

Pak FIA advises against first-time travel to 15 countries, including Saudi Arabia

PTI, ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) is discouraging first-time travel for people aged around 35, particularly those belonging to Gujranwala, Gujrat, Sialkot, Mandi Bahaudin and Jhelum, to certain countries, including Saudi Arabia, even for Umrah, according to a media report.

The agency is ensuring a strict profiling of passengers travelling to 15 countries, including Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Turkey, Qatar, Azerbaijan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Egypt,

The immigration authorities at the airports have been conducting a thorough verification of the documents of passengers, besides interviewing them regarding the purpose of travel and financial arrangements.

Libya, Ethiopia, Senegal, Mauritania and Kenya, The Dawn newspaper reported.

"The passengers must have an un-doubtful travel purpose, paid hotel booking and sufficient funds," the FIA said in a report submitted to the Lahore High Court (LHC) in connection with a petition of a pilgrim who had been barred from travelling to Saudi Arabia

for Umrah. The FIA claimed that those travelling for Umrah must have adequate religious knowledge.

In the recent tragedies of boats capsizing in Libya, Greece, Morocco and Mauritania, most of the passengers who survived or died departed from Pakistan on the pretext of Umrah visit visas, the FIA report stated. It added that most of

them were between 15 and 40 years of age and hailing from Mandi Bahaudin, Gujrat, Sialkot, Gujranwala, Bhimber, Jhelum, Toba Tek Singh, Hafizabad and Sheikhupura.

The immigration authorities at the airports have been conducting a thorough verification of the documents of passengers, besides interviewing them regarding the purpose of travel and financial arrangements.

The report said a recent analysis of the Immigration Border Management

System (IBMS) database revealed concerning patterns in passengers' movement on visit, tourist and student visas between July and December 2024.

It said the analysis identified systematic misuse of such visa categories, whereby the individuals secure entry to transit countries as part of unauthorised movement to Europe. The Risk Analysis Unit identified the 15 countries as frequent transit routes for illegal immigration, the report added.

Kurdish militants declare ceasefire in 40-year insurgency in Turkey

AP, ISTANBUL: Kurdish militants who have waged a 40-year insurgency in Turkey declared a ceasefire on Saturday in what could mark a significant boost to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's government, two days after their imprisoned leader called for the group to disarm.

The announcement by the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, comes against the backdrop of fundamental changes in the region, including the reconfiguration of power in neighbouring Syria after the toppling of President Bashar Assad, the weakening of the Hezbollah militant movement in Lebanon and the Israel-Hamas

war in Gaza. The government is yet to respond in detail to the PKK's declaration but Vice President Cevdet Yilmaz posted on X that a "new phase has been entered towards the goal of a terror-free Turkey. ... We hope that this opportunity will be seized, this effort will be concluded quickly and successfully."

Two held with drugs worth Rs 2.2 cr in Assam

PTI, GUWAHATI: Two suspected peddlers were arrested and narcotic drugs valued at over Rs 2 crore seized from them in Assam's Cachar district, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Saturday.

20 terrorists allegedly linked with TTP, arrested in Pak's Punjab: Police

PTI, LAHORE: Law enforcement agencies arrested 20 terrorists, including a Sikh, allegedly belonging to Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in Punjab province of Pakistan, police said on Saturday.

A Punjab Police Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) spokesperson in

a statement said law enforcement authorities foiled a major terrorist plan by arresting 20 TTP terrorists during 162 intelligence-based operations in different areas of Punjab this week.

"Three extremely dangerous members of TTP - Manmohan Singh,

Naqebullah and Riyaz - have been arrested from Rawalpindi, Lahore, and Rahim Yar Khan, respectively," the statement said.

According to the statement, 6,238 grams of explosives, 23 detonators, safety fuse wire 61 feet, three IED bombs, and banned literature have

been recovered from their possession. "They planned to target important buildings in Lahore and other cities. Eighteen cases have been registered against the arrested terrorists and further investigation is being carried out," the statement said.

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11-member Bangladesh team to travel to India for joint meeting on Ganga Water Treaty

PTI, DHAKA: An 11-member Bangladeshi delegation will travel to India on Monday for a meeting regarding the Ganga Water Treaty, which is due for renewal in 2026.

India and Bangladesh are set to hold the 86th meeting of the joint committee of technical experts next week regarding the renewal of the 30-year-old treaty for sharing the waters of the trans-boundary river.

"The Bangladeshi delegation, led by Muhammad Abul Hossen, member of the joint

River Commission (JRC), will reach Kolkata on March 3 and immediately leave on a two-day visit to the joint observation site on the Ganges at Farakka until the morning of March 5," The Daily Star newspaper said here on Saturday.

The delegation will return to Kolkata for a two-day meeting under the aegis of the India-Bangladesh Joint River Commission on March 6-7, according to a letter written by R R Sambharia, senior joint commissioner (FM).

Abul Hossen told the newspaper that the joint river commission sits once a year to discuss the cross-boundary river.

According to the Ministry of Jal Shakti, India and Bangladesh share

54 rivers. The Joint Rivers Commission of India and Bangladesh was constituted in 1972 as a bilateral mechanism to address issues of mutual interest on common / border / trans-boundary rivers.

Vlogger held for raping woman under false promise of marriage

PTI, MALAPPURAM (KERALA): A vlogger was arrested in Bengaluru on Saturday for allegedly raping a young woman he met on social media by deceiving her with false promise of marriage, police said.

The accused has been identified as Junaid, a resident of Vazhikadavu, here, they added.

According to the police, Junaid had been sexually exploiting the woman for nearly two years at various hotels in Malappuram and nearby areas.

He also took nude photos of her and used them to threaten her.

Following a complaint from the victim, Malappuram police registered a case and tracked down the accused, who was on his way abroad to evade arrest.

The accused was arrested near Bengaluru Airport by a team led by Malappuram Inspector P Vishnu in the early hours of Saturday, police said.

The accused was produced before a local court after completing legal formalities, they added.

GREAT RESPONSE RECEIVED AT CURTORIM, MARGAO, NAVELEM, SANVORDEM, MAJORDA & NAGOA-VERNA

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VIVA CARNIVAL 2025

ANTHONY DE MAINA

ST. ANTHONY CHAPEL, CURTORIM

CONTACT: 9923765108 / 8208654002

2ND MARCH

9:00am Afonso Ward, Cavelossim

11:45am Tamborim Ward, Cavelossim

3:00pm Nc. Almeida Bakery, Verna

6:00pm 1st Pavem, Chinchinim

9:00pm Mandopa-Navelim

03RD MARCH

8:45am Divine Providence Convent, Benaulim

11:45am Zanghall, Curtorim

3:00pm Dr. Rafael Pereira Asilo, Benaulim

6:00pm Coriad, Paroda

9:00pm Don Khuris, Davorim

04TH MARCH

08:45am Old Age Home, Chandor

11:45am Manddar-Maina

3:00pm Gandaulim, Colva

6:00pm Villa Nova Cross, Colva

9:00pm Nr. St. Anthony Chapel, Rachol

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MHOZO FAIDO TUZO KAIDO

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DANDO AC HALL CANDOLIM

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14th MAR 3:30 PM

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PRODUCER: EPIPHANIA MENEZES

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AL-RIYA PRODUCTION

ROMA FERNANDES

ST. ANTHONY CHAPEL, CURTORIM

PANVDE NASELEM GHOR

WRI & DIR: ROMA FERNANDES

8th MARCH 3:30 PM

K/A PANJIM

10th MARCH 3:30 PM

R.B. VASCO

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE COUNTER

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16th MAR 3:30 PM SANKHALI RAVINDRA BHAVAN

20th MAR 3:30 PM MARGAO RAVINDRA BHAVAN

23rd MAR 7:30 PM PANJIM KALA ACADEMY HALL

29th MAR 8:00 PM DANDO AC HALL CANDOLIM

30th MAR 3:30 PM CANACONA RAVINDRA BHAVAN

1st APRIL 7:30 PM BANDA ACSOLNA

6th APRIL 3:30 PM VASCO RAVINDRA BHAVAN

13th APRIL 3:30 PM SANVORDEM RAVINDRA BHAVAN

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