

FPCCI delegation meets AJK PM to chart course for economic development

 Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: A high-level delegation of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), led by its President Atif Ikram Sheikh, called on Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir, Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, here today.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on the establishment of industrial zones in Azad Kashmir, promotion of tourism, development of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and enhancement of commercial activities in Mirpur and other areas.

Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore highlighted the business community's role in the economic development of the region.

He said that the government would provide all possible facilities to investors, in addition to creating a conducive environment for industrial development and promotion of exports. Referring to massive foreign investment opportunities in the region,



he said that Azad Kashmir has vast potential in natural resources, tourism, hydropower, minerals, and agricultural production.

Prime Minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore assured the delegation that the present government would take practical steps to resolve the problems of the business community and further strengthen ties with commercial institutions.

"The Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir is pursuing investor-friendly policies that not only ensure investor protection but also offer one-window operations and ease of doing business", he added. Speaking on the occasion, FPCCI President Atif Ikram Sheikh congratulated Prime Minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore on

assuming office and assured him of full cooperation in the economic development of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

The delegation included FPCCI Vice President Tariq Jadoon, Muhammad Atif, Malik Sohail, and former President of the Mirpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry and FPCCI Vice President Chaudhry Javed.

Group photo

MUZAFFARABAD: 45th Medcare Management Course delegation meet with AJK Chief Secretary (General) Dr. Zaheer Ud Din Qureshi followed by a group photo.



APHC Convener Honors Sopore Martyrs, Vows to Uphold Their Mission

 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Convener of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), Ghulam Muhammad Safi, paid rich tributes to the martyrs of the Sopore massacre of 6 January 1993, stating that "the martyrs are the crown of our foreheads. We will never allow the sacrifices of the martyrs of Kashmir to go in vain."

We are the true heirs of the martyrs and will take their mission to its logical conclusion at all costs."



Strongly condemning the brutal massacre carried out by Indian forces in Sopore, the APHC Convener said that the Kashmiri people have rendered unparalleled sacrifices for freedom, dignity, and the right to self-determination.

He reiterated the firm resolve that, God willing, these sacrifices will bear fruit and the Kashmiri people will ultimately succeed in their just struggle.

In conclusion, Ghulam Muhammad Safi urged the international community, the United Nations, and global

human rights organizations to conduct impartial investigations into the Sopore massacre and all war crimes committed in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, bring the perpetrators to justice, and take concrete and effective steps to ensure

the implementation of the UN-recognized right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people. He reaffirmed that the peaceful and principled struggle of the Kashmiri people will continue until they attain their legitimate rights.

AJK PM appeals to religious leaders for interfaith harmony and stability



MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, has urged Ulama and Mashaikh to cooperate with the government in its efforts to promote interfaith harmony, social stability, and a culture of tolerance.

Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore said that his government's sole objective is to put Azad Kashmir on the path of development and prosperity.

The prime minister expressed these views while speaking to Chairman

Ulma and Mashaikh Council Sahibzada Zulfiqar Ali and Vice Chairman Professor Dawood Naqshbandi, who called on him here today.

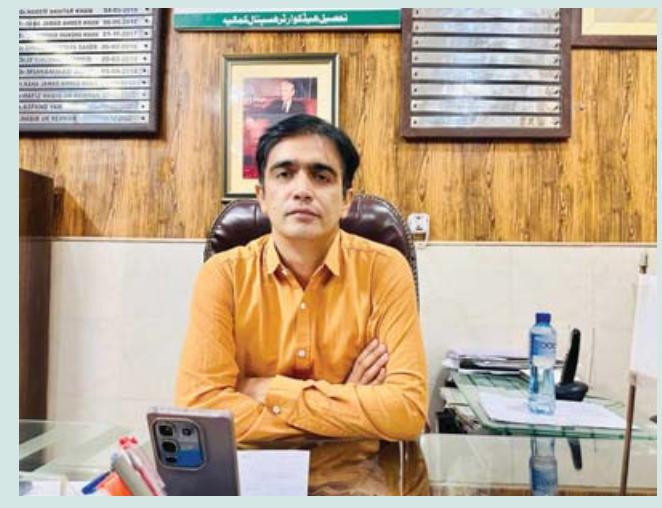
During the meeting, Chairman

Ulma and Mashaikh Council Sahibzada Zulfiqar Ali briefed the prime minister in detail on the council's administrative affairs, performance,

alone; addressing the daily problems of the people, maintaining peace and order, educating the youth, and creating better opportunities for them are among our top priorities, he added.

Issues related to mosques and religious institutions were discussed in detail. Moreover, special emphasis was placed on further activating the role of Ulama and Mashaikh in promoting interfaith religious harmony.

Daily Provision of Insulin for Diabetic Patients Continues at THQ Hospital Kamalia



 Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: The daily supply of insulin for diabetic patients is continuing at Tehsil Headquarters (THQ) Hospital Kamalia to ensure uninterrupted treatment for those suffering from diabetes. Medical Superintendent THQ Hospital Kamalia Dr. Mian Adeel Arif said that the hospital is providing insulin on a regular basis to diabetic patients visiting the facility. He emphasized that the timely availability of insulin is essential for effective diabetes management and helps patients keep their blood sugar levels under control.

Dr. Mian Adeel Arif further said that the hospital administration is committed to facilitating patients and ensuring that no diabetic patient faces difficulties in obtaining insulin. He added that special attention is being given to the needs of patients so they can receive proper treatment without delay. The initiative reflects the hospital's dedication to improving healthcare services and supporting patients suffering from chronic diseases like diabetes.

Demarcation of rural and urban areas reviewed in a meeting with DC Umar Abbas Mela in the chair

 Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: The process of demarcation of urban and rural areas is underway in Toba Tek Singh under the Punjab Local Government Act 2025. In this regard, an important meeting on demarcation was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Umar Mela. The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioners, the Deputy Director Local Government and the Assistant Director Local Government.

During the meeting, a detailed review of the demarcation of urban and rural boundaries was carried out. Various aspects related to population distribution, available civic facilities and ground realities were discussed in detail.

The Deputy Commissioner directed that the demarcation process be completed in a transparent, fair, and timely manner. He stated that proper demarcation would help make the local government system more effective and functional. He further emphasized that population data, existing facilities, and on-ground conditions must be taken into consideration during the demarcation process to ensure balanced development. The Deputy Commissioner also instructed all relevant departments to perform their duties efficiently through mutual coordination.

RPO Dera Ismail Khan Distributes Cash Awards Among Regional Police Office Staff

 Syed Tauqeer Zaidi

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: The Regional Police Officer (RPO) Dera Ismail Khan, Syed Ashfaq Anwar, distributed cash awards among the executive and ministerial staff of the Regional Police Office in recognition of their outstanding performance.

According to details, a special ceremony was held at the Regional Police Office Dera Ismail Khan, where officers and staff who showed excellent performance in their duties were awarded cash prizes. The event was attended by officers and employees of the Regional Police Office.

Addressing the ceremony, RPO Syed Ashfaq Anwar said, "These awards are being given in recognition of your hard work, dedication, and exemplary performance. I hope you will continue to perform your duties with the same commitment, honesty, and devotion so that the reputation of the police department may further improve and better services can be provided to the public."

He further said that the hard work of police personnel not only strengthens the rule of law but also enhances public trust in the police. The distribution of awards will not only encourage the awarded staff but will also create a new spirit and motivation throughout the police department.

UN Resolution Anniversary Marked by Calls for Kashmiri Plebiscite and Condemnation of Indian Actions

 City Desk

RAWALPINDI: The Secretary General of the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Deputy Speaker, Ms. Mehr-un-Nisa, has declared 5 January as the Right to Self-Determination Day, stating that the Kashmiri people continue their peaceful struggle to attain their internationally recognized right to self-determination in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolutions.

She said that under the UN Security Council Resolution of 5 January 1949, both Pakistan and India were bound to provide the people of the State of Jammu and Kashmir an opportunity to freely determine their future through a plebiscite.

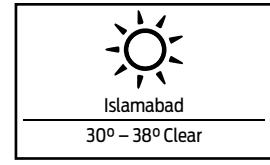
However, India has so far refused to acknowledge this fundamental right and has instead resorted to the unjustified use of force against those demanding freedom and self-determination.

Ms. Mehr-un-Nisa stated that over the past 35 years, India has martyred more than 100,000 Kashmiris, arrested thousands, and forced over 50,000 Kashmiri residents into migration.

She said these actions reflect a systematic campaign of repression and human rights violations in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

She further said that on 5 January 2019, India illegally and unilaterally suspended the State Subject Rules, in an attempt to alter the demographic composition of the State by issuing domiciles to millions of non-state subjects.

She termed this move a blatant violation of UN Security Council resolutions and international law.


SERVICES
Namaz Timings

Fajr	5:45 am
Zohr	12:13 pm
Asr	3:36 pm
Maghrab	5:14 pm
Isha	6:43 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 &
& Rescue Services	445122
Motorway Police	9266044
Motorway Police	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	555631-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	926170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

DEPARTMENTS

CDA	921334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation	9209224

Punjab Cracks Down on Illegal Land Grabs Auqaf Property Recovered
News Desk

LAHORE: Reaffirming the Government of Punjab's strict policy against illegal encroachments on Auqaf properties, a complaint regarding unlawful occupation of Auqaf land in the Sakhi Sarwar area of Dera Ghazi Khan was received and immediately addressed. Secretary / Chief Administrator Auqaf Punjab Dr. Ehsan Bhutta took serious notice of the matter and issued strict directives for the immediate vacation of the encroached land, emphasizing that public property cannot be occupied illegally. Acting on these instructions, the Auqaf Department, in coordination with the District Administration Dera Ghazi Khan, Punjab Enforcement & Regulatory Authority (PERA), and local police, successfully removed the encroachment and restored government land.

While addressing the meeting, Dr. Ehsan Bhutta stated that Chief Minister Punjab Ms. Maryam Nawaz has already directed that "illegal occupation of Auqaf properties will not be tolerated anywhere in the province, and all such encroachments must be vacated immediately to protect public assets and maintain law and order."

He also said that Chief Secretary Punjab Zahid Akhtar Zaman has directed that "strict action will be taken against those involved in illegal occupation of Auqaf properties, and the provincial administration is fully committed to enforcing the law uniformly across Punjab."

Minister Nayyar pushes for efficiency, announcing major reforms in Azad Kashmir information sector

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: The AJK Minister for Information, Auqaf and Religious Affairs, Chaudhry Muhammad Rafiq Nayyar, has said that there is a need to achieve maximum output in minimum time.

He said that comprehensive reforms will be introduced in the Information Department of Azad Kashmir, with a special focus on the social and digital media landscape, institutional improvement, and capacity-building through training of officers and staff.

The briefing was attended by Secretary Information Sardar Adnan Khurshid, Director Information Raja Amjad Hussain Minhas, Director Information Muhammad Bashir Mirza, and officers of the Information Department including Raja Muhammad Sohail Khan, Syed Asif Hussain Naqvi, Qurratul Ain Shabbir, Khizar Hayat, Raja Abdul Basit Khan, Programmer



Sardar Shamim Anjum Aziz, Sajid Nazir, and other officials.

Information Officer Raja Muhammad Sohail Khan presented a detailed briefing on the working of

various sections of the department and ongoing development projects.

Addressing the briefing, Secretary Information Sardar Adnan Khurshid said that steps are being taken

to improve performance in line with government directives.

He added that efforts are underway to align the Information Department with modern technology, and expressed

confidence that under the leadership of Minister Chaudhry Rafiq Nayyar, the department will fulfill its responsibilities in an effective and efficient manner.

Shah Allah Ditta

ISLAMABAD: A view of the deserted Shah Allah Ditta caves as due to the renovation work such tourist spot is closed for public from several month in Federal Capital.

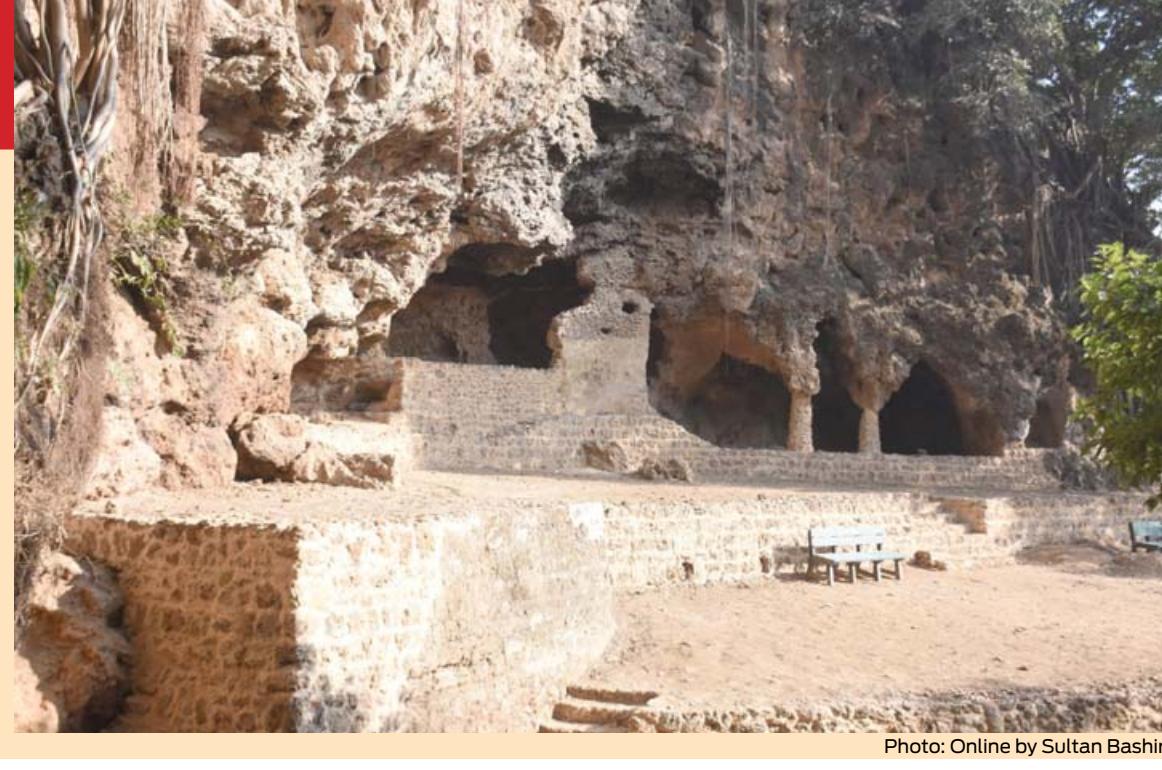


Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Mushaal Mullick leads Rawalpindi rally demanding release of Yasin Malik

City Desk

A public awareness gathering in connection with Kashmir Self Determination, Accession Day was held on 5 January 2026 in Rawalpindi under the "Save Yasin Malik Public Outreach Campaign."

On this occasion, Ms. Mushaal Hussein Mullick, wife of Jailed Kashmiri Hurriyat leader Mohammad Yasin Malik and Chairperson Peace and Culture Organisation along with her daughter Raziyah Sultan and sister Sabien Hussein Mullick, addressed a press talk at the Press Club Liaqat Bagh, Rawalpindi, highlighting the ongoing human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IOJK) and voicing serious concern over the proposed



death sentence of Yasin Malik. She urged the international community to honor its commitments and take urgent notice of the situation.

Following the press action, Ms. Mushaal Mullick visited Raja Bazaar as part of Awami Rabta Mohsin to save Yasin Malik and Save Kashmir Cause, where hundreds of people including members of the trader community and civil society warmly welcomed them with rose petals and slogans.

The public expressed solidarity with the oppressed people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir people and support for the call to save Yasin Malik. People chanted slogans against Modi's fascist policies and in favour of Kashmir struggle, Pakistan Zindabad and Free Yasin Malik.

The growing tax burden is severely impacting the national economy, says Ibrahim Murad

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Former Provincial Minister Ibrahim Hasan Murad has stated that economic stability in Pakistan is not possible without providing concrete relief to the middle class under IMF driven policies, stressing that exploitation of the middle class in the name of economic stabilization is unacceptable. He emphasized that the middle class is the real engine of the economy and the largest contributor to the national tax system.

Ibrahim Murad stated that the salaried class paid PKR 267 billion in taxes over the past six months, accounting for approximately 10 percent of total tax collection. Despite this significant contribution, the growing tax burden on this segment constitutes not only economic injustice but also poses a serious risk to social stability. He underlined that reducing the tax burden has become an urgent national priority.

Former Provincial Minister said that increasing financial pressure on the middle class could lead to a sharp decline in formal employment, resulting in higher unemployment, reduced national productivity, and a shrinking tax base. He added that Pakistan has the lowest national savings rate in the region, which reflects a deeply concerning economic trend.

PSCA's Virtual Blood Bank Marks One Year of Saving Lives Through Timely Blood Supply


News Desk

LAHORE: The Punjab Safe Cities Authority (PSCA) established Virtual Blood Bank (VBB) on January 1, 2025, with the primary objective of ensuring timely availability of blood during medical emergencies. In a short span of one year, this noble initiative has emerged as an effective, large-scale, and hope-inspiring platform, playing a vital role in serving humanity and saving precious lives through prompt emergency response. According to the spokesperson of PSCA, over the past year Virtual Blood Bank has facilitated timely provision of blood to nearly 9,000 patients, resulting in saving countless human lives. During this period, more than 39,000 blood-related requests were successfully facilitated, ensuring rapid support for patients in critical need. Additionally, over 100,000 citizens, students, private institutions and organizations voluntarily registered as blood donors, actively contributing to this national humanitarian mission.

The spokesperson further stated that the Virtual Blood Bank is a modern, integrated, and fast-response system designed to efficiently connect blood donors with patients during emergencies and other critical situations.

85 Million People in Pakistan Suffer From Heart. Diabetes. Muscle and joints Diseases Due to Obesity

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: On behalf of Endocare Collective Pakistan, Dr. Asim Munir Alvi (Punjab), Dr. Saleem Khan (Sindh), Dr. Sarwar Ali Khan (KPK), Dr. Kaleemullah (Balochistan), Dr. Razi, Dr. Abrar, Dr. Sardar Ali Khan, Dr. Malik Saad Rashid, Madam Sidra Fahim, while holding a press conference at the Press Club, said that obesity is a dangerous epidemic due to which diseases like heart, liver, diabetes and joints are very harmful to humans.

Citizens should avoid poultry foods to prevent obesity, especially children, and pay special attention to walking. If 85 million people are obese across the country today, then in the next 30 years, this number will double.

Steps should be taken at the government level to prevent obesity. The aim of the conference to prevent obesity in Multan is also to protect the nation from various dangerous diseases across the country.

He added that obesity has become a major epidemic not only in Pakistan but also around the world. However, during the last 20 years, the incidence of obesity has increased dangerously in Pakistan, due to which citizens are worried about its treatment, while other diseases caused by obesity have also worried them.

Therefore, today there is an urgent need for citizens to avoid junk food and only due to preventive measures can they live their lives better and avoid obesity.

Not everything can be cured with medicine, but preventive measures

can also be taken. Therefore, in order to prevent this disease in the future, every Pakistani should take a responsible and serious attitude.

In response to a question, he said that children should be taken seriously to protect them from video games and mobile phones and make them pay attention to sports, especially sports, and also protect them from junk food like fast food.

He said that obesity is a long-term disease due to which other organs of the human body are affected and due to various other diseases, citizens are facing more problems.



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UN Confirms Sufficient Food Stocks for Gaza's Minimum Needs After Months of Shortages

For the first time since 2023, humanitarian assistance will provide Gazans with enough food to fulfil minimum nutritional needs.

"The January round is the first since October 2023, in which partners had sufficient stock to meet 100 per cent of the minimum caloric standard," UN Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric told journalists on Monday.

That's compared to the end of 2025, when each family received just 50 to 75 per cent of the calories needed to stay healthy.

To further address food insecurity, the UN is supporting the production of approximately 170,000 two-kilo bread bundles daily.

Around a third of the bread is distributed free of charge to more than 400 shelters and community sites, with the remaining sold at a subsidised price.

Dujarric highlighted that last week alone, the UN and partners brought more than 10,000 metric tonnes of aid through the Karim Shalom, Karem Abu Salam crossing and the Zikim crossing.

Supplies included food and cooking ingredients, animal fodder, soap and other hygiene items, including diapers, winter clothing, blankets and mattresses.

The recent announcement by Israeli authorities to suspend operations of certain non-governmental organizations (NGOs) threatens to impede critical assistance for civilians, over 50 NGOs warned.

In a statement issued by the UN Spokesperson on Friday, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he was "deeply concerned" by the development and underscored that Israel must allow "unimpeded" passage of humanitarian relief.

Israeli airstrikes, shelling and gunfire continued to be reported across several areas of the Gaza Strip between Tuesday and Friday last week, the UN aid co-ordination office (OCHA) reported over the weekend.

Citing the Gaza Ministry of Health, OCHA said that as of Thursday, five Palestinians were reported killed and 11 others injured across the Gaza Strip over the previous 48 hours.

This comes amid harsh winter conditions and destructive winter storms that are damaging infrastructure and putting water, sanitation and hygiene services under continuing pressure.

Trump Enchained a Nation for a Dying Fuel

The world has been shaken by an extraordinary development that cuts to the heart of sovereignty, law, and global power. Demonstrations have erupted across continents after the United States captured the sitting president of Venezuela — a leader who, under international law, enjoys immunity not because he is above the law, but because he represents the sovereignty and dignity of his nation. When a president is seized, the state itself is symbolically seized. Today, it is not merely one man before a New York court, but thirty million Venezuelans whose sovereignty stands on trial.

This single act has ignited global outrage. From New York to Chicago, protesters marched with banners reading "Hands off Venezuela" and "No Blood for Oil," rejecting America's unilateral policing of the world. In Amsterdam, London, Madrid, Berlin and Buenos Aires, demonstrators condemned what they called kidnapping and aggression. In Caracas, supporters filled the streets calling it an act of war. At the UN Security Council, China demanded the president's release, Russia denounced lawlessness, and Brazil's President Lula called it a grave violation of sovereignty. Even U.S. allies expressed discomfort, warning that force without legal mandate shatters the system meant to prevent war.

Yet Washington appears determined to prove power through force at a moment when it is losing ground elsewhere. Economically, the United States no longer dominates global production and trade. Financially, the world is slowly reducing dependence on the dollar. Culturally and politically, influence is drifting toward Asia and the developing world. And most critically, the era of oil — once America's

greatest lever — is fading fast.

Oil today is worth far less in strategic power than at any time since its discovery. Global demand growth peaked. Electric vehicles already account for over one-fifth of new car sales worldwide, and by 2030 over half of all cars sold in Europe and China are expected to be electric. Renewable electricity costs have collapsed — wind and solar are now the cheapest power in history in many regions. Meanwhile, breakthroughs in nuclear fission efficiency, experimental fusion, high-density batteries, hydrogen systems, and grid-scale storage are transforming energy security permanently.

That means oil is no longer the irreplaceable lifeblood of economies. Its share of global energy has already dropped from over 50% in the 1970s to under 30% today — and it is projected to fall toward 20% by 2030. When electricity — not oil — powers transport, logistics, and industry, the geopolitical value of oil falls with it. Long-term market forecasts now warn that beyond 2030, oil demand may permanently decline. Once falling demand collides with oversupply, oil becomes not a golden asset but a stranded one. Extracting, transporting, and securing it by military force will become economically irrational and politically toxic.

So the world is entering a new energy-power order. Power will no longer belong to those who sit on oil wells, but to those who control renewables, nuclear science, advanced storage, micro-grids, AI-driven energy efficiency, and fusion research. Nations investing in these tech-

nologies — China, the EU, Japan, South Korea, and others — will command the future. Those clinging to oil supremacy will discover that history has moved on without them. Seen through this lens, the U.S. operation in Venezuela looks like the desperate act of a declining empire trying to freeze time. It is the attempt to preserve oil-era dominance in a post-oil world. But military coercion cannot reverse scientific progress. It cannot stop the spread of clean, decentralized energy systems that free nations from dependence on oil routes controlled by others.

Even U.S. allies now sense the danger. Canada, historically deferential to Washington, watched nervously as threats and resource claims crept closer to its own sovereignty. European states, once obedient followers in U.S. interventions, now speak of legality and restraint, knowing that today Venezuela is on trial — but tomorrow any nation could be.

The American justification — that Venezuela fuels narcotics and instability — collapses before basic facts. Synthetic drug supply chains run largely through Mexico and other channels, not Venezuelan oil platforms. The narrative is politically convenient, but structurally hollow. What truly matters is geostrategic access, leverage, and psychological dominance.

But that dominance is slipping — and Washington knows it. As more states trade in their own currencies, as energy sources diversify, as technology redistributes power, the ability of one state to command others declines. And when influence fades, the temptation to use force grows.

Yet force comes at a cost. The protests sweeping the world do not only defend Venezuela. They defend the principle that sovereignty cannot be dragged off an airplane at gunpoint. They defend the idea that power must answer to law, and that even the strongest nation cannot declare itself judge, jury, and executioner over global governance.

Even inside the United States, many now fear the moral and strategic price of endless intervention. They understand that the military might cannot substitute for respect, legitimacy, and trust. They also understand that every unlawful action accelerates the erosion of American authority rather than restoring it.

The irony is that by trying to prove relevance through force, the United States risks proving the opposite. Oil empires are ending. Technology empires are rising. And the nation that fails to adapt becomes the nation left behind.

What the world is witnessing is not merely the abduction of a president, but the panic of a superpower watching history escape its grasp. The capture of a head of state will not return America to uncontested supremacy. Instead, it will be remembered as a moment when the world realized that legitimacy, law, and innovation — not missiles — define real power.

And the final judgment may not be delivered in a New York courtroom, but in the court of history — where nations are measured not by how loudly they threaten, but by whether they respect the sovereignty, dignity, and future of others.

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



Qamar Bashir



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

Right to Self-Determination Movement and the Muslim Conference struggle

The right to self-determination is not merely a political term or a temporary slogan; rather, it is a fundamental and universally recognized principle of the freedom, sovereignty, and future decision-making of nations. World history bears witness to the fact that whenever a nation has been given the opportunity to freely determine its political, geographical, and ideological future, it has succeeded in making decisions in accordance with its identity. The partition of the Subcontinent is a practical example of this principle, where, at the end of British imperial rule, nations were granted the right to self-determination through negotiations and mutual agreements, resulting in the emergence of two independent states, Pakistan and India, on the world map.

It is deeply regrettable and condemnable that the very principle under which Pakistan and India came into existence was deliberately denied to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. This is a grave historical injustice committed by India, the consequences of which the Kashmiri people continue to suffer even today. Although Jammu and Kashmir was a Muslim-majority state and its natural, geographical, and ideological accession lay with Pakistan, the legitimate right of Kashmiris was suppressed due to Indian oppression, conspiracies, and political interests.

In particular, the illegal and unilateral action of 5 August 2019 stands as the worst example of this oppression, through which India not only revoked the special status of occupied Kashmir but also trampled upon international laws, United Nations resolutions, and



Samia Sajid Raja

the fundamental rights of the Kashmiri people. However, history teaches us that oppression and tyranny have never been able to extinguish the ideals of nations or their desire for freedom. The writer (Samia Sajid Raja) belongs to those refugees from Jammu and Kashmir who, in 1949, accepted Pakistan as their homeland and made unparalleled sacrifices. The migration of these refugees was not merely a geographical relocation; rather, it was a practical endorsement of the 1947 Resolution of Accession to Pakistan. When people sacrifice their homes, lands, wealth, and relationships for the sake of an ideology, no doubt or suspicion remains regarding their decision. These sacrifices are irrefutable proof of the fact that the Kashmiri people made their decision long ago.

In recent times, the national achievements and firm stance attained under the leadership of Pakistan's Army Chief, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, have further strengthened the morale of the Kashmiri people. Among Kashmiris living on both sides of the Line of Control, hope has once again been revived that the destination of the right to self-determination is no longer far away. Pakistan's strong foreign policy and unequivocal stance serve as a source of courage and confidence for the Kashmiri people.

Every year on 5 January, the Kashmiri people observe the Right to Self-Determination Day to remind the United Nations of its promises and to make the world realize that the Kashmiri nation will never abandon its just struggle. This struggle will continue until the historic decision of accession to Pakistan takes practical shape.

In the 1970s, the slogan "Kashmir Banay Ga Pakistan" (Kashmir Will Become Pakistan), raised by Mujahid-e-Awwal Sardar Abdul Qayum Khan (RA), was in fact a popular and ideological expression of the 1947 Resolution of Accession to Pakistan. Rather than fading with the passage of time, this slogan remains alive in the hearts of Kashmiris even today, proclaiming that ideologies do not weaken with time but instead grow stronger.

The Muslim Conference has safeguarded this ideological continuity in every era. The President of the Muslim Conference, Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, throughout his political life, has never compromised on the principles of Qa'id-e-Millat Chaudhry Ghulam Abbas (RA) and Mujahid-e-Awwal Sardar Abdul Qayum Khan (RA). Today, on 5 January 2026, the seminar on the right to self-determination held under the chairmanship of Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, President of the Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir, at the National Press Club Islamabad, is a continuation of the 1947 Resolution of Accession to Pakistan.

The truth is that love for Pakistan is an integral part of the faith of the Kashmiri people, and the Muslim Conference is the true representative of this love, this ideology, and this historic stance. The real, irrefutable, and decisive reference of the right to self-determination is the Resolution of Accession to Pakistan passed by the Muslim Conference on 19 July 1947, and this resolution alone defines the clear and final path for the future of Kashmir.

The writer is Chairperson of Muslim Conference Women's Wing

Suppression of Critical Thinking in Pakistan

Muqadas Samra

In Pakistan, asking questions is often mistaken for defiance rather than curiosity. From classrooms to public spaces, silence is rewarded while inquiry is quietly discouraged. Students are trained to reproduce answers instead of challenging ideas, and society grows uncomfortable with those who think beyond prescribed boundaries. Over time, this suppression of critical thinking has become normalized, rarely questioned, yet its impact on intellectual and democratic growth is profound.

Critical thinking refers to the ability to analyze a problem, evaluate its multiple dimensions, and assess both its positive and negative consequences before reaching a conclusion. In the twenty-first century, it is regarded as a foundational skill for nurturing researchers, scholars, and informed citizens rather than passive recipients of information.

Globally, education systems increasingly emphasize inquiry, reasoning, and debate. In Pakistan, however, these skills remain largely sidelined.

The education system stands at the center of this crisis. From early schooling, students are conditioned to memorize content and reproduce predetermined answers in examinations. Questioning textbooks, challenging interpretations, or offering alternative viewpoints is often discouraged.

Academic success is measured through grades rather than understanding, leaving little space for creativity or analytical thinking.

Teachers, constrained by rigid curricula and assessment frameworks, are themselves rarely trained in inquiry-based or discussion-oriented pedagogy.

As a result, classrooms become spaces of compliance rather than intellectual exploration.

The consequences of suppressing critical thinking are far-reaching. A society that does not question struggles to innovate or conduct meaningful research. Democratic processes weaken

when citizens lack the ability to critically evaluate policies, leadership, and governance. Polarization deepens as people adopt rigid positions without understanding opposing perspectives. This intellectual stagnation ultimately affects economic development, social harmony, and national resilience.

Reversing this trend requires deliberate and sustained efforts. Educational reform must move beyond rote learning and prioritize discussion, reasoning, and problem-solving. Teachers should be equipped with training that encourages dialogue rather than discourages it. Students must be allowed to question without fear of punishment or ridicule. Creating environments where inquiry is valued is essential for intellectual growth.

Libraries, in particular, can play a transformative role in this process. They should not merely function as silent reading spaces but as centers of inquiry, reflection, and informed discussion.

By promoting reading culture, access to diverse perspectives, and intellectual engagement, libraries can help nurture critical thinking among youth. Encouraging students to read widely and think independently is a powerful step toward building a thoughtful society.

Ultimately, critical thinking should not be viewed as a threat to authority or tradition. Instead, it should be recognized as a strength that enables societies to evolve and adapt. Pakistan's future depends not on producing obedient minds, but on cultivating thinking individuals capable of questioning, analyzing, and contributing meaningfully to national progress. Silence may preserve comfort, but critical thought is what drives change.

The writer is a columnist and librarian based in Hyderabad, Pakistan. She writes on social and political issues with a focus on education, society, and intellectual development. She can be reached at muqadasamra@gmail.com.

Xi holds talks with ROK President Lee Jae Myung

Agencies

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks with President of the Republic of Korea (ROK) Lee Jae Myung in Beijing on Monday.

Xi said he and President Lee have met twice and conducted reciprocal visits, reflecting the importance both sides attach to China-ROK relations. As both friends and neighbors, China and the ROK should increase exchanges and maintain frequent communication.

China has consistently placed relations with the ROK high on its regional diplomatic agenda and maintained continuity and stability in its policy toward the ROK, Xi said, adding that China is willing to work with the ROK to firmly uphold the direction of friendly cooperation, adhere to the principle of mutual benefit and win-win outcomes, promote bilateral strategic partnership along a healthy path, effectively enhance the well-being of both peoples, and contribute positively to regional and global peace and development.

Xi stressed that China and the ROK have long adhered to the principles of valuing peace above all else and advocating harmony without conformity, which have transcended differences in social systems and ideologies to help each other succeed and achieve common development.



Xi called on both sides to continue this fine tradition, enhance mutual trust, respect each other's development paths, accommodate each other's core interests and major concerns, and resolve differences properly through dialogue and consultation.

Xi said the fourth plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China reviewed and adopted the recommendations for formulating the 15th Five-Year Plan, outlining a blueprint for China's development over the next five years

and offering broad opportunities for countries worldwide.

China and the ROK share close economic ties with industrial and supply chains deeply interwoven, and the bilateral cooperation is mutually beneficial, Xi said.

The principle that “Every person matters” remains a cornerstone of Uzbekistan’s public policy

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Head of the Administration of the President of Uzbekistan, Saida Mirziyoyeva, has given her first major interview, in which she spoke in detail about her role within the system of public administration, the President's working style, and the key priorities of the Administration. This was reported by Uzbek media outlets.

According to her, the Presidential Administration focuses on shaping strategic directions and monitoring the implementation of decisions rather than engaging in day-to-day operational management. She described the current period as an “era of reforms,” emphasizing that sustainable change requires continuous oversight, accountability, and feedback from society.

Saida Mirziyoyeva also spoke about the personal qualities of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, highlighting his ability to listen to people, trust his team, and develop human resources. She noted that reforms are implemented not only through firm decisions but also through flexibility, dialogue, and trust.

The Head of the Administration identified five priority areas of work: water supply, education, healthcare, business development, and the judicial system. Special attention, she said, is given to water issues as a strategic resource for an agrarian country. She described changes in education and healthcare as long-term tasks, the results of which cannot



be seen immediately.

Mirziyoyeva separately emphasized the importance of the judicial system. In her view, without transparent and fair justice, effective economic reforms, increased investment, and public trust in the state are impossible.

Speaking about her personal interests, Saida Mirziyoyeva said she is

particularly drawn to international diplomacy and dialogue. She noted that communication with people and strengthening cooperation serve a common goal — improving the quality of life of citizens. The principle that “every person matters,” she said, remains central to state policy.

Saida Mirziyoyeva also explained her

appointment as Head of the Administration as a necessity to ensure that the President receives direct and objective information about the situation on the ground. According to her, such a mechanism makes it possible to effectively monitor the implementation of reforms and respond promptly to real problems in the regions.

Five-star Khan Suleiman Pasha hotel inaugurated in Syria's Old Damascus

SANA

DAMASCUS: Syria's Minister of Tourism, Mazen al-Salhani, on Monday inaugurated the five-star Khan Suleiman Pasha Hotel in Damascus Old City following a meticulous restoration of the historic building.

The hotel features 25 guest rooms and two suites, blending traditional Damascene architectural elements—such as stone arches and inner courtyards—with modern amenities to offer guests an experience that combines authenticity and contemporary comfort.

In a statement to SANA at the ceremony, which was attended by Ministers of Economy, Communications as well as several ambassadors, al-Salhani said the project falls within a national vision to support heritage-based tourism, not only as a means of preservation but as an active component of the tourism and economic cycle.

He added that UNESCO committees praised the implementation standards, particularly the use of traditional restoration materials such as lime-based mortar instead of



cement, which preserves the integrity and authenticity of the stone structure.

Al-Salhani pointed out that the project has had a tangible economic and social impact on the Old City, creating job opportunities during the restoration phase—most of them for Damascene craftsmen—

and relying on locally sourced materials for approximately 90 percent of its components, including marble, textiles, and carpets.

Located on historic Medhat Pasha Street, Khan Suleiman Pasha is one of the most prominent examples of Ottoman architecture in Damascus

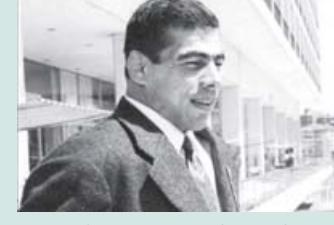
and among the last remaining Ottoman caravanserais in the city. Nearly 80 percent of the original stonework was preserved using modern conservation techniques that ensure wall ventilation and moisture regulation.

The hotel is owned by Damascus Governorate and

was developed through an investment partnership with the private sector, represented by the Wahoud Group, in line with the Ministry of Tourism's strategy to repurpose heritage buildings while preserving their architectural value and ensuring sustainable tourism use in Old Damascus.

Iran marks anniversary of legendary wrestler Gholamreza Takhti's passing

IRNA



TEHRAN: A ceremony will be held to mark the 58th anniversary of the passing of Gholamreza Takhti, the legendary Iranian wrestling champion and enduring symbol of sportsmanship and morality, in Rey County, where he is laid to rest, on Wednesday, January 7.

Takhti was born in Tehran on September 5, 1930, and passed away on January 7, 1968. The anniversary of his passing has been designated as a day to honor his name and legacy.

The ceremony will be attended by veteran athletes, sports figures, young wrestlers, families, and admirers of Iran's traditional culture of chivalry. Takhti is remembered not only for his remarkable sporting achievements, but also for his humility, compassion, and lifelong support for the underprivileged, qualities that made him a lasting role model for generations.

Organizers say the ceremony aims to promote ethics, responsibility, and human dignity in sports and society.

Takhti won Iran's first Olympic gold medals at the 1956 Melbourne Games, along with Imam Ali Habibi, and earned one Olympic gold and two silver medals, as well as multiple world and Asian titles.

He died under suspicious circumstances at the height of his popularity, and questions surrounding his death remain unresolved decades later. His name and path, however, continue to live on in the hearts of the Iranian people.

Gholamreza Takhti won 1 gold and 2 silver medals at the Olympic Games as well as 2 gold and 2 silver medals at the World Championships, on the official website of the United World Wrestling reports.

Owing to his good sportsmanship, he has been considered as one of the most beloved athletes of Iran and dubbed 'Jahan Pahlavan' which means 'world champion' in Persian language.

Indian army carried brutal Massacre on 6 January 1993 "SOPORE MASSACRE": Kashmiris waiting justice

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Syed Faiz Naqshbandi Representative of Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and senior leader of APHC said that On 6 January 1993, Indian occupation forces carried out most brutal massacres in Sopore, Indian occupied Kashmir which is called most brutal and heinous in the history of repression.

Indian forces went on a rampage through the town, opening fire on civilians and setting entire markets and residential areas ablaze. Dozens of unarmed and innocent Kashmiri civilians were killed. Shops were burned. Dwellers along with dwellers were burnt alive. Survivors were left with nothing but trauma and ashes, Naqshbandi said.

The massacre was not an accident.

It was deliberate and systematic. It was Indian state terrorism.

This Massacre was described by Time Magazine, as the worst atrocities in Kashmir's history. But up till now the thirty two years no investigation, was ordered or carried out. Victims still wait for justice.

Naqshbandi said, the international community must pressurize India to allow independent human rights monitors to enter IIOJK for investigation of human Rights violations.

Syria and UAE partner to boost emergency health preparedness

Spokesman Report

DAMASCUS: Syria's Ministry of Health signed a memorandum of understanding on Monday with the UAE-based Jaheziya Foundation to launch a joint medical preparedness initiative aimed at strengthening Syria's ability to respond to emergencies and disasters.

The Ministry said the program, titled "Jaheziya Syria," is designed to improve the readiness of Syria's healthcare system through standardized training and capacity-building for medical staff in both public and private hospitals. The initiative will follow international standards and modern scientific methodologies to enhance coordinated medical responses during crises.

The project will begin with a three-month pilot phase, during which 200 healthcare workers are expected to receive specialized training. The longer-term plan spans five years and focuses on sustainable capacity-building within Syria's health sector.

According to representatives from Jaheziya, the initiative prioritizes human capital as the first line of defense in emergencies. Training will target doctors, nurses, emergency and ambulance teams, civil defense personnel, as well as medical and administrative leadership.

The initiative is part of the Health Ministry's broader efforts to strengthen public health outcomes and develop Syria's national health-care system.

Al-Shifa's Dr Afghani receives lifetime achievement award

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Senior ophthalmologist Dr Tayyab Afghani of Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital has been awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Pakistan Oculoplastic Association during an international eye conference held in Lahore in recognition of his long-standing contributions to specialised eye care and medical education. Dr Afghani's work as head of the Orbit and Oculoplastics Department at Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital was lauded at the conference, and his role in developing services for complex eye diseases was described as revolutionary.

Dr Afghani is known for his work in ocular oncology, reconstructive surgery, and eye tumours. He played a key role in establishing Pakistan's first dedicated centre offering free treatment for eye cancer patients, addressing a major gap in access to specialised care for low-income families. He has authored more than 60 research papers and presented over 70 scientific studies at international conferences in more than 20 countries. His previous honours include the Distinguished Services Award, the Prevention of Blindness Award from the Asia Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology, and two gold medals from the Ophthalmological Society of Pakistan.

Talking to the media, Dr Afghani said the award is an honour for him and the Al-Shifa Trust. He added that the hospital has expanded clinical services in line with international practices through sustained investment in infrastructure and training. The hospital has spent hundreds of millions of rupees on advanced diagnostic and surgical equipment to treat complex orbital and oncology cases.

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
185,062.10	182,408.23	
Day's High	Day's Low	
185,481.45	181,182.07	
Index Value	Change	
67,757,388,792	+2653.87	
Percentage	Time	
+1.45%	6 Jan, 2026 4:30 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
10,122.73	+118.16	
Percentage	Time	
+1.18%	6 Jan, 4:35 pm GMT	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
49,365.91	+388.73	
Percentage	Time	
+0.79%	6 Jan, 12:45 pm GMT-5	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
52,518.08	+685.28	
Percentage	Time	
+685.28	6 Jan, 3:45 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	186	190
Bahrain Dinar	744.1	754.1
Canadian Dollar	202.6	206.6
China Yuan	39.58	39.98
Danish Krone	43.72	44.12
Euro	328.05	331.55
Hong Kong Dollar	35.69	36.04
Indian Rupee	3.03	3.12
Japanese Yen	1.7750	1.8750
Kuwaiti Dinar	908.15	918.15
Malaysian Ringgit	68.6	69.20
New Zealand \$	161.24	163.24
Norwegians Krone	27.66	27.96
Omani Riyal	728.65	738.65
Qatari Riyal	76.26	76.96
Saudi Riyal	74.9	75.55
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	76.55	77.55
UK Pound Sterling	376.75	380.55
US Dollar	281.05	282.8

**KE actions
against
power theft
impacting
legitimate
industries in
S.I.T.E.**

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: On receiving numerous complaints from member industries regarding no power supply for 10-15 days, the Association invited Sadia Dada (Chief Distribution, Marketing & Communication Officer), K-Electric to the Association for meeting with affected members. She was accompanied by other high officials of K-Electric.

President Ahmed Azeem Alvi informed the KE officials that Industries have been without power supply for two weeks and they don't have alternate power supply arrangements for such a long time which is causing much hardship and massive losses to industries.

KE officials updated that they are in constant touch with Law Enforcement Agencies for amicable resolution and removal of the aforementioned system for good so that industrial supply can be resumed without delay.

Ms. Sadia Dada also requested the Association and the affected Members to extend support and assured S. I. T. E. Association of Industry to restore power supply of all affected industries by close of business on 5th January.

Chief Coordinator Saleem Parekh stressed the K-Electric to compensate losses suffered by the affected industries by passing on some benefit from the amount saved on account of electricity theft as the industries have already suffered huge financial and production losses during the past two weeks and are facing tough time.

Muhammad Riaz Dhedhi (Vice President), Muhammad Kamran Arbi (Immediate Past President), Abdul Hadi (Former President), Saleem Nagai (Former SVP) & representatives of affected industries attended the meeting.

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Anjuman Tairan Chiniot led by Central President Cloth Board Ittehad Group Pakistan Alhaj Naseer Yousuf Vohra met RPO Faisalabad Sohail Akhtar Sukhera. In this meeting, the overall security situation of the city, law and order and crime prevention were discussed.

The delegation included District President Chaudhry Asghar Ali Jatt, Patron-in-Chief Khawaja Nadeem, General Secretary Hafiz Taimur Mirza, Central Secretary Information Cloth Board Pakistan Aamir Maqbool, Chairman Executive Council Mehmood Alam Bholia, President Cloth Board Faisal Sheikh, President Gaddafi Market Haji Ijaz, Central Secretary Information Pakistan Ulema Council Maulana Hafiz Maqbool Ahmed, General Secretary Punjab Maulana Azam Farooq.

An integrated strategy was agreed upon in this meeting to eliminate extortion, dacoity and street crime. While Traders were taken into confidence for immediately reporting suspicious activities to the police.

The Traders Association assured full cooperation with the police. The Traders Association appreciated the steps taken by RPO Faisalabad

to eradicate gamblers and drugs in the region. RPO Faisalabad Sohail Akhtar Sukhera has said that police patrols in commercial centers,

markets and business areas will be made more effective.

Police and traders will work together to

ensure a safe and stable business environment. The protection of the trading community is the top priority of the police.

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Workers are busy in their working on the high rise building at Blue area but all of them are without safety gadgets and safety precautions, which needs the action of local administration against the contractors for the laborers safety in Federal Capital.

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Pakistan to the Russian Federation, Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, visited the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and held a comprehensive interaction with the ICCI leadership, including President Sardar Tahir Mehmood, Senior Vice President Tahir Ayub, and Vice President Irfan Chaudhry, along with members of the business community.

Addressing the gathering, Ambassador Faisal Niaz Tirmizi highlighted the growing importance of Pakistan-Russia economic relations and briefed the business community on emerging trade and investment opportunities in the Russian market. He

emphasized that Russia offers significant potential for Pakistani exporters, particularly in textiles, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, surgical instruments, sports goods, Pink Salt and IT services. The Ambassador assured ICCI members of the Embassy's full facilitation in resolving trade-related issues, promoting business-to-business linkages, and supporting Pakistani participation in exhibitions and trade fairs in Russia.

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Wednesday, January 7, 2026

Effective use of technology essential for promotion of sports: Punjab Sports Minister

By Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: A delegation of Time Technologies called on Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar at the National Hockey Stadium, Lahore.

Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry and other officers concerned participated in the meeting.

Development of innovative software and mobile app for Punjab Sports Department were discussed in detail during the meeting. Various suggestions and recommendations were also made on the effective use of technology in the field of sports.

The delegation of Time Technologies briefed Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar about multiple features about digital software and mobile app.

During the briefing, it was informed that online booking of sports complexes, grounds and other facilities will be possible through the proposed app. The app will also include advanced features of asset management, personal management and data recording.

The Provincial Sports Minister was briefed that a complete record of all sports assets will be stored under a



digital system. The decisions will be made based on data through report and analysis system, the briefing said.

Talking to the delegation Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar said that the sports system across the province is

being made transparent, organized and accountable. "Each player must have a unique identity that will be protected on a permanent basis".

Punjab Minister for Sports Faisal Ayub Khokhar said that digital identity and database are indispensable for

the promotion of sports.

"Digital system will eliminate corruption and mismanagement from Punjab Sports Department. A final and comprehensive draft of digital system should be prepared after removing all technical flaws"

Sameer Minhas smashes record ton as Pakistan U19 clinch tri-series title, 2026

By Asim Tanveer

ISLAMABAD: Harare, A record-breaking century from Sameer Minhas powered Pakistan U19 to a commanding nine-wicket win over hosts Zimbabwe U19 in the final of the U19 tri-series at the Old Hararians in Harare on Tuesday afternoon. This success marked Pakistan U19 back-to-back titles, following their eight-team ACC Men's U19 Asia Cup win last month, where they defeated India by 191 runs in the final in Dubai.

Chasing 159 to win, Pakistan wrapped up the contest in just 16.2 overs, finishing with 202 balls to spare.

Right-handed batter Sameer scored a blistering 114 off 51 balls, an innings that included 17 fours and five sixes. It was Sameer's second century of the tri-series. He brought up his hundred in just 42 balls, surpassing India's Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, who had struck a 52-ball century against England U19 in July 2025.

Earlier, Pakistan captain Farhan



Yousaf opted to field first, a decision that paid rich dividends as the bowling unit kept Zimbabwe under constant pressure. Right-arm fast bowler Umar Zaib led the charge with an impressive four-wicket haul, while Abdul Subhan provided able

support by taking two wickets.

Zimbabwe struggled to build momentum after losing early wickets and were reduced to 15 for five inside seven overs. Michael Blignaut top-scored with 60 off 102 balls, while Tatenda

Chimugoro added an unbeaten 28. However, regular breakthroughs ensured the hosts were dismissed for 158 in 44.4 overs.

In turn, Sameer turned the final into a one-sided affair, sharing a 145-run opening-wicket partnership with Mohammad Shayan, who remained unbeaten on 38 off 42 balls, including four fours and one six.

With this emphatic win, Pakistan U19 will now turn their attention to the ICC U19 World Cup, set to begin in Zimbabwe and Namibia from 15 January.

Scores in brief:

Pakistan U19 160-1, 16.2 overs

Zimbabwe U19 158 all out, 44.4 overs (Michael Blignaut 60, Tatenda

Chimugoro 28*; Umar Zaib 4-20, Abdul Subhan 2-25)

Pakistan U19 160-1, 16.2 overs

(Sameer Minhas 114, Mohammad Shayan 38 not out)

Player of the match: Umar Zaib (Pakistan U19)

Player of the tournament: Sameer Minhas (Pakistan U19)

DG ISPR slams PTI-led KP govt for opposing military operations

Continued from Page 1

"How can you say such a thing when a massive number of terrorist incidents have taken place in your province?" he questioned, adding that they build a false narrative while sitting in the assembly.

The PTI leadership is confronting the anti-terrorism operations at every forum, he added.

He said various countries around the world are expelling Afghans for their involvement in crimes.

"What should we do, if not carry out military operations against terrorists? Should we surrender before them? You have no answer to this," he maintained, adding that the armed forces would not compromise on the security and sovereignty of Pakistan.

He said Pakistan held talks with the Afghan leadership at different levels, but to no avail.

"Why does the Fitna al-Khawarij not attack this political party? It is because they want to become the favourites of Fitna al-Khawarij; this political party is seeking help from Afghanistan," he said.

DG ISPR stated that significant successes were achieved in the war against terrorism over the past year, with security forces conducting effective operations across various parts of the country.

He said that the fight against terrorism is not the struggle of a single institution but that of the entire nation, in which the coop-

eration of the public alongside security agencies is of utmost importance.

Overall, 75,175 intelligence-based operations were conducted in 2025, out of which 14,658 were conducted in KP, 58,778 in Balochistan and 1,739 in the rest of Pakistan, he added, providing details about the security situation in the country.

Showing 'Kinetics of Counter-Terrorism Effort in Last 5 Years' graph, Lt Gen Chaudhry apprised that the number of terrorist incidents rose sharply from 761 in 2021 to 5,397 in 2025.

He also said that the Khwarij have nothing to do with religion, stressing that they should be wiped out. Similarly, he said the Fitna al-Hindustan members have nothing to do with Balochistan.

The DG ISPR stated that there is a consensus among all stakeholders regarding the National Action Plan; however, there still remain shortcomings and room for further improvement in its implementation.

He further added that security forces and the public have made immense sacrifices in this long and difficult war against terrorism, with 1,235 individuals embracing martyrdom last year.

The military spokesperson shared that a total of 27 suicide attacks occurred across the country in 2025, 16 of which were reported in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa only. He noted that two of these suicide attacks were carried out by women.

He said Afghans were involved in the majority of the terrorist attacks inside Pakistan last year.

While discussing the situation in Afghanistan, the military spokesperson lambasted the Afghan rulers for failing to meet their promises. He said the change of power materialised in Afghanistan in 2021, following the Doha agreement.

"They [Afghan Taliban] said that they would bring an inclusive government, Afghan soil would not be allowed to be used for terrorism, and women would be given their rights, but these three big promises were not fulfilled.

"Different ethnicities are living in Afghanistan, and the government does not reflect inclusivity," he said.

The DG ISPR stated that the neighbouring country has become a haven for terrorists, with various terrorist organisations from around the world operating from there.

He remarked that groups such as Al-Qaeda, Daesh, the BLA, and the TTP have sanctuaries in Afghanistan, which is impacting not only Pakistan but also other neighbouring countries.

The DG ISPR revealed that, according to recent information, about 2,500 terrorists have arrived in Afghanistan from Syria, posing a serious threat to regional security.

He urged the international community to take notice, as Afghanistan's neighbours are suffering from terrorism due to

this situation.

The military spokesperson noted that the actual reasons for the withdrawal of allied forces from Afghanistan were different. He pointed out that despite spending \$134 billion in Afghanistan, the allied forces failed to establish sustainable peace.

The DG ISPR stated that the United States left behind a large quantity of modern weaponry during its withdrawal from Afghanistan, which is now being used in terrorist activities.

He added that this weaponry is increasing threats not only for Pakistan but for the entire region.

According to the Lt Gen, while there are calls for negotiations with the Afghan Taliban, ground realities cannot be ignored.

He mentioned that terrorists attacked a mosque in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, after which Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir personally visited Peshawar and took a clear stance against terrorism while standing on the ruins of that mosque.

The DG ISPR also stated that if even five per cent of the level of terrorism faced by Pakistan were to occur in any other country, that state would not be able to survive.

He said that during the tensions on the Pak-Afghan border last October, Pakistan repeatedly advised Afghanistan to rein in the Khawarij terrorists; however, when no progress was made, Afghan posts were

targeted within hours.

During these skirmishes, direct attacks were launched from Afghan border posts, after which Pakistan closed the border and carried out a full and effective retaliatory strike, he said.

He clarified that Pakistan did not target the Afghan Taliban in Afghanistan, but rather hit the terrorist sanctuaries of the TTP. He said certain circles claimed that Pakistan launched an attack on Afghanistan similar to "Operation Sindoar".

The DG ISPR further stated that India is using terrorists as proxies in the region, providing these groups with arms and financial resources. He stated that security agencies possess evidence in this regard, and the matter has become a serious threat to regional peace.

The military spokesperson stated that India faced a humiliating defeat during the 'Maar ka Haq'.

He remarked that the stain of the failure of Operation Sindoar has yet to be washed from India's face.

The military spokesperson stated that India targeted women and children during "Operation Sindoar", whereas Pakistan's actions remained restricted to specific targets and were directed solely against terrorists.

The DG ISPR said that India attempted to use Afghanistan as a proxy, and Pakistan had already sent a message to Afghanistan to desist from such activities.

Wing 999 Inter Departmental Cricket League Tournament

Wing 999 and Omar Associates won their Matches



Sports Desk

KARACHI: Two more matches were decided in the Wing 999 Inter Departmental Cricket League Tournament here at various Cricket Grounds.

The highlights of the days play was brilliant Unbeaten Double Century by Shah Raza, Arbaz Khan 111 and equally good batting by Ashir Ahmed 81, Adeel Meo 80 and Shayan Ahmed 75.

The Tournament is being organized by Regional Cricket Association Karachi with the collaboration of Wing 999 Sports.

Scores in Brief:

Wing 999 beat Mesol Solar by 245 runs at Agha Khan Gymkhana Ground. Wing 999 382/4 in 40 overs. Shah Raza 203 18x4 10x6 (112 Balls). Abdullah Alam 58 5x4 2x6, Muhammad Afzal 48 4x4 3x6, Usman Raheem 33, Saim Ahmed 24. Aaish Malik (ob) 2/76.

In reply Mesol Solar 137 all-out in 29.2 overs. Ghzanfar Khan 30, Alwaz Khan 28, Abdullah Javed 27. Tariq Khan (sla) 3/24, Ashiq Ali (ob) 3/28.

In the 2nd Match Omar Associates beat Appie Farms by 145 runs at Gulberg Gymkhana Ground. Omar Associates 377/7 in 40 overs. Arbaz Khan 111 17x4 4x6 (in 74 balls). Ashir Ahmed 81 13x4 2x6, Adeel Meo 80 4x4 8x6, Hurair Shahid 47 5x4, Qadir Khan 19, Abdul Jalil (mf) 2/56.

Ali Qureshi (ob) 2/73.

In reply Appie Farms 232/8 in 40 overs. Shayan Ahmed 75 7x4 3x6, Muhammad Abuzar 48 2x4 5x6, Abdullah Aziz 36, Isam Hanif 19, Ali Qureshi 19 not out. Jawad Ahmed (sla) 3/33, Maaz Khurram (mf) 3/49.

Steve Smith shatters multiple records with Sydney Ashes century



SYDNEY: Australia's modern-day great Steve Smith produced another masterclass at the Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG), breaking multiple records with an unbeaten century in the fifth Ashes Test against England.

Leading the side in Pat Cummins' absence, Smith struck his first hundred of the series and remained unbeaten on 129 at stumps on day three, guiding Australia to 518 for 7 in reply to England's 384.

The hosts ended the day with a commanding 134-run lead as Smith once again dictated terms in cricket's oldest rivalry.

With this knock, Smith moved past England legend Jack Hobbs to become the second-highest run-scorer in Ashes history, taking his tally to 3682 runs, now trailing only Sir Don Bradman's seemingly untouchable mark of 5028.

Most Runs in Ashes History

Don Bradman (AUS) - 5028 runs in 37 matches

Steve Smith (AUS) - 3682 runs in 41 matches

Jack Hobbs (ENG) - 3636 runs in 41 matches

Alan Border (AUS) - 3222 runs in 42 matches

Steve Waugh (AUS) - 3173 runs in 45 matches

It also lifted him to second place on the list of most Ashes centuries, with 13 hundreds, again behind only Bradman, who scored 19.

The century was Smith's 18th as captain, six of which have come against England, the most by any skipper against a single opponent.

Most Ashes Hundreds

Don Bradman (AUS) - 19

Steve Smith (AUS) - 13

Jack Hobbs (ENG) - 12

Steve Waugh (AUS) - 10

Wally Hammond & David Gower (ENG) - 9

Smith's run aggregate against England across formats now stands at 5085, placing him behind only Sachin Tendulkar and Virat Kohli on the list of most international runs scored against a single opponent.

Additionally, Smith has now amassed 1925 runs at the SCG at an average of just over 72, including five centuries, figures surpassed only by former Australia captain Ricky Ponting.

Moreover, Smith also moved past Rahul Dravid to climb to seventh on the all-time list of Test centuries and is now just one hundred shy of equalling Kumar Sangakkara.

Most Test Hundreds

Sachin Tendulkar (IND) - 51

Jacques Kallis (SA) - 45

Ricky Ponting (AUS)/Joe Root (ENG) - 41

Kumar Sangakkara (SL) - 38

Steve Smith (AUS) - 37

Rahul Dravid (IND) - 36

Warner's efforts in vain as Strikers eliminate Thunder from BBL 15

ADELAIDE: David Warner's valiant unbeaten half-century went in vain as Adelaide Strikers edged out Sydney Thunder by six runs in a tense Big Bash League (BBL) 15 encounter at the Adelaide Oval on Tuesday, ending the visitors' playoff hopes.

Called on

ISLAMABAD: Air Chief Marshal Hasan Mahmood Khan, Chief of the Air Staff, Bangladesh Air Force called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, NI (M), HJ, Chief of Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force at Air Headquarters.



Photo: Online

PAF pledges enhanced training and Super Mushshak Support for Bangladesh Air Force

RAWALPINDI: A high-level defence delegation led by Air Chief Marshal Hasan Mahmood Khan, Chief of the Air Staff, Bangladesh Air Force called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, NI (M), HJ, Chief of Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force at Air Headquarters, Islamabad. The meeting focused on strengthening operational cooperation and institution-

al synergy, with emphasis on training, capacity building, and collaboration in aerospace advancements.

The visiting Air Chief was accorded a Guard of Honour. Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu briefed him on PAF's recent advancements and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to supporting Bangladesh Air Force through a comprehen-

sive training framework from basic to advanced flying and specialized courses across PAF institutions. He also assured fast-tracked delivery of Super Mushshak trainer aircraft, along with a complete training and long-term support ecosystem.

The Bangladeshi Air Chief praised PAF's combat record and expressed interest in benefiting from its opera-

tional expertise, seeking assistance in maintenance support for Bangladesh Air Force's aging fleet and integration of air defence radar systems to enhance air surveillance. Detailed discussions were also held on potential procurement of JF-17 Thunder aircraft.

The delegation visited key PAF facilities, including the National ISR & Integrated Air Operations Centre, PAF

Cyber Command, and the National Aerospace Science & Technology Park, observing capabilities in ISR, cyber, space, electronic warfare, and unmanned systems.

The visit underscored the strong historical ties between Pakistan and Bangladesh and reflected a shared resolve to deepen defence cooperation and build a long-term strategic partnership.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi says Islamabad to be developed on Shanghai's model

Spokesman Report

SHANGHAI: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said that Shanghai's rapid and well-planned development serves as a model for cities around the world, adding that Pakistan aims to develop Islamabad along similar lines.

During his visit to the

Shanghai Urban Planning Headquarters, the interior minister was received by the head of Shanghai Urban Planning, Madam Chen, who briefed him on the city's master planning, modern infrastructure, and public facilities. Mohsin Naqvi was given a detailed overview of Shanghai's fast-paced urban develop-

ment system through presentations, videos, and city models outlining the evolution and future vision of the metropolis.

The minister was also shown a model of Shanghai's state-of-the-art stadium and expressed keen interest in the city's integrated urban management system, which consolidates data and services

through advanced technology. He praised the use of modern, technology-driven solutions that have made Shanghai's urban systems efficient, coordinated, and foolproof.

Mohsin Naqvi lauded Shanghai's ability to achieve rapid development while ensuring high-quality civic facilities, calling it an example

worth emulating. "Shanghai's development is unparalleled and serves as a benchmark for cities worldwide. We want to develop Islamabad on the lines of Shanghai and will take immediate steps to benefit from its experience," he said. The interior minister also recorded his impressions in the visitors' book.

SC adjourns case regarding military courts till Monday

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A seven-member constitutional bench of Supreme Court (SC) on Tuesday adjourned hearing till next Monday in a case pertaining to the trials of civilians in military courts.

A seven-member constitutional bench headed by Justice Aminuddin Khan heard the case. Defense Ministry lawyer Khawaja Haris presented arguments. The bench includes Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhel, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Hassan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Masrat Hilali, Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan and Justice Shahid Bilal Hassan.

During the hearing, Justice Jamal Mandokhel said that the trial procedure in military courts should be satisfactory.

Justice Masrat Hilali questioned whether

an officer who has not heard the trial can give a verdict.

Justice Jamal Mandokhel said that does this army officer have enough experience and expertise to even pronounce the death penalty?

Additional Attorney General Aamir Rehman said that the total number of accused in the May 9 incidents was around 5,000, and there is solid evidence of the presence of the 105 accused who were taken to the military courts for trial.

The Additional Attorney General said that only three cases have been presented to the court, there are a total of 35 FIRs of May 9 and 5,000 accused. Only those 105 people whose presence was proven should be tried in military courts. The Supreme Court's constitutional bench adjourned the hearing of the Military Courts case until Monday.

National Wheat Monitoring Committee reviews progress on interim wheat policy

The third meeting of the National Wheat Monitoring Committee was held under the chairmanship of Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, to review progress on the implementation of the Interim National Wheat Policy.

During the meeting, the minister expressed satisfaction over the establishment of provincial implementation units in all provinces and regions, calling it a key step toward effective execution of the policy. He emphasized that strong coordination between the federation and the provinces is being ensured to strengthen implementation and achieve policy objectives.

The committee also reviewed plans for the destruction of existing wheat stocks. All

provinces presented details of their available wheat reserves along with proposed strategies for stock destruction, in line with policy guidelines. Rana Tanveer Hussain said these measures are aimed at better market management and preventing distortions.

Briefing the committee, the minister stated that strategic wheat stocks under the National Wheat Policy will be acquired through the private sector.

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PM inquires after Raja Zafar ul Haq's health



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Tuesday, visited the residence of the leader of PML-N and senior politician Raja Zafar ul Haq to inquire after his health.

The prime minister prayed for his early recovery, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister also appreciated his contributions for the party and the national politics. Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar also accompanied the prime minister.

DPM Dar holds telephonic conversation with Myanmar counterpart

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar had a telephonic conversation with Myanmar Foreign Minister U Thant Swe.

According to Foreign Office spokesman Tahir Hussain Andrabi, both foreign ministers reviewed the current level of bilateral relations.

Foreign Office spokesperson said they agreed to maintain close contact



on matters of mutual interest and regional issues in the future.

Maryam Nawaz approves biogas plants, waste-to-energy project in Lahore

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz has approved the establishment of six biogas plants.

During a meeting on clean energy chaired by Maryam Nawaz in the provincial capital, a decision was also taken to launch a waste-to-energy project in Lahore. She further approved the inclusion of three pilot biogas plant projects under the Model Village Programme.

More to read: CM Maryam directs fast-track work on clean drinking water projects in Punjab

On the occasion, the Chief Minister sought a viable plan for



small biogas plants and stated that Punjab has outpaced others in the field of clean energy.

She added that biogas plants would provide bio-fertilizer for crops and affordable gas for domestic use, while the waste-to-energy project would supply low-cost electricity to electric buses and the metro bus system.

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