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10 terrorists killed, 2 female suicide bombers arrested in Balochistan operations: ISPR

QUETTA/RAWALPINDI (ANN): Security forces killed 10 terrorists during operations in Balochistan, while two female suicide bombers were arrested.

According to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), security forces continue uninterrupted operations against the terrorist networks referred to by the military as Fitna al-Hindustan and Fitna al-Khawarij, which it says are backed by India. Joint operations are being carried out in different parts of Balochistan.

Over the past 48 hours, multiple intelligence-based area sanitization and targeted operations were conducted in Surab and Mastung districts, during which a total of 10 terrorists were killed. In Surab district, security forces effectively targeted terrorist hideouts, killing seven terrorists.

Similarly, in Mastung district, three terrorists were killed during an operation, while two female suicide bombers and one facilitator allegedly linked to the India-backed Fitna al-Hindustan were arrested.

ISPR said that weapons, ammunition, and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) were also recovered from the terrorists during the operations. Sanitization operations are continuing to eliminate the presence of what it described as India-backed terrorists.

The military spokesperson said that, in accordance with the National Action Plan approved by the Federal Apex Committee and the vision of "Azm-e-Istehkam," the campaign by security forces and law enforcement agencies against terrorism will continue with full force until externally sponsored terrorism is completely eliminated from the country.

President Asif Ali Zardari praised the security forces for killing 10 terrorists in the districts of Surab and Mastung.

President Zardari said that the effective operations by security forces against the terrorist networks referred to as Fitna al-Hindustan and Fitna al-Khawarij, allegedly backed by India and active in Balochistan, are essential for national peace. He added that the fight against terrorism caused by foreign interference will continue.

The President said that the entire nation stands shoulder to shoulder with the security forces and law enforcement agencies in the fight against terrorism.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif commended the officers and personnel of the security forces for the successful operation against the terrorists referred to as Fitna al-Khawarij and Fitna al-Hindustan in Surab and Mastung districts of Balochistan.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshall Syed Asim Munir visit stalls at exhibition in the Indus RAS Expo 2026



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers called on Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

Good governance begins with listening to voices of ordinary citizens: Governor

Says Quetta is not merely a city but also administrative, political, educational, and commercial center of entire Balochistan

QUETTA, (VoM Report): Governor of Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhail said that the increasing incidents of street crime, unannounced electricity load-shedding, water shortages, poor sanitation, and especially the growing threat of drug abuse in Quetta and its surrounding areas require immediate and coordinated action.

Governor Mandokhail directed the Commissioner and the Administrator of the Metropolitan Corporation to regularly visit the suburban areas of Quetta, saying that good governance begins with listening to the voices of ordinary citizens. He said that Quetta is not merely a city but also the administrative, political, educational, and commercial center of the entire province. Solving Quetta's problems, he added, would in many respects be equivalent to resolving the issues of half of Balochistan. He expressed these views while speaking to a delegation led by Allama Maqsood Ali Domki, a central leader of Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen Pakistan. On the occasion, Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail said that there was an urgent need for concrete practical measures to curb the rising incidents of street crime in the outskirts of Quetta. He said that ensuring public safety was the government's foremost responsibility and that no negligence regarding the protection of people's lives and property would be tolerated.



PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addresses a party rally in Mirpur, Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Upcoming AJK elections 'most significant' in history: Bilawal

MIRPUR, AJK, (Monitoring Desk): PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Wednesday said the upcoming election in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) was perhaps the "most significant" in the region's history, saying its future was tied to the outcome.

Addressing a rally in Mirpur, the PPP chairman said, "I do not consider this election campaign and these elections to be ordinary. Perhaps, this is the most significant election in the history of AJK."

"The decisions you make in this election will determine the future of Azad Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

Bilawal said former prime ministers and PPP leaders — Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Benazir Bhutto — along with President Asif Ali Zardari, had made history by securing the constitutional rights of AJK, adding that it was now his turn to leave his mark on history.

"I want history to remember that Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari and the PPP gave the people of AJK the right to self-governance, the right to employment and the right to determine their own future."

The PPP scion added that he had promised the people of Gilgit-Baltistan the right to self-governance, the right to employment and greater self-rule, and had won the election on that manifesto.

Referring to AJK, the PPP chairman said he had brought the same manifesto to the region. In simpler terms, he said he wanted the people of Kashmir to enjoy the same rights as those available to the people of Pakistan in other regions.

"We have been struggling for the right to self-government for AJK globally for three generations; now, we have to advance this struggle for self-government within Pakistan," he stated.

He stressed that he would ensure the right to self-government for AJK while also defending its narrative at international forums.

"It is 100 per cent possible that we give rights to the people of AJK and also continue their struggle for freedom and advocate their case at international forums," Bilawal said.

Bilawal said the PPP was the only party that sought justice for the 12 refugee seats.

"When rigging occurs on those 12 seats and people think that they have those seats in their pockets, they do injustice to you."

PM Shehbaz for national innovation ecosystem to advance indigenous robotics technology

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Wednesday, urged all stakeholders to become part of a unified national innovation ecosystem, stressing the need to develop indigenous knowledge and technological capabilities in Pakistan. Addressing the inaugural ceremony of the "Indus RAS – Robotics and Autonomous Systems Expo 2026", the prime minister said Pakistan must embrace the technological revolution while ensuring that its benefits reach every segment of society.

"Let our universities, research and development centres, startups, industries, and farmers become part of one national innovation ecosystem, ensuring that the knowledge behind these technologies is indigenous, owned, and continuously advanced in Pakistan," he said.

The prime minister emphasized that the robotics and autonomous systems revolution should not remain confined to advanced economies, large corporations, or major cities.

Pakistan reserves right to use force to counter Houthi maritime threats: FO

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Pakistan on Wednesday strongly condemned continued threats by Houthi militia against commercial shipping in the Red Sea and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, warning that it reserved the right under international law to use necessary force to protect its maritime interests from any hostile acts. Foreign Office spokesperson Tahir Andrabi, in a statement, reaffirmed that any hostile act against Pakistani-flagged vessels or Pakistani maritime interests would be regarded as a grave threat to Pakistan's national security and sovereign interests. "Consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, Pakistan reserves its right to take all necessary measures, including lawful use of force, in the exercise of self-defence to protect its maritime assets and national interests," he remarked.

He highlighted Pakistan's unequivocal condemnation of the continued threats issued by the Houthis militia against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and commercial shipping in the Red Sea. Such actions threaten regional security, undermine freedom of navigation, challenge the rules-based maritime order and jeopardise uninterrupted flow of global commerce, he added.

"Threats against commercial shipping and trading with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are unacceptable and violate established principles of international law. Pakistan is particularly concerned by reports of threats directed against vessels engaged in lawful commercial trade with the Kingdom," the spokesperson remarked.

Quetta's residents demands strict action against tanker mafia

QUETTA (ANN): The provincial capital of Balochistan, Quetta, has been hit by a severe water crisis. The underground water table continues to fall to dangerously low levels, WASA's water supply has been completely suspended or severely limited in many areas, while the tanker mafia is exploiting the citizens' desperation by charging arbitrary prices.

Amid the intense heat, elderly people, women, and young children in various parts of the city, including Samungli Road, Jinnah Town, Sariab, Qambrani Road, Sariab Road, Rahmat Colony, Bank Colony, Satellite Town, Sabzal Road, and other residential areas, are being forced to fetch water from miles away. In many households, no water has come through the taps for the past six months, severely disrupting daily life.

Speaking to media, residents said they regularly pay their WASA bills, yet they are still not being provided with water.

All available resources to be utilized to eliminate terrorism from Balochistan: Bakht Kakar

QUETTA (ANN): Balochistan Provincial Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar described the successful intelligence-based operations carried out by security forces in Surab and Mastung as a significant development in the fight against terrorism and paid rich tribute to the forces.

In a statement, Bakht Muhammad Kakar said that the destruction of terrorist hideouts, the arrest of individuals involved in planning suicide attacks, and effective action against terrorist networks are major achievements of law enforcement agencies.

He expressed hope that such successful operations would help completely eliminate terrorism and establish lasting peace in Balochistan.

The Provincial Health Minister said that every conspiracy to sabotage peace in Balochistan would be defeated.

Every conspiracy to destabilize peace in Balochistan to be foiled: CM Bugti

CM Balochistan praises security forces for successful operations in Surab, Mastung

QUETTA, (VoM Report): Chief Minister of Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti praised the successful intelligence-based operations conducted by security forces in Surab and Mastung districts and commended the Pakistan Army, other security forces, and law enforcement agencies for their effective actions against terrorists.

In a message posted on the social media platform X, the Chief Minister said that the killing of terrorists during successful operations in Surab and Mastung over the past 48 hours was clear evidence of the professionalism and determination of the security forces.

He said that by targeting terrorist hideouts, the hostile designs of anti-state elements had been foiled, while the arrest of individuals involved in planning suicide attacks was also a major achievement for law enforcement agencies.

Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that every conspiracy aimed at sabotaging peace in Balochistan would be defeated. He stated that operations against terrorist elements allegedly operating under India's patronage and their facilitators would continue until their logical conclusion, and that Balochistan's soil would not be allowed to be used by anti-state elements under any circumstances.

The Chief Minister said that the Government of Balochistan stood in complete solidarity with the security forces and law enforcement agencies and would continue to extend every possible support until terrorism was completely eradicated. He said that the protection of the lives and property of the people was the government's foremost responsibility and that all available resources were being utilized to establish peace.



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Law and Justice, Barrister Aqeel Malik, presses the button to formally launch the National Action Plan for Human Rights (NAP-HR) 2026 during a ceremony in the federal capital

Every conspiracy to undermine peace in Balochistan to be thwarted: Mir Saleem Khosa

QUETTA (ANN): Balochistan Provincial Minister for Communications and Works, Mir Saleem Khosa, praised the security forces for their successful intelligence-based operations in Surab and Mastung, saying that the ongoing successful actions against terrorism are an important step toward establishing peace and stability in Balochistan.

In his statement, he said that destroying terrorist hideouts, arresting individuals involved in planning suicide attacks, and exposing terrorist networks are commendable achievements by law enforcement agencies. He added that operations should continue with full force until terrorism is completely eliminated.

Mir Saleem Khosa said that every conspiracy to undermine peace in Balochistan would be thwarted and indiscriminate action against anti-state elements would continue.

He expressed the government's full solidarity with the security forces and said that all available resources would be utilized to protect the lives and property of the people.

He further said that the sacrifices of the security forces are a national asset and that the government and law enforcement agencies would continue working together to eradicate terrorism from its roots.

Modern technology enabling public to receive better healthcare services in Balochistan, says Dr. Rubaba

QUETTA (ANN): Advisor to the Chief Minister of Balochistan for Women's Development, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi, visited the Benazir Bhutto Emergency Response Trauma Center in Quetta, where she inspected various wards and reviewed the medical facilities being provided to patients.



On the occasion, Trauma Center Managing Director Dr. Kamran Khan Kasi and Additional Director Dr. Abdul Hafeez Sial gave Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi a detailed briefing on the center's performance, advanced medical facilities, and digital system. Expressing satisfaction with the advanced medical facilities, digital system, and patient services, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi said that the promotion of modern technology in Balochistan's health sector is a welcome development.

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What Gaza Tribunal teaches us about intellectual roots of genocide

The Gaza Tribunal final session, concluded with a powerful statement of indictment of Israel and its backers by experts, witnesses and Jury of Conscience, and called for global solidarity to support and protect the Palestinian people. While presenting abundant evidence for the international legal judgement of genocide charge against Israel and its backers, such as the US and Germany, the Gaza Tribunal's deliberations also shed light on the ideological roots of the legitimization of Israel's genocidal assault by its European and American allies. There are multiple lessons the initiative teaches us about the weaponization of historical myths and lies, as well as distorted ethical and philosophical concepts to justify the live-streamed genocide of Palestinian populations by Israel.

The first important lesson of the Tribunal is the fact that the genocide we are witnessing is not a single event that started on Oct. 7, 2023, but a century-long process which begins with dehumanization and ends with erasure. During this century-long assault on Palestinian populations by European imperial regimes and the Zionist project of Israel, there were many moments of violence, segregation, systematic weakening of the victim population, mass annihilation, denial and erasure. Thus, genocide is best understood, besides international law, through a state crime paradigm which centers on human rights violations committed in pursuit of state organizational goal.

The second lesson is the fact that the Israeli state was created as a settler colonial project imposed by European imperial expansion to the Arab provinces of the Ottoman Empire, symbolized by the British Empire's proclamation and implementation of the Balfour Declaration of 1917. Cosmopolitan Palestinian populations composed of Muslims, Christians and Jewish Arabs were equal citizens of the Ottoman Empire before WWI. There was no clash among different religious communities in Palestine, and Zionism was not an ideology of the native Palestinian Jewish minority populations. Experts emphasized that Israeli settler colonialism relies on an internal logic of genocide towards indigenous native populations of the occupied lands, formulated by the biggest lies about Palestine repeated by Zionist propaganda, namely: "Palestine is a land without people promised to a people without land." This was never true. According to this logic, native Palestinian populations had to be expelled and erased as the only way to ensure the majority domination of Zionists in the proposed state. This internal logic of genocide has continued and been "normalized" since the beginning of the British colonial rule over Palestine about a century ago.

Third, the Gaza Tribunal has shown how Israel and its partners attributed the cause and blame of the genocide to the Palestinian victims, who are described as native people who had no right to self-defense and resist against the settler colonial rule imposed on them by the British Empire and then by Israeli governments. The Israeli regime presents its genocidal actions as a necessity to create absolute security for the future of their state and justify mass murder and mass destruction in Gaza as collateral damage. "The right to self-defense of the Israeli state" became the most repeated legitimization of genocide. The participants said complete destruction of homes, schools, universities, hospitals, infrastructure and culture is important to the genocidal process to destroy the Palestinian identity. In addition to the destructive side of Israeli colonization, Gaza Tribunal members emphasized Israel's strategy of Judaization of Palestine through the discipline of archaeology to promote the erasure of the history of indigenous Arab natives who inhabited Palestine for thousands of years.

The fourth thing one has learned through the Gaza Tribunal is that it exposed the moral hypocrisy of the Israeli claim to build a homeland for Zionist settlers from Europe and America in Palestine by destroying the homes of native Palestinians through the process of domicide. While showing the link between the logics of homemaking for Zionist settlers and home destruction of native Palestinians, members examined the specific targeting of Palestinian universities, educational institutions, libraries, archives, intellectuals and journalists as scholasticate, while Israel continued to receive Western support for its own universities. The Gaza Tribunal described how the livestreaming overkill of Palestinians in Gaza has relied on a global betrayal of the "rules -based international order" built after WWII, and the immoral backing of Israel's depiction of Palestinians as deserving to be erased.

The fifth important emphasis of the Gaza Tribunal is its exposition of how the Israeli strategy of genocide denial in occupied Palestine by juxtaposing the negative experience of erasure with the falsified narratives of change, construction and revival. This can be best seen in the foundational myth that Israel made the desert bloom (something frequently repeated by European leaders supporting Israeli crimes), with no acknowledgement of Palestinian agriculture and a prosperous Palestinian society before colonial occupation. An example of this is the way Israel planted trees and tried to create a forest over destroyed Palestinian villages and towns from the ethnic cleansing war of 1948 Naqba, not only to erasure Palestinian memory but also to build a museum dedicated to the memory of the victims of genocide of European Jews, on top of the very lands where the memory of Palestinian lives were erased.

The sixth lesson of the Gaza Tribunal is its focus on the significance of the weaponization of the theory of uniqueness of the Holocaust by Israel and its backers to defend the genocidal destruction of Palestinian populations. Claiming that the genocide of the European Jewish population by Nazi Germany was a singularly unique evil, the Israeli regime and its supporters, such as Germany, then argued that Israel could never be guilty of similar crimes. The majority of genocide scholars object to this uniqueness thesis, and note the similarities between the Holocaust, the Naqba of Palestinians in 1948 and many other forms of racialized mass violence inflicted by European empires in their colonies of Africa, Asia and Western hemispheres. By positing the unique victimhood of European Jews in modern world history, the Israeli regime and its sponsors ask the indigenous Arab populations of Palestinians to give up their lives and homeland for Zionist settlers as compensation and atonement for Nazi crimes despite the fact that Palestinians had nothing to do with European antisemitism and the German Empire's crimes during WWII. By abusing this theory of the uniqueness of the Holocaust experience and identifying the Jewish religion with the Israeli state and Zionism, pro-Israeli governments silence and demonize any critique of Israel's genocide as antisemitic hate crimes.

The seventh lesson is about the sinister attempt to legitimize the genocide in Gaza as a "battle of civilization against barbarism," a language commonly used to observe in earlier colonial genocides of native Americans and Africans.

The Gaza Tribunal rejected presenting the current genocidal assault in Gaza as a continuation of a thousand-year conflict between members of two faith traditions of Islam and Judaism, or as a clash between two civilizations.

In fact, the language of "clash of civilizations" itself, as formulated by Bernard Lewis, was produced partly to reject the claims of Palestinians for justice and human rights.

Afghanistan's military geography, power centres and our policy morass

INAM UL HAQUE

So far in this debate, we have discussed the Afghan Taliban's demonstrated hostility towards Pakistan; their violation of Pashtunwali, Islamic fraternity and good neighbourliness; Pakistan's ability to fight a '1.5 Front' Indo-Afghan aggression, if imposed; Afghanistan and CARs relevance; the 'Haqqani Complexity'; the fallacy of Talib victory against the Soviet Union and the US-NATO Combine; the absurdity of Indo-Afghan nexus against Pakistan; and the collapse of 3rd round of Pak-Afghan talks in Istanbul because of Afghan recalcitrance on agreeing to Pakistan's minimum ask i.e. reigning in the TTP.

TTP splinter group, Jamaat ul Ahrar, claimed responsibility for the November 11 suicide attack in Islamabad. And APS-style catastrophe by the same TTP hosted by 'brotherly Afghan Talibs', the 21st Century protectors of Islam, was averted in Cadet College Wana.

Pakistan's policy calibrations about effective, quick and punishing response to Afghan-based terrorism; and the prevalent regional sentiment, and discussions among the diplomatic corps especially in the West Plus, about the least palatable option of regime change in Kabul, are under spotlight. Pakistan's strategic patience, after employing all leverages, has not triggered behavioral change among Afghan Talibs.

Some other aspects of contemporary Afghanistan. First, Afghanistan's essential military geography. Hindu Kush divides Afghanistan into a mainly Pashtun south and largely non-Pashtun north. The latent hostility between Pashtuns and the non-Pashtun Tajik minority (the second largest ethnic group) and Uzbeks (Dostum's Taliban massacre in Sheberghan) during the First Republic (2002-2021), is a well-documented fault line. No other Afghan ethnicity is as integrated as Pashtuns are with Pakistan. Pashtun tribes' ethnic affinity motivates some scholars to typify greater Afghankhwa into lar (lower i.e. Pakistan) and bar (upper i.e. Afghanistan). During interaction with Afghans between 2005 and 2006, getting Pakistani ID card was a recurring Afghan demand.

Geography defines Islamabad's torment as Pakistan shares the longest border with Afghanistan, 2,670 km, as compared to Iran's 921 km, Tajikistan's 1,357 km, Turkmenistan's 804 km, Uzbekistan's 144 km and China's 91 km.

However, Durand Line affords Pakistan command of heights and militarily effective defensive operations, besides standoff strikes. Border-based retaliation and stand-off attacks accrue more military benefits, as compared to the failed occupation strategy, adopted by USSR and the US-NATO Combine. It also annuls Talibs' advantage and experience in guerilla warfare. Pakistan also knows Afghanistan and Afghans better than any Western power for understandable reasons and has more ingress, influence and clout.

Second, Afghan power centres. Contemporary Afghanistan has some 3.5 power centres: a) puritanical Qandahar, the Pashtun mover and shaker of the Emirate; b) Haqqanis of Loya Paktia, the military muscle with their mlatar (proxy) TTP; c) the non-Pashtun belt north of Hindu Kush; and d) Herat to the West under relative Iranian influence (the half). In this milieu, Pakistan was right to bet upon TTA, under Pashtun power centers of Qandahar and Loya Paktia.

Preventing Afghanistan from splintering more recently, under these exploitable fissures, was thanks to Pakistan's steadfast opposition against it, and Islamabad's interlocution with the international stakeholders. Dethroning Taliban under sustained external support, though difficult, is not impossible, considering the prevalent faultlines and popular discontent on issues ranging from ethnic tensions to lack of economic opportunities to gender apartheid to terrorism to the deluge of relatively civil citizenry repatriating from Iran and Pakistan.

Third, the claim of winning against both superpowers, touted fondly by all and sundry in Afghanistan, is fundamentally incorrect. No superpower ever employed its full military potential against Talibs; and their purported 'victory' on both occasions was enabled by Pakistan's indispensable logistic, economic, military, diplomatic and advisory support. Pakistan is cited as the sole reason for Western failure in every serious study of America's longest war. Resting on laurels, facilitated by others, and not acknowledging it points to Taliban's intellectual bankruptcy.

Fourth, Pakistan has a policy predicament. In the think tank circles around Islamabad, one senses lament about the 'misdirection' of Pakistan's Afghan policy.

Some analysts think that the State was pursuing half-backed Afghan policy options, forgetting that Islamabad, after demonstrating strategic patience for four years, had repeatedly tried all options suggested by these self-proclaimed, larger-than-life pseudo analysts, and reached a dead end. The aged analysts see things through a time tunnel that is good for history and guidance only. Undue criticism springs from intellectual incapacity, lack of detailed information and analytical prowess, and leads to such cynical, if incorrect assessments.

In Pakistan's policy formulation, the fear of 'Pashtunistan bogey' by successive Afghan Governments, and inciting 'Pashtun nationalism' in Pakistan has played a central role. Jihad against the USSR was a Godsend, when Islamabad under Islamist President Zia promoted 'religious identity across Afghankhwa' to inspire, execute and sustain jihad against the Shoravi (Soviet) forces. He correctly estimated then that the larger 'Islamic identity' would absorb the smaller 'Pashtun nationalism'.

It did for a while, till the Taliban's second empowerment in 2021, when Afghan resentment and Pashtun nationalism resurfaced, particularly during the recent Pak-Afghan crisis.

Environment, dependent upon unfathomed variables, generates threats. And the problem of decision-maker is to respond to these threats today, without any means of fully grasping their implications tomorrow. Applying this test, one wonders where Islamabad went wrong to deserve such hate by the 'brethren' Muslim Afghans, including the ruling cabal, twice 'enabled' to power. Pakistan has shown respect, restraint, magnanimity and compassion; extended a helping hand; and 'allegedly played double game' to ensure Taliban win against the mighty West Plus. Taliban now choosing an obstinate impasse bodes ill for bilateral peace.

The conflict has also robbed the ruling Talib-clique of any residual Islamic credentials. Ideological movements after success inevitably succumb to power struggle from within. In case of Afghan Taliban, it was a power struggle to begin with, masked as socio-religious movement, that allowed the clergy to consolidate its political power against the normative secular Afghan socio-cultural norms.

As a way forward, Islamabad's preferred policy goal should be a combination within the Pashtun South and non-Pashtuns North, to re-arrange the Afghan applecart in a more inclusive, pluralistic and representative manner; besides retaining punishing leverages and improving defensive military posture. A peaceful Afghanistan is a pliant Afghanistan, and a pliant Afghanistan a peaceful Afghanistan.

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New journey of modernisation

JIANG ZAIDONG

In the context that peace and development remain the underlying trend of our times, development is always the master key to solving all problems for developing countries including China and Pakistan. In this connection, the Recommendations have laid out a comprehensive plan for China's economic and social development in the next five years, highlighting two keywords, namely "faster" and "high-standard," such as "working faster to boost China's strength in manufacturing," "moving faster to foster a new pattern of development," "achieving high-standard self-reliance and strength in science and technology," and "promoting high-standard opening up." These highlight the theme of the 15th Five-Year Plan period, which is to pursue high-quality development with a sense of urgency. Among the strategic tasks, the Recommendations have prioritised "building a modernised industrial system and reinforcing the foundations of the real economy," because the real economy is what has underpinned China's development and will continue to be the main driver of our growth in the future. During the 14th Five-Year Plan period, the added value of China's manufacturing sector rose from RMB 26.6 trillion to 33.6 trillion, contributing to over 30 percent of global manufacturing growth. During this period, China's first domestically-built aircraft carrier with electromagnetic catapult was launched; China's first domestically-built large cruise ship started its voyage; China's first space station, Tiangong, was completed and put into operation; and China's self-developed large passenger aircraft started its commercial service. These achievements are a vivid illustration of the strengths of the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and the advantages of an ultra-large market, a full-fledged industrial system and rich human resources. In the 15th Five-Year Plan period, we will build on the momentum to optimize and upgrade traditional industries such as chemical, machinery and shipbuilding. It, according to preliminary estimates, will create about market space of RMB 10 trillion in the next five years. We will nurture and strengthen emerging industries such as new energy, new materials, aviation and aerospace, and low-altitude economy. It will create several trillion-yuan or even larger markets. We will make forward-looking plans for future-oriented industries such as quantum technology, biomanufacturing and the sixth generation mobile communication (6G). It will in the next ten years create a market of the scale equivalent to the size of China's entire high-tech industry today.

Pakistan is making efforts to grow its manufacturing industries and IT sectors. The strategic plan China is advancing in the 15th Five-Year Plan period, especially the specific measures for developing the real economy, will not only bring about new development in China, but also create new opportunities for China-Pakistan cooperation and deliver new benefits to the people of both countries, particularly the people of Pakistan. Last month, our two countries issued the Action Plan to Foster an Even Closer China-Pakistan Community with a Shared Future in the New Era (2025-2029), which identifies 63 measures in 7 areas for the next 5 years, including building an upgraded version 2.0 of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, promoting cooperation on agriculture, industry and mining, and deepening cooperation on IT, AI and big data. These areas are highly consistent with the priorities in China's real economy development. We are ready to work with Pakistan to deliver on these measures and take our practical cooperation to a new high. For example: on industrial park cooperation, the Haier-Ruba Special Economic Zone reaped an output value of US$400 million last year, paid tax of US$120 million and created 6,000 jobs. Haier plans to invest another US$400 million in a new home appliance industrial park, which will have an annual production capacity of about ten million units and create over 10,000 jobs. The Chinese textile company Challenge Group plans to invest US$150 million in a new textile industrial park, which will bring about an annual export volume of US$400 million and create about 20,000 jobs. We are also happy to learn that on October 25th, the Balakot Hydropower Project, undertaken by a Chinese company, reached a milestone and successfully achieved river closure. The project has already created over 2,000 local jobs and is expected to provide green electricity to about 1.8 million people each year when completed. In a word, we are ready to keep working with Pakistan to consolidate, deepen and expand our cooperation, support Pakistan in pursuing greater development and growing its national strength, and help meet the people's aspiration for a better life.

Third, we stand ready to work with Pakistan in upholding the multilateral trading system and becoming practitioners in advancing economic globalisation.

At present, as unilateralism and protectionism are on the rise, and global industrial and supply chains are under strain, a certain major country is wielding the tariff stick and imposing sanctions and pressure at will, severely undermining the international economic and trade order. Confronted with the backlash against economic globalization, China has always been pursuing an opening up strategy of mutual benefit and win-win outcomes, and has continuously offered new opportunities for global development with the new achievements of Chinese modernization. During the 14th Five-Year Plan period, China has maintained its position as the world's largest trader in goods, with its trade volume exceeding the thresholds of US$5 trillion and 6 trillion, and remained the world's second largest trader in services, with its trade volume surpassing US$1 trillion for the first time in 2024. In the same year, China has become the major trading partner of more than 150 countries and regions, and has granted zero-tariff treatment on 100 percent of tariff lines to all least developed countries having diplomatic relations with China. During the 14th Five-Year Plan period, China's imports of goods and services are set to exceed US$15 trillion. China's outbound investment has ranked among the world's top three, with a cumulative tax contribution of over US$300 billion to host countries, generating massive employment and promoting local industrialization and modernization. China has continuously shortened its negative list for foreign investment access, reduced its overall tariff level to 7.3 percent, utilized over US$720 billion of foreign investment, and saw the establishment of more than 240,000 new foreign-invested enterprises.

Practical experience has fully demonstrated that opening up is a defining feature of Chinese modernization, and drawing momentum from opening up to propel reform and development is a vital magic instrument for China's constantly renewed achievements. Meanwhile, as a responsible major developing country, China has aligned itself with the trend of economic globalisation. China has declared that while remaining a developing country, it will not seek new special and differential treatment in current and future negotiations at the World Trade Organization. China is promoting shared openness with its own opening up, so as to bring more certainty and positive energy to the world. High-standard opening up has become and will remain a cause that benefits both China and the wider world. President Xi Jinping has stressed that China is steadfast in advancing reform and opening up, and China's door will only open wider. The session made dedicated plans for expanding high-standard opening up, sending a strong message about China's commitment to opening up and cooperation for mutual benefit. The Recommendations set forth measures including opening China wider to the outside world, promoting the innovative development of trade, expanding two-way investment cooperation, and pursuing high-quality Belt and Road cooperation. These measures will surely keep increasing the level of opening up and expanding the space for growing Chinese modernization.

As ironclad friends and all-weather strategic cooperative partners, we are willing to let China's high-standard opening up benefit Pakistan first. China has been Pakistan's largest trading partner and largest source of investment for many consecutive years. In the first three quarters of this year, Pakistan's export of marine products, rice and sesame to China rose year-on-year by 23 percent, 63 percent and 87 percent, respectively, illustrating the vitality of trade cooperation between our two countries. Going forward, we will work with Pakistan to upgrade the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement to enable all sectors in Pakistan to benefit more from China's huge market. At the same time, we will work with other like-minded countries to practice true multilateralism, uphold the global system of free trade and the stability of industrial and supply chains, promote universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalisation, and jointly create a bright future of prosperity and development.

A vast journey unfolds, a blueprint extends forward. Under the strong leadership of the CPC, the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation is now on an irreversible historical course. The magnificent scroll of Chinese modernisation is unfolding, revealing immensely bright prospects. Standing at the new historical starting point, we will persist in following the blueprint to the end, with each generation building on the work of the last, continuously advancing the great cause of building a great country and achieving national rejuvenation. 2026 marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan, presenting a significant milestone and fresh opportunities for the all-weather strategic cooperation between our two countries. We will work with Pakistan to fully implement the important consensus reached by our leaders, further deepen high-level political mutual trust, high-level practical cooperation, high-level security cooperation and high-level international coordination, so as to set an example for building a community with a shared future with China's neighboring countries, and contribute to the building of a community with a shared future for humanity.

The writer is the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan.

Mother of all sins

SALEEM QAMAR BUTT

The best childhood lesson from six decades ago that keeps flashing in my mind like a beacon light, ingrained by parents and teachers, is the saying, "A lie is the mother of all sins". With such good grooming, it was learned that 'speaking truth is difficult only for the first time; whereas lying is easy for the first time, but then it gets you in an intractable trap of sins. Because "In the web of lies, even the spider gets trapped." It was understood at an impressionable age that 'if you can't lie, you can't commit a sin'; therefore, to admit a fault by simply saying 'sorry', 'it won't happen again' was instinctive. To err is human, but repeating it again without seeking forgiveness is a sin. A lie may offer temporary relief, but in the end, it brings lasting grief. It is said that "a lie may take care of the present, but it has no future". Some people try to diminish the seriousness of a lie by describing it with names like 'small' lie, 'white' lie, 'innocent' lie and the like. But the truth is that a decorated donkey is still a donkey. And every lie told is a seed sown. So it's only a matter of time before that lie grows to produce the fruits of destruction. Every liar is a weakling. They may not admit it, but the truth is that anyone who tells lies is afraid to face up to the truth or its consequences. To run away from the truth is an act of cowardice. Only the brave can embrace the truth even accepting personal worldly losses. Lies of all forms are destructive. "Every lie is two lies—the lie we tell others and the lie we tell ourselves to justify it." And if you know the truth and still hold on to lies, you are not only deceiving yourself, you are also fooling yourself. "There is no better definition of stupidity than knowing the truth, seeing the truth, but still believing the lies". It goes without saying that to be up-front is the right way! 'Lying' is considered sinful in all faiths and even in societies and states not known for following any specific religion. One of the 'Ten Commandments' is "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour". The Quranic verse 61 Surah Al-Imran, means "Curse of Allah is on those who tell lies". Allah the Almighty says,"Only they forge the lie who do not believe in Allah's communications, and these are the liars." (Surah an-Nahl 16:105). There are also numerous sayings of the Prophet (PBUH), which denounce telling lies in the strongest terms. The philosopher Emmanuel Kant said that lying was always morally wrong. He argued that all persons are born with an "intrinsic worth" that he called human dignity. With my personal experience of living in Japan and subsequently having lived and travelled to many other parts of the world, I can opine that one of the most truthful, and therefore the most honest and courteous masses on Earth are the Japanese people. Perhaps rightly said that culture is older and stronger than religions. The magic for Japanese reemergence from rubble after the 1945 nuclear attacks as the leading global economy with quality as a brand is the institution of mothers and teachers, which makes a 4-year-old child a truthful and responsible member of society; something that Pakistan needs to invest maximum in.

Most unfortunately, we are compelled to live in a society suffering from overall decay, where people in the helm of affairs put their belief in the Satanic saying that 'A lie told often enough becomes the truth'.

I would speak to Hezbollah:
US has 'no interest' in meeting with Iran until Tehran ready for 'meaningful' talks: Trump

Trump says he is willing to engage with people others might oppose speaking to

WASHINGTON, (Monitoring Desk): US President Donald Trump said Tuesday that he would speak to Hezbollah if Lebanese President Joseph Aoun asked him to do it.

Trump said during a meeting with Aoun at the Oval Office that he is willing to engage with people others might oppose speaking to.

"I would speak to Hezbollah. I speak to everybody. I'll speak to people that a lot of people think I shouldn't be speaking to, and things work out," said Trump. "I would say this: if the president wanted me to speak to Hezbollah, you know he's lived with Hezbollah for a long time, and if the president wanted me to speak to Hezbollah, I would."

Asked about a full withdrawal of the Israeli army from Lebanon, Trump said Israeli forces were redeploying.

"They're in the process of redeploying to other sections, and again, they get along very well. That was a great agreement they signed with Lebanon, and they're redeploying," he said. Trump said Lebanon had been mistreated for a long time and deserved greater respect. "Again, it's been a very badly treated place and country, and we're going to have it properly treated with the respect that it deserves," he added. Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump said Tuesday that Washington has "no interest" in meeting with Iran until Tehran is ready for "meaningful" nuclear talks. Speaking during a meeting with Lebanese President Joseph Aoun at the Oval Office, Trump claimed that Iran was "desperate" to meet with the US but had not yet offered the kind of dialogue Washington wanted.

"They want to desperately meet, and until they're ready to meet in a meaningful way, we have no interest in even," Trump said. Asked whether Iran had moved nuclear centrifuges to Pickaxe Mountain, Trump said: "Well, I think that they may have. We don't have it on record."

"Normally, I wouldn't say that. If I thought they could do something about it, I would never say that. But we'll be hitting that area pretty soon, and very heavily," he added.



U.S. President Donald Trump (L) greets Lebanese President Joseph Aoun (R) upon his arrival at the White House in Washington, D.C., United States



Food shortages continue in the Gaza Strip due to ongoing attacks and blockade by the Israeli army. A charity distributed food to Palestinians living in Gaza City. A large crowd gathered to receive the food.

Kuwait, Bahrain report new Iranian strikes as regional escalation rages

KUWAIT CITY, (Monitoring Desk): Kuwait's air defense systems intercepted a new wave of missiles and drones from Iran on Tuesday, while neighboring Bahrain sounded air raid sirens for the second time this day as Iranian attacks continued to target regional countries.

In a statement posted on the US social media company X, Kuwait's General Staff said the country's air defenses were "currently responding to hostile missile and drone threats," adding any explosions heard were the result of interception operations. It urged the public to follow safety and security instructions issued by the relevant authorities.

Separately, Bahrain's Interior Ministry said that air raid sirens had been activated, and called on citizens and residents to remain calm, head to the nearest safe location and follow official information channels. The Bahrain Defense Force said air defenses intercepted several Iranian aerial attacks on Tuesday noon.

The country's military said early Tuesday that it had intercepted and destroyed several Iranian aerial projectiles targeting the kingdom. Authorities have reported no casualties or material damage. Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) claimed earlier Tuesday that it struck central data infrastructure belonging to US technology company Amazon in Bahrain with cruise missiles.

The Iranian army also said it targeted the US-operated Sheikh Isa Air Base in Bahrain with drones.

The latest attacks came as the US and Iran continued to exchange strikes despite a Pakistan-brokered memorandum of understanding signed in June aimed at ending the war and paving the way for a lasting peace agreement.

Iran warns Bulgaria against aiding US military operations against Tehran

TEHRAN, (Monitoring Desk): Iran on Tuesday warned Bulgaria against allowing the US to use its territory for military operations against Tehran, saying such a move would make Sofia complicit in what it described as "aggression and war crimes." Speaking to the official IRNA news agency, Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei was responding to reports that the Bulgarian government is considering a US request to deploy military aircraft at Bezmer Air Base in support of operations against Iran.

Baghaei said Bulgaria is fully aware that US military strikes against Iran, "a continuation of the US-Israeli military aggression that began on Feb. 28," constitute a "blatant act of aggression" and a serious violation of the UN Charter and international law. He warned that "any participation or cooperation in preparing or carrying out these unlawful attacks would amount to complicity in the crime of aggression and war crimes."

Expressing surprise at remarks attributed to Bulgarian Prime Minister Roman Radev on considering the US request, Baghaei said even discussing such support was inconsistent with Bulgaria's international legal obligations and the principle of respect for national sovereignty.

Citing the relevant provision of UN General Assembly Resolution 3314 on the Definition of Aggression, he said making one state's territory available for another state to carry out an act of aggression against a third state constitutes an act of aggression. Baghaei urged the Bulgarian parliament not to authorize the use of the country's territory or military facilities by US forces, warning that doing so would turn Bulgaria into "an accomplice of aggressors and criminals."



BRUSSELS: Belgian King Philippe, Queen Mathilde and their children attend a traditional Te Deum ceremony at the St. Michael and St. Gudula Cathedral to mark National Day

Eight dead in US B-52 bomber crash in California

Monitoring Desk

LOS ANGELES: Eight people died when a US B-52 bomber crashed and erupted into a catastrophic fire shortly after takeoff at an air force base in California on Monday (Jun 15), officials said.

The heavy bomber was on a routine testing mission with a mixture of military, government and civilian contractors on board when it came down in a huge fireball at Edwards Air Force Base, 95km north of Los Angeles.

Footage of the aftermath of the crash, which officials said was "unsurvivable", showed a large charred patch of ground on which almost nothing remained of the huge plane manufactured by Boeing.

"Edwards Air Force Base experienced a horrible tragedy, and we lost eight great Americans," Colonel James Hayes told reporters at the base.

Hayes said the B-52 Stratofortress - a long-range bomber used by the US military since the 1950s - was on a test sortie as part of a radar modernisation process.

"It took off, and immediately after takeoff, crashed and burst into flames," he said, adding emergency services quickly swung into action, but soon determined that there would be no one to rescue.

"After reviewing the footage of the crash, it was deemed that this was an unrecoverable crash and unsurvivable."

There was no immediate indication as to the cause of the tragedy, and a safety investigation probe was immediately begun.

US rejects India's protest over missile attack on ship

DUBAI (INP): The US has rejected India's protest over the missile attack on the ship and has refused to apologise for the deaths of Indian crew members.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has made it clear to India that commercial ships in the Strait of Hormuz should also follow the orders of US forces.

Marco Rubio said violating the closure of the Strait of Hormuz and illegal shipments of Iranian oil will not be tolerated. The Indian Foreign Minister had contacted his US counterpart and protested the deaths of three Indian Navy personnel in the US attack.

Five Iranian ships pass through Strait of Hormuz after US lifts naval blockade

Monitoring Desk

TEHRAN: Five Iranian ships have passed through the Strait of Hormuz since the United States has lifted its naval blockade.

According to Iranian media sources, at least 3 ships carrying crude oil and 2 carrying cargo have been able to pass through crucial waterway. This development arose as the US announced the end of its naval blockade under the agreement with Iran.

Iranian media has also reported that a large shipment of crude oil has set sail for Iranian ports.

The increase in naval activity in the Strait of Hormuz reflects the normalising situation, with a gradual restoration of the sea route.

China's Xi backs Myanmar's president as two leaders meet in Beijing

Monitoring Desk

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping on Tuesday endorsed the political leadership of Myanmar's military chief-turned-president Min Aung Hlaing as the two met in Beijing to map out the future development of bilateral ties.

Beijing its ties with Naypyitaw as part of its diplomacy strategy with neighbouring nations, Chinese state news agency Xinhua cited Xi as saying in the meeting, affirming his support for the current Myanmar government's efforts for its country's development and security.

"I am willing to continue strengthening our leadership (over our countries' bilateral ties), carry forward the brotherly friendship between our two peoples, deepen comprehensive strategic cooperation," Xi told Min Aung Hlaing, according to Chinese state broadcaster CCTV.

The former junta chief is in China for a five-day state visit until Friday, his first trip to the world's second-largest economy since he formalised his grip on power following controversial elections in the war-torn country in December and January.

Xi also spoke about making greater contributions regional peace and development through China's bilateral ties with Myanmar. The two countries share an almost 2,200-km (1,367-mile) land border. Beijing, the biggest investor with the most visible strategic and economic footprint in Myanmar, has always been pragmatic in how it maintains ties with Naypyitaw.

Russian artist, Putin critic Semyon Skrepetsky killed in Poland

Monitoring Desk

POLAND: A Russian artist known for caricatures of Russian President Vladimir Putin and other leaders was shot to death in Poland Tuesday, police said.

Robert Kuzovkov, 44, was publicly known as Semyon Skrepetsky and had been living in Poland since 2021 because he feared political persecution in Russia.

He was shot five times in a parking lot in Bia³a Podlaska, Poland, about 25 miles from the Belarusian border. The parking lot is about 650 yards from the Belarusian consulate.

Marcin Kozak, spokesperson for the District Prosecutor's Office in Lublin, Poland, said a shooter approached Kuzovkov and fired two shots at him.

Campaigners urge G7 chiefs to protect children from AI risks

Monitoring Desk

FRANCE: Many governments have begun cracking down on young people's access to social media, but campaigners have appealed to G7 leaders meeting in France to move quickly on regulating generative artificial intelligence too.

Ahead of the heads of state and government meeting in Evian, eastern France, 95 young people from 19 countries gathered to call on "world leaders to protect our education, mental health and social well-being" as AI chatbots, companions and agents spread through the technology ecosystem.

"The safeguards that will shape (AI) cannot be left solely to the companies developing these tools, nor to adults who did not grow up with AI as a constant presence," they wrote in a manifesto published by the International Research-driven Alliance for AI Serving Every child (iRaise).

France added protecting children online to its list of priorities for its turn at the rotating presidency of the G7 gathering of leading developed nations.

But the chaotic geopolitical scene is likely to overshadow such considerations at this year's meeting.

Digital ministers from the G7 member countries agreed last month that generative AI could "replicate or exacerbate existing risks for minors", from sexualised "deepfake" images to manipulation of the news.

"When an innovation takes such deep root in the lives of children, we cannot make an improvised response," France's high commissioner for children Sarah El Hairy said Monday.

UN warns of major global shortfall for refugees needing new homes

Monitoring Desk

GREEK ISLAND: Nearly 2.4 million refugees worldwide are expected to be in urgent need of resettlement by 2027, according to a new report released on Tuesday by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The estimate refers to 2027 and covers refugees who cannot safely return to their countries of origin and who are either unsafe or unable to receive adequate support in their host countries.

However, the number of available resettlement places falls hundreds of thousands short of the projected need, the UN agency said.

Many countries have sharply reduced or suspended refugee resettlement programmes, according to Jackie Keegan, head of UNHCR's office of sustainable solutions.

Governments have increasingly argued that priority should be given to supporting people already living in their own countries.

As a result, only about 37,000 refugees were resettled in 2025, down from 116,000 the previous year.

Canada accepted the largest number, taking in nearly 12,000 refugees, followed by Australia, the United States, France and New Zealand, according to the report.

Bangladesh protests India 'questioning' PM's adviser at Delhi airport

Monitoring Desk

DHAKA: Bangladesh has summoned a senior Indian diplomat posted in Dhaka to protest against the treatment of an adviser to Prime Minister Tarique Rahman who was reportedly detained and questioned for several hours at New Delhi airport, in the latest diplomatic row between the neighbours.

Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman described the incident as "unexpected and unfortunate", while Dhaka formally conveyed its concerns to Indian Deputy High Commissioner Pawan Badhe late on Monday.

Government ' strategy adviser Zahed Ur Rahman was stopped upon arrival in New Delhi, where he had travelled to attend a conference, and was questioned for several hours before being allowed to proceed, officials said.

There was no immediate response from India's foreign ministry.

The incident comes at a sensitive time in bilateral relations. Although ties improved after Tarique Rahman's election victory earlier this year, relations have remained strained since the ' uprising that ousted former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, who has since remained in India despite repeated requests from Bangladesh for her extradition.



Protesters gathered in Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine, to demonstrate in support of Ukrainian Defense Minister Mykhailo Fedorov, who was dismissed after serving for only six months.



SANAA, YEMEN: Thousands of Houthi supporters gather in the streets of Sanaa, holding signs and raising lights during a rally backing statements by Houthi military spokesman Yahya Saree

TENDER NOTICE

The Executive Engineer Building, CWPP&H Department District Lasbela invites sealed tender based on composite schedule of rates, 2026 GOB from interested contractors/firms for the work listed below.

S #	DESCRIPTION OF WORKS	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Tender Fee	Time Limit
1.	Construction of Office/Residential Accommodation for District Attorney Lasbela at Uthal **PSDP No. Z2025.1010/ 2874.** TSE-2627071133723	49,754,016	3%	2000	24 Months

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014.**Eligibility of Bidders:** Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work. Turnover of at least 34,827,811 PKR Amount in3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Registration with Pakistan Engineering council (PEC) C-5 and above (Upto 65 million) In Relevant Category And Specialized Code is CE11(i) (General engineering Works only). **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure. **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit at Call of 3 % 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 **07 August, 2026 till 10:00 AM** through supplier dashboard. **Tender opening:** Tender will be opened on same day at **11:00 AM** on EPPS System **Address:** Office of the Executive Engineer (Building) CWPP&H Department District Lasbela at Uthal Phone no: 0300705842 Fax no: 0 Email: eeiiuthal@gmail.com.

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CW PP&H DEPARTMENT DISTRICT
LASBELA AT UTHAL

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India blocks Telegram before retest exam to curb cheating

Monitoring Desk

TAMIL NADU: India blocked access to Telegram messenger on Tuesday ahead of a retest of a nationwide medical college entrance examination, after a scandal last month over a question paper leak.

The failure of the hugely competitive exam, along with a separate marking fiasco in high school tests, sparked outrage and fuelled youth protests demanding the education minister's resignation.

The electronics ministry issued the order restricting access to Telegram until Monday, the day of the retest. Message-editing features, which allow users to alter existing posts, will remain restricted until June 30.

"Both measures have been taken in the interest of public order, in response to the organised use of the platform by cheating rackets to defraud candidates," India's National Testing Agency (NTA) said in a statement.

The National Eligibility Entrance Test (NEET) is one of the country's most competitive exams, attracting more than two million aspiring doctors.

The NEET exam was scrapped in May following allegations that the question paper was leaked in advance.

Traditional paper-based working to be replaced by digital processes: PM

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif launched the Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based Prime Minister Office System (PMOS), describing it as a transformative digital platform that will modernise governance by recording, communicating, monitoring and tracking every directive issued by the Prime Minister from issuance through implementation, verified completion and post-completion monitoring. Addressing the launch ceremony at the Prime Minister's Office, the prime minister directed all relevant authorities to ensure the immediate and full implementation of the new AI-based system, making it clear that traditional paper-based working would be replaced by digital processes.

"From today onwards, I will not expect any of you with a file in your hands. Everything will be discussed through this mechanism," the prime minister said.

He praised Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja and Secretary IT for their efforts in developing and operationalising the system. He urged all ministries and government departments to adopt the platform, saying it would significantly improve the government's ability to deliver results. "This would make service delivery easier," he remarked.

The ceremony was attended by Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema, Minister for Information Technology Shaza Fatima Khawaja, and other senior officials.

During the ceremony, the prime minister was given a comprehensive briefing on the AI-powered platform and its objectives. The prime minister was informed that PMOS was the first government platform in Pakistan to integrate artificial intelligence as a central component of decision-making and implementation monitoring, calling it a trailblazer for the digital transformation of the federal government. According to the briefing, PMOS had been developed at the centre of government to ensure efficient communication of the prime minister's directives throughout the government machinery while enabling timely implementation in accordance with defined quality standards.

The system also serves as a secure technology-driven decision-support platform by integrating analytics and structured information within a protected IT environment. During the briefing, it was informed that PMOS would facilitate continuous policy calibration by enabling the government to utilise technological, human and financial resources more effectively to generate better economic outcomes. By introducing the platform at the Prime Minister's Office, the government intends to embed governance reforms at the highest level before extending them across the wider administrative structure. At the heart of the platform is a comprehensive digital repository that records every directive issued by the prime minister.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding the launch of Al- based Prime Minister's Office System (PMOS).



ISLAMABAD: Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan, Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi, in a meeting with Mr. Mohammad Naciri, Chief of Staff, UN Women, at the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

President felicitates Belgian leadership on National Day

ISLAMABAD, (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari extended felicitations to King Philippe of the Kingdom of Belgium, the Government and the people of Belgium on their National Day. The president, in a statement, highlighted that Pakistan and Belgium enjoy long-standing and cordial relations founded on mutual respect, trust and goodwill. He noted with satisfaction that over the years, the two countries have developed a constructive partnership across diverse fields.

He emphasised that Pakistan values its engagement with the European Union, in which Belgium plays a pivotal role, and looks forward to further strengthening cooperation to achieve their shared objectives of peace, sustainable development and mutual prosperity.

President Zardari expressed confidence that the bonds of friendship and cooperation between Pakistan and Belgium will continue to grow stronger in the years ahead.

NJPMC approves national judicial reform framework aligned with global rule of law standards

ISLAMABAD, (APP):The National Judicial (Policy Making) Committee (NJPMC) approved, in principle, a National Judicial Reform Framework aligned with the World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index to introduce evidence-based reforms aimed at strengthening accessibility, transparency and predictability in Pakistan's judicial system through measurable performance standards, internationally recognised benchmarks and continuous performance evaluation.

The decision was taken at the 61st meeting of the NJPMC, chaired by the Chief Justice of Pakistan at the Supreme Court.

The meeting was attended by the chief justices of the high courts, while the federal minister for law and justice and the law secretary participated on special invitation.

Representatives of the Pakistan Bar Council and the Supreme Court Bar Association also attended to ensure an inclusive policy-making process.

The committee resolved that the high courts may adopt the National Judicial Reform Framework along with the Self-Assessment Checklist of the International Framework for Court Excellence (IFCE), with necessary modifications. It directed the high courts to establish institutional mechanisms for periodic assessment and submit quarterly reports on reform progress.

Lasting peace can only be achieved through greater understanding among people: Gilani

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani reaffirmed Pakistan's strong commitment to further strengthening its longstanding friendship with Canada through enhanced parliamentary diplomacy, expanded trade, and closer people-to-people contacts.

Addressing a reception hosted in honour of Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ms Anita Anand, the Chairman Senate extended heartfelt greetings on behalf of the Senate, the Parliament, and the people of Pakistan.

He said that Pakistan and Canada have enjoyed nearly eight decades of cordial relations built on mutual respect, shared interests, constructive political dialogue, expanding economic cooperation, educational exchanges, and the invaluable contribution of the vibrant Pakistani diaspora in Canada.

Gilani described bilateral trade as the cornerstone of Pakistan–Canada relations, noting that Canada remains one of Pakistan's trusted economic partners.

He highlighted Canada's important role as a supplier of agricultural commodities, including canola, soybeans, and chickpeas, which contribute significantly to Pakistan's food security, agricultural sector, and industrial growth.

Referring to the growing economic partnership between the two countries, he appreciated the positive outcomes of Minister Anita Anand's engagement with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar in Ottawa, which helped further strengthen bilateral trade relations.

He particularly welcomed the successful arrival of the first shipment of Canadian canola at Karachi Port on 12 January 2026, describing it as a tangible symbol of expanding economic cooperation.

Emphasizing the importance of parliamentary diplomacy in the contemporary global landscape, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani said that legislatures have an increasingly vital role in promoting dialogue, mutual understanding, peace, and sustainable development.

As the Founding Chairman of the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC), he invited Canada to actively participate in the initiative, expressing confidence that stronger parliamentary engagement would further deepen bilateral relations and contribute to addressing common global challenges.

The Chairman Senate also highlighted the vast untapped potential for collaboration in sectors including energy, clean technology, mining, information technology, textiles, investment, and innovation.

He observed that Canada's technological expertise and Pakistan's young workforce, strategic geographical location, and expanding consumer market offer significant opportunities for mutually beneficial partnerships. Expressing confidence in the future of bilateral relations, Chairman Senate Gilani said that Minister Anita Anand's visit would further strengthen the longstanding friendship between Pakistan and Canada.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Iran Reaffirm Commitment to Strengthening Educational and Scientific Cooperation.

NA body calls for stronger PEMRA regulation, timely payment of media workers' salaries

ISLAMABAD, (APP): The National Assembly Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting on Tuesday directed the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) to strengthen its regulatory mechanism for more effective oversight of electronic media and asked the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to take up the issue of timely payment of salaries to media workers with media organisations.

The committee, which met at the PEMRA headquarters under the chairmanship of Pullain Baloch, MNA, received a detailed briefing on the performance of the regulator and its Councils of Complaints in fulfilling their regulatory mandate.

PEMRA Chairperson and the Executive Director General (Operations) briefed the committee on the authority's mandate, organisational structure, composition of the PEMRA Authority and the Councils of Complaints.

The committee was informed that under the PEMRA Act, the authority had been mandated to facilitate and regulate electronic media. It was told that amendments made to the Act by Parliament in 2023 empowered PEMRA to hear complaints relating to the non-payment of salaries to electronic media workers. The committee was further informed that the amendments also strengthened the authority's regulatory mechanism.



QUETTA: Vice Chancellor University of Turbat Dr Gul Hassan Baloch presenting shield to Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

FCCP nullifies administrative order issued after 24 Years

ISLAMABAD, (APP): The Federal Constitutional Court has ruled that final decisions rendered by competent authorities under the Land Reforms Regulation of 1972 cannot be reopened decades later through an administrative order.

Declaring the Federal Land Commission Chairman's August 22, 1996 order—issued after a lapse of 24 years—illegal, the court clarified that land restored on the basis of legally finalized decisions cannot be taken back from its original owners.

A two-member bench of the apex court, headed by Chief Justice of the Federal Constitutional Court Justice Amin-Ud-Din Khan, accepted the civil appeals while setting aside the August 22, 1996 order of the Federal Land Commission Chairman, the Lahore High Court's ruling, and the subsequent mutation.

In a detailed 25-page judgment authored by Chief Justice Amin-Up-Din Khan, the court noted that the decisions issued by the Deputy Land Commissioner and the Land Commissioner in 1972 were never challenged before any higher legal forum. Consequently, they had attained finality, leaving no legal justification to reopen or alter them.



Two Palestinians were killed in an Israeli military attack in the central Gaza Strip. The deceased were laid to rest. Their families expressed their grief.

Political, tribal elders should be taken into confidence for establishment of peace in Balochistan: Malik Sikandar

JUI's Central Joint Secretary urges political and religious parties to expose the malicious designs of the enemies of peace, and work for the establishment of peace

QUETTA (ANN): Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam's Central Joint Secretary and former Speaker of the Assembly, Malik Sikandar Khan Advocate, said that for the establishment of peace in Balochistan, political and tribal elders should be taken into confidence and such a policy should be formulated that can prove effective for peace, provided that all parties set aside their differences and agree on a joint course of action in the greater interest of Balochistan and peace.

He said that the government is not dealing with the prevailing law and order situation with responsibility and seriousness. The nation is being satisfied only through statements of condemnation and by attributing responsibility to someone.

Issuing condemnation statements or merely declaring it the act of a particular organization is neither sufficient nor a solution to the problem, nor can it end the prevailing insecurity. He said that Balochistan has become a no-go area where the honor, property, and lives of the people are all at stake. The government has left the lives, property, honor, and dignity of the people at the mercy of killers.

Due to the daily incidents of killings, lawlessness, robberies, and terrorism, Balochistan has become a no-go area.

He further said that, under a well-planned scheme, there are malicious attempts to create unrest and instability in Balochistan.

BRA urges service providers to register; comply with tax laws

QUETTA, (VoM Report): The Balochistan Revenue Authority (BRA) has appealed to all service providers across the province to immediately complete their registration with the Authority if they have not yet done so, and to fulfill their legal obligations under the Balochistan Sales Tax on Services Act, 2015. According to BRA, all registered service providers are required to file their tax returns within the prescribed deadlines, pay due taxes, and maintain invoices, returns, and other business records in accordance with the law for verification when needed. The Authority emphasized that compliance with tax laws is not only a legal obligation but also a civic responsibility. Timely payment of taxes provides essential resources for projects in education, healthcare, infrastructure, and public welfare, contributing directly to the development and prosperity of Balochistan. BRA further highlighted that registration, return filing, and tax payments have been made fully digital and online, ensuring greater convenience, transparency, and ease for the business community.

New opportunities exist for Pak, Canada to work on economic growth: Anita

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Canada's Minister for Foreign Affairs Anita Anand said bilateral trade between Pakistan and Canada has grown, Canada's commercial interests have expanded and new opportunities have emerged for the two countries to work together on regional security and economic growth.

In a post on X, she said, "Nearly two decades have passed since a Canadian Foreign Minister last visited Pakistan." "At Canada's High Commission in Islamabad, I planted



behind our relationship. I also had the opportunity to thank the Canadian and locally engaged staff whose dedication and expertise advance Canada's interests in Pakistan every day," she added.

In another post on X, she said, "Canadian company JCM Power is already helping supply Pakistan's electricity grid through its 50-megawatt wind farm in Sindh, where 29 turbines generate clean electricity across the region. The company will soon build on that work through its 240-megawatt Dhabeji hybrid wind-solar project with Karachi Electric."

National strategy essential to achieve goals of socio-economic development

ISLAMABAD, (APP): A high-level meeting was held under the chairmanship of the Federal Minister for Planning and the Federal Minister for Health, where they agreed to prepare the National Population Stabilization Plan 2026-2036. The meeting was attended by the Secretary Health, the DG Population, a Member of the Population Ministry of Planning, and other relevant authorities. During the meeting, the draft of National Population Stabilization Plan 2026-2036 was reviewed in detail. In detail, it was decided that the final draft of the plan would be prepared jointly by the Ministry of Planning and the Ministry of Health.

The final draft will be sent to all provinces for approval and consultation Agreed in the meeting. After which it will be presented before the National Population Council for consideration.



PESHAWAR: A man carries his household belongings to a safer area after heavy monsoon rains inundated a makeshift settlement, forcing families to relocate from flood-affected homes.

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