework and massive reforms undertaken by his government to safeguard foreign investments and foster high-growth business climate.

The prime minister met with joint delegation of the Business Council for International Understanding (BCIU) and the US-Pakistan Business Council (USPBC), on the sidelines of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly here, where he said Pakistan was making efforts to support peace initiatives in the region, stressing that long-term regional peace was important for promoting business and investment.

He invited the US firms to explore investment opportunities in Pakistan, highlighting agriculture, mining and minerals, information technology, energy security, ports and shipping, and privatization as key areas of potential cooperation.

The Council, he said served as an important bridge between Islamabad and Washington and emphasized the need to translate improved bilateral relations into greater trade and investment.

He said Pakistan's economy had achieved stability and was moving towards growth, while acknowledging that the ongoing Gulf crisis had created challenges.

He highlighted the structural reforms being undertaken by the government, including digitization of the economy, reforms in the Board of Revenue and expansion of e-governance.

Discussing investment opportunities in agriculture, Prime Minister Shehbaz said Pakistan offered significant potential through the use of modern technology.



QUETTA: Head of the Institute for Development Studies and Practices (IDSP) Dr. Qurrat-ul-Ain Bakhtiar called on Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti

Merely making announcements not enough to improve electricity supply system: Governor

QUETTA, (VoM Report): Governor Balochistan Jafar Khan Mandokhail said that merely making announcements is not enough to improve the electricity supply system; practical measures and continuity in their implementation must be ensured.

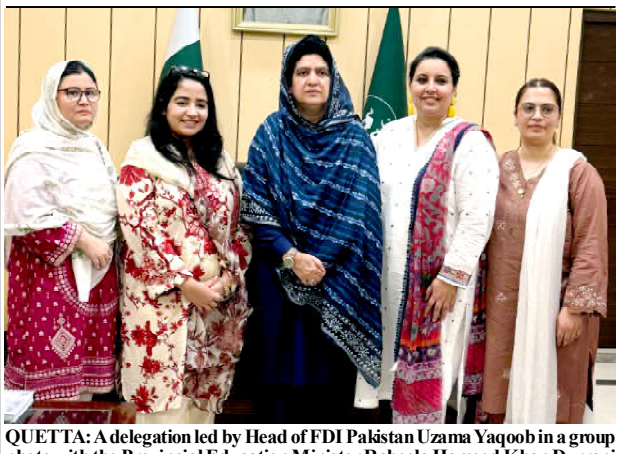
He called for an immediate end to unannounced load-shedding and concrete measures to provide electricity consumers with uninterrupted power supply at an appropriate voltage.

Governor Mandokhail said that QESCO authorities should make their office and administrative procedures more effective and public-friendly.

He directed that complaints received from electricity consumers through Complaint Cell 118 should be addressed promptly, adding that treating the public courteously is the institution's responsibility. He expressed these views during a briefing given by QESCO Chief Executive Officer Engineer Mirza Aizaz Baig. On the occasion, Governor Jafar Khan Mandokhail said that due to the negative effects of load-shedding, low voltage and particularly overbilling, even consumers who regularly pay their electricity bills are facing severe difficulties. He said it was necessary to facilitate consumers who fulfil their responsibility by paying their electricity bills on time.

The Governor of Balochistan also stressed the need to give full attention to the payment of outstanding dues owed by WAPDA and relevant institutions so that the overall financial and administrative performance of the institutions could improve and unnecessary pressure on the electricity system could be reduced.

He said that electricity supply should be ensured in major government offices during office hours, while hospitals, educational institutions and other important public centres should be given special priority in electricity supply.



QUETTA: A delegation led by Head of FDI Pakistan Uzama Yaqoob in a group photo with the Provincial Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani

THE VOICE OF MILLIONS

Saturday September 26, 2026

Jinnah Peoples Train: A new chapter in affordable urban mobility for Quetta

The launch of the Jinnah Peoples Train marks an important development in public transportation for Quetta and its surrounding communities. At a time when growing populations, rising commuting needs and increasing traffic are placing greater pressure on urban infrastructure, the introduction of a regular rail service offers citizens a practical and relatively affordable alternative for daily travel.

According to the Government of Balochistan, the project has been designed to provide modern, safe and affordable transportation facilities to the people of the province, particularly residents of Quetta and its suburban areas. The initiative reflects the importance of strengthening public transport so that students, employees, businesspeople and other citizens can travel more conveniently for their everyday activities.

One of the notable aspects of the project is the pace at which the railway infrastructure was upgraded. The 32-kilometre railway track for the Jinnah Peoples Train was completed in 120 days, with the project costing approximately Rs3 billion. The completion of this work demonstrates the potential of targeted investment in existing transport infrastructure to produce tangible benefits for urban communities.

The route includes seven stations: Kachlak, Billeli, Sheikh Manda, GOR, Quetta, Lora Karez and Sariab. These stations are particularly significant because they connect Quetta with several surrounding areas, creating a transport link that can serve people who regularly commute into and out of the city.

For many households, transportation costs are an important part of the monthly budget. A relatively low-cost rail option could therefore provide meaningful relief to daily commuters. Students travelling to educational institutions, employees going to offices, workers travelling to workplaces and businesspeople moving around the city can potentially benefit from a dependable rail connection.

The project also has wider implications for Quetta's urban mobility. As the number of private vehicles increases, road congestion can become a growing challenge. By providing citizens with another means of transportation, the Jinnah Peoples Train has the potential to encourage a shift toward public transit and help reduce pressure on the city's roads. The initiative is also significant from the perspective of accessibility and dignity in public transportation. A reliable public transport system is not merely a convenience; it can influence people's ability to reach educational institutions, workplaces, markets and essential services. Improving connectivity between suburban communities and the urban centre can consequently contribute to greater economic and social mobility.

Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has described the project as part of efforts to provide citizens with modern, safe, dignified and affordable transportation facilities. His comments underline the broader public-service objective behind the initiative: making everyday travel easier for the people who depend on affordable transportation.

The Jinnah Peoples Train should therefore be viewed not simply as a railway project, but as an investment in Quetta's connectivity and the daily lives of its residents. Its success will ultimately depend on reliable operations, appropriate fares, passenger safety, cleanliness, maintenance and convenient scheduling. Continued attention to these areas will be essential to ensuring that the infrastructure investment translates into sustained public benefit. For Quetta, the restoration and expansion of passenger rail services represents an opportunity to strengthen the city's public transportation network. If operated effectively and maintained over the long term, the Jinnah Peoples Train can provide commuters with an additional travel option while supporting efforts to address congestion and improve connectivity between Quetta and its surrounding communities.

The completion of the project within 120 days and the establishment of seven stations represent concrete steps toward improving mobility in the region. What matters now is ensuring that this investment continues to serve citizens efficiently, safely and affordably in the years ahead.

Moral failure

MURAD MOOSA KHAN

"To be wealthy and honoured in an unjust society is a disgrace" — Confucius

I Often wonder that if I ever come to be awarded one of Pakistan's civil honours (not that I deem myself worthy of one!), would I accept it? After all, many of my colleagues have done so and flaunt them with great pride. I am not sure I would.

My discomfort would be this: what does success mean in an unjust system? In today's Pakistan, where social and economic injustice, political patronage and selective accountability shape public life, this question is not philosophical but deeply personal and political. Wealth and honour are typically seen as rew-a-r-ds for hard work, perseverance or talent. Yet it forces us to examine the moral context in which such rewards are given. If a society is structured in ways that systematically disadvantage the many while privileging the few, then personal success within that system cannot be morally neutral.

In Pakistan, the narrative of meritocracy coexists with societal inequality. Access to quality education, healthcare, and employment opportunities is unevenly distributed, determined by socioeconomic status, geography, or connections. Elite institutions, nepotism and entrenched patronage create pathways that are accessible to a few but closed to others.

In such a system, achievement is rarely just the product of individual effort. It is often facilitated by inherited advantage, political connections or the ability to manipulate the system. When individuals rise within these structures and are celebrated as symbols of success, the broader question of fairness is conveniently sidelined. If the playing field is fundamentally unequal, then the honours and awards bestowed upon those who 'succeed' are deeply flawed.

When wealth and political influence are intertwined, it further complicates the moral landscape. Business elites in the country often have close ties with those in power, benefiting from fa--vourable policies, contracts or regulatory relief. In return, they offer financial support, legitimacy or silence. This symbiotic relationship blurs the line between economic success and political complicity, giving rise to a class of individuals whose wealth is not merely economic capital but also a form of political currency. Their 'honour', which is manifested through awards, social status or public recognition, becomes part of a system that sustains inequality. The absence of accountability means that those who benefit from unjust systems do not simply go unchallenged but are, in fact, celebrated. Their success stories are amplified, their lifestyles admired, and their influence normalised.

This is not a sign of societal progress, but one of moral failure. This is one of the most insidious effects of an unjust system and how it shapes aspirations. In Pakistan, whether it is the normalisation of corruption, the acceptance of academic dishonesty or the reluctance to challenge unethical practices in public life, the moral cost of aspiration is high. Young people, in particular, internalise the idea that achieving such success is the ultimate goal, regardless of the means, creating a dangerous cycle. Instead of questioning the system, individuals adapt to it. Ethical compromises become normalised. Shortcuts are justified. Silence is preferred over dissent and the pursuit of success becomes detached from considerations of justice or integrity. Those who become wealthy and honoured by operating within or who benefit from flawed structures, become benchmarks of success for others. Success devoid of ethical grounding is not only hollow; it is dishonourable.

The widening gap between the privileged and the marginalised in Pakistan has led to moral distancing. For those who are economically well off, the daily struggles of the common man — poverty, unemployment, rising inflation and violence — become abstract or invisible. This allows individuals to live in their bubbles and enjoy their status without having to confront conditions that make such disparities possible. Inequality is seen as unfortunate, rather than as being unjust and immoral.

Yet, the moral burden does not disappear simply because it is ignored. To be wealthy in such a context is to be implicated, whether directly or indirectly, in the structures that produce inequality.

An unjust society often sustains itself through the control of narrative. In Pakistan, the few voices that challenge inequality, corruption or abuse of power are frequently subjected to legal, social and institutional pressure. Journalists, activists and academics who attempt to raise their voice are met with censorship, intimidation and marginalisation. This narrows the space for critical dialogue and accountability. Under these conditions, those who enjoy wealth and honour have a choice to either remain silent and benefit from the status quo, or use their position to advocate for change. Silence in the face of injustice becomes a form of endorsement.

What constitutes true honour in an unjust society? Confucian philosophy points toward integrity, fairness, and a commitment to the common good as the foundations of ethical living. In practical terms, this means redefining success, ie, valuing transparency over expediency, accountability over influence, and social responsibility over personal gain. It requires individuals — particularly those in positions of privilege — to critically examine how their success is achieved and what impact it has on others.

An unjust system is not sustained by a few individuals, but by a whole network of behaviours, incentives and norms. A collective effort is needed to change such a system. This would include strengthening institutions to ensure fairness and accountability, promoting equitable access to opportunities, and fostering a culture that values integrity over mere success. It would mean citizens holding leaders and elites accountable, and questioning narratives that glorify wealth without examining its origins. It begins with recognising that the pursuit of wealth and honour cannot be divorced from the moral context in which they are obtained. To ignore this is to accept a diminished moral standard.

World and religion

SADIQ KARIM SOOFI

One notion that is as commonly held as it is, arguably, patently untrue is the notion that balancing deen (religion) and dunya (world) is an ideal worth striving for. It is a fallacy repeated even in the most religious of households. For so many, it articulates what it means to live a good life.

Ask a religious man what makes this ideal so ethically authoritative, and he will likely point to the life of the Prophet of Islam (PBUH). After all, he traded, organised a polity, signed treaties and went to war. There is no denying that the Prophet lived in this dunya and pursued what, to us, are worldly pursuits. But when the Prophet's life is pointed to as the justification of the deen-dunya balance as an ideal, what is really being pointed to is deen itself. For who would say that the Prophet was in any way separable from the religion he lived and perfected? So, to justify a balance between deen and dunya, the Muslim naturally (and rightly) refers back to his deen.

The implication is important: deen and dunya are not equals meant to be balanced. They are not ends of a spectrum which must be harmonised through a golden mean. In fact, as is obvious from the reasoning above, deen enjoys a primacy and a priority over dunya that renders false any ideal inviting us to balance the two.

Dunya derives its meaning from deen. It is deen that tells us what is of value in the world and what we ought to do with it. That is why the religious mind is compelled to refer to deen in order to substantiate even an erroneous notion such as the deen-dunya balance.

Take, for instance, this verse of the Quran: "[He is the One] who created life and death in order to test which of you is best in deeds. …" (67:2). And another: "I did not create jinn and men except to worship Me" (51:56). Put simply, deen is why we are here. The world is merely the inescapable field of action where deen has to be lived out. This dunya is our only chance at getting deen right. And that is what makes it significant. One sense in which the word 'dunya' is often used, and which is at play in the notion of balancing deen and dunya, is one that refers to all those pursuits that we are compelled to engage in by virtue of being in this physical, material world. These might include things like raising children, earning a livelihood, and organising collective living.But even in this sense, why should dunya stand apart as something other than, and equal to, deen, something that must be balanced with it because it tends in an opposite direction? After all, the first community of Muslims engaged in politics to establish justice in the world. They amassed wealth to spend it in Allah's way.

In its most perfected form, then, one's deen ought to encompass the dunya within it. The pursuit of all that is of this dunya must be subsumed by the essential reality of the human being, which is the reality recollected for him by deen. It is the reality of servitude: "Say, "Surely my prayer, my sacrifice, my life and my death are all for Allah — Lord of the worlds" (6:162). And how could it be any other way? If the fabric of the universe is a religious fabric, ie, if the dunya was brought into being for deen, then it follows that there is nothing in the dunya that is devoid of spiritual meaning. There is no moment empty of moral content. No place where the divine cannot be found. And no event comes to pass but in it are signs of God for people who are alive and aware. Those who impress upon us the deen-dunya distinction as the basis of a questionable ideal are the inheritors of a secular worldview that insists on breaking up human life into distinct spheres: business, family, politics and so on. Religion, too, is supposed to be just another one of these spheres. But such an understanding of religion is problematic. For how can the idea of God be made to retreat to one sphere of our experience? No. God and deen are all-encompassing. The spheres of business, family and politics fall within the larger sphere of deen, which is indistinguishable from the whole of life itself. Deen is all that matters. Dunya is simply where we must show that to be the case. What is needed is not disregard for dunya, but a determination of its appropriate place in our worldview. That is what justice consists of: giving to each what is its due. The injustice of equating deen with dunya is obvious.

And what we may regard as duties of the dunya are not destined for an anti-religious fate. Once we subject our dunya to the rule of deen, with one epic turning of our intention towards God, an apparently worldly duty can acquire religious meaning — meaning which was always latent within it and which yearned for itself to be realised.

Animal transport

RUKHSANA SHAH

Humans may be the most sentient creatures on earth, but it is their duty as custodians of the planet to recognise that other species are also sentient and should be cared for and protected. Unfortunately, cruelty towards animals is endemic in Pakistan, with horrific stories of abuse reported frequently in social and mainstream media.

On Eidul Azha, around 7.5 million animals are expected to be sacrificed in the country — a huge number for mass slaughter in a limited time frame, with implications for hygiene, health, biosafety, waste management, environmental issues and transportation.

Each year, we see cows, buffaloes, goats, sheep and camels being moved from one place to another, pushed along busy roads with sticks, or crammed into trucks, wagons and even rickshaws to and from animal markets.

In these dirty, overcrowded vehicles, there is little space for the animals to move: they are thrown at each other, sometimes breaking their limbs, at others collapsing with heat and dehydration. They are pushed up onto trucks and forced to jump down from these at the end of the journey. They are tied to vehicle frames by ropes that are too small for them, forcing them to hold up their necks in a painful position, sometimes even getting their horns stuck in the vehicle slats. Often cattle are injured or blinded when they are gored by the horns of other animals or when they lose their footing. They undergo torture, fear, stress and trauma.

Owners and transporters do not provide them with adequate food, water, rest, ventilation and protection from extreme heat. Vehicles aren't disinfected, leading to the spread of disease and parasites. There are no standardised ramps, and no limits on the duration of journeys. At the same time, animal markets often lack shade, clean water, food and veterinary supervision. Butchers aren't properly trained and slaughterhouses are insanitary with poor waste management.

Pakistan has few laws for animal welfare. The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1890, that is still extant, prohibits causing "unnecessary pain or suffering" to animals, covers overloading, beating and cruel transport but the penalties for violation are very low.

The Punjab and Sindh animal legislation of 2019 and 2022 is general in nature. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Animal Welfare Act, 2024, is more animal-centred and explicitly sets humane handling and transport standards along with increased penalties.

However, animal abuse in Pakistan remains a systemic issue mainly due to lack of institutional commitment. Even where laws exist, there is hardly any capacity to enforce the provisions, such as regular inspection of vehicles, enforcing health and safety protocols, and prosecuting and penalising violators. There's no dedicated infrastructure for animal transport, nor is there public awareness of these matters.

Pakistan as a member of the World Organisation on Animal Health recognises the sentience of animals and their five universal freedoms: from hunger, thirst and malnutrition, from fear and distress, from physical and thermal discomfort, from pain, injury and disease, and to behave in a manner innate in the animal's own kind.

Islamic teachings explicitly mandate the humane treatment of animals, including those designated for sacrifice.

The guidelines include providing animals with kindness, food, water and shelter, protecting them from unnecessary suffering, and not slaughtering an animal in front of another animal or sharpening knives in front of it.

The government must initiate an awareness campaign before Eid through electronic / social media, mosques and banners to emphasise Islamic values such as kindness and care of all species, and especially sacrificial animals.

It should also educate the public that abuse such as cruel transportation, painful slaughter, beating, dragging animals, or letting them go thirsty is haram.

To spread awareness among the public, the government can partner with organisations such as PAWS, ACF, CDRS, LAPS, TAWF, JFK, NKH, PARAG, Brooke, Todd's, etc, along with livestock departments, municipalities, and educational institutions for greater impact.

Last month, the government constituted a high-level committee under the climate change minister to address the issue of animal cruelty through boosting legislation and institutional frameworks. This is a step in the right direction, as climate change, environment and animal welfare are inextricably linked to rising temperatures, water scarcity and habitat destruction that are disrupting the life cycles of all species.

A 'National Policy on Animal Protection and Welfare' (on the cards since 2024) should include all these aspects of animal well-being and be finalised as soon as possible in consultation with farmers, veterinary professionals, transporters, union councils and NGOs.

Rubio says Iran imposing tolls on Strait of Hormuz "not acceptable

Monitoring Desk

HELSINGBORG: "What to know about the Iran war today:Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Friday that indirect negotiations over a potential deal to end the U.S.-Israeli war with Iran had seen "a little bit of movement, and that's good."Rubio has tempered expectations for a peace agreement, however, alluding to unresolved differences over Iran's nuclear enrichment and calling Iranian efforts to "create a tolling system" in the Strait of Hormuz "not acceptable." He said the U.S. and its partners must "have a Plan B" if Iran refuses to reopen the strait.Pakistan's Army Chief Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, a key mediator between Iran and the U.S., is heading to Tehran, security sources tell CBS News. Munir is expected to meet with Iranian officials as his nation continues efforts to broker a peace deal. Oil and gas prices to stay high in Europe until at least end of next year, officials say

Europeans can expect oil and gas prices to remain above what they were before the war for at least until the end of 2027, with prices of other goods also following an upward trajectory, European Union officials said Friday.

Higher energy prices are primarily responsible for driving inflation to a forecast 3.1% for this year and 2.4% for 2027, EU Economy Commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis said. That's significantly higher than the earlier forecast for this year of 1.9%.

"We expect that this energy inflation will gradually also trickle down to different sectors of the economy," Dombrovskis said after a meeting of the 21-member eurozone's finance ministers, who make up the Eurogroup.

European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde said that even if the conflict in the Middle East ended now, "lagging effects" would keep the prices of goods elevated.

"And it's probably a fact that price levels will be higher at the end of this crisis, when we see the end of the crisis," Lagarde said.

She said the ECB would take "all the necessary measures" to keep price stability at 2% by paying close attention to the aftereffects of the initial economic shock brought on by the energy price hike. She also pointed to how much oil the EU holds in reserve to meet possible demand.



Chinese President Xi Jinping and his wife Peng Liyua wave as they depart following his state visit to the US, at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, US

Taiwan says it has not been told by US of arms sales delays

Monitoring Desk

TAIPEI: Taiwan's government said on Friday it had not received any information about U.S. arms sales delays, after a senior U.S. suggested there was a pause due to the need to have enough arms for the war with Iran.

Taiwan, which China views as its own territory, has been waiting for the U.S. to approve a new arms sale package which Reuters has reported could be worth up to $14 billion.

However, U.S. President Donald Trump said following a summit with China's Xi Jinping in Beijing last week that he was undecided on whether to approve it.

On Thursday, .S. Acting Navy Secretary Hung ' Cao was asked at a Senate Appropriations Defense Subcommittee hearing about future arms sales to Taiwan.

"We have done some foreign military sales to ` them. It's just right now we're doing a pause in order to make sure we have the munitions we need for Epic Fury - which we have plenty," he said, referring to the U.S. operation against Iran.

"But we're just making sure we have everything, but then foreign military sales will continue when the administration deems necessary," he said, adding it would be up to Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and the Secretary of State Marco Rubio on whether to approve the sales to Taiwan.

Speaking to reporters in Taipei, Taiwan Presidential Office spokesperson Karen Kuo said they had noted the remarks.

Castro backers rally in front of US embassy in Havana

Monitoring Desk

HAVANA: Thousands of protesters waving Cuban flags rallied in front of the American embassy in Havana on Friday, in a show of support for ex-president Raul Castro following his US indictment. "Long live Raul!" chanted the group, which included the Caribbean island's current president and other top officials, clad in military fatigues. The 94-year-old brother of Fidel Castro was slapped with murder and other charges on Wednesday over the 1996 downing of two civilian planes—the latest tightening of US President Donald Trump's pressure campaign against Cuba's communist leaders.

Raul Castro was not in attendance at the rally, held at a park across the street from the US embassy that has been dubbed the "Anti-Imperialist Platform."

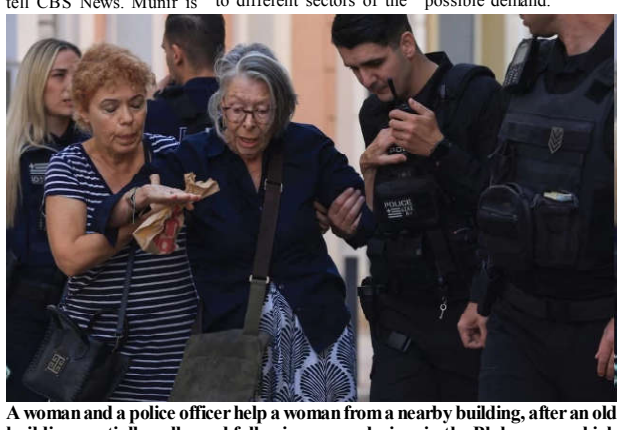
However, his children could be seen among the attendees, including his lawmaker daughter Mariela Castro and son Alejandro Castro, a key figure in secret talks that led to the restoration of diplomatic relations between Cuba and the United States in 2015.

Gerardo Hernandez, a former Cuban spy in the United States who was released in 2015, told the crowd that he bore a message from Castro.

The former president "says he thanks our people from the bottom of his heart for their solidarity" and "that as long as he lives, he will continue to lead our people and defend our revolution," Hernandez said.



Supporters of India's main opposition Congress party attend a protest demanding the resignation of India's Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar in New Delhi, India



A woman and a police officer help a woman from a nearby building, after an old building partially collapsed following an explosion, in the Plaka area, which is popular with tourists, in central Athens, Greece

UN refugee agency says:

$1 million worth of aid lost in Russian strike in Ukraine

Monitoring Desk

GENEVA: The United Nations refugee agency on Friday said it had $1 million worth of aid when a missile struck one of its warehouses in Dnipro in eastern Ukraine earlier this week.

The warehouse, which contained emergency shelter materials, including sleeping mats, and hygiene kits was destroyed on Wednesday, and two people were , Bernadette Castel-Hollingworth, ' the UNCHR Representative in Kyiv, said via video link from Poland.

The supplies were ' destined to be distributed to displaced and war-affected people in frontline areas in Ukraine, and deprive people of critical assistance at a time of significant need forced displacement and evacuations continue from frontline regions, according to UNHCR.

"It is significant for us, because it is the first time that a UNHCR facility is being targeted or attacked," Castel-Hollingworth .

UNHCR said it was part of a broader trend of attacks on humanitarian convoys.

Last week, two clearly marked convoys with humanitarian workers were hit by drones: one truck was delivering aid in the Dnipropetrovsk region.

Six year old after a land mine kills 3 children

Monitoring Desk

IDLIB: Idris al-Ridah wept as he carried the lifeless body of his 6-year-old son Amir, wrapped in a yellow and brown blanket, in northwest Syria.

The father collapsed to the ground as he laid his son to rest, his small body lowered into a grave next to two other young children who were siblings, Aya al-Fankih, 4, and Rayan al-Fankih, 6.

The three children were killed on Thursday in the village of Abu Habbah, in the countryside in the northwestern province of Idlib, when a land mine left behind from Syria's war exploded while they were playing near a well.

The deaths are the latest reminder of the dangers posed by unexploded war remnants scattered across the country years after the conflict began.

Israeli attacks kill several in Lebanon, with health workers targeted

Monitoring Desk

LEBANON: Israeli attacks have killed at least 11 people in southern Lebanon, including several healthcare workers.

The attacks occurred on Friday in the Tyre district. They are the latest in a long line, questioning the durability of the shaky United States-mediated ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon.

More than 400 people have been killed by Israeli fire since the deal came into force in mid-April. Israel insists it will continue to target the Hezbollah armed group, which opposed the Lebanese government's agreement on the ceasefire.

Six people were confirmed dead in the municipality of Deir Qanoun en-Nahr in an Israeli attack, including two paramedics and a child. In a separate attack, about 12km (7 miles) away in the town of Hannaouiyah, four paramedics were killed. An attack in the southern city of Nabatieh killed another man.

Israel also carried out several other air raids in southern Lebanon on Friday, according to the state-run National News Agency. The targets included four villages in the Tyre district.

The Israeli military has repeatedly attacked health facilities and medical teams in Lebanon, accusing Hezbollah of using them to conceal weapons and fighters. The Lebanese government rejects that claim. It reports that since the latest escalation between Israel and Hezbollah in early March.

Everest record holder warns of Nepal danger as two Indian mountaineers die

Monitoring Desk

MOUNT EVEREST: Two Indian climbers have died on Mount Everest during a record-breaking period of ascents via Nepal's southern route, as experts warn of overcrowding on the world's highest peak.

Nepal is home to eight of the world's 10 highest peaks and welcomes hundreds of adventurers each spring.

At least five climbers have died during this Everest season, including the two Indians and three Nepalis. A United States and a Czech climber died on Mount Makalu earlier this month.

Nivesh Karki, director at Pioneer Adventures.

WHO raises risk of Ebola outbreak in Congo

Monitoring Desk

GENEVA: The World Health Organization has raised the risk of the Bundibugyo strain of Ebola turning into a outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo to "very high".

The strain, which there is no approved vaccine or treatment, was declared an emergency of international concern by the WHO on Sunday.

"We are now revising our risk assessment to very high at the national level, high at the regional level, and low at global level," WHO Chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told reporters.

So far, 82 have been confirmed ' in Congo, with seven confirmed deaths, 177 suspected deaths and almost 750 suspected cases. The situation in Uganda is ' stable, with two cases confirmed in people who travelled from the DRC, one of them fatal, Tedros said.

"The potential of this virus spreading rapidly is high, very high, and that changed the whole dynamic," said Abdirahman Mahamud, WHO Director Health Emergency Alert & Response Operations.

Measures taken in Uganda, including intense contact tracing and cancellation of a mass gathering, appear to have been effective in stemming

Nordic & Baltic ministers reject Russia and Belarus airspace claims

Monitoring Desk

HELSINKI: Nordic and Baltic foreign ministers in a joint on Friday said they rejected what they called "Russia's blatant disinformation campaign and false allegations, supported by Belarus, regarding airspace violations in the Nordic and Baltic region".

Russia's ambassador to the United said on ' Tuesday Moscow had information that Ukraine planned to launch military drones from ' Latvia and other Baltic states, warning membership in NATO.



Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis delivered a speech at the 81st United Nations General Assembly in New York City.

Mussolini-themed ads against Meloni spark political row in Italy

Monitoring Desk

ROME: Huge advertisements posted in Italian train stations linking Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni with fascist leader Benito Mussolini have stoked media interest in a small rival party that accused her of censoring the campaign.

The ads, whose lettering is in the style of 1930s fascist propaganda, bear the phrase "When she was around ...", an expression that Mussolini admirers often use to say things worked better under him, such as the running of the trains.

"When she was around, trains arrived late," read one of the ads displayed in Rome and Milan's main stations, which was removed after the company handling in Italy's stations said ` it was "detrimental" to the railway's reputation.

More than one in five high-speed trains arrived late last year, according to consumer group Altroconsumo.

Other posters from ' the campaign featuring jibes about taxes, inflation and prospects for young people are still up. They are part of a fundraising campaign by former Prime Minister Matteo Renzi's

Explosion at Hungary petrochemical plant kills 1, injures 7

Monitoring Desk

TISZAÚJVÁROS: An explosion at a petrochemical plant in Hungary on Friday killed one person and injured several others, according to a statement by Hungarian energy company Mol Group, which owns the plant.

The explosion in Tiszaújváros, in eastern Hungary, occurred during a restart of the plant following maintenance, Prime Minister Péter Magyar said in a post on social media. He added that seven people had suffered burn injuries during the blast.

Turkey court ruling adds to crackdown on main opposition CHP

Monitoring Desk

ANKARA: A Turkish court annulled the main opposition party's 2023 congress, effectively ousting its leader Ozgur Ozel, in a ruling that has inflamed a political crisis, jolted financial markets and could prolong the 23-year rule of President Tayyip Erdogan.

The decision comes against the backdrop of an extended crackdown that has seen the detention or of hundreds of members of the opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) and several mayors.

Here are some details on the crackdown:

The CHP condemned the appeals court ruling as a "judicial coup", with Ozel vowing to fight it through legal appeals and to personally remain "day and night" in his party's headquarters in the capital Ankara.

Smaller opposition parties also criticised the ruling as anti-democratic, while Erdogan ally Devlet Bahceli suggested the judiciary should not intervene in internal party matters. Justice Minister Akin Gurlek said the court's decision demonstrated that democracy's self-correcting mechanisms and rule of law were functioning. The European Union raised concerns over the of law, judicial independence and democratic pluralism ' in Turkey, a candidate for EU membership.

US hits nine Hezbollah aligned individuals in Lebanon with sanctions

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: The United States on Thursday announced sanctions against nine individuals, including Iran's designated ambassador to Lebanon, for obstructing the peace process in the Middle Eastern country and impeding the disarmament of the Iran-backed Hezbollah group. Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control said the officials were embedded Lebanon's parliament, military, and security sectors, where they worked to preserve Hezbollah's influence over key Lebanese state institutions. "Hezbollah is a terrorist organization and must be fully disarmed," U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said

China foreign minister to chair UN Security Council meeting in US, visit Canada

Monitoring Desk

BEIJING: China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi will travel to New York and chair a level meeting of the UN Security Council on May , the Chinese foreign ministry said on Friday.

In New York, Wang will meet the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and foreign ministers from other countries, the ministry said in a statement, without giving further details.

He will then visit Canada from May 28 to , the first trip ' to Canada by a Chinese foreign minister in 10 years, ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun told a ' regular press conference in Beijing.

"China-Canada relations have turned around and continue to improve, and the two sides are working to build a new type of strategic partnership," Guo said.

China hopes the will enhance political trust, expand mutually beneficial cooperation, manage differences and keep bilateral relations on a healthy, stable and sustainable track, he added.

China and Canada struck a trade deal in January during Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney's visit.



NEW YORK: Most of delegates from several countries leave the room as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speaks during the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly at UN headquarters

TENDER NOTICE

TSE-2627091198983 The ASSISTANT DIRECTOR KACHHI invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2026 based on Composite schedule rates 2026 on Percentage Rates **Tender Fee 3000 and Bid Security 2%**

S.No	Name of Work	E/Cost
1	CONSTRUCTION OF BT ROAD AND INSTILLATION OF SOLAR STREET LIGHTS HINDU MOHALLAH TO SHAMSHAN GHAT SMALL BRIDGE AND PEER TIYAR GHAZI BHAG NARI DISTRICT KACHHI	30,000,000

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 21,000,000 PKR Amount in3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Recent Audit Report of firm last three years Firm is blacklisted or debarred by the Procuring Agency, and the matter has been reported to the Authority (Provide Stamp paper original) Original Completion Certificates of similar nature of projects of previous three years Original authority letter with dully signed stamp paper Updated firm from PEC for current financial year 2026-27 green challan dully signed original original bank submitted challan dully signed copy the bidders are required to provide @ 2% bid security in favour of the undersigned the original bid security must be submitted to the p a at time of bid opening otherwise the bid will not be entertained and shall be declared ineligible All bidders are required to provide three 03 verified contract agreement of similar assignments each of estimated cost mentioned above completed during the last three years **Procedure Of Procurement:**Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of **Bank Gurantee,Deposit at Call** of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gob.pk **Issuance of tender Documents:** Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gob.pk **Last Date of bid submission:** Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by **09 October, 2026** till **09:00 AM** through supplier dashboard. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at **10:00 AM on EPPS System Address:** Local Government Office, Dhadar

Phone no: 0832415425 Email: qazi.shoran@gmail.com

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
Local Government and R&D
KACHHI

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Gilani vows to translate longstanding Pak-Belarus ties into mutually beneficial cooperation

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Chairman Senate of Pakistan Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani Friday said that Pakistan and Belarus have a strong foundation of friendly relations and should translate their longstanding ties into mutually beneficial cooperation in trade, investment, agriculture, industry, pharmaceuticals, technology and people-to-people contacts.

Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani's official visit to Belarus, undertaken at the invitation of Chairperson of the Council of the Republic of Belarus Natalya Kochanova, is marked by a series of high-level and substantive engagements aimed at translating longstanding Pakistan-Belarus friendship into practical parliamentary, economic, industrial and technological cooperation.

Exchanging views with leadership of the Council of the Republic of Belarus, he expressed gratitude for the warm reception and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening bilateral relations.

The Chairman Senate held detailed talks with Chairperson of the Council of the Republic Natalya Kochanova, beginning with a one-on-one meeting followed by expanded discussions with members of both delegations.The two sides reviewed bilateral and inter-parliamentary relations, implementation of the Roadmap for Cooperation 2025–2027, parliamentary friendship groups, regional linkages, interbank cooperation and humanitarian exchanges.

Both sides also emphasized the potential for joint ventures, technology transfer, assembly production and enhanced cooperation in agriculture and pharmaceuticals.

A key outcome of the visit was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Council of the Republic of Belarus and the Senate of Pakistan by Natalya Kochanova and Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani. The MoU provides a framework for regular parliamentary exchanges, institutional linkages, interregional cooperation and coordinated engagement on international parliamentary platforms. Chairman Senate termed the agreement a practical step towards taking Pakistan-Belarus inter-parliamentary relations to a new level.

As part of the official programme, Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani also visited Minsk Tractor Plant (MTZ), where he reviewed the company's production capabilities and modern agricultural machinery.

The Pakistani delegation was informed that more than 70,000 Belarus tractors have been supplied to Pakistan over the years.



MINSK: Chairman Senate of Pakistan Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani with Chairperson of the Council of the Republic of Belarus Natalya Kochanova



BAKU: Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan attends a special panel discussion on the impact of international connectivity at the 2nd International Investment Forum

Dar meets UNGA President, pledges Pakistan's support for multilateralism

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister (DPM/FM), Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Friday met President of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Dr. Khalilur Rahman, on the sidelines of United Nations General Assembly 81 proceedings in New York. During the meeting, Dar congratulated Rahman on assuming the presidency of the General Assembly and assured him of Pakistan's full support and constructive engagement throughout his tenure, said a news release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Office of the Spokesperson here on Friday. The two sides reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to multilateralism and underscored the central role of the United Nations in addressing global challenges.

The discussion also touched on a range of matters of mutual interest, the statement said.

NA Speaker highlights enduring importance of newspapers in digital era

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Friday emphasized the continued relevance and importance of newspapers in the digital media era, terming them as a reliable source of authentic news, comprehensive analysis and credible information.

In his message on World Newspaper Day, the Speaker said newspapers had historically played a vital role in promoting political, social and constitutional awareness among the people.

He stressed that maintaining a strong connection with newspapers and books was essential for building an informed and enlightened society.

Ayaz Sadiq said the proliferation of fake news and rumours in the age of social media had emerged as a major challenge.

He said that newspapers, through editorial responsibility and verification of information, continued to provide credible and authentic news to the public.

Ayaz Sadiq described free and responsible journalism as a cornerstone of a democratic society, saying Pakistan's journalist community had consistently upheld the values of freedom of expression and truth.

KP govt "playing role of facilitator for terrorists", says Atta Tarar

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Friday said the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was "deliberately evading" its constitutional responsibility to maintain law and order in the province.

Talking to media here, Tarar said KP government was "playing the role of a facilitator for terrorists" rather than confronting them.

Terming law and order a provincial subject, he said it was incumbent upon the KP government to address the deteriorating security situation.

The minister questioned why a provincial government, which had an absolute control over its territory, would choose not to act against militancy.

In fact, there is a "political-terror and crime nexus" built around illegal mining and the timber trade, he said.

Tarar pointed out that militancy prevailed in the province because in connivance between the politicians and terrorists, adding that the provincial politicians were "on the front" funding terrorist networks through illegal contracts and trade.

He said PTI not only abstained from condemning terrorists operating in the province but avoided taking any action against them.

The minister said when security forces came under attack from across the border in Kurram, PTI leaders did not visit the area to express solidarity with the armed forces, nor issued any statement of condemnation. "This is an indication of their cowardice," Tarar said, adding that this tantamounted to facilitating terrorism. He also linked such cowardice to the PTI's decision to call off its planned long march to Islamabad, and said the party lacked the preparation in this regard. He said 2,456 terrorist attacks had taken place in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in 2026 alone, an average of roughly 10 attacks a day.

He said 472 personnel of various law enforcement agencies were martyred in these attacks, while around 1,500 others had been injured. "If a provincial government does not want to curb terrorism, this cannot be justified," he said, adding that in both the Kurram and Kohat incidents, only our forces stood while the provincial government "ran away."

Recalling his visit to Kohat to inquire after an injured person, Tarar quoted the person as telling him that "the provincial government might be coward, but we are not. We will fight these terrorists in a befitting way." Tarar also lashed out at the KP government for its recent legislation related to policing, saying that instead of introducing police reforms, it had brought a law to make the police a political force. This law is intended to turn the police into a facilitator for terrorists, he added.

He affirmed that Pakistan's law enforcement agencies remained fully committed to counterterrorism, and warned that terrorists would eventually be rooted out from the country.

He cautioned the PTI leadership against facilitating terrorists "financially and morally".



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti in a group photo with the students of Army Public School.

FCCP clarifies eligibility for remaining 25pc trade union executive seats

ISLAMABAD, (APP): The Federal Constitutional Court of Pakistan (FCCP) has held that under Section 8(1)(d) of the Industrial Relations Act, 2012, the remaining 25 per cent of members of a trade union's executive need not necessarily be workers and may include persons who are not employees of the relevant establishment or industry.

The court ruled that at least 75 per cent of the members of a trade union's executive must be workers employed in the relevant establishment or industry, while no such requirement has been prescribed by law for the remaining 25 per cent.

It clarified, however, that the eligibility of such persons would remain subject to the trade union's constitution and other applicable legal requirements. A two-member bench comprising Justice Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi and Justice Muhammad Karim Khan Agha announced the judgment on a petition filed by Muhammad Akhlaq Khan against the National Industrial Relations Commission (NIRC) and others. The petition was heard on September 1, 2026.

According to the judgment, Muhammad Akhlaq Khan was a former employee of K-Electric and former chairman of the union. The Sindh High Court had held him ineligible to contest election for the remaining 25 per cent portion of the union's executive. The Federal Constitutional Court disagreed with the interpretation of the Sindh High Court and held that the purpose of the relevant provision of the Industrial Relations Act, 2012 was to ensure that at least 75 per cent representation in the executive came from workers of the relevant establishment or industry.



QUETTA: A delegation led Aimal Graan Achakzai called on Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

M-6, M-10 to enhance Pakistan's connectivity with China, Central Asia: Aleem Khan

BAKU, (APP): Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan on Friday said that stronger regional connectivity and mutual cooperation were essential to address emerging global economic challenges.

Addressing a special panel discussion on the impact of international connectivity at the 2nd International Investment Forum in Baku, he said that almost every country had been affected by the prevailing global economic pressures and under such circumstances, mutual cooperation were essential, said a press release. The forum was attended by ministers and delegates from more than 60 countries, including Central Asian states, Türkiye, China, United States, United Kingdom, UAE and Saudi Arabia.

Abdul Aleem Khan said that Pakistan had taken stringent measures to reduce Government expenditure while at the same time, infrastructure was being upgraded on modern lines to promote trade, investment and regional connectivity. He noted that recent tensions along maritime routes had resulted in a significant increase in global freight and trade costs.

WHO vows to support Pakistan in improving childhood cancer care

ISLAMABAD, (APP): The World Health Organization (WHO) has reaffirmed its commitment to supporting Pakistan in improving childhood cancer care.

The organization stressed that early diagnosis and timely treatment can save lives as more than 8,000 children are diagnosed with cancer in the country each year.

On the occasion of Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, WHO said most childhood cancers could be cured through timely and appropriate treatment, including generic medicines, surgery and radiotherapy.

Globally, an estimated 400,000 children develop cancer every year. While more than 80 per cent of children with cancer are cured in high-income countries where comprehensive treatment services are generally accessible, the survival rate in most low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) remains below 30 per cent.

WHO noted that limited access to quality treatment and essential medicines was among the major factors contributing to poor survival outcomes in LMICs.

To improve access to life-saving medicines, WHO is working with Pakistan's Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination under the Global Platform for Access to Childhood Cancer Medicines to provide quality-assured childhood cancer medicines free of cost.

Four Pakistani hospitals are already working with WHO to complete the final preparations required to receive the medicines by the end of 2026 or during the first quarter of 2027.

Seven additional hospitals are expected to implement technical recommendations during 2027 and prepare to receive the supplies.

The ultimate objective is to make free, quality-assured childhood cancer medicines available to all hospitals providing cancer treatment to children in Pakistan.

SC grants post-arrest bail to 78-year-old accused

ISLAMABAD, (APP): The Supreme Court has held that where no weapon has been recovered from an accused and the forensic report indicates that the casings recovered from the crime scene were fired from the same pistol, further inquiry is required to determine the accused's role in the offence and consequently granted post-arrest bail to 78-year-old Nadir Khan.

A three-member bench comprising Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan and Justice Aqeel Ahmed Abbasi, after hearing a criminal petition on September 21, set aside the Peshawar High Court's July 10, order and granted bail to the accused.

In its detailed written judgment, the Supreme Court observed that according to the First Information Report, a common firing role had been attributed to the accused and his two sons.

However, prima facie, there was no specific material establishing what role the accused had played in causing the fatal injuries to the deceased.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology (IT) and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja addressing a press conference along with State Minister for Finance Bilal Azhar Kayani

Govt using all available resources to provide relief to citizens: Shaza

ISLAMABAD, (APP):Federal Minister for Information Technology (IT) and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Friday said around 5.8 million people had registered under the Prime Minister's fuel relief scheme, while around 6.1 million tokens had been generated and 4.7 million people had obtained fuel through the facility.

Addressing a press conference along with State Minister for Finance Bilal Azhar Kayani, she said the government had removed the five-litre limit for motorcycles, rickshaws and Qingqi following public feedback.

The ownership requirement had also been removed for motorcycle and rickshaw users who were using rented vehicles, she added. She said motorcycle and rickshaw users could register vehicles even if they were not the owners, adding that registration was required only once and a token had to be obtained before visiting a petrol pump.

Shaza Fatima said motorcycles, rickshaws, Qingqi and cars with engine capacities of up to 800cc were covered under the scheme.

Motorcycle and rickshaw users could receive a Rs 500 token once a week, with no five-litre limit, while eligible vehicles up to 800cc could receive a discount of Rs 100 per litre for 10 litres on each token.

She said around 4.7 million people had benefited from the scheme within eight days across all four provinces, Islamabad, Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan. The minister thanked petrol pump dealers, oil marketing companies and OGRA for facilitating citizens under the scheme and urged petrol pump staff to assist eligible people with registration and provide information about the facility. She said the government was conducting awareness campaigns and would also use the media to reach more people, particularly those affected by higher petrol prices.

Shaza Fatima said the government was carrying out live monitoring of the scheme through a dashboard. She said updates were being provided almost every four hours, while complaints and feedback were also being monitored. She said the Petroleum Ministry, Finance Ministry, State Bank, Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Information and other institutions had worked together to make the scheme operational from a technical and logistical perspective.

Pakistan to be saved from all threats: Sohail Afridi

PESHAWAR, (APP): Chief Minister, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sohail Afridi on Friday reiterated that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) long march would be peaceful and held on the announced date.

Talking to media persons here, the CM KP said a meeting of the party's political committee was underway and the media would be updated about its decisions. He said Pakistan was our country and would be saved from all threats.

The chief minister said he had walked through the Civil Secretariat and offered Friday prayers in its mosque to dispel the impression of any security threats.

He said he was leaving for Charsadda and that the media would be informed about the decisions of the party's political committee later.



QUETTA: FDI Pakistan's Head Uzma Yaqoob and her team in a group photo with the Chairperson MHM Secretariat Balochistan Dr Tahira Baloch.

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