

Turmoil in Balochistan: Police harass public in Lasbela region

BALUCHISTAN, May 17 (ANI)

IN YET another incident of crack-down on people, leading Baloch human rights body, Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) shared that excessive police force was deployed in Lasbela region to disrupt a peaceful corner meeting on Friday.

The details were shared in a post on X.

As per the BYC, during its meeting in Rasheedabad, an excessive police force was deployed, allegedly harassed the public and also unlawfully arrested three

ordinary citizens and transferred them to the police station without justification. After family members of the detained people protested against this injustice only then were they released, BYC observed.

BYC said that it would continue to expose the ongoing "Baloch genocide and state repression" through various means such as mobilisation, education and collective action.

It wrote on X, "Hub | Peaceful Corner Meeting by BYC Lasbela Disrupted by Police Intimidation Today, the Baloch Yakjehti

Baloch families decry secret night burials by Pakistani forces

TURBAT, May 17 (ANI)

THREE young men, who were allegedly killed earlier this month during a confrontation with Pakistani forces, were reportedly buried in secrecy at night by security personnel without their families' knowledge or involvement, The Balochistan Post (TBP) reported.

The deceased individuals were quietly laid to rest in Turbat's Taleemi Chowk cemetery under the cover of night, lacking proper Islamic funeral rites or shrouds (kafan). Authorities purportedly prevented family members from attending the burial or conducting traditional last rites, as reported by TBP.

Family members voiced their profound sorrow, claiming they were left in uncertainty for three days by police and relevant officials, who provided no meaningful assistance. They further alleged that the burial was carried out in a way that ignored religious and cultural customs, resulting in significant emotional distress for the families.

Committee (BYC) Lasbela region organised a peaceful corner

meeting in Rasheedabad, Hub. In a clear attempt to silence dis-

sent, an excessive police force was deployed."

To dismantle Hamas, free hostages

Israel launches new military op in Gaza

JERUSALEM, May 17 (AP)

ISRAEL said on Saturday that it has launched a major operation in the Gaza Strip to pressure Hamas to release remaining hostages, following days of strikes across the Palestinian territory that killed hundreds of people.

Defence Minister Israel Katz said that Operation Gideon Chariot was being led with "great force." Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had vowed to escalate pressure with the aim of destroying the militant group that has ruled Gaza for nearly two decades.

The military operation came a day after US President Donald Trump concluded his Middle East trip without a visit to Israel. There had been hope that Trump's trip could increase the chances of a ceasefire deal or the resumption of humanitarian aid to Gaza, which Israel has prevented for more than two months.

Negotiations between Israel and Hamas have yet to achieve progress in Qatar's capital, Doha. Hamas, which released an Israeli-American hostage as a goodwill gesture before Trump's trip,



A man runs after Israeli airstrike hits Gaza.

(AP)

insists on a deal that ends the war and leads to the withdrawal of Israeli forces — something Israel said that it won't agree to.

Israel's Army said on social media that it was intensifying attacks and exerting "tremendous pressure" on Hamas across Gaza, and wouldn't stop until the hostages are returned and the militant group is dismantled.

Israel believes as many as 23 of the hostages in Gaza are still

alive, although Israeli authorities have expressed concern for the status of three of them.

More than 150 people had been killed in Israeli strikes in the last 24 hours, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. It said more than 3,000 have been killed since Israel broke a January ceasefire on March 18.

On Saturday afternoon, an Israeli strike killed at least four children in the Jabaliya refugee

camp in the north, according to al-Awda Hospital, which received the bodies. Seven others were wounded in the strike, which hit a house. A later strike in Jabaliya killed four, the hospital said.

An airstrike east of Deir al-Balah in central Gaza killed a woman and three children, with the bodies arriving at al-Aqsa hospital. Another strike in Deir al-Balah killed four people, including a woman.

PSLV-C61 set for launch today

SRIHARIKOTA, May 17 (PTI)

THE 22-hour countdown for the launch of an earth imaging satellite on-board a PSLV rocket commenced here on Saturday, ISRO sources said.

The lift-off for the PSLV-C61 is scheduled to take place at 5.59 am from the first launch pad at this space port on May 18, which is also the 101st mission for the Bengaluru-headquartered space agency. "The countdown started by 7.59 am on Saturday. Total 22 hours countdown," sources told PTI.

The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) in its 63rd mission, would carry the Earth Observation Satellite (EOS-09) which would be capable of capturing high-resolution images of the Earth's surface under all weather conditions.

The round-the-clock imaging by the satellite is vital for applications like agriculture, forestry monitoring, disaster management, urban planning and national security.

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Preparations underway for the launch of ISRO's PSLV-C61 carrying the Earth Observation Satellite (EOS-09), at the Satish Dhawan Space Station, in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

(ISRO via PTI Photo)

Trump claims | India willing to cut 100% tariffs

■ By Yoshita Singh

NEW YORK, May 17 (PTI)

INDIA is willing to cut 100 per cent tariffs on American goods, US President Donald Trump claimed once again while saying that a trade deal between New Delhi and Washington is coming soon. In an interview to 'Fox News', Trump, however, said that he is not in a "rush" for the proposed trade deal.

Against the backdrop of the US President's repeated claim of India offering to drop all tariffs on American goods, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said in New Delhi on Thursday that "any trade deal has to be mutually beneficial".

Trump again described India

as "one of the highest tariff nations in the world."

"They make it almost impossible to do business. Do you know that they're willing to cut 100 per cent of their tariffs for the United States?" Trump said. When asked if the deal with India is coming soon, Trump said, "that'll come soon. I'm in no rush. Look, everybody wants to make a deal with us."

Then he went on to add: "South Korea wants to make a deal but I'm not going to make deals with everybody. I'm just going to set the limit. I'll make another some deals. Because I can't, you can't meet with that many people. I've

got 150 countries that want to make deals." India and the US are holding talks to firm up a trade deal. On Thursday,

Jaishankar said trade talks have been going on between India and the US.

"These are complicated negotiations. Nothing is decided till everything is. Any trade deal has to be

mutually beneficial; it has to work for both countries," he said. "That would be our expectation from the trade deal."

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal is currently in Washington to assess the progress of negotiations for the proposed trade agreement.



India imposes land port curbs on import of certain B'deshi goods

NEW DELHI, May 17 (PTI)

THE Government on Saturday imposed port restrictions on the import of certain goods, such as readymade garments and processed food items, from Bangladesh, in response to similar curbs placed by Dhaka on certain Indian products last month.

According to a notification of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), these port restrictions will not apply to Bangladeshi goods transiting through India but destined for Nepal and Bhutan, it added.

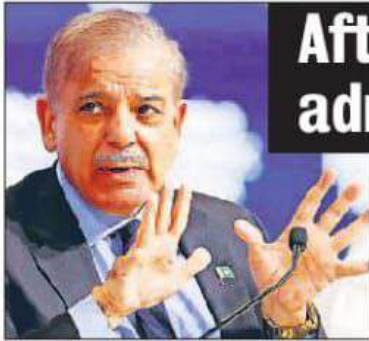
The notification imposes "port restrictions on the import of certain goods such as readymade garments, processed food items etc., from Bangladesh to India," the Ministry said. The order said that readymade garments imports from Bangladesh will not be allowed from any land port. However, it is allowed only through Nhava Sheva and Kolkata seaports.

For fruits; fruit flavoured and carbonated drinks; processed food items (baked goods, snacks, chips and confectionary); cotton and cotton yarn waste; plastic and PVC finished goods, dyes, plasticisers and granules; and wooden furniture, the notification said the inbound shipments from the neighbouring country shall not be allowed through any LCSs (Land Customs Stations) and ICPs (Integrated Check Posts) in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram; and LCS Changrabandha and Fulbari, in West Bengal. It also said that

these port restrictions do not apply to the import of Fish, LPG, Edible Oil, and Crushed stone from Bangladesh. To make these changes, a new paragraph is introduced in the country's import policy regulating the imports of these goods from Bangladesh to India, "with immediate effect," it said.

On April 9, India withdrew the transshipment facility it had granted to Bangladesh for exporting various items to the Middle East, Europe and various other countries except Nepal and Bhutan. It was announced against the backdrop of the controversial statement made by the head of Bangladesh's interim Government Muhammad Yunus in China recently that India's seven north-eastern States, which share a nearly 1,600 km border with Bangladesh, are landlocked and have no way to reach the ocean except through his country. The comments did not go down well in New Delhi. It also drew sharp reactions from political leaders in India across party lines.

Indian exporters, mainly from the apparel sector, had also earlier urged the Government to withdraw this facility to the neighbouring country. India-Bangladesh relations have nosedived dramatically after Yunus failed to contain attacks on minorities, especially Hindus, in that country. Bangladesh is a big competitor of India in the textile sector. The India-Bangladesh trade stood at USD 12.9 billion in 2023-24.



After series of denials, Pakistan PM Sharif admits India's missiles hit Nur Khan Airbase

NEW DELHI, May 17 (ANI)

PAKISTAN'S Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif admitted that India's ballistic missiles hit Nur Khan Airbase and other sites on May 10, a rare acknowledgement that contradicts Pakistan's usual stance of denial when it comes to Indian military action.

Sharif said Army Chief General Asim Munir called him around 2:30 am to report the strikes. Sharif mentioned the use of local tech-



nology and Chinese jets by Pakistan's Air Force, but confirmed that India's missiles hit their targets.

While addressing a ceremony

held at the Pakistan Monument on Friday, Sharif said, "At around 2:30 am on May 10, General Syed Asim Munir called me on secure line and informed me that India's

ballistic missiles have hit Nur Khan Airbase and other areas. Our Air Force used homegrown technology to save our country, and they even used modern gadgets and technology on Chinese jets," 'Geo News' reported.

Meanwhile, BJP leader Amit Malviya also pointed to Sharif's admission that he was woken up at 2:30 am by Army Chief General Asim Munir, with the news that Indian missiles had hit Nur Khan Airbase and other key locations.

Malviya noted that such a call reveals the precision and boldness of Operation Sindoor.

Sharing a post on X, Malviya said, "Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif himself admits that General Asim

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