

PM hopeful of achieving economic targets in next six months

ARIF MEHMOOD KHAN

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday expressed the hope that due to untiring efforts of the economic team, the government would achieve the economic targets in next six months. Speaking at the cabinet meeting, the prime minister noted that during first five months of current fiscal year, the remittances posted record \$15 billion that he hoped would expand to \$35 billion by the end of the fiscal year. He said that the government managed to achieve the macro economic stability despite the fact that the opponents made no stone unturned to sabotage the efforts of the government.

Wishing the participants of the meeting happy new year, the prime minister said that the sun of 2025 will rise with the promise of progress and prosperity for Pakistan. He prayed that the economic, political and law and order crises that the world faced in 2024 would be overcome by positive progress in the new year. He said the ambitious five-year plan titled "Uraan Pakistan" that was



Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb and other cabinet members along with the relevant government officials.

He said having achieved economic stability, the country had now entered the growth stage. "If we want to achieve the economic development, then we will have to focus on export-led growth and we have no other option. The prime minister also appreciate the efforts of Deputy PM Ishaq Dar, Governor State Bank of Pakistan, Finance Minister and Chairman FBR for collecting additional Rs 72 billion under ADR (advance-tax ratio) due to which the government's target of tax revenue for December 2024 had almost been achieved.

Bilawal Bhutto hopes for progress, prosperity and development in 2025

HUMA REHAN

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Wednesday extended his heartfelt New Year greetings to all Pakistanis on the eve of start of year 2025. In his message of greetings, Bilawal Bhutto said that on this occasion he should review our struggle and celebrate our victories. Bilawal Bhutto said that year 2025 will bring progress and prosperity for the people of Pakistan.

He vowed to renew oath for progress of Pakistan and converting the country according to dreams of Father the Nation Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. He said that it is need of the hour that we should forget our differences and strengthen our relations for Pakistan's progress. Bilawal Bhutto said that we have to work hard to achieve justice, equality and peace and will continue our struggle to end poverty, inequality and uneducated. Our country needs progressive movement for conversion in strong economic state.

MoI launches biometric B-Forms for Children over 10 to enhance security

SAMRA ATHAR

ISLAMABAD: The ministry of Interior, on directives of Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, has announced the introduction of a new B-Form equipped with advanced security features for children aged 10 and above. This initiative aims to enhance identity verification and curb crimes such as identity theft, human trafficking, and illegal passport acquisition. The new B-Form will now include mandatory fingerprint impressions and photographs of children in the specified age group.

According to officials, the phased rollout of these enhanced B-Forms will commence on January 15, 2025. Speaking on the development, Minister Mohsin Naqvi said, "These measures will prevent the misuse of children's identity information and strengthen our national identification system. I commend NADRA and the Passport Department for their swift action in implementing these reforms."



In the first phase, children between the ages of 10 and 18 will need to visit NADRA centers, accompanied by a parent or legal guardian, to provide their fingerprints and photographs. Guardians must also present their Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC) and the child's computerized birth certificate issued by the Council or Town Committee. Once the process is completed, NADRA will issue a new B-Form featuring the child's photograph and biometric details. The updated document will be a prerequisite for obtaining a new passport for children in this age group.

The Ministry of Interior spokesperson confirmed that the old B-Form, which lacks biometric details, will no longer be accepted for children over 10 years old. Additionally, further reforms, such as integrating iris scans and enhancing services through the Pak-ID Mobile App, are planned for future phases. This initiative is part of a broader effort to integrate NADRA's systems with provincial civil registration databases and ensure the issuance of Digital IDs to all Pakistani citizens. "These steps will play a crucial role in securing the identity of our citizens and combating crimes effectively," said the spokesperson.

Pakistan, India exchange lists of nuclear installations, facilities

MOHSIN ALI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and India on Wednesday exchanged the lists of their respective nuclear installations and facilities. This annual exchange was carried out under the Agreement on Prohibition of Attacks against Nuclear Installations and Facilities between Pakistan and India, a press statement issued by the Foreign Office spokesperson said. Signed on 31 December 1988, the agreement, inter alia, provides that both countries shall inform each other of their nuclear installations and facilities falling within its definition, on 1st January of each calendar year. The list of nuclear installations and facilities in Pakistan was officially handed over to a representative of the Indian High Commission in Islamabad at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Simultaneously, the Indian Ministry of External Affairs handed over the list of India's nuclear installations and facilities to a representative of the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi. As the Agreement on Prohibition of Attacks against Nuclear Installations and Facilities entered into force on 27 January 1991, the two countries have been exchanging the lists since 1st January 1992.

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Sufi teachings vital for peace in troubled times: Minister

KOMAL BUTT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Housing and Works, Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada, underscored the critical role of Sufi teachings in fostering peace, harmony, and brotherhood during the launch of Kalyam Kooch-i-Ishq, a book celebrating the life and teachings of Hazrat Mian Fazluddin Kalyami. The ceremony, held at the Pakistan Academy of Letters, marked the 13rd death anniversary of the revered mystic. The book, co-authored by Syed Ahmad Iqbal Tirmazi and Iftikhar Ahmad Hafiz Qadri,

explores the biography and discourses of Hazrat Mian Fazluddin Kalyami, a spiritual disciple of Hazrat Baba Fariduddin Ganjshakar. The event drew a distinguished audience, including former president of the Islamic International University, Sahibzada Dr. Sajid ur Rehman, who presided over the session, and Professor Dr. Abdul Aziz Sahir, Dean of Social Sciences at Allama Iqbal Open University, as the guest of honor. Professor Dr. Najeeba Arif, President of the Pakistan Academy of Letters, also graced the occasion alongside other prominent academics and scholars.



Addressing the gathering, Minister Pirzada lauded the authors for their contribution to Sufi literature, emphasizing the timeless relevance of mystics in shaping Islamic teachings and spreading the values of humility, tolerance, and love. "The teachings of

Hazrat Mian Fazluddin Kalyami remain a beacon of hope and inspiration, especially in today's fractured world," the minister remarked. He called for preserving and promoting Sufi literature to bridge divides and instill harmony among communities. Dr. Sajid ur Rehman elaborated on Hazrat Mian Kalyami's spiritual guidance, highlighting his role in inspiring generations through his devotion and wisdom. "His teachings continue to offer guidance to seekers of truth, even more than a century after his passing," he stated. Professor Abdul Aziz

Sahir praised the authors for shedding light on the life of the great mystic, calling the book a vital effort to preserve the spiritual heritage of the region. Similarly, Professor Najeeba Arif highlighted Hazrat Mian Kalyami's miraculous abilities and profound understanding of Islamic mysticism. Sahibzada Professor Rashad Masood Kalyami commended the authors for narrating the Sufi's emphasis on introspection, self-reflection, and inner purification, central to the Sabriya branch of the Chishti Order to which he belonged.

Tarar felicitates newly elected office bearers of KJF

JAVED KHAN

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Public Broadcasting, National Heritage, and Culture, Attaullah Tarar, on Wednesday congratulated the newly elected office bearers of the Kashmir Journalists Forum (KJF). In his message, the minister extended his felicitations to President Sardar Irfan Sadozai and General Secretary Masood Muntazir, expressing confidence in their ability to lead the forum toward greater success. He also conveyed his best wishes to the new leadership.

Highlighting the significance of the KJF, the minister noted its vital role as a voice for the people of Kashmir, emphasizing its contributions to promoting the freedom movement, addressing Azad Kashmir's political escapade and raising public concerns. The KJF continues to be a powerful platform advocating for the rights and aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

Ahsan Iqbal for medium-term framework to deregulate sugar industry

AYESHA REHMAN

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday directed developing a medium-term framework for deregulating sugar industry, stressing industries to ensure data uniformity, crop zoning and backward integration. He passed these directives while chairing a meeting of Prime Minister's Committee on Sugar stocking, forecasting and planning, notified in December last to develop a foolproof system of monitoring and report authentic position of sugar stocks for timely decisions on exports, a news release said.

Senior member of Pakistan sugar Mills Association, Director General Land Information and Management System Rawalpindi, Chairman and Member (IR operation) FBR, joint Director General Intelligence Bureau, Executive Director Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Deputy Director General Trade Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Senior member Pakistan Sugar Mills Association, Director General Agriculture Policy Institute, Senior Joint Secretary Ministry of Industries and Production, Member Industries Ministry of Planning were present in the meeting. Senior member of Pakistan sugar Mills Association briefed the minister that in the previous years, availability of



The government had maintained an effective track and trace system to stop smuggling. Addressing the meeting, Planning Minister said that it was imperative for all institutes of government to maintain effective coordination. He also advised the stakeholders to establish coordination with SUPARCO for satellite based data gathering. Highlighting the importance of data uniformity and accuracy, the minister said, "The problem of data variance should be solved as soon as possible by involving experts and researchers to ensure that data sets used by all institutes are unified."

Ahsan Iqbal further gave directions to concerned ministries to prepare a medium term framework for development of agriculture sugar industry. "The Planning ministry developed a cluster based agriculture report in under Vision 2025 in 2017-18 which was completed in 2020 with an aim to produce analytical insights for agriculture policy making and the sugar industry cluster was examined through..." Quoting the examples of competitive sugar mills across the world, he said that the world's most productive mills have effective recovery rates but Pakistan's sugar mills were inefficient in terms of recovery rates. The minister said the three most important targets for the sugar industry should be recovering more sugar, producing surplus sugar and exporting surplus to other countries. "By making a medium term policy for govern-

ment to deregulate the sugar industry, the next 10 years can be spent following the planned vision," he said directing the meeting participants to form a committee for achieving the task. As suggested by the minister, the committee would be chaired by chief statistical officer and must include representatives from Ministry of Industries, FBR, Pakistan Sugar Mills association and SUPARCO. The minister stressed, "Planning Ministry is dedicated to facilitate active forecasting and ensure strategic decision making to promote industry development and deregulation of sugar industry. Referring to the weak link between production and productivity, he said Pakistan was the fifth largest sugar producer in

the world but in terms of yield, its ranking was alarmingly low. The minister also urged maximizing the agricultural portfolio of Pakistan through crop diversification to produce edible oil, wheat, cotton or sugar sector that needs to be made self-sufficient, crop zoning can help local governments to designate areas of land for farming and protect them from incompatible land usage. He also said that backward integration could help the sugar industries achieve faster growth as evident from the success of FMCs that followed backward integration. "A medium term master plan should cover at least 10 years and provide a vision regarding how much productivity is expected to gain from a specified area of land," he added.

He also said that backward integration could help the sugar industries achieve faster growth as evident from the success of FMCs that followed backward integration. "A medium term master plan should cover at least 10 years and provide a vision regarding how much productivity is expected to gain from a specified area of land," he added.



Who is expected to be part of Pakistan's Champions Trophy squad?

ARIF MEHMOOD KHAN

ISLAMABAD: The much-anticipated International Cricket Council's (ICC) Champions Trophy is set to take place from February 19 to March 9 in Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

As the mega sporting event approaches, teams have started announcing their squads and it is expected that the Men in Green will comprise seven batters, four fast bowlers, three spinners, and one wicketkeeper in their squad.

Reports say that Mohammad Rizwan will be the sole wicket-keeper for Pakistan in the mega event. Usman Khan, who was included as the second wicketkeeper in the squad during the South Africa One-day International (ODI) series, is

unlikely to make it to the Champions Trophy squad.

For the pace attack, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Naseem Shah, and Haris Rauf are likely to be included in the squad with Mohammad Hasnain also in contention for the fourth fast bowler spot.

In terms of spinners, it is expected that Shadab Khan, the former vice-captain and Test all-rounder, will make a strong return to the squad alongside Abrar Ahmed and Sufyan Moqim.

Shadab Khan, who was dropped from the national team after the T20 World Cup in the West Indies and the USA in June 2024, has not been selected for Pakistan's tours to Australia, Zimbabwe, and South Africa. However, he was



retained in the Pakistan Cricket Board's Central Contract for the 2024-25 season in Category C.

After being dropped from the team, Shadab Khan played five matches in the Champions One-Day Cup for the Panthers, scoring 120 runs and taking 5 wickets off 192 balls. In the Champions T20 Cup, he played six matches, scoring 24 runs and taking only 18 balls.

Imam-ul-Haq, the 29-year-old left-handed opening batsman, is also expected to make a comeback in the Champions Trophy. Imam has scored 3,138 runs at an average of 48.27 in 72 international ODIs for Pakistan. His last 50-over game was against South Africa on October 27, 2023, in the ICC World Cup.

After being dropped, Imam scored 212 runs in

four matches at an average of 53.00 in the Champions One-Day Cup and in the Champions T20 tournament, he scored 256 runs at an average of 36.67 in nine matches for the Lions.

Another major expectation is the return of the aggressive opener Fakhar Zaman. The 34-year-old left-handed batsman, who has played 82 international ODIs for Pakistan, is subject to fitness requirements as per his central contract with the Pakistan Cricket Board. Fakhar was not selected for the tours of Australia, Zimbabwe, and South Africa, but he recently impressed in the Champions T20 tournament, scoring 303 runs at an average of 30.30 in 10 matches, including two half-centuries.

South Africa to keep momentum ahead of final Test against Pakistan

JAVED KHAN

ISLAMABAD: South Africa have already secured a place in the final of this year's World Test Championship as the team look set to keep their momentum going as they face Pakistan in the second and final Test at Newlands on Friday.

South Africa beat Pakistan by two wickets in a tense first Test in Pretoria and have won their last six red ball matches in a row, their joint best run since a team record nine victories in succession in 2002 and 2003. This form has propelled them into the WTC final at Lord's in June but questions around their brittle batting line-up will be a major focus on what has recently been a perilous Newlands pitch.

The previous Test played there against India 12 months ago lasted only 107 overs as the visitors won by seven wickets inside two days, the shortest Test that has had a winner in



history. The wicket should be better this time round, but at a ground that used to be a fortress for the home team, they have lost two of their last three Tests in Cape Town. "We definitely haven't been clinical or ruthless when the

opportunity or the situation is called upon," South Africa captain Temba Bavuma said. "But I think what we've done is that we've found ways to make sure that the result is on our side.

"If I look at our batting group, we don't have batters that are averaging 45-plus. All of us are mid-30s, late-30s, which means that at some point guys are going to make some contribution to the team." Pakistan will rue not closing out the first Test having reduced South Africa to 99-8 chasing 148 on a tough Centurion Park wicket, only for all-rounder Marco Jansen and fast bowler Kagiso Rabada to carry the hosts to victory. Pakistan captain Shan Masood has also spoken of the need for his side to be more ruthless when on top, both with the bat and the ball. "We keep making the same mistakes but we have to get over the line and seize moments," he said. "There are moments where you get that extra cushion and we have to finish off games. We have to finish off our batting and bowling innings well." Pakistan have won only two of their previous 16 Tests in South Africa, and none since 2007. They have lost all four previous visits to Cape Town.

ICC releases new Test player rankings; Babar, Rizwan slip in batting

SAMRA ATHAR

LAHORE: The International Cricket Council (ICC) has released its latest Test player rankings, with significant shifts in both batting and bowling categories.

Joe Root of England has retained the top spot, followed by teammate Harry Brook in second and New Zealand's Kane Williamson in third. India's Yashvir Jaiswal has climbed to fourth, pushing Australia's Travis Head to fifth. Pakistan's Saud Shakeel made remarkable progress, jumping three spots to secure the sixth position.

Australia's Steve Smith also improved by three places to seventh. Pakistan's Babar



Azam slipped two spots to 17th, with Mohammad Rizwan and Salman Agha dropping to 21st and 23rd, respectively. Test Bowlers Rankings India's Ravindra Jadeja remains the top-ranked all-rounder. Australia's Pat Cummins rose four places to secure the third spot.

to claim the fifth spot, while Pakistan's Nauman Ali dropped to ninth. Test All-Rounders India's Ravindra Jadeja remains the top-ranked all-rounder. Australia's Pat Cummins rose four places to secure the third spot.

PCB awards Tower Sports live-streaming 2025 rights

SEHRISH NAZ

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announced on Tuesday that the Tower Sports has been awarded live-streaming rights for all home international cricket from January to December 2025 in the Pakistan region.

The rights were awarded following a transparent tender process. During the next 12-month period, Pakistan will host four Test matches, which includes two Test-match series against West Indies scheduled at the Multan Cricket Stadium from 17 to 29 January. Pakistan will also host 16 ODIs, which offered a glimmer of hope. His breakthrough throw on August 8 did not just bring gold; it rewrote



15 T20is. PCB Chief Operating Officer Sumair Ahmad Syed said that the PCB congratulates Tower Sports for taking part in the bidding process and winning it. "I want to

thank the Tower Sports for their commitment and support towards Pakistan cricket and look forward to this enriching partnership for not just the two parties involved but also the fans across the country. We will be hosting multiple bilateral series in the next 12 months, which also include a tri-nation tournament as well. I am

delighted for the fans who in this digital era will be glued to their screens and witness the action through live-streaming available to them."

Duraid Qureshi, CEO HUM Network of which Tower Sports is a subsidiary said that this achievement underscores HUM Network's commitment to empowering youth and building a vibrant future for sports in Pakistan. By bringing exclusive coverage of Pakistan's cricket matches to digital platforms, HUM Network aims to revolutionise how cricket is experienced by fans, offering unparalleled access to their favorite sport. This initiative not only celebrates the spirit of cricket but also serves as a unifying force, fostering national pride and collective enthusiasm.

Harmas Ali Raja receives heroic welcome after winning gold at US Junior Squash Championship

KOMAL BUTT

ISLAMABAD: Harmas Ali Raja, a young squash player from Rawalpindi received a hero's welcome at Islamabad International Airport after winning the Boys Under-11 title at the US Junior Open Squash Championship.

According to press release, the tournament held in Philadelphia from December 14-17, is the world's largest individual squash event, boasting over 1,000 players from 51 countries.

Harmas Ali Raja's gold medal was one of only a few titles not claimed by Egypt or the United States, making his victory even more significant for Pakistan.



A large crowd of Pakistan Squash Federation (PSF) officials, fellow players, coaches and fans gathered at the airport to celebrate Raja's achievement. A celebratory rally escorted him from the airport to the PSF headquarters and then on to his home in Rawalpindi.

The PSF President and Senior Vice President praised Raja's exceptional performance, congratulating him on his victory at this prestigious international event. They expressed hope that he will continue to hone his skills and bring further accolades to Pakistan in the future.

Arshad Nadeem's Olympic Gold: Pakistan's pinnacle sports moment of 2024

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: The year 2024 will forever be etched in Pakistan's sporting history as the year of Arshad Nadeem, the javelin thrower whose awe-inspiring 92.97-meter throw at the Paris Olympics secured the country's first-ever gold medal in an individual event. This monumental achievement not only shattered records but also ignited hope in a nation yearning for a moment of pride. Amid a year plagued by political instability and heartbreak over Pakistan's dismal performance in the T20 World Cup, Arshad's Olympic triumph offered a glimmer of hope. His breathtaking throw on August 8 did not just bring gold; it rewrote



the narrative of Pakistani sports. Arshad, a 6.2-foot javelin thrower, had been training without the best facilities that required to prepare

for the mega event like Olympics. Yet, on that historic day in Paris, his throw pierced the air with precision, landing at an incredible

92.97 meters - an Asian record and a feat that placed Pakistan on the global athletic map. After this great milestone achievement of winning the first ever individual gold medal for Pakistan, Arshad received a hero's welcome upon his return to Lahore. Thousands gathered at the Allama Iqbal International Airport Lahore to celebrate the man, who had unified a divided nation. Chants of his name echoed as fans showed him with love and admiration. In a cricket-obsessed nation, Arshad Nadeem's victory momentarily shifted focus to athletics. Javelin throwing suddenly became a trending topic, with young enthusiasts imitating his iconic stance.

PFB and PCF felicitate newly-elected POA leadership

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: The Pakistan Federation Baseball (PFB) and the Pakistan Cycling Federation (PCF) have extended their heartfelt congratulations to the newly-elected office-bearers of the Pakistan Olympic Association (POA).



Pakistani sports on both national and international platforms. The Pakistan Federation Baseball, under President Shaukat Javed and Secretary Syed Fakhar Shah, along with the Pakistan Cycling Federation, led by President Idris Haider Khawaja and Secretary General Moazzam Khan

Khair, pledged their all-out support to the newly-elected leadership of the POA. In a joint statement, the federations expressed optimism about working closely with the newly-elected office-bearers of POA to elevate Pakistan's sports ecosystem, inspire athletes, and achieve remarkable milestones.



ISLAMABAD: People on their way Faisal Avenue during heavy foggy weather, in the Federal Capital.



FIR filed against Trader Leader, 150 others for obstructing CDA operation in Islamabad

NADEEM TANOLI

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police have registered an FIR against trader leader Jahangir Zaman and 150 unidentified individuals for allegedly obstructing an anti-encroachment operation and threatening the office of the Capital Development Authority (CDA). The complaint was filed by Dost Muhammad, an enforcement inspector of the CDA, following an incident at Apara Market. According to the FIR lodged at Police Station Apara, the anti-encroachment operation was being supervised by Deputy Commissioner Islamabad and conducted by a team that included Dost Muhammad, enforcement inspector of the CDA, DMA Inspector Aftab Mughal, Bilal Zafar, and Supervisor Sajawal Khan. As the team reached Sunny Mobile Shop at Shuhada Market in Apara, Jahangir Zaman and his group allegedly attacked the officials. During the scuffle, the Deputy Commissioner sustained injuries to his hand. Jahangir Zaman was detained at the scene, and the FIR has been registered under Sections 188, 186, and 506 of the Pakistan Penal Code. The CDA has been actively conducting anti-encroachment operations across Islamabad to clear public spaces and improve accessibility for residents and visitors. Official report that such operations frequently face resistance from encroachers and local traders. Despite challenges, the CDA remains committed to reclaiming public spaces and ensuring smooth pedestrian and vehicular movement in the city. The authorities have appealed to traders and citizens to cooperate with anti-encroachment initiatives to foster a better living environment for all.

The first annual training workshop of PIMC

REPORT : WAJHA TAMSEEL MIRZA

LAHORE: The first annual journalistic workshop was held in (Research and publication center) Gulberg Lahore on 31. December. 2024. Senior journalist and analyst Mr. Esar Rana sahib, Columnist and social worker Muhammad iqbal khan was came as a special guests. Both were awarded by best journalist shields and Mr. Jinnah Medal. Central president Mehar qutab all and Mubashir nor kamyana owed the ceremony. The vice president Miss Arfa Arbi performed the hosting responsibilities of the ceremony. The shields, certificates and medals were given to all the Designated team of PIMC including, Wajha tamseel central spokesperson, Farzana kanwal information secretary punjab, arfa arbi vice president punjab, mubashir nor kamyana president punjab, central president mehar qutab all, syed shehzad zaidi, ali rizwan chaudhry, usama khan dotlana, and all other were awarded by best journalist and columnist awards. All the respected guests also received jinnah award. In this event/workshop respected guests highlighted the well beings of journalists and their rights. The central president mehar Qutab says thanks to audience and guests of PIMC coming and on making the workshop meaningful.



Exchange of Lists of Prisoners between Pakistan and India

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Today, Pakistan and India exchanged the lists of prisoners in each other's custody on 1st January and 1st July, every year. The Government of Pakistan handed over a list of 266 Indian prisoners in Pakistan (49 civilian prisoners and 217 fishermen), who have completed their respective sentence and whose national status stands confirmed. The Government of India has also been urged to ensure safety, security and well-being of all Pakistani prisoners, awaiting their release and repatriation. Furthermore, a request for grant of consular access to 38 missing defence personnel of 1965 and 1971 wars has been made.

Opinion & Editorials

What About the Trials of Civilians in Your Military Courts?

Abdul Basit Alvi

I am quite fascinated to explore the history of military courts and the trials of civilians in military courts in the U.S., Europe, and other countries around the world. The U.S. legal system typically maintains a clear distinction between military and civilian jurisdictions. However, in specific situations, military courts may have jurisdiction over civilians, especially when national security is at risk or when civilian crimes occur within a military context. This overlap between military and civilian legal systems can be complex but is crucial for ensuring justice in cases that involve both military and civilian elements. One of the earliest and most notable examples of a civilian being tried by a U.S. military court occurred after World War II. The "Tokyo Rose" refers to several English-speaking female broadcasters who spread Japanese propaganda during the war, with one of the most well-known, Toguri, an American citizen, was in Japan during the war and was accused of being one of the broadcasters helping to spread Japanese propaganda over the radio. After the war, she was arrested and tried by a U.S. military tribunal in 1949. Despite her claims that she had been coerced into participating and did not support the views she broadcasted, she was convicted of treason and sentenced to 10 years in prison. Her trial was significant as it highlighted the post-war use of military courts to prosecute civilians accused of aiding enemy powers. A more contemporary example of civilians being tried in U.S. military courts

emerged in the context of the War on Terror, especially after the 9/11 attacks. In the aftermath of the attacks, the U.S. government aimed to prosecute individuals connected to terrorism, including suspected al-Qaeda members and Taliban fighters, often in military tribunals rather than civilian courts. The Military Commissions Act of 2006 authorized the establishment of military commissions at Guantanamo Bay to try foreign nationals accused of involvement in terrorism or war crimes. A prominent case was that of Salim Ahmed Hamdan, a former driver for Osama bin Laden, who was accused of supporting terrorism. Hamdan was detained at Guantanamo Bay and charged with conspiracy and providing material support to terrorism. His trial was the first U.S. military commission under the new framework of the Military Commissions Act. In 2008, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Hamdan v. Rumsfeld* that the military commissions established by the Act violated U.S. law and the Geneva Conventions because they did not offer sufficient legal protections for the accused. In response, Congress passed new legislation to adjust the procedures of military commissions to better align with U.S. legal and international human rights standards. The Hamdan case is a significant example of non-U.S. civilians being tried in military courts, highlighting the complex

intersection of national security concerns, international law, and the rights of the accused. Another notable case involving a civilian trial by military tribunal was that of Jose Padilla, a U.S. citizen arrested in 2002. Padilla was accused of plotting a "dirty bomb" attack in the U.S. After being detained for several years without formal charges, he was classified as an enemy combatant by the Bush administration. In more recent cases, U.S. civilian contractors operating in conflict zones like Afghanistan have sometimes been subject to military courts when accused of crimes that impact military operations or involve national security. In the United Kingdom, military courts are primarily intended to adjudicate matters involving armed forces personnel, but there are instances where civilians may be tried in military tribunals. The idea of civilians being subject to military jurisdiction is complex, given the fundamental differences between civilian and military justice systems. However, in certain circumstances—especially concerning national security or wartime situations—military courts have been tasked with prosecuting civilians. During World War II, the UK government was highly concerned about the risks of espionage, sabotage, and collaboration with the Axis powers. In the face of a national emergency, military tribunals were sometimes used to prosecute civilians accused of treason or aiding the enemy. While most of these cases were tried in civilian courts, some particularly sensitive or politically significant cases were handled by

military tribunals. A notable example is the trial of William Joyce, an American-born British citizen, used the airwaves to spread Nazi propaganda aimed at demoralizing the British public. After the war, he was arrested and tried for treason. Although the UK had civilian courts capable of handling such cases, his trial took place in a military court, partly due to the wartime circumstances and the perceived need to swiftly address individuals seen as threats to national security. Joyce was convicted and executed in 1946. Another significant case involved John Amery, a British fascist and collaborator with the Nazis. Captured by British forces after the war, Amery was tried for treason in a civilian court. However, like William Joyce, he was viewed by the government as a major threat to national security during the war. While his trial was held in a civilian court, the broader wartime context and the use of military tribunals for similar cases illustrate how civilians could be subjected to military justice in times of national crisis. It is also important to recognize that violence, violent protests, and attacks on military installations are considered forms of terrorism in many countries. Violent protests, especially those led by internal civil groups at military installations, pose a significant threat to national security. Such acts are classified as terrorism due to their use of violence and targeting of military or government infrastructure. In both the United States and Europe, there have been instances where

civilian-led protests escalated into violence, resulting in attacks on military installations. These actions were viewed not only as direct challenges to state authority but also as efforts to intimidate, destabilize, or force political change, aligning with broader definitions of terrorism. While not a direct attack on a military installation, the 1971 Attica Prison Riots in New York serve as a significant example of violent protests involving civilian participants, which led to military involvement and were regarded as acts of domestic terrorism. The riot was triggered by grievances over the treatment of inmates and the harsh conditions at the prison. However, the response to the violence escalated into an armed standoff with state forces, including the National Guard and state police. The incident was regarded as terrorism due to the use of force, particularly the storming of the facility, which turned the protest into a violent confrontation with military and state authorities. The intensity of the violence, involving direct military force and a breakdown of civil order, led some political and social analysts to categorize the event as an act of terrorism. The Irish Republican Army (IRA), a paramilitary group seeking to end British rule in Northern Ireland, engaged in violent protests and attacks on British military installations throughout the 1970s and 1980s. Their goal was to destabilize the British government and force the withdrawal of British forces from Northern Ireland. These actions were widely viewed as terrorism by the UK government. In 2014, the Cliven Bundy standoff in Nevada brought attention to tensions between armed civilian militias and federal lands. The situation escalated when Bundy, a rancher, led an armed protest against the government's attempt to enforce grazing fees on public lands, culminating in a direct confrontation with federal agents, including U.S. military personnel. The standoff, driven by the use of violence and intimidation to force the government to relent, was classified as terrorism due to its nature. The Blockupy movement in Germany, which opposed the anti-austerity protests, saw multiple violent demonstrations, some targeting military-related institutions. While the movement's primary focus was opposition to EU-imposed economic policies, it also opposed military spending and the military's role in governance, leading to violent clashes with law enforcement and military units. The protesters' use of violent tactics, particularly against military-associated institutions, led to the characterization of the protests as terrorism. In the context of Pakistan, the PTI attacks against military courts in 2023 are significant. On May 9, 2023, Pakistan experienced one of the darkest days in its modern political history as supporters of the opposition party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), launched coordinated violent attacks on military installations across the country. What began as a protest over the arrest of PTI chairman Imran Khan quickly esca-

lated into a full-scale attack on Pakistan's military infrastructure, including military courts, political stability, and the integrity of the country's democratic institutions. The violence was brutal, with protesters showing little respect for the sanctity of state institutions or the rule of law. The desecration of military memorials, the storming of the GHQ, and the widespread destruction of government property marked an unprecedented challenge to the military's authority. These acts targeted not only buildings and infrastructure but also the very symbols of the state, making them a particularly egregious form of terrorism. In response to the May 9 riots, the Pakistani government decided to address the violence under the Army Act and through military courts, similar to the approach taken by many other nations. These military courts, which had been temporarily suspended but were recently restored by the Supreme Court, were authorized to handle cases involving military courts, similar to their roles in the attacks. It is crucial to note that the decisions made by these military courts can still be appealed in superior civilian courts. The trials were conducted in accordance with all legal procedures, with sufficient evidence and proof supporting the convictions. However, the response from the US and the West has been marked by double standards. While they have employed military courts to deal with civilians in their own countries, they raised objections when Pakistan

sought to address the May 9 riots and acts of terrorism through its own fair and equitable legal processes. Interestingly, the West, including the US, had previously expressed no concerns about Pakistani military courts but only began to voice their objections in the case of Imran Khan. This selective outrage speaks volumes about the significance of Khan and his party in advancing certain geopolitical agendas. Israel has also shown a particular interest in Imran Khan, viewing him as more aligned with their strategic interests. This shared interest from the US, the West, and Israel in Imran Khan and his party is not without reason, and the Pakistani people are well aware of these underlying motives. There is a widespread belief in Pakistan that the country may be more inclined to establish relations with Israel and consider halting its nuclear and missile programs only if Imran Khan returns to power. The issue of dealing with terrorism is entirely Pakistan's internal matter, and many in the country feel that foreign nations, including the US, should refrain from interfering in Pakistan's domestic affairs. Pakistan has every right to address its criminal and terrorist within the framework of its own laws, which are fair and transparent. The people of Pakistan strongly condemn any external interference in the country's internal systems. Instead, they advocate for international cooperation in the fight against terrorism and instability, as a peaceful and strong Pakistan benefits not only the nation but the world as a whole.

