

DAILY MIRROR

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Five soldiers among 18 martyred, 16 terrorists killed in Bannu Cantt attack: ISPR

APP

RAWALPINDI: Eighteen people, including five soldiers, were martyred and 16 terrorists were killed in an attack on Bannu Cantonment, said military's media wing in a statement on Wednesday.

The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said the cowardly terrorist attack was attempted on March 4, adding that the assailants sought to breach the Cantonment's security. However, their nefarious designs were swiftly and decisively foiled by the vigilant and resolute response of Pakistan's security forces.

In their desperation, the attackers rammed two explosive-laden vehicles into the perimeter wall.

"Displaying unwavering courage and professional excellence, our valiant troops engaged the intruders with precision, eliminating all sixteen terrorists, including four suicide bombers. In this intense exchange of fire, five brave soldiers, after putting up a heroic resistance, embraced martyrdom in the line of duty," read the statement.

The multiple suicide blasts resulted in the partial collapse of the perimeter wall, causing damage to the adjacent infrastructure. Tragically, a mosque and a civilian residential building in close proximity also suffered severe destruction, leading to the martyrdom of 13 innocent civilians and injuries to 32 others, it said. Intelligence reports have unequivocally confirmed the physical involvement of Afghan nationals in this heinous act, with evidence also pointing to the fact that the attack was orchestrated and directed by terrorist ringleaders operating from Afghanistan. "Pakistan expects the Interim Afghan Government to uphold its responsibilities and deny its soil for terrorist activities against Pakistan. Pakistan reserves the right to take necessary measures in response to these threats emanating from across the border," ISPR said. The security forces of Pakistan remain steadfast in their resolve to eradicate terrorism in all its forms. The sacrifices of our brave soldiers and innocent civilians further reinforce our unwavering commitment to safeguarding our nation at all costs.



Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a meeting with a delegation of Aleria and IFZA UAE held in Islamabad

Motorcycle blast kills 4, injures 5 in Balochistan's Khuzdar: police

NEWS DESK

KHUZDAR: Four people were killed and five others were injured when an improvised explosive device (IED) attached to a motorcycle went off in a market in Balochistan's Khuzdar district, according to the police.

Naal police Station House Officer (SHO) Bahawal Khan Pindrani confirmed the casualties to Dawn.com, saying that the condition of one of the injured was serious. District Health Officer Rafiq Sasoli also confirmed the same.

The SHO said the explosive was attached to a motorcycle and detonated remotely after the bike was parked beside a car.

He said the bomb disposal squad was present on the spot and inspecting the site. However, a statement from rescue service Edhi Foundation put the death toll higher at five with several injured in the blast in Khuzdar's Naal Bazaar. It added that the

casualties were moved to the hospital for treatment.

Khuzdar Senior Superintendent of Police Javed Zehri told Dawn.com the blast occurred near a college in the market's vicinity and burnt vehicles too. He said the injured were taken to Khuzdar Teaching Hospital for treatment.

Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti strongly condemned the blast in a statement, adding that orders were issued to provide the injured with the best medical care available.

"Terrorism will be eradicated in all its forms," CM Bugti was quoted as saying. "Elements hostile to peace will fail in their nefarious objectives and those involved in this incident will be brought to justice."

Balochistan government spokesperson Shahid Rind also condemned the blast and "regretted the loss of human life".

PM Shehbaz welcomes Trump's appreciation for Pakistan's counter-terrorism contributions

APP

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif expressed gratitude to United States President Donald Trump for acknowledging and appreciating Pakistan's role and support in counter terrorism efforts in Afghanistan.

In a post on his X handle, PM Shehbaz said Pakistan will continue to partner closely with the United States in securing regional peace and stability.

PM Shehbaz said Pakistan has always played a critical role in counter terrorism efforts aimed at denying safe havens to terrorists and militant groups the space to operate against any other country.

PM Shehbaz said Pakistan remains steadfast in its resolve and unwavering commit-

ment to combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. In this effort, he said Pakistan has rendered great sacrifices including the lives of over eighty thousand of our brave soldiers and citizens.

PM Shehbaz said the resolve of our leadership and people remains unflinching to eradicate the menace of terrorism from the country.

Earlier, US President Donald Trump thanked the Pakistani government for arresting the 'top terrorist' of Daesh who was allegedly involved in Kabul airport blast that killed 13 US soldiers and 170 Afghans.

In his first speech at Congress since retaking office for a second term, Donald Trump said Tuesday that Pakistan had helped apprehend "the top terrorist responsible for that atrocity."



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhail in a meeting with Former Coordinator CM Balochistan Abdul Fateh Jamal.

Neither army nor military courts part of judiciary: SC judge

Justice Mandokhel says word court martial has been used in the law but not the military court

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar has observed that neither the armed forces nor the military court are part of the judiciary, nor is it written in any judicial verdict that the military court is part of the judiciary.

His remarks come as a seven-member constitutional bench of the apex court — headed by Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan — on Wednesday heard the federal government and defence ministry's pleas against the military trial of civilians as unconstitutional.

The other members of the bench were Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Mazhar, Justice Syed Hassan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Musarrat Hilali, Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan and Justice Shahid Bilal Hassan.

Presenting his arguments on behalf of former officer bearers of the Supreme Court Bar Council, Advocate Abid Zuberi said FB Ali was a hero of the 1965 war, but he was accused of misusing his office after retirement. "How could a retired person use his office?" he wondered.

He went on to say that Gen Ziaul Haq conducted a military trial of FB Ali, but then he himself released him in 1978.

To this, Justice Mandokhail said Gen Zia did what FB Ali wanted to do.

Justice Mazhar said there were two objections raised over the military courts — military trials are not impartial, and those conducting military trials lack legal experience.

On the question of whether military courts are part of the judiciary, advocate Zuberi said army courts are part of the executive.

"What do they have to do with the executive," questioned Justice Mazhar. Advocate Zuberi replied that the army was supposed to fight on the frontiers.

Justice Mandokhail said the military's job is to defend the country.

Justice Mazhar: "Do you accept the military courts. If so, then the results will be very different. Justice Muneeb Akhtar did not write military courts [in the verdict] as judiciary. There is no clarity about the military courts in any verdict of the court."

PM reiterates his govt's resolve to purge country of polio virus

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday reiterating his government's resolve to purge the country of polio virus, said that the downward trend in February this year evidenced the effectiveness of the polio vaccination drives in the country.

The prime minister, chairing a meeting regarding the anti-polio vaccination drive, appreciated the administration of all provinces for their efforts to timely identify polio cases resulting into the gradual downward trend, according to a PM Office press release.

He said that the cooperation between the federation and provinces was inevitable to completely eradicate the polio virus.

Appreciating the cooperation by the security forces during the polio campaigns, he directed the digitization of polio data and strict monitoring.

The participants of the meeting were informed

that the anti-polio campaign was going on with full momentum in all provinces.

It was told that in polio vaccination drive of February this year, 42.5 million children were administered polio drops and nearly 90% of the child population in polio-affected districts were vaccinated.

The authorities informed that six polio cases have been reported so far this year.

Since the launch of the February's anti-polio campaign, a significant reduction in polio cases has been observed, particularly in polio-affected districts such as Balochistan, Sindh, and southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

It was told that three polio campaigns during the first six months was part of the plan, of which the first one had been conducted in February, while the other two are scheduled for April and May.

All aspects of the polio campaign are being continuously monitored through an IT dashboard.

Opposition alliance depends on PTI conduct: JUI-F

INP

ISLAMABAD: JUI leader Abdul Ghafoor Haideri has said that the opposition alliance led by Maulana Fazlur Rehman depends on the conduct of the PTI.

Secretary General JUI talking to media said that the alliance has been unlikely until the PTI shows seriousness and the authority been given to its 'outside leadership'.

"How could the opposition's alliance be possible, when the PTI won't have an alliance within party," JUI leader questioned. "The PTI itself facing a dilemma. They first decide if they have to come to the ground," Haideri said.

He said the PTI's chief minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has been unbribed, speaks without any restraint. "When we decided the ceasefire, our party workers had objected, pointing to the JUI's differences with the PTI," he said. "We could not fight with both, the opposition and the government," JUI secretary general said. He said, Maulana Fazlur Rehman had thoroughly talked to the PTI at every issue when the 26th Amendment was being discussed. "Don't know why, they are now demanding repeal of the 26th Amend and who is behind it," he said.

Pakistan desires to strengthen longstanding ties with US: DPM

APP

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar received a call from US National Security Advisor Michael Waltz, who conveyed President Donald Trump's appreciation and thanks for Government of Pakistan's efforts in countering terrorism.

Ishaq Dar congratulated the NSA on his assumption of office and reiterated that Pakistan looks forward to building on its longstanding and broad-based relationship with the United States under President Donald Trump and his Administration.

He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to continue its cooperation with the United States in the field of counter terrorism. Ishaq Dar also appreciated President Donald Trump's announcement to withdraw the US military equipment left behind in Afghanistan.

The two sides reaffirmed their commitment to enhance cooperation in IT, energy and mineral sectors. They also agreed on the need to have continued dialogues on trade, investment, climate change and health as part of a broad-based agenda in the days to come.

IMF 'asks' Pakistan to achieve revenue shortfall in next fiscal quarter

INP

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has 'asked' Pakistan to achieve revenue shortfall in the next fiscal quarter.

"There is no room for revenue shortfall," IMF delegation led by Nathan Porter reportedly told Pakistan during the talks to unlock \$1 billion loan tranche of \$7bn loan programme.

Sources revealed that during the talks Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) held extensive discussions on key economic and financial matters.

During prolonged sessions, officials from the Ministry of Finance and State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) engaged with the IMF delegation on various sub-

jects, including Islamic banking reforms, refinance schemes, and the development finance transition.

The IMF delegation urged the operationalization of the Bank Resolution Framework to strengthen the banking sector and reduce financial risks.

Discussions also covered the external sector review and foreign exchange market trends, the sources added.

The government briefed the IMF on monetary policy measures, while the IMF stressed the need for timely right-sizing measures to curb expenditures.

The sources further said that the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) was asked to enhance compliance risk management and implement improvement plans for better tax collection.

Balochistan govt condemns incident of blast in Khuzdar

APP

Quetta: Balochistan Government Spokesman Shahid Rind on Wednesday said that Balochistan government strongly condemned the incident of blast in Tehsil Naal area of Khuzdar district which left four dead.

He said that the government expressed sorrow on losses of precious lives saying that such cowardly attack could not weaken moral of security forces and public.

He said that anti-peace elements are trying to destabilize peace and halt development process through sabotage activities which would be foiled in contribution of security forces and people for interest of durable peace.

He said that strict measures would be taken to arrest those elements involved in the incident to bring them to justice. Shahid Rind said that directives are issued to Health Department to provide best medical facilities to the injured in the concerned hospital.

Sardar Owais Leghari, Musaddaq Malik, Ikhtiar Wali meet PM

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Federal minister for power Sardar Owais Ahmad Leghari and minister for petroleum Musaddaq Malik have held separate meetings with Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif.

Matters related to respective ministries came under discussion during meetings.

They exchanged views on overall political situation of the country in the meetings. Moreover PML-N KP leader Ikhtiar Wali also met PM Shehbaz Sharif.

Overall political situation of the country came under discussion in the meeting.

PM directed Ikhtiar Wali to improve mass contacts further with reference to party matters in KP.

As per sources Ikhtiar Wali gave explanation about his dissenting note in regard to decisions of central leadership of the party.

Ikhtiar Wali had expressed his reservations following induction of Pervaiz Khattak in cabinet.

PM vows to create business-friendly environment in Pakistan

APP

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said the government is taking priority measures to provide a business and investment-friendly environment in the country.

He was talking to an eight-member delegation from the International Free Zones Authority of the United Arab Emirates and the Aleria Group in Islamabad today.

Welcoming the delegation, the Prime Minister said Pakistan and the UAE share longstanding fraternal relations spanning decades. He highlighted the vast investment opportunities available in various sectors of Pakistan.

The delegation commended the economic stability of Pakistan under the leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

The delegation members acknowledged Pakistan as an emerging and the most suitable market for investment in the region.

The delegation expressed keen interest in further expanding their investment footprint in Pakistan.

A memorandum of understanding was exchanged between the UAE's International Free Zones Authority and Pakistan's.

Board of Investment regarding investments in Pakistan's existing Special Economic Zones.

The UAE's International Free Zones Authority will invest in multiple projects within Pakistan's existing Special Economic Zones.

The meeting was attended by International Free Zones Authority Chairman Martin Gregers Pederson, Aleria's Managing Partner, and other officials from Aleria and IFZA.

Aleria Partners with Fauji Foundation to Empower Social Welfare and Economic Growth with Advanced AI Solutions

Press Release

Rawalpindi: Aleria, the leading C-level AI platform, is pleased to announce a strategic partnership with Fauji Foundation, one of Pakistan's foremost conglomerates. This collaboration will integrate Aleria's advanced AI solutions into Fauji Foundation's operations, enhancing efficiency, improving decision-making, and reducing costs across its healthcare, education, energy, and food sectors.

With Fauji Foundation's expanded suite of AI solutions and powerful capabilities such as workforce optimization and predictive analytics, the foundation can now leverage Aleria's ability to streamline HR operations, enhance resource management, and improve decision-making across departments. These solutions are designed to address key business and social challenges while enabling Fauji Foundation to harness the full potential of AI.

- Fauji Foundation CEO: "We are committed to providing innovative solutions that empower our social welfare programs and drive economic growth. Fauji Foundation is a cornerstone of Pakistan's development, and with intelligent tools like Aleria-powered AI solutions, we are helping our beneficiaries

work smarter, enhance productivity, and uncover new pathways to success. In a fast-changing world, technology is the bridge that connects ambition to achievement, enabling us to stay ahead, adapt, and thrive."

- Eric Leandri, CEO, Aleria: "At Aleria, we are proud to partner with Fauji Foundation, an organization that has been a beacon of social welfare and economic development in Pakistan. Our commitment to empower organizations with advanced AI solutions that enhance efficiency and drive growth while ensuring data sovereignty is unwavering. With our AI technology, we help organizations capitalize on challenges and enable them to thrive in a rapidly evolving business landscape. We are honored to deliver such sovereign solutions to Fauji Foundation and contribute to the betterment of Pakistan."

Aleria will equip Fauji Foundation with a comprehensive suite of AI solutions, designed to elevate the foundation's operations to new heights. These advanced tools will enable Fauji Foundation to harness the power of AI for strategic planning, data-driven decision-making, and seamless collaboration, ensuring that its social welfare and economic initiatives are executed with unparalleled precision and efficiency.



Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif exchanging views with Sardar Awais Ahmed Leghari, Federal Minister for Power during meeting held in Islamabad

We Are Determined to Build 05 Lakh Houses in 05 Years: CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif

ONLINE

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif chaired a special meeting to review issues related to 3-Marla Free Plot Scheme, besides the provision of loans to people, who get free plots, for building their own houses. She directed the authorities concerned to improve and rehabilitate the previous 23 housing schemes of PHATA in 19 districts, and directed them to take immediate steps for the release of funds for the purpose.

Madam Chief Minister said, "There is a lot of concern about providing roofs to homeless people." She added, "It gives me great pleasure to see people's houses being built under 'Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar' program."

Earlier, DG Punjab Housing and Town Planning Agency (PHATA) gave a detailed briefing about the progress made so far on 'Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar' program. He apprised Madam Chief Minister, "Repayment of loans under 'Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar' program has started." He added, "The repayment rate of loans taken under the program is 100%."

Providing health facilities to people top priority of govt: DC Barkhan

APP

Quetta: Deputy Commissioner Barkhan Abdullah Khosa said that providing basic health facilities to the people is the top priority of the government.

He said this while paying a surprise visit to Basic Health Unit Aishani on Wednesday.

The Deputy Commissioner checked the OPD, medicine store and treatment processes of the patients.

The staff informed the Deputy Commissioner about the Basic Health Unit and shortage of medicines and other issues. On this occasion, Deputy Commissioner Abdullah Khosa issued strict instructions to the doctors and said that no negligence would be tolerated in the treatment and care of patients.



Inundated road by overflowing sewerage water, creating problems for residents and commuters, showing negligence of concerned authorities, at Jinnah road in Quetta.

Saifullah Khetran takes charge as DG of GDA

APP

Quetta: The new Director General (DG) of the Gwadar Development Authority (GDA), Mir Saifullah Khetran officially assumed charge of his post on Wednesday.

Mir Saifullah Khetran held introductory meeting with staff where he was also briefed about the department in detail. He also urged concerned staff that they would play their role for addressing timely issues of public.

Earlier, Mr. Saifullah Khetran served as the Director General of Fisheries, Commissioner of the Rakhshan Division, and Deputy Commissioner in various districts of Balochistan. His professional expertise and vast experience would play a significant role in the development of the Gwadar Development Authority.

President Trump Declares 'America's Momentum Is Back' in Historic Address to Congress

By Khawaja Farooq

WASHINGTON: In a landmark address to a joint session of Congress on March 4, 2025, President Donald Trump proclaimed that "America's momentum is back," highlighting the achievements of his administration during the initial weeks of his second term.

The President emphasized the resurgence of the American Dream, stating that it is "surging bigger and better than ever before." He outlined his administration's commitment to common-sense principles, including robust border security measures and a renewed focus on law enforcement support.

Trump also addressed foreign policy initiatives, expressing optimism about potential peace prospects and

reaffirming his dedication to ending prolonged conflicts. He underscored his administration's efforts to bolster the economy through strategic tariffs aimed at protecting American industries and workers.

The President's speech resonated with many Americans, inspiring a renewed sense of national pride and optimism about the country's future. His vision for a "Golden Age" of America reflects a commitment to policies that prioritize the well-being and prosperity of all citizens.

Overall, President Trump's address



to Congress showcased a confident and ambitious agenda, reinforcing his administration's dedication to revitalizing the nation's economy, strengthening national security, and promoting unity across the country.

Financial assistance checks distribute among 104 minority people in Nasirabad

APP

Quetta: In light of the orders of Parliamentary Secretary for Minority Affairs Sanjay Kumar Panjwani, Focal Person Naserabad Division Roshan Raj, financial assistance checks including scholarship, marriage dowry and medical were distributed among 104 deserving minority people in Naserabad district on Wednesday. According to Parliamentary Secretary for Minority Affairs Sanjay Kumar Panjwani, assistance checks are being distributed to minority people across Balochistan. In this regard, Deputy Commissioners in all dis-

tricts and committees have been formed at the provincial level, which are distributing financial assistance checks to minority people respectively. At present, checks have been distributed to 104 minority people in Naserabad district, each student is being given Rs. 145,000 for scholarship, Rs. 90,000 for marriage, Rs. 85,000 for medical and Rs. 22,000 for financial assistance. He said that our aim is to provide financial assistance to minority people for insuring financial assistance saying that in the light of the orders of Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Khan Bugti, financial assistance has been continued.



Food items are being selling before Iftar times (breaking fast meal), as demand of food items increased in city during the Holy Month of Ramadan-ul-Mubarak, at Shawak Shah road in Quetta.



No Champions Trophy final deals one last blow to hosts Pakistan

SPORTS DESK

Pakistan cricket fans and former players seethed on Wednesday after the host country's already disappointing Champions Trophy suffered one last blow: no final.

"It's totally unfair," said Moeed Ali Khan, a private car driver outside Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium to watch the second semi-final between South Africa and New Zealand.

"I am disgusted, neither our team is in the final nor is the final in Pakistan."

Pakistan celebrated on February 19 when the country began staging its first major international cricket tournament in three decades.

But it was all downhill after that.

The hosts lost the opening match to New Zealand and their title defence was over with a comprehensive defeat to arch-rivals India.

Their dead-rubber final group match, against Bangladesh, was washed out.

This Sunday's final was scheduled for Lahore, but with one big caveat: not if India reached the title decider. By defeating Australia in the first semi-final on Tuesday, India did just that. India have played all their games, including the Australia clash, in Dubai after refusing to visit neighbouring Pakistan because of political tensions. The final will also be at Dubai International Cricket Stadium.

Pakistan only agreed to the so-called hybrid model of hosting on the condition that they will also not send their team to India for upcoming ICC events.



New Zealand's Michael Bracewell and Glenn Phillips in action running between the wickets at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore.

Champions Trophy: New Zealand power to 362-6 in semi-final against South Africa

SPORTS DESK

Rachin Ravindra and Kane Williamson struck brilliant centuries as New Zealand posted the highest-ever Champions Trophy total of 362-6 in their semi-final against South Africa in Lahore on Wednesday.

Ravindra cracked a 101-ball 108 while Williamson hit 102 off 94 balls on a batting-friendly Gaddafi Stadium pitch after New Zealand won the toss and batted first. Daryl Mitchell clubbed 49 off 37 balls and Glenn Phillips smashed a 27-ball 49 not out as the Black Caps plundered 110 runs in the last 10 overs and 66 in the last five.

The winners will face India in the final in Dubai on Sunday.

South Africa's bowling line-up struggled right from the start as Ravindra and Will Young (21) put on 48 for the opening stand.

It was followed by a magnificent 164-run stand for the second wicket between Ravindra and Williamson that put the New Zealanders on track for a massive total, as the duo scored at will with some delightful strokes.

Ravindra completed his fifth ODI hundred — all coming in ICC events — from 93 balls with a two off Kagiso Rabada.

Williamson reached his 15th ODI hundred with a ramped boundary, his third three-figure score in as many matches

against South Africa.

It was Rabada who finally ended the partnership by dismissing Ravindra caught behind. Ravindra hit 13 fours and one six in total.

Williamson chipped Wiaan Mulder into the hands of Lungi Ngidi in the 40th over after hitting 10 fours and two sixes.

Mitchell and Phillips added some late impetus after South Africa had briefly dragged things back to give themselves hope of limiting the score to under 350.

Fast bowler Ngidi finished with 3-72, while Rabada ended with figures of 2-70.

Australia posted the previous highest Champions Trophy total with a successful chase of 356-5 against England in the group stage, also in Lahore, giving the Proteas hope that they can still reach the final.

Both sides are former winners of the Champions Trophy in its past iterations. South Africa won in 1998 and New Zealand were victors in 2000 when the tournament was called the ICC Knockout Trophy. White-ball title triumphs have eluded both sides since and although both teams have gone far in ICC tournaments, they have never been able to cross the finish line. This semi-final will be the final Champions Trophy match to be played in Pakistan after India refused to travel to hosts Pakistan over unspecified reasons and qualified for the final match, which will now be held in Dubai.

Australia's Steve Smith retires from one-day internationals

SPORTS DESK

Steve Smith announced his retirement from one-day international cricket on Wednesday after captaining Australia to a semi-final exit at the Champions Trophy, bringing down the curtain on a career in the format that included two World Cup wins.

The 35-year-old batsman, who was his team's top scorer with 73 as Australia lost to India by four wickets in Dubai on Tuesday, said he would still be available for selection for T20 internationals and test matches.

"It has been a great ride and I have loved every minute of it," Smith said in a Cricket Australia statement.

"There have been so many amazing times and wonderful memories. Winning two World Cups was a great highlight along with the many fantastic teammates who shared the journey.

"Now is a great opportunity for people to start preparing for the 2027 World Cup so it feels like the right time to make way."

Smith scored exactly 5,800 runs at an average of 43.28 with 12 centuries in 170 ODIs since making his debut in the format in early 2010 as a spin-bowling all-rounder.

He scored five half-centuries, including an unbeaten 56 in the final, to help Australia to win the 2015 World Cup on home soil, and was part of the team that regained the trophy in India in 2023.

Smith also captained the ODI side from 2015 until 2018, when he was sacked as skipper as part of his punishment for his involvement in the Newlands ball-tampering scandal during a test series in South Africa.

After serving a one-year ban from top class cricket, Smith has again been a stalwart presence for his country in all three formats, returning as stand-in captain in tests for a tour of Sri Lanka earlier this year and in ODIs for the Champions Trophy.

"Test cricket remains a priority and I am really looking forward to the World Test Championship final, the West Indies in the winter and then England at home," Smith added. "I feel I still have a lot to contribute on that stage."

Australia's chief selector, George Bailey, said Cricket Australia understood and supported Smith's decision.

"Steve has said on many occasions he is approaching the remainder of his playing career on a series-by-series basis," he said.



Australia's Steve Smith in action in India v Australia - Dubai International Stadium, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Only electronic bid will be submitted, No physical bid is required. Request for Proposal for selection of Consultancy service invited on Electronic Public Procurement System (EPPS) from well reputed national/International firms (JV) / service provider meeting with eligibility criteria, viz having registration with FBR for Income Tax and BRA and who are on Active Taxpayers List (ATL) having registration with PEC as a Consulting Engineering Firm, and are not black listed in any procuring agency or authority for preparation of Hiring of "Consultancy Services from Consulting Firms" Titled as **CONSULTANCY OF BURN UNIT AT LORALAI PSDP NO 2412 (Z2024-0849) Bid Security 2% Detail as under:**

S.No.	Description	E/Cost
1	CONSULTANCY OF BURN UNIT AT LORALAI PSDP NO 2412 (Z2024-0849) TSE242503657364	7,363,000

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: 2 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity Turn over of at least 5,000,000 PKR Amount in 3 Subsequent Previous Years Presence in Active Tax Payer List BRA Registration Certificate The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan PEC/PCAD Registration Procedure of Procurement: Two Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of 2% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. The FINANCIAL PROPOSALS shall be opened of those consultants whose technical proposal is considered and approved. The Selection of Consultants shall be made as per Evaluation Criteria method as mentioned in the "Date Sheet" of this "Request for Proposal" document. The incomplete request for proposal or received after due date mentioned above will not be considered. The RFP Documents can be downloaded from BPPRA Website (www.bppra.gov.pk). Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 20 March, 2025 till 11:00 AM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 12:00 PM Address: office of the executive engineer buildings CWPP&H Department zhab road loralai

Phone no: 3337768853 Email: dawoodtareenx@gmail.com

Executive Engineer (Buildings), CWPP&H Department, District Loralai

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Terrorism challenge

AS the country continues to face a multifaceted terrorism threat, the state has yet to come up with a matching response, even as we continue to lose a high number of security men and civilians to terrorist attacks.

Figures released for February by the PICSS think tank point to the grim reality we face: over 100 lives were lost to terrorism last month, with civilian fatalities (55) overtaking those of security personnel (47). In keeping with earlier trends, the violence has been concentrated in KP and Balochistan, with religiously inspired militants such as the banned TTP, as well as Baloch separatists, spearheading the violent campaigns. Even in the current month, the past few days have seen numerous incidents of bloodletting. The latest incident occurred on Tuesday, when suicide bombers reportedly struck Bannu Cantonment. Earlier, an FC man was martyred on Monday when a woman suicide bomber, apparently belonging to the banned BLA, carried out an attack near Kalat. Four security men were similarly martyred in firefights with terrorists in North Waziristan. Meanwhile, the deadly bombing of the Haqqania madrasah last week — believed to be the handiwork of IS — shows that other militant actors, too, feel confident enough to stage fresh attacks.

Many of these acts of terrorism have been carried out in regions bordering Afghanistan, where the Taliban rulers are hostile to some terrorist groups, such as IS, yet maintain cordial ties with others, such as the TTP. Therefore, Pakistan has few options but to cooperate on the counterterrorism issue with Kabul. But bilateral ties are going through a particularly low phase, with the Torkham border closed since Feb 21, after the Afghan side reportedly started construction in a disputed area. Things have worsened since then as both sides exchanged fire, involving the use of heavy weapons, on Sunday. The fact is that while Pakistan is right in blaming the Afghan Taliban for doing little to curb cross-border terrorism, if ties deteriorate further, it will negatively affect CT cooperation.

The presence of IS in both countries should serve as a point of unity for Islamabad and Kabul. Both sides confront a bloodthirsty foe, and the only way to defeat it is to work together. Having said that, Kabul cannot rage against the 'bad' IS terrorists, and feign ignorance about the malign activities of the 'good' TTP terrorists. Action must be taken across the board, and all terrorist groups that threaten Pakistan should be dealt with by Kabul.

On the other hand, the state here must go beyond rhetoric and implement a CT strategy that can deliver lasting results. Over 1,600 security men and civilians lost their lives in terrorist attacks in 2024.

This blood-soaked trend must be arrested through an effective CT campaign.

By Asad Rahim Khan

Catch-26

THERE are two kinds of judges," the late Indian lawyer-vizier Arun Jaitley once said, "those who know the law, and those who know the law minister."

This rang even truer when Jaitley's boss, Narendra Modi, took a hatchet to India's judiciary, hoping to stuff it with the executive's men. The result was the 99th Amendment: like the 26th here, the 99th there was meant to stack the forum in charge of judicial appointments — reducing its judges, while bringing in the law minister and two worthies mainly selected by politicians.

As one can expect, the amendment landed in India's supreme court, where it was struck down. To safeguard the rights of citizens, held Justice Khehar, the judiciary had to be kept "absolutely insulated and independent from the other organs of governance". The day after the decision, the Indian Express headline ran, 'Court supreme: Supreme Court'.

In the decade since, Modi, Shah & Co have had to rely on less direct ways to mangle the system — passing ugly laws and banking on servile intellectuals on the bench, the recently retired Justice Chandrachud a case in point.

Still, had the court upheld the 99th Amendment, it would have had to surrender to its captors all at once. Instead, Modi is now faced with the tedious business of strangling judicial independence one slow tweak at a time. "We are the only country in the world where judges appoint judges," moaned Jaitley.

Had he looked to his left, he'd have found Pakistanis moaning the same thing — for as little reason: 'judges appointing judges' has been the best

solution to Islamabad and Delhi's shared inheritance; where the courts were created not to deliver justice, but to help British masters keep the peace among their wild subjects.

The result is the greatest judicial regression in 30 years.

After independence, however, the white wigs grew harder to justify: one could either keep the executive happy, or protect a free people's basic rights.

If with the former usually winning out: as our first half-century demonstrates, the third branch was less hammer than handmaiden; coups came giftwrapped as early as '54, ex-chief justices became Ayub and Yahya's law ministers, Bhutto extended pliant judges, and Zia purged naughty ones. Hence, as Khehar put it, the need to wall off the judiciary from the centre's sticky fingers. In Pakistan, that road has had three milestones. Held Sajjad Ali Shah in 'Al Jihad Trust' in 1996, "We do not buy the idea that soon as a judge takes oath, there is a sudden transformation, and he forgets his past connections..."

In response to Benazir's court-packing, the chief justice wrested appointments away from the executive (his court was stormed by Nawaz League goons a year later, judicial independence being a bipartisan ailment).

The next gains were powered by the lawyer's movement, itself a response to Musharraf detaining judges during emergency. The 18th and 19th Amendments created a new judicial commission for appointments, with the chief justice now part of a majority of judges, and a parliamentary committee — to much bellyaching — off to the sidelines.

Here it must be said the post-restoration judiciary proved deeply flawed:

billion-dollar disasters ensued in Reko Diq and Karkey; populist chiefs took senseless suo motus; and the lower courts remained as broken as ever, with pendency soaring.

Yet not a smidge of that has been on the 26th Amendment's awful agenda. If it were about the suo motu, that's been in constant decline since Saqib Nisar's exit. If it were about pendency, over 80 per cent of cases live and die at the district level, while this amendment only has eyes for superior courts.

Because the 26th was born not because of what the judges were getting wrong, but for what they were getting right: that polls be held in 90 days; that civilians be tried in civilian courts; that bail not be at executive whim; that fair judges decide election rigging; that reserved seats be meant for the parties that won them; and that the high courts be able to cry interference by the deep state.

The result is before us: the greatest judicial regression in 30 years. Appointments have returned to the crown, the post-Musharraf consensus stands shattered, and intra-court seniority undone, with five judges of the Islamabad High Court petitioning the Supreme Court for redressal. Throughout, the amendment has remained undecided.

Of course, the road to serfdom has three milestones too, mostly own-goals:

the toxic, two-year reference against Qazi Faez Isa at the behest of the shadowlands; the bizarre dissenting notes against the Bandial court directing polls in 90 days; and the bogus practice and procedure law. Finally, to paraphrase one sportswriter, the cherry on top of the plane crash: Chief Justice Isa's verdicts.

By Mahir Ali

What next?

SAY what you like about Imran Khan but his sense of timing is impeccable. As prime minister in February 2022, he managed to turn up in Moscow on the day that Vladimir Putin launched his invasion of Ukraine. Last Friday, a comment bearing his byline appeared in Time magazine. After the usual breast-beating and self-aggrandisement, it hailed Donald Trump's resurrection as a remarkable "testament to resilience and the will of the people".

On the day that Trump and his deputy went out of their way to humiliate Ukraine's elected leader Volodymyr Zelensky in the Oval Office, IK looked "forward to his administration reaffirming its commitment to democratic principles, human rights, and the rule of law — particularly in regions where authoritarianism threatens to undermine these values". Imran and his acolytes still seem to be counting on the elusive phone call that will mutate into a 'get out of jail free' card for him, and shameless flattery is the only way to grab Trump's attention — as Emmanuel Macron and Keir Starmer recently demonstrated.

It should be common knowledge, though, that Trump is also a fan of authoritarianism, and keen to emulate the likes of Javier Milei and Viktor Orbán.

He and the bunch of reprobates he has recruited have sowed chaos at both the domestic and international levels during the first 50 days of the second Trump regime.

Peace in Ukraine is desirable, but on what terms? It's understandable at this stage for Zelensky to bristle at the absence of Western security guarantees in Trump's ceasefire scenario — which relies on the hope that the

involvement of American companies in excavating Ukraine's minerals (with the US banking half the profits) would suffice in Vladimir Putin's eyes as a deterrent to further military assaults. Demanding that Ukraine pay back all that it received in US military assistance since 2022 is extortion rather than a peace plan. Yet Zelensky has been advised by the likes of Peter Mandelson, British ambassador to the US, to accept whatever Trump is proposing.

Western illiberalism trumps liberalism.

That was before the US suspended military aid to Ukraine on Monday, possibly as a means of coercing Zelensky to accept the same advice that Mandelson had proffered. The latter's boss, Starmer, might take a marginally different tack, but is equally desperate not to annoy Trump. Which is tricky, given that no one can be sure what might trigger the US president. Starmer's proposal for a European "coalition of the willing" to bolster Ukraine's defences with boots on the ground and warplanes in the air echoes the appellation attached to the military misadventure the UK walked into under Tony Blair by co-sponsoring the 2003 disaster in Iraq.

Starmer's attitude aligns with that of his counterparts in Nato and the European Union, which is to pursue the war until Putin cries uncle, or is overthrown and replaced by a more user-friendly Russian leader along the lines of Boris Yeltsin. Never say never, but that is unlikely.

Some of the EU's American frenemies, meanwhile, have been suggesting that Zelensky should resign — for the crime of not bending the knee to Emperor Donald and J.D. Vance, the presi-

dent's pet Chihuahua who likes to pretend he's a Rottweiler. In subsequent social media comments, Trump again slammed Zelensky for saying that a ceasefire was "very, very far away", and mocked European powers for acknowledging "that they cannot do the job without the US".

What exactly, though, is "the job"? Viewed in a broader historical context, it's understandable why western Europe might have latched on to America as its saviour and security guarantor

in the immediate aftermath of World War II, although even that arguably was an error, but what prevented it from seeking full independence in the decades that

followed? And what on earth persuaded European nations that ought to have known better from embracing the American hegemon with even greater gusto once the Warsaw Pact perished and the Soviet Union imploded in 1989-91?

The sovereignty of the independent Ukraine that emerged in 1991 should not have been violated in 2014, let alone bludgeoned in 2022. But, while Putin's government alone bears responsibility for its aggression three years ago, for which there was no immediate provocation, Moscow could hardly have been expected to ignore the years-long wooing of Kyiv by

Washington and Brussels, accompanied by consequential political interventions.

It's not that Moscow wasn't culpable in the context of influence operations, or the naked aggression that followed their failure. However, as in the 1970s, some kind of entente with Russia is the obvious alternative to rearmament on steroids and hostility based on variants of age-old Russophobia.

DAILY MIRROR

Pakistan successfully hosted multilateral int'l conferences; strengthened diplomatic outreach: MOFA

APP

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), last year, focused on revitalizing diplomatic ties and expanding engagement globally as the high-level visits and the successful hosting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization-Council of Heads of Government in Islamabad highlighted these efforts.

On the economic front, Pakistan attracted investments through the Special Investment Facilitation Council, with active support from its missions and consulates.

"Pakistan remains committed to safeguarding national security and geostrategic interests, including the peaceful resolution of Jammu & Kashmir in line with UNSC resolutions. The country prioritizes strengthening economic and commercial ties with the international community while ensuring the welfare of the Pakistani diaspora and optimizing resources to facilitate them," it was added.

Additionally, Pakistan actively promoted its positive global image to boost tourism, foster people-to-people connections, and enhance trade and business relations, a report of MOFA highlighted the incumbent government's one-year performance.

Throughout 2024, Pakistan actively worked to strengthen diplomatic ties worldwide while continuing its political and diplomatic support for the Jammu & Kashmir and Palestine causes at international forums, particularly the UN.

Pakistan extended its strong political, moral and diplomatic support for the people of Jammu & Kashmir at all relevant international forums, especially the UN and the OIC.

The prime minister highlighted the Jammu and Kashmir issue in his address before the United Nations General Assembly.

Pakistan successfully hosted multilateral int'l conferences; strengthened diplomatic outreach: MOFA

The deputy prime minister/foreign minister emphasized Pakistan's principled position on Jammu and Kashmir at the 15th OIC Summit held in Banjul, Gambia which adopted comprehensive communique including reaffirming support for the just settlement of the Jammu & Kashmir dispute as per the UNSC resolutions and wishes of the Kashmiri people.

"Pakistan has consistently provided unwavering diplomatic support to the Palestinian cause, denouncing Israeli aggression and advocating for Palestinian rights at international platforms such as the UN, OIC, and D-8," it said.

The prime minister attended the Arab-OIC Summit on Palestine in Riyadh,

while the deputy prime minister/foreign minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment at the 15th OIC Summit in Banjul and the Extraordinary Meeting of the D-8 Council of Foreign Ministers.

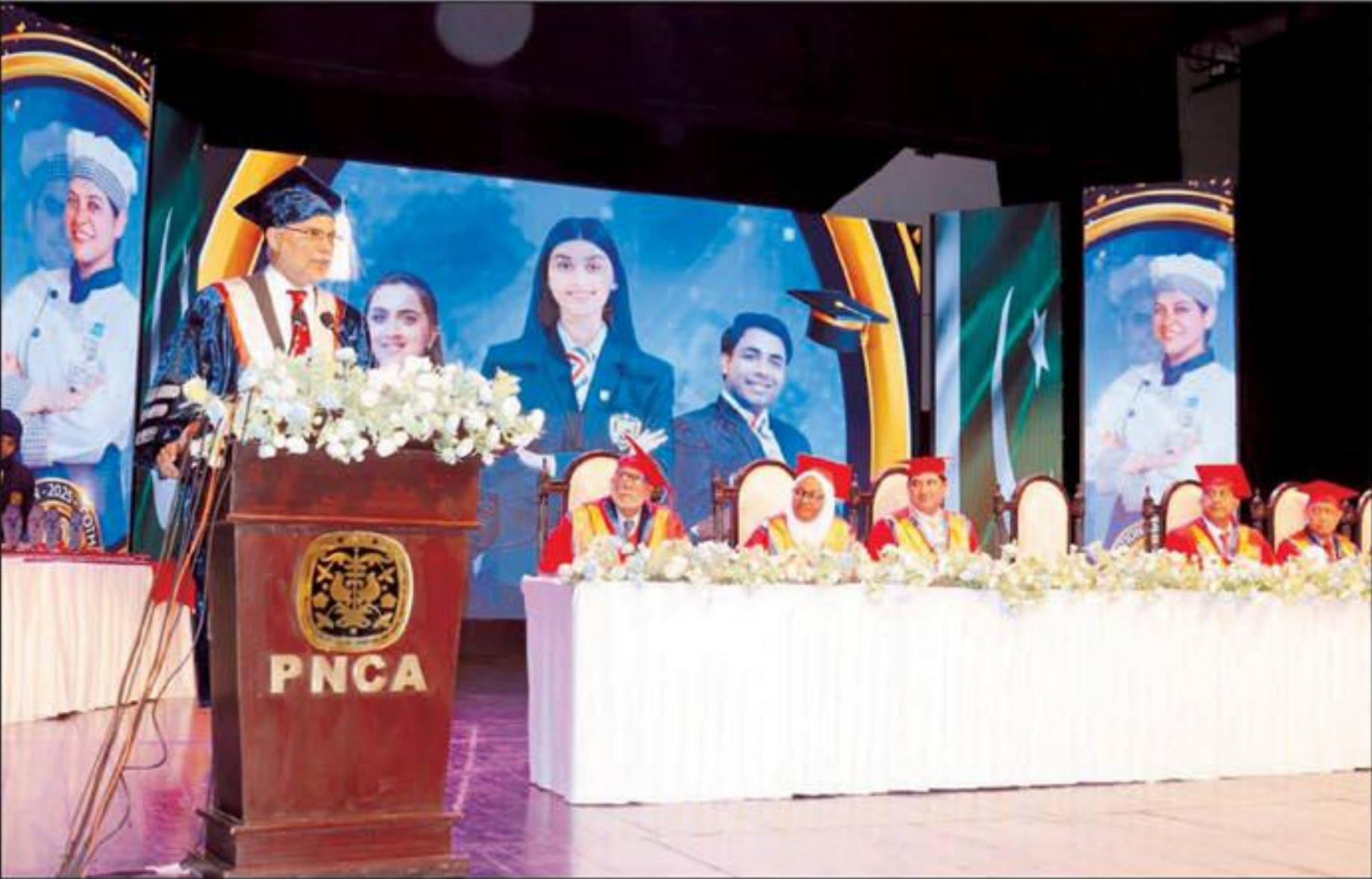
Pakistan also participated in the high-level conference on Gaza in Jordan and presented its oral statement at the ICJ regarding Israel's policies in occupied Palestinian territories.

Since the start of the Gaza conflict, Pakistan had called for an immediate ceasefire, unobstructed humanitarian aid, and a lasting resolution based on pre-1967 borders, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as Palestine's capital.

The prime minister conducted official visits to multiple countries, including China, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE, to enhance political, economic, and investment relations.

"Pakistan's presence at global summits such as the UNGA, COP29, and the SCO Council of Heads of Government reflected its commitment to international cooperation," the report said.

The country also secured a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council for 2025-2026 and led the adoption of a UN resolution against Islamophobia. "In trade and economic diplomacy, Pakistan expanded its partnerships with key allies, increasing exports, securing foreign investments, and fostering bilateral agreements with regional and global powers.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Ahsan Iqbal, addressing the 4th Annual Convocation Ceremony of COTHM Group of Colleges here in Islamabad.

Pakistan, Bangladesh have satisfied with growing ties

INP

DHAKA: Pakistan and Bangladesh have expressed satisfaction over the growing ties between both the countries.

The development came during a meeting between Additional Foreign Secretary (Asia & Pacific) Ambassador Imran Ahmed Siddiqui and Bangladesh Secretary Commerce Mahbubur Rahman in Dhaka.

The meeting discussed various aspects of bilateral economic and trade relations.

Both sides expressed satisfaction over the growing momentum of these relations. They also discussed prospects of further enhancing these relations in coming days.

Meanwhile, Additional Foreign Secretary (Asia & Pacific) Ambassador Imran Ahmed Siddiqui called on Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh Jashim Uddin today.

Both sides reviewed the current state of Pak-Bangladesh bilateral relations that are mutually beneficial and based on mutual respect and shared values.

They agreed to remain engaged for taking the relations forward while expressing satisfaction over the current trajectory.

Sindh to distribute 200,000 solar systems by July 2025: CM Murad

INP

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Wednesday distributed 'solar home systems' to people in Karachi in a ceremony. Sindh's chief minister called the solar energy plan a key step in collaboration with the World Bank.

The CM said that 200,000 low-income households being provided solar home system and by July 2025 the distribution of solar kits will be completed. "We have set a target of distributing 400 solar kits weekly in each district," chief minister said. Green energy is the need of the time to tackle adverse impact of the climate change, CM Shah said. He said solar plants will become helpful in providing 300 free units of solar energy.

He said during recent China visit of the president various agreements of

wind and solar hybrid projects were signed with the Chinese companies. Murad Ali Shah said that 656 schools and 24 libraries being shifted to solar energy.

President Trump Commends Pakistan's Role in Capturing ISIS-K Terrorist During Congressional Address

By Khawaja Farooq

WASHINGTON: In a significant address to a joint session of Congress on March 4, 2025, President Donald Trump lauded the Government of Pakistan for its instrumental role in apprehending Mohammad Sharifullah, the alleged mastermind behind the 2021 Kabul airport bombing that claimed the lives of 13 American service members and numerous Afghan civilians.

President Trump announced the successful capture and imminent extradition of Sharifullah, emphasizing the United States' renewed commitment to combating terrorism. He stated, "Three and a half years ago, ISIS terrorists killed 13 American service members and countless others in the Abbey Gate bombing. Tonight, I am pleased to announce that we have just apprehended the top terrorist responsible for that atrocity, and he is right now on his way here to face the swift sword of American ..."

The President extended heartfelt gratitude to Pakistan for its assistance, noting, "I especially want to thank the Government of Pakistan for helping arrest this ...". This collaboration marks a pivotal moment in U.S.-Pakistan relations, highlighting a shared commitment to global security and counterterrorism efforts.

The 2021 attack at Kabul's Hamid Karzai International Airport was a tragic event during the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, resulting in significant loss



of life. The arrest of Sharifullah, facilitated by Pakistani authorities, represents a crucial step toward justice for the victims and their families.

President Trump's acknowledgment of Pakistan's cooperation underscores the importance of international partnerships in addressing global threats. This development not only brings solace to the families affected by the 2021 tragedy but also reinforces the efficacy of collaborative efforts in the fight against terrorism.

The President's address resonated with many, reflecting a renewed sense of national pride and a commitment to ensuring the safety and security of citizens worldwide. The successful operation against Sharifullah serves as a testament to the strength of international alliances and the relentless pursuit of justice.

Overall, President Trump's speech highlighted a significant achievement in global counterterrorism efforts, praising Pakistan's vital contribution and reinforcing the United States' dedication to eradicating threats to international peace and stability.

PTI to join opposition alliance for anti-govt protest after Eid: Shibli Faraz

NEWS DESK

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senior leader Senator Shibli Faraz has announced that the party, along with the opposition alliance, will protest against the government after Eidul Fitr.

In a media briefing outside the court in Peshawar, Shibli Faraz stated that the alliance with the opposition is already in the works and that negotiations will be concluded in the coming days. "After Eid, we will all unite to protest against this government," he said.

Shibli Faraz criticised the government's one-year tenure, calling it the "darkest period in Pakistan's history."

He pointed out that the government passed several laws, including the PECA

law and the 26th Amendment, not through democracy but by using force.

"Nothing has been accomplished except wasting billions of rupees on advertisements," he added.

The PTI leader also condemned the expansion of the federal cabinet, claiming it was a reward for 'turcoats' and 'miscellaneous'. He further stated that the country is 'drowning in debt, and inflation is soaring'. Shibli Faraz also expressed concern over the rising terrorism in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan and the ongoing protests in Sindh regarding water rights. "Our alliance is with the opposition, and in the next few days, our matters will be settled with them," he said. "After Eid, we will take to the streets together against the government."

BBISE suspends 22 invigilators for helping their sons, relatives in metric exam centers

APP

Quetta: Balochistan Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BBISE) has permanently suspended those 22 examination staff from all board activities for supporting their sons and other relatives in annual matriculation examination centers in the province.

An official notification issued here on Wednesday, the Chairman of the BBISE, Mir Ijaz Azeem Baloch has permanently stopped 22 examination staff for performing duties in the matriculation examinations in the activities of the board whose blood relatives were giving papers in their centers in the matriculation examinations.

The Chairman of BBISE said that the special directive also issued to Controller Examination to formulate a committee to investigate matters of 22 invigilators of children and relatives had been given papers in those centers.

Malala visits her hometown in KP's Shangla district

INP

SHANGLA: Nobel Laureate Malala Yousafzai makes first visit to her hometown Barkana since Taliban attack in 2012 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Shangla district for the first time since being shot by the Taliban in 2012. Malala was shot in the face by the Pakistani Taliban when she was a 15-year-old schoolgirl, amid her campaigning for female education rights. Her activism earned her the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014, and she has since become a global advocate for women's and girls' education rights.

Her most recent visit to Pakistan was in January when she spoke at a summit in Islamabad on girls' education in Muslim nations and emphasized that women living under the Taliban system were in a "gender apartheid". Malala, who belongs to Shangla, has been living in the United Kingdom since October 2012. The Nobel laureate on Wednesday met her family members in Barkana and visited their ancestral graveyard. She also met with her uncle, Ramazan, who recently underwent surgery in Islamabad after suffering from heart problems. Karora Station House Officer (SHO) Amjad Alam Khan told Dawn.com that she arrived in Barkana via helicopter and was accompanied by her father, Ziauddin Yousafzai, and her husband, Aseer Malik, who she married in 2021. SHO Khan said Malala also visited the school and college she had established in Barkana in 2018 to provide free education to approximately one thousand girls in the district, which previously .

Agriculture Dept backbone of development, prosperity of Balochistan: Zehri

APP

Quetta: Balochistan Minister for Agriculture and Cooperatives Mir Ali Hassan Zehri on Wednesday said that the agriculture sector is like the backbone of the development and prosperity of the province.

He said that agriculture is the source of livelihood of most of the people of the province, developing the agriculture department on modern lines is one of our top priorities.

He expressed these views while on the occasion of the review departmental briefing on behalf of the department. On this occasion, besides Secretary Agriculture and Cooperatives Noor Ahmed Pirkanji, DGs of the Agriculture and Cooperatives Department and other high officials were also present. On this occasion, Secretary Agriculture Noor Ahmed Pirkanji briefed the Provincial Minister about the overall performance of the department and the decisions taken in the previous meeting and said that agriculture is an important sector in the economic development of the province.

If agriculture develops, the province will also move towards development, he said.

All the DGs of the Agriculture Department gave a detailed briefing to the Provincial Minister regarding their respective sectors on the overall performance of their respective sectors. The provincial minister was also informed about the performance and problems.

Addressing the meeting, Provincial Minister for Agriculture and Cooperatives Mir Ali Hassan Zehri said that if our province has to develop economically, then it is inevitable to promote the agriculture sector saying that the agriculture sector is directly or indirectly linked to every person in the province.

If agriculture develops, the landlord will be prosperous and the effects of the landlord's prosperity will be felt on the entire province, he said.

The Minister said that if the province is to stand on its own feet, then it is an essential

element to make the agriculture sector active and compatible with the requirements of the present era.



Commissioner and Administrator Quetta, Hamza Shafiq being briefed by officials regarding cleaning campaign during his visit to Sariab road in Quetta .

Senator Irfan Siddiqui visits Darul Uloom Haqqania, offers condolences on martyrdom of Maulana Hamid ul Haq

APP

ISLAMABAD: Senator Irfan Siddiqui, a senior leader of the Pakistan Muslim League (N) and the parliamentary party leader in the Senate, visited Darul Uloom Haqqania in Akora Khattak on Wednesday to offer his condolences and recite Fatihah for the martyrdom of Maulana Hamid ul Haq.

During his visit, Senator Siddiqui met with Maulana Abdul Haq II, the son of the late Maulana Hamid ul Haq, and expressed his heartfelt sympathies, said a press release on Wednesday.

The gathering was also attended by Maulana Rashid ul Haq Sami, deputy

administrator of Darul Uloom Haqqania, along with other prominent leaders of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (S).

Senator Siddiqui described the martyrdom of Maulana Hamid ul Haq as a profound loss for the nation, praising his exceptional leadership in steering the affairs of Darul Uloom following the martyrdom of his father, Maulana Sami ul Haq. He also commended Maulana Hamid ul Haq's efforts in maintaining the active role of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (S) in national politics. Reflecting on his longstanding association with Darul Uloom Haqqania, Senator Siddiqui condemned the terrorist attack on the seminary and the targeted killing of Maulana Hamid ul Haq.

Cabinet committee reviews projected wheat production, national requirements

By Zahid Ahmed Khan

ISLAMABAD: Cabinet Committee on Essential Crops on Wednesday reviewed the projected wheat production and national requirements, emphasizing the importance of harmonizing the federal and provincial agricultural research system to enhance per-acre yield and overall farm productivity.

The meeting of the Cabinet Committee was held here under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister M. Ishaq Dar.

The Ministry of National Food Security & Research team was led by Federal Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain and Federal secretary Waseem Ajmal Chaudhry.

During the meeting, the committee's report on the Wheat Policy for Rabi 2024-25 was presented, and a detailed review of the projected wheat production and national requirements was conducted.

Minister for National Food Security & Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, briefed the committee on the cultivated area for the current year and emphasized the importance of aligning agricultural strategies with domestic needs and farmers benefit.

The committee also discussed harmonizing the federal and provincial agricultural research system to enhance per-acre yield and overall farm productivity.

Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar stressed the importance of consultation with provincial governments to ensure that policies benefit farmers and contribute to sectoral stability.

The meeting also deliberated on determining the wheat support price and possible market interventions to secure fair prices for farmers and maintain market stability.

The deputy PM directed the Finance Minister to incorporate key discussion points into the agricultural policy committee's deliberations to refine and strengthen the policy framework.

The meeting reaffirmed the government's commitment to stabilizing the agricultural economy through corrective measures, ensuring food security, and fostering growth in the farming sector.

The Ministry of National Food Security & Research expressed the resolve to ensuring food security, supporting farmers, and strengthening agriculture through sustainable policies and strategic interventions for long-term stability and growth.



QUETTA: Peoples stand near damage house due to gas cylinder blast at joint road .