



# Rathore slams UN inaction on Kashmir Self-Determination Day Anniversary

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, has urged the United Nations to discharge its legal and moral responsibilities to help resolve the longstanding Kashmir dispute in line with the Kashmiri's wishes and aspirations.

In his special message on the Right to Self-Determination Day, the prime minister expressed dismay over the UN's lackadaisical approach towards the issue, saying it was unfortunate that the promise of the right to self-determination made by the UN to the Kashmiri people seven decades ago is yet to

be fulfilled.

He said that holding a plebiscite in Kashmir, as per the UN-proposed roadmap, remains the primary responsibility of the international community. Referring to the ultimate goal of the Kashmiri people's ongoing struggle, the prime minister said that freedom from India's illegal occupation and accession to Pakistan is their sole objective, which, he added, would be achieved despite all odds.

He made it clear that the people of Pakistan and Azad Kashmir will never abandon their moral, political, and diplomatic support for the people of occupied Kashmir. The prime minister



said that India's imperialistic presence in occupied Kashmir is the main cause of human rights violations, continued

bloodshed, and violence in the disputed region.

The AJK premier demanded that the United Nations and other international organizations to take effective notice of the situation in the region and hold India accountable for the crimes its forces have been committing against Kashmiris in the occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Reiterating the Kashmiri's pledge to take their ongoing liberation struggle to its logical conclusion, Prime Minister Rathore said that the brave people of occupied Kashmir would accept nothing short of freedom from India.

## Visit

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister AJK Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore visited the residence of senior PML-N leader Raja Zafarul Haque and former Secretary General Mohtmer-e-Alam-e-Islami and inquired about his health and remained there some time. The AJK premier prayed for early health recovery of senior political leader of Pakistan.



## Kashmir observes Right to Self-Determination Day with Unified Resolve

### Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: On the joint call of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Government and the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, the Kashmiri people across both sides of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, all four provinces of Pakistan, and around the world will observe Right to Self-Determination Day today (Monday) with devotion, ideological commitment, national unity, and renewed

resolve.

The rally will be led by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Chaudhry Latif Akbar, along with cabinet ministers Sardar Javed Ayub Khan, Syed Bazil Ali Naqvi, Hurriyat leaders, and leaders of political and religious parties. On the occasion, a protest memorandum addressed to UN Secretary-General António Guterres will be submitted.

The Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir has issued

special instructions to observe Right to Self-Determination Day in a befitting manner across all districts, tehsils, cities, towns, and villages of Azad Kashmir.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister's Spokesperson Shaukat Javed Mir stated that the January 5, 1949 resolution remains the strongest and most legitimate foundation for a durable and permanent solution to the Kashmir dispute. He recalled that India itself approached the United

Nations to seek resolution of the issue, but later trampled upon UN decisions, bilateral agreements, and international law. He emphasized that the Kashmiri people, despite sacrificing three generations, are not prepared to accept any solution other than complete freedom from India.

## Pakistan Pays the Price of Delay

### Shahid Jilani

As Finland moves steadily toward electricity without wires, Pakistan remains trapped in an endless cycle of outages, repairs, and reactive policymaking. This contrast is not about wealth alone, it reflects a deeper difference in planning, priorities, and political will. Finland's work on wireless electricity particularly wireless charging for electric transport and industry recognizes a simple truth: the future of energy is not just about producing power, but about delivering it efficiently, safely and

intelligently. Pakistan's electricity crisis, on the other hand, is largely a crisis of delivery. Aging transmission lines, massive technical losses, cable theft, and poor maintenance continue to waste energy that the country can ill afford to lose. Wireless electricity will not replace Pakistan's power grid tomorrow, and pretending otherwise would be naïve. But dismissing it altogether is equally short-sighted. Selective and strategic use such as wireless charging for electric buses, power support for hospitals, or industrial automation could reduce dependence on fragile wiring

and improve reliability where it matters most. The real problem is not cost; it is hesitation. Pakistan has repeatedly delayed investment in future-ready technologies, choosing short-term fixes over long-term reform. Every year of delay deepens dependence on outdated systems and increases economic and social losses. Finland's example is a warning as much as an inspiration. Countries that plan ahead shape the future. Those that postpone decisions remain permanently in crisis-management mode. Pakistan must decide which path it wishes to follow.



## Kashmiri people rendered unprecedented sacrifices for right to self determination, Barrister Sultan

### Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, has called upon the international community, particularly the United Nations, to play an effective role in resolving the Kashmir issue in accordance with the wishes of the Kashmiri people and relevant UN resolutions.

In his special message on the occasion of Right to Self-Determination Day, President Chaudhry said that the Kashmiri people have rendered unprecedented sacrifices to achieve their right to self-determination, which was guaranteed to them by none other than the United Nations.

He said that the Kashmiri people firmly believe in the territorial integrity of the erstwhile state of Jammu and

Kashmir and regard it as an indivisible entity. Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry said that despite using all means of oppression, India has failed to dampen the Kashmiri's passion and spirit for freedom. He said that the resilience of the Kashmiri people in the face of India's relentless suppression stands as a testament to the fact that no amount of oppression can silence or subdue them.

The president said that Indian forces have crossed all limits of brutality in Kashmir, but despite this barbarism, the Kashmiri people continue to stand firm against tyranny. He stressed that it was high time for the international community to play its due role in ensuring the implementation of UN resolutions that guarantee the right to self-determination to the people of Kashmir.

## Kashmir Minister Slams India as 'Biggest Obstacle' to Self-Determination Plebiscite

### Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Minister for Information of the Azad Government of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, Chaudhry Muhammad Rafiq Nayer, has stated that the people of Kashmir possess an inalienable right to determine their future through a free, fair, and impartial plebiscite, and that India remains the biggest obstacle to the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions.



In his special message on the occasion of Right to Self-Determination Day, he said that India, under a systematic and well-planned strategy, is attempting to alter the demographic composition of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) by settling non-state subjects in the region. He added that Kashmiris who raise their voice in favor of the right to self-determination are being subjected to severe state repression.

Chaudhry Muhammad Rafiq Nayer pointed out that the Kashmir dispute has remained on the agenda of the UN Security Council for decades; however, the silence of the international community has emboldened India to pursue its expansionist ambitions. Despite these circumstances, he said, the people of occupied Kashmir are not prepared to relinquish their birthright and internationally recognized right under any circumstances and will continue their struggle until its logical conclusion.

He urged the international community, particularly the United Nations, to break its silence and ensure the implementation of its resolutions in order to enable the Kashmiri people to exercise their legitimate right to self-determination.

## India's suppression fails as Kashmiri freedom spirit endures, says Sardar Attique

### Spokesman Report



RAWALPINDI: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, has stated that the Kashmiri people have rendered unparalleled sacrifices in their struggle for the right to self-determination, a struggle that continues to this day. Despite deploying all available resources, India has failed to suppress the Kashmiri spirit of freedom.

In a message issued on the occasion of Right to Self-Determination Day, he urged the United Nations to ensure the implementation of its resolutions on the Kashmir dispute. He also called upon international human rights organizations to take serious notice of the escalating human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) and to increase pressure on India to halt the ongoing oppression in the occupied territory.

Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan emphasized that a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute is indispensable for lasting peace in South Asia. Expressing grave concern over the prevailing situation in IOJK, he said that custodial killings of youth, house raids, vandalism, arbitrary arrests, torture of residents including women and the elderly, and destruction of property by Indian forces reflect the fascist mindset of the occupying authorities and the menace of Hindutva terrorism.

Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan warned that failure by the international community to resolve the Kashmir issue could put peace in South Asia at serious risk.

## Provision of Modern Facilities at Sacred Shrines a Top Priority: Dr. Ehsan Bhutta

### News Desk

LAHORE: Secretary / Chief Administrator Auqaf Punjab Dr. Ehsan Bhutta has said that providing quality, safe and dignified facilities to devotees at sacred shrines across the province is among the top priorities of the Punjab Government, in line with the clear directives of Chief Minister Punjab Ms. Maryam Nawaz Sharif, to ensure cleanliness, safety and proper management so that visitors can perform their religious duties with peace and spiritual comfort.

Addressing officers, he stated that under the supervision of Chief Secretary Punjab Zahid Akhtar Zaman, Auqaf Punjab is implementing a coordinated and comprehensive strategy to modernize sacred sites, with development works progressing rapidly across the province, particularly the transformation of Data Darbar into a fully equipped model shrine.

He added that these initiatives include improved sanitation systems, foolproof security arrangements, CCTV monitoring, modern control rooms, clear signages, special facilities for elderly and disabled persons, upgraded ablution areas, standard washrooms, clean drinking water and an improved langar system.

Besides Data Darbar, development schemes are also underway at the shrines of Baba Fariduddin Ganj Shakar (Pakpattan), Hazrat Shah Rukn-e-Alam (Multan), Hazrat Mian Mir (Lahore) and many other major and minor shrines, focusing on infrastructure improvement, access routes, security upgrades and visitor facilitation, with active coordination among LDA, TEPA, district administration, police, Rescue 1122 and other departments.

Dr. Ehsan Bhutta emphasized that through transparency, digital record systems, online monitoring and institutional reforms, Auqaf Punjab is further strengthening its performance, while promoting the teachings of Sufi saints as sources of peace, harmony, tolerance and social cohesion.

## WASA says actively improving city's drainage system

LAHORE: The Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) is fully mobilised in improving the city's drainage system as per the direction of Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz.



According to WASA sources here on Sunday the agency's Managing Director Ghulzar Ahmad visited the Cantt Drain near Shadman market to review ongoing desilting and cleaning operations.

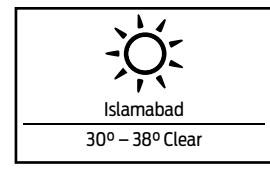
During the visit, Aziz Bhatti Town Director Sharjeel Hussain briefed the MD on the current condition of the drain, progress of cleaning work and overall drainage capacity.

WASA MD appreciated the performance of the field staff and directed that timely and complete cleaning of all drains must be ensured.

He stated that no compromise would be made on the quality of desilting and instructed field officers to remain present on-site to closely monitor operations.

He said, "WASA Lahore is committed to public service and all available resources will be utilized to provide maximum relief to citizens."

He also issued directions to impose fines on individuals dumping garbage into drains, stressing the importance of keeping drainage lines clear to prevent urban flooding.


**SERVICES**
**Namaz Timings**

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

**EMERGENCY**

Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 &
& 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	929301-7
Holy Family	929302-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-99
Shifa International	4603666

**DEPARTMENTS**

CDA	921234-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation	9209224

**Kashmir issue unfinished agenda of partition of Subcontinent:**  
Ayaz



ISLAMABAD: Speaker of National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Sunday said that granting the Kashmiri people their fundamental and inalienable right to self-determination is both a moral and legal obligation of the international community.

In a message on the occasion of Right to Self-Determination Day, he emphasized that the Kashmir issue remains the unfinished agenda of the partition of the subcontinent, and its just and durable resolution in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council is indispensable for establishing lasting peace in the region.

The Speaker said that for more than seven decades, the people of Kashmir have been struggling for their rightful cause in the light of UN resolutions, yet justice has still not been delivered to them.

He recalled that on 5 January 1949, the United Nations Security Council adopted a historic resolution granting the people of Jammu and Kashmir the right to decide their future through a free and impartial plebiscite. Unfortunately, he added, this resolution has yet to be implemented.

# CM Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif's inspection teams deployed to improve service delivery, governance

**Bureau Report**

LAHORE: In a bid to improve service delivery and strengthen good governance, Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif has activated the Chief Minister's Inspection Teams across the province to ensure effective monitoring of public sector institutions.

According to officials, the Chief Minister Punjab has introduced a new governance model under which inspection teams are actively operating in the field. The teams are submitting regular reports to the Chief Minister Punjab, while a dedicated digital dashboard has also been made functional to enable

real-time monitoring.

On the directives of the Chief Minister Punjab, inspection teams are conducting inspections of hospitals to ensure the provision of free medicines and healthcare facilities to patients. Any negligence or shortcomings in service delivery are being identified promptly for corrective action.

The inspection teams, acting on the

Chief Minister Punjab's instructions, will also extend monitoring to education departments and other government institutions beyond the health sector.

Additionally, inspection teams along with Special Assistant to the Chief Minister Shoail Mirza have been carrying out surprise visits to hospitals. Following public complaints and

inspection findings, several medical superintendents (MSs) and principals have been replaced for failing to meet performance standards.

The Chief Minister Punjab has emphasized that public welfare, transparency and accountability remain the government's top priorities, and strict action will continue against officials found negligent in their duties.

## Self-Determination Day

MUZAFFARABAD: Activists of Pasban-e-Hurriyat holds oil torches during a protest rally on the eve of Youm-e-Haq-e-Khud Iraziyat" (5th January, Right to Self-Determination Day) in the city.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## Country Whose Defense is Strong and Powerful Army, says Umar Farooq Bhatti

**Kiran Asim**

MULTAN: Coordinator to Chairperson Directorate Chief Minister Punjab Umar Farooq Bhatti has said that the country whose defense is strong and powerful army, the world has relations with it on the basis of equality. Pakistan is a country with nuclear and powerful forces, due to which various powers of the world avoid looking at Pakistan with a dirty eye, just as Pakistan on May 10, 2025, Pakistan's forces attacked its eternal enemy India with

great skill and gave a befitting reply within four hours. There is no such war example in the whole world, thanks to which Pakistan is being looked at with respect all over the world today.

The credit for this goes to our Army Chief of Defence Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir and Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Shahbaz Sharif, all wings of the Pakistan Army,

especially the ISPR. One war was fought on the border. The second war was fought in the form of ISPR, through electronic media, social media, digital media, information

was provided to the whole world moment by moment. DG ISPR Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry and His entire team continued to provide accurate information. The role played by our DG ISPR Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry and His entire team from May 6 to May 10 was unforgettable. The coverage that our forces' ISPR showed to the entire world through the media through electronic media of the war between India and Pakistan and why its F-17 Thunder fighter jets were shown flying from the ground to the sky to hit the enemy's target, seeing which the eyes and mouths of the world's most powerful and modern armed countries and their leaders remained wide open.



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## Self-Reform Through Islam Key to Solving Pakistan's Woes: Allama Riaz Hussain Shah

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Allama Syed Riaz Hussain Shah, Patron-in-Chief of Idara Taleemat-e-Islamia Pakistan, has said that spending the new solar year in the light of Islamic teachings is the need of the hour. He emphasized that adherence to Islamic principles, moral values, justice, tolerance, and mutual respect forms the foundation of a righteous and peaceful society.

Allama Syed Riaz Hussain Shah stated that at the beginning of the new year, both individuals and society should pledge self-reform in order to promote honesty, trustworthiness, tolerance, and service to humanity. He added that if Islamic teachings are practically implemented at the national level, issues such as social unrest, injustice, and insecurity can be effectively addressed.

He concluded by praying that the new solar year brings peace, stability, and prosperity for Pakistan.



## Attack Municipal Committee to Be Developed as Model Public Service Institution: Aneel Saeed

**Raza Naqvi**

ATTOCK: Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) and Administrator Municipal Committee Attock, Aneel Saeed, has said that in line with the directives of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the Municipal Committee Attock will be transformed into a model public service institution to ensure transparent, efficient and timely civic services for citizens.

He expressed these views while presiding over an important administrative meeting at the Municipal Committee Attock. The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Attock Arif Qureshi, Chief Officer MC Attock Sardar Aftab Ahmad Khan, Municipal Officer (Planning) Raza Elahi, and other concerned officers.

During the meeting, participants reviewed the city's beautification plan, cleanliness arrangements, drainage system, road rehabilitation projects and other ongoing development schemes. Aneel Saeed directed the officials to ensure quality workmanship, transparency and speedy execution of all projects, emphasizing that beautification initiatives are aimed at enhancing public convenience and improving the overall quality of life.

The performance of various departments of MC Attock was also reviewed, and officers briefed the chair about their respective responsibilities. The Administrator stressed the need to improve departmental efficiency and ensure prompt redressal of public complaints.

Later, Aneel Saeed, along with the Assistant Commissioner, Chief Officer, representatives of the traders' association and other relevant officials, visited different parts of the city to inspect ongoing development works, sanitation conditions and public facilities. He instructed field staff that negligence in addressing civic issues would not be tolerated and that public service must remain the top priority.



## Grassroots to Glory: A fresh Pathway for Pakistani Athletes

**Abu Zafar Sadiq**

A study in the journal Science has challenged established views that specialization begins in childhood as the most effective way for developing world-class athletes. The findings reveal that most elite-level performing adults were not exceptional as youths in their sport, which brings forward questions regarding how nations such as Pakistan develop younger talent in this area.

This study, conducted by Arne Gullich, a professor at RPTU University Kaiserslautern-Landau in Germany, surveyed the developmental patterns of nearly 35,000 elite performers across various activity types, such as Olympic athletes, chess players, classical musicians, and Nobel Prize awardees. This

study reveals, in a publication dated December 18, 2025, that instead of relying on the search for gifted children to train them early on, many potential world-class athletes could be overlooked to pursue this path.

In the past, the assumption made by the coaches and sports training institutions around the world was that there must be early identification and specialization for excellence to be reached. We observed an increase in the trend for early specialization in most sports categories. There are associated dangers with this trend, which would further reduce the country's capacity for developing excellence in all categories. "This research fundamentally questions the idea that early talent guarantees later success," said Professor Gullich. "Our findings suggest that the path to world-class performance is often

non-linear and that early diversification and gradual development play a critical role."

A key insight from the study is that diverse early experiences—engaging in multiple sports or activities—are common among future elite performers. Instead of focusing exclusively on a single sport from a young age, many eventual world-class athletes explored several activities before gradually specializing.

In Pakistan, this has implications. Young athletes often face pressure—especially in emerging early-specialization—to commit to a single sport, sometimes sacrificing overall physical development and risking burnout. Encouraging children to engage in multiple sports and recreational activities can develop broader skills, better coordination, adaptive thinking, and

resilience—qualities critical for long-term success in elite sports.

The research also highlights the potential downsides of early specialization. Athletes who focus intensely on one discipline from a young age often peak early but struggle to progress further in adulthood. In addition to physical risks such as overuse injuries, early specialization can reduce motivation and limit the development of transferable skills.

Moreover, the study sheds light on the negative implications associated with specialization at an early age. When athletes specialize in their chosen area at an early age, their performance reaches an optimum level quickly; however, their progress stops there. Besides the risks associated with injuries, specializing at an early age can result in less motivation and poor transfer performance.

The implications of these findings in regards to risk and research are clear in terms of adapting models for developing athletes. Rather than promoting specialization in youth athletes, they should be encouraged to try as many sports as possible in order to develop as many skills as possible and determine what they are naturally talented in.

As Professor Gullich says: "The road to excellence is different for each person. Rather than identifying children as prodigies, we ought to give them the freedom to investigate, learn, and develop in their own way." For the sportsmen, sports anchors, sports bodies, sports clubs, and sports decision-makers in Pakistan, it is clear that apart from the sports reforms taking place by the Government, it indeed requires a lot of patience, diversity, and overall development. With a gradual development process of sports talent, along with a careful handling of trends in early specialization, it can help develop the potential sportsmen of Pakistan to regain the glory at the international sports platforms.

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## Kashmiris to mark right to self-determination day with global call to UN

**K**ashmir Self-Determination Day, observed annually on January 5th, commemorates the 1949 UN resolution promising Kashmiris a plebiscite (vote) to decide their future, a right still unfulfilled. It's a day when Pakistan and Kashmiris globally call for implementation of UN resolutions, highlighting the dispute and India's actions in the region. While January 5th focuses on UN resolutions for self-determination, February 5th is observed as Kashmir Solidarity Day, showing unity with Kashmiris.

Jammu and Kashmir people on both sides of the Line of Control (LoC) and across the world are set to observe Right to Self-Determination Day on Monday, January 5, renewing their pledge to continue the freedom struggle until the realization of their legitimate right through the implementation of United Nations resolutions. The day will be marked as a collective "wake-up call" to the UN for the early settlement of the decades-old Kashmir dispute without further delay.

Kashmiris have observed January 5 for more than 76 years to draw the attention of the international community towards the UN Security Council resolution passed on this day in 1949, which recognized the right of the people of Jammu and Kashmir to decide their future through a plebiscite. Speakers and organizers say the continued denial of this right remains a serious challenge to international law and global conscience.

In Azad Jammu and Kashmir, elaborate arrangements have been finalized to observe the day with mass public rallies, special meetings, processions, seminars and symposiums across all ten district headquarters. These gatherings will underline the importance of the right to self-determination, highlighting that Kashmiris' internationally acknowledged right has been suppressed for over seven decades, the local correspondent of APP reported this from Mirpur on Sunday.

According to the details, this year's observance comes against the backdrop of India's unilateral abrogation of Articles 370 and 35-A on August 5, 2019, a move described by Kashmiri leaders as a blatant violation of international commitments that turned Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir into what they term the world's largest prison. Speakers will reiterate that no solution to the Kashmir dispute is acceptable unless it reflects the wishes and aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

## January 5. Right to Self-Determination

**T**he right to self-determination means that any nation has full authority to decide its own political, economic and social future. Every year, January 5 is observed as the Right to Self-Determination, which is a reminder of the pledge to give the Kashmiri people the right to decide their own future in accordance with United Nations resolutions.

The Kashmir issue is one of the oldest and complex issues of the subcontinent. After the partition of the subcontinent in 1947, Kashmir became a disputed region. The United Nations passed various resolutions for a peaceful solution to this problem, in which the Kashmiri people were clearly given the right to decide their future through a referendum, but unfortunately these resolutions could not be implemented till date. Remember that this is the biggest and fundamental problem between Pakistan and India. Kashmir issue. Until this issue is resolved, relations between Pakistan and India cannot be improved and until these are not improved, the clouds of not only war but nuclear war will continue to hover over the region. In the medium term, many efforts such as trade, diplomacy and people-to-people contact (P2P) could not be fruitful and tensions between the two countries continued to increase.

5th January is a day of renewed determination that the Kashmiri people will continue their peaceful and legitimate struggle.

This day sends a message to the international community that it is unjust to deprive any nation of its fundamental rights. The right to self-determination is not only a part of the United Nations Charter but also a fundamental principle of human dignity and freedom.

January 5 reminds us that we all have a shared responsibility to raise our voices for justice, peace and freedom.

In this regard, the relevant summary of the first resolution of the Security Council is as follows.

**21 April 1948:**

"Noting with satisfaction that both India and

Pakistan desire that the question of the accession of Jammu and Kashmir to India or Pakistan should be decided through the democratic method of a free and impartial plebiscite."

The summary of the second resolution of 13th August 1948 in continuation of the same is the view of Karian.

**August 13, 1948:**

"The Government of India and the Government of Pakistan reaffirm their wish that the future status of the State of Jammu and Kashmir shall be determined in accordance with the will of the people."

The second important point is that due to the inconsistency with the spirit of Lord Mountbatten's formula of India's independence of 3 June 1947 and the resolution of the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference of the time on 19 July 1947 with the demand for Pakistan's accession, some essential and basic amendments were needed. These two resolutions provided the basis for the January 1949 resolution.

In these first two resolutions, the referendum was mentioned in principle, but they did not specify the clear guarantee of the referendum, the practical procedure and the responsibility of the United Nations. The first two resolutions provided the basis for the January 1949 resolution which recognized the role of the United Nations as a watchdog, a mediator. The relevant summary of the resolution of January 49 is as follows.

**5 January 1949:**

**Document No. 5/1196.**

"The question of the accession of the State of Jammu and Kashmir to India or Pakistan will be decided through the democratic method of a free and impartial plebiscite."

In addition to the referendum procedure, the January resolution covers other administrative structures including the return of refugees, guarantees of political freedom and elimination of

military and paramilitary influence. By which the international reality of Kashmir conflict was fully recognized.

Based on these reasons, 5th January is a very important and decisive historical milestone in the history of the state of Jammu and Kashmir. On the same day, the United Nations Commission on India-Pakistan (UNCIP) passed an important resolution in the context of the Kashmir dispute and the political and military tensions arising in the region, which formally recognized the right of the Kashmiri people to self-determination internationally. Under which extension of ceasefire in the state, phased military withdrawal, restoration of law and order and

provision of neutral political environment were declared as basic conditions so that a free, transparent and impartial referendum could be held under the supervision of the United Nations. The purpose of this proposed referendum was for the people of the state to decide of their own accord whether they wanted to join either Pakistan or India. January 5 is not only a reminder of the legal, historical and diplomatic basis of the Kashmir issue, but it is also a reminder of the moral and responsible commitment of the international community that has not been fully realized till date. Therefore this day is not only celebrated as a renewal of the right to self-determination, but it is also an opportunity to pay homage to the sacrifices of millions of martyrs of Jammu and Kashmir, and it is also a strong reiteration of the determination that the fruits of the freedom struggle may come to the fore in the form of complete independence of the land of Jammu and Kashmir and the subcontinent. The unfinished project of the independence of India and Pakistan could reach its logical conclusion.

The author is President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir

**Analysis**



**Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan**

alone. It must feed its people.

Against this backdrop, the United Nations appears increasingly sidelined. International law looks fragile. Sovereignty — the sacred shield of nations — now seems conditional on power. When a superpower can enter a sovereign nation, remove its president, place him on a military aircraft, fly him to New York, declare that it will govern that nation until private corporate losses are fully reimbursed, and then warn a list of additional countries that they may be next — the global order has shifted in real time.

Two great human stories now run in parallel. Venezuela has been conquered not metaphorically, but administratively and economically under a new form of corporate-military governance. Iran teeters on the brink of internal fracture driven by economic collapse. And Trump has openly declared to Cuba, Argentina, Colombia, and Greenland that they too will face American power if they stand in Washington's way. The map is being redrawn. Not quietly. Not diplomatically. But with microphones, sanctions, indictments, and armies.

Let us hope that from these convulsions emerge not only new borders and new alliances, but dignity, prosperity, and justice for the ordinary people whose lives move beneath the gears of great power. Because in the age now dawning, might does not whisper. It speaks in the open.

*The writer is Press Secretary to the President (Rtd), Former Press Minister, Embassy of Pakistan to France, Former Press Attaché to Malaysia and former MD, SRBC. He is living in Macomb, Michigan, USA*

## U.S. Seizes Venezuela While Iran Erupts in Economic Revolt

**I**n the dark and trembling hours of January 3, 2026, the mighty arms of the United States stretched deep into Caracas, Venezuela, in what President Donald Trump described as the most daring, precise, and coordinated military operation ever mounted in the Western Hemisphere. More than fifteen thousand U.S. ground, air, and naval personnel took part in the strike, moving with breathtaking speed, sealing borders, disabling command networks, neutralizing security systems, and overwhelming any potential resistance before the first rays of dawn touched the capital. By the time the city awoke, the mission was complete. Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and his wife had been captured and removed from Venezuelan soil without significant resistance from the military, intelligence, or political structures that once upheld the regime. Trump declared that Maduro would now face justice in New York under existing federal indictments accusing him of narcotics trafficking, financing cartel activities, and orchestrating the flow of cocaine into the United States — charges U.S. prosecutors had filed years earlier in the Southern District of New York.

In other words, Trump declared that the United States would govern Venezuela until U.S. companies had recouped their economic losses and restored the flow of profits and petroleum. Only then, he said, would there be a transition to a Venezuelan-run government. For all intents and purposes, the United States had not only removed a president — it had taken control of a nation that holds the largest proven oil reserves in the

world, greater even than Saudi Arabia's. This was not framed as humanitarian intervention. This was open, unapologetic economic conquest tied directly to corporate loss and the restitution of American business rights.

Trump went further. He accused Cuba of embedding its personnel within Venezuelan security forces, of sustaining the Maduro system, and of overseeing elements of state control. He called the Cuban government corrupt and incompetent, running an economy in ruins, and he warned that Havana might be next. Argentina was also singled out as a government he described as mismanaged and resistant to American interests.

Colombia, too, was placed on notice. Even Greenland was mentioned again in the familiar language of strategic ambition. The message was clear and deliberate. If a nation resists U.S. political or economic priorities, if it obstructs American corporate assets, or if it stands in alignment with Washington's adversaries, it may now face overwhelming military and economic pressure — up to and including regime removal.

At the same time, the Middle East trembles. Iran, long sanctioned and squeezed, now faces an internal economic collapse that has pushed people into the streets in more than thirty cities. The Iranian rial has plunged to record lows. Prices for food and basic goods have soared. Salaries have evaporated. Inflation has hollowed out household

life. The working poor and middle class alike now carry the unbearable weight of survival. Demonstrations echo across Tehran, Isfahan, Shiraz, Mashhad, and beyond. Women remove their hijabs openly on camera as an act of defiance. Chants fill the air. Shops shutter. Traffic stops. Security units respond with force. Arrests multiply. The government insists it will restore order. Yet history quietly whispers that revolutions endure only as long as they provide bread.

Since the 1979 revolution, Iran has withstood sanctions, sabotage, cyber-warfare, covert operations, assassinations, and countless diplomatic isolations. But this crisis is different. This crisis lives in the kitchen, the market, the currency exchange, the child's empty lunchbox, the unpaid electricity bill, and the father who cannot afford medicine. Economic pain has become political reality. If Iran cannot stabilize its crippled currency, reconnect to global markets, relieve sanctions pressure, and prove to its people that life can improve, then the flames of protest will not vanish. They will deepen. They will harden. They will return again and again.

Benjamin Netanyahu has long called Iran an existential threat, urging action and regime change. Trump now echoes a new chorus: the Iranian regime is weakening, faltering, running out of breath. Tehran, meanwhile, insists it remains unbroken. But the truth is simple. No government survives forever on slogans



*Cartoon by Amjad Rashi. (Courtesy of Asharq Al-Awsat)*

## UN Kashmir Plebiscite Pledge Still Unimplimented

**J**anuary 5 occupies a distinctive place in the political and historical consciousness of the Kashmiri people. It marks the day in 1949 when the United Nations Security Council formally acknowledged the right of the people of Jammu and Kashmir to determine their political future through a free, impartial, and internationally supervised plebiscite. Far from being a symbolic date, January 5 represents a binding international commitment — one that remains unfulfilled even after more than seven decades.

The Kashmir dispute did not emerge in a vacuum. At the time of the partition of British India, the princely states were guided by the principles outlined in the June 3, 1947 Partition Plan. These principles emphasized geographical contiguity, the wishes of the people, and demographic realities as the basis for accession. Jammu and Kashmir, with an overwhelming Muslim majority and natural economic and geographical links with Pakistan, clearly fit within this framework.

Pakistan's position on Kashmir has remained consistent and principled. From the very beginning, Pakistan has maintained that UN resolutions provide the only legitimate framework for resolving the dispute. It has raised the issue at every relevant international forum, including the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and has extended political, diplomatic, and moral support to the Kashmiri people.

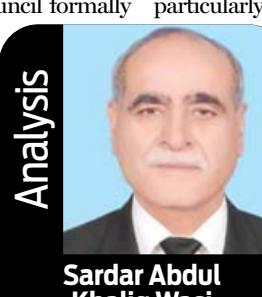
In the current phase, Pakistan's political and military leadership has reaffirmed its commitment to the Kashmir cause through a coordinated national approach. Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's government has actively highlighted the Kashmir issue as an unresolved international dispute, while Deputy Prime Minister

and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar's diplomatic engagement has ensured that Kashmir remains on the agenda of key global platforms. Simultaneously, Pakistan's military leadership, particularly Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, has reiterated that Kashmir is central to Pakistan's national identity and security outlook. The unity between Pakistan's civilian and military leadership underscores that Kashmir is not merely a foreign policy issue but a core national concern.

For the people of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and the Kashmiri diaspora across the world, January 5 is a day of renewed resolve rather than despair. It symbolizes hope that justice, though delayed, cannot be denied indefinitely. It reinforces the belief that history ultimately favors principles over power and rights over repression.

At the same time, January 5 poses a serious question to the international community. Institutions and states that claim to uphold democracy, human rights, and the rule of law must reflect on their silence over Kashmir. If UN resolutions can be ignored with impunity, the credibility of the international system itself is called into question. Kashmir today stands as a litmus test for the global conscience.

In conclusion, January 5 — the Right of Self-Determination Day of Kashmir — is not about revisiting the past; it is about demanding the fulfillment of a solemn international promise. The Kashmiri struggle is firmly anchored in legality, morality, and democratic principle. Rights can be suppressed, but they cannot be erased. The day will come when the people of Jammu and Kashmir will freely determine their future, and when the commitment made on January 5, 1949, will finally be honored in letter and spirit.



**Sardar Abdul Khalil Wasi**

"The question of the accession of the State of Jammu and Kashmir to India or Pakistan will be decided through the democratic method of a free and impartial plebiscite."

In addition to the referendum procedure, the January resolution covers other administrative structures including the return of refugees, guarantees of political freedom and elimination of

noting with satisfaction that both India and

## Tributes to Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto

## 5th January 98th Birthday of Former Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto



Naheed Khan

Every year on January 5, followers commemorate the birthday of an indelible icon of Pakistan's political history, a mentor to millions, and a courageous, visionary leader Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, who fundamentally redefined the relationship between the state and its people. He was the leader who gave meaning to the idea of "power to the people", transforming politics from an elite class to a common man.

History does not judge leaders merely by the offices they hold, but by the lives they transform and the ideas they leave behind. Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto stands among those rare leaders whose politics changed the social, political, and ideological direction of Pakistan. He was not simply a politician, he was a phenomenon, an idea that not only empowered the powerless, underprivileged but restored the dignity of an ordinary Pakistani.

Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto emerged on the national horizon at a time when Pakistan's political arena was dominated by a few feudal elites, entrenched bureaucratic elites, and powerful vested interests. The common citizen, the labourer, the peasant, the student, and the woman remained largely invisible in the corridors of power. It was in this environment that Mr Bhutto founded the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) in 1967, articulating a vision that was revolutionary for its time. With the declaration "All power to the people," he shifted

the axis of politics from privilege to participation and made ordinary people the central force of history.

His party's popular slogan, "Rott, Kapra aur Makaan," was not mere populism; it was a socio-economic manifesto that articulated the fundamental rights of survival, dignity, and security for every citizen. For the first time in Pakistan's history, mainstream politics spoke directly to hunger, inequality, and social justice. The four ideological pillars of the PPP, "Islam is our religion, Democracy is our politics, Socialism is our economy, and all Power to the people" reflected Mr Bhutto's vision to harmonise faith, democratic governance, economic justice, and popular sovereignty. Through this synthesis, he awakened the political consciousness of the people across the country and brought politics to the doorstep of the common man.

PM Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto's government introduced far-reaching reforms aimed at empowering the working classes. Labour laws were strengthened, trade unions were recognised, and job security and workers' rights were institutionalised. Students were acknowledged as political stakeholders, while women were encouraged to participate in public affairs, challenging long-standing patriarchal barriers in a conservative society. His land reforms of 1972 and 1977, which imposed ceilings on large landholdings and redistributed land to landless Hari and peasants, struck at the heart of feudal dominance and challenged centuries-old structures of exploitation. These measures earned him immense popularity among the underprivileged and fierce opposition from entrenched elites.

Issuance of passports, which was previously restricted to a small elite and processed only from Islamabad after lengthy inquiries, was declared a fundamental right of every citizen by PM Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto's government. This historic decision enabled ordinary Pakistanis

to seek employment abroad. Following the 1973 Arab-Israeli War and the subsequent oil boom in the Middle East, hundreds of thousands of Pakistanis were able to migrate for work, particularly to Gulf countries. As a result of these visionary people-centric policies, overseas Pakistanis today contribute around USD 35-38 billion annually in remittances, playing a vital role in strengthening Pakistan's economy. In the same spirit of dignity and citizenship, Mr Bhutto also gave identity to every Pakistani through the issuance of National Identity Cards.

As a statesman, PM Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto combined political idealism with strategic realism. He laid the foundations of Pakistan's nuclear programme, asserting that Pakistan's national security and sovereignty could not be compromised. He spearheaded industrial and infrastructural development by establishing or strengthening institutions such as Pakistan Steel Mills, Port Qasim, Heavy Mechanical Complex Taxila, Pakistan Aeronautical Complex Kamra, and Wah Ordnance Factories, significantly enhancing Pakistan's economic base and defence self-reliance. His emphasis on education and healthcare led to the establishment and expansion of universities, colleges, and medical institutions across the country, extending opportunities beyond traditional urban elites.

In foreign policy, PM Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto envisioned unity and collective strength among Muslim and Third World countries. This vision materialised in the historic Second Islamic Summit Conference of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) held in Lahore in February 1974. Leaders from across the Muslim world participated, including King Faisal of Saudi Arabia, King Hussein of Jordan, Muammar Gaddafi of Libya, President Anwar Sadat of Egypt, President Hafez al-Assad of Syria, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan of the United Arab Emirates, President Houari Boumediene of Algeria, Prime



Minister Bülent Ecevit of Turkey, and the rulers of Qatar and Kuwait, Sheikh Mujeeb of Bangladesh among many others. Mr Bhutto also advocated the idea of a Third World economic bloc, driven by the belief that developing nations should not remain mere suppliers of raw materials but must acquire technology to convert these resources into value added products to strengthen their own economies. This independent and assertive worldview was not well received by Western powers.

PM Bhutto's most enduring democratic achievement remains the Constitution of 1973, a

consensual and comprehensive document that restored parliamentary democracy, guaranteed fundamental rights, recognised provincial autonomy, and continues to serve as the constitutional foundation of Pakistan. In foreign affairs, he demonstrated remarkable diplomatic acumen by negotiating the release of approximately 90,000 Pakistani prisoners of war from Indian custody and securing the return of around 5,000 square miles of occupied territory through the Simla Agreement with Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. These achievements restored national dignity in the aftermath

of the 1971 tragedy.

Regarding Pakistan-Afghanistan relations, Mr Bhutto pursued engagement and dialogue with Afghan President Mohammad Daoud Khan during the mid 1970s. No formal treaty was signed recognising the Durand Line as an international border but he agreed upon between president Daud and PM Bhutto that it will be done so. Unfortunately both the governments were toppled before this history could be written. Subsequent political upheavals in the region reversed this progress, and the issue remains unresolved.

His principled stance on

occupied Kashmir, his articulation of the strategic importance of Gilgit-Baltistan, and his commitment to Pakistan's sovereignty reflected a leader deeply conscious of regional stability and national interests. However, Mr Bhutto's liberal outlook, mass popularity, and challenge to authoritarian and reactionary forces made him the target of a calculated conspiracy. In 1977, his democratically elected government was overthrown through a military coup led by General Zia-ul-Haq, plunging the country into martial law.

What followed was one of the darkest chapters in Pakistan's judicial and political history. Under immense pressure, a divided Supreme Court delivered a verdict that sentenced the most popular Awami Prime Minister to death, a judgment widely described by jurists, historians, and human rights activists as a judicial murder.

Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto was executed in the darkness of night between April 3 and 4, 1979, leaving behind a grieving nation, especially the poor and marginalised who had seen in him their voice, their shield, and their hope. Decades later, that grief endures, as does the promise embedded in his ideology. The slogans still echo across Pakistan: "Zinda Hai Bhutto Zinda Hai" and "Ghareeb ka Bhutto Zinda Hai" A collective memory that refuses to fade away.

Leaders come and go, but history grants permanence only to those who change its course. Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto was not merely a ruler; he was an icon, a mentor of millions, and a visionary whose ideas continue to inspire struggles for democracy, social justice, and popular empowerment. Though he left this world in chains, his footprints remain deeply etched in Pakistan's political landscape, and his legacy continues to guide all those who believe that true power belongs to the people.

The writer is Former Political Secretary to Prime Minister Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto

## Experiencing Freedom in Azad Kashmir and Learning About the Sufferings of IIOJK

The Muzaffarabad study tour between 21st and 23rd of November 2025, arranged by Kashmir Institute of International Relations, was not just another academic trip but a journey which had a lasting effect on each one of us. We, as young researchers, had not only been exposed to the organizations influencing the discourse on Kashmir but had been given an opportunity to witness the human aspect of a conflict, which has remained alive for over several generations. This trip, full of learning, laughter, and soul-searching, is a reminder of the responsibility attached to the understanding of such a complex and such a vulnerable conflict. And, of course, none of us would have been able to make the best out of the trip without the guidance and support of Chairman KIIR, Sir Altaf Hussain Wani and Ma'am Mehar-un-Nisa, Director of Research at KIIR, whose endeavors made sure that it remained a memory, which none

of us would ever forget.

Since the moment we stepped foot in the land of Muzaffarabad, we were able to feel the warmth and hospitality of its people, the peaceful environment, beautiful valley and the warmth of friendship was also increasing within our group. As we were together, sharing a room, exploring the gorgeous sights around us, and having night-long discourses about our projects, we were also bringing a happy element to our otherwise serious and educational journey. As we were laughing in the van, esteeming the spots around us, capturing moments, and agitating our systems at night, the group-feeling was adding extra shimmer to our trip. These spots were a memorial that the land of Azad Kashmir was full of life but on the other hand if we talk about IIOJK, life there is completely opposite, peoples are suffering, humanity is compromised it's like Two Kashmir's, Two Realities. This trip made us realize that the people of Indian Illegally occupied Kashmir also deserve a life full of happiness, inde-

pendence and joy.

Our academic odyssey began with a visit to the Centre for International Strategic Studies AJK(CISS), where Executive Director CISS, Dr. Asma Shakir Khawaja gave us a briefing on the strategic environment girding the disagreement in Kashmir. What came through was how this dispute transcends the issue of boundaries; this is a dispute about narratives, power, and people living in the middle of political aspirations. To hear from academics about India's approach through the use of hard power, demographic politics, communication blockades, and legal tactics was informative, as we gained a better understanding of how life was being made more difficult for people in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) through the application of power, through intimidation and constitutional manipulation.

At the Kashmir Policy Research Institute, KIPRI, where we had our internship certificate distribution ceremony latterly, these conversations took an indeed deeper turn. Analysts there refocused on how effects seriously deteriorated after the invalidation of Article 370 in August 2019.

They reminded us that behind every statistic, there's a story of a torn family piecemeal, a

child grown seeing soldiers rather of a playground, an intelligence arrested for chronicling the verity, or a disappeared person whose family was never told about his fate. These exchanges left numerous of us silent, realizing how privileged we were to hear and learn, while millions across the border could not indeed speak freely about their introductory rights.

The meeting with the Prime Minister of AJK added a political and moral

tinge to the trip. He spoke candidly about the philanthropic extremity, the demographic engineering proceeding in IIOJK, and the obligation of the youth to be the voice of the speechless. His message lingered in our ears long after we left his office. Impartiality in the face of injustice is a treason of humanity. It is moments like these that make the journey transformational rather than mere information.

However, the more we learned, the more impossible it was to ignore the crisis in IIOJK. Today, the region is one of the most militarized places on the planet, with nearly 900,000 Indian soldiers patrolling a small valley, living here is characterized by military checkpoints, midnight raids, arbitrary arrests, and laws like AFSPA, which provide soldiers virtually unconditional impunity. Fear is a permanent guest at Indian Illegally occupied Kashmir homes. Digital oppression is yet another dimension of suffering. Since the revocation of Article 370, which was unconstitutional, India has imposed the

longest internet shutdown on a democracy in the world. Today, digital surveillance, intimidation, and criminalizing speech on social media platforms have ensured technology is utilized as a control mechanism rather than an empowerment tool.

In reflecting upon our Muzaffarabad experience, I understood that learning about IIOJK is not simply an academic duty; it is an ethical one. The experience was filled with happiness, friendship and learning, but it also widened our understanding of the suffering that exists beyond the range of mountains. And for that, I am very grateful to Chairman Altaf Hussain Wani and Ma'am Mehar-un-Nisa, Director of Research at KIIR, without whom we might never have had that profound experience.

The writer is a student of BS International Relations at International Islamic University Islamabad & is currently a research intern at the Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR)

## Open letter to UN Secretary General

H. E. Mr. Antonio Guterres  
The Secretary General  
United Nations Organization  
(UNO)

New York,  
Washington DC

Subject: Urgent Appeal for Implementation of Relevant UN Resolutions Recognizing Kashmir's Inalienable Right to Self-Determination

Excellency

As Kashmirs annually observe 5 January as the Right to Self-Determination Day, I wish to draw your urgent attention to the continuing deterioration of the political and human rights situation in Jammu and Kashmir, a UN recognised disputed territory that remains under India's illegal and forcible

occupation.

It was on this auspicious day that the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP), through its Resolution of 5 January 1949, affirmed that the final disposition of the State of Jammu and Kashmir shall be determined in accordance with the will of the people, expressed through a free and impartial plebiscite conducted under the auspices of the United Nations. However, seventy-seven years later, the unresolved Jammu and Kashmir dispute continues to pose a serious existential threat to the Kashmiri people, in addition to undermining peace and stability in South Asia.

Sadly, India's militaristic approach and overambitious quest to dominate the region through force have transformed Jammu and Kashmir into a

living hell, where civilians are compelled to live under the constant shadow of gun-wielding troops stationed at every nook and corner.

Excellency,

While the blood of innocent Kashmiris continues to be spilled with impunity by Indian forces, there appears to be no end in sight to their suffering. Life for ordinary Kashmiris grows increasingly difficult with each passing day, as they find themselves trapped in a new controversy after every incident that unfolds in the region.

Unarmed civilians, particularly educated youth are being killed ruthlessly after being dubbed as "militants" or "foreigners" in fake and stage-managed encounters, cordons and search operations.

Caught in the crosshairs of

conflict, innocent Kashmiris continue to bear the brunt of intensifying violence and Indian state terrorism, employed by New Delhi as a policy to subjugate and silence those demanding their legitimate right—the right to self-determination.

Excellency,

The plight of Kashmiris has been immensely exacerbated after the Pahalgam attack, which was used by India as a pretext to intensify cordon and search operations, ostensibly targeting Muslim population in the Kashmir Valley and beyond.

Excellency, Intimidation and harassment of social and political activists, journalists, rights defenders, has been a hallmark of the BJP government's Kashmir policy. The rights groups are being targeted for their work and cooperation with the UN and other international organizations in bringing out human rights violations being committed by the Indian troops in IOK. Legitimate political voices are being silenced under draconian laws such as PSA, UAPA.

Excellency,

The continued and illegal detention of political activists, which ironically goes largely unnoticed at the international level, is a matter of serious concern. Thousands of Kashmiris—including pro-freedom leaders, social activists, lawyers, and businesspeople—arrested before and after 5th August 2019 continue to languish in Indian jails.

and businesspeople—arrested before and after 5th August 2019 continue to languish in Indian jails. The enactment of a series of anti-Kashmiri laws by the Indian government has instilled a pervasive sense of insecurity among the people of Kashmir. These laws, fraught with serious political ramifications, are widely seen as a deliberate attempt to alter the region's demography and to deprive its natives of their resources, jobs, identity, culture, lands, and—above all—their right to self-determination, guaranteed by no less an authority than the United Nations.

Excellency,

Systematic and widespread violations of humanitarian and human rights law by the Indian occupation forces in the IOK and state-terrorism marked by

a callous indifference to human life constitute a grave threat to peace and stability in the region.

It is worth mentioning that India is a state that feels no shame in using its repressive state apparatus as well as its judiciary as tools to achieve its political objectives.

Given the volatile situation in the region, it is high time that the UN, as the custodian of peace and security, takes effective notice of Indian state terrorism and escalating human rights violations in Kashmir, and urges the Government of India to implement the relevant UN resolutions to pave the way for a peaceful settlement of the long-standing dispute.

With profound regards  
Yours sincerely,  
Muhammad Ahmed Saghaf  
Acting president, JKDFP.

**Bull & Bears**  
 PSX 100-Share  
 Index Fluctuation

**Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index**

Current	Prev. Close	
179,034.93	176,355.49	
Day's High	Day's Low	
179,467.83	176,709.51	
Index Value	Change	
51,150,401,931	+2679.44	
Percentage	Time	
+1.52%	2 Jan, 2026 4:30 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
9,951.14	+19.76	
Percentage	Time	
+0.20%	2 Jan, 2026 4:35 pm	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
48,232.22	+168.93	
Percentage	Time	
+0.35%	2 Jan, 12:19 pm GMT-5	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
50,339.48	-187.44	
Percentage	Time	
-0.37%	30 Dec, 3:45 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	185.5	189.5
Bahrain Dinar	742	752
Canadian Dollar	203	207
China Yuan	39.58	39.98
Danish Krone	43.72	44.12
Euro	328.5	332
Hong Kong Dollar	35.69	36.04
Indian Rupee	3.03	3.12
Japanese Yen	1.7750	1.8750
Kuwaiti Dinar	909.5	919.5
Malaysian Ringgit	68.6	69.20
New Zealand \$	161.24	163.24
Norwegians Krone	27.66	27.96
Omani Riyal	726.75	736.75
Qatari Riyal	76.26	76.96
Saudi Riyal	74.75	75.5
Singapore Dollar	216.5	221.5
Swedish Korona	30.25	30.55
Swiss Franc	351.82	354.57
Thai Bhat	8.88	9.03
U.A.E Dirham	76.4	77.35
UK Pound Sterling	376.75	380.75
US Dollar	280.75	283

*Farmer Leader Proposes Interest-Free Loans to Boost Domestic Garlic Cultivation*


**Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: Convener Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry regional committee on food Shahid Imran Sunday said government can save \$52 million (Rs 14.5 billion) exchange spent on the import of garlic from China in 2024 by cultivating same in Sahiwal division.

Speaking here today to a delegation of progressive farmers led by Ch Nazir Ahmad Arain of Renala Khurd district Okara he suggested government should select a few union councils (UCs) in the Sahiwal division — an area well known for potato cultivation and equally suitable for garlic — and extend interest-free loans to farmers for procuring high-quality seed, ranging from Rs100,000 to 200,000 per acre (varying from year to year), and agricultural inputs; the high upfront cost for seeds remains the largest barrier to adopting garlic cultivation. He said China is the world's largest garlic producer and exporter, with over 20m tonnes of production and yields nearly two and a half times higher than Pakistan's average, some of these trained graduates (in garlic farming) could be deployed in selected UCs for the first two to three years.

He said small and medium enterprises (SMEs) need to be set up in targeted UCs for garlic value addition. Products such as garlic powder, paste, flakes, and oil require relatively low-capital plants, which can largely meet their energy needs through cost-effective solar-powered systems. This intervention will not only boost the marketability of garlic but also create opportunities for value-added exports, he added.

# Joint committee formed to restore Pak-Afghan trade routes

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: A significant development has emerged toward the restoration of Pakistan-Afghanistan trade corridors, as business leaders from both countries held a virtual meeting and agreed on key measures to revive bilateral trade.

According to reports from Landi Kotal and Khyber, the Zoom meeting was led on the Pakistani side by Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) President Atif Ikram Sheikh and SM Tanveer.

The Afghan delegation was headed by Syed Karim Hashmi, patron-in-chief of the Afghan Chamber of Commerce.

During the meeting, both sides agreed to form a 12-member joint committee comprising six representatives each from Pakistan and Afghanistan.

It was decided that the committee's first meeting would be held on January 6 at the Torkham border to discuss the reopening of trade routes and the resumption of commercial activities.

Pakistan nominated Syed Jawad Hussain Kazmi as head of the joint committee.

SM Tanveer said the committee would hold



meetings in various cities and would serve as a platform to promote bilateral trade.

Atif Ikram Sheikh noted that traders from

both countries were acting as a bridge to bring the two nations closer through cooperation.

Business leaders expressed hope that the

committee's efforts would help reduce trade barriers at border crossings and pave the way for smoother trade operations.

## Safety wall

ISLAMABAD: Motorists on their way at Murree Motorway, in the Federal Capital, as the plastic safety wall installing for protecting commuters.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## Pakistan's Strategic Pivot to MENA Resonates with Regional Stability Goals

**Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry former President Iftikhar Ali Malik Sunday said Pakistan's renewed focus, successful emerging diplomatic, economic and strong security posture increasingly suits the strategic vision of the architects of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) partnership that speaks regional stability, connectivity and shared prosperity.

In a statement here today octogenarian trader leader said Pakistan's renewed focus on the MENA region has started yielding tangible results particularly in defence cooperation. He said Pakistan in prevailing global scenario, should recalibrate its regional strategy by creating balance in its approach and relationship with its key economic and strategic allies in the gulf. He said Pakistan under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, has gained geopolitical and geoeconomic strength through its accommodative approach. Positioned at the crossroads of South Asia, Central Asia and the Middle East, Pakistan offers unique geostrategic value as a



bridge between energy-rich Gulf states and emerging Asian markets.

From a security perspective, Pakistan's counterterrorism experience and professional armed forces make it a credible partner in ensuring regional stability. He said peace in the Middle East cannot be sustained without cooperation from strong Muslim-majority states that have successfully managed internal security challenges while engaging constructively with the

international community, he added.

Economically, Pakistan's focus on connectivity through ports, highways and energy corridors complements MENA ambitions to diversify beyond hydrocarbons and link with Asian growth centres. By supporting dialogue, economic cooperation and non-interference, Pakistan fits well into the vision of a pragmatic, inclusive MENA partnership aimed at stability and development rather than conflict, he concluded.

## Customs Enforcement D. I. Khan seizes smuggled goods worth PKR 51.8 million

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: In a major crackdown against smuggling, the Customs Enforcement Division, Dera Ismail Khan, of the Collectorate of Customs Enforcement, Peshawar, has seized smuggled goods worth Rs.51.8 million.

In one operation Customs Enforcement, D. I. Khan successfully intercepted two Bedford trucks and a Toyota Altis GLi car carrying smuggled tyres, medicines, and cigarettes of various brands. The illicit consignments, along with the offending carrier vehicles, were seized. The total market value of the recovered goods and vehicles is estimated at PKR 48.8 million.

The cumulative market value of all seized goods, including offending carrier vehicles, stands at PKR 51.8 million. FBR remains committed to curb smuggling, protect legitimate trade, and safeguard the national economy through effective enforcement actions.

## Banks' Unexplained Freezes on Business Funds Disrupt Commerce, says HCSTSI President

**Commerce Desk**

HYDERABAD: President Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders & Small Industry (HCSTSI), Muhammad Saleem Memon, has expressed serious concern over the growing practice of banks placing holds on legitimate and lawful business funds in traders' and businesspersons' accounts without prior written notice, clear justification, or a defined timeframe.

He stated that during the recent period, the Chamber has received numerous complaints from traders, brokers, and small industri-

## Tax Official Urges Pakistan to Embrace Digital Tools to Combat Corruption and Boost Revenue

**Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman Saif Ur Rehman Sunday said digitalisation is the key to building a transparent, efficient and inclusive economy in Pakistan.

Talking to a delegation of traders here today he said by leveraging modern digital tools, the government can significantly reduce corruption, leakages and inefficiencies that have long plagued public institutions. Digital payment systems, e-governance portals and automated tax collection can minimize human discretion, ensuring greater

accountability and traceability of financial transactions, he added.

The introduction of digital IDs, online land records, and e-procurement systems enhances transparency and builds public trust by making information easily accessible to citizens. Digitalisation also broadens the tax base by documenting the informal economy, enabling fair taxation and increasing state revenues without overburdening compliant taxpayers, he added.

Moreover, he said digital platforms promote financial inclusion by bringing unbanked populations into the formal financial system through mobile banking and fintech solutions. This not only empowers citizens but also stimulates economic growth. For Pakistan, embracing digitalisation is not a choice but a necessity to ensure transparency, strengthen governance and achieve sustainable economic development, he concluded.

Monday, January 5, 2026

# BYD-MMC backs Karachi Marathon Winners to represent Pakistan internationally

 Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Mega Motor Company (MMC), the official partner of BYD in Pakistan, announced the sponsorship of Pakistan's top running talent to represent the country at the London Marathon 2026. This announcement was made at the closing ceremony of the BYD Karachi Marathon, which brought together over 7000 athletes from across Pakistan, alongside more than 120 international participants representing over 25 countries.

The top male finisher, Mr. Israr Khattak, completed the race in 2 hours 39 minutes, while the top female finisher, Ms. Sara Lodhi, finished in 3 hours 33 minutes, emerging as champions of Pakistan's first World Athletics-certified long-distance running event. Cash prizes were also awarded to leading performers across both men's and women's categories, with PKR 500,000 for first place, PKR 250,000 for second place, and PKR 125,000 for third place finishers.

"This is a proud moment for Pakistan, as Karachi takes its place alongside the global community of world-class



running events," said Danish Khalid, Vice President Sales & Strategy at BYD Pakistan - MMC, while addressing the award ceremony. "We are equally proud of the athletes who participated and demonstrated excellence in this sport. As the World's No. 1 New Energy Vehicles (NEV) brand, BYD's vision for a sustainable, forward-moving Pakistan aligns closely with the spirit of mara-

thon running. Through this shared vision, MMC is proud to support athletes and enthusiasts to showcase Pakistan's ambition and resilience to the world."

Commenting on the partnership, Shoaib Nizami, CEO Sports in Pakistan and Race Director of the Karachi Marathon: "This is our third year of hosting an event of this scale, and with

BYD's support, we were able to take it to the next level. We truly appreciate BYD's role in uniting the running community nationwide through social runs, digital campaigns, and dealership activations, helping rally the entire Country behind the sport. We hope this long-term partnership will help make marathon running a mainstream sport and give it the recognition it deserves."

Building on the legacy of supporting local talent, first seen through the HBL PSL partnership, MMC's collaboration with the Karachi Marathon goes beyond sponsorship. By supporting a platform that promotes determination, physical and mental well-being, the Company aims to empower Pakistan's youth and provide emerging athletes with meaningful opportunities to compete, grow and represent the Country on the global stage.

Aligned with Vision 2032, which aims to prepare Pakistani runners to qualify and compete at the Olympics, BYD-MMC seeks to unlock the limitless potential of local athletes, inspiring a new generation to believe that every step can drive Pakistan upwards and beyond.

## Rain plays spoilsport as Zimbabwe, Pakistan share points

 Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Persistent rain forced the sixth fixture of the U19 tri-series between Pakistan U19 and Zimbabwe U19 to be called off at the Old Hararians in Harare on Sunday afternoon, with both sides sharing a point each.

According to details, earlier, Pakistan who won the toss and opted to bat, posted 208 all out in 46.3 overs before the weather intervened and no further play was possible. Sameer Minhas top-scored with 48 off 58 balls, which included seven fours while Usman Khan contributed 41 off 53 balls, hitting four fours and a six. The pair added 63 runs for the second wicket.

Ahmed Hussain was other contributor with the bat with 37 runs. Huzifa Ahsan provided late impetus with a brisk 34 off 41 balls, smashing two fours and as many sixes, but Pakistan lost wickets at regular intervals.

For the hosts, Panashe Mazai bagged four wickets



32 runs in eight overs, while Leeroy Chiwaula and Shelton Mazvitarera picked up two wickets apiece.

This was Pakistan U19's second match of the tournament to be abandoned due to rain, following the earlier washout against Zimbabwe U19 on December 29.

After the group fixtures,

Pakistan U19 topped the points table with six points, winning both their matches against Afghanistan U19. Hosts Zimbabwe finished second with five points from four fixtures, while Afghanistan ended third with one point.

Pakistan U19 and Zimbabwe U19 will now

meet again in the final, scheduled to take place on Tuesday, January 6.

Scores in brief: No result. Pakistan 208 all out, 46.3 overs (Sameer Minhas 48, Usman Khan 41, Ahmed Hussain 37, Huzifa Ahsan 34; Panashe Mazai 4-32, Leeroy Chiwaula 2-25, Shelton Mazvitarera 2-29).

## Usman Tariq hits back at critics over 'chucking' allegations

UBAI: Pakistan off-spinner Usman Tariq has hit back at critics over allegations of chucking, urging them to gain knowledge before commenting or sharing opinions about his action.

The tall right-arm spinner came in as a replacement for Desert Vipers in the International League T20 (ILT20) and made an immediate impact with the ball during the qualifier against MI Emirates.

His three-wicket haul, which also included the scalp of Tom Banton, helped Vipers cruise to the ILT20 final.

After he got Banton, the right-handed batter pointed to the umpire about his action, which sparked debate over Tariq's action.

Speaking during an interview, Tariq shed light on his unorthodox action, noting that he had cleared his action twice before.

"As you can see from history, whenever spinners faced allegations of chucking, they went to the lab, tried to modify their action, and worked on the correct degree of flexion. That sometimes confuses spectators," he said.

"I have undergone two official tests in Pakistan, and my action was cleared. Unlike others, I didn't have to change anything. I was confident because I know I am not throwing," he continued.

The 28-year-old has faced chucking accusations in the past, which required him to undergo a bowling action test.

SYLHET: A clinical bowling display backed by Adam Rossington and Mohammad Naim half-centuries powered Chattogram Royals to a nine wicket win over Sylhet Titans in the 11th match of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) 2025-26 here at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium on Sunday.

Royals chased down a mere target of 127 with ease in 16 overs, losing only wicket in the process. Mohammad Naim and Adam Rossington made the contest one-sided affair with a monumental 15-run partnership for the opening wicket.

The pair took full advantage of fielding restrictions, managing to put 52 in first six overs. But, it was the middle phase of the innings in which both batters took Sylhet Titans bowlers to the cleaners. After a solid powerplay, Rossington and Naim scored 78 in the middle phase of the innings. Naim, who made 52 off 37, striking four boundaries and three sixes, perished on the fourth ball of the 13th over.

Meanwhile, Adam Rossington remained unbeaten on 73 off just 53 balls with the aid of eight fours and two sixes.

For Sylhet Titans, Rahatul Ferdous took one wicket.

Earlier, put in to bat first, Sylhet Titans could not get going and eventually ended their innings on 126 for 7 in 20 overs.

Chattogram Royals bowlers put pressure from the start as half of Sylhet side was sent back in first five overs.

As a result, they were reduced to 34-5 with Azmatullah Omarzai and Parvez Hossain Emon on the crease.

The duo stabilized the innings with 43-run partnership which provided them some respite.

Emon made 17 whereas Azmatullah Omarzai remained the top-scorer with 44 from 41 balls with the help of a maximum and four boundaries.

## Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto A political history of South Asia

**S**haheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto is a radiant name in the political history of the Subcontinent—a leader who transformed politics from a mere struggle for power into a symbol of public resistance, ideology, and political consciousness. He was not just an individual, but an era; not merely a politician, but a thought and a movement that gave voice, courage, and identity to the deprived segments of Pakistan. Bhutto's charisma was not confined to oratory or intellect alone; it was reflected in his ideas, decisions, and his deep bond with the masses.

Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was born on January 5, 1928, in Larkana into a distinguished political family. His academic achievements were excep-

tional. Educated at the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of Oxford, Bhutto possessed remarkable intellect, confidence, and a profound understanding of global politics. These qualities enabled him to emerge at a young age as a key architect of Pakistan's foreign policy.

As Foreign Minister, Bhutto presented Pakistan on the world stage as a bold, dignified, and self-respecting state. His historic speeches at the United Nations are still remembered as outstanding examples of political insight and national pride. He made it clear that Pakistan was no one's puppet, but a sovereign state fully capable of defending its national interests.

The founding of the Pakistan Peoples Party in 1967 was a revolutionary step

that changed the direction of national politics. The slogan "Roti, Kapra aur Makaan" (Bread, Clothing, and Shelter) was not merely a political catchphrase; it was the voice of the poor, the worker, and the peasant. For the first time, Bhutto declared the common man—not the elite—the true source of political power.

Following the tragic events of 1971, when Pakistan faced one of the darkest chapters in its history, Bhutto assumed leadership as President and later as Prime Minister, steering a fractured nation toward stability. The unanimous Constitution of 1973, the



Azadar Hussain Kazmi

Islamic Summit Conference, the foundation of Pakistan's nuclear program, nationalization of industries, and the protection of workers' and farmers' rights are among the landmark achievements that elevated Bhutto from a politician to a statesman of history.

One of Bhutto's greatest strengths was his direct and emotional connection with the masses. In public gatherings, he spoke from the heart, sharing the pain of the people as his own. His speeches carried a rare combination of truth, passion, and conviction that captivated audiences—this was the essence of

his charisma.

However, Bhutto's charisma and popularity were intolerable to powerful forces. A proud, people-oriented, and ideological leader had become a threat to a system unwilling to see the masses empowered.

Consequently, through a controversial judicial verdict, Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was sent to the gallows on April 4, 1979. This execution was not merely the death of an individual, but an attempt to silence an ideology, a vision, and a dream of the people.

History has proven, however, that ideas cannot be executed. Shaheed Bhutto lives on—in his ideology, in his party, and in the hearts of the people.

He gave politics the true meaning of dignity, self-respect, and people's power.

He was charismatic because he was fearless, uncompromising on principles, and unwavering in his faith in the masses. That is why, even decades later, Bhutto's name continues to resonate in Pakistan's political landscape.

In conclusion, it is rightly said:

Bhutto could be killed, but Bhuttoism could not.

He was not merely a personality; he was history—and history never dies. Today is not just his birthday, but a reaffirmation of a commitment to remember and uphold Bhutto's ideals of democracy, social justice, equality, and national sovereignty, and to build the Pakistan for which he devoted his entire life.

The writer is Deputy Secretary Information, Pakistan Peoples Party/Azad Jammu and Kashmir

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"The two sides reaffirmed their shared commitment to further deepening the Pakistan-China all-weather strategic cooperative partnership," the FO said, adding that the Chinese executive vice premier "appreciated Pakistan's consistent support to China on issues of core interest".

Both leaders noted the historic significance of the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between their countries and agreed to utilise this milestone to chart a forward-looking vision for enhanced cooperation, including under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the statement said.

Vice Premier Ding conveyed

New Year greetings to the leadership and people of Pakistan, it added.

A separate FO statement said Dar also met the minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC), Liu Haixing. Dar congratulated Minister Liu on the successful convening of the 4th Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee, the statement said.

Earlier, the meeting was held between Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and China's Executive Vice Premier Ding Xuexiang. Both sides highlighted the historic significance of the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations and agreed to

use this milestone to advance cooperation, including under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Vice Premier Ding Xuexiang appreciated Pakistan's consistent support to China on issues of core interest. He also conveyed New Year greetings to the leadership and people of Pakistan.

Ding, on the occasion, appreciated Pakistan's support for China's basic interests. Both on the occasion of the completion of 75 years of diplomatic ties between the two countries, agreed on a vision for the future.

They also discussed further expanding cooperation between Pakistan and China under the China-Pakistan Economic

Corridor (CPEC). China's executive vice premier also wished the government and the people of Pakistan a very happy New Year.

Dar also met with Chinese Communist Party leader Liu Haixing in Beijing. Both expressed their satisfaction that the Pak-China ties were heading in the right direction.

The progress made on the CPEC, party-to-party contacts and the situation in the region came under discussion at the meeting.

Agreement was reached on jointly organizing events on the completion of 75 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Also on Sunday, the deputy

PM had a telephonic contact with Bangladesh's Adviser on Foreign Affairs Touhid Hossain.

According to reports, both renewed their pledge to increase cooperation between Pakistan and Bangladesh in various sectors. Situation in Middle East and Asia also came under discussion during the conversation.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Sunday also had a telephonic talk with the Foreign Minister of Egypt Badr Ahmed Mohamed Abdelatty.

Both leaders discussed the situation in Middle East.

According to the Foreign Office spokesman, both stressed the need for a dialogue and making diplomatic efforts to resolve the regional issues.

Dar and Abdelatty renewed their commitment to increase their cooperation in all sectors of mutual interest.

## DPM Dar and Wang Yi pledge to deepen strategic cooperation

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# Muqam slams PTI's 13-year performance in KP at NADRA Center inauguration

 Bureau Report

MALAKAND: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON, and President of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Engineer Amir Muqam, here Sunday said that a major positive change is visible in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and that people of KP have begun to distinguish between truth and falsehood, loyalty and betrayal.

He said that during 13-year tenure of PTI, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government gave nothing to the public in the sectors of education, health, employment, and infrastructure.

He added that in the year 2025, Pakistan achieved great successes and inflicted a humiliating defeat on India.



He expressed these views at the inauguration ceremony of a NADRA Center in Totakan, Batkhela, Malakand, while addressing a large public gathering on Sunday.

Federal Minister Engineer Amir Muqam inaugurated the NADRA Center in Totakan, Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, and the entire party leadership.

## Nawaz Sharif introduced the politics of service, uplift: Rana Sana

 Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Prime Minister's Advisor Rana Sanaullah has said that PML-N President introduced the politics of service as the name of PML-N will be behind every big project that can be seen in the country, adding that government does not believe in politics of hatred and political victimization.

Addressing a ceremony in Faisalabad, Rana Sana said PTI laid the foundation of abusive brigades on



social media and introduced a culture insulting the political opponents in the country.

Addressing the gathering, he said that politics comes later, but Pakistan comes first. He said that the grand public gathering held on January 4 in the Totakan area of Batkhela is clear proof that the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have started to differentiate between truth and falsehood, loyalty and betrayal.

The enthusiastic participation of thousands of people, he said, is like a public seal of approval on this change.

Thanking the public for their warm welcome and affection, Engineer Amir Muqam said that he accepts these sentiments not only on his own behalf, but also on behalf of PML-N leader Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, and the entire party leadership.

## Mohsin Naqvi announces facilities for travelling abroad



 Bureau Report

and immigration process.

Mohsin Naqvi said in his message that this facility will also be available at airports and border points to make the travel more smooth for international travellers.

He said that pre-departure guidance can now be obtained through phone, email and in person, and complete information regarding the pre-departure facility has been released on the FIA website.

## KP Governor Kundi Champions Peace at Remote Area Festival



 Syed Tauqeer Zaidi

sands of people in the Jashn-e-Dhahab Festival was clear evidence that the public has rejected terrorism and welcomed peace.

Talking to the media, the governor strongly criticized the past and present policies of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

He said that despite 13 years in power, PTI failed to provide even a single national stadium to the province and remained limited to renaming old stadiums. He remarked that PTI is currently facing severe internal instability and has even failed to secure the positions of opposition leader in the National Assembly and the Senate. "How can those who seek chaos in the country engage in dialogue?" he questioned. Referring to international articles written in favor of the Field Marshal,

### PPP to mark ZAB 98th birth anniversary

MULTAN: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) on Monday will commemorate the 98th birth anniversary of former PM and founder of the PPP, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto whose political vision continues to shape the country's democratic discourse decades after his execution. Born on January 5, 1928, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto (ZAB) emerged as one of Pakistan's most charismatic and influential leaders, redefining politics by giving voice to the common citizen.

## Chandio says country facing political and economic challenges

 Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

HYDERABAD: PPP leader Maula Baksh Chandio has admitted that political situation of the country was not good, adding that without the overcoming of political crisis, there is no hope for economic prosperity.

Talking to media after administering the oath-taking ceremony of newly elected office-bearers of Hyderabad Press Club, Maulana Baksh Chandio said once political crisis is over then the economic crisis will end itself.

He urged all political parties to fulfil their political responsibilities.



PPP leader said when economic crisis gets worsens, then it was also the duty of the opposition to play its due role.

Chandio said that PTI was not ready to reconciliation.

He said that PTI failed to clarify its position on it. PPP leader urged the Opposition to play its role for the growth and stability in the country.

## No place for politics of abuse & incivility: Aleem Khan

 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications and President of the Istejkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) Abdul Aleem Khan on Sunday said that politics based on abuse, intolerance and bad manners should have no place in society, stressing that mutual respect and dignity were a collective responsibility.

Addressing the inaugura-



ration ceremony of the IPP Central Secretariat in his constituency NA-117, Shah-

serve the people and resolve their problems, said a press release.

On the occasion, Javad Khalid Gujjar, son of senior Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and two-time Member of the Punjab Assembly Khalid Mahmood Gujjar, and a prominent political figure of PP-145 called on Abdul Aleem Khan and along with his associates announced joining the Istejkam-e-Pakistan Party.

قائد عوام سابق وزیر اعظم پاکستان  
شہید ذو الفقار علی بھٹو  
5 جنوری  
کے 98 ویں یوم پیدائش پر  
ہم اسلامی جمہوریہ پاکستان کیلئے ان کی عظیم خدمات کو  
شہید ذو الفقار علی بھٹو نے پاکستان کو متفقہ آئین دیا، ملک کے  
دفارع کو ناقابل تحریر بنانے کیلئے ایسی پروگرام کی بنیاد رکھی  
آزاد جموں و کشمیر کے عوام ان کی جدوجہد اور مسئلہ کشمیر پر ان  
کے جرأت مندانہ موقف کو سلام پیش کرتے ہیں  
شعبہ نشر و اشاعت پی پی آزاد جموں و کشمیر