

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ

ہم سے کسی ابنِ آدم نے بیان کیا، انہوں نے کہا کہ کوئی اللہ سے سچے سچے فرزند ہو وہ ابوہنوکہ صاحبِ زاد سے ہے، انہیں ان کے والد نے اور ان سے عبد اللہ بن عباس رضی اللہ عنہما نے بیان کیا کہ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا وہ یقیناً ہی ہیں کہ انہوں کو ان کی قدر نہیں کرتے، صحت اور فراغت (صحیح بخاری، حدیث نمبر 6412)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

RAWALPINDI

Shaban moon sighted

The Ruet-e-Hilal committee has announced that the Shabaan moon has been sighted and the Islamic month will begin from Friday. By this sighting, Shab-e-Baraat will fall on February 13.



Passports of Shehzad Akbar, Farah Shahzadi, Malik Riaz and Ali Riaz blocked
The Interior Ministry has cancelled the passports of Bahria Town Chairman Malik Riaz, his son Ali Riaz Malik, former adviser to PM on Accountability Shehzad Akbar and Farah Shehzadi. NAB had written a letter to the Ministry of Interior on January 28 seeking cancellation of the passports of the absconders in the 190 million pound case.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Sha'aban 1, Friday, January 31, 2025

www.dailyspokesman.net

@daily_spokesman



Daily Spokesman Vol: 18, Issue: 290 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Meeting on Green Initiative

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs the Federal Cabinet meeting on Thursday.



Photo: PID

Federal cabinet ratifies ME Green Initiative charter

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet on Thursday ratified the charter of the Middle East Green Initiative that would enable restoration of 200 million hectares of land and plantation of 50 billion trees.

The federal cabinet meeting was chaired by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif held here at the Prime Minister House, a PM Office news release said.

During the meeting, the officials of the Ministry of Climate Change informed the forum

that Pakistan was among the founding members of the Charter and therefore the Ministry had recommended the forum to accord its approval.

The cabinet approved the Off-the-Grid Captive Power Plants Levy Ordinance 2025 on the recommendation of the Petroleum Division.

The forum was briefed on the statement made in Parliament in 2020 regarding the pilots of Pakistan International Airlines.

The meeting was informed that the statement made by a former federal minister regarding the pilots of Pakistan Interna-

tional Airlines was irresponsible and exaggerated, which not only severely affected the image of the country and the national airline, but also caused serious damage to the national exchequer.

The cabinet approved the formation of a fact-finding committee to review the said statement, which would probe motives behind it and also estimate the loss caused to the national airline.

The federal cabinet approved the agreement between the Government of Pakistan and the European Union on the recommendation of the Ministry of

Commerce regarding the distribution of tariff rates quota.

The federal cabinet approved the reorganization of Accountability Court-III, Islamabad and its conversion into Special Court (CNS-III), Islamabad, on the recommendation of the Islamabad High Court and the proposal of the Ministry of Law and Justice.

The federal cabinet also approved the additional charge of Chairman Karachi Port Trust, Rear Admiral Habib-ur-Rehman, for a maximum of two months.

Prime Minister Shehbaz

directed to complete the process of appointing a regular Chairman of Karachi Port Trust immediately.

The federal cabinet approved a 25 percent reduction in the provincial quota in medical and dental colleges managed by the federal government. The initiative was taken in the context of extremely low quota for students domiciled in the Islamabad Capital Territory in provincial medical and dental colleges so that students domiciled in Islamabad could get better opportunities for education in such institutions.

PFUJ announces black day tomorrow over PECA amendments

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) has announced a nationwide "Black Day" protest tomorrow against the recently amended Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA).

In a joint statement, PFUJ President Afzal Butt and Secretary General Arshad Ansari declared that black flags will be hoisted at press clubs and union offices across the country, and protest rallies will be held. They criticized the government, stating that while in opposition, the current ruling party had championed press freedom, a sentiment echoed by previous governments.

Butt expressed disappointment with the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leadership, stating that he and others had high hopes for Asif Zardari and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, particularly noting Bilawal's past advocacy for press freedom in parliament.

The PFUJ leaders

described the amended PECA as allowing for arrest and punishment without due process. They announced a "Press Freedom Movement" to oppose the act, emphasizing that their response would be more than just a protest; it would be a sustained movement.

Butt stated that the movement has begun and will continue until the PECA amendment is repealed, including a sit-in outside the Parliament House. He added that the PFUJ is pursuing legal challenges to the amendment, with legal experts currently reviewing its various clauses.

While acknowledging that immediate enforcement is unlikely due to pending authority rules, Butt expressed concern that the government's swift passage of the law may indicate rapid implementation is planned. He said the speed of enforcement would become clear within days. The PFUJ pledged to provide legal and humanitarian support to journalists affected by the act.

Civilians' military trial: Judge asks is crime of May 9 more serious than terrorism incidents

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Justice Hasan Azhar Rizvi, one of the seven judges of the Supreme Court's constitutional bench, asked on Thursday if the crime of May 9 was more serious than terrorism incidents.

He said this during the hearing of intra-court appeals against military courts.

A seven-judge constitutional bench, led by Justice Khan, is currently reviewing a series of intra-court appeals challenging the October 23, 2023, decision made by a five-judge bench. This earlier ruling annulled the military court trials of civilians who were implicated in the violence that occurred on May 9.

Defence ministry counsel Khawaja Haris completed his arguments.

In the previous hearing, Haris submitted military trial records in white envelope folders to the constitutional bench, stating that the court should review the trial procedures. Seven copies of the military trial records were provided to all seven judges of the constitutional bench.

At the outset of the hearing on Thursday, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail clarified his earlier observations, responding to reports that suggested he claimed two judges



could dismiss the decision of eight judges. He noted that many retired judges had contacted him regarding the news.

He explained that a news report had suggested he stated that two judges could dismiss the decision of eight judges. Justice Mandokhail emphasised that his comments were intended to refer to individuals, not the judges themselves, regarding the non-acceptance of the decision made the previous day.

Justice Mandokhail clarified his previous comments regarding the decision of eight judges, stating that

he intended to convey that two individuals might casually assert opinions about the verdict in social gatherings.

He noted that some media colleagues reported this incorrectly. He emphasised that the 21st Constitutional Amendment was enacted because the country was in a state of war.

The SC judge remarked that the powers of courts established under Article 175 (establishment and jurisdiction of courts) are "extensive while the jurisdiction of courts formed under specific laws is limited."

Army Major martyred, six terrorists killed in North Waziristan gunbattle



City Desk

RAWALPINDI: On night 29/30 January 2025, Security Forces conducted an intelligence based operation in general area Mir Ali, North Waziristan District on reported presence of khwarij.

During the conduct of operation, own troops effectively engaged the khwarij location and resultantly six khwarij were sent to hell.

However, during intense fire exchange, Major Hamza Israr (age: 29 years, resident of District Rawalpindi), a

brave officer who was leading his troops from the front and Sepoy Muhammad Naeem (age: 26 years, resident of District Naseerabad), having fought gallantly, paid the ultimate sacrifice and embraced Shahadat.

Sanitization operation is being conducted to eliminate any other Kharji found in the area as the Security Forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe-out the menace of terrorism from the country and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve.

President, PM pay tribute to security forces for killing 6 terrorists

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday paid tribute to the security forces for their bravery in eliminating Fitna-ul-Khawarij terrorists during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in North Waziristan District.

The president and prime minister paid homage to Major Hamza Israr and Sepoy Muhammad Naeem who embraced martyrdom while valiantly confronting the Khawarij terrorists during the operation, the President's and Prime Minister's Office in separate news releases said.

The president and prime minister praised the bravery and patriotism of Major Hamza Israr Shaheed and Sepoy Muhammad Naeem



Shaheed and expressed heartfelt grief over the martyrdom of the two valiant sons of the soil.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif prayed for the high ranks of the martyrs and patience for their bereaved families.

"We will not let the great sacrifices of the sons of the nation go in vain and will destroy the nefarious intentions of anti-state elements," the prime minister said.

The government and security forces were mobilized to completely eradicate terrorism from the country, he added.

Funeral prayer of Major Hamza Israr Shaheed offered at Chaklala Garrison



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The funeral prayer of Major Hamza Israr Shaheed (aged 29, resident of District Rawalpindi), who embraced martyrdom while valiantly defending the motherland in Mir Ali, was offered at Chaklala Garrison, Rawalpindi.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif,

along with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar, Defence Minister, the Information Minister and General Syed Asim Munir, Chief of Army Staff (COAS), attended the funeral. A large number of senior serving and retired military officers, soldiers, and the bereaved family members of the fallen hero also paid their respects.

29th meeting of AJK Cabinet held chaired by PM Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The 29th meeting of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Cabinet was held here today with Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq in the chair. The crucial meeting, attended by ministers as well as top officials of the government, ratified decisions taken by the cabinet during the 27th and 28th meetings. During the meeting, Inspector General Police Abdul Jabbar Khan gave a detailed briefing to the Cabinet regarding law and order situation in the State. After presenting the regular agenda, 11 items were taken up for consideration in the meeting. Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq said that February 5 will be celebrated all across the liberated territory with a renewed commitment to express solidarity with our brethren in Indian occupied Kashmir who are engaged in a just struggle for their right to self determination.



Commenting on various initiatives the coalition government had taken during the past two years, the PM Haq

said, besides improving governance the government took revolutionary steps to improve lives of ordinary citizens. He said that austerity measures taken by the government helped to reduce expenditures and save millions of rupees. He said that steps have also been taken to bring reforms in the health and education sector.

He said that the Social Protection Fund was one of the revolutionary

initiatives that was bound to change the destiny of poor and economically less privileged segments of society. The PM maintained that the government has provided great relief to citizens in the shape of cheap flour and electricity.

The AJK premier said that all available resources will be used for the protection of citizens. Paying great tributes to the Pakistan army for its significant contribution to defend

the country's territorial integrity, he said that the Pak army had rendered immense sacrifices while defending the country's geographical and ideological frontiers.

The meeting was attended by Senior Minister Colonel (ret'd) Waqar Ahmed Noor, ministers, chief secretary Khushal Khan, Principal Secretary Zafar Mahmood Khan and other pertinent officials.

Kareem Bakhsh takes Additional Charge of Director General PHA Multan



Quratul Ain

MULTAN: According to a notification issued by the Ministry of National Food Security and Research, Dr. Rehana Anjum has been appointed as the Director of the Central Cotton Research Institute (CCRI), Sakrand. She immediately assumed charge and started her duties.

Prior to this appointment, she had been serving as the Head of the Plant Breeding and Genetics Department at CCRI Sakrand since 2001. Dr. Rehana Anjum began her career at the Pakistan Central Cotton Committee (PCCC) in 2001 as a Scientific Officer in the Plant Breeding and Genetics Department at CCRI Sakrand. In 2018, she was promoted to Head of the Department.

TEVTA Employees Association KPK met Special Assistant to CM KPK



Tariq Khan Yousafzai

MARDAN: The cabinet members of All TEVTA Employees Association of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa met Special Assistant to the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Technical Education Tufail Anjum, and Mansoor Qaiser Managing Director of TEVTA in which there was a detailed discussion on the problems of KP Toyota Employees. Tufail Anjum Special Assistant for Technical Education assured, All the problems of KP TEVTA employees are being worked on very seriously and INSHALLAH all the issues like C-P fund, service structure, mandatory training, creation of post for promotion of Employees PhD and M. P. allowance, EOBL, and death grant etc. will be resolved soon. The cabinet members expressed special thanks to Special Assistant for Technical Education Tufail Anjum and MD and offered to play every role in solving the problems of KP TEVTA.

VC University of Kamalia meet with former Governor of Punjab Ch Sarwar



Abdul Majid

KAMALIA: Vice Chancellor University of Kamalia Prof. Dr. Yasir Nawab met with former Governor of Punjab and founder of Sarwar Foundation Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar. The meeting was also attended by Dr. Shahzad Sarfaraz Malik, Director, FAST NUCES, Chiniof-Faisalabad Campus and Dr. Malik Muhammad Asif, Chairman, Department of Computer Science, National Textile University. Dr. Yasir Nawab had a fruitful discussion on the initiatives of Sarwar Foundation and discussed possible cooperation to enhance education in Toba Tek Singh district, especially in partnership with Kamalia Official University, expressing hope for cooperation with Sarwar Foundation founder Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar.

Awareness campaign of Polio can be launched with the help of TikTokers

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: The government and citizens, especially parents, can succeed in eradicating the polio virus together. An effective awareness campaign is being run in collaboration with TikTokers, cricketers and scholars so that Pakistan can be made polio-free by making as many people aware of the importance of two drops of polio. This was said by the Chief Minister of Punjab, Focal Person for Polio Eradication, Uzma Kardar, while presiding over a meeting of the District Polio Eradication Committee in the committee room of the Deputy Commissioner's Office, Faisalabad. CEO Health Asfandyar gave a briefing regarding the arrangements for the upcoming polio eradication campaign. He said that the first polio campaign of the year is starting from February 3, which will be formally inaugurated by the Deputy Commissioner on Saturday. The 7-day campaign will continue till February 9. He said that the target is to administer polio drops to more than 1.6 million children.

Uzma Kardar Expressing satisfaction over the briefing, Deputy Commissioner Faisalabad Captain (ret'd) Nadeem Nasir appreciated the steps taken by the Health Authority to eradicate polio. He said that focus should be on the target and provide thorough training to the area in-charges, UCS and transit teams and a female worker should be included in each team so that mothers can administer drops to children with ease and satisfaction. He directed to solve the problems of fingerprinting and micro-planning. He said that the cooperation of every community, including the Ulema, is essential for the eradication of polio.

Media Briefed

MUZAFFARABAD: After Cabinet meeting of AJK Finance Minister Abdul Majid Khan briefed the media at PID Complex.



Photo: Spokesman

Ms. Mehr-un-Nisa demand a clear and transparent inquiry incident that took place in Khawra

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Muslim Conference Secretary General and former Deputy Speaker Ms. Mehr-un-Nisa has demanded a clear and transparent inquiry into the unfortunate incident that took place in Constituency Five, Khawra, and said that the real facts should be brought to the public.

The Muslim Conference has always played its positive role in every era to establish an atmosphere of tolerance and brotherhood in Azad Kashmir. Political tension and chaos within the state will send a negative message to



occupied Kashmir.

The Muslim Conference is the founding party of the state and any kind of conspiracy against it is unacceptable. Mehrun-Nisa said that the situation arising in Khawra needs to be resolved within the framework of law and justice. She said that only through a transparent investigation can the real story and those responsible be determined.

Mehrun-Nisa said that all political parties need to work for political tolerance in the state. She said that to restore peace and order in the state, it is necessary to keep in mind respect,

dignity and tolerance among political parties. Mehrun-Nisa said that non-state parties in the state should determine their role and the Election Commission should take notice of the election campaign on government resources. It is the responsibility of the leadership to avoid bringing personal domestic matters into politics. It is the responsibility of the leadership to make the workers adhere to the code of conduct. The Secretary General of the Muslim Conference said that the deteriorating situation in occupied Jammu and Kashmir demands that such incidents be avoided here she added.

Pakistan Peoples AJK announced to celebrate Kashmir Solidarity Day with grand manner

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The Pakistan Peoples Party Azad Kashmir has announced to celebrate Kashmir Solidarity Day on February 5 in a grand manner on both sides of the ceasefire line, in all four provinces of Pakistan and all over the world. A special session of the Azad Kashmir Legislative Assembly will be convened on February 5, which will be addressed by the President of Pakistan or the Prime Minister of Pakistan, while a human chain will be formed on the highways connecting Pakistan and Azad Kashmir, and rallies will be held throughout Azad Kashmir. Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Chairperson of Political Affairs Ms. Faryal Talpur, Party President Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin, Central Senior Leader of the Party Chaudhry Riaz, Speaker



Chaudhry Latif Akbar, Secretary General Faisal Rathore, have directed the party and its affiliated organizations to celebrate Kashmir Solidarity Day in a grand manner. Yesterday, the party's Central Deputy Secretary Information and Nominations

Candidate for Assembly Constituency 7, Leepa Valley, Shaukat Javed Mir, while giving details to the media, said that the worst state terrorism of the eight lakh occupying forces of India and serious violations of human rights have been

committed in their The arrests of Hurriyat Conference leaders are on the rise. The worst atrocities have reached their peak. After August 5, 2019, after the amendments to Article 370 and Article 35A, the terrible conspiracies to convert

the majority of Kashmiris into a minority by giving domicile to more than four million non-state actors are on the rise and a plan has been made to change its natural status including its name. Shaukat Javed Mir said that the founding chairman of the People's Party, former Prime Minister of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Awam Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, on February 27, 1974, called for a historic successful strike on both sides of the state of Jammu and Kashmir, bringing it out of the cold storage and making the Kashmir issue alive and the right to self-determination alive all over the world. The daughter of the east, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, the martyr, got the Kashmiris observer status in the OIC and established a parliamentary Kashmir committee in the National Assembly under the leadership of the late Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, comprising all parties.



Islamabad

30° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 5:40 am
Zohr 12:21 pm
Asr 3:59 pm
Maghrib 5:37 pm
Isha 7:03 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad 1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
& Rescue Services 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

Sindhi Play 'Ghato Ghar Na Aya' enthralls audience at PNCA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) hosted a captivating performance of the Sindhi stage play Ghato Ghar Na Aya, directed by Rafique Isbani.

The play attracted a large audience from Islamabad and Rawalpindi, who applauded the stellar performances of the artists.

The production, staged by the Bhattai Arts Council Sindh under the leadership of its president, Rafique Isbani, was a dramatic interpretation of Sur Ghato, a poetic masterpiece by the revered Sufi saint and Sindhi poet Hazrat Shah Abdul Latif Bhattai.

With over a thousand stage productions to his credit as an actor and director, Rafique Isbani brought to life the powerful script written by acclaimed Sindhi writer Siraj Memon.

The cast featured prominent artists, including Rafique Memon, Sidra Shaikh, Talib Hussain, Khalid Hussain, Rasool Bux Chandio, Benazir Junejo, Noor Memon Sajjan, Sufi Sattar, Aslam Siyal, and Javed Taqafi, who delivered outstanding performances, infusing the play with realism and depth.

The PNCA auditorium was packed with an enthusiastic audience, including political and social dignitaries, media representatives from both print and electronic outlets, and a special delegation from Turkey, which highly appreciated the performance.

Pakistan Navy COMKAR Command Annual Efficiency Awards Ceremony 2024 held

City Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan Navy COMKAR Command Annual Efficiency Awards Ceremony 2024 was held at PNS JAUHAR, Karachi. Vice Chief of the Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Ovais Ahmed Bilgrami, graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Upon arrival, the Chief Guest was received by Commander Karachi, Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi.

In his address, VCNS expressed complete satisfaction in efficient achievement of assigned targets by COMKAR Command. He emphasized the significance of training in ongoing techno-strategic landscape embedded with Artificial Intelligence and Cyber Security. He acknowledged the role of COMKAR Command in providing professional and academic training to PN Officers and personnel, while focusing on their personal

development and intellectual growth. The Chief Guest congratulated the prize winners for demonstrated performance during the year 2024 and encouraged healthy inter-command competition.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Commander Karachi, Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi, elaborated the role and significance of COMKAR Command units in imparting professional

and technical training. During the ceremony, VCNS presented efficiency awards and trophies to the best-performing units and individuals of COMKAR Command.



Year of the Snake (Lunar New Year)

ISLAMABAD: Mr. Atta Tarar, Federal Minister for Information & Broadcasting, Mr. Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs; Mr. Chen Peng, Chinese Cultural Counsellor; Mr. Zafar Bakhtawari, Chairman Pakistan Cultural Forum; and Ms. Wang Qianting (Mussarat) Director China Media Group attended the Spring Festival celebrations for the Chinese New Year at PNCA, on Thursday.



Photo: PID

Zong 4G and Waste Hero Champion Sustainability

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Zong 4G, Pakistan's leading connectivity provider, partnered with Waste Hero to organize a series of impactful activities focused on waste management and eco-friendly practices. This collaboration underscores Zong 4G's commitment to environmental sustainability through green and low-carbon initiatives.

Key activities included an interactive session at Excellence College, where 75 students learned about waste segregation and recycling, fostering eco-conscious habits among youth. This was followed by a workshop with NICAT in Rawalpindi, where over 50 professionals and entrepreneurs explored



innovative electronic waste management solutions.

Building on this momentum, an awareness drive was held at Zong's headquarters, where employees took part in discussions and activities focused on e-waste disposal. The campaign concluded with a clean-up hike at Margalla Trail 5 in Islamabad, where volunteers

removed 7kg of waste, highlighting the importance of preserving natural spaces.

"Through these events, we've witnessed the power of collective action in driving sustainability," said Andleeb Aslam, Zong 4G's spokesperson. "At Zong, we aim to do more than just connect people. We strive to connect them with a sense of purpose and responsibility

toward our planet. Together, we can lead the way to a greener, healthier Pakistan."

Zong 4G continues to lead by integrating environmentally responsible practices into its operations, promoting waste reduction, recycling, and conservation efforts to reduce its carbon footprint and foster a culture of environmental responsibility.

A People-Powered Energy Revolution: The Great Solar Rush is here to Stay

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's solar revolution is rewriting the energy landscape as communities and businesses take control of their power supply, outpacing government policy and infrastructure. With 22 GW of solar panels imported in just 18 months, the country is undergoing a mass shift towards decentralized solar solutions.

In her opening remarks, Senator Sherry Rehman emphasized the urgency of policy alignment with this people-led transformation, stating, "Pakistan has emerged as a market leader in South Asia for solar adoption.



We should not be disabling this revolution; we should be enabling it." She warned that failure to integrate solar into national planning would stall Pakistan's progress on energy security and economic stability.

Zeeshan Ashfaq, CEO of Renewables First, high-

lighted the economic realities driving this transition. "Millions of people are simultaneously deciding that they have had enough of expensive grid electricity and are rushing towards installing solar PV panels—not because of climate change or government policies, but because

economics make perfect sense."

Waqas Moosa, Chairman of the Pakistan Solar Association, reinforced that Pakistan's solar adoption rate is one of the highest globally. However, he warned that poorly communicated policy changes—such as potential net metering reductions—could create instability in the market.

In his keynote address, Dr. Fiaz Chaudhary, Chairman of NTDC, criticized outdated regulations and infrastructure, warning that net metering creates financial imbalances as solar prosumers pay less for grid maintenance. To address this, Pakistan's grid

must urgently integrate smart metering and distributed energy controls. Umer Farooq of LUMS Energy Institute emphasized that Pakistan's energy planning must shift from a top-down approach to decentralized, smart-grid solutions to balance supply and demand efficiently.

Member of National Assembly Dr. Nafisa Shah & Mr. Usama Mela, Sonia Dunlop, CEO of the Global Solar Council, further emphasized that there is a need to gradually open up the power sector for competitive trade under the CTBEC model while also considering the past contracts and decisions that are clogging the system.

Government gives attention to the special children: Deaf and Welfare Society



Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Prof. Sarwat Kazmi and social activist, philanthropist Nauman Mehmood Malik, said that the government gives attention to the special children who are an important part of the special children in our society, civilized nations take special care of the development of special people.

Deaf and Welfare Society Shahdara Lahore and it provides education to orphans and poor children of poor people who need financial support. These people should also be financially supported and we wish that.

A special meeting should be arranged with Chief Minister Punjab Miss Maryam Nawaz Sharif and We appeal to the Chief Minister of Punjab, Governor Punjab to provide financial support to our children and to take action on their positive problems.

Sindh High Court reinstates initial order in journalist Nasrullah Guddani murder case

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court (SHC) has suspended the second ruling issued by the lower court in the murder case of journalist Nasrullah Guddani and reinstated the initial order. The court has also issued notices to the parties for a hearing scheduled on February 17.

According to the initial order, the decision regarding the accused will be made by the court itself instead of the investigating officer. During the hearing, the petitioner's lawyer, Salahuddin Panhwar Advocate, argued that the accused were using various tactics to influence the case, including changes in the investigation officers and judges.

Justice Salahuddin Panhwar remarked that the transfer of judges is a routine administrative matter and has no connection with the accused. The petitioner's lawyer further stated that on May 21 in Mirpur Mathelo, Nasrullah Guddani was shot at in an act of open terrorism by local feudal lords. The lawyer also highlighted that in 2020, Nasrullah Guddani was targeted after filming the protocol of an MPA's son, Shehbaz Lund, who later opened fire on him. Guddani had filed a case against Shehbaz Lund for the attack. Additionally, he was detained under the MPO (Maintenance of Public Order) law.

After reviewing the arguments, the SHC suspended the second ruling of the lower court and reinstated the first order, ensuring that the court will decide on the accused rather than the investigating officer.

The court has summoned all concerned parties for the next hearing on February 17.

Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi pays Musical Tribute to Renowned Guitarist Afaq Adnan



City Desk

KARACHI: Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi organized a musical event to paid tribute to the renowned guitarist Afaq Adnan on his first death anniversary. The event took place at Jaun Elia Lawn, where a large number of Adnan's students, colleagues, and admirers gathered to honor his memory. The event featured outstanding performances by various artists, including ACMA The Band, Sounds of Kolachi, Arman Rahim, Ahsan Bari, Faraz Anwar, Shams-ul-Arifeen, Shahid Rahman, Imad-ur-Rehman, Zaib, Russell D'Souza, Jambroz, Mustafa Baloch, Ahmer Mustafa, Muhammad Zubair, Muneeb Khan, Muzammil, and Mohsin Ali. Renowned singer Arman Rahim expressed his sentiments, stating that Afaq Adnan may no longer be among us, but he will always live in our hearts. He further praised Adnan as not just a great friend but also an exceptional mentor, describing him as a university of music in himself. The event became even more mesmerizing as musicians performed some of Afaq Adnan's most famous compositions, leaving the audience enthralled. The audience deeply appreciated the performances and celebrated the late guitarist's contributions to the music industry. The event was hosted by Nauman Khan.

ISSI hosts Seminar on International Year of Peace and Trust 2025

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a seminar titled "International Year of Peace and Trust: Cooperation for Peace," in collaboration with the Embassy of Turkmenistan and the UN Resident Coordinator Office in Pakistan. The event included speeches by H. E. Atadjan Movlamov, Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Pakistan; Mr. Mohamed Yahya, UN Resident Coordinator in Pakistan; and Ambassador Syed Haider Shah, Additional Secretary (UN and OIC) Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The working session featured talks by Ambassador Masood Khalid, former Ambassador of Pakistan to China; Ms. Ammara Durrani, Assistant Resident Representative UNDP; and Dr. Maria Saifuddin Effendi, HOD Department of Peace and Conflict Studies, NDU.

In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood congratulated Turkmenistan on playing a leadership role globally in steering the process of advancing the objectives enshrined in UNGA Resolution 78/266 declaring

2025 as the International Year of Peace and Trust. He emphasized that peace is not merely the absence of conflict but rather is a dynamic and participatory process which requires dialogue, mutual understanding, and the ability to accept and respect differences.

Ambassador Atadjan Movlamov noted that we are witnessing a complexity in global politics. In this backdrop, Turkmenistan advocated to consolidate international efforts for purposes of peace and trust by introducing a General Assembly resolution on "International Year of Peace and Trust 2025." The resolution projected fundamental principles and commitments of the UN charter, particularly peaceful settlement of disputes. Turkmenistan also adopted a special program called "The Concept of Activities and Priorities of Turkmenistan within the Framework of International Year of Peace and Trust 2025."

Mr. Muhammad Yahya, the UN Resident Coordinator, remarked that the unanimous support for the International Year of Peace and Trust is an achievement in the contemporary international relations. He also

noted that Pakistan has been instrumental in supporting the resolution and commended the country's diplomatic efforts.

Ambassador Syed Haider Shah during his address commended the efforts of Turkmenistan for promoting peace and neutrality and expressed hope that the initiative for the International Year of Peace and Trust will result in inculcating the culture of peace across the globe.

Ambassador Masood Khalid commended Turkmenistan for initiating the UN General Assembly Resolution proclaiming the International Year of Peace and Trust. He noted that the Doomsday Clock is set at '89 seconds to midnight' now, symbolizing the severe existential threats the world faces.

Ms. Ammara Durrani noted that five areas were identified by the United Nations for enabling multilateralism. These include sustainable development and finance, international peace and security, science and technology innovation, youth and future generations, and transforming global governance. Dr. Maria Effendi shared an



academic perspective on UNGA Resolution 78/266, with a focus on the role of academia.

Earlier, Dr. Talat Shabbir noted that Pakistan, as a staunch advocate of peaceful coexistence, has always supported international efforts aimed at conflict resolution and dialogue-based

diplomacy. In this context, Turkmenistan's policy of permanent neutrality offers a unique model for strengthening global peace and stability.

In his closing remarks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BOG ISSI, noted that the United Nations was principally founded with the aspiration

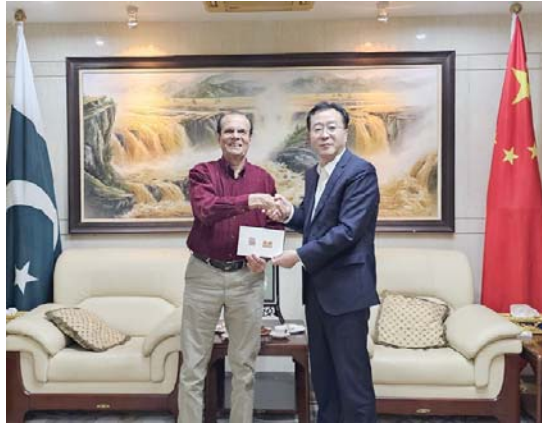
to promote international peace and prevent coming generations from the scourge of war. He concluded stating that celebrating and recognising the importance of international peace should not be limited to just one year but rather should be celebrated every day and every year.

Chinese Envoy Calls for Enhanced Bilateral Trade with Pakistan

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Mr. Yang Yundong, Consul General of the People's Republic of China, expressed satisfaction with the diplomatic and economic relations between China and Pakistan and emphasized the need to further accelerate bilateral trade between the two countries. "The friendship between China and Pakistan is an example for the world. We deeply value Pakistan's support for China on every forum and hold the same sentiments for Pakistan," he said.

This was discussed during a meeting at the Chinese Consulate with renowned



philatelist and Chief Advisor of the Pakistan Chemicals & Dyes Merchants Association (PCDMA), Arif Balgamwala (Tamgha-e-Imtiaz), who was invited to the Chinese

Consulate. On this occasion, Arif Balgamwala presented a stamp folder to the Chinese Consul General to mark the Chinese New Year, which the Consul General greatly

appreciated.

Arif Balgamwala, the renowned philatelist and Chief Advisor of PCDMA, thanked the Chinese Consul General for offering full support to Pakistani traders and mentioned that Pakistani would participate in the stamp show in China this year.

Additionally, a delegation of traders would be formed for the Interdye 2025 exhibition, aimed at further strengthening trade relations with China. He also discussed visa-related matters with the Consul General, who assured him that Pakistani traders would be provided with visa facilities.

Sarfraz emphasized the importance of fostering literary collaborations

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) had the honor of hosting Mr. Sarfaraz Baig, a distinguished novelist settled in Paris, France. During his visit, he was warmly welcomed by Dr. Bilal Karim, Director PRR, and Mr. Khurshed Ahmed, Deputy Director Admin.

In recognition of his literary contributions, Dr. Bilal Karim presented Mr. Sarfaraz Baig with a book as a token of appreciation.

The visit provided an opportunity to discuss the role of literature and the arts in cultural diplomacy and international literary exchange.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Sarfaraz Baig expressed his admiration for PNCA's efforts in promoting the arts and preserving Pakistan's rich cultural heritage. He also emphasized



the importance of fostering literary collaborations between Pakistan and the international literary community. PNCA continues to serve as a hub for

artistic and intellectual engagement, welcoming creative minds from around the world to celebrate and contribute to Pakistan's evolving cultural landscape.

Afghanistan and Japan Sign Agreement to Combat Landmine Threats: Mullah Nooruddin Turabi

Asim Tanveer

KABUL: In a significant step towards addressing the dangers of landmines in Afghanistan, the country's National Disaster Management Authority has signed a \$502,296 agreement with the Japanese humanitarian organization AAR Japan. The agreement aims to raise awareness about the threats posed by landmines and unexploded ordnance in various regions of Afghanistan.

The agreement was signed in Kabul by Mullah Nooruddin Turabi, the head of the National Disaster Management Authority, and Mohammad Bashir Basir, the president of AAR Japan. Speaking at the signing ceremony, Mullah Nooruddin Turabi welcomed the AAR Japan delegation and reiterated his organization's commitment to working with humanitarian groups. He emphasized the need for increased support and transparent distribution of aid to ensure maximum benefit for those affected by landmine threats.

AAR Japan's president, Mohammad Bashir Basir, expressed gratitude for the cooperation extended by the National



Disaster Management Authority. He acknowledged the government's role in addressing the challenges faced by humanitarian organizations and highlighted AAR Japan's ongoing collaboration with aid agencies in Kabul and various provinces.

As per the agreement, AAR Japan will implement awareness programs in

Kabul city and Zabol province, specifically targeting the districts of Shamalzai, Shinkay, Narang, and Jaldak.

With continued support from humanitarian agencies and international partners, Afghanistan can move closer to becoming a safer and landmine-free country, ensuring a secure future for its people.

Saad Siddiqui Entrepreneur of the Year 2025 award in Russia

City Desk

KARACHI: Saad Siddiqui, Founder & CEO of Edversity, has been honored with the BRICS & SCO Social Entrepreneur of the Year 2025 award in Russia. Organized by the Academy of Youth Diplomacy and the Ministry of Youth Affairs, Russia, this prestigious event celebrates individuals making a significant impact through innovation and entrepreneurship. The recognition of Saad Siddiqui in the Top Entrepreneur Award category highlights the growing influence of young Pakistani entrepreneurs on the global stage.

As the driving force behind Edversity, Pakistan's largest learning platform, Saad Siddiqui is revolutionizing digital education by bridging the tech skills gap and tackling youth unemployment. Edversity offers affordable and future-focused courses in Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain, and Web3, equipping individuals with industry-relevant expertise. With rapid expansion into the Middle East, Edversity is setting new bench-



marks in accessible, high-quality education.

The event brought together influential leaders, policymakers, and innovators from across the BRICS and SCO nations, providing a platform to discuss challenges and opportunities in social entrepreneurship.

This year's ceremony showcased groundbreaking ventures from various sectors, highlighting

the role of young entrepreneurs in driving sustainable development and economic growth.

Speaking on this achievement, a spokesperson from JS Zindigi stated: "This recognition reaffirms our belief in the potential of young entrepreneurs to drive transformation at a global level. Which is why we remain dedicated to empowering bright minds and supporting them in their journey to success."

Transforming Child Health: How Community Incentives Drive Breakthroughs in Pakistan

Bureau Report

KARACHI: A groundbreaking study published in The Lancet Global Health reveals how community-driven incentives can greatly improve child health outcomes in rural Pakistan. The Community Mobilization and Community Incentivization (CoMIC) trial, conducted by researchers from Aga Khan University's Institute for Global Health and Development (IGHD), offers a transformative model for addressing preventable illnesses such as childhood diarrhoea and pneumonia, which remain leading causes of death

among children under five.

The CoMIC trial is based on the recognition that behaviour change interventions should ensure active community engagement and adapt context-specific strategies to facilitate change (bottom-up approach for sustainable improvement).

The findings revealed significant improvements in child health indicators in incentivized communities. Compared to the control groups, they included an 80% higher breastfeeding rate, a 50% rise in the use of oral rehydration treatments, a 30% improvement in cleanliness habit and a 30% higher immunization

rate.

Dr. Jai K. Das, Assistant Director at IGHD and lead author of the study explained: "The study shows that when communities are actively engaged, empowered, and take charge to set their own priorities, it leads to extraordinary results. The ability to choose non-cash rewards, such as water pumps or sanitation facilities, fostered a sense of ownership and accountability, driving sustainable behavior changes."

In Pakistan, the poorest populations are disproportionately affected by the substantial discrepancies in access to necessary health services. Less than

one-third of rural households have access to adequate sanitation, while the nation's immunization rates are still at 66%. The findings showed that communities are more likely to invest when they are empowered to decide on incentives. This was evident by the fact that contributions including labour, land and supplies resulted in a cost-sharing rate of 36% above the 25% target.

Dr. Zulfiqar A. Bhutta, Founding Director of IGHD, emphasized the broader implications of the trial: "This trial demonstrates the potential of community-driven solutions in achieving scalable health



improvements. It is a model that can be adapted in other low- and middle-income countries to address inequities and save lives." Scaling this approach could

address vaccine resistance, improve sanitation, and enhance child health outcomes across diverse contexts. The framework offers a practical and trans-

parent mechanism for delivering community-level benefits while fostering accountability and long-term investment in health infrastructure.

Foreign Minister chaired meeting on economic

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired the 2nd meeting to prepare a comprehensive road map for enhancing trade, economic and investment cooperation between Pakistan and Türkiye, on Thursday.



Photo: Online

DPM chairs 2nd meeting to prepare comprehensive roadmap for enhancing Pak-Türkiye economic ties

City Desk

ISLAMABAD, JAN 30 (APP): Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Thursday chaired the 2nd meeting to prepare a comprehensive road map for enhancing trade, economic and investment cooperation between Pakistan and Türkiye. Pakistani cuisine recipes

The meeting was attended by Federal Ministers for Power, Food Security, Petroleum, SAPM on Foreign Affairs, Coordinator to PM on Health and Federal Secretaries of Foreign Affairs, Economic Affairs, Communication, Industries, Food Security and other officials, a DPM's office news release said.

The DPM reviewed progress on

completed and ongoing initiatives under Strategic Economic Framework 2020-24, and discussed preparation for the meetings of nine Joint Working Groups and Pakistan-Türkiye Business Forum to be organized on the sidelines of 7th Session of High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSCC), which will be held in Islamabad.

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister Senator Ishaq Dar also chaired the meeting on power tariff reforms which was attended by Ministers of Power, Economic Affairs Division and Minister of State for Finance, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Power and other senior officials. The meeting deliberated upon various proposals for reforming the power sector.

US plane with 64 onboard crashes after colliding with military copter

Agencies

WASHINGTON: A US passenger plane carrying 64 people crashed into Washington DC's chilly Potomac River after colliding midair with a military helicopter on a nighttime training exercise Wednesday, prompting a major emergency response and the grounding of all flights.

The plane had been about to land at nearby Reagan National Airport after flying from Kansas when it was hit by the helicopter and crashes into river, with US media reporting multiple bodies pulled from the dark, near-freezing water.

American Airlines, whose subsidiary operated the flight, said "there were 60 passengers and four crew members on board the aircraft."

A US Army official said the helicopter involved was a Black Hawk model carrying three soldiers — their status currently unknown. They had been on a "training flight," a separate military spokesperson said in



a statement.

Washington police said "there is no confirmed information on casualties at this time."

However, a massive search and rescue operation was in progress, with divers visible as they plunged into the snow-lined Potomac.

The Washington Post quoted unnamed sources saying police had started to pull multiple bodies from the water.

Witness Ari Schulman described "a stream of sparks" and what looked like a large firework when the collision erupted overhead as he drove home.

"Initially I saw the plane and it looked fine, normal. It was right about to head over land," he told CNN.

"Three seconds later, and at that point it was banked all the way to the right... I could see the underside of it, it was lit up a very bright yellow, and there

was a stream of sparks underneath it," Schulman added. "It looked like a Roman candle."

President Donald Trump said in an official statement that he had been "fully briefed" and said of any victims, "may God bless their souls."

But less than four hours after the disaster — and while other officials stressed they were waiting for investigations to unfold — he went on social media to critique the air traffic control.

"The airplane was on a perfect and routine line of approach to the airport. The helicopter was going straight at the airplane for an extended period of time. It is a CLEAR NIGHT, the lights on the plane were blazing," Trump wrote on his app Truth Social.

"Why didn't the helicopter go up or down, or turn. Why didn't the control tower tell the helicopter what to do instead of asking if they saw the plane. This is a bad situation that looks like it should have been prevented. NOT GOOD!!!"

Hard evidence of terrorists using US weapons against Pakistan: FO

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has reiterated that it had sufficient proof of terrorist groups in Afghanistan using the US left-behind weapons for terrorist activities on its soil, reminding the Kabul administration of its responsibility to act against

such groups.

At his weekly news briefing in Islamabad on Thursday, Foreign Office spokesperson Shafiqat Ali Khan, said Pakistan had repeatedly conveyed its concerns to the Afghan government and also provided evidence. About the boat capsizing incident in Morocco,

he said the foreign ministry was coordinating the repatriation of 22 Pakistani survivors. After "thorough investigations" the said individuals would be returned to Pakistan in batches as the first batch had already arrived via two flights in Islamabad on the day.

The spokesperson said that

the Pakistan Embassy in Rabat was in close coordination with Moroccan authorities to oversee the relief efforts and finalize the complex repatriation process.

He extended condolences and sympathies to the victims and families of those affected by the recent attack on a Saudi hospital in El Fasher, calling

it a clear violation of international law.

"Pakistan believes that the conflict can only be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy. We express our full support for the unity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Sudan."

Continued on Page 7

Prime Minister Mustafa stresses importance of international support for Gaza

Agencies

RAMALLAH: Prime Minister's Office — Prime Minister Dr. Mohammad Mustafa met today, Thursday, in his office in Ramallah with ambassadors, consuls, heads of diplomatic missions, and representatives of international organizations operating in Palestine; joined by Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Wael Zaqout, Minister of Social Development and Relief Samah Hamad, and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs.

The Prime Minister outlined the Government's ongoing efforts

in the Gaza Strip through the Government Operations Room for Emergency Interventions and its field teams to implement the Relief, Early Recovery, and Emergency Response Plan for the next six months.

Addressing the diplomatic corps, Mustafa emphasized the crucial role of the international community in supporting Palestinian institutions' efforts and coordinating with them to enhance emergency relief, restore basic services, and drive economic recovery—ultimately reducing reliance on relief and humanitarian aid and reviving economic

activity.

He noted that the Government Operations Room for Emergency Interventions for Gaza has started operating through joint committees comprising various ministries and government agencies in the West Bank, alongside field teams in Gaza. These efforts focus on shelter, humanitarian aid, debris removal, and targeted assistance through the Ministry of Social Development, as well as repairs for partially damaged homes.

The Prime Minister further announced that a detailed report on Gaza's damages and losses will soon be released. Being



report will assess the destruction and damage of infrastructure and homes, along with losses across

social, economic, and agricultural sectors, among others. This assessment will serve as a founda-

tion for a comprehensive recovery and reconstruction plan.

Continued on Page 7