

Noshki (News Desk)
Three Frontier Corps (FC) personnel were among five lives lost as the banned Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) targeted an FC convoy on a highway in Balochistan's Noshki district on Sunday, state media reported.

The BLA emerged as a key perpetrator of terrorist violence in Pakistan in 2024, as frequency of high-intensity attacks by outlawed groups has been increasing in the province, according to security reports.

According to PTV News,

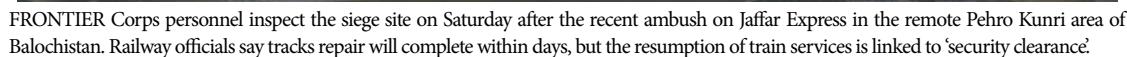
security sources said an “explosion and a suicide attack” claimed the lives of three FC personnel and two civilians. Three terrorists — besides the suicide bomber — were killed by security forces in immediate retaliatory action. “Security forces have cordoned off the area, blocking all escape routes of terrorists,” Radio Pakistan quoted security sources as saying. They added that a clearance operation was underway and would continue “till the last terrorist was eliminated”. Noshki Senior Superin-

endent of Police (SSP) Hashim Momand said more than 30 paramilitary force members were wounded, Reuters reported.

Earlier, Noshki Station House Officer (SHO) Zafarullah Sumalani had said that five FC personnel were martyred while at least 12 others were injured in the explosion.

According to SHO Sumalani, evidence from the incident site suggested that a suicide attacker rammed an explosive-laden vehicle into the FC convoy. The injured were being

shifted to the FC Camp and Noshki Teaching Hospital, where an emergency had been imposed, the police officer added. SHO Sumalani feared that the death toll and number of injured would rise since several of the injured were in critical condition. 'Height of brutality' The attack drew condemnations from leaders across the country. President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif strongly condemned the blast and expressed their sorrow over the loss of lives.



WASHINGTON: (News Desk) The United States may grant Pakistan 60 days to address security concerns and prevent potential travel restrictions, though some limitations may still apply, according to reports published by the American media outlets on Saturday.

Contrary to earlier speculation, a leaked draft of the proposal suggests that Pakistan will not be placed on the red list — reserved for countries facing a complete US travel ban. Diplomatic sources in Washington credit Islamabad's renewed counterterrorism cooperation with the US for helping Pakistan avoid the most severe restrictions.

President Donald Trump, in a recent address to Congress, acknowledged Pakistan's role in helping the US apprehend Mohammad Sharifullah, accused of orchestrating the 2021 Kabul airport bombing that killed 13 American service members and at least 170 Afghan civilians.

A portrait of a man in a black police uniform with a beret, standing outdoors against a stone wall. He has a beard and is looking directly at the camera with his arms crossed.

Peshawar(News Desk) Two policemen were martyred while one security guard lost his life in separate overnight attacks in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Karak and Peshawar districts, officials said on Sunday.

The development follows a spate of attacks in the province a day ago in Lakki Marwat, Bannu, Mohmand district and Bajaur.

According to Karak District Police Officer (DPO) Shahbaz Elahi, terrorists attacked two police stations and a Sui Gas installation overnight. There was a heavy exchange of fire, which resulted in the martyrdom of two policemen and the death of a private security guard.

DPO Elahi told the media that terrorists attacked with heavy artillery, but Karak police repulsed all three attacks.

He said that armed men attacked the Khurram and Takht-e-Nasrati police stations, resulting in the martyrdom of police sub-inspector Islam Noor Khan in the latter assault.

In the Sui Gas installation attack, the assailants were chased but managed to flee in the darkness. One of them was killed by the police in the chase.

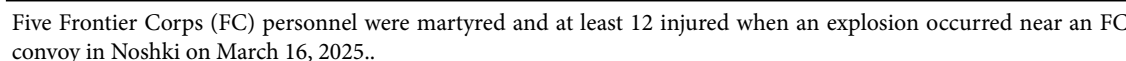
The police also rescued a security guard abducted by the armed militants after an exchange of fire.

Kashmir(News Desk) Five people lost their lives while three others were injured on Sunday when a passenger coach plunged into a ravine after skidding off a frost-covered road in the Haveli district of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), police said. Four male passengers died on the spot and a woman succumbed to her injuries while on the way to the district headquarters hospital, said Ansar Siddique Rathore, a constable operator at the Forward Khatula police control room. According to Rathore, the ill-fated coach had departed

ed from Forward Kahuta to the district headquarters of Haveli, for Rawalpindi via Lasdana. Five people died while three others were injured when a passenger coach plunged into a ravine in AJK's Haveli district on March 16, 2025. — Screenshot from Facebook/azharulhaqqani. However, the police constable added, upon reaching Parthan Wali Ziarat — some 22 kilometres from the Forward Kahuta town in Haveli — the vehicle became stuck on the frost- and snow-covered track. Some passengers disembarked while others

ers remained on board as the driver attempted to manoeuvre through the treacherous section of the road, constable Rathore added. A video clip shared on social media showed the vehicle positioned precariously with its rear facing the edge of the road. As the driver attempted to move it forward, he lost control and the coach plunged more than 200 metres below the road. Zahid, son of Mehtab Rathore, jumped out of the vehicle onto the road as the coaster was about to plunge downwards and was at large. The deceased

were identified as Abdul Rauf Rathore, son of Khan Muhammad; Malik Sher Baz, son of Suba Khan Awan; Chaudhry Muhammad Khurshid, son of Muhammad Din Gujjar; Khalid Hussain, son of Nek Alam; and Shamim, wife of Qayyum Khan Rathore. The injured were identified as Arif Ali, son of Chaudhry Sultan; Imran Ayub, son of Muhammad Ayub; and Zeeshan, son of Khalid Gulshan. Expressing grief over the tragedy, AJK Minister for Local Government and Rural Development Faisal Mumtaz Rathore.



Islamabad (News Desk) — PPP leader Shazia Marri on Saturday said that if the coalition government took a "u-turn" on its commitments, the party would not only boycott the upcoming budget but would also take a "more serious step". Tensions between the PML-N-led coalition and the PPP have simmered

for months over unfulfilled promises. A December meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President Asif Ali Zardari seemingly failed to resolve disagreements, with PPP Senator Saleem Mandviwalla later claiming the PM's Office ignored directives from the Presidency. Amid

strained ties, PML-N leaders met PPP counterparts at Governor House on Saturday, assuring them they wouldn't be treated as outsiders in Punjab. Speaking during the DawnNewsTV programme Doosra Rukh yesterday, PPP leader Marri said that her party would not only boycott he upcoming budget but would

also adopt a "more serious step" if the government failed to fulfil its commitments regarding the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP).¹¹ The prime minister and the minister for planning and development do not fulfil the commitment regarding PSDP [...] if they take a u-turn this time.

Islamabad(News Desk)
Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has said his party was planning to protest against the federal government's policies after Eidul Fitr, along with the PTI.

Speaking to journalists in Islamabad on Saturday evening, Fazl said that a meeting of the JUI-F general assembly had been called to devise a plan to launch a protest campaign against the government's policies.

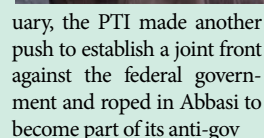
policies and take stock of the country's situation. "After Eid, a decision will be made to hold a protest in the general assembly," he said, referring to the current government and parliament as "puppets". "Why can't they talk about the country's problems?" the senior politician rhetorically asked. Employees are being sacked from institutions including postal services and PWD [Public Works Department] — if the em-

employees are incompetent, then how are you qualified?"

On a possible alliance with the PTI, Fazl admitted that the "real leadership of PTI" was still in jail and that there was no real unity outside. However, he added that bitterness between the two parties had reduced, hinting at an alliance with the party.

"A decision will be made in the policy-making meeting on the alliance with the PTI in the an-

ti-government move-
ment," he said.
In April last year, the
PTI already formed a
multi-party opposition
alliance named Tehreek
Tahafuz Ayeen-i-Pakistan
(TTAP), comprising the
Sunni Ittehad Council,
Pashtunkhwa Milli Awa-
mi Party, Balochistan Na-
tional Party-Mengal, Ja-
maat-i-Islami, and Majlis
Wahdat-i-Muslimeen.
After talks between the
government and the op-
position collapsed in Jan



ernment movement on the ruling PML-N, Fazl said its supreme and ex-premier Nawaz Sharif could "play an important role in the current political situation."

PESHAWAR / LAKKI MARWAT / BAJAUR: (News Desk) Two soldiers were martyred while nine terrorists were killed in two engagements in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the military's media wing said on Saturday. On the other hand, terrorists in Lakki Marwat and Bannu districts targeted police in over half a dozen attacks, which were repulsed by the policemen with the help of armed villagers, who assisted the law enforcers in both districts. According to a statement from the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the engagements, in which nine militants were killed, occurred on Friday and Saturday. In the first encounter, security forces carried out an intelligence-based operation in the Mohmand district during which seven terrorists were killed after troops "effectively engaged" them at their location. However, the ISPR added that Malakand district's Havildar Muhammad Zahid, 37, and Chitral district's Sepoy Aftab Ali Shah, 26,

LAHORE: (News Desk) Train services to and from Balochistan, which were suspended after the attack on Jaffar Express, are likely to be resumed by next weekend, according to senior officials of Pakistan Railways. The engineers of Pakistan Railways have been asked to complete the repair and maintenance work on the track within the next three days. The railway authorities in Quetta have decided to send passenger coaches and locomotives damaged in the attack to Lahore for repair work.

The terrorists used explosives to stop the train and also sprayed bullets from both sides, breaking window glasses and causing other damages as well, Dawn has learnt.

"The Jaffar Express had nine coaches and a locomotive. Three of them were derailed by the terrorists through blasts while bullet holes pierced the body of the remaining coaches," a senior railway official explained while talking on Saturday. Bullet marks are also visible on the locomotive as well as all coaches, said the officials who wished not to be named. "The train's rake (set of coaches), including those damaged due to derailment, would be sent to the Mughalpur workshop in Lahore for repair," they disclosed.

LAHORE: (News Desk) The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) has sealed eight bottled water brand plants for being contaminated with dangerous levels of chemicals and bacteria unfit for human health.

This crackdown comes in the wake of water sample tests conducted by the Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR).

The findings say bottled water, often perceived as a safe alternative in a country plagued by water contamination, has itself become a health hazard.

Test results compared against the Pakistan Standards & Quality Control Authority benchmarks revealed alarming levels of arsenic, microbiological and chemical contaminants, making these brands unfit for human consumption.

The PFA sealed SS Water and Pak Acqua RO Mineral Water in Sahiwal, Premium Safe Purified Water, Orwell, Natural Pure Life, and Life Inn Water Plant in Multan, Sky Rain in Faisalabad, and Iced Well in Sialkot.

PFA Director General Asim Javed said these plants will remain closed until they meet stringent corrective measures, including verified improvements in water quality, mandatory medical tests for workers, and documented filter replacements.

According to the PCRWR report, some of the contaminated brands contained dangerously high levels of sodium, arsenic, and potassium, while others were infested with harmful bacteria.