



Government's survival depends on support of PPP, says Shazia Marri

The Pakistan Peoples Party has threatened to withdraw from the government alliance because of a lack of consultation on decisions amid issues related to internet shutdown, water canals, and terrorism.



Protest sit-in in Kurram's Parachinar postponed after three weeks

The sit-in outside the Kurram Press Club in Parachinar, which has been ongoing for three weeks, was postponed on Sunday night as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's regions still remain cut off from the rest of the province. Tribal leaders warned that they would restart the sit-in if their demands were not met. The protest was initiated to demand the reopening of transportation routes and to address various other grievances.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets the President of U.A.E., His Highness Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan, in Rahim Yar Khan, on Sunday.



Photo: PID

PM, UAE President discuss ways to enhance ties

Asim Tanveer

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Sunday met with His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates here and discussed matters of mutual and bilateral interest. During the meeting, both leaders expressed their shared commitment to deepening economic, political, and cultural ties. They discussed a wide range of issues, including economic collaboration, regional stability,

climate change, and the promotion of mutual interests on the global stage. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif praised the UAE's visionary leadership and its role as a key partner for Pakistan in development and investment. He underscored Pakistan's readiness to expand cooperation in sectors such as renewable energy, technology, trade, infrastructure and skill development. His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan highlighted the UAE's

keen interest in collaborating with Pakistan in the mining, minerals, and agriculture sectors. He expressed admiration for the manner in which Pakistan's economy has stabilized and is moving in the right direction under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. He emphasized that this renewed economic vigor has created prospects for enhanced bilateral investment and collaboration. In his remarks, His Highness also reiterated the UAE's commitment to enhancing its

longstanding partnership with Pakistan, emphasizing the importance of people-to-people connections and shared prosperity. During the meeting, Deputy Prime Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Chief Minister of Punjab Ms. Maryam Nawaz, Defense Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar, and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Syed Tariq Fatemi were present.

In a post on X, the prime minister later said, "Delighted to meet with my dear brother, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of UAE, today in Rahimyar Khan. Reaffirmed Pakistan's strong commitment to further strengthen Pak-UAE cooperation and elevate our ties to a mutually beneficial strategic partnership. Matters of mutual interest including investments in Pakistan were discussed with a resolve to move forward together."

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."

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."

PML-N always supports meaningful dialogue: Khawaja Asif

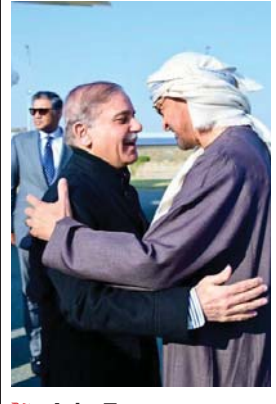
City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Defense Minister Khawaja Asif emphasized on Sunday that the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) as a political party is always committed to hold dialogue for resolution of the issues. Talking on a private news channel, he said, "PML-N has consistently encouraged negotiations to strengthen democracy in the country. "We have done numerous past efforts to promote democratic supremacy," he added. The minister also addressed the ongoing talks between the government and the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).



The negotiations have so far been limited to discussions without any concrete outcomes, he said. He further added, "PTI has been given a week's time, and we are hopeful for positive developments in the negotiations." Khawaja Asif condemned the recent firing on a government convoy in Kurram following a peace agreement in the region. He assured that the federal government would stand shoulder to shoulder with the provincial administration to address such threats. "The federal government is fully committed to combating this menace alongside the provincial government," he said.

UAE President informally exchange views with PM, drives vehicle



Asim Tanveer

RAHIM YAR KHAN: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Sunday met with His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates here and discussed matters of mutual and bilateral interest. President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan drove the vehicle and the prime minister accompanied him. In the vehicle, the two leaders exchanged views in an informal and pleasant manner. The prime minister welcomed the UAE president in his second home Pakistan.

Peace in KP vital for Pakistan's prosperity: Muqam



Correspondent

SWAT: Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions, Gilgit Baltistan and Kashmir Affairs, Engr Amir Muqam said here Sunday that peace in the province was vital for the sustainable progress and prosperity of Pakistan. Addressing a function hosted in the honour of Rana Mashood Ahmad Khan, Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme here at Malam Jabba, Engr Amir Muqam said that people of KP had rendered great sacrifices for the country and special focus should be made on socio-economic empowerment of its youth imperative for lasting peace and economic prosperity of the province. He said the country's overall stability and prosperity was linked with the peace of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

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PTI's delay in written demands barrier in talk process: Irfan Siddiqui

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Spokesperson for the government's coalition dialogue committee, Senator Irfan Siddiqui, on Saturday revealed that no progress has been made in the ongoing talks with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) as the party has yet to present its demands. Talking to a private news channel, Siddiqui said the

dialogue process had not been proceeded a bit for the last 12 days. The Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) offered the dialogue several times before to strengthen democracy, he added. He said that the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is striving for the welfare of the country while



PTI is trying to create facilities for its leader. The PML-N government has overcome the economic downturn due to its consistent policies, he added.

Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto is the great and brave leader of the Muslim Ummah: Gillani

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani said the Former Shaheed Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto is the Great and Brave Leader Of the Muslim Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani while paying tribute to the leader of the people and former Prime Minister Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto on the birth anniversary, has said that the mission of Bhutto Shaheed is still a beacon for us today and we will continue this mission of public service.



Chairman Senate said that Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto struggled against the exploitative classes and gave the country a unified 1973 constitution. He declared Qadianis as non-Muslims in the National Assembly. Shaheed Zulfikar Ali

Bhutto empowered the deprived classes. He gave Pakistan a distinct identity on the global stage and laid the foundation for building a nuclear power. Former Prime Minister

Zulfikar Ali Bhutto made Pakistan a nuclear power and set up a steel mill in Karachi with the cooperation of Russia. He completed the reconstruction project for the Pakistan

Aeronautical Complex and warships in Kamra. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto brought back 90,000 prisoners of war imprisoned in India to Pakistan and Shaheed Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto held a summit of Islamic countries in Lahore for the strength and development of the Muslim Ummah. Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani said that Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto made the people aware of democratic traditions and values and his struggle led Pakistan on the path of development and independence. His services will always be remembered.

Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani said that "We reiterate our resolve that by continuing the mission of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, we will make Pakistan a prosperous, strong and developed country."

"Kashmir Bane Ga Pakistan" convention will yield positive results at Kohala on January 12

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD/MUZAFFARABAD: Muslim Conference leaders Raja Latif Hasrat, Sajid Qureshi, Sardar Asim Abbasi, Raja Muhammad Zarin Khan, Dr. Muhammad Abid Abbasi, Sardar Yasir Abbasi said in a joint statement that on January 5 every year, Kashmiris from both sides, including Pakistan, are celebrated in foreign countries to convince the world that the Kashmiris will continue their struggle until they achieve the right to self-determination, which the United Nations has promised in the resolutions passed on January 5, 1949. While recognizing the right of the people of Jammu and Kashmir to self-determination, it had guaranteed that the future of Kashmiris would be decided through a plebiscite under the supervision of the United Nations. Addressing a meeting was held Central Secretariat Muslim Conference Rawalpindi Leaders said that Both Pakistan and India, the main parties to this issue, had agreed on this resolution, but later India, using various pretexts, has deprived the Kashmiris of their birthright, the right to self-determination, which is completely contrary to the resolutions passed by the United Nations. India has turned occupied Kashmir into a prison by deploying more than one million soldiers, but India should remember that the Kashmiri nation will never accept Indian slavery, which the Kashmiri nation expressed through its vote in the last election and convinced the world powers, including the United Nations, that we will never accept India under any circumstances, no matter how many sacrifices we have to make for it. The "Kashmir Banega Convention" to be held on January 12 under the auspices of the Muslim Conference will yield positive and lasting results. The Muslim Conference leader, Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, under the inspiring leadership, should play a full role in implementing the political and ideological thoughts and ideals of the late Chaudhry Ghulam Abbas and the late Mujahid I, Sardar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum, for the realization of Pakistan.

Self Determination Day

LAHORE: Activists of Youth Forum for Kashmir shouting slogans during protest on the eve of Self Determination Day, outside press club, in the Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Global silence on atrocities against Kashmiris is regrettable: Bilawal Bhutto Zardari



Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, in his message on Kashmir's Right to Self-Determination Day, stated that the dire situation in Occupied Kashmir is not just a regional issue but a test for global responsibility. He expressed regret over the international community's silence on the ongoing atrocities against the Kashmiri people.

According to a press release from Bilawal House Media Cell, the PPP chairman emphasized that the international community must fulfill its promises to the Kashmiri people and ensure they get their legitimate rights. He further asserted that the right to self-determination is a fundamental principle of international law and a commitment made to Kashmiris through UN resolutions, based on global legal principles.

Bilawal Bhutto paid tribute to the resilience of the people of Occupied Kashmir, who remain steadfast in their struggle for justice and freedom. "Today, we stand with our Kashmiri brothers and sisters, who have endured Indian oppression for decades. Your sacrifices will not be in vain," he reassured.

He reiterated that PPP has always been at the forefront of defending Kashmir and will continue to raise its voice for Kashmiris' rights on every platform. The chairman reaffirmed his commitment to providing political, moral, and diplomatic support to the oppressed people of Occupied Kashmir until their freedom is achieved.

Kashmiris observing Right to Self-Determination Day

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: A rally was taken out from Burhan Wani Chowk to the UN Observer Office on the occasion of the "Right to Self-Determination Day" on 05 January under the auspices of the Kashmir Liberation Cell. A resolution was submitted to the UN Observer Office in Muzaffarabad along with the Convener of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference Ghulam Muhammad Safi. The rally was attended by the Convener of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference Ghulam Muhammad Safi, Government Ministers Pir Muhammad Mazhar Saeed Shah, Professor Taqdis Gilani, Ms. Intiaz Naseem, People's Party leader Shaukat



Javed Mir, political leadership, office bearers of the All Parties Hurriyat Confer-

ence, heads of resistance organizations, traders' association, lawyers, journalists,

students, civil society and a large number of women. The rally started from Burhan

Wani Shaheed Chowk and ended at the UN Observer Office. The participants of the rally kept demanding the freedom of Kashmir from the world in accordance with the UN resolutions.

The participants demanded that the United Nations play a role in implementing all the resolutions, including the resolution of January 5, 1949. The participants of the rally marched from Burhan Wani Shaheed Chowk to the office of the UN observers. A memorandum was presented to the UN observers for a just solution to the Kashmir issue, nullifying the measures of August 5, 2019, and implementing UN resolutions for the resolution of the Kashmir issue.

Sindhu River protection rally led by Ayaz Latif Palijo in Shahdadpur



Abdul Ghafoor

HYDERABAD: The Qaumi Awami Tehreek (QAT) organized a massive "Save Indus River" rally in Shahdadpur, marching from Hala Chowk to the Press Club under the leadership of Ayaz Latif Palijo. A large number of men, women, and youth actively participated in the demonstration.

Addressing the rally in front of the Press Club, Ayaz Latif Palijo criticized the ruling elite, stating that while they enjoy luxuries, the poor people of Sindh are forced to take to the streets. He emphasized that history will record how, when Sindh's water was being sold, its people were fighting a movement in protest. He revealed that after illegally occupying 54,000 acres of land, the Sindh government has now sold another 14,000 acres in Umerkot. Furthermore, he condemned the construction of six new canals, which he argued would turn Sindh's fertile lands into a barren wasteland.

From this platform, Palijo appealed to all nationalist parties to unite and stage a massive sit-in at Kamo Shaheed, just as they did against the Kalabagh Dam. He declared, "You lead the way, and we will follow!", signaling a call for broader resistance.

CTO Islamabad stresses traffic discipline and road safety

ISLAMABAD, JAN 05 (APP): Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Islamabad Muhammad Sarfaraz Virk chaired a meeting at the Traffic Police Headquarters, where he directed officers to ensure the smooth flow of traffic and discussed initiatives to improve road safety across the federal capital.

A police spokesperson told APP that the meeting was attended by Superintendent of Police (SP) Traffic, zonal Deputy superintendents of police (DSPs), muharrars, and other concerned police officers.

During the meeting CTO Virk instructed officers to maintain smooth flow of traffic on roads.

CTO also discussed measures to improve the traffic system in the federal capital and take special initiatives to keep citizens safe from accidents.

Director General Anti-Corruption Punjab visited At Multan Regional Office

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: DG Anti-Corruption Sohail Zafar Chatha visited Multan Regional Office and held an important meeting with the officers. During the meeting, he issued instructions to organize an open court in Multan soon so that immediate resolution of public issues can be made possible. He said that full action is being taken against mega scandals and there is no room for corrupt officers in the department.



DG Sohail Zafar Chatha directed to further intensify the ongoing campaign against corruption and said that the Anti-Corruption Department is committed to solving the problems of the people and strict action will

continue against corrupt elements.

Director Anti-Corruption Multan

Basharat Nabi, Deputy Director Chaudhry Abdul Hameed Prosecution, Deputy Director Legal Zaheer Khan Sherwani, Deputy Director Investigation Imran Arif Sial, Deputy Director Technical Muhammad Arshad, Deputy Director Investigation Rao Abdul Ghaffar, Deputy Director Investigation Anwar Khan Baloch and other officers were also present on the occasion. The officers briefed the DG about the ongoing operations and future plans.

Reiterating the commitment of the department, DG Sohail Zafar Chatha said that the Anti-Corruption Department is taking all possible steps to eradicate corruption and immediate action will be ensured on public complaints.

ISLAMABAD
30° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 5:44 am
Zohr 12:13 pm
Asr 3:36 pm
Maghrib 5:14 pm
Isha 6:42 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
Cantt 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

Protest against Water Theft from Indus River in Jamshoro

Correspondent

JAMSHORO: A massive rally led by PPP Shaheed Bhutto leader Zulfiqar Junior took place inside the dried bed of the Indus River in protest against the extraction of additional canals, which activists claim are depriving Sindh of its rightful water share. Thousands of protesters chanted slogans like "Stop Drying Sindh!", "Long Live Fishermen!", "Long Live Farmers!", and "Long Live Indus River!", creating an emotionally charged atmosphere.

Addressing the gathering, Zulfiqar Junior highlighted that the Holy Quran speaks of the divine separation of fresh and salty water. He questioned the legitimacy of the ruling government's decision to manipulate and divert the Indus River's water, accusing them of exploiting the excuse that water is being "wasted" into the sea. He condemned the construction of new canals, stating that they were destroying Sindh farmers, fishermen, aquatic life, and the ecosystem.

Kashmir's 77-year waits for justice

UN-supervised plebiscite sole panacea to Kashmir dispute: Mushaal

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Peace and Culture organisation Mushaal Hussein Mullick lambasted the UN for dragging its feet on holding a free and fair plebiscite in Kashmir over the past 77 years, leaving the Kashmiris at the mercy of bloodthirsty Indian forces, who unleashed a reign of terror and committed war crimes to stifle the dissenting voices in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

Mushaal, a wife of unlawfully incarcerated Hurriyat leader Yasin Malik, in her message on Right to Self-Determination Day observed Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control and across the globe on January 5, urged global powers to honour their commit-

ments to the Kashmiri people because the denial of self-determination has brought death, destruction, and devastation to people of Kashmir.

The chairperson stated that today, Kashmir was at the brink of genocide and Kashmir had become the hell for the people of Kashmir.

She vowed that a UN-supervised plebiscite remained the only just solution and sole panacea to the Kashmir dispute, as anything short of that would be injustice to people of Kashmir and peace in entire South Asia would remain elusive and distant.

The chairperson urged that it was high time, the UN should step up and facilitate the promised plebiscite sans any further delay to prevent further suffering of Kashmiri people and avoid possible Pak-India war.



Mushaal lamented that Kashmiris have been robbed of their basic human rights for far too long and Indian brutal forces were committing war crimes and genocidal acts but the UN, world powers and human rights organisations turned a blind eye to the plight of the Kashmiris that threatened world peace.

Mushaal appealed to the international community to halt the ongoing genocide of Kashmiris and press India to resolve the dispute in accordance with UN resolutions.

The Hurriyat leader emphasized that the only choice before them was to come to the negotiating table with Pakistan and genuine leadership of Kashmiri people so that an acceptable solution to this long standing problem was found as per UN resolutions.

Price hike

ISLAMABAD: A butcher is busy in preparing chicken meat for customers at his shop in the Federal Capital, as the poultry prices have surged to record levels in Punjab and the federal capital, Islamabad, with the current price of live chicken reaching 485 per kilogram, a significant increase from 280 within just one month.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Beaconhouse National University Launches CCES Initiative to Combat Climate Change

City Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan-Beaconhouse National University Launches "CCES" Go Green Campaign to Promote Environmental Sustainability in Pakistan BNU, a leading art institution committed to education and social responsibility, has taken a monumental step towards environmental sustainability by launching its initiative. The program aims to inspire communities through activities like sowing seeds all over the campus, planting trees and partaking in activities such as Painting Pots, Scavenger Hunting and Marches, Taking actionable steps to address climate challenges in Pakistan.

The launch event, held at the university's Main Ground, was attended by students, faculty, environmentalists, and community leaders who came together to pledge their commitment to a cleaner, greener future. The initiative focuses on promoting afforestation, reducing waste, and creating awareness about eco-friendly practices. Speaking at the event, Ms. Warda Shah,



emphasized the urgency of the cause. "Pakistan is at the forefront of the climate crisis, and as an educational institution, it is our responsibility to lead the way in finding sustainable solutions. The Clean & Green Initiative is not just a program but a movement to inspire collective action."

Condition of hospitals across the province has deteriorated significantly: Jamal Nasir

Correspondent

TAKHT BHAI: The provincial leader of the Awami National Party and former candidate for PK-61, Jamal Nasir Khan, has stated that due to the poor planning of the current government, the condition of hospitals across the province has deteriorated significantly. The lack of emergency medicines in hospitals has forced patients to wander in despair. He alleged that the health card program has been politicized and is being used to favor hospitals associated with the PTI, while hospitals in Takht Bhai and Lundkhwar have been deliberately deprived of the health card facility as part of a conspiracy. He claimed that even disposable syringes are not available at the Takht Bhai hospital. He strongly urged the advisor to the provincia...

AIOU offers Free Matric Education to Children of Balochistan, Ex-FATA and GB

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: "By making education accessible to children in remote and neglected regions, we can uplift these far flung areas" in this regard, Allama Iqbal Open University provides free matric education to children of Balochistan, Gilgit-Baltistan and the Merged Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), said by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood while sharing details about free education policy for matric education.

Admissions for the Spring 2025 semester are open for programs ranging from matric to PhD. Children residing in these areas can avail of free education by contacting the university's regional campuses in their respective regions.

Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood emphasized that the university has redirected its educational mission toward underprivileged areas. He highlighted that the university will further strengthen its educational network to provide facilities to children residing in the most neglected remote areas, ensuring they have access to educational opportunities comparable to those available in urban regions.

Public grievances addressed: DIG Islamabad holds khuli katchery

ISLAMABAD, JAN 05 (APP): Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Islamabad Syed Ali Raza reaffirmed the Islamabad Police's commitment to addressing public grievances on priority during a Khuli Katchery (open court) held on Sunday.

A public relations officer told APP that the DIG Raza expressed these views while listening to complaints and issues raised by both citizens and police officers during the session.

He said during the Khuli Katchery, DIG listened to the complaints of the citizens and marked their applications to the concerned officers for timely action on merit.

Raza also directed them to send reports to his offices in the given time frame.

DIG Raza further said that strict action will be taken against officers involved in bribery or corruption and a zero-tolerance policy will be adopted in this regard. DIG emphasized that Islamabad Police would not leave any stone unturned to secure the lives and property of the citizens. "Such interaction would be continued in future to provide maximum relief to the citizens," he added.

DIG Syed Ali Raza further said that interaction during "Khuli Katcherys" would help to promote friendly policing and will also ensure self-accountability, immediate resolution of citizens' problems.

The protection of life, property and self-respect of citizens comes first, he maintained.

Core committee meeting of Restaurants Caterers Sweets and Bakers Association held

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: The monthly core committee meeting of the Restaurants Caterers Sweets and Bakers Association was held under the chairmanship of President Muhammad Farooq Chaudhry. The meeting was formally started with the recitation of the Holy Quran. Chairman Mumtaz Ahmed hosted the meeting. In his opening speech, Chairman Mumtaz Ahmed welcomed all the esteemed members. In his opening speech, he informed the core committee members about the achievements of the association and the future plan of action. In his presidential speech, President of the Association Muhammad Farooq Chaudhry discussed in detail the recent problems faced by the food sector and informed them

about the steps to solve them. While discussing issues related to the Punjab Food Authority, he said that imposing heavy fines by the Punjab Food Authority on the basis of license category is not acceptable in any way. For this, we will have to take timely steps.

In addition, while talking about the ban on single-use plastic, he said that he completely rejects the process of making consumer licenses by the Environment Department. This issue will be raised at the highest level. Regarding the prices of Sui gas, he said that the gas tariff was increased on November 8, 2023.

The price of gas will be increased by 28 percent for the year 2025, in which we have been assured that the price of gas will not be increased for the food sector. If the price is increased,

we will take this matter seriously. On this occasion, Senior Vice President Chaudhry Zafar Anwar said that we all need to take concrete steps against the sealing of shops. We are traders and pay taxes, sealing any shop is tantamount to taking away our fundamental rights. In addition, Senior Vice President Malik Fazlur Rehman, Senior Vice President Chaudhry Zahid Mahmood, Senior Vice President Chaudhry Imtiaz Ahmed, Vice President Syed Arshad Farooq, Deputy General Secretary Hashim Ijaz Butt, Vice President Chaudhry Shahzad Iqbal, Vice President Huzaifa Ansar, Vice President Sardar Saleem Sher Zaman and other core committee members also presented suggestions to solve the problems faced by the food sector. And appreciated the efforts of the



association to solve the problems. At the end of the meeting, Chairman Mumtaz Ahmed offered special prayers for the success of the association and the progress and prosperity of the country of Pakistan.

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Hurdles Causing Food Insecurity in Pakistan

Food insecurity in Pakistan is a complicated issue, which is deeply intertwined with economic, social, and political factors in Pakistan. One of the critical obstacles tackling this problem is the political hurdles that hinder effective policy implementation, resource allocation, and coordinated efforts to ensure food security. Pakistan is democratic country so political interference within departments is the root cause of every issue in Pakistan. Food insecurity is a pressing issue in Pakistan, magnified by various political hurdles. Key political hurdles include governance inefficiencies, policy inconsistencies, corruption, and lack of leadership, political instability and regional disparities. Addressing these challenges requires coordinated efforts to enhance governance, implement consistent policies, reduce corruption, and ensure equitable resource distribution. Pakistan is an agricultural country, faces many food insecurity despite its agricultural potential. The Global Hunger Index ranks Pakistan poorly, highlighting the severity of the issue, lack of political will and governance challenges are major contributors to this problem, affecting food production, distribution, and accessibility. Frequent changes in government, political unrest, and instability disrupt long-term planning and the consistent implementation of food security programs. This instability creates an unpredictable environment for both, national and international stakeholders involved in agricultural and

food security initiatives especially in Pakistan. Governments often prioritize short-term political gains over long-term food security strategies. Political considerations often influence resource allocation, leading to inadequate funding for critical areas such as agricultural infrastructure, research, and rural development. Budget constraints further exacerbate the situation, limiting the scope and reach of food security programs. Excessive bureaucracy hinders timely decision-making and lack of effective policy and implementation of food security programs. Weak institutions fail to enforce policies effectively, leading to inefficiencies in food production and distribution. Lack of Long-term Planning Frequent changes in government lead to inconsistent policies. Subsidy is another abundant issue, poorly mismanaged subsidies benefit larger landowners rather than small farmers, exacerbating inequalities. Misallocation of Resources Corruption leads to the misallocation of resources meant for food security programs, reducing their effectiveness. Market Manipulation Corrupt practices in the market, hoarding and price manipulation, create artificial food shortages and price hikes. Provinces receive unequal attention, funds and resources, leading to disparities in food security across all regions in Pakistan. Discrimination is another issue leading to food insecurity in

different areas Pakistan Like Balochistan and rural Sindh are often neglected, exacerbating food insecurity in these regions. Establish independent new bodies to monitor and ensure transparency in the allocation and utilization of resources dedicated to food security in Pakistan. Implement strict anti-corruption measures and strictly enforce legal actions against those involved in corrupt practices. Built political consensus on key food security policies to ensure continuity and consistency, regardless of changes in government. Encourage multi-party agreements on critical issues related to food security to create a stable policy environment. Simplify bureaucratic procedures to facilitate quicker and efficient decision-making and implementation of food security programs. Enhance inter-departmental coordination through integrated, planning and communication mechanisms. Develop and implement a comprehensive national food security strategy with a focus on long-term goals and sustainability. Prioritize food security in national development agendas and ensure consistent political commitment across different administrations. Increase budgetary allocations for agricultural development, rural infrastructure, and social safety nets to address the root causes of food insecurity. Ensure fair distribution of resources across provinces, prioritizing

marginalized and food-insecure areas. Invest in rural infrastructure and development programs to improve agricultural productivity and food accessibility. Encourage public-private partnerships to leverage additional resources and expertise in addressing food insecurity. Involve local communities, farmers, policy advisors and other stakeholders in the planning and implementation of food security programs to ensure relevance and effectiveness. To make national consensus and make a national action plan on food security issues and challenges, and sought suggestions and recommendations from stakeholders and from the public at large. Government should involve economists, educationists and policy advisors and analysts in policy and decision making bodies and Strengthen the role of civil society organizations in monitoring and advocating for food security initiatives. Addressing the political hurdles is crucial for the effective resolution of food insecurity in Pakistan. By strengthening governance, ensuring political stability, streamlining bureaucratic processes, prioritizing long-term planning, and allocating adequate resources, Pakistan can make significant steps towards achieving food security for the general public in Pakistan. Sustainable and inclusive policies, supported by consistent political will and sound institutional frameworks, are essential for overcoming the challenges and ensuring a food-secure future for Pakistan.



Ch. Yasir Gondal

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UN-supervised plebiscite only solution of Kashmir dispute

A prominent Kashmiri scholar and an activist on Sunday called on the United Nations to give up its "criminal negligence" of the long-standing Kashmir dispute and implement its own resolution supporting the Kashmiris' right to decide their future through a UN-supervised plebiscite.

"A plebiscite under UN supervision is the only solution," Dr. Imtiaz Hussain, a professor at George Washington University, said at an event marking the anniversary of the United Nations resolution of 05 January 1949 that called for a plebiscite to determine the future of Jammu and Kashmir.

But he lamented that the resolution had not been implemented, and events in its aftermath have had a lasting impact on the political and diplomatic discourse surrounding the Kashmir dispute.

"The region, surrounded by three nuclear powers, remains the most militarized zone in the world, and the potential of nuclear conflagration that could engulf almost half of the world population remains reasonably high," Dr. Imtiaz Khan warned.

"How long can the world and especially the UN continue to exhibit criminal negligence towards this protracted issue that threatens world peace?" he asked, pointing out that India continues to unleash tyrannical measures on the people of Kashmir that go unnoticed around the world.

"We fervently appeal to the world in general and the UN in particular that it should be conveyed to the Indian government that their atrocities, oppressive measures and total disregard for international guarantees cannot be further tolerated," Dr Khan said.

"It should be impressed upon them that the only choice before them is to come to the negotiating table with Pakistan and genuine leadership of Kashmiri people so that an acceptable solution to this long standing problem is found", he said, adding that the farcical elections conducted in the region cannot dupe the international community.

Dr. Ghulam N. Mir, President, World Kashmir Awareness Forum and Chairman and Kashmiri Diaspora Coalition, said that peace in Jammu and Kashmir and along with it in entire South Asia will remain illusive and a distant dream as long as India refuses to accept its culpability in its mischievous role in defying the implementation of multiple UNSC -mandated resolutions for plebiscite.

Dr. Mir added that Kashmir is a historical entity just as India is despite its size and military might; Kashmiris have given more sacrifices for its relative size than the Indians have.

"We have had the misfortune of being in a bad neighborhood since 1947 when India invaded it. The UN should exert its power, and help Kashmir to exercise its right to a free and fair referendum."

Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, Chairman, World Forum for Peace & Justice said that the January 5, 1949, resolution clearly mandated that all authorities within the State of Jammu and Kashmir collaborate with the Plebiscite Administrator to guarantee the basic conditions for free and informed voting by the people of Kashmir, including protection of fundamental political rights of expression and association"

Dr. Fai added that the denial of self-determination has brought death, destruction, and devastation to the people of Kashmir. Today, Kashmir is at the brink of genocide and Kashmir has become the hell for the people of Kashmir, as reported by the New York Times.



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmi. (Courtesy of Ashraf Al-Awsat)

Extrajudicial Killing Is Not Justice, It's Murder

On January 4, several years ago, Pakistan lost a progressive leader, Punjab Governor Salman Taseer, at the hands of his own guard. The accusation? He had criticized the misuse of the blasphemy law. This day is not just about mourning the loss of an individual but reflecting on the collective conscience of a society where emotional extremism and intolerance have overshadowed the principles of justice and law

Blasphemy is an incredibly sensitive issue, and the law surrounding it is deeply embedded in the socio-religious fabric of Pakistan. For Muslims, religion is not just a personal belief but a comprehensive way of life, influencing everything from personal relationships to state governance. However, this deep connection often becomes a tool for manipulation when placed in the hands of individuals with extremist mindsets. Salman Taseer openly voiced his concern about the misuse of the blasphemy law, particularly in the case of Aasia Bibi, a Christian woman accused under questionable circumstances. His critique was not of the law itself but its exploitation for personal vendettas. Yet, his words were twisted, leading to accusations of blasphemy against him—a charge he repeatedly denied and clarified.

Taseer's assassination was not an isolated incident. It was the manifestation of a long-standing culture of mob justice and intolerance. From the lynching of a Sri Lankan factory manager in Sialkot to the brutal killing of a couple in Kot Radha Kishan, alleged blasphemy has been weaponized to settle personal scores. These incidents expose the dangers of leaving such accusations unchecked and the absence of due process.

In Taseer's case, the state's silence and society's glorification of his murderer further legitimized the cycle of violence. This silence has fueled a narrative where anyone can accuse, and mobs can execute, turning justice into a public spectacle.

One of the most alarming aspects of Salman Taseer's case was the state's inability to protect him and hold his killer accountable in a way that set a strong precedent. Instead, the assassin was celebrated by many, glorified as a hero rather than condemned as a criminal. The silence of religious scholars and leaders, who should have emphasized justice and due process as core Islamic principles, further compounded the issue. The state's passive role and society's active encouragement of such acts have only deepened the chasm between law and order. It raises a pressing question: if the state cannot protect its citizens from mob justice, who will?

The misuse of the blasphemy law has had devastating consequences. Families have been torn apart, communities have been displaced, and innocent lives have been lost. Beyond the physical violence, the psychological toll on accused individuals and their families is immeasurable. Fear looms over anyone who dares to think differently or challenges the status quo. Even those proven innocent, like Aasia Bibi, are forced to flee their homeland due to the lingering threat of violence. What kind of society have we become, where even the truth cannot guarantee safety?

Taseer's assassination should have been a wake-up call. He argued for safeguarding the sanctity of the blasphemy law by preventing its misuse. Yet, the law remains susceptible to abuse. Cases like Aasia Bibi's, where disputes over a glass of water escalated into blasphemy accusations, or the murder of Junaid Hafeez, who couldn't even secure legal representation, underline this exploitation. Justice must not be decided on the streets but in courts. Accusations, no matter how grave, must be proven through evidence and fair trials. Without this, the accused remains innocent, and their killers, no matter how righteous they claim to be, are murderers.

The need for reform in blasphemy laws is not about diluting their essence but ensuring they are applied justly and fairly. Clear guidelines, stringent evidence requirements, and safeguards against false accusations are necessary to prevent their misuse. Moreover, the state must actively counter narratives that glorify extrajudicial actions. Public awareness campaigns, education, and interfaith dialogue can play crucial roles in fostering tolerance and understanding.

Taseer's legacy lies in his courage to speak out against injustice, even when it cost him his life. His death anniversary is a reminder of the urgent need for reform—reform in laws, societal attitudes, and state mechanisms. We must strive for a society where accusations are not verdicts, and due process is not a privilege but a fundamental right. As we remember Salman Taseer today, let us not just mourn his loss but commit to the principles he stood for: justice, tolerance, and the rule of law. Only then can we hope to create a Pakistan where the innocent are protected, and the law is upheld without fear or favor.

Salman Taseer's death was a tragedy, but it must not be in vain. His sacrifice should inspire us to build a society where justice prevails, where voices of reason are not silenced, and where the innocent are not punished for crimes they did not commit. His vision was for a Pakistan that upholds the rule of law above all else—a vision that remains as relevant and urgent today as it was during his lifetime.

As we observe Salman Taseer's death anniversary, it is imperative to reflect on the values he stood for: courage, justice, and humanity. It is not enough to remember him in words; we must honor his legacy by striving for the society he envisioned. A society where laws are a means of justice, not tools of oppression. A society where differences are respected, not vilified. And a society where no one has the right to take another's life in the name of religion or revenge. Only by addressing these issues head-on can we hope to create a future where tragedies like Salman Taseer's assassination become a relic of the past, not a recurring reality.

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

Freedom of speech and act was suppressed and oppressed by enforced disappearance, torture, killings, rape and sexual abuses in Indian Illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Indian forces also staged fake encounters to kill the freedom loving people of Kashmir. After Investigations carried out by Independent Sources it was reported the concerned army officers orchestrated the Fake encounters to get promotions and awards from higher authorities. Fake Encounters like Pathribal Srinagar in 2000, Machil fake encounter in 2010 and numerous others were reported. It was proved that Indian officers were involved in these dreaded fake encounters. Officers of 4 Rajputana Rifles Regiment Col Dinesh Pathania, Captain Upender Singh and Havildar Devinder, Lance Naik Lakhmi, Lance Naik Arun Kumar were found involved in the Michill encounter and convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment through court martial.

Kashmiris are shedding their blood for the achievement of their goal that is freedom from cruel clutches of India. Indians could not stop Kashmiris from demanding their freedom by using force; so they decided to engineer demographic and political changes in Kashmir by taking the illegal action of repealing article 370 and 35 A of her constitution with the aim to convert the Muslim majority and minority in their birth land. Sons of Chankian and Hindutva Philosophy are engaged in a vicious exercise of altering the demographic structure of II OJK to settle the non-Kashmiri migrants in the disputed territory. Even the retired military men from India and released Hindu criminals from Indian jails are given the state subject certificates to create an environment of fear

and change the demography of the region. So, it is very important for international community to take cognizance of this grim situation of deliberate ratio change in population by issuance of fake domicile of the State of Jammu and Kashmir by State officials to Indian Hindus with the aim to interfere the process of plebiscite, if forced to conduct at any stage in future.

It is time for the international community, especially the United Nations, to realize their promises and take practical measures to exercise the right of self-determination for the people of the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir as enshrined in UNSC resolutions.

Pakistan remains determined to play its role to support the right of self-determination of Kashmiris through a free and impartial plebiscite in accordance with the United Nations Security Council resolutions. Pakistan continues to extend its moral, political and diplomatic support to the right of self-determination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. The people of Kashmir appeal to the United Nations to implement its resolutions on Kashmir without further delay so as to restore her lost credibility in the suffering nations of the World.

5th January is observed as the Day of right to self-determination and the main purpose behind the observance of this day is to remind the international community, especially the United Nations, to resolve the long-standing Kashmir issue as per the wishes and aspirations of its inhabitants.

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Kiran Asim

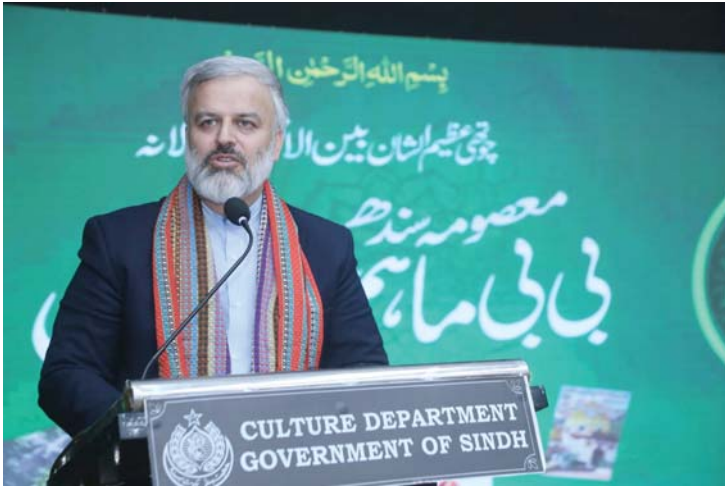


Ghulam Mohiuddin Dar

Islam is the name of obedience to the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH): Dr. Saeid Talebinia

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Islam is synonymous with obedience to the Prophet (PBUH), as Almighty Allah repeatedly commands obedience to His Messenger (PBUH) in the Holy Qur'an. Those who claim to follow Islam but neglect obedience to the Prophet (PBUH) possess only a nominal and superficial faith. These thoughts were expressed by Dr. Saeid Talebinia, Director of Khana-e-Farhang Karachi and Cultural Attaché, during his presidential address at the Fourth Annual "Masooma-e-Sindh International Interfaith Conference" held recently. The event was organized by the Zaireen Khidmat Committee Masooma-e-Sindh, in association with Karachi Editors Club, and the Sindh Department of Culture.



Talebinia stated that there is no sectarian divide between Shia and Sunni Muslims in Pakistan, Iran, or anywhere in the world; rather, it is an international conspiracy aimed at weakening Muslims, which Shia and Sunni community has repeatedly thwarted and

will continue to resist. Shia and Sunni Muslims are like brothers and two arms of Islam. He emphasized that prominent religious authorities, including

Imam Khomeini, have declared that insulting any religious sanctity is prohibited in Sharia. Recognizing these realities is crucial to correctly understanding the enemy's propaganda.

Dr. Talebinia added that the family of the Prophet (PBUH) welcomes followers just as the Prophet of God (PBUH) embraced Salman the Persian into his family by declaring him a member of Ahl al-Bayt. He also stated that the sacred shrines of the Imams and the purified Ahl al-Bayt are centers of devotion for all Muslims. Representing the Iranian government at the conference, he pledged to advocate for research on Masooma-e-Sindh Bibi Khadija bint Imam Musa Kazim (AS) and the construction of her shrine at the Astan-e-Quds Razavi and with the Iranian authorities.

In his speech, he paid heartfelt tribute to the martyrs of Palestine, Lebanon, and Parachinar.

Religious extremism declared a threat to peace and security: Speakers



Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: Religious extremism declared a threat to peace and security; a conference organized by SANA in Hyderabad.

Addressing the conference held at the Sindh Museum Hyderabad, SANA President Dr. Maqbool Halepoto stated, "God sent many prophets, but Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai is Sindh's prophet. The heroines of Shah Latif's poetry symbolize struggle, peace, love, and loyalty to the land. Sindh has been secular for 5,000 years."

SANA General Secretary Asad Shaikh remarked, "SANA has always strived for the protection of Sindh and its people. Sindh has consistently rejected extremism, but today, hatred has spread, posing a threat to peace and Sufi thought. Shah Latif, Sachal Sarmast, and other Sufi saints taught harmony."

Scholar and intellectual Naseer Memon said, "Religious extremism is not a social behavior but a state-manufactured product, cultivated through madrassas, churches, and temples. Other provinces should be thankful that Sindh is breaking the fear of blasphemy laws; otherwise, this fire would have consumed everyone."

Scholar Jami Chandio noted, "Today, there is an atmosphere of fear and despair. During movements against authoritarian regimes and One Unit, Sindh played a leading role. Even today, Sindh is at the forefront of resistance against religious extremism, inspiring others."

Scholar Tahira Abdullah said, "If religious decrees of infidelity are issued, no one will remain Muslim. Religious extremism existed since Muhammad bin Qasim set foot in Sindh 1,400 years ago. The military-clergy alliance is a product of General Zia-ul-Haq."

Journalist and filmmaker Munizae Jahangir commented, "Hyderabad is the last refuge where women can bravely discuss religious extremism. In most parts of the country, it's difficult to talk about such topics. The military-clergy alliance has destroyed the system."

Women's Action Forum leader Amar Sindhu added, "Bomb blasts occurred in Shikarpur and Qalandar's shrine, a temple was burned in Larkana, and an attack on a temple happened in Ghotki. When no one raised their voice against the Shewan blast, we protested. Sindh strongly resisted the Dr. Shah Nawaz case. Religious extremism has turned into religious terrorism. Fanatics get opportunities when minorities are denied their rights. Without women's inclusion, Sindh will lose every battle. Tribal and feudal systems most affect women, yet women are the ones who can fight against them."

Advocate Masroor Shah, leader of the Workers' Resistance, said, "Sindh is called tolerant because people of all faiths and ideologies live here. However, this tolerant Sindh is now under threat."

Scholar Dr. A. H. Nayyar said, "There are spaces in society where religious extremism breeds. When Zia-ul-Haq declared Pakistan an Islamic state, chaos began, and many religious organizations were formed. The dream of an Islamic state is a flawed idea."

Youth Action Committee Chairperson Sindhu Nawaz Ghanghro stated, "Dr. Shah Nawaz was brutally murdered, and the state nurtures religious elements while suppressing tolerance and dissent. Following Shah Nawaz's killing, we protested on the streets of Umerkot in the spirit of great leaders like Makhdoom Bilawal and Sufi Shah Inayat. In Sindh, respect for all religions and humanity has been a long-standing tradition, but religious extremism has now fully spread."

Aliya Buxal Thalho remarked, "Sufism alone cannot completely cleanse society, though it is a first step toward a tolerant Sindh. Public awareness needs to be raised to ensure a minimum opportunity for survival. The curriculum has suppressed science and technology by operating on religious beliefs. Young people are active now and don't accept leaders as spiritual guides. The so-called democratic rulers must be held accountable and not dismissed as ineffective."

Renowned poet Akash Ansari recited resistance poetry, receiving great applause.

China Harbin International Ice & Snow Festival kicks off

BEIJING: The 41st China Harbin International Ice and Snow Festival kicked off at Harbin Ice-Snow World in Harbin, capital city of Northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, on Sunday.

Themed "Dream of Winter, Love among Asia," the festival offers visitors a diverse range of activities, some of which are related to the upcoming 9th Asian Winter Games, further enriching the festival's cultural legacy, according to a press release the local publicity department sent to the Global Times on Sunday.

During the opening ceremony, Harbin Ice-Snow World was bustling with crowds.

Sun Zemin, a deputy director of the Sales and Marketing Department of Harbin Ice-Snow World Park Co, Ltd, told that this year's Harbin Ice-Snow World is larger than it has ever been and features the greatest number of ice sculptures in its history.

According to Sun, the scenic spot covers an area of 1 million square meters and uses 300,000 cubic meters of ice and snow. The design and planning of this edition focus on the 9th Asian Winter Games, meticulously creating iconic landscapes from 42 countries and three regions.

Also on Sunday, the official song of the 9th Asian Winter Games, "Light Up Asia" was released. The song closely adheres to the theme of the festival, further promoting the vigorous development of ice and snow sports in Asia.

One of the standout events of the festival is the 41st public ice and snow collective wedding set to take place at the park on Monday. One of the key activities of the festival, this collective wedding tradition is the first wedding ceremony in China to use ice and snow as a medium.

Successfully held for 41 years, it has attracted 1,320 newlywed and anniversary couples from over 20 countries across the five continents, showcasing its international influence, the press release noted.

Li Chen, the director in charge of the event, told the Global Times that for this iteration, a total of 42 couples from 17 provinces and regions across China, including the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in South China and East China's Jiangsu Province, are participating in the wedding ceremony.

"Many young couples nowadays prefer to have destination weddings, and this public collective ice and snow wedding offers them a unique experience. Many of them are drawn to the symbolism of 'pure love' behind an ice and snow wedding," Li said, adding that in just over 30 days, the 9th Asian Winter Games will be held. The couples will hold the mascots of the 9th Asian Winter Games - "Binbin" and "Nini" - as they make their promises of love.

Su Xin, a local citizen, told the Global Times that Harbin, his hometown, is also offering many new travel products to attract tourists from around the world.

According to the China Ice and Snow Tourism Development Report (2025) released on Sunday, in the 2024-25 ice and snow season, the number of ice and snow leisure tours is expected to reach 520 million, with tourism revenue anticipated to exceed 630 billion yuan. The report also notes that during the 2023-24 ice and snow season, the number of ice and snow leisure tours was 430 million, with tourism revenue hitting 524.7 billion yuan. This highlights a significant stimulation effect in ice and snow tourism consumption.

birthday Guru Gobind Singh

RAWALPINDI: Federal parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry of SAFON. Isphanyar Bhandara Cutting 358th birthday cake of Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti.



Photo: Spokesman

Civil Defence Department released annual performance report

Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: The Civil Defence Department, Toba Tek Singh, has released its annual performance report for the year 2024. Civil Defence Officer Mehmood Hussain Gill, while sharing details, stated that under the directives of Zameer Hussain, Director Civil Defence Punjab and Deputy Commissioner Toba Tek Singh Muhammad Naeem Sindhu, Controller Civil Defence Toba Tek Singh significant actions were undertaken by the department. The instructional staff conducted 355 training sessions on basic fire fighting, first aid, and CPR at educational institutions, industrial and commercial sectors, government and semi-government offices, and the Civil Defence Model Warden Post. A total of 2,583 individuals benefited from these sessions. The bomb disposal team performed technical sweeping at 901 locations and provided immediate response in three mock exercises. The instructional staff inspected fire safety measures at 3,598 business establishments, issuing notices to 314 organizations for non-compliance.

A seminar on 'Stable Pakistan and Overseas Pakistanis' hold



Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

LONDON: A seminar was organized under the theme "Stable Pakistan and Overseas Pakistanis" by the Overseas Pakistanis Welfare Council (OPWC) in collaboration with the Councilors Forum and Lawyers Forum. The event was hosted by Central President of OPWC, Haji Abid Hussain, and General Secretary of the Youth Forum, Ayaz Rafique. The seminar was spearheaded by Chairman OPWC, Naeem Naqshbandi, with Vice Chairman of the Overseas Pakistanis Commission (OPC) Punjab, Barrister Amjad Malik, as the chief guest. The chairmanship duties were performed by Chairman of the Board of Governors OPF, Syed Qamar Raza. Deputy High Commissioner Haseeb Bin Aziz and Trade Minister Shafiq Shahzad represented the Pakistan High Commission.

In his keynote address, Barrister Amjad Malik highlighted that while attaining freedom was a monumental achievement, safeguarding it remains an even greater challenge. He paid tribute to the services and

sacrifices of Pakistan's armed forces, emphasizing the importance of unity among all institutions and stakeholders to address the ongoing political and economic crises in the country. Barrister Malik reaffirmed OPC's commitment to resolving the challenges faced by the overseas community.

Chairman OPF, Syed Qamar Raza, stressed that a stable Pakistan requires rejecting all forms of hopelessness, hate speech, or negativity aimed at the nation's armed forces, judiciary, and other institutions. He urged everyone to remain united and expressed pride in the Pakistan Armed Forces, who, he noted, are highly respected by the overseas community. He added that the OPF remains steadfast in its dedication to serving the community.

Deputy High Commissioner Haseeb Bin Aziz assured participants that the doors of the London Embassy and its consulates remain open to the overseas Pakistani community, striving to facilitate them without discrimination. He lauded the unmatched sacrifices of the Pakistani Armed Forces in safe-

guarding the nation's freedom.

Ayaz Rafique, General Secretary of the Youth Forum, expressed strong support for the Pakistan Armed Forces, noting their resilience in overcoming internal and external challenges. He emphasized that despite various propaganda campaigns, the Pakistani nation and its overseas diaspora remain steadfastly united behind the armed forces.

Founder Chairman OPWC, Naeem Naqshbandi, remarked that the overseas community has consistently rejected external agendas and the fifth-generation warfare targeting Pakistan. He underscored that expatriates are deeply connected to their homeland and view the armed forces as the guarantors of national security.

Speakers from the Councilors Forum, including Qaiser Chaudhry, Aftab Hussain, Mansoor Kayani, Barrister Talat Kayani, and Aslam Dogar, reiterated their unwavering support for state institutions, particularly the judiciary and security forces. They highlighted the significant role of overseas Pakistanis in sending remittances and contributing to the country's economy.

Prominent figures such as Mohsin Bari, Ishfaq Chaudhry, Shaikat Dar, Mian Saleem, Riyaz Kohmarvi, Iqbal Sindhu, Hina Malik, Sameera Raja, Councilor Mehboob Bhatti, and Councilor Amjad Abbasi lauded the Pakistan Armed Forces for their unparalleled sacrifices in combating terrorism and safeguarding the nation. They also commended the military's vital role during natural disasters.

The ceremony was attended by a large gathering of professionals, political leaders, religious figures, and business personalities, including many women. Prominent journalists such as Ghulam Hussain Awan, Musarrat Iqbal, Aftab Baig, Shaikat Dar, Tabrez Urwa, Ghulam Dastgir, and Waheed Khan also graced the event.

The program began with a recitation by Hafiz Mahfouz, followed by a soulful Naat by Syed Noor Haseen. Ayaz Rafique, the event host, extended heartfelt gratitude to all journalists from both electronic and print media for their participation and coverage.

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

4th International Hydropower Conference on Jan 9th

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: 4th International Hydropower Conference 2025, hosted by Energy Update in Collaboration with Private Power Infrastructure Board (PPIB) & International Hydropower Association, is set to be held on January 9, 2025, in Islamabad. This landmark event will bring together industry leaders, policymakers, and global experts to discuss hydropower's transformative role in shaping a sustainable energy future for Pakistan.

The event will feature an inaugural session with key addresses by M. Naeem Qureshi, Managing Editor of Energy Update; Shah Jahan Mirza, Managing Director, Private Power Infrastructure Board (PPIB); Eddie Rich, CEO of the International Hydropower Association (joining online); Hafiz Isahaq, CEO, TNB Remaco Malaysia; and Dr. Musadik Malik, Federal Minister for Water Resources, who is expected to join as the Chief Guest, will also deliver an address.

Interactive sessions will include presenta-



tions by Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Azam Joya (GM C&M Water), Asim Javed (Hydropower Expert), Dr. Irfan Yousaf (CEO, MKAI Climate Consulting), Dr. Hassan Daud Butt (Senior Advisor, CEEC), and Dr. Jehanzeb

Nasir (Energy Systems Engineer, NUST), who will cover topics ranging from financing challenges to emerging technologies and strategic hydropower roles.

Panel discussions will delve into hydropow-

er's critical role in Pakistan's energy sector, featuring contributions from Dr. Munawar Iqbal Kambhoj (DG Hydel, PPIB), Arfan Miana (CEO, Neelum Jhelum Hydropower), Shukree (Outgoing CEO, TNB Remaco Malaysia), Dr. Parvaiz Naim (External Advisor, KFW Development Bank), and M. Ayub Khan (CEO, KPKTDC).

The conference will culminate with a session on parliamentary leadership in energy transition, chaired by Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, who is also expected to join as Chief Guest. The session will feature prominent voices, including Dr. Nafisa Shah (MNA), Dr. Shazrey Munsab Ali Khan (MNA & Parliamentary Secretary, MoFA), Dr. Amjad Ali Khan (MNA & Member, Energy Nexus Economy Forum), and Senator Saadia Abbasi.

This event provides an unparalleled platform to discuss hydropower's transformative potential, untapped opportunities, and the collaborative efforts needed to secure Pakistan's energy future.

Media talks

Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain talks to the media in Mureedkey, Sheikhupura on Sunday.



Photo: Online

PFC BODs approves annual plan



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Board of Directors of the Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) convened on Sunday unanimously approved an ambitious 2025 annual plan for participation in all important international expos aimed at expanding the country's footprint in the global furniture market.

Chairing the board of directors meeting of PFC, its CEO Mian Kashif Ashfaq said this initiative aligns with PFC's broader vision of enhancing the furniture industry's contribution to the national economy and creating new employment opportunities through sustainable growth and innovation. The plan includes active participation in all major inter-

national expos scheduled throughout the year. This strategic initiative seeks to showcase Pakistan's high-quality furniture products, attract foreign investment, and foster joint ventures in the furniture manufacturing sector. He emphasized the significance of these expos as a platform for promoting the unique craftsmanship and modern designs of Pakistani furniture. He noted that such efforts not only elevate the global profile of Pakistan's furniture industry but also create opportunities for local manufacturers to collaborate with international stakeholders.

The board highlighted the importance of presenting Pakistan as a competitive player in the international market, leveraging these events to establish long-term business partnerships and explore export opportunities.

Participation will focus on exhibiting a diverse range of furniture designs, including traditional and contemporary styles, to cater to global consumer preferences, he concluded.

Solar Exhibition in Peshawar: A Step Towards a Stable Future – Former Governor Haji Ghulam Ali

Commerce Desk

PESHAWAR: Former Governor Haji Ghulam Ali emphasized the crucial role of the solar energy sector in stabilizing the national economy and providing relief to the public. He urged the government to support this sector, stating that increased investments would naturally strengthen the economy. He expressed these views while speaking to the media during his visit to a solar exhibition organized by Muhammad Ishaq GES in Peshawar.

Haji Ghulam Ali was invited as a special guest by the event's organizers and distributors. During the visit, he toured the exhibition, expressed interest in the various stalls, and was briefed on the advancements and technology in the solar sector.

The former governor appreciated the distributors' efforts and urged them to not only bolster the national economy but also provide relief to areas affected by power load-shedding. He further stressed that both federal and provincial governments should actively collaborate with investors in this sector, aiming for a transition from imports to exports in solar technology.

Participants of the exhibition applauded Haji Ghulam Ali's insights and acknowledged his ongoing support for the business



community. The event featured over 35 companies, including prominent names like Aftab Ashraf Long Life Power, Dewan Power, Antique Solar Energy, and Power One Solar Energy.

In recognition of his contributions, Haji Ghulam Ali was presented with a

commemorative shield and a gift during the event.

This press release highlights the growing significance of the solar energy sector and its potential to drive economic stability while providing relief to the public.

Iftikhar Malik pledges support for Uraan Pakistan economic roadmap

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, former President Iftikhar Ali Malik announced on Sunday his full support for the URAAN Pakistan economic roadmap, recently unveiled by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and lauded the initiative, emphasizing its potential to usher in a new era of progress, development, and prosperity across the country.

In a statement he hoped that the URAAN Pakistan roadmap will lay the foundation for a stronger and more resilient economy, with widespread support from key business and industry leaders. He stressed the role of public-private partnerships in ensuring the roadmap's success, noting that collaboration between the government and the private sector would be instrumental in driving the country towards self-sufficiency. "The URAAN



roadmap offers a significant opportunity for Pakistan to rebuild its economy and secure a prosperous future. We, as business leaders, must play our part in supporting

this vision," he stated.

Iftikhar Malik also urged all stakeholders, including the industrial, trade, and agricultural sectors, to come together in implementing the proposed reforms and policies. He expressed confidence in the government's ability to restore investor confidence and improve Pakistan's standing in the global market.

As a prominent advocate of regional economic cooperation, He underscored the importance of engaging with international partners to strengthen trade ties and enhance export potential. He reiterated his commitment to supporting national initiatives aimed at fostering economic growth and improving the quality of life for all Pakistanis. He said we are proud of the Prime Minister who is also the former president of the largest and oldest Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry established in 1923.

Balochistan Summit will yield positive impact: Shahid Imran

Commerce Desk

LAHORE JAN 5: Convenor Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry regional standing committee on Food Shahid Imran Sunday said forthcoming 2-day "Baluchistan Summit" will yield positive impact and attract foreign and local investors in diversified industries and sectors.

Speaking here today to a delegation of traders led by Chaudhary Zahid Iqbal Arain from Vehari with the judicious policies and collaborative initiatives,

promoting joint ventures and international partnerships, Balochistan will attract foreign direct investment (FDI) and foster technology transfer. FPCCI President and BBoIT are working together to organize result oriented two day Balochistan Summit on Jan 27 to facilitate investor networking, and market Balochistan as a lucrative destination for global enterprises. Industrialization efforts should focus on value-added industries, creating job opportunities for local communities and ensuring inclusive development.



He said Balochistan offers significant opportunities in sectors of mining, energy, fisheries, agriculture, and tourism. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has further enhanced the province's importance as a gateway for trade and connectivity. To capitalize on this potential, it is crucial to create a business-friendly environment by addressing infrastructure gaps, ensuring security, and simplifying regulatory frameworks, he concluded.

FTO resolved 95.6pc complaints in 2024: Coordinator



Commerce Desk

LAHORE JAN 5: Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman Saif Ur Rehman Sunday said FTO Dr Asif Mahmood Jah has set a new national record in the history of Pakistan by disposing of 95.6 percent complaints filed during the year 2024 besides providing relief to major chunks of aggrieved taxpayers across the country.

Speaking here today at an awareness session with business community, he said a total of 13506 complaints were lodged by taxpayers at all regional offices of which unprecedented numbers of 12914 were disposed of by Dr Asif Mahmood Jah which is record in 41 years history of FTO since its inception in 1983 which speaks of good governance at all levels. He said since FTO organization is a relief oriented entity therefore this secretariat provided relief to low paid employees by holding proper taxation of the same. In addition, thousands of Folk Artists were provided relief by ameliorating the situation in the then ongoing withholding taxes. Similarly, relief on account of tax rebate to teachers, in the relevant year, were also provided in a large number of cases.

Saif Ur Rehman further elaborated that in addition to regular complaints, the FTO also encouraged poor and less privileged complainants for informal resolution of their grievances. As such 1540 informal complaints were entertained and the same were resolved besides that 143 references were sent and same disposed of. He further stated that FTO Dr Asif Mahmood Jah took 32 suo motto notices last year and relief was granted to a number of individuals and complainants.

Shan Masood and Babar Azam lead Pakistan fightback with record partnership

Sport Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan captain Shan Masood and star batter Babar Azam mounted a spirited fightback on the third day of the second Test against South Africa at Newlands.

The duo stitched a marathon 205-run opening partnership to frustrate the hosts, ending the day at 213/1 after being enforced to follow-on by the hosts.

Trailing South Africa's imposing first-innings total of 615, Pakistan were bowled out for a modest 194 earlier in the day, facing a deficit of 421 runs. However, Shan and Babar responded with resilience and skill, guiding their team to a competitive position.

Shan, leading from the front, reached his sixth Test century and remained unbeaten on 102 at stumps. His innings, laced with patience and precision, anchored Pakistan's recovery. Babar Azam, meanwhile, dazzled with an 81-run knockoff 124 deliveries, studded with 10 boundaries. He fell agonizingly short of a century, caught in the slip cordon off Marco Jansen.



Nightwatchman Khurram Shahzad joined Shan at the crease in the final overs and ensured no further damage, remaining not out on 8 as Pakistan trailed by 208 runs at the close of play.

Earlier in the day, South Africa continued their dominance with a clinical bowling performance. Resuming the first innings at 155/6, Pakistan managed only 39 more runs. Kagiso Rabada struck early in the second

session, dismissing Aamir Jamal with a lethal bouncer. Tailenders Mir Hamza (13) and Khurram Shahzad (14) resisted briefly before falling to Keshav Maharaj and debutant Kwena Maphaka, respectively.

In Pakistan's initial innings, Mohammad Rizwan and Salman Ali Agha attempted to steady the ship, contributing 46 and 19, respectively, but both succumbed to South Africa's relent-

less bowling attack. Rizwan's attempted slog resulted in his dismissal by Wiaan Mulder, while Agha was stumped off Maharaj's sharp turner.

South Africa's bowlers shared the spoils, with Rabada leading the charge alongside Marco Jansen, Mulder, Maharaj, and Maphaka, who took wickets at crucial intervals.

As Pakistan fights to save the Test, the record partnership between Shan and Babar provides a glimmer of hope. The visiting side will need to continue their determined approach to avoid a second successive defeat in the series.

Playing Xis

Pakistan: Shan Masood (captain), Saim Ayub, Babar Azam, Kamran Ghulam, Saud Shakeel, Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Salman Agha, Aamir Jamal, Khurram Shahzad, Mohammad Abbas, Mir Hamza.

South Africa: Aiden Markram, Ryan Rickelton, Wiaan Mulder, Tristan Stubbs, Temba Bavuma (captain), David Bedingham, Kyle Verreyne (wk), Marco Jansen, Keshav Maharaj, Kagiso Rabada, Kwena Maphaka.

Daniyal Ahsan, Arbaz Khan, Fazal Subhan and Hurair Shahid score Centuries in Master Oil Inter Club Cricket Tournament

Sport Desk

KARACHI: Four more matches were decided in the Master Oil Inter Club Cricket Tournament at various Grounds.

The highlights of the days play was brilliant Centuries by Daniyal Ahsan 123, Arbaz Khan 122, Fazal Subhan 121 and Hurair Shahid 106.

In the first Match Malir Gymkhana beat Eastern Star CC by 152 runs at RLCA (G) Malir Gymkhana 325/2 in 40 overs. Daniyal Ahsan 123 16x4 1x6, Muhammad Waqas 89 10x4 4x6, Khurram Nanzoor 44, Rao Abdur Rehman 30.

Eastern Star CC 173 all out in 23.1 overs. Hareem ullah 56 9x4 1x6, Ahsanullah 26, Azam Hussain 2/29, Nasoom Ali 2/38, Hamza Afridi 2/47.

In the 2nd Match Alnoor Gymkhana beat Malir Sports by 132 runs at Nazir



Hussain Gulberg, Alnoor Gymkhana 321/5 in 40 overs. Fazal Subhan 121 10x4 5x6, Hafiz Asad Baig 84 9x4, Saifullah Bangash 44 both not out,

Ahsan Mirza (sls) 4/36, Ghous 3/13. Malir Sports 189 all-out in 30 overs. Irtaza Hussain 40, Danish Rafiq 37, Amir Idrees 25. Ahsan Mirza (sla) 36,

Ghous 3/13.

In the 3rd Match Metropolitan CC beat Khatija CC by 181 runs at Abbasi Gymkhana. Metropolitan CC 301/4 in 40 overs. Arbaz Khan 122 12x4 5x6, Hurair Shahid 106 15x4 2x6, Abdur Rehman 27. Mohib ul Hassan 2/43.

Khatija CC 120 all out in 31 overs. Younus Shah 23. Niqab Shafiq 3/25, Owais Rahim Shah 2/7, Muaz Bin Salman 2/10.

In the 4th Match Montgomery Gymkhana beat Korangi Friends Colts by 149 runs at Student Ground. Montgomery Gymkhana 277/4 in 40 overs. Talah Siddiqui 69 9x4, M. Moazzam 64 9x4, S. Shaheer Ali 62 4x4 3x6, Abdullah Khan 50 7x4 2x6.

Korangi Friends Colts CC 128 all out in 22 overs. Muhammad Asif 87 14x4, Ali Mehar 2/12, Muhammad Ajmal 2/25.

Saim Ayub to travel to London for ankle treatment

Sport Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has decided to send Saim Ayub to London immediately for the treatment of his right ankle fracture incurred during the second Test match against South Africa in Newlands, Cape Town.

Saim Ayub was scheduled to stay with the team in Cape Town and travel to Pakistan as he was advised six-week rest by the doctors. Saim will travel to London from Cape Town on the first available flight.

Upon intervention of PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi, it has been decided to send Saim Ayub to London immediately as appointment has been fixed with the renowned orthopaedic experts in London. Assistant coach Azher Mehmood will accompany Saim Ayub to London. The decision has been taken



after consultation with doctors. The PCB chairman talked to the opening batter Saim and inquired

about his well-being and expressed good wishes for swift recovery. Mohsin Naqvi said: "Saim Ayub will

be checked up by sports ortho specialist doctors in England as an immediate appointment has been made by the PCB. The medical team is looking into the entire case and Dr. Mumraiz has shared Saim's medical reports with specialists in England."

The PCB chairman said that Saim Ayub is a stylish batsman and an asset to Pakistan cricket.

"Saim's treatment will be ensured at the best hospital of the world and all resources will be used for his treatment. We hope that the left-handed batter will make a full recovery before the ICC Champions Trophy."

Saim Ayub is sure to miss the two Test matches against the visiting West Indies but the PCB wants to see the batter fit for the ICC Champions Trophy scheduled to be hosted by the defending champions Pakistan from February 19 to March 9.

Voting for HBL PSL Fans' Choice Awards opens

Sport Desk

ISLAMABAD: The voting process for the much-awaited HBL PSL Fans' Choice Awards began with the voting for the Best batter started on the official YouTube channel of the HBL PSL from 6pm PKT on Sunday.



With the HBL PSL set to welcome its landmark 10th edition later this year, the Fans' Choice Awards mark the celebration of some of the star players who have entertained the fans and contributed towards the popularity of the tournament worldwide.

The nominees for the best batter of the HBL PSL include the top-three leading run-getters across the nine seasons – Babar Azam (3504), Fakhar Zaman (2525) and Mohammad Rizwan (2403).

The voting for the six categories will take place on the official YouTube channel of the HBL PSL till Friday, 10 January and the winners of the Fans' Choice Awards will be announced on Saturday, 11 January at the Players' Draft ceremony.

A total of six lucky fans, who cast their votes on the HBL PSL YouTube channel between 5-10 January, will also become eligible to win 2025 edition tickets through a lucky draw.

Given below are the other five categories: (Nominees to be revealed on the HBL PSL official social media handles at the start of voting every day)

- Best bowler
- Best all-rounder
- MVPs of the HBL PSL
- Best individual performance – Batting and Bowling
- HBL PSL Icon Award

Pakistan's Sohail Adnan advances to British Junior Open's final



Sport Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's promising squash player Sohail Adnan continued his impressive run at the prestigious British Junior Open Squash Championship in Birmingham on Sunday.

In a dominant display, Adnan defeated Egyptian opponent Amr Moustafa 3-0 in the semifinal match by the scoreline of 11-7, 11-6 and 11-7, according to information made available here by Pakistan Squash Federation.

This victory sets the stage for a thrilling final encounter against top-seeded Egyptian player Moez Tamer Elmoghazy in the Under-13 category. Adnan will be aiming to cap off a remarkable tournament with a gold medal.

Muzammil, Amna annex Begum Kulsum Saifullah Tennis C'ship titles

Sport Desk

ISLAMABAD: Muzammil Murtaza and Amna Ali Qayum clinched the Men's and Ladies' Singles titles, respectively of the 10th Begum Kulsum Saifullah Khan National Ranking Tennis Championships at the PTF-SDA Tennis Complex, Islamabad on Sunday.



Murtaza delivered a commanding performance, defeating Muhammad Shoab 6-3, 6-2 in the Men's Singles final. In the Ladies' Singles, Amna Ali Qayum showcased her skill and composure, overcoming Soha Ali 6-3, 6-4 to secure the championship title.

In the Boys' Under-14 category, rising star Hassan Usmani triumphed over Ruhab Faisal with a dominant 6-2, 6-0 victory. Meanwhile, in the Boys' Under-12 final, Shayan Afridi defeated Rashid Ali 6-1, 6-0, cementing his place as a promising young talent.

The closing ceremony was attended by dignitaries and tennis enthusiasts. Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Pakistan, attended the event as chief guest, while Senator Salim Saifullah Khan, Patron of the Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF), served as guest of honour. A moment of silence was observed during the ceremony to honour the passing of the father-in-law of PTF President Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi.

Highlighting young talent, a cash award of Rs. 25,000 was presented to Hassan Usmani for his outstanding international performances in Saudi Arabia and Aghabab.

Additionally, veteran coach Mahboob Khan was honoured with a shield for his decades-long dedication to nurturing tennis in Pakistan.

Karachi marathon accredited by World Athletics attracts 4,000 participants

Sport Desk

ISLAMABAD: At least 4,000 people took part in a marathon in Karachi accredited by the World Athletics.

The marathon kicked off on Sunday morning from Karachi's Nishan-e-Pakistan monument at Sea View. It featured five types of marathons, such as the Full Marathon (42.195km) the Half-Marathon (21.1 km), the Relay Marathon, a team of four participants for 42.2km (10.5km run, 10.5km run, 10.5km run, 10.5km run and the Fun Run, a 5 km run.

Athletes from Poland, Germany, Japan and many other countries participated in the event, Sports in Pakistan,

one of the organizers of the event said in a press release. The marathon's certification by the World Rankings Competition ensured a world-class experience for all participants, it added.

"We are delighted with the overwhelming success of the Karachi Marathon 2025," said Shoaib Nizami, CEO of Sports in Pakistan.

"The event has emerged as a testament to Karachi's unwavering resilience and warm hospitality and we extend our sincerest gratitude to our participants, sponsors, and partners for their invaluable support."

The top performers in each category were:

Male Winner (1st Prize): Israr Muhammad (Pakistan) – Time: 2:30:13 won Rs. 500,000/
Male Winner (2nd Prize): Muhammad Riaz (Pakistan) – 2:32:13 won Rs. 250,000/
Female Winner (1st Prize): Enub Khan (Pakistan) – 3:47:49 won Rs. 500,000/
Female Winner (2nd Prize): Uzma Abid (Pakistan) – 4:01:13 won Rs. 250,000/
Half Marathon Category:
Male Winner (1st Prize): Muhammad Ajhtar (Pakistan) – Time: 1:12:08 won Rs. 50,000/
Second Runner-up Male (2nd Prize): Qasim Bajwa (Pakistan) – 1:12:52 won Rs. 40,000/
Female Winner (1st Prize): Mumtaz Naimat – 1:43:26 won Rs. 50,000/
Second Runner-up Female (2nd Prize): Dua Nazakat (Paki-



stan) – 1:51:45 won Rs. 40,000/
The city saw its first-ever World Athletics-certified marathon last year in January 2024 where hundreds of people from all walks of life participated.

Israeli strike

Palestinians inspect the site of an Israeli strike on a house in Gaza City, January 5, 2025.

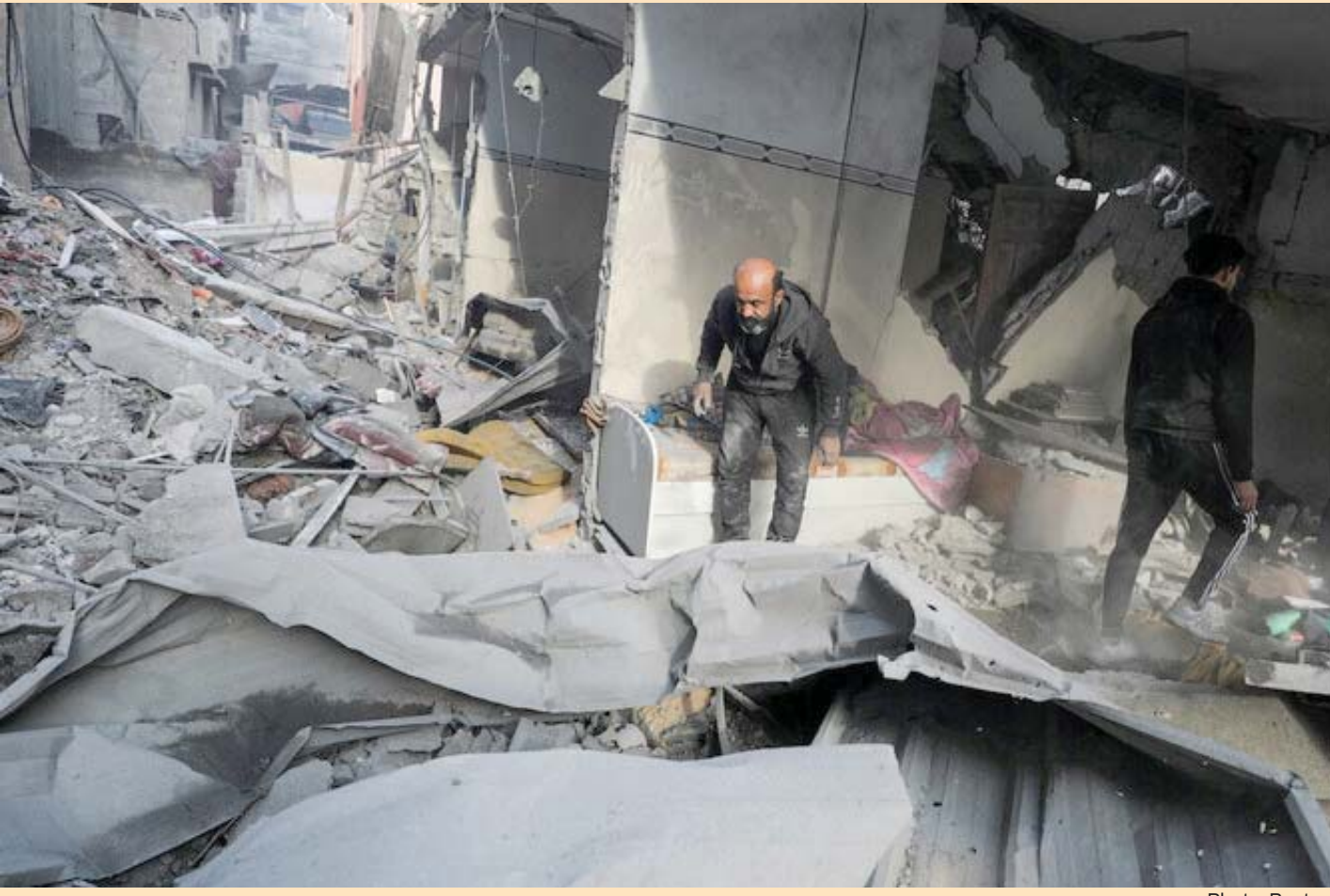


Photo: Reuters

Eighth Gaza baby freezes to death as Israel kills 88 people in a day: Reports

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: least 88 more Palestinians were killed in Israeli military attacks in the Gaza Strip, bringing the overall death toll since October 2023 to 45,805, the Health Ministry in the besieged enclave said on Sunday.

A ministry statement added that some 109,064 others were injured in the ongoing assault.

According to media reports, another baby in Gaza has died of hypothermia – the eighth such death amid the Israeli

genocide in the enclave.

The ministry's statement said, "Israeli forces killed 88 people and injured 208 others in five massacres of families in the last 24 hours."

"Many people are still trapped under the rubble and on the roads as rescuers are unable to reach them."

The Gaza Civil Defence, an emergency services agency, said that its crews had responded to multiple airstrikes on family homes on Sunday in which several people were killed and wounded.

Israel has continued its deadly war on the Gaza Strip since Oct. 7, 2023, despite a UN Security Council resolution calling for an immediate cease-fire.

The second year of genocide in Gaza has drawn growing international condemnation, with officials and institutions labeling the attacks and blocking of aid deliveries as a deliberate attempt to destroy a population.

Meanwhile, pressure has been mounting on both sides to reach a cease-fire agreement that would include the release

of hostages held in Gaza before President-elect Donald Trump takes office on Jan. 20.

On Friday night, Hamas said its officials would resume meetings in the Qatari capital of Doha to reach a cease-fire deal.

And Israel said last week that it was also sending a delegation of mid-level security officials to meet with mediators in Qatar. Numerous earlier rounds of negotiations have faltered amid gaps in the two sides' demands. And as hopes for a cease-fire deal

rise again, Palestinians and human rights organizations say the humanitarian situation in Gaza is getting even more desperate.

In November, the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Defence Minister Yoav Gallant for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza.

Israel also faces a genocide case at the International Court of Justice for its deadly war on Gaza.

ISPR Director General holds interactive session with religious, minority leaders

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Director General of the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Lieutenant General Ahmad Sharif held a special meeting with leaders and representatives of various religious communities in Lahore on Sunday.

Religious leaders and representatives from the Christian, Sikh, and Hindu communities expressed their gratitude to the Pakistan Army for organizing interaction session.

Representatives from various communities made it clear that they were proud of Pakistan Army and DG ISPR's meeting has not only uplifted their spirits but also dispelled all negative doubts and misconceptions.

The participants stressed that the Pakistan Army was a symbol of pride and honor for the nation, and that all



religious communities, alongside the entire nation, stand united with the armed forces, and will continue to do so in the future.

They added that the minority communities will continue to serve Pakistan with the same patriotism and dedication.

PTI's Asad Qaiser takes major U-Turn on written demands



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Asad Qaiser, a prominent leader of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and a member of the negotiation committee, has made a significant U-turn regarding the written demands. This move raises new questions about the ongoing negotiations, as he backed away from his earlier commitment to provide written demands.

In a conversation with a private news channel, political observers interpreted Qaiser's statement as promising 'new conditions.' They

noted that PTI appears to have reversed its stance on the assurances made during the previous two rounds of negotiations. In both joint statements, PTI leaders had promised to submit their demands in writing to the government's negotiation committee.

Previously, the PTI negotiation team had insisted on holding meetings only with Imran Khan. Qaiser reiterated that their committee's role was limited to facilitating communication, while the final decisions would be made by Imran Khan.

Observers have expressed concern that this shift in position could lead to a deadlock in the negotiations, making the scheduling of the next meeting uncertain.

Government committee spokesperson Senator Irfan Siddiqui has already warned that if PTI fails to submit its written demands as promised, it could complicate the negotiations further.

India faces setback as China claims key areas in Ladakh

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: In a significant geopolitical development, China has incorporated parts of Ladakh into its Hotan Prefecture, announcing the creation of two new counties, He'an and Hekang.

According to the 24NewsHD TV channel, the Chinese move has provoked a sharp reaction from India, with the Modi government registering a formal protest with Beijing on Friday.

This marks the first public objection between the two



nations over the long-standing Himalayan border dispute.

The announcement comes just days after both countries

resumed border negotiations following a five-year hiatus.

According to Chinese state media outlet Xinhua, the establishment of He'an County, headquartered in Hongliu Township, and Hekang County, based in Zedola Township, was sanctioned by the Communist Party and the State Council.

The newly formed counties include large portions of Aksai Chin, a contested area where India accuses China of illegal occupation.

India's Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir

Jaiswal stated, "Parts of the new counties in Hotan Prefecture extend into Ladakh."

In 2020, tensions between India and China escalated in Ladakh, leading to deadly clashes.

"China rarely acts without calculated precision. This move signifies mounting challenges for India," noted defence analysts.

Meanwhile, Beijing's Defence Ministry reiterated its commitment to peace, stating last December, "We are ready to work towards maintaining stability in border areas."

Pakistan Navy set to hold 9th multinational exercises AMAN during 7-11 February, 2025

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy is set to hold 9th Multinational exercise AMAN during 7-11 February 2025 as Pakistan has always been an avid supporter of regional peace and stability.

Pakistan Navy took an initiative of holding Multinational exercise AMAN in 2007, which is being conducted biennially under AMAN's motto 'Together for peace'. Till to date eight exercises have been conducted and 9th exercise is planned from 7-11 February 2025.

Due to the growing global participation in the event, PN initiate 'AMAN Dialogue' as an adjunct to the Exercise and its inaugural session will be held, in tandem with AMAN-25. The aim of AMAN Dialogue is to provide a dedicated forum for senior leadership to exchange views on regional security and adopt innovative solutions to address evolving challenges at sea. The AMAN Dialogue will bring together Chiefs of Navies/ Coast Guards/ Defence Forces. Since the maiden Exercise of AMAN series held in March 2007, partic-



ipation of global navies in this exercise has been steadily growing with the overall participation of 28 x countries in AMAN-07, the latest edition of the exercise i.e., 8th series of AMAN exercise conducted in 2023 witnessed participation from 50 countries across the globe making it the largest ever international gathering in the history

of AMAN exercises.

Global Navies have been participating in Ex AMAN with ships, Aircraft, EOD, SOF Teams and Observers.

AMAN exercises aims at promoting peace and regional cooperation. Boosting interoperability with regional and extra regional navies thereby acting

as a bridge between the regions. Display of united resolve against terrorism and crimes in the maritime domain. Understanding of maritime security issues and challenges confronting the region and their linkages with Blue Economy besides showcasing potential contribution of Blue economy towards overall economic growth of the country.

£190 million reference: Courts again defers verdict against PTI founder, Bushra Bibi



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Accountability court has again postponed its verdict in £190 million reference against PTI founder Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi.

Earlier, the court was set to announce its verdict in £190 million reference on Monday (tomorrow), but now the verdict has been delayed.

AC Judge Nasir Javed Rana said court will announce the date of the verdict later. However, PTI lawyers said they have not been informed by the court about the postponement of the case.

On December 18, an accountability court in Islamabad reserved its verdict in £190 million reference against PTI founder Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi. Accountability court judge Nasir Javed Rana conducted the hearing at Adiala Jail. The court reserved the verdict of the case after the prosecution team and defence lawyers completed their arguments.

NAB had launched probe against Imran Khan and his wife and others for the alleged gain of hundreds of canals of land in the name of Al Qadir University Trust, which reportedly caused a loss of £190 million to the national exchequer.

Imran Khan's lawyer's stolen phone with sensitive data found in India

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Khalid Yousuf Chaudhry, the lawyer representing Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi, has revealed that his stolen iPhone, containing sensitive case-related records, has been traced to India. The phone was snatched at knifepoint on December 23 near

Faizabad following a hearing in the Al-Qadir Trust case.

An FIR has also been registered at the I-9 Police Station Islamabad, with Zafar Mehdi leading the investigation.

According to Khalid Yousuf Chaudhry, the iPhone 13 Pro Max was critical to his coordination efforts between courts, lawyers, and accused parties in various cases.