

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ہم سے عثمان بن ابی شیبہ نے بیان کیا کہ انہوں نے
سے قاسم بن مالک مخرمی نے بیان کیا کہ انہوں
سے سعید بن عبد الرحمن نے بیان کیا کہ ان
سے سائب بن یزید نے بیان کیا کہ نبی کریم
صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم کے زمانہ میں ایک صالح
تہا سے زمانہ کے مد سے ایک مد اور تہائی
کے برابر ہوتا تھا۔ بعد میں عمر بن عبد العزیز
کے زمانہ میں اس میں زیادتی کی گئی۔
(بخاری: صفحہ نمبر 6712)
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RAWALPINDI



Pakistan reiterates demand for unconditional ceasefire in Gaza

Pakistan urges the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to ensure an immediate and unconditional ceasefire to halt the bloodshed and destruction in Gaza. Asim Iftikhar, Pakistan's Alternate Permanent Representative to the UN, called for an end to the violence in Gaza during a speech to the UNSC on the Middle East, particularly Palestine.



Internet services restored across Pakistan, says PTA

The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) said on Saturday it had arranged temporary bandwidth to address degraded Internet services caused by a fault in the Asia-Africa-Europe-1 (AAE-1) submarine cable, ensuring Internet stability across the country. "Now there is no degradation of Internet services across the country," the PTA said.

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Meeting

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on promotion of Small and Medium Enterprises in Pakistan, on Saturday.



Photo: PID

Govt taking measures to facilitate small and medium scale businesses: Shehbaz Sharif

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that small and medium scale businesses are backbone of the country's economy.

He said this while presiding over a meeting for promoting the small and medium scale businesses and related to the Small Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) here on Saturday.

He said the incumbent government was taking all possible measures to provide facilities to small and big scale businesses.

Shehbaz Sharif said that all-out efforts were required to make industries of Pakistan a part of global supply chain.

He said the center and all provinces should work together for development of small and medium enterprises.

The meeting gave briefing

about the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority's performance.

The meeting told that the SMEDA board had been formed as per the direction of the prime minister and meeting of its board of directors were being held regularly.

A process had been started to get services of international experts for development of the SMEs sector.

The chief secretaries of Gilgit

Baltistan and Azad Jammu Kashmir had been included in the SMEs sector steering committee.

The State Bank of Pakistan had issued directions to banks to make forms easy and simple for giving loans to SMEs.

The meeting told that the Ministry of Industries and Production had improved liaison with provincial governments for development of SMEs.

Sindh and Balochistan govern-

ments had prepared a comprehensive strategy for SMEs while governments of Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Jammu Kashmir were making strategies in this regard.

The meeting further told that as per the direction of the prime minister the data of SMEs in the country was being collected.

The meeting was attended by Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain and other officers.

PTI's delay in written demands threatens negotiation process: Irfan Siddiqui



had facilitated a meeting with their party chairman to build trust, but uncertainty remains over whether the 'Charter of Demands' will be provided in written form, despite prior commitments from both sides.

During the first meeting on December 23, PTI had promised to submit its demands in writing, a promise reiterated in a joint statement. However, these demands were not submitted by January 2, Siddiqui stated.

The government negotiation team was informed that PTI required another opportunity to consult with their chairman to finalize the written demands. Although the government agreed, the written 'Charter of Demands' was still not presented during the third meeting, potentially complicating the negotiation process.

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Senator Irfan Siddiqui, PML-N leader and spokesperson for the government negotiation committee, warned on Saturday that ongoing talks with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) could face significant challenges due to PTI's failure to submit its demands in writing as initially agreed.

In an interview, he highlighted that there has been minimal progress over the past 12 days.

Siddiqui explained that the PTI negotiating team

PML-N believes in economic agenda: Ahsan Iqbal



Bureau Report

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal has said that the PML-N government believes in economic agenda and did not want any sort of political disruption in the country.

He said this while addressing a degree show, Master of Visual Art, at National College of Arts here. He said that the government was taking all possible measures within

the limit of Constitution and law to keep the things moving in the right direction.

Ahsan Iqbal said that the government was making sincere efforts, adding that reasonable dialogue from both sides always yields positive results.

He said that the country was facing new war of terrorism and added that in the apex committee's meeting

the political, military leadership and chief ministers of all provinces

expressed resolve that there would be zero tolerance against terrorism and terrorists.

He said that with the grace of Allah Almighty, terrorism would be eliminated from the country the same way it was rooted out in the past.

To a question he said that the government of Pakistan had always conveyed it to the government of Afghanistan through dialogue that it should stop Afghan land to be used for terrorism in Pakistan.

He said that the Pakistani people had made numerous sacrifices for the people of Afghanistan and were facing consequences till today. He hoped that Afghanistan would take notice and not allow any group to use Afghan land for carrying out terrorism in Pakistan.

To another question, he said that the government was focusing on expanding skill training programmes, adding that a hefty amount of Rs 20 billion had been given to the ministry of education and national vocational and technical training commission, so that development programmes could be expanded besides ensuring international certification.

He said without international certification it was difficult to place human resources in other countries.

Blast on passenger bus in Turbat leaves four dead



Munir Jan

TURBAT: At least four people were killed and several injured when a blast hit a passenger bus in the Turbat city of Balochistan.

The incident occurred in the Bahman area, where a bus travelling from Karachi to Turbat was targeted in the attack.

Security forces and rescue workers quickly reached the scene and shifted the dead and injured persons to a hospital.

Sources said that several of the injured are in critical condition.

Former SSP Gwadar Zohaib Mohsin and several police personnel are among those injured as his car also being hit in the explosion.

Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfaraz Bugti strongly condemned the attack.

Last Month, ISPR said that as many as 43 terrorists have been killed by the Security Forces since December 9 during extensive Intelligence Based Operations (IBOs) conducted in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Balochistan, causing a major setback to Fitna-Al-Khawrij and other terrorist groups operating in Balochistan.

The security forces, after an intense fire exchange, successfully neutralized 10 terrorists in two separate IBOs conducted in Musa Khel and Panjgur Districts of Balochistan. Since 9 December, twenty five terrorists have been killed in Balochistan.

ISPR said that these operations will continue till peace in the area is restored and khawrij are eliminated, as the security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country.

'Enemies' won't be allowed to sabotage Kurram peace: President, PM

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif have strongly condemned the firing on the convoy of government vehicles in Bagan area of Lower Kurram, reported 24NewsHD TV channel.

In a statement released in Islamabad, President Asif Ali Zardari emphasized the need for strict action against those who seek to disrupt peace efforts in Kurram. He said that the miscreants are enemies of the public and aim to spread chaos. The President urged the people not to allow these elements to succeed in their malicious designs.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in his statement said the attempt has been made to sabotage the peace agreement. He said those trying to disrupt law and order and enemies of humanity will



not be allowed to succeed in their designs.

Shehbaz Sharif reaffirmed commitment to eradicate terrorism. He prayed for the early recovery of Deputy Commissioner Javedullah Mehsud and other injured individuals.

Kurram DC injured in fresh violence after peace deal

Web Desk

UMAR WAZIR
KURRAM: Days after a peace agreement between the warring tribes was finally reached, violence flared out in the restive region once more on Saturday, as Kurram Deputy Commissioner (DC) Javedullah Mehsud sustained injuries in a firing incident.

According to local administration, the deputy commissioner's vehicle came under attack in the Bagan area of Lower Kurram. The deputy

commissioner was rushed to Lower Alizai Hospital for treatment where his condition is said to be stable.

DC Javedullah Mehsud is among those who played a significant part in attempts to bring calm back to the area.

It is to be noted here that the first convoy carrying supplies for Kurram is being transported to the region. The convoy, which includes food and other essential goods, is being protected by security personnel, including the police, to ensure safety.

Kashmiris have made unprecedented sacrifices for achieving the right to self-determination: Sardar Attique

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan said that Kashmiris have made unprecedented sacrifices for achieving the right to self-determination and this process is still going on today. Despite using all resources, India has failed to suppress the freedom struggle of Kashmiris.

He said that the United Nations should implement its resolutions on the Kashmir issue. And international human rights organizations should take note of the increasing human rights violations in occupied Kashmir and increase pressure on India to stop the ongoing atrocities in the occupied territory.

He expressed these views in his message on the occasion of Right to Self-Determination Day. He said that a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute is essential for the establishment of lasting peace in South Asia.



Expressing grave concern over the current situation in occupied Kashmir, he said that the custodial killings of youth, house raids, vandalism, arrest of youth, torture of residents including women and the elderly and destruction of property by Indian troops reflect the fascist mentality and Hindutva terrorism of the occupying authorities.

He termed the revocation of the special status of

the occupied territory by India on August 5, 2019, to distort the population ratio, as illegal, unconstitutional, and contrary to international laws and UN resolutions.

He said that the oppressed people of Kashmir have been waiting for the implementation of the resolutions of the international organization on the right to self-determination for the last seven decades. Kashmiris categorically reject any alternative solution to the Kashmir dispute as they want complete independence from India as per the resolutions of the international organization.

It is time for the international community, especially the United Nations, to play its important role in resolving the Kashmir dispute and ending the grave human rights violations in occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Kashmir and Palestine are two Muslim-majority states where the blood of innocent Muslims has been shed for decades. He said that if the international community does not resolve the Kashmir issue, peace in South Asia may be at risk.

DFP seeks implementation of UN's 5th January 1949 resolution on Kashmir

Abdul Majeed Tahir

SRINAGAR: Jammu Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party has said that the United Nations should fulfill its legal and moral obligations to help implement the historic 5th January 1949 resolution, which granted right to self-determination to the people of Kashmir.

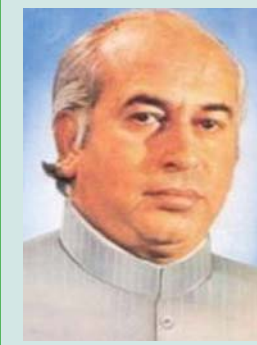
In a statement issued here today the DFP spokesman, advocate Arshad Iqbal, while reminding the UN of its obligations towards the settlement of the lingering dispute, said that it was high time that the international community especially the UN should come forward and play its much needed role to resolve the Kashmir issue and stop the ongoing violation of human rights in Occupied Kashmir.

Referring to the highly volatile situation in the troubled region, the DFP spokesman said that since 1947 the unresolved dispute has led to widespread deaths and destruction in the Indian occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Kashmiris, he said, have been bearing the brunt of violence and India's state terrorism for the past several decades.

97th birth anniversary of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto celebrate

Bureau Report



MUZAFFARABAD: The 97th birth anniversary of Pakistan Peoples Party founder chairman and former Prime Minister of Pakistan Quaid-e-Awam Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto will be celebrated on Sunday, January 5, in all four provinces and Azad Kashmir, including the world. Grand birthday celebrations will be held throughout Azad Kashmir and cakes will be cut. The main ceremony in the capital, Muzaffarabad, will be held in the Speaker Chamber of the Legislative Assembly Secretariat under the chairmanship of Chaudhry Latif Akbar,

in which ministers, members of the assembly, office bearers and workers of the party and its subsidiary organizations will participate in full. Party President Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin and Secretary General Faisal Mumtaz Rathore have also issued instructions to celebrate the birthday of Quaid-e-Awam Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto in a dignified manner. After the birthday ceremony, party office bearers and workers will also participate in gatherings, processions and rallies on the Day of Right to Self-Determination. In the Legislative Assembly session, the implementation of the resolution approved by the United Nations on January 5, 1949 for the Day of Right to Self-Determination and the birth anniversary of Quaid-e-Awam Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, daughter of the East, will be discussed. Resolutions will also be presented to pay tribute to the national and international services of the martyred Benazir Bhutto.

6 shopkeepers arrested over violation of price control act



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Admin Officer DC Office/Price Control Magistrate Riaz Hussain Anjum arrested 6 people on the spot for serious violation of the Price Control Act. He visited some areas of the city to check the prices of various essential commodities and conducted 130 inspections to check the prices of fruits and vegetables, chicken, bread, and grocery items and fined shopkeepers Rs. 35,000 for exorbitant prices. He also checked the presence of price lists at the shops and made it clear that the law is active against those who overcharge for basic necessities, so they should refrain from violating it.

SAFCO distributes emergency response kits in Sanghar District

Abdul Ghafoor Saroqi

SANGHAR: SAFCO has distributed emergency response kits to rural communities in Sanghar district to help them tackle natural disasters such as floods, storms, earthquakes, and accidents. These kits aim to equip villagers with essential tools to effectively manage emergencies.

The distribution ceremony was held at Ali Muhammad Khaskheli village in UC Mansura, attended by a large number of men and women. Prominent attendees included Rashid Ahmed, Assistant Director of the Social Welfare Department, Jam Nawaz Ali; Ghulam Raza from Solidar Suisse; and SAFCO's founder and president, Suleman J. Abro.

Speaking at the event, Suleman J. Abro highlighted how a lack of knowledge and resources has caused immense suffering in Sindh due to floods and natural disasters, pushing the province decades behind. He emphasized that access to disaster response tools and training would enhance the villagers' ability to protect their lives and belongings during crises.

Assistant Director Rashid Ahmed commended SAFCO and its team for their efforts and expressed hope that this initiative would yield positive results.

IRSA releases 28,400 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD, JAN 04 (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Saturday released 28,400 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 40,700 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1474.03 feet and was 76.03 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 17,500 cusecs and 6,000 cusecs respectively.

The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1133.00 feet, which was 83.00 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 4,800 cusecs and 4,000 cusecs respectively.

Mashal rally

MUZAFFERABAD: Activists of Pasban-e-Hurriyat holds Mashal rally in connection with the resolution of United Nation of 1949, in the Capital of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.



Photo: Online

Massacre of workers in Multan Colony Textile Mills in 1978

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Awami National Party central leader Khalid Mahmood Qureshi said that on January 2, 1978, hundreds of unarmed workers in Colony Textile Mills Limited Ismailabad Multan were killed and injured by firing on the orders of General Zia-ul-Haq dictator on the request of the owner of the textile mills, Mughees A. Sheikh. This tragic incident is a much bigger incident than the martyrs of May 1st, Chicago. This cruelty, barbarity and massacre of workers because Multan took place in such a backward city, could not get the fame like the martyrs of Chicago, nor could the heirs of the victims get justice till date. Khalid Mahmood Qureshi, while addressing the gathering, said that on January 2, 1978, the then dictator General Zia-ul-Haq government, along with the cruel and ruthless Mughees A Sheikh, the



owner of Colony Textile Mills Limited, Ismailabad, Multan, opened fire on unarmed workers who were peacefully demanding an increase in their salaries and payment of bonuses, as

a result of which hundreds of workers were martyred and injured. Farhat Abbas Shah Advocate, Ifikhar Ahmed Qureshi, Yameen Comrade and other speakers demanded that the govern-

ment form a high-level commission to re-investigate the incident and give Rs. 20 million to the families of the martyrs and give jobs to the children of the martyrs.

Maqsood Khan Advocate was elected as president

Tariq Khan Yousafzai

TAKHT BHAI: In the elections of Malgari Wakeelan Tehsil Takht Bhai, Maqsood Khan Advocate was elected as president, while Muhammad Iqbal Khan was elected as general secretary. All other positions were already filled unopposed.

On Saturday, there was a contest for the presidential position between

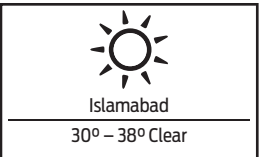
Maqsood Khan Advocate and Idrees Khan Advocate, in which Maqsood Khan Advocate emerged victorious. The election committee was chaired by Muhammad Naeem Khan Advocate, with members Mushtaq Ali Gulzar Advocate and Atif Khan Advocate overseeing the process.

Other unopposed elected officials include Senior Vice President Shahid Sharif Advocate, Vice President Shahab



Takhar, General Secretary Muhammad Iqbal Yousafzai, Deputy General Secretary Mehran Khan, and Joint Secretary Altaf Wahid.

Elections for the two remaining positions, Finance Secretary and Cultural Secretary, will be conducted by the elected cabinet.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	5:44 am
Zohr	12:13 pm
Asr	3:35 pm
Maghrib	5:13 pm
Isha	6:41 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 & 4451122
Motorway Police	9266044
Motorway Police	9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance	115
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
CAA	9281092

HOSPITALS

CMH	561111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cannt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

DEPARTMENTS

CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service	
E-7, F-10 & F-11	9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8	9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8	9266316
Wapda Islamabad	9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint	119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank	
Rawalpindi	0331-5022125

Chairman CMIT Raja Muhammad Hanif Advocate inaugurates Culture Corner at PAC

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Chairman Chief Minister Inspection Team, Raja Muhammad Hanif Advocate, inaugurated the Culture Corner at the Punjab Arts Council. Director Arts Council Sajjad Hussain, former Director Waqar Ahmed, Deputy Director Muhammad Shakoor, and Assistant Director Muhammad Suleman were also present alongside the chief guest on this occasion.

The chief guest, Raja Muhammad Hanif Advocate, remarked that Chief Minister of Punjab, Madam Maryam Nawaz, is committed to promoting arts and culture across the province. He stated that the Potohar region is culturally rich, with its skilled artisans bringing global recognition to the area and Pakistan.

Their expertise includes truck art, Gandhara art, papier-mâché, and salt stone carvings. The establishment of the Culture Corner is a significant effort to promote the culture of Potohar and acquaint the younger generation with their cultural heritage.

The Culture Corner will serve as a hub for local crafts, traditional music, folk dances, and other cultural activities. It aims to provide a platform for local artisans and artists to showcase their talents.

The Culture Corner features the works of master artisans from the Potohar region. These include Gandhara art by Muhammad Shafiq Ahmed, truck art by Khalil Mughal, papier-mâché by Zulfiqar Ghazi, salt lamps by Talib Hussain, and doll-making by Fauzia Naheed.

Director of the Arts Council Sajjad Hussain mentioned that the Culture Corner was established under the guidance of Executive Director Muhammad Tanveer Majid of the Punjab Arts Council. The goal is to exhibit the crafts of the Potohar region at a national level.

The primary objective of the Culture Corner is to ensure fair prices for the artisans' products, enabling them to sustain these traditional crafts and pass their skills on to future generations. The event was attended by prominent figures from various walks of life and a large number of local artists.



Doodh Jalebi

ISLAMABAD: A worker is preparing the bowl of traditional "Doodh Jalebi" for customer at Sitara Market, as during winters people like such things very much.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

IG Punjab Police pins promotion badge on Inspector Elim Din, recognizing hard work and dedication

Zain Khan

MULTAN: The Inspector General (IG) of Punjab Police is seen pinning the promotion badge on Inspector Elim Din, who has earned a promotion to the esteemed position of Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP). This moment signifies not only a personal achievement for Inspector Elim Din but also highlights the importance of competence, dedication, and hard work in advancing one's career within law enforcement. Promotions like these are a testament to the individual's commitment to their duties and the valuable contributions they make to the police force. This advancement is a recognition of both skill and perseverance, encouraging others in the force to strive for excellence in their respective roles.

Elim Din's posting is in Dera Ghazi Khan. He is the younger brother of Zain Khan, a columnist for the Daily Spokesman newspaper.



DSP Rana Mehmood-ul-Hassan visited Med. Complex a state-of-the-art facility in Tehsil Gujar Khan

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: DSP Rana Mehmood-ul-Hassan, of Tehsil Gujar Khan, visits the newly established Medical Complex, a state-of-the-art modern medical complex in Jand Najar, Qazian. During his visit, he also witnessed the Girls College (GC) and the Skill Development Center (SDC) with the aim of providing support and assistance to the local community.

During the visit, DSP Rana Mehmood-ul-Hassan meticulously reviewed the various programs and facilities aimed at community development and welfare.

Qazi Qaiser Mahmood, President of the Falah-e-Ummat Welfare Society (FUWS), provided an over-



view of the society's mission and achievements. At the conclusion of the visit, FUWS, in collaboration with the Pothwar & Kashmir Welfare Trust (P&KWT), presented a shield to DSP Rana Mehmood-ul-Hassan as a gesture of goodwill.

The shield was presented by Qazi Qaiser Mahmood on behalf of the Chairman of P&KWT, who was unable to attend due to a family bereavement.

The event was attended by several distinguished individuals, including Qazi Jawad Ahmad, Master Zakar Mehmood, Qazi Abdul Hameed, Molana Rafiq Mahavia, M. D. Mirza Nadeem, Qazi Hassan, Qazi Abdullah, Rehan Mirza, and Khawaja Jehangir.

CM Maryam Nawaz approves long-awaited Multan to Vehari Road construction: Marium Khan



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Chief Minister Punjab, Maryam Nawaz, has fulfilled the long-standing demand of the Multan Division by approving the construction of the Vehari Road. Speaking about the development, Multan Division Commissioner Maryam Khan stated that a budget of PKR 12 billion has been approved for the construction of a 90-kilometer single carriage-way. The project, spanning from Baber Chowk to District Vehari, is set to commence in February. The road will connect 20 kilometers in District Multan, 10 kilometers in District Khanewal, and 60 kilometers in District Vehari. Additionally, the PKR 13 billion scheme for the second carriage-way of Vehari Road is currently under review by the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC). The Commissioner also directed the Highways Department to take immediate steps to initiate the project and emphasized the use of high-quality construction materials to ensure the project's success.

7th Death Anniversary of Zahida Shaikh to be commemorated in Qambar on 7 January

Correspondent

LARKANA: The 7th death anniversary of Zahida Shaikh, a revolutionary leader of Sindhiyan Tehreek and Awami Tehreek, will be observed on Monday, January 6, 2025.

Zahida Shaikh (1961-2018) was a trailblazer for women's rights, social justice, and equality in Sindh. As president of Sindhiyan Tehreek, she mobilized rural women, led historic long marches, and championed education and empowerment, leaving behind a legacy of hope and resistance.

The central delegation of Sindhiyan Tehreek and Awami Tehreek will honor Zahida Shaikh with a floral wreath and revolutionary songs at her mausoleum at 11:00 AM, followed by an anniversary program at the Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Press Club Hall in Qambar; which will be presided by Sindhiyan Tehreek President Adi Umrah Samoon and Awami Tehreek President Advocate Wassand Thari as the chief guest.

This anniversary is a moment to honor Zahida Shaikh's contributions and renew the commitment to her vision of justice and equality.



AIOU hosts Training Workshop on Lexicography

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University's Center for English Language and Translation Studies organized a one-day training workshop on lexicography to preserve Pakistan's endangered languages. On this occasion, resource person Ameer Haider highlighted the intricate process of compiling dictionaries.

The workshop provided specialized training to scholars for preparing dictionaries for various languages, with a particular focus on those at risk of extinction. Participants, including Ph. D. scholars and other experts, were introduced to the modern FLEx software, designed to assist in linguistic documentation and dictionary compilation.

Dr. Ghulam Ali, Director, Center for Language and Translation Studies, welcomed the participants and emphasized the significance of this workshop in safeguarding linguistic heritage. In his closing remarks, Professor Dr. Qadir Khan Abbasi stressed the importance of collaboration and specifically praised Dr. Farah Abbas for the successful organization of the workshop.

This initiative reflects the university's commitment to academic excellence and cultural preservation, achieved through advanced training and research. The event marked a significant step toward preserving Pakistan's linguistic diversity for future generations.

Public forced to fall prey to thieves and robbers

Abdul Majid

GOJRA: Public forced to fall prey to thieves and robbers, 2 incidents of theft and robbery, citizens deprived of valuables, confined to police stations

A theft occurred at the house of Muhammad Asif in Mohalla Aftab Town area of Police Station City in Gojra. In the absence of the family, unknown thieves broke the locks of the safe and stole 10 tolas of gold jewelry, Rs 5 lakh in cash, and other valuables and fled.

The second incident took place in Chakan No. 296 J. B., where Hassan Raza was going to Mohalla New Plot on his motorcycle when two armed robbers stopped him at gunpoint on Link Road. The accused snatched the motorcycle, cash, and mobile phone from Hassan Raza and fled. Both incidents were reported to the police.

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Vision 2025: Futility or Progress?

Pakistan's Vision 2025, launched by the Ministry of Planning, Development & Reform, rightly outlines an ambitious roadmap to position the country among the world's top 25 economies by 2025 and ultimately among the top 10 by 2047.

turning point in Pakistan's political and governance structure, transferring significant powers from the federation to the provinces. This landmark constitutional reform was driven by the recognition of two key realities: the pervasive influence of a powerful military that had deeply penetrated federal processes.

with conflicting priorities—compound the problem. These dynamics leave the federal government paralyzed, unable to implement cohesive and meaningful development plans, including Vision 2025.

has been reduced to seeking humiliating financial assistance from friendly nations and repeatedly turning to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for bailouts.

The army has historically wielded and continues to hold a super veto power over any strategic visions made at the federal level or even at the provincial levels, deriving its strategic directions from the desires, thinking, and mood of the army chief.

Ideally, the vision, mission, objectives, and goals of such a strategic vision should be followed in letter and spirit, serving as guiding principles for the entire nation. All ministries, governments, departments, and institutions should realign their strategies and execution plans to align with the central strategic directions.



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

This superveto comes with the added advantage of executing the orders of the army chief at levels of federal and provincial governments without considering the short-term and long-term implications for the country's overall financial, economic, and social health.

They should also contribute to achieving the aims, objectives, and goals of the strategic plan within specified timelines, with mechanisms in place to hold them responsible and accountable if these targets are not met.

China leads new media

China's news media has evolved into a data-driven, intelligent, platform-based, and socialized industry.

The omni-media communications system has been significantly enhanced, as highlighted in the 54th China Statistical Report on Internet Development. By June 2024, China boasted nearly 1.1 billion internet users, representing a penetration rate of 78.0%.

According to a report on the development of China's News Media, issued by the All China Journalists Association, (ACJA), the country's digital transformation extends to 3,606 Internet news information service units, providing 14,228 licensed services including websites, applications, and public accounts.

The report further states that in recent years, the rapid advancement of generative artificial intelligence (AI) technology has significantly reshaped the ecosystem of journalism and communication in China.

By integrating cutting-edge digital and intelligent technologies, China's media industry is not only enhancing efficiency and precision but also redefining the boundaries of creativity and innovation in storytelling.

Generative AI (AIGC) is becoming a cornerstone of the media landscape. According to the AIGC Panorama Report of Application in China, the market size for generative AI applications is projected to hit 20 billion Yuan in 2024, surging past one trillion Yuan by 2030.

Media outlets are increasingly investing in AI-powered tools, integrating them with film, television, and music assets to foster innovative collaboration and applications.

The sector has also witnessed employment growth. The newspaper publishing industry employed 184,000 professionals in 2023, marking a third consecutive year of increase. Across the broader media industry, over 1 million individuals contributed to the development of radio, television, and online audiovisual services.

China's media industry achieved a total output value of 3.15 trillion Yuan in 2023, reflecting an 8.38% year-on-year increase. Newspapers generated 61.66 billion Yuan in revenue, with notable contributions from advertising, circulation, and new media operations.

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While the vision is comprehensive and well-conceived, the challenge lies not in strategic planning but in effective implementation. Planning Minister Mr. Ehsan Iqbal, known for his strategic acumen from his previous tenure in the PML(N) government, has demonstrated a clear understanding of what is required at the macro level.

However, the PML(N) leadership, or for that matter any government at the federal level, often falls short when it comes to translating such plans into actionable outcomes. The lack of full ownership of strategic visions and their integration into the processes, protocols, and policies of federal and provincial governments and ministries has historically been a significant gap.

If Vision 2025 does not achieve buy-in at all levels of governance and is not implemented rigorously across the board, it risks becoming another intellectual exercise rather than a transformative national agenda.

The 18th Amendment marked a pivotal

While the intent of the 18th Amendment was to empower provinces and ensure more localized governance, it inadvertently weakened the federation's financial and administrative cohesion.

The decentralization of powers left the federal government with diminished revenue streams and limited control over key governance areas, while provinces benefitted from surplus budgets and greater autonomy.

Post-18th Amendment, the political landscape has often been fragmented, with different parties governing the federation and the provinces, each harboring divergent or even opposing strategic visions. This lack of unity undermines any federal strategic vision, which often remains a theoretical exercise.

Multiple power centers within the federation also counter the implementation of the vision. — the Parliament is often reluctant to endorse federal policies, a judiciary is prone to encroaching on executive functions, and provincial administrations



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmi. (Courtesy of Ashfaq Al-Awzat)

5th January, Day of Right to Self Determination - I

Every Year the 5th of January is observed as the Day of Right to Self-Determination for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

On this day in 1949, the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP) adopted a resolution that guarantees a free and fair plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir. The day marks a significant chapter in Kashmir's history as on this Day the Birth Right of the people of Kashmir was accepted internationally and it was made clear to all parties including India and Pakistan that Kashmir are the basic party of the dispute and without their consent and choice; their future cannot be ascertained so it was essential for all concerned quarters to respect the internationally recognized resolutions passed by United Nations Security Council.

As per the resolution of January 5, 1949, "The question of accession of the State of Jammu & Kashmir to India or Pakistan will be decided through the democratic method of a free and impartial plebiscite".

It is pertinent to mention here that as per the international law the exercise of the right of people to self-determination is their basic right to freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social, and cultural development and it is also the primary principle in the creation of states.

The people of State of Jammu and Kashmir have been demanding the implementation of United Nations Resolutions for more than seven decades but India not only denied the Kashmiris Right of plebiscite but also unleashed the reign of terror to break their

will and terrorize them. In fact, the people of Kashmir are being subjected to systematic and widespread human rights abuses. India is committing war crimes and is carrying out genocide of Kashmiris.

The last 77 years of India's subjugation of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir are a sad story of repression and tyranny for the people of Kashmir. India has unbridled her ruthless troops to terrorize and kill the inhabitants of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), and convey the fear among the oppressed Kashmiris about Hindutva Ideology and unlimited powers of Indian armed forces so that they could never dare to demand their inalienable right to self-determination.

Indian forces of occupation have been awarded unrestrained powers to crush the popular freedom struggle of Kashmiris under the cover of draconian laws like Jammu & Kashmir Public Safety Act, 1978; Jammu & Kashmir Disturbed Areas Act, 1990; Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act 1990; The Armed Forces Special Powers Act, 1990; Prevention of Terrorism Act 2002, Unlawful Activities (prevention) Amendment Ordinance 2004.

These laws provide the license to kill Kashmiris with impunity. India's brutal forces have carried out numerous heinous crimes during the last seven decades. Since 1989 India has martyred 96,388 Kashmiris, among whom 7,375 were martyred in Indian forces custody, 1,72,530 innocent Kashmiris were arrested, 22,980 women were widowed, 11,265 women were molested, 1,07,974 Children were orphaned while as 110,521 structures

were gutted.

While crushing the huge demonstration against Indian state terrorisms, brute troops used lethal weapons, pepper and pellet guns and resulted in thousands of martyrs, pellet victims and handicapped Kashmiris. Kashmir's valor and determination resulted in Indian frustration and these frustrated and savage forces with atrocious missions carried out the satanic Chankian plans to crush the popular demand of plebiscite.

Genocide of Kashmiris in specific areas have been carried out by brutal forces, resulting in thousands of mass graves in hamlet areas of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Unmarked graves have been reported by various International and local Human Rights activists and Organization. The activists of Institute of Voice of victims have also reported numerous unmarked graves in various localities of District Budgam and Bandipora. Some other human rights groups working in Kashmir have discovered nearly 3,000 unnamed graves in the Baramulla and Kupwara districts and it was proved that buried dead bodies after exhumation were of those civilians who were kidnapped in broad daylight from various localities of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Indian savage and terrorist troops have carried out many massacres like Gaw Kadal 1990, Zakoora and Tengpora massacres 1990, Bijbehara 1993, Sopore massacre 1993, Kupwara Massacre 1994, Chattsinghpura Massacre 2000, Nadimarg Massacre 2003, Teli Katha 2004, and Doda massacres 2006 but could not bent down the people of Kashmir from their demand of implementation of 5th January United Nations Resolutions.

To be continued

Is Sindh the Dustbin of Pakistan?

Sindh, often referred to as the heart and brain of Pakistan, is a province rich in history, culture, and resources. Its economic and political significance is undeniable. However, Sindh has long been subjected to exploitation and injustices that have tarnished its identity and hindered its development.

socio-economic needs.

The continuous migration of people from other provinces to Sindh has strained its resources, creating fierce competition for jobs, land, and business opportunities. This influx threatens the cultural and linguistic identity of Sindh, causing resentment among the local population. Migrants often accept lower wages, displacing local workers and undermining small businesses.

The unchecked migration and settlement of outsiders in Sindh pose a grave threat to its cultural and linguistic heritage. The diminishing use of Sindhi language in urban areas and the loss of traditional practices have created an identity crisis among the province's people.

Sindh's plight reflects systemic neglect by federal and provincial authorities. The deliberate marginalization of its resources and people highlights the absence of equitable policies. Whether it is the unjust allocation of gas resources, inadequate industrial support, or the imposition of external issues, Sindh continues to bear the brunt of the country's mismanagement.

Sindh's contribution to Pakistan's prosperity cannot be overstated, yet it remains neglected. It is imperative to acknowledge and address the injustices inflicted upon Sindh. Failing to rectify this will not only harm Sindh but also weaken the unity and stability of Pakistan. Sindh's resources belong to its people, and any attempt to exploit or marginalize them must be resisted. Only through equitable policies and inclusive governance can the wounds inflicted upon Sindh begin to heal.

This article is a wake-up call for all stakeholders to recognize Sindh's vital role in Pakistan's development and to ensure that its rights are upheld and its resources are managed fairly.

Analysis



Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

Karachi, the economic hub of Pakistan, has frequently been forced to bear the brunt of issues originating in other provinces. For instance, protests against incidents such as the Parachinar tragedy led to the complete shutdown of Karachi, causing millions of rupees in economic losses. Karachi's paralysis directly impacts the nation's economy and disrupts local businesses and daily life. Why should Sindh be forced to shoulder the burden of problems from other regions? Events occurring in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa or Punjab often result in economic and social disruptions in Sindh, a practice that is both unjust and counterproductive.

Industrial sectors in cities like Hyderabad and Nawabshah are struggling due to energy shortages, leading to economic stagnation. The lack of investment in infrastructure further compounds these challenges, making it difficult for local industries to compete.

Despite contributing significantly to Pakistan's GDP, the revenue generated from Sindh's resources remains concentrated in federal coffers. Minimal investments are made to improve Sindh's infrastructure or address its

Saudi envoy inaugurates scenic photo display celebrating Pakistan-Saudi friendship

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan, Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki on Thursday inaugurated an amazing display of Pakistan's scenic photos on the boundary wall of the Diplomatic Enclave opposite the Saudi Embassy, symbolizing the enduring friendship and cultural ties between the two brotherly nations.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by the Chairman of Capital Development Authority (CDA), Muhammad Ali Randhawa, along with other dignitaries and officials.

Speaking to the media, Ambassador Al-Malki described the initiative as a tribute to Pakistan's vibrant culture and rich heritage. "This effort highlights the beauty and diversity of Pakistan to the world while celebrating the deep-rooted brotherhood between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan," he stated.

The photo display captivated participants with its vivid portrayal of Pakistan's cultural and natural diversity.

Among the highlights were the majestic Badshahi Mosque, the lively Shandur Polo Festival, the rustic charm of desert life, the architectural



wonder of the mosque located within the Khewra Salt Mine and K2, the second highest mountain on earth.

Other images showcased traditional activities, such as jaggery-making, and featured Pakistan's unique wildlife, including the partridge and cheetah providing a window into the country's lifestyle and biodiversity.

profound and enduring relationship between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, rooted in shared values and mutual respect. This initiative forms part of a larger effort to promote cultural exchange and strengthen the historic ties between the two nations, further enriching their longstanding partnership.

The event underscored the Photos by Ramzan Mughal

Rehab Innovations-25 Expo: A Groundbreaking Celebration of Innovation in Rehabilitation!

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Organized by the TUF Rehabilitation Society, Rehab Innovations 25 expo served as a pioneering platform to exhibit cutting-edge prosthetics and rehabilitation technologies developed by students. The expo was inaugurated by Mr Rehan Naseem Bharara, President of the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI), as the Chief Guest, alongside Dr Habib Aslam, Convener of FCCI. Prof Dr Aman Ullah Malik, Rector TUF, and Dr Zahida Maqbool, Registrar, TUF graced the event with their presence, offering their encouragement and acknowledging the students' exceptional innovations.

The expert panel of judges featured



Dr Muhammad Sharif Waqas, Associate Professor and HOD, Physical Therapy at NUR International University Lahore, Prof Dr Salman Bashir, Dean of the School of Health

Sciences at the University of Management and Technology Lahore, and Prof Dr Rabiya Noor, Professor, and HOD of Physical Therapy at Riphah International University Lahore, Dr

Hira Mannan, Lecturer at GC University Faisalabad, Professor Dr Shahid Ahmad Heera, Director of Allied Health Sciences, University of Lahore Sargodha Campus, and Professor Dr Tahira Iqbal, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine & Allied Health Sciences, TUF.

The expo was organized under the leadership of Dr Izza Ayub (PT), Lecturer and Incharge of the Rehabilitation Society at TUF, and Dr Maryam Safdar (PT), Coordinator and Assistant Professor at the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences, Saleem Wing, TUF. Sponsors included King Consultancy, Health Studio, Nutri Media Health Care, and the TUF Rehabilitation Society, all contributing to the success of the program.

DC Naeem Sindhu visited Sadar Bazar

Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: As part of the ongoing operation against encroachment on the instructions of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, significant progress has been made in Toba Tek Singh after successful negotiations with Anjuman Tajran. Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Naeem Sindhu visited Sadar Bazar and gave a detailed review regarding the elimination of encroachments. On this occasion, Assistant Commissioner Headquarters Ali Sameer, Additional Deputy Commissioner General Zeeshan Labbha Masih, President Anjuman Tajran Mohsin Idrees, General Secretary Mian Muzzamal and Anjuman Tajran representatives were also present. Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Naeem Sindhu appreciated this initiative and said that this cooperation will play an important role in making the city beautiful and improving the business environment and There will be fewer problems. Anjuman Tajran thanked the management for this friendly attitude and said that they will continue to provide all possible support for the betterment of the city in the future as well.



A Friend Brought Poison to My House

Aafia Javed

One day, a dear friend of mine brought me my favorite cookies because I wasn't feeling well. It was an overwhelmingly sweet gesture—not only did he remember my favorite cookies, but he also made an effort to show up and cheer me up. However, the next day, when I accidentally glanced into my waste bin, I was left shaken. To eat just four cookies, I had to uncover three layers of packaging: the wrapper, the plastic tray, and then each cookie individually wrapped in plastic. The very gesture that warmed my heart came wrapped in poison.

This incident made me reflect on

how many of our most loved and cherished gifts unintentionally harm us and our planet. From plastic-wrapped snacks to sleek, shiny packaging from luxury outlets, we are surrounded by layers of waste marketed as sophistication—essentially poison to our health, our children, and life on Earth.

Each year, humans generate around 400 million tons of plastic waste, but only 9% is successfully recycled. An estimated 10 million tons of waste enter the oceans annually, severely affecting marine life. In 2019 alone, approximately 353 million tons of plastic waste were generated. Humans are exposed to toxic chemicals and microplastics through ingestion, inhalation, and skin contact. Research shows that an average person could



ingest about 5 grams of plastic per week—the equivalent of consuming a credit card. If only it could boost our

bank balance instead of our pollution levels. But instead of financial richness, we are ingesting poison.

We often pay a premium for products wrapped in excessive, glossy packaging, equating layers of waste with luxury and branding. Meanwhile, simpler, humbly packed alternatives are overlooked, despite being just as valuable. The demand for visually appealing packaging continues to drive plastic production.

- Over 16,000 chemicals are used in plastic production, with at least 4,200 recognized as harmful.
- Workers in plastic production facilities face a 30% increased rate of leukemia, alongside higher rates of breast cancer.
- Microplastics have been found in human blood and brains, raising concerns about their long-term health impacts.

Chemicals from plastics can disrupt hormone activity, leading to infertility, obesity, diabetes, and increased risks of various cancers.

Research also shows that fish in the North Pacific ingest up to 24,000 tons of plastic annually, with many commercially sold fish containing plastic particles in their guts.

It's time to rethink our choices. Choosing humbly packed goods, supporting sustainable options, and encouraging eco-friendly practices can make a difference. Imagine a world where convenience doesn't harm the planet. Together, we can break free from the plastic trap and create a cleaner, healthier future—starting today. (aafiajaved03@gmail.com)

Algerian Presidency of UNSC; Challenges-Expectations

With the start of the new year, it is good and big news for the Global South and especially Africa and Arab World including Palestine that the largest country in Africa and the third biggest economy of the continent, the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria has assumed the revolving presidency of the Security Council of United Nations on Wednesday 01 Jan for the year 2025.

What does this development bring for above mentioned regions and why does the Algeria Presidency achieve some milestones of peace and stability here? The answer can be found in the pledges the Algerian President made, in his previous tenure as well as on his reelection a couple of months ago. Foreign Minister Ahmed Attaf shared the Algerian priorities during the Presidency in a press conference and shed light on what Algeria intends to do at UNSC in this one year.

As far as the challenges are concerned, Algeria has a number of issues to work upon in one year short term that is the real challenge for this country. In the neighborhood, the Libyan and Sudanese crises are the test of Algerian diplomacy at UNSC. Third on the common borders with Morocco is the Western Sahara dispute. Here, Algeria itself is a party and supporter

of the Sahrawi community there. In the Middle East, Gaza was already calling for the attention of the world body while Syria has also sought a reasonable approach from the stakeholders a couple of weeks ago. This is the mother of all crises indeed.

Mr. Attaf expressed the determination of his country for supporting international legality and just causes that is need of the time when many regions in Africa and Asia are marred with conflicts and hostilities. Algeria as a member of UNSC in the last year worked on the same path and claims some important achievements, which contribute to strengthening the spread of Algerian diplomacy and enhancing its position and role at the regional and international levels.

Algeria joined the Security Council in this international context burdened with risks and challenges. Despite the sensitivity of the situation and the difficulty of the task, Algeria has taken it upon itself to contribute, even if only to a small extent, to addressing the issues raised before this central UN body.

Algeria finds its path to the desired goal of peace from the instructions of the President of the Republic, Mr. Abdelmadjid Tebboune that are considered a roadmap for Algeria's term in the Security Council. FM Attaf describes four main axes of this roadmap as:

- The first axis, that Algeria always works to be the Arab and African voice in the Security Council, advocating for the concerns of Arab and African countries and peoples, and defending their aspirations and ambitions with all honesty and sincerity.

- The second axis, that Algeria dedicates its term in the Council to supporting just causes, foremost among which is the Palestinian cause and the Western Sahara cause, in defense of the national rights established by international legality for the benefit of both the Palestinian and Sahrawi peoples.

- The third axis, Algeria's role in the Security Council relates to the necessity of working to make Algeria a positive propositional force that contributes to bridging the rifts and divisions between the permanent members within the Security Council.

- The fourth axis, Upholding the rules of international law and the decisions of international legality in all of Algeria's movements within the Security Council, as well as working to restore the prestige of the United Nations and its vital role in resolving disputes and settling them through peaceful negotiation.

Mr. Attaf expressed that Interna-

tional law remains the compass to which everyone must resort on an equal footing, and the United Nations remains the comprehensive framework that must fully play its role in activating the rules of international law and ensuring everyone's compliance with its provisions without any discrimination, preference or favoritism.

Following the above mentioned roadmap may not solve the issues but remarkable strides towards the solution can be expected if other parties cooperate with the chair. Algeria enjoys the close working relationship with the secretary general. Pakistan has also joined UNSC for 2025-26 and both countries are looking forward to complementing the efforts of each other for the peace in the world.

On Palestine, Minister Attaf declares: "our efforts have focused and continue to focus on the priority of a ceasefire and relief for the Palestinians in Gaza, and on the necessity of breaking the wall of immunity that the Israeli occupation is protected by, as well as on the inevitability of strengthening the horizon of a political settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict according to the formula



Analysis

Tazeen Akhtar

or accepted as inevitable.

Algeria seeks strength for 10 Non permanent members of UNSC and will contribute to unifying the voice and influence of the Group of Ten Elected States (E10). For the first time in the history of the Security Council, this group, which represents the broadest spectrum of the international community, has initiated joint draft resolutions,

the starting point being the draft resolution submitted by Algeria at the beginning of this year on the Palestinian cause. Pakistan can use this opportunity to highlight the Jammu Kashmir dispute as well, which is the oldest issue to be resolved on the agenda of the UN.

(The writer is MSc Mass Comm, has worked as Editor of newspapers in Islamabad. He is member media safety committee of Council of Pakistan Newspapers Editors CPNE, tazeen303@gmail.com)



Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
117,586.98	117,119.65
Day's High	Day's Low
117,891.62	115,580.01
Index Value	Change
27,785,927,939	+467.33
Percentage	Time
+0.4%	3 Jan, 2025 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,228.83	-31.26
Percentage	Time
-0.38%	3 Jan, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
42,652.04	+259.77
Percentage	Time
+0.61%	3 Jan, 11:33 am GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
39,894.54	-386.62
Percentage	Time
-0.96%	30 Dec, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	173.75	176.00
Bahrain Dinar	735.90	743.90
Canadian Dollar	194.10	196.50
China Yuan	37.99	38.39
Danish Krone	37.94	38.34
Euro	287.25	290.00
Hong Kong Dollar	35.48	35.83
Indian Rupee	3.19	3.28
Japanese Yen	1.78	1.84
Kuwaiti Dinar	893.35	902.85
Malaysian Ringgit	61.61	62.21
New Zealand \$	154	156.00
Norwegians Krone	24.2	24.50
Omani Riyal	720.25	728.75
Qatari Riyal	75.86	76.56
Saudi Riyal	73.90	74.45
Singapore Dollar	204	206.00
Swedish Korona	24.7	25.00
Swiss Franc	307.08	309.88
Thai Bhat	7.95	8.1
U.A.E Dirham	75.50	76.15
UK Pound Sterling	347.00	350.5
US Dollar	278.35	279.85

Government to establish 100MW solar power project in Gilgit Baltistan

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has planned to establish a 100 MW solar power project in Gilgit-Baltistan as part of the Public Sector Development Programme.

The decision was made during a recent meeting chaired by the Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Amir Muqam.

Sources told the news outlet the solar project will be implemented in GB following a feasibility study and needs assessment to maximise developmental benefits for the region. A third-party arrangement will be put in place to ensure quality assurance, with an operations and maintenance contract lasting three years.

The GB chief secretary said that the GB cabinet has approved the hiring of NESPAC

as the consultant for the feasibility study. The distribution of the 100MW capacity will allocate 40MW for Gilgit and 20MW each for Skardu, Chilas, and Ghanche. The existing distribution system in GB will be utilised to transport the generated electricity.

Financing for the feasibility study will be provided by the GB government, with completion expected by January 31, 2025. Once finalised, the updated project document (PC-1) will be submitted through the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs & Gilgit-Baltistan to the Public Development Sector Implementation for approval, with tenders anticipated to be issued by April 2025.

The Kashmir Affairs & Gilgit-Baltistan Division secretary emphasised the need to select an international firm with solar energy expertise for a potential joint venture with NESPAC.

The Private Power and Infrastructure Board has assured support to the GB government in this endeavour.

To address potential fiscal constraints on mainstream PSDP funding, the minister for Kashmir Affairs suggested that funding for the solar project should come from the PM's Special Package. He noted that while the project would proceed at full capacity, it could be completed in phases, with yearly allocations from the Special Package.

They also discussed the construction of the Pakistan Sports Board Coaching Centre in Skardu. A request for Rs200 million from the PM Special Package for GB was made to the PM Office. The project, valued at Rs764 million, has already been approved by the Departmental Development Working Party and will include

a gymnasium, multipurpose hall, indoor game facilities, and a football ground.

The GB chief secretary confirmed that land for the coaching centre has already been allocated by the GB government. A proposal was made to transfer project execution to the GB government for faster implementation and better post-completion operations. The chief secretary and additional secretary of the Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination agreed in principle.

Furthermore, they discussed a proposal for allocating Rs300 million from the Export Development Fund to upgrade Lapidary Centers in Gilgit and Skardu. The Ministry of Commerce was urged to expedite the GB government's case, which addresses initial concerns from the EDF.



Dry fruit

KARACHI: People are buying dry fruits from vendor at Khori Garden area in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Pakistan ahead of Sudan and Myanmar in terms of internet outage, tops financial losses



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Top 10 VPN has released a report on internet outages which has ranked Pakistan among the world's top three in terms of financial losses due to internet outages, reported 24NewsHD TV channel on Saturday.

Report says Pakistan topped the chart with a total financial impact of \$1.62 billion. Pakistan is ahead of Sudan and Myanmar in terms of financial losses. Pakistan had 9,735 hours of internet outages in 2024 Report and as many as

82.9 million users were out of internet in 2024. The ongoing shutdown of social media platform X since February 18 was the most expensive.

The shutdown of X since February 18 caused a loss of \$1.34 billion. In 2024, there were 18 incidents of internet outages in Pakistan due to three major reasons including elections, information control and protests.

Global internet disruptions lasted for 88,788 hours and a total of \$7.69 billion was lost due to internet outages worldwide.

China's central bank outlines monetary priorities for 2025

Xinhua

BELJING: China's central bank has outlined its monetary and financial priorities for 2025 following a two-day meeting that ended Saturday, emphasizing expanding domestic demand, stabilizing expectations and stimulating vitality to ensure sustained improvement in the Chinese economy.

The People's Bank of China (PBOC) said it will implement a moderately loose monetary policy in 2025, forestall and defuse financial risks in key areas, and further deepen financial reform and high-standard opening up.

Unveiling its monetary policy for this year, the central bank explained that it will implement a moderately loose monetary policy to create a sound monetary and financial environment for stable economic growth.

It also noted leveraging a mix of monetary policy tools to reduce the reserve requirement ratio and interest rates when appropriate in light of domestic and international economic and finan-



cial conditions and the operation of financial markets.

The PBOC said it will maintain sufficient liquidity and steadily increase financial supply, so that the growth in social financing and money supply will match the target for economic growth and overall price levels.

The meeting also underlined putting existing financial resources to good use and improving efficiency in the use of funds. In the meantime, the PBOC will keep the exchange rate of the yuan basically stable at an adaptive and balanced level, and forestall exchange rate overshooting risks.

Secretary UBG emphasizes for providing Braille books to visually impair people

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Secretary General UBG, Federation Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Zafar Bakhtawari on Saturday emphasized that providing Braille books to visually impaired individuals in Pakistan is not enough and equipping them with IT training.

Secretary General UBG, FPCCI Zafar Bakhtawari stressed the need for providing Braille books to visually impaired individuals in Pakistan is not enough; equipping them with IT training to meet modern demands and making them productive citizens is the need of the hour. On the occasion of World

Braille Day, Zafar Bakhtawari stated that Braille is not merely a written language for the visually impaired but a vital tool for their self-reliance, dignity, and a respected place in society, said a release issued here.

He highlighted that this day serves as a reminder of our collective responsibility to reduce the challenges faced by special individuals and ensure their full inclusion through tangible actions. He further added that globally, major companies create employment opportunities for special individuals. Similarly, in Pakistan, opportunities should be created for visually impaired individuals in the IT sector, call centers, and other fields, enabling them to

fully utilize their potential.

Zafar Bakhtawari stressed the importance of providing facilities for visually impaired individuals in government and educational institutions and ensuring their recruitment under allocated quotas. He called for the introduction of a transparent system to prevent any exploitation of their rights. Providing dignified employment to special individuals is not only beneficial for them but also advantageous for the country's economy and development.

He stated that World Braille Day is an occasion to pledge that we will take every possible step to protect the rights of visually impaired and other special individuals and ensure



equal opportunities for them. A balanced and inclusive society is the guarantee of true progress, and

all institutions and social sectors in Pakistan must play their role in achieving this goal.

Indonesia raises biodiesel quota by 20 pct under B40 regulation



Xinhua

JAKARTA: The Indonesian government has officially implemented the B40 biodiesel regulation, effective Jan. 1, 2025, increasing the biodiesel fuel quota by 20 percent. This move is part of a broader strategy to enhance energy security and reduce diesel imports in line with President Prabowo Subianto's directives.

"The B35 rule allowed us to manufacture 12.98 million kiloliters of biodiesel, and the B40 regulation raised it to 15.6 million kiloliters," said Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Bahlil Lahadalia during a press conference on Friday.

With this determination, Bahlil ensured that the government had prepared further steps for the use of biofuels while continuing to improve the water content and implementation of the biodiesel mixture.

To support the B40 policy, state energy company PT Pertamina has readied two key refineries in Palembang on Sumatra Island and Papua.

Deputy Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Yuliot Tanjung highlighted the importance of ensuring adequate raw materials and a robust supply chain, given Indonesia's vast and geographically diverse regions.

The government also plans to execute B50 in 2026 if the implementation of B40 is carried out properly this year.

PSL 10: Franchises announce retentions without any trade

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The six HBL PSL franchises have announced their retentions ahead of the HBL PSL 2025 Players Draft which is scheduled to take place on 11 January.

Each franchise was allowed a maximum of eight retentions from their previous squad. Three franchises made full use of the retentions except Karachi Kings, Multan Sultans and Peshawar Zalmi - who retained seven players each.

Defending champions and three-time winners of the HBL PSL

Islamabad United have retained their skipper Shadab Khan who was also player of the tournament in their successful campaign last season and star fast bowler Naseem Shah in the Platinum category.

Imad Wasim, who is also named as the mentor of United, has been retained in Diamond along with Azam Khan. In Gold, Salman Ali Agha has been named as the brand ambassador while Haider Ali has also been retained in the same category.

Colin Munro, the second leading run-scorer among overseas batters in the HBL PSL history, has been retained in the Silver category along side Rumman Raees.

Multan Sultans, the runners-up of the last edition and winners of the HBL PSL 2021, have retained captain Mohammad Rizwan and leg-spinner Usama Mir in Platinum.

David Willey, who is set to feature in his fourth HBL PSL edition, Iftikhar Ahmed and opening batter

Usman Khan have been retained in the Diamond category. Willey is also named the mentor of the side while Iftikhar will be their brand ambassador.

England's Chris Jordan, who has so far represented three franchises in the HBL PSL, has been retained in Gold while wrist-spinner Faisal Akram is stationed in the Silver category.

Babar Azam, the leading run-scorer (3504) in HBL PSL history and the skipper of the side, and dynamic batter Saim Ayub have been retained by one-time winners Peshawar Zalmi in Platinum.

Wicket-keeper Mohammad Haris has been retained in Diamond by Zalmi while spin bowling trio of Arif Yaqoob, Mehran Mumtaz and Sufyan Moqim have been retained in Silver. Sufyan is the brand ambassador for Peshawar Zalmi.

Fast bowling sensation Ali Raza, who has just bagged maiden first-class ten-wicket haul in Quaid-e-Azam Trophy 2024-25 final, has been retained in the emerging category by Zalmi.

Quetta Gladiators have retained Rilee Rossouw, the leading run-getter among overseas batters in HBL PSL history, mystery spinner Abrar Ahmed and pacer Mohammad Amir in Diamond category. Amir will also be the mentor of the side.

Saud Shakeel, retained in the Gold category, is announced the brand ambassador for the Gladiators. No.1 ranked T20I bowler, Akeal Hosein and Mohammad Wasim Jnr have also been retained in Gold.



In the Silver category, Khawaja Mohammad Nafay and spinner Usman Tariq have been retained by the 2019 winners.

The HBL PSL 2020 champions, Karachi Kings, have retained Hasan Ali and James Vince in Diamond. Skipper Shan Masood and emerging player/best fielder of the of the last edition, Muhammad Irfan Khan have been retained in Gold.

Spinner Arafat Minhas and Zahid Mehmood along with New Zealand's Tim Seifert have been retained in Silver on the Kings' roster. 20-year-old Arafat, who has played four T20Is for Pakistan, is also the brand ambassador for Karachi Kings.

Shaheen Shah Afridi, the third leading wicket-taker in HBL PSL history, and Fakhar Zaman, the second-leading run-getter in HBL PSL, have been retained in Platinum by the two-time winners Lahore Qalandars. Haris Rauf, who is named

the brand ambassador as well, has been retained in Diamond alongside Zimbabwe's Sikandar Raza.

Abdullah Shafique, Jahandad Khan and Zaman Khan have been retained in Gold by the Qalandars. Experienced David Wiese is retained in the silver category.

Lahore Qalandars have the first platinum pick, while Islamabad United and Quetta Gladiators will be the first to pick in the second and third Platinum rounds, respectively.

Full retentions: Islamabad United (8) Shadab Khan and Naseem Shah (both Platinum), Imad Wasim (mentor) and Azam Khan (Diamond), Salman Ali Agha (Brand Ambassador) and Haider Ali (Both Gold, Colin Munro and Rumman Raees (both Silver)

Multan Sultans (7) Muhammad Rizwan and Usama Mir (both Platinum), David Willey (mentor), Iftikhar Ahmed (Brand Ambassador) and

Usman Khan (all Diamond), Chris Jordan (Gold), Faisal Akram (Silver) Peshawar Zalmi (7) Babar Azam, Saim Ayub (both Platinum), Mohammad Haris (Diamond), Arif Yaqoob, Mehran Mumtaz and Sufyan Moqim (Brand Ambassador) (all silver), Ali Raza (Emerging)

Quetta Gladiators (8) Abrar Ahmed, Mohammad Amir (mentor) and Rilee Rossouw (all Diamond), Akeal Hosein, Saud Shakeel (Brand Ambassador) and Mohammad Wasim Jnr (all Gold), Khawaja Muhammad Nafay and Usman Tariq (Silver)

Karachi Kings (7) Hasan Ali and James Vince (both Diamond), Muhammad Irfan Khan and Shan Masood (both Gold), Arafat Minhas (Brand Ambassador), Tim Seifert and Zahid Mehmood (all Silver)

Lahore Qalandars (8) Shaheen Shah Afridi and Fakhar Zaman (both Platinum), Haris Rauf (Brand Ambassador) and Sikandar Raza (both Diamond), Abdullah Shafique, Jahandad Khan and Zaman Khan (all Gold), David Wiese (Silver)

Successful category relegation requests: Rumman Raees (Islamabad United), Hasan Ali, Shan Masood and Zahid Mehmood (all Karachi Kings), Abdullah Shafique (Lahore Qalandars), Faisal Akram (Multan Sultans) Some of the star foreign players registered in the top two categories: Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Naveen-ul-Haq Murid, Mohammad Nabi, Hazratullah Zazai, Qais Ahmad, Nangeyalia Kharote (all Afghanistan), David Warner, Cooper Connolly,

Matthew Short, Riley Meredith, Sean Abbott, William Sutherland, Mark Steketee, Ashton Agar, Daniel Sams, Jason Behrendorff, Chris Lynn, Moises Henriques, Ashton Turner, Alex Carey, Josh Philippe, Benjamin Moxam (Brand Ambassador), Jake Lehmann, (all Australia), Mustafizur Rahman, Shakib Al Hasan, Mahmud-ullah Riyad, Hasan Mahmud, Rishad Hossain, Tanzim Hasan, Taskin Ahmed, Tawhid Hridoy (all Bangladesh), Tom Kohler-Cadmore, Sam Billings, Jason Roy, Joe Clarke, Tom Curran, Tymal Mills, Alex Hales, Laurie Evans, Dawid Malan, Luke Wood (all England), Finn Allen, Mark Chapman, Daryl Mitchell, Jimmy Neesham, Adam Milne, Tim Southee, Michael Bracewell, Martin Guptill, Ajaz Patel, Colin De Grandhomme, Ish Sodhi (All New Zealand), Rassie van Der Dussen, Reeza Hendricks, Corbin Bosch, Dwaine Pretorius, George Linde, Nandre Burger, Duan Jansen, Temba Bavuma, Wiaan Mulder (all South Africa), Charith Asalanka, Kusal Mendis, Angelo Mathews, Avishka Fernando, Bhanuka Rajapaksa, Chamika Karunaratne, Dasun Shanaka, Dinesh Chandimal, Dunith Wellalage, Lahiru Kumara, Pathum Nissanka, Kusal Perera (all Sri Lanka), Andries Gous, Corey Anderson (All USA), Jason Holder, Evin Lewis, Matthew Forde, Kyle Mayers, Andre Fletcher, Obed McCoy, Brandon King, Fabian Allen, Dominic Drakes, Shamar Springer, Hayden Walsh Jnr (All West Indies), Ryan Burl, Blessing Muzarabani (all Zimbabwe).

Shoaib, Muzammil to lock horns in final of Begum Kulsum Saifullah Tennis C'ships

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Mohammad Shoaib and Muzammil Murtaza advanced to the final of Men's Singles after trouncing their respective opponents at the 10th Begum Kulsum Saifullah Khan National Ranking Tennis Championships at the PTF-SDA Tennis Complex, Islamabad on Saturday.

Shoaib defeated Yousaf Khalil 6-4, 6-4 in a well fought contest, while Muzammil Murtaza overcame Aqeel Khan, who retired at 4-1 in the second set after losing the first 6-4.

The Ladies' Singles semifinals saw Soha Ali edge past Noor Malik 7-6(5), 6-3, while Amna Ali Qayum secured her spot in the final by beating Meheq Khokhar 6-2, 6-4.

In the Men's Doubles final,



Muhammad Shoaib teamed up with Muzammil Murtaza to dominate Barkatullah and Yousaf Khalil, winning convincingly with a score of

6-2, 6-1, to claim the title.

The Boys' 18 & Under final featured an upset as Abubakar Talha stunned top seed Bilal Asim 6-4, 6-4, to clinch the championship in this category.

In the younger categories, the semifinals delivered exciting results:

Boys' 14 & Under Semifinals: Hassan Usmani bt. Shayan Afridi 6-2, 7-5; Ruhab Faisal bt. Junaid Khan 6-1, 6-1

Boys' 12 & Under Semifinals: Shayan Afridi bt. Muhammad Aayan 4-1, 4-1; Rashid Ali bt. Ibraheem Gill 4-1, 5-3

The tournament will conclude on Sunday with two key finals:

Ladies' Singles Final: Amna Ali Qayum vs. Soha Ali at 10:30 AM

Men's Singles Final: Muhammad Shoaib vs. Muzammil Murtaza at 1:30 PM

Concrete steps being taken for hockey revival: PHF president

Sports Desk

KHANEWAL: Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) President Mir Tariq Hussain Bugti said that the government was making significant efforts for the promotion of the national game.

Talking to media persons at the prize distribution ceremony of the Army Chief District Hockey Championship at the Sports Stadium in Khanewal, he highlighted the positive impact of recent measures on the sport's revival.

Mir Tariq Hussain Bugti, who assumed office as PHF President in 2024, expressed his



commitment to reversing the decline in Pakistan hockey.

"We have achieved remarkable progress by reaching finals and semi-finals in several inter-

national competitions. Our junior team participated in the Junior World Cup and showcased exceptional talent," he said.

The PHF President declared 2025 as the "Year of Hockey," with numerous national and international tournaments planned. He announced that the national hockey team would tour Europe, playing matches against European nations to prepare for the Hockey World Cup. "We aim to deliver outstanding performance and bring joy to the nation, positioning Pakistan as one of the world's top hockey teams once again," he added.

Bugti emphasized his commitment to grassroots development by visiting districts to evaluate hockey activities and

address areas lacking infrastructure. "Our players are competing on AstroTurf against international teams despite limited resources and playing on clay grounds.

He vowed to take concrete steps to ensure the sport thrives at the grassroots level.

The event was attended by notable figures, including District Sports Officer Muhammad Hafeez, General Secretary Punjab Table Tennis Association Haji Anbar Bashir Ahmed, Muhammad Arshad, Ishtiaq Ahmed Paracha, and Multan Hockey Association President Kamran Ashraf.

PAK vs SA: Pakistan's wickets fall in quick succession as Day 2 play ends

Pakistan faced disappointment as the side kicked off the first innings of the second and last Test match against South Africa in the sweltering heat of Newlands on Saturday as they lost back-to-back three wickets including wicket of captain Shan Masood.

Reeling from the onslaught of South African batters, Pakistan's skipper fell to Rabada in the first over of the innings. Kamran Ghulam followed him in the sixth over putting Green Shirts in danger with a score of 18-2.

Rabada struck again on the fourth ball of the ninth over and dismissed Saud Shakeel on a duck.

All the while, ace batter Babar Azam remained steady on the

pitch as he got to a score of 34 off 77 balls. He was paired with wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan (nine not-out) and together the duo saved Pakistan from further loss of wickets and wrapped up the play on Day 2 at 64/3.

The side will kick off Day 3 play's tomorrow with trail of 551 runs.

Earlier in South Africa's first inning, makeshift opener Ryan Rickelton's 259 powered South Africa to a score of 615.

Pakistan's bowling attack was left bamboozled from the onslaught of the South African batters with Kyle Verreynne also scoring a ton from just 147 balls.

Rickelton, who was elevated to the opening role following an injury to Tony de Zorzi, smashed

a whopping score of 259 and built a partnership of 148 with Verreynne before he got out.

The makeshift opener was also dismissed a few overs later as Mir Hamza's pace brought an end to a magnificent inning.

With the powerhouse duo dismissed, Pakistan's pacers were smacked all over the park by Marco Jansen and Keshav Maharaj with scores of 62 from 54 and 40 from just 35 deliveries respectively.

Pacer and tail-ender Kagiso Rabada remained not out with six runs as the home side packed up the innings at a score of 615-10.

Pakistan's Mohammad Abbas and Salman Agha took three wickets each with Mir Hamza and Khurram Shahzad

dismissing two South African batters each.

Earlier, Rickelton, who scored his maiden Test century against Sri Lanka last month, resumed in the morning session on 176 and continued where he left off in seeing off Pakistan's second new ball, though Verreynne did the bulk of the scoring.

The tourists removed Rickelton's overnight partner David Bedingham for five as the latter became wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan's fifth victim of the innings, this time off the bowling of Mohammad Abbas (2-70) with a poor shot outside off-stump.

Rickelton put on 235 for the fourth wicket with captain Temba Bavuma on the opening day and has looked imperious

on a pitch that is good for batting, but is expected to break up under the hot sun as the Test goes on.

That is bad news for Pakistan, who have lost in-form opener Saim Ayub to an ankle fracture sustained in the field on the first morning, limiting them to nine wickets in each of their batting innings.

Ayub is expected to be out for around six weeks and will be a doubt for Pakistan's ICC Champions Trophy squad.

South Africa have already claimed their place in June's World Test Championship final at Lord's against as yet unconfirmed opponents, but are looking to win this series 2-0 after claiming a tense first Test by two wickets in Pretoria.

Pakistani U19 women's team training in full swing in Karachi



Sports Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan U19 women's team practiced for five hours in Karachi on Saturday for the fourth consecutive day.

The players took part in the training session under the supervision of head coach Mohsin Kamal.

The players also did physical training at the Hanif Muhammad High-Performance Centre.

On the fourth day, the training camp had two sessions - morning and afternoon. Assistant coach Mohammad Hanif Malik and fielding coach Nahida Khan gave tips and engaged the players in several drills.

The training camp of the U19 women's team will continue in Karachi till 9 January, while the team will depart for Malaysia via Dubai on January 10.

Zone-VI W and Zone-VII B Moved into Quarter Final of Woodward Trophy U-17 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament

Deadly bowling by Asad Omar 6/19 received Medicam Man of the Match Award

KARACHI: Due to Deadly Bowling by Medium Pacer Asad Omar Capturing 6 Wickets for 19 and slow left arm spinner Niqab Shafiq got 2 for 5 Zone-VI Whites moved into Quarter Final of the Woodward Trophy Under-17 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament after beating Zone-VII Blues by 8 in their last Group "A" match on Friday at KCCA Stadium.

Later Asad Omar received the Medicam Man of the Match Award. Zone-VII Blues also qualify for Quarter Final after securing 2nd Position in the same Group.

The first Quarter Final will be played on Monday 6th January between Zone-VI Whites vs Zone-I Whites at KCCA Stadium, Other Three Quarter Final will be played on Tuesday 7th January, 2025 as under:

Zone-II Whites vs Zone-VII Blues at KCCA Stadium, Zone-IV Whites vs Zone-V Whites at Landhi Gymkhana, Zone- III Whites vs Zone-VII Whites at Young Fighter Ground.

Two Semi Finals will be played on Thursday 9th January.

Winter Sports Federation of Pakistan announces exciting calendar for 2024-25 season

Sports Desk

GILGIT: The Winter Sports Federation of Pakistan has unveiled its highly anticipated calendar for the 2024-25 season, featuring a series of thrilling events that will showcase the country's top athletes in various winter disciplines.

From January to February 2025, athletes will compete in prestigious competitions, including the National Ice Sports Competitions, National Biathlon Ski Cup, and the Saadia Khan Ski Championship for females in beautiful Valley Naltar.

The action continues with the FIS Cross Country Races, National Cross Country Ski Cup, and the FIS Alpine Race, all set to take place across some of Pakistan's most scenic winter destinations.

The National Ski Championship, Shah Jahan Ski Cup, and Snowboarding Championship at Malam Babba will also provide a platform for athletes to display their skills and represent Pakistan on the international stage.

The events will bring together participants from all over the country, fostering growth and excitement in winter sports.

Appreciation

KARACHI: Chief of the Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, awarding Sword of Honour to the best midshipman during 122nd Midshipmen and 30th SSC Course Commissioning Parade at Pakistan Naval Academy Manora.



122nd Midshipmen & 30th Short Service Commissioning Parade held at Pakistan Naval Academy

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The commissioning parade of the 122nd Midshipmen and 30th Short Service Commission (SSC) Course was held at Pakistan Naval Academy (PNA), Karachi, marking the graduation of 49 Midshipmen and 29 SSC Cadets. The Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Upon arrival, the Chief Guest was received by

Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf.

While addressing the parade, the Chief Guest extended his felicitations to the newly commissioned officers and their parents on successful completion of their training. He commended Pakistan Naval Academy for imparting high-quality training to cadets, including those from friendly countries. He expressed the hope that these cadets from friendly nations will serve as ambassadors, strengthening

bonds of friendship and mutual respect. The Chief of the Air Staff emphasized the importance of staying updated with modern trends, technologies, and the evolving geo-strategic landscape.

He advised the commissioning term that in today's high-tech and information-driven era, only knowledgeable leaders can effectively address emerging challenges.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Commandant Pakistan Naval Academy, Commo-

dore Tasawar Iqbal, highlighted the key features of the academic and professional training provided to the cadets at the Academy. Later, the Chief Guest presented awards to the distinction holders. The prestigious Quaid-i-Azam Gold Medal was awarded to Lieutenant Muhammad Imad Ud Din PN for being the best all-round officer throughout training. Midshipman Tennakoon M. L. Vimukthi from Sri Lanka won the coveted Sword of Honour. Midshipman

Muhammad Shayan was awarded the Academy's Dirk. Officer Cadet Abdul Rehman received the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Gold Medal.

Officer Cadet Ali Jalil Ibrahim Sharif Shuhaib Al Shabani from Iraq was awarded the Chief of the Naval Staff Gold Medal. The Commandant Gold Medal was awarded to SSC Course Officer Cadet Sidra Saeed. The Proficiency Banner was claimed by the Fox 1 Squadron.

Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, Chaired a Performance Review Meeting

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Mr. Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, spearheaded a Performance Review Meeting attended by Additional Secretary MoMA, Mr. Umer Zafar Sheikh to assess the progress of key maritime organizations and Board Member /Trustees of the respective organization attended the meeting for their valuable input. These included the Port Qasim Authority (PQA), Karachi Port Trust (KPT), and Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC).

The meeting provided a comprehensive overview of the monthly performance



metrics, tackling challenges and pinpointing areas ripe for improvement. Strategic

discussions centered on amplifying efficiency, productivity, and overall service

delivery within the maritime sector. The meeting concluded

with a commitment to put into action the proposed recommendations and strategies designed to drive growth and progress in the maritime sector.

After the Performance Review meeting, Minister for Maritime Affairs, Mr. Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, chaired a Khuli Kachehri session, providing an open platform for employees of maritime organizations and industry stakeholders to voice their concerns, suggestions, and ideas.

This interactive forum enabled direct engagement with the Minister, fostering a collaborative environment to address grievances and enhance the maritime sector.

AAK visits Dialysis Centers at Services, Mayo Hospitals

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Federal Minister and President Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party Abdul Aleem Khan has directed to immediately install a modern Ultra-sound Machine by Abdul Aleem Khan Foundation in the Dialysis Center of Services Hospital so that patients could be facilitated to monitor their before and after situation in dialysis. It is noteworthy that Abdul Aleem Khan Foundation is extending state-of-the-art free medical facilities to all dialysis patients in Services Hospital, Mayo Hospital and Children's Hospital where doctors, nurses and other medical staff are serving the suffering humanity by providing dialysis facilities without any discrimination in Centers that are compatible with modern requirements.

President Istehkam-e-Pakistan People's Party and Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan visited the Dialysis Centers at Services and Mayo Hospital on Saturday and said that if any kind of help is required for the patients in these Centers, they are provided immediate relief. He also issued orders to ensure



the provision of quality medicines to the patients by the Foundation. During his visit, President Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party and Federal Minister Abdul

Aleem Khan talked patients one by one and inquired about their health and the facilities being provided by the Abdul Aleem Khan Foundation, there. He

also visited the kitchens, washrooms and other areas of the Dialysis Centers of AAKF and issued instructions on the spot.

Pakistan to continue political, diplomatic support to Kashmiris: President



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari said Pakistan will continue to extend its full political, diplomatic and moral support to the valiant Kashmiri people in their just struggle for rights, including their inalienable right to self-determination, as enshrined in the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council.

In a message on the Occasion of Right to Self-Determination Day on 5th January 2025, he said, "Today, Kashmiris around the world are observing the 76th anniversary of the Resolution adopted by the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP), providing that the Jammu and Kashmir dispute will be decided through the democratic method of a free and impartial plebiscite under the UN auspices."

"In essence, it was a reaffirmation of the inalienable right of Kashmiris to self-determination, which is enshrined in international law and upheld by international human rights instruments."

Regrettably, the President said India has been denying this right to the people of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) for over seven decades and subjecting them to oppression, violence, and systemic brutalities.

PM calls for grant of right to self-determination to people of J&K

City Desk

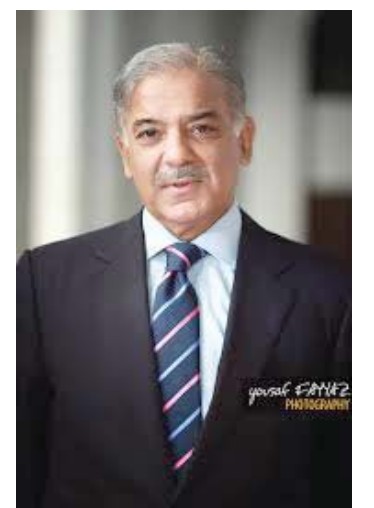
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said it was time for the international community, including the United Nations, to live up to their promises and take meaningful measures, enabling the people of Jammu and Kashmir to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination.

In a message on Right to Self-Determination Day for the People of Jammu & Kashmir observed on 5 January 2025, he said

the fifth of January is annually observed as the 'Right to Self-Determination Day' for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

On this day in 1949, he said the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP) adopted the historic resolution that guarantees a free and fair plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir, to enable the Kashmiri people to realize their inalienable right to self-determination.

"Right to self-determination is a core principle of the UN Charter, as well as of international law. Every



year, the UN General Assembly adopts a resolution that advocates the legal right of people to decide their own destiny. It expresses unequivocal support for the realization of the right to self-determination for peoples under foreign occupation. Regrettably, the Kashmiri people have not been able to exercise this inalienable right for over seven decades," he explained.

DPM congratulates nation on Pakistan's successful bid for non-permanent membership of UNSC

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar congratulated the entire nation on Pakistan's successful bid for non-permanent membership of the UN Security Council for years 2025 and 2026.

In a post on X, he said, "A very proud achievement for the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his government to secure this 8th term at the UNSC. During the term Pakistan will continue to uphold the UN Charter and international law."



"Well done Pakistan Team at Foreign Office and Permanent Mission in New York for spearheading this achievement," he added.

PPP again refuses to join federal cabinet as PM mulls expansion

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has decided to expand the federal cabinet. Sources told that the PPP had again refused to join the cabinet despite the prime minister's invitation.

Sources informed that PM Shehbaz planned to induct more than 25 members of the parliament (MPs) into the cabinet.

They disclosed that in this connection, the names of Talal Chaudhry, Barrister Aqeel, Huzaifa Rehman,

Khel Das, Sardar Yousaf, Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, Hanif Abbasi, Tauqeer Shah and Abdur Rehman Kanju had been finalized.

Sources said that most of these MPs were from Punjab while there would be one minister from KP and one from Sindh in the cabinet.

They informed that additional portfolios would be taken away from the federal ministers.

They also informed that the prime minister would write a letter to President Asif Ali Zardari about the cabinet's expansion next week.