

Pakistan



✚ Autorickshaw drivers raise slogans during an anti-government protest against inflation and the fuel price hike in Lahore on Friday.
Agence France-Presse

ISLAMABAD

The security personnel deployed at the checkpoint displayed ‘unwavering courage and professional excellence’ and engaged and eliminated 12 terrorists: ISPR

Militant attack at security checkpoint claims 15 lives

Militants rammed an explosives-laden vehicle into a security check post in north-western Pakistan overnight, killing 15 people including soldiers, police and government personnel, the military said on Friday.

"Fifteen brave sons of soil including twelve military, two policemen and a government official ex forest department rendered the ultimate sacrifice and embraced Shahadat (martyrdom)," the military's media wing said in a statement on the latest attack in the border province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the military's media wing, said the attackers attempted to breach the checkpoint's perimeter, but their attempts were "swiftly and decisively foiled by the vigilant and resolute response of security forces."

These security personnel deployed at the checkpoint displayed "unwavering courage and professional excellence" and engaged and eliminated 12 terrorists, the ISPR added.

The statement added that the attackers then rammed an explosive-laden vehicle into the perimeter wall.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack but the area has been gripped by a growing violent campaign by the militant Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) group.

Pakistan has previously blamed the increase in attacks in KP and the southern border province of Balochistan on militancy emanating from Afghanistan, where the Taliban government denies Afghan involvement.

Meanwhile, three-star lieutenant general Aamer Raza, currently serving as the chief of general staff of the Pakistan Army, has been appointed the Commander of the most important and critical National Strategic Command (CNSC) after he was promoted to the rank of a four-star general, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's Office announced on Friday.

It said the premier congratulated the newly promoted general and wished him the best for "undertaking this important responsibility."

General Raza has previously been awarded the Hilal-i-Imtiaz (Military) and Sitara-i-Basalat (Star of Valour).

The CNSC post was created under last year's

27th constitutional amendment, which made significant changes to the military's chain of command, to assume the nuclear manager role previously exercised by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (JCSC), a post which was abolished.

The appointment, reappointment and extension of the Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) [currently Syed Asim Munir, who is also the chief of the army staff], a post that was also created under the amendment for a unified command structure across the armed forces.

Under the changes, the appointment, reappointment or extension of the CNSC or the "exercise of discretion by the appointing authority in this regard, will not be called into question before any court on any ground whatsoever."

Last year, Field Marshal Asim Munir was appointed Pakistan's first CDF following the passage of the 27th amendment.

Raza was commissioned in the 6th Lancers in 1988. He is a graduate of the Command and Staff College, Quetta and National Defence University,

Islamabad. He holds a degree in International Relations from the University of Nottingham, MSc in Arts and Science of Warfare and Defence and Strategic Studies; both from National Defence University.

He has commanded the 6th Lancers from November 2007 to September 2009.

He has also commanded an armored brigade, an infantry brigade in South Waziristan and an Infantry Division. He has served as the Chief of Staff at II Corps, and as Director General of the Weapons and equipment directorate.

He has been an instructor at the School of Armour and Mechanised Warfare, Director Faculty of Research and Doctrinal Studies and Chief Instructor at the Command and Staff College Quetta.

Raza took over the command of Heavy Industries Taxila on April 28, 2020.

On Oct. 11, 2022, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General.

On May 16, 2023, Raza was appointed as the Commander of the IV Corps, Lahore, following the May 9 riots in Pakistan.

Tariq Butt / NNI

Lahore-born Saadia Zahidi first woman to head IATA

ISLAMABAD: The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has appointed Lahore-born Saadia Zahidi as its director general in place of Willie Walsh, who will relinquish his duties on July 31.

A press release said Saadia Zahidi will take over as the air transport body's new chief on Nov. 1 this year. Sandrine Le Borgne, IATA's chief financial officer, will serve as acting director general during the intervening period.

Zahidi will be IATA's ninth director general and the first woman to hold the position.

She is currently working as managing director at the World Economic Forum (WEF).

Zahidi is the author of Fifty Million Rising, a book which traces the rise of working women in the Muslim world.

She holds a BA in Economics from Smith College, an MPhil in International Economics from The Graduate Institute, and an MPA from Harvard University.

"The board is very pleased to appoint Saadia Zahidi as director general of IATA. Saadia's long and outstanding experience at the World Economic

Forum will enhance and strengthen IATA as the voice of the world's airlines," the press release said.

"Saadia brings the right skills to effectively articulate what our industry needs to continue connecting people and economies safely, efficiently, and sustainably. She'll bring a fresh perspective to IATA that will grow its support for the airline industry on the foundations of IATA's well-established technical, financial, and data capabilities," the release added.

In her acceptance message, Zahidi said: "I look forward to working closely with our member airlines, governments, and the ecosystem of partners to build on IATA's remarkable foundation, ensuring aviation continues to connect the world while embracing innovation, strengthening resilience, and advancing sustainable growth."

The airline group is turning to the Pakistani-born economist, an outsider to the aviation sector, at a time when airlines are wrestling with geopolitical and economic headwinds as oil prices rise above \$100 a barrel due to Middle East strife.

Tariq Butt

Six KP law officers tender resignations

ISLAMABAD: Six law officers of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Advocate General's office have resigned and three others were de-notified by the provincial government as internal rifts surfaced in Insaf Lawyers Forum (ILF), the lawyers' body of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI), in the province. Through two separate notifications, the law department announced the acceptance of resignations of the six officers by the chief minister and de-notifying three others by him, respectively. Those who resigned included additional advocates general Mohammad Inam

Khan Yousafzai and Azhar Rahim, and assistant advocates general Fazl-i-Maula, Khanzeb, Wajahat Hussain Shah and Naeem Khan.

Similarly, those who were de-notified under KP Appointment of Law Officers Act, 2014, included an additional advocate general Mohammad Asghar Khan and assistant advocates general Syed Mukhtar Ali Shah and Arbab Ibrahim. Officials said that those officers were conveyed the decision of chief minister that they should either resign or their services would be dispensed with, according to a

report. Soon after that development, the provincial government notified appointment of 10 new law officers including three additional and six assistant advocates general and an advocate-on-record.

The newly-appointed officers include additional advocates general Alam Khan, Sehrish Munawar and Saifur Rehman, assistant advocates general Abidur Rehman, Shahid Khan, Mohammad Furqan, Yasir Saleem, Mohammad Adnan Sher and Syed Bilal Shafi Andrabi and advocate-on-record Malik Akhter Hussain Awan.

Tariq Butt

Apex court says it has no jurisdiction over NAB cases

ISLAMABAD: In a major development, the Supreme Court on Friday settled a jurisdictional dispute by declaring that it could not hear bail applications in pending National Accountability Bureau (NAB) appeals, and all such pleas stood transferred to the recently-established Federal Constitutional Court (FCC).

The Supreme Court has no jurisdiction to take cognisance in the NAB cases in terms of Article 175F (a) of the Constitution, read with Section 32 and 32-A of the National Accountability Ordinance, 1999 (NAO), stated the 30-page judgement authored by Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, who headed a three-member bench that took up the matter.

The ruling also referred to arguments that the Supreme Court should not surrender its jurisdiction come what may, with the judges observing that courts could "not play to the gallery" for admiration, popularity and media commendations or for

public perception, instead of adhering to the law and Constitution. The duty of the court was to follow the law and not make decisions or assume a jurisdiction motivated by media mileage or public consumption, the bench noted.

"We are fully conscious and also sanguine that neither the court should assume the jurisdiction not vested in it by law nor it should abdicate its jurisdiction so vested under the law, rather, the jurisdiction is decided by the Constitution and the law itself. It is not a matter of surrender or conquest, but it is regulated by the law," the judgment read.

The bench said that "unbridled judicial overreach, including flagrant misuse of suo motu powers as might is right in the past, unremittingly harmed the institutional image and its legitimacy and ultimately resulted in many legislative changes in the Constitution and the laws of our judicial system."

Agencies



STATE LIFE
INSURANCE CORPORATION OF PAKISTAN

CORRIGENDUM

This refers to our tender notice **SLIC/GULF/001/2026** published on **11-07-2026** in **Gulf Today** Reference **pg#7** for “**ON PREMISES/SOFTWARE AS A SERVICE (SAAS) SOLUTION FOR IFRS-17 CALCULATION ENGINE FOR IT DIVISION, STATE LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION**”

The date of opening bids may be read as following:

“12-08-2026”

All other contents of the subject advertisement will remain unchanged.

Anjum Rashid
Zonal Chief
State Life Insurance Corporation of Pakistan
701,503- Sheikh Mohra Building, Salah uddin Street
P.O. Box No. 11278 Deira Dubai, UAE
Contact # 00971-56-5972866
00971-4-2729061-EXT.201 or 105