

Quetta
Karachi

DAILY MIRROR

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'Offences under Army Act apply solely to military officers': Justice Mandokhail

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail has said that several offences are listed under the Army Act, but all apply exclusively to military officers. He made the remarks during the Supreme Court hearing on intra-court appeals challenging the trial of civilians in military courts.

A seven-member constitutional bench, led by Justice Aminuddin Khan, heard the case on Monday. The session began with Khawaja Haris, representing the Ministry of Defence, presenting arguments. Justice Aminuddin urged Khawaja Haris to conclude his arguments by Tuesday, requesting a concise explanation of which cases were transferred to military courts and why.

He added that any questions from the bench on the matter would be addressed later.

Khawaja Haris argued that the Supreme Court had previously invalidated Section 59(4) of the Army Act.

Justice Mandokhail noted that Section

31D, used for civilians' trials, relates to incitement to obstruct military duties.

Justice Musarrat Hilali pointed out that the Constitution recognises various tribunals, stressing the need to examine the jurisdiction, location, and procedure for trying cases.

"The issue here is procedural—who will conduct the trial," she said.

Justice Mandokhail questioned whether civilians' trials in military courts could be classified as court-martials.

Khawaja Haris confirmed they could.

Justice Hilali raised the absence of a specific punishment in the Army Act for suspending the Constitution, asking, "What punishment does the Act prescribe for an army officer who suspends the Constitution?"

Khawaja Haris countered by stating that Article 6 of the Constitution prescribes punishment for such acts and takes precedence over all laws. He also mentioned that the Army Act includes penalties for breaches of the oath.



Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir and other senior military and civil officials are provided a briefing on the security environment, Peshawar.

'Terror has no place in our land': COAS lauds dismantling of terrorist' operational capabilities

APP

PESHAWAR: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir vowed on Monday that terrorism had no place in the country and lauded the successful dismantling of the operational capabilities of terrorist outfits active in the country.

Pakistan, particularly Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, saw a sharp uptick in terrorism-related incidents in 2024. Terror attacks have increased since the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan broke a fragile ceasefire agreement with the government in 2022, vowing to target security forces and other law enforcement agencies (LEAs). A statement issued from the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) today said the army chief visited Peshawar where he was provided with a comprehensive briefing on the prevailing security situation and the ongoing counter-terrorism operations targeting the TTP.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur were also a part of the briefing. "As we stand united against the forces of evil, I am immensely proud of the

remarkable achievements of our security forces. Through their dedication, courage, and supreme sacrifices, we have successfully degraded the operational capabilities of terrorist organisations, both within our borders and beyond.

"Our forces have relentlessly pursued and eliminated key terrorist leaders, dismantled their infrastructure and neutralised their cells, sending a clear message that terror has no place in our land. This war is ongoing and we would take it to its logical conclusion," the statement quoted him as saying. The army chief lauded the "unwavering resolve and unmatched sacrifices" of the military and law enforcement agencies, saying they were instrumental in dismantling terrorist networks and "thwarting their nefarious agenda".

Gen Munir also highlighted the "relentless efforts" of LEAs in ensuring the safety and security of citizens, foiling numerous attacks, and maintaining peace and order. He highlighted that every operation was a testament to the "courage, professionalism and operational readiness of the security forces, who continue to thwart the evolving threats posed by terrorists".

Finance Minister pledges stable policies for private sector growth

INP

HONG KONG: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has reaffirmed the Government of Pakistan's unwavering commitment to providing a stable policy framework and continuity, enabling the private sector to lead the country toward progress and prosperity.

He was speaking at the plenary session "Innovation: The Solution to Unlock the Next Growth Engines" at Asian Financial Forum 2025 in Hong Kong today.

The Minister highlighted the transformative power of innovation in shaping the future of economies, particularly within Asia's evolving financial landscape.

He shared his insights as a distinguished speaker on leveraging innovation to drive economic growth and prosperity.

The Minister stressed the importance of adopting innovative approaches, technologies, and business models to unlock new growth opportunities, enhance competitiveness, and address emerging challenges in the global economy.

Fazl criticises politicians for fostering division

NEWS DESK

MULTAN: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has criticised the political leadership that succeeded religious scholars, accusing them of fostering divisions and perpetuating bloodshed in Pakistan.

Speaking at a gathering in Multan, Rehman said that during the era when the subcontinent's Muslim leadership was in the hands of scholars, there was harmony and unity among communities. "Show me one instance from the time of our elders when sectarian conflicts occurred," he said. Rehman accused modern politics

of breeding hatred, unrest, and factionalism. He alleged that JUI faces persecution for promoting peace rather than instigating disputes. "We haven't abandoned our identity as Sunnis, Hanafis, or Deobandis, but our focus remains on uniting the nation and speaking for humanity," he added. He also condemned the commercialisation of sectarian identities, saying, "Even Deobandism has become a trade now. This divisive approach was never part of our elders' teachings." Rehman reaffirmed JUI's commitment to inclusivity, stating that his speeches in parliament represent all schools of thought within the Muslim community.

KP's Assembly Opposition leader Ibadullah calls on CM Bugti

APP

Quetta: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Assembly Opposition Leader Dr. Ibadullah called on Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Monday.

They discussed in detail the issues of mine workers, financial assistance to workers who died in accidents and other important issues during the meeting.

Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, while declaring the resolution of labour problems as one of the priorities of his government, assured that effective steps would be taken to protect workers in the mining sector. He said that immediate measures would be taken to provide financial assistance to the families of the deceased workers and modern safety steps could be

adopted to prevent mining accidents saying that necessary instructions have been issued in this regard. The CM said that the workers associated with the mining sector are the backbone of the economy of Balochistan and it is the responsibility of the government to solve their problems. He said that steps are also being taken to further strengthen the mining laws of the province. In the meeting, both leaders agreed that inter-provincial cooperation would be promoted to protect the rights of workers in the mining sector and prevent accidents. At the end of the meeting, Dr. Ibadullah thanked the Chief Minister of Balochistan and expressed hope that significant progress would be made in solving the problems of the workers under his leadership.

FBR's Faceless System to be expanded to other cities: PM

APP

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif says significant progress has been made in the last few months regarding digitization and reforms in Federal Board of Revenue.

Chairing a meeting on the matters related to FBR in Islamabad today, he said the Faceless Customs Assessment System based on minimum human intervention has been introduced in the customs process for the first time in history, marking a significant milestone in the digitization of the FBR.

Shehbaz Sharif directed the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication and Federal Board of Revenue to work together to further improve the system.

He also directed to shift the system on artificial intelligence by minimizing the human intervention.

The Prime Minister said that the Faceless Customs Assessment System should be broadened and implemented in other cities as soon as possible after Karachi so that all imports across the country could benefit from this system.

He also directed to evolve a comprehensive strategy for the implementation of the track and trace system in various industrial sectors. The meeting was briefed about the recent reforms in FBR. During the briefing, it was informed that the faceless customs system would be made fully operational at all terminals of Karachi Port by the end of next month. It was told that efforts are underway to ensure its operation nationwide soon and a central control room is being established to monitor the faceless customs system. It was further informed that mobile signal jammers and CCTV cameras are also being installed at all terminals to enhance the transparency of the system.

27 terrorists killed in intelligence-based operation in Balochistan's Kacchi district: ISPR

APP

RAWALPINDI: Security forces killed 27 terrorists in an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Balochistan's Kacchi district, the military's media wing said in a statement on Monday. A statement from the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said the IBO was conducted on Sunday based on the reported terrorist presence. It said security forces "stealthily surrounded and effectively engaged the terrorists' location", as a result of which 27 terrorists were "sent to hell" after an intense exchange of fire. "Multiple hideouts, including caches of arms, ammunition and explosives, were also destroyed during the operation," the statement added. According to the ISPR, the slain terrorists were "involved in numerous terrorist activities against the security forces as well as innocent civilians and were highly wanted by

the law enforcement agencies". "Security forces of Pakistan, in step with the nation, remain determined to thwart attempts at sabotaging peace, stability and progress of Balochistan," the ISPR concluded.

The raid occurred two days after at least four people were injured in a blast from an improvised explosive device (IED) in Chaman, unknown armed men set a Levies post on fire in Mastung and an assistant commissioner narrowly escaped a bomb attack in Khuzdar on Friday. According to officials, a powerful explosion occurred in the Station Road area of Chaman, a town near the Afghan border, in the afternoon as a Frontier Corps (FC) truck was passing through the area. Police said unknown people had planted the improvised explosive device on a motorcycle, which was parked on Station Road to target the FC truck carrying security personnel.



Quetta: Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran Dr. Reza Amiri Moqadam called on Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti

CM Bugti, Iranian Ambassador vow to promote bilateral relations

APP

Quetta: Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran Dr. Reza Amiri Moqadam called on Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti here on Monday at the Chief Minister Secretariat. The discussions were held on promoting trade, educational and cultural relations between Pakistan and Iran during the meeting.

Welcoming the Iranian delegation, the Chief Minister of Balochistan said that he valued the centuries-old long-standing relations between Pakistan and Iran, the two countries have always shared each other's joys and sorrows.

It is the need of the hour to further strengthen trade, cultural and social relations between the two countries, he said. In the meeting, the Iranian Ambassador offered cooperation in various fields of social development including increasing trade volume, educational scholarships, and technical education.

The Chief Minister said that exchange of delegations and trade relations between Balochistan and Iran at different levels would be further promoted saying that preven-

tion of illegal smuggling, effective measures could be taken for a lasting solution to be found to the problems being faced by traders.

He said that efforts would be made to resolve the problems of the border adjacent to Balochistan in collaboration with the central government so that facilities could be provided to the traders.

The CM said that the establishment of law and order in the areas would increase trade activities and it could be possible to eliminate smuggling. In this regard, a meeting will also be held in Islamabad in which representatives of the Chambers of Commerce will be invited, he said.

The Chief Minister assured of facilities for Iranian traders and said that no legal commercial container or truck would face any kind of problems in Balochistan. For timely resolution of such problems, the Iranian Consulate should appoint its, a representative who will be in touch with the relevant authorities of the provincial government to assist the traders, he said.

While offering educational scholarships, the Iranian ambassador said that Iran is keen to start various programs for Pakistani students. The CM also appreciated the offer

and said that the Iranian Consulate and the officials of the Balochistan government would jointly prepare a plan for the scholarship program.

Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that under this offer, a special educational scholarship program would also be launched for the Hazara community living in Quetta.

He said that for the first time in the history of Balochistan, the Benazir Bhutto Scholarship Program has been launched adding that under which students are being given scholarships for higher education in two hundred prominent universities around the world. Providing technical training and employment is among the priorities of the provincial government, he maintained.

He accepted the invitation to visit Iran at the invitation of the Iranian Ambassador and said that he would soon visit Iran with a delegation. During the meeting, the Iranian Ambassador informed the Chief Minister of Balochistan about the appointment of a Baloch governor in Sistan. On which the Chief Minister expressed happiness and termed it a good omen. At the end of the meeting, the two leaders reiterated their commitment to further promote bilateral relations and exchanged souvenirs.

CJP shaken by missing persons cases in Balochistan

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan Yahya Afridi has described the Supreme Court as a "Titanic" that cannot be fundamentally altered but can chart a better course with reforms.

Speaking during a meeting with members of the Supreme Court Press Association, he outlined his vision for enhancing judicial efficiency and accessibility.

During visits to Gwadar and Quetta, CJP Afridi said missing persons' cases left him deeply shaken. He promised to prioritise such cases and stressed the importance of acknowledging Sindh and Balochi judges while offering free legal aid to underprivileged litigants.

Justice Afridi emphasised that each Supreme Court judge operates independently, urging constructive criticism rather than personal attacks. He highlighted the need for reforms, including improved case management and digital tools to keep litigants updated through email and WhatsApp notifications, from filing to final decision.

Addressing the judiciary's challenges, Justice Afridi revealed that urgent requests are being streamlined, with judges clearing 8,000 cases in a short period.

He also proposed creating special benches for election disputes, criminal cases, and tax matters.

The Chief Justice expressed regret over prisoners' complaints about prolonged trials and pledged to expedite older cases through daily special bench hearings.

The Supreme Judicial Council has also been reactivated to address complaints against judges.

Justice Afridi commended Justice Mansoor Ali Shah for advancing alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms, proposing training for retired judges and initiating the system in Islamabad before expanding it nationwide.

Third round of govt-PTI talks set for Thursday

INP

ISLAMABAD: The third round of talks between the government and the PTI to bring down political temperatures will take place on January 16 (Thursday).

A notice issued today from the National Assembly (NA) Secretariat said NA Speaker Ayaz Sadiq would preside over the session at 11:30am in Parliament House.

Since PTI founder Imran Khan's incarceration last year in several cases, PTI's relations with the government and the establishment have deteriorated sharply, marked by protests that frequently escalated into violence amid state repression.

Following the turmoil, Imran established a five-member committee to hold talks with "anyone", signalling a shift in PTI lawmakers' stance in parliament. In response, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also formed a committee with ruling coalition members.

Verdict against Imran, Bushra in £190m Al-Qadir Trust case postponed for 3rd time

INP

ISLAMABAD: The verdict in the £190m Al-Qadir Trust case against former premier Imran Khan and his spouse Bushra Bibi expected to be announced on Monday has been postponed for the third time.

Imran and his wife were indicted in the case on Feb 27, 2024, shortly after the general elections.

The case alleges that Imran and Bushra Bibi obtained billions of rupees and land worth hundreds of kanals from Bahria Town Ltd for legalising Rs50 billion that was identified and returned to the country by the United Kingdom during the previous PTI government.

The pronouncement of the verdict had already been postponed twice — on Dec 23, 2024 and Jan 6, 2025. The decision will now be announced on January 17 (Friday). The judge was expected to deliver the verdict in a makeshift courtroom at Adiala Jail, where hearings of the case have continued over the past year. Ahead of the hearing today, Imran's sisters Aleema, Noreen and Uzma Khan reached Adiala Jail to attend the hearing. PTI Secretary General Salman Akram Raja was also present. On December 23 — the original date the verdict was supposed to be announced — an Islamabad accountability court postponed its verdict in the case until Jan 6 due to winter vacations.

Azma Bokhari criticises PTI leaders for avoiding court

INP

LAHORE: Punjab's Information Minister, Azma Bokhari, has criticised leaders of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for evading accountability, claiming that they failed to appear in court despite a waiting judge.

Reacting to comments made by PTI leader Barrister Saif, Bukhari stated that the judge waited for two hours, but the accused never arrived in court.

She emphasised that corruption is not just about illicitly sending money abroad; money from money laundering that enters the country is considered 'halal' corruption.

Bokhari also accused PTI leaders of using charitable organisations, such as Shaukat Khanum and Al-Qadir Trust, to conduct financial transactions for personal gain.

"Certified liars and corrupt individuals cannot be well-wishers of the nation," she added, further condemning the actions of those who have consistently accused their

political rivals of corruption while now evading their own accountability.

She concluded by stating that those who have always criticised others as thieves and robbers are now running from justice, and they cannot escape accountability forever.

Moreover, earlier today Pakistan PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar dismissed speculation that the delay in the verdict for party founder Imran Khan was due to a deal.

Speaking to the media outside Adiala Jail, Barrister Gohar clarified that the decision had been postponed by the judge at his own discretion, not due to any negotiations or political agreement, Express News reported.

"We were waiting here today at Adiala, but the court staff informed us that the decision would now be announced on January 17," Barrister Gohar said.

He added that the attitude of the trial courts has been inappropriate and that the cases against Imran Khan were fabricated to apply pressure on the PTI founder.



Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is being briefed about the death rate of newborns in Sindh compared to other provinces, during his visit to the Telemedicine Satellite Center Control Room of Childlife Foundation, at Dr. Ruth Pfah Civil Hospital in Karachi.

Reforms introduced to address challenges of investors in Balochistan: Bilal

APP

Quetta: Vice Chairman of the Balochistan Board of Investment, Bilal Khan Kakar on Monday said that various measures and reforms have been introduced by provincial and federal governments to address the challenges being faced by investors in Balochistan.

He said this while speaking to a delegation from the business community and said that the government is striving to improve the business environment in the

province, facilitate business operations, and provide financial support.

He said that priority sectors such as agriculture, minerals, energy, and infrastructure are being focused saying that on these initiatives include the establishment of Special Economic Zones (SEZs), the Gwadar Free Trade Zone, and Export Processing Zones, where the government offers incentives and facilities for investment, including a 25% exemption on import duty for plants, machinery,

and equipment, and a 5% exemption on customs duty.

He maintained that currently, seven investment projects are in the implementation phase, with some nearing completion.

In addition, more than 15 investment projects are in the progress phase, involving both domestic and foreign investments, he said. He emphasized that efforts are underway to launch more large-scale projects in Balochistan to ensure prosperity and create employment opportunities for the people.

PTI's founder will fight his case as per constitution: Salman

INP

RAWALPINDI: PTI leader Salman Akram Raja has said that the dialogue with the government and Al-Qadir Trust case have no mutual link.

Talking to media here, Salman Akram said, if someone trying to create the impression that the Al-Qadir Trust case decision has been deferred because of the dialogue, it is wrong.

The PTI leader was commenting on deferral of an Accountability Court's verdict, which postponed decision for the third time in £190m case against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi. Judge Nasir Javed Rana said that the verdict is deferred due to the absence of the accused Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi. "Neither any deal being done, nor it will happen," Salman Akram Raja said. "We are not demanding any convenience or luxury for someone," he said.

Strong economy key to people's prosperity: Ahsan

INP

NAROWAL: Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal has said that ensuring the provision of basic facilities to the people is the government's top priority.

Addressing a ceremony in Narowal, he emphasized that continuity of policies is essential for the sustainable development of Pakistan.

He said that a strong economy is a key to the prosperity of the people. He further said the role of youth in the country's development is important and highly educated individuals can contribute to building a strong and progressive society.

Ahsan Iqbal reiterated the government's commitment to eradicating poverty by focusing on educating children.



All Balochistan Union Council Chairman Association President, Malik Alauddin along with others addresses to media persons during press conference held at Quetta press club.

Fate of people will be changed in five years: Maryam Nawaz

INP

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz said that the fate of people will be changed in five years during the PML-N government.

She was addressing a ceremony held on Monday to give free homes to deserving families under the Maskan-e-Ravi project. "I am very satisfied today as 100 families got their homes under the project," Maryam Nawaz said.

She said that all the homes have a solar

panel already installed to provide free electricity to deserving people.

The chief minister said that a school and water filtration plant are also there with these homes to facilitate the people.

"Nawaz Sharif is serving the people of Pakistan for last 45 years. He gave this country motorways and cheap electricity," said Maryam.

According to Maryam Nawaz, she is a foot soldier of Nawaz Sharif and completing projects according to his vision.



Jamiat Talaba Islam Balochistan leader, Hikmat Ullah along with others addresses to media persons during press conference held at Quetta press club.



Huraira excels again as Shaheens-West Indies game ends in draw

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Shaheens' opener Mohammad Huraira struck another half-century as their three-day warm-up against West Indies ended in a draw here at the Islamabad Club ground on Sunday.



Pakistan Shaheens batter Mohammad Huraira plays a shot during the four-day match against West Indies at the Islamabad Club.

Sabalenka, Zverev shine after rain stops play in Melbourne

SPORTS DESK

MELBOURNE: Aryna Sabalenka opened her bid for a third straight Australian Open title with a 6-3, 6-2 victory over Sloane Stephens on Sunday after rain had washed away a good chunk of play on the opening day at Melbourne Park.

The top seed did not have it all her own way against the 2017 US Open champion but wrapped up the win in little more than an hour on Rod Laver Arena, one of three courts where play continued under closed roofs during the deluge. Margaret Court Arena and John Cain Arena are the other two.

Men's second seed Alexander Zverev, seeking a maiden Grand Slam title, made a dominant start to his bid as he closed out the evening session on the main show-court with a 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 victory over 2019 semi-finalist Lucas Pouille.

Olympic champion Zheng Qinwen, who lost to Sabalenka in last year's final, reached the second round indoors, while men's sixth seed Casper Ruud and former world number four Kei Nishikori dodged the wet weather to secure five-set victories.

It was another matter on the outside courts where play ended after less than an hour in the morning and did not resume until more than six hours later in the early evening.

Eight of the 32 scheduled singles matches were scratched and organisers will be giving thanks for the cushion of the extra day which was first added to the tournament last year.

One of the benefits of winning three Grand Slam titles is preferential scheduling and the roof of Rod Laver Arena was open again to the evening sun as Sabalenka took to court to face American Stephens. Five breaks of serve, 20 winners and 21 unforced errors later and the Belarusian was leading the crowd in an impromptu dance, having secured a second-round clash with Spain's Jessica Bouzas Maneiro, who beat Britain's Sonay Kartal 6-1, 7-6(5).

"It's not like I played my best match, probably, but I was glad to close it out in straight sets," the 26-year-old said. "I love playing here, it feels like home."

Zverev was equally impressive despite not hitting top gear as he began his quest to become the first German man to claim a major since Boris Becker at Melbourne Park in 1996.



LEBANON'S Hady Habib in action against Bu Yunchaokete of China during their first-round match.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer, Irrigation Division Jhal Magsi, invites sealed tenders forms (as per schedule B) based on composite schedule of rates 2023 Government of Balochistan from interested contractors/firms for the PSDP 2024-25 at S.No 4351 under Urban & Rural Development Programme Balochistan works listed below:

S. #	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Million)	Bid Security 2% in (Rs)	Tender Fee (Rs.)	Time of Completion
1	Construction / De-Silting of Flood Irrigation Scheme Jagirani District Jhal Magsi.PSDP 2024-25 S.NO 4351(R&UDP)TSE-242501625293	22.00	440,000/-	1,500/-	30-June-2025
2	De-silting of flood Irrigation Minors Waryam Area District Jhal Magsi.PSDP 2024-25 S.NO 4351(R&UDP)TSE-242501625313	30.00	600,000/-	1,500/-	30-June-2025
3	De-Silting of Miskan (Jorak) and Gosha Minors District Jhal Magsi. PSDP 2024-25 S.NO 4351(R&UDP) TSE-242501625333	20.00	400,000/-	1,500/-	30-June-2025
4	De-Silting of Bohray Wah District Jhal Magsi PSDP 2024-25 S.NO 4351(R&UDP)TSE-242501625423	20.00	400,000/-	1,500/-	30-June-2025
5	De-Silting of Akbar Khan Minor District Jhal Magsi.PSDP 2024-25 S.NO 4351(R&UDP)TSE-242501625573	10.00	200,000/-	1,500/-	30-June-2025
6	De-Silting of Pat Magsi, Nehal Khan, Laibo-I and Laibo-II Minors District Jhal Magsi. PSDP 2024-25 S.NO 4351(R&UDP)TSE-242501625593	38.00	760,000/-	1,500/-	30-June-2025
7	Construction Of Flood Irrigation Scheme Ginsar District Jhal Magsi. PSDP 2024-25 S.NO 4351 (R&UDP) TSE-242501625613	20.00	400,000/-	1,500/-	30-June-2025
8	De-Silting of Flood Irrigation Minors Pat Yakdar Area District Jhal Magsi. PSDP 2024-25 S.NO 4351 (R&UDP) TSE-242501625643	20.00	400,000/-	1,500/-	30-June-2025
9	De-Silting of Sub Escape Minor District Jhal Magsi. PSDP 2024-25 S.NO 4351 (R&UDP) TSE-242501625663	10.00	200,000/-	1,500/-	30-June-2025

Procurements shall be made under B-PPRA Rules 2014 amended up-to-date. Eligibility of Bidders: An individual bidder having valid PEC registration valid up-to-date in the relevant Category or above with specialization in Irrigation Only. 3 assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity during last 5 years. Has an average Turnover 70% of each Project Cost during last 5 year. Active Registration Certificates from Income Tax Authority FBR (NTN) and Balochistan Revenue Authority (BRA) The Contractor has not been blacklisted earlier by any Procurement Agency or private organization. The amount of bid Security shall be 2% of the Project Cost in the form of Call Deposit issued by a Scheduled Bank in Pakistan in favour of the Employer. The Bidding Document can be downloaded from B-PPRA Web; or obtained from the office of the undersigned upon payment of bidding document fee mentioned against each through Challan in the NBP from any Branch under Head C-03434 The Bidding Documents duly filled attached with copies of supporting documents must be delivered in sealed envelopes by hand or address from date of NIT to 29th January-2025 before 11:00 AM at office address mentioned below. Application in original on letterhead duly signed and stamped. Authorized Representatives of company will only be allowed, having a specific Authorization letter for the Schemes mentioned above. (The Authorization letter/ deed must be provided on Non- Judicial Stamp Paper Valuing Rs. 100, duly attested by first class Magistrate). As per BPPRA Rules 25 (Sub rule 4 amended rule) conditional bid shall not be entertained. Method of Procurement Single Stage Two Envelope Procedure. Any firm not meeting the mandatory requirements shall be considered Non-Responsive. Evaluation Criteria: Submit list of Machinery/equipments, management Staff/Labour own company on Company letter Head or to be hire so submitted on notarized stamp paper. Tender opening: envelope containing technical bid will be opened on 29th January-2025 at 12:00 PM at mentioned below address & 2nd envelope containing financial bid of technically qualified bidder will be opened later, the date of which will be communicated after evolution of technical bid, financial proposal of technically non-qualified bidders will not be opened and thus will be unopened Bids Validity: Thirty (30) days Address: Irrigation Quarter, Gandawah Bypass Road, Jhal Magsi. Phone & Fax No. 0838-612097 Email: xeni@halmagsi2019@gmail.com

PRQ No.2809/13-01-2025 Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Jhal Magsi www.dprgob.pk @dpr_gob dprgob dgprbalochistan

SPORTS DESK

Afghanistan have recalled fit-again Ibrahim Zadran in their 15-man Champions Trophy squad, amid ongoing calls for teams to boycott matches against them due to the Taliban government's crackdown on women's rights since returning to power in 2021.

Pakistan will host most of the Champions Trophy but India will play their games in Dubai under a "fusion model" agreed upon between the two after weeks of deadlock over the hosting of the tournament.

Afghan opener Zadran has recovered from ankle surgery to make the squad but team management decided against rushing Mujeeb Ur Rehman back into 50-overs cricket after the spinner sprained his hand last year.

Fellow spinner Allah Ghazanfar has been drafted in as a like-for-like replacement for Mujeeb.

Afghanistan have brought in former Pakistan captain Younis Khan to mentor the side in what will mark their first appearance in the tournament featuring the top eight One-Day International teams in the world.

"Afghanistan have performed exceptionally well in the past two ICC events," chairman of the Afghanistan Cricket Board Mirwais Ashraf said in a statement on Sunday. "Their impressive performances in these two event coupled with their ODI series victories last year will undoubtedly boost their morale and help them deliver an even better campaign this

time." The Hashmatullah Shahidi-led side may be faced with some off-field distractions in Pakistan with Group B rivals England and South Africa being urged to boycott their matches.

Both the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and Cricket South Africa have ruled out boycotts against Afghanistan in multi-team competitions organised by the governing International Cricket Council (ICC).

They would rather follow a unified and collective approach from all ICC members, the boards said.

Afghanistan begin their campaign against South Africa in Karachi on February 21.

Afghanistan squad: Hashmatullah Shahidi (captain), Rahmat Shah, Rahmanullah Gurbaz (wicketkeeper), Ikram Alikhil (wicketkeeper), Ibrahim Zadran, Sediqullah Atal, Azmatullah Omarzai, Mohammad Nabi, Gulbadin Naib, Rashid Khan, AM Ghazanfar, Noor Ahmad, Fazal Haq Farooqi, Naveed Zadran, and Farid Ahmad Malik.

Bangladesh leave Shakib, Litton out of squad Meanwhile, Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan and wicketkeeper-batsman Litton Das have been left out of the squad. Shakib's place in the squad became untenable after he was reported for a suspect bowling action in England last year. The 37-year-old remains suspended from bowling after a second assessment of his action last month. Shakib, considered Bangladesh's best-ever cricketer, has already quit test cricket and his 50-over career appears .

Member APNS

Daily Mirror

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Anything goes

IT seems that the dark days of the free-wheeling internet have returned. Two of the largest global social media companies have already abandoned important efforts and initiatives aimed at moderating speech on their platforms in a sign of their capitulation to alt-right mega-influencers and their war on 'woke media'.

The backsliding seems to have started when multi-billionaire Elon Musk bought out Twitter in 2022, seemingly with an eye on leveraging its reach to influence the 2024 American presidential election. As part of his plan to remake the platform in his own image, part of which was to rename it 'X', Musk has gradually removed restrictions for accounts violating various platform policies, especially on racial, gender and religious equality. X has resultantly turned into a toxic cesspool of hate.

It may be recalled that US president-elect Donald Trump was barred from Twitter, Facebook and multiple other platforms following the brazen attack on the United States Capitol in January 2021. Now, with Mr Trump about to make a defiant re-entry into the most powerful office in the world, those tech companies seem to be scrambling to get back on his good side.

The new 'X', under Mr Musk, has already proven its loyalties by pushing Mr Trump's campaign and getting him elected. This has earned it enough favour that Mr Musk has even been invited to join the new government. Meta now seems eager to catch up: it has announced that it is abandoning third-party fact-checking initiatives and easing moderation of sensitive topics because its founder believes Mr Trump's election has signalled a "cultural tipping point" towards free speech over moderation.

There have been enough signs of what the future holds: on X, Mr Musk has, in recent weeks, led repeated attacks on immigrants, Muslims and British Pakistanis, using abhorrent crimes like child grooming and sexual violence to paint a highly offensive picture of these groups for millions of his followers. It seems that this trend will now spread on other social media platforms as well.

No matter how it is being window-dressed, the "cultural tipping point" in fact seems to be dangerously tilted towards out-and-out xenophobia endorsed by powerful moguls in America's Silicon Valley. Mainstream media, which has been relentlessly abused and discredited by the self-appointed shepherds of the social media masses, will need to resist going the same way merely to protect its interests. Indeed, we are now entering a period where responsible journalism and adherence to factual reporting will be critical in keeping the world sane as social media companies abdicate their responsibility and cosy up to the new regime. Mainstream media must step up and embrace the responsibility of shaping global discourse, especially around flashpoint issues, in ways that prevent or at least limit harm to the alt-right's targets.

By Khawaja Farooq

Court Decision Against President-Elect Sparks Outrage, Deemed a Blow to Democracy"



Donald Trump

New York State Court Judge

Juan Merchan handed down a verdict against President-elect Donald Trump just ten days before his scheduled inauguration.

The decision, which has been widely condemned by Americans across the political spectrum, has been criticized as a direct affront to the democratic will of the people. Since Trump is the leader of the world and America is the superpower and people has given him mandate, thus a judge has no right to give a verdict against an elected president, on the call of a prostitute.

It shows that its a political agenda and democrats are behind it. Thus, a strong condemnation has come from immigrant and many other countries with strong demands that department of state, justice department and congress should investigate it and bring the facts to public that why Trump was falsely victimized.

On this verdict, people all entire the world are angry specially on the unconditional punishment given. A strong voice of appeal is coming

In an unprecedented and highly controversial move, the International Court of Justice should also investigate that Trump should not be charged and is wrongly charged under a political agenda and people love him and has given him the mandate and the decision should be on merit.

The case in question, initiated by a private complaint from an individual with a contentious public reputation, has ignited a firestorm of criticism from both supporters and critics of Mr. Trump. Many have labeled the verdict as a politically motivated attack on the office of the presidency and the choice of the American electorate. Prominent voices in political and legal circles have raised concerns about the timing and nature of the decision, questioning its implications for the sanctity of the electoral process.

"This isn't just an attack on one man; it's an attack on the millions of Americans who cast their votes in good faith," said one legal analyst. Critics of the decision argue that the case's foundation—centered on allegations that many deem dubious—fails to uphold the standards of justice expected in such high-profile proceedings.



Chief Justice Supreme Court of United States of America, Mr. John Roberts

They contend that the complainant's credibility pales in comparison to the stature of Donald Trump, a leader recognized globally for his influence and political acumen. The decision has drawn sharp rebukes from a wide swath of society.

Public demonstrations in several cities have called for the verdict to be overturned, with protesters waving signs that read "Respect Our Votes" and "Justice, Not Vendetta."

On social media, hashtags such as #Democracy Under Attack and #Stand With Trump have trended nationwide. Even critics of Mr. Trump's policies have voiced unease about the broader implications of the verdict. "Whatever our political differences, this sets a dangerous precedent. Weaponizing the legal system against elected leaders undermines democracy itself," one observer remarked. The controversy surrounding the case also raises questions about the separation of powers and the role of the judiciary in political matters. Many are arguing for an appeal or federal review to ensure that the integrity of the electoral process and the democratic system is preserved. As the nation awaits Mr. Trump's next steps, the episode has already left an indelible mark

on the political landscape. In a statement, Mr. Trump expressed his disappointment in the decision, vowing to continue serving the American people and upholding the values of democracy. For many Americans, this moment underscores the fragility of democratic institutions and the importance of safeguarding the will of the people. The question now remains: Will the courts heed the call for justice, or will this decision stand as a controversial chapter in the annals of American history?

Public political and social circles have appealed to Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, John Roberts, Congress, and the Senate to take immediate steps to preserve America's democratic reputation by forming a judicial commission to overturn this decision. They warned that if this is not done, the United States will become a subject of ridicule globally, causing embarrassment to American citizens. They further stated that the Congressional Judicial Committee should also play its role by holding an urgent hearing on the matter and delivering its decision promptly.



State Judge Juan Merchan

By Gulmina Bilal Ahmad

Empowering workers

AS globalisation reshapes the world economy, skilled labour has become a critical resource for nations vying for economic progress. In Pakistan's technical and vocational ecosystem, like in other countries, an approach to skill recognition is the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) certification framework. This programme not only empowers skilled workers, but if amplified, can favourably position us in the global labour market.

RPL is an innovative process that assesses and certifies skills acquired through mostly non-formal training or informal employment experience. In the local context, it is best understood as skill recognition acquired through the *ustad-shagirdi* system. By aligning these skills with the National Vocational Qualification Framework (NVQF), the programme allows workers to receive formal recognition for their expertise, regardless of how they gained it.

This initiative bridges the gap between workers' potential and their employability, making them competitive in the global market. RPL-certified workers can confidently present their qualifications to employers abroad, ensuring fair compensation and access to better opportunities.

Empirical data reveals the significant impact of RPL certification, including country-wise workforce deployment with monthly remittance contribution. Their remittances provide a lifeline to Pakistan's economy, supporting families, fostering local development, and adding to the nation's foreign exchange reserves. The RPL certification process

ensures that workers meet international standards in their respective trades. The certification framework also includes mechanisms to continuously update certifications based on industry trends and technological advancements.

The RPL scheme allows workers to receive formal recognition for their expertise.

In 2019, 374 Pakistanis with RPL skill certificates went abroad, 190 in 2020, 503 in 2021, 1,293 in 2022, 1,417 in 2023 and 2,851 Pakistanis in 2024, according to the data of NVQF Registry and Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment. These numbers are small but increasing despite the challenges of lack of awareness regarding the certification process, sporadic testing schedule, decreased information and access to testing centres, and language barriers for workers seeking international employment.

Out of the above-mentioned skilled workers abroad on RPL certificates, the top 10 trades are plumbing-solar water heating technology (842), mechanical technology-welder (581), mason (485), mechanical technology HVACR (458), general electrician (422), assistant steel fixer (378), shuttering carpenter (339), domestic electrician (338), construction (329) and automobile mechanic (264).

The provincial breakup is interesting as in Saudi Arabia, out of the RPL-certified skilled workers, the highest number are from the ICT region, followed by Punjab, then KP, Sindh and then Balochistan. In the UAE, the highest number is again from the ICT region, followed by Punjab, then KP, Sindh and lastly Balochistan. In Oman, the highest number are from ICT, followed by Punjab, KP and Sindh. From

Balochistan, in Oman there are only five people with RPL certification. Many individuals, particularly in rural areas, are unaware of RPL programmes and their benefits. People often doubt the credibility of RPL certifications compared to traditional qualifications. Gender inequality rears its ugly head here too with women, especially in conservative regions, facing barriers to accessing RPL opportunities. Within the system there are also challenges like lack of unified standard with inconsistent criteria and assessment practices across sectors undermining the programme's reliability, and difficulty in matching informal skills with formal frameworks or job market requirements. There is also a shortage of qualified assessors capable of evaluating diverse skills effectively. While regulatory authorities are trying to overcome these challenges, the main lynchpin lies in demand and supply. The more awareness and information about RPL's opportunities and effectiveness, the more certifications and the more bodies will be compelled to strengthen the RPL certification process. The National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) is expanding its outreach and simplifying the certification process. Partnerships with international organisations and governments are also being explored to ensure that RPL-certified workers are recognised globally. The RPL programme is more than a certification process; it has the potential to empower Pakistan's workforce, which might not be literate but is skilled, and strengthen its economic standing. For Pakistan, the RPL certification programme is a testament to the power of skills and the boundless opportunities they create.

DAILY MIRROR

FO condemns 'increasingly racist, Islamophobic' discourse on Pakistanis in UK

"To demonise such a large and diverse community based on the actions of a few individuals needs to be condemned," says FO spox Shafqat Ali Khan

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office (FO) on Monday condemned what it called the "increasingly racist and Islamophobic" comments directed at Pakistanis in the UK, emphasising the deep relations between both countries as well as the contributions of British Pakistanis.

The statement came after tech billionaire Elon Musk entered a contentious debate surrounding the term "Asian grooming gangs", with remarks sparking concerns of perpetuating harmful anti-Pakistani stereotypes.

Musk attack---ed the UK government over grooming gangs, using his platform X to accuse one key Labour leader of being a "rape genocide apologist", and calling for her and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer to be jailed.

Priyanka Chaturvedi, a leader of India's Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena, wrote on X, "Repeat after me, they aren't ASIAN Grooming Gangs but PAKISTANI grooming gangs." Musk replied with a terse "true," signalling his support for her remarks.

The term "grooming gangs" stems from the widespread abuse of girls in several English towns and cities, which emerged more than a decade ago. A series of court cases eventually led to the convictions of dozens of men, mostly of South Asian Muslim origin. The victims were vulnerable, mostly white, girls.

The scandals have been seized upon by far-right figures, in particular Tommy Robinson, a prominent extremist agitator.

FO spokesperson Shafqat Ali Khan delivered a statement on Monday in response to the growing anti-Pakistani discourse observed in the UK.

"As such, we note with deep concern the increasingly racist and Islamophobic political and media commentary in the UK that is aimed at conflating the reprehensible actions of a few individuals with the entire 1.7 million British Pakistani diaspora."

He added that Pakistan-UK friendship was characterised by warmth, cordiality, robust cooperation and trust. "Nurtured over decades this relationship remains an important priority of Pakistan's foreign policy," Khan said.

He emphasised that the "deep and multifaceted relations" between the two countries cover a wide range of fields, including trade and investment and counter-terrorism.

"The presence of 1.7 million strong British-Pakistani diaspora provides the strongest link between the two friendly countries," Khan added.

He maintained that British nationals of Pakistani origin have contributed to the United Kingdom's growth and development, with a large number of predominantly Muslim soldiers having served in the British Indian army in both World Wars. "British Pakistanis today form the backbone of the UK's health, retail and services sectors," Khan continued. "Many British Pakistanis hold high public office, and thousands serve their communities as Members of Parliament, mayors, councillors, and as members of local police and municipal services."



Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazal (JUI-F) Chief, Maulana Fazal-ur-Rehman addresses during Fuzla Convention held at Jamia Qasim ul Uloom in Multan

Gola expresses sorrow on death of elder brother of Sardar Akhtar Jan

APP

Quetta: Deputy Speaker Balochistan Assembly Ghazala Gola expressed deep sorrow over the death of elder brother of Sardar Akhtar Jan Mengal on Monday.

In her condolence statement, she said that we shared the grief of the deceased's family and stand with them in this difficult time. She prayed that Allah Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal abode with peace and granting courage to the bereaved family members.

179, 210 Pakistanis to perform Hajj this year

INP

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Arabia will host 179,210 Hajj pilgrims from Pakistan as both countries have formally signed an agreement for Hajj 2025.

As per details, the signing ceremony was held between Pakistan's Ministry for Religious Affairs and the Saudi Ministry for Hajj. A total of 179,210 Pakistani citizens are expected to perform Hajj this year.

Pakistani pilgrims will be allocated a special area in Mina, with rates for this arrangement set to be reduced.

In addition, the pilgrims will have the option to select their duration of stay in Madinah, ranging from four to eight days.

A spokesperson for the Ministry for Religious Affairs also highlighted the introduction of a new, shorter Hajj programme, lasting between 20 to 25 days.

The Saudi Hajj Ministry has assured full cooperation in offering the best possible services to the Pakistani pilgrims, promising that every effort will be made to enhance their experience during this holy journey.

Earlier on Jan 10, Pakistan Ministry of Religious Affairs has granted private Hajj organizing companies and their sub-companies permission to commence bookings for Hajj 2025.

According to Ministry's spokesperson, Private Hajj Scheme bookings will remain open from January 10 to 31, 2025.

He said the ministry has published details of various Hajj packages under the Private Hajj Scheme on its official website.

Minister calls for cementing Pak-Kyrgyz ties in diverse sectors

APP

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Education and Professional Training, Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui says Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan should enhance bilateral ties especially in exchange of technology, education and research.

He was talking to a high-powered delegation of Kyrgyzstan, led Minister of Education and Science Ms. Dogdurkul Kendirbaeva in Islamabad today.

Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui welcomed the Kyrgyz Minister of Education and Science and said that the International Conference on Girl's Education has provided the Islamic countries with an opportunity to come closer.

He also welcomed the enhanced cooperation between Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan in the field of education.

The Minister discussed exchange of expertise and knowledge regarding vocational and technical training between the

two countries saying that both the countries can benefit from the experience of each other in these sectors.

He also highlighted the E-Taleem and Teleschool platforms of the Ministry of Education to develop digital solutions to prevalent problems in the public education sector.

He said both Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan should also look towards collaboration on multilateral platforms such as ECO.

In her remarks, Ms. Dogdurkul Kendirbaeva said people of Kyrgyzstan have deep affiliation with Pakistan. She said that University to University cooperation and Technical Institution to Technical Institution collaboration is the way forward.

She also briefed Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui about a digital learning platform being used in Kyrgyzstan that has reaped good results. Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan to Pakistan Avazbek Atakhanov was also present on the occasion.

CM Bugti for protection of rare forests, wildlife

APP

Quetta: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Monday chaired a review meeting of the Forest Department for the protection and sustainability of rare forests and wildlife in the province.

The meeting was attended by Provincial Minister Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani, Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan, Principal Secretary Babar Khan, Additional Chief Secretary Development and Planning Hafiz Abdul Basit, Secretary Forest Noor Ahmed Perkani and other relevant officials.

The meeting was briefed by the Forest Department officials on the measures taken for the protection of forests and wildlife. Addressing at the meeting, Balochistan Chief Minister has directed to take the measures for the protection of forests and wildlife effective saying that there are reports of the brutal killing of

rare wildlife in some areas.

He said that some rare wildlife is facing the threat of extinction due to reckless illegal hunting.

The CM also directed that a committee consisting of tribal elders and local tribes should be formed for community monitoring for preventing illegal hunting and safety of the wildlife.

"Strict legal action should be taken against the hunters involved in illegal hunting", he instructed.

The CM said that the restoration of the International Funds for Protected Areas would be discussed with the Federal Ministry of Climate Change.

Secretary Forest Department Noor Ahmed Pirkani said that in briefing that three accused involved in illegal hunting in Takto have been arrested.

He said that all three accused are government employees, legal action is being taken against them.

Pakistan, Bangladesh agree to strengthen bilateral trade ties

APP

ISLAMABAD: The diplomats from Pakistan and Bangladesh have called for strengthening bilateral trade ties.

This was agreed at a meeting between Consul General of Bangladesh in Dubai Muhammad Rashedujjaman and his Pakistani counterpart Hussain Muhammad in Dubai.

Welcoming the visiting Consul General, Hussain Muhammad emphasized the importance of strengthening ties between Bangladesh and Pakistan, particularly in trade.

Both diplomats acknowledged the potential for collaboration and agreed to engage their respective consulates' trade sections to further promote bilateral cooperation.

Both sides had an in-depth discussion on various consular services including passport issuance, national identity cards, and visa procedures.

They agreed to enhance information sharing and future collaboration regarding community services and public awareness initiatives.

LA wildfires rage on for 6th day as 24 dead and thousands displaced

MONITORING DESK

LOS ANGELES: The wildfires devastating Los Angeles have escalated into one of the most catastrophic natural disasters in the region's history.

As the fires burn uncontrollably into their sixth consecutive day, the death toll has reached 24, with more than 100,000 residents forced to flee their homes and over 12,000 structures reduced to ashes.

The situation in Los Angeles remains dire as firefighters battle ferocious flames, helped by aerial teams dropping water and fire retardant from helicopters and planes.

Despite these efforts, the fires have ravaged entire neighborhoods, leaving behind a trail of destruction and turning bustling urban areas into apocalyptic landscapes.

The largest blazes are the Palisades Fire on the western side of Los Angeles and the Eaton

Fire in the foothills to the east. The Palisades Fire has consumed more than 23,000 acres (96 square kilometers), and officials report it is only 11% contained.

The Eaton Fire, meanwhile, has scorched nearly 14,000 acres (57 square kilometers) and remains 27% contained.

PM orders swift completion of low-cost housing projects

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed the authorities to complete the ongoing low-cost housing projects at the earliest.

He issued these directives while chairing a review meeting of the projects being carried out by the Ministry of Housing and Works in Islamabad today.

The Prime Minister also directed for collaborate with the private sector to enhance investment in the housing projects. He instructed to ensure validation of the third party in Federal government housing projects.

Shehbaz Sharif said the construction companies, having international repute, should be selected for projects to be built for government employees and masses. He also directed to select the companies for construction projects, ensuring a transparent procedure and on merit.

The Prime Minister instructed that construction projects should be completed within their stipulated time. The meeting was apprised about the dissolution of PWD and other dysfunctional institutions.

The Prime Minister expressed satis-

faction over the reduction in corruption due to the dissolution of PWD and other dysfunctional institutions. He said the digitization of the system for allotment of houses to the government employees is a welcoming.

He said every possible measure will be taken to provide low-cost accommodation to every

citizen of Pakistan. He said reforms are underway to check corruption in the projects meant for provision of low-cost houses to the people.

The Prime Minister also sought a comprehensive plan from the Ministry of Housing for provision of international standard facilities to the people. He directed to formulate and get approval to the National Housing Policy by March.

Shehbaz Sharif said Pakistan's image at the global level has been restored due to the efforts of government as international cricket along with other sports and international conferences are being hosted in the country.

The Prime Minister directed the concerned authorities to construct international standard hotels, hospitals and establish other facilities for the guests coming from abroad.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chaired a review meeting of the ongoing projects in the Ministry of Housing & Works.

Security forces intensifying counter-terrorism operations: NA

APP

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly was informed today that the security forces are focusing on intelligence-based operations to neutralize terrorists and their facilitators.

Minister for Defense Khawaja Muhammad Asif informed the House during the Question Hour today that Pakistan is the only country fighting the onslaught of terrorists' organizations based in Afghanistan such as Fitnah-al-Khwarij and Daesh.

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar told the House that content being aired on television channels is not being pre-censored by PEMRA.

However, it is their prime responsibility to adhere to the code of conduct.

Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar told the House that a tech-

nology based system will be implemented in the federal capital for disposal of solid waste. He said the CDA is working on war footing in this regard.

Responding to a calling attention notice,

Minister for Law Azam Nazeer Tarar informed the House that strict action is being taken against human trafficking on the directions of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Giving details of the action taken against human traffickers, he said 1638 arrests were made and 458 traffickers were convicted in the last year. He said that action was also taken against the FIA officials for their nexus with these criminals.

The National Assembly today passed the National Commission on the Status of Women Amendment Bill, 2024.

It was moved by Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar.

Barrister Gohar criticizes court's postponement of verdict in Khan's case

INP

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar has expressed dissatisfaction with the postponement of the verdict in the 190 million-pound corruption case against PTI founder Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi.

Speaking to the media outside Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail, Gohar claimed that the court staff had informed them earlier that the verdict would be announced on Monday. However, he noted that despite their preparedness, the judge decided to postpone the decision unexpectedly.

"We were told before entering the jail that the verdict had been postponed. We came prepared for the verdict.

The court staff had told us that the verdict would be announced at 11 am today," Barrister Gohar said. "If the verdict was based on justice, then Imran Khan should have been acquitted.

He further stated that PTI clearly perceives an injustice being done, as the case against Imran Khan regarding the 190 million pounds is baseless, emphasizing that the PTI founder did not bene-

fit financially from any alleged wrongdoing. He added, "We see the writing on the wall clearly."

The accountability court had earlier delayed the verdict for the third time, and the case was heard in Adiala Jail by Accountability Court Judge Nasir Javed Rana. Despite efforts to notify PTI founder Imran Khan, neither he nor his wife, Bushra Bibi, appeared in court. The PTI leader's sisters, Aleema Khan and Uzma Khan, attended the hearing.

As a result of the absence of the accused, the court decided to postpone the verdict, which will now be announced on January 17, 2025. The case has sparked significant security measures, with additional police personnel, including female officers and elite force contingents, deployed outside Adiala Jail to maintain order.

Authorities heightened security at Gate No. 5 of the jail, where government officials entering were also searched, ensuring tight control over the area.

The PTI leadership remains vocal in their criticism of the ongoing legal proceedings, asserting that Imran Khan has faced undue scrutiny and that the case lacks substantial evidence.

Plenary Session I – Innovation: The Solution to Unlock the Next Growth Engine
 主題討論 I — 創新：解鎖新增長引擎的方案

HONG KONG: Finance Minister of Pakistan Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, delivering a keynote speech at the Asian Financial Forum 2025. The Minister emphasized the transformative role of innovation in driving economic growth and highlighted Pakistan's commitment to fostering a culture of technological advancement and entrepreneurship.