



# Daily The Spokesman

## Nawaz Sharif inaugurates State Lounge at Lahore Airport

Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) President Mian Nawaz Sharif has inaugurated the State Lounge at Allama Iqbal International Airport in Lahore. Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif were also present on the occasion.



**Mohsin Naqvi says he wants policemen to draw good salaries**

Interior Minister Says under-training officers to get plots: Officers will also be sent to China for one-month training. He visited the National Police Academy (NPA), Islamabad and reviewed the building's renovation. The minister gave necessary instructions to the NPA Commandant Muhammad Idrees. He went round the conference hall, dining hall and other rooms.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

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## Inauguration

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif view of debris of the demolished Chambers of Lawyers at F-8 Football ground after the Supreme Court ultimatum, which was till 01-05-2021, as the Workers of Anti encroachments.



Photo: PID

# PM vows nationwide rollout of Asan Khidmat Markaz, sets performance benchmarks

### Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said the federal government was committed to transforming Pakistan's public service delivery ecosystem by providing government services under one roof through a network of Asan Khidmat

Markaz across the country.

The prime minister made these remarks during a meeting with an Azerbaijani delegation that visited Islamabad to attend the inauguration ceremony of the capital's first Asan Khidmat Markaz. The delegation was led by Chairman of Azerbaijan's Public Service and Social Innovations Agency, Alvi

Mehdiyev, and included Azerbaijan's Ambassador to Pakistan Khazar Farhadv, a Prime Minister's Office news release said.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed gratitude to Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev and the Azerbaijani government for their full support in establishing Pakistan's first

Asan Khidmat Markaz in Islamabad and termed it a milestone in public sector reform. He said Pakistan was striving to fundamentally overhaul the governance and service delivery system to make it efficient, transparent and citizen-friendly.

The prime minister said Asan Khidmat Markaz would be expanded nationwide, with

the next phase covering Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan. He directed the relevant authorities to begin work immediately by setting clear timelines for establishing centres in Gilgit and Muzaffarabad, followed by their rollout across the rest of the country.

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# PM pitches for timely implementation of next phase of CPEC

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has stressed upon the need to ensure timely implementation of the next phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. He was talking to Vice Minister, International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China Ms Sun Haiyan, who called on him in Islamabad today.

The Prime Minister lauded China's generous support to Pakistan, especially through CPEC. He conveyed his warm greetings to President Xi Jinping and the

Chinese leadership. He reaffirmed Pakistan's iron-clad All Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership with China, and said that this would remain unshakable at all times.

The Prime Minister also reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering commitment to the One China Policy.

He also reiterated his most cordial invitation to President Xi Jinping to undertake an official visit to Pakistan this year, as this is a special year and a milestone for both countries.

During their warm and cordial meeting, the Prime Minister

welcomed the Chinese dignitary and her delegation to Pakistan. He said it is particularly auspicious that the visit is taking place when both countries are celebrating the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries. He noted that the year commenced with the successful visit of the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Pakistan to Beijing, followed by a visit by the Interior Minister to Shanghai. The Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan is also expected to visit China in the coming days.

Ms Sun Haiyan briefed the Prime Minister that the Chinese



Communist Party has maintained excellent ties with a wide range of political parties in Pakistan. She appreciated the Prime Minister for his leadership role in unifying these political entities for effective governance.

The Vice Minister emphasized the significance of party-to-party ties and expressed the Chinese Communist Party's commitment and resolve to deepen collaboration with political parties in Pakistan, through inter-party mechanisms.

# PPP tackled challenges with effective governance in Sindh, says Bilawal

### News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Thursday said that his party had successfully steered Sindh through major governance challenges by adopting a well-planned and comprehensive strategy during

its tenure.

He noted that the provincial administration was introducing concrete measures aimed at improving performance across all sectors.

Bilawal made these remarks while addressing a cabinet briefing on the Sindh government's performance, held at

Siwan-e-Sadr in Islamabad.

He said the provincial leadership had placed special emphasis on strengthening the health sector, ensuring that quality treatment was accessible to the public.

Following a detailed briefing by Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah, the PPP chairman

outlined the provincial government's overall performance and shed light on its future roadmap.

PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto said the Sindh government had transformed Jinnah Hospital into a facility that meets international medical standards.

Bilawal added that Sindh now hosts 30 universities and

had established the Gambat Medical College in 2017 as part of its efforts to advance medical education.

He said the province had launched several poverty-alleviation initiatives and was offering loans under the Sindh Rural Support Programme to uplift low-income households.

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسوی  
فی کرم حی اللہ علیہ وسلم نو طبق کے  
پہنچے سارے طور پر خوبی و دوستی  
سے من خیال تھا۔ میں جمال مہار ایک  
کپڑے میں اس طرح اچھا کرنے سے کہ  
انسان کی خوبی کو لے جائے اور ملاد  
معم، مجنون ای خصوصی اور مجدد اللہ بن بدیل  
نے ہر یہ کیے ہے۔  
گلگت بلتستان سے 6284  
Barkat Rice Mills  
(Pvt) Limited

**Mohsin Naqvi says he wants policemen to draw good salaries**

Interior Minister Says under-training officers to get plots: Officers will also be sent to China for one-month training. He visited the National Police Academy (NPA), Islamabad and reviewed the building's renovation. The minister gave necessary instructions to the NPA Commandant Muhammad Idrees. He went round the conference hall, dining hall and other rooms.

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## DPM Dar chairs ECNEC, approves key development projects worth over Rs 117b



### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister (DPM/FM), Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Thursday chaired the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC) meeting here at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and approved key development projects worth over Rs 117 billion.

The projects approved included extension of the Sehat Sahulat Program up to 30 July 2026, along with major initiatives in energy, infrastructure

and transportation to promote socio-economic development and improve service delivery, a DPM's Office news release said.

The DPM/FM directed relevant ministries to ensure proper planning, implementation and sustainability of these initiatives.

The meeting was also attended by the Finance Minister, SAPM Tariq Bajwa, Sindh Minister on Planning Dev and Irrigation, Secretaries of Cabinet, Health, Communications and Planning, and senior officials from concerned ministries.

## Security forces neutralise 13 khawarij in two separate engagements in KP: ISPR

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Army has killed thirteen khawarij in two separate engagements in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province on Thursday. According to ISPR, on 13-14 January 2026, thirteen khawarij belonging to Indian Proxy Fitna Al Khawarij were killed in two separate engagements in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province.

Sanitization operations are being conducted to eliminate any other Indian sponsored

khawarij found in the area as relentless Counter Terrorism campaign under vision "Azm e Istejkam" (as approved by Federal Apex Committee on National Action Plan) by Security Forces and Law Enforcement Agencies of Pakistan will continue at full pace to wipe out menace of foreign sponsored and supported terrorism from the country.

## Interior ministry asks ECP to de-notify Islamabad LG poll schedule

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Interior has conveyed to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) that following the promulgation of local government ordinance, its old laws have been dissolved and that it is bound to hold local bodies' (LBs) polls in Islamabad as per new laws.

Sources said, that in a letter, the ministry had asked the ECP that it should now de-notify the schedule announced for the elections.

Sources informed that the notification de-notifying the election schedule would be issued soon after consultations between the members of the commission.

LBs were scheduled to be held in Islamabad on February 15.

## Pak passport's ranking improves to 98th from 126th in Henley Index 2026

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's passport has jumped to 98th place in the Henley Passport Index 2026, reported an TV Channel. The rise reflects growing diplomatic efforts and recent international agreements that are gradually expanding travel freedom for Pakistani citizens.

Pakistani passport holders can now travel visa-free or with visa-on-arrival/eTA access to 31 countries across Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, and Oceania. At the top, Singapore retains its spot as the world's strongest passport for the third consecutive year, offering visa-free access to 192 destinations. Japan and South Korea follow with 188, while Denmark, Luxembourg, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland share third place.

# Special prayers held in AJK for health of President, PM, and Former PM

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD/MUZAFFARABAD: A special prayer ceremony was held at the Prime Minister Secretariat for the health and well-being of the President of the State, Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, and former Prime Minister Chaudhry Abdul Majeed. Meanwhile, the Spokesperson of the Prime Minister of AJK, Shaukat Javed Mir, has appealed for collective prayers after Friday prayers in mosques and religious gatherings across the State.

The prayer ceremony held at the Prime Minister Secretariat was attended by a large number of participants including the Party's Central



Deputy Secretary Information and candidate for Assembly Constituency No. 7, Shaukat Javed Mir, Public Relations Officer Shaukat Iqbal Rathore, Ghazanfar Rathore Advocate, Chairman Zakat Tariq Mir, student leader Muqaddas Iqbal Khawaja, Umar Malik, and employees of the Secretariat. Collective prayers

were offered in the court of Almighty Allah for the speedy recovery of Prime Minister Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, former Prime Minister Chaudhry Abdul Majeed, and all other patients.

Speaking to the media later, the Prime Minister's Spokesperson,

Shaukat Javed Mir, said that Prime Minister Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, within a short span of just two months, has worked tirelessly day and night for the stability of Pakistan, strengthening of the State's identity, and safeguarding public interests, thereby setting a new precedent of dedication and commitment.

Public Relations Officer Shaukat Rathore said that Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, like his late father Mumtaz Hussain Rathore, has earned the distinction of ruling the hearts and minds of the people. The prayers and good wishes of the people are with him. He appealed to the people of the State of Jammu and Kashmir and the people of Pakistan to pray for his health and speedy recovery.

## Called on

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Kingdom of Thailand Mr. Rongvudhi Virabutr called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House on Thursday.



Photo: PID

## Gomal Medical College Hosts Radiation Awareness Seminar

Bureau Report

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Gomal Medical College recently organized an informative and purpose-driven seminar on the safe and responsible use of radiation, attracting a large audience including technical staff, doctors, students, and citizens from various walks of life. The seminar aimed to promote safety protocols in the medical use of radiation, raise awareness about potential risks, and enhance professional training for healthcare staff in line with modern medical standards.

During the event, experts highlighted that radiation has become an indispensable tool in modern medical diagnosis and treatment. However, they warned that its careless use can pose serious health risks. The speakers emphasized radiation protection, proper operation of advanced machinery, the importance of protective gear, and adherence to internationally recognized protocols.

Special recognition was given to Dr. Asadullah and his team for their key role in organizing the seminar and providing participants with up to



date and valuable insights on radiation safety. The overall success of the event was credited to Professor Dr. Shakeel Ahmad, whose visionary leadership, meticulous planning, and effective

supervision ensured that every aspect of the program was executed in a highly organized and professional manner.

Dr. Rahila Bano's tireless efforts and exceptional organizational skills

were also highlighted, as her dedication ensured a high-quality, structured, and engaging learning environment, which participants greatly appreciated.

## Sardar Attique Mourns Loss of Loyal Comrade Sardar Latif Abbasi

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: The President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, has expressed profound grief and sorrow over the demise of Mujahid-e-Awal and his long-time companion, the Central Vice President of Muslim Conference Saudi Arabia, Sardar Latif Abbasi. He extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan stated that Sardar Latif Abbasi remained steadfast throughout his life on the ideology of accession of Kashmir to Pakistan alongside Mujahid-e-Awal and the Muslim Conference. He was a committed, principled, and loyal



worker who rendered invaluable services to the Pakistani and Kashmiri communities, particularly to the overseas Kashmiris.

Meanwhile the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference has

stated that the social and political services of its Central Vice President

for Saudi Arabia and Founding Chief Organizer of Jammu and Kashmir Community Overseas, Sardar Abdul Latif Abbasi, will always be remembered with great respect and honor.

In a joint statement, senior leaders of the Muslim Conference including Sajid Qureshi, Raja Latif Hasrat,

Sardar Asim Abbasi, Raja Muhammad Zareen, Dr. Abid Abbasi, and Abdul Majeed Tahir expressed profound grief and sorrow over the sad demise of Sardar Abdul Latif Abbasi. They prayed that Allah Almighty may grant the departed soul complete forgiveness, ease all stages ahead, and bestow patience and strength upon the bereaved family. They said that they equally share the pain and sorrow of the grieving family in this difficult hour.

They added that Sardar Abdul Latif Abbasi was highly respected and honored by both the Pakistani and Kashmiri communities. He was known for his exemplary character, compassion for humanity, and hospitality without discrimination. He was, in himself, an institution of love, kindness, and service.

**Sardar Attique demands immediate medical care for imprisoned Kashmiri leader Yasin Malik**

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: The Former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir and President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference, Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, has expressed grave concern over the deteriorating health of prominent Kashmiri Hurriyat leader Yasin Malik during his imprisonment in India. He said that Yasin Malik is not only a symbol of the Kashmiri people's struggle for freedom but also a test for the conscience of the international community. Playing with his health is a blatant violation of basic human rights, international laws, and the Geneva Conventions.



Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan demanded that Yasin Malik be provided immediate and standard medical treatment, granted access to his family and legal counsel, and that the inhumane treatment meted out to political prisoners be brought to an end. He said that the Kashmiri leadership and people are united and will continue to raise their voice for Yasin Malik and all Kashmiri prisoners at every forum.

He concluded by reiterating that the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference will continue to fulfill its historic responsibility and persist in its peaceful yet determined struggle for the legitimate rights of the Kashmiri people. Under no circumstances will playing with human lives be tolerated.

**Right to Information Act is an Effective Tool For Accessing facts: Sajjad Jahania**



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: A consultative meeting with journalists titled Access to Information Act 2013 organized by Farmers Development Organization (FDO) and TDEA was held at Multan Tea House. More than 20 journalists from print and electronic media participated in the meeting. Inaugurating the meeting, Sultan Mahmood Malik, Consultant, Right to Information Campaign, said that the main objective of this consultative meeting is to increase awareness about the Right to Information (RTI) Act, so that journalists can effectively use this law to obtain information from various government institutions and promote quality and fact-based reporting. Speaking on the occasion, Director Public Relations Sajjad Jahania urged media representatives to keep facts in mind while reporting. He said that the Right to Information Act is an effective tool for accessing facts, while the appointment of Public Information Officers (PIOs) in government institutions is very important so that citizens and journalists can reach the right forum to obtain information.

FDO Program Manager Ali Ijaz and Punjab Civil Society Network Convener Syed Shahbaz said that for good governance, it is necessary that government institutions undergo a process of accountability. Israr Ahmed Chaudhry, Dr. Muhammad Aslam from Punjab Civil Society Network and Qamar Jahan, General Secretary of Multan Journalists Association, while expressing their views.

**Women University Multan Boosts Research Culture with Statistical Learning Seminar**



Quratulain Asim

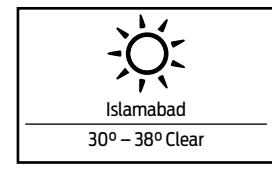
MULTAN: The Department of Statistics of Women University Multan organized a one-day academic seminar titled "High Dimensional Statistical Learning with R Markdown, Gene Expression Data Case Studies According to the spokesperson, the seminar was chaired by Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Kulsoom Paracha. Dr. Muhammad Qasim, Course Director and Lecturer, Department of Statistics, Lund University, Sweden, attended the seminar as a special guest and gave a very insightful, research-based and organized lecture on the topic. Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Kulsoom Paracha presented a commemorative shield to Dr. Muhammad Qasim in recognition of his outstanding academic services and guidance said that such academic programs play a key role in strengthening the research trend in the university. Such academic and research initiatives will be continued in the future. Chairperson of the Department of Statistics, Dr. Tahira Bano Qasim, emphasized the importance of modern statistical learning and repeatable research and said that such initiatives strengthen the research culture in the university and prepare students for modern data-driven challenges. The department is committed to organizing such academic programs in the future as well to promote research excellence, analytical skills, and national and international collaboration. On this occasion, Registrar Dr. Samina Akhtar, Ishrat Riaz and students There were a large number of them.

**Govt vows full protection for polio workers, appeals to parents for cooperation**

RAWALPINDI: Senior parliamentarian, Tahira Aurangzeb MNA on Thursday strongly condemned any mistreatment of polio workers and reaffirmed the government's unwavering commitment to ensuring their complete safety and respect.

While welcoming the frontline health workers with tea at her home, Tahira Aurangzeb praised their tireless dedication.

"Polio workers are performing their duties with utmost sincerity and passion, any kind of misconduct towards them will not be tolerated, and the government stands fully committed to protecting their honour and security", she said.



## SERVICES

## Namaz Timings

Fajr	5:45 am
Zohr	12:17 pm
Asr	3:44 pm
Maghrib	5:22 pm
Isha	6:50 pm

## EMERGENCY

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

## Women Police

## Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

## ENQUIRY

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

## HOSPITALS

CMH	561111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-99
Shifa International	4603666

## DEPARTMENTS

CDA	921234-43
CDA	9208301-04

## Law and Order Meeting Held Under DC Attock's Chairmanship

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: A meeting of the District Coordination Committee for Law and Order was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Attock, Rao Atif Raza. Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Anil Saeed gave a detailed briefing, while officers from all relevant departments and law enforcement agencies attended the meeting.

The meeting reviewed the overall law and order situation in the district, traffic management, anti-encroachment operations, actions against illegal petrol pumps and LPG decanting units, measures to curb electricity theft, steps against begging, registration of madrasas, and ongoing operations against illegal foreigners.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Anil Saeed informed the meeting through a presentation that during the month of December, as part of a public awareness campaign, 24 awareness walks, 44 print media campaigns, 33 electronic media programs, 30 social media campaigns, 17 banners/streamers, and awareness messages through 21 cable networks were carried out.

The meeting was informed that out of 370 complaints received through the dashboard, 324 complaints have been resolved, while the number of pending cases has significantly decreased. Regarding operations against illegal foreigners, it was briefed that a large number of individuals were identified at various stages, and thousands have voluntarily left the country.

## AIOU launches fully digital degree issuance system

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University has taken a historic and modern step by announcing the complete digitization of the process for issuing degrees, diplomas and certificates.

Under this new system for students admitted in Fall 2024 and onward degrees or certificates will be automatically issued, eliminating the need for students to submit separate applications. This will make the process extremely easy, fast and transparent.

Furthermore students who enrolled in any university program from Spring 2021 onward and have completed their academic program can now submit

their degree/certificate requests online through the university's CMS portal under the "Student Service Request" section, using the new degree form instead of submitting manual application forms. This system will not only save time but also make the process more transparent and convenient.

It should be noted that for students admitted in Fall 2020 or earlier, the issuance of degrees and certificates will continue according to the previously established procedures.

Regarding this initiative, the Vice-Chancellor of the university Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood stated that digitizing the issuance of degrees and certificates is an important step taken with students' convenience in mind. This

measure will not only save time but also make the university's administrative system more efficient. Our aim is to enable students to easily obtain certificates of their academic achievements without any additional hassle or delay.

This development by Allama Iqbal Open University marks a significant step toward a digital revolution in the education sector which will benefit students, faculty and all institutional stakeholders.

# Commissioner Multan directs immediate implementation of Café Projects at Municipal Library

Zain Khan Malghani

MULTAN: Commissioner Multan Division, Aamir Kareem Khan, visited the Municipal Library and directed the authorities to ensure immediate implementation of the proposed café project. He instructed that a modern walk-in café be established in the library's veranda to allow citizens to enjoy refreshments while reading and taking walks.

The Commissioner said that a fully equipped sit-in café would also be developed in the vacant space between the Municipal Library and the outer wall of Damdama, providing a calm and pleasant environment for the public. He added that the sit-in café would feature proper sheds, adequate lighting, greenery, and quality seating arrangements, while the overall area would be beautified in line with modern aesthetic standards.

Aamir Kareem Khan further decided



## Independence Day of Myanmar

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Board of Investment Qaisar Ahmed Sheikh cut the cake along with Ambassador of Myanmar to Pakistan Wunna Han and others during ceremony on the occasion of the 78th Anniversary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at local hotel in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## Principals Conference organized by Allied Schools and IFA Schools

Abdul Majid



Maryam Chaudhry, Deputy Head (Academics), Aqsaabadi Project Director (Training and Development), Ijaz Amin Head (ICT), Saba Nawaz Head (E-Media), Muhammad Mushtaq Head (Academics), Secondary Step Schools, Nabeel Asif Sales Manager (ARVO) were

special participants. Speaking on the occasion, Project Director Dr. Shahid Mahmood said that principals should organize the best programs for their institutions. Link the training of children with modern standards and conduct workshops on modern technology.

In his address, Riffat Iqbal, Director Punjab Group of Colleges Faisalabad, Former Principal MC High Secondary School Rao Muhammad Iqbal, Omar Rehman, Regional Manager Allied Schools and EFA Schools also speak on the occasion.

## Project to Transform Commercial Market into a Model Market Progressing Rapidly: Malik Sohail Awan

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Malik Sohail Awan, President of the Anjuman-e-Tajran Commercial Market, stated that work on the project to transform Commercial Market into a model market is progressing at a fast pace. As part of the initiative, WAPDA has dismantled old electricity connections and removed transformers to facilitate the underground power supply system, while the process of installing new electricity connections has also begun.

Malik Sohail Awan, along with General Secretary Raja Zafar Yousaf, Chairman Mushtaq Mughal, Joint Secretary Tabir Ismail, Mujahid Riaz, Qari Mukhtar, Group Leader Syed Taqi Shah, Mehfooz Khan, and others, inspected the ongoing development work and received briefings from officials of the concerned departments.

On this occasion, slow progress by PTCL, WASA, Sui Gas, and other departments was taken into serious notice, and an appeal was made for all institutions to enhance coordination, accelerate the pace of work, and ensure timely completion of the project with quality standards.

Office-bearers of the traders' association stated that the underground electricity system would not only enhance the beauty of the market but also provide safer and improved facilities for traders and the public. For the convenience of traders, a mobile licensing vehicle was also arranged, from which a large number of traders benefited. Traders appreciated this initiative and thanked the Anjuman-e-Tajran Commercial Market.

## Xenith PR signs MOU with Repu Media Intelligence

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Xenith Public Relations has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Repu Media Intelligence (Repu) to integrate Acumen Media Intelligence (Acumen) into Xenith PR's suite of strategic communications services, starting from February 2026.

The MoU was formally signed by Aun Dara Khan, Managing Director and Co-Founder of Repu Media Intelligence, and Raheel Nabi, Director & Chief Executive Officer of Xenith Public Relations.

Commenting on the alliance, Raheel Nabi, Director & CEO of Xenith Public Relations, said: "We are thrilled to be partnering with Repu in adopting Acumen, one of the largest media intelligence platforms in the world, to integrate AI meaningfully into our operations."

Speaking on the occasion, Aun Dara Khan, Managing Director and Co-Founder of Repu Media Intelligence, said: "This MoU marks an important step in integrating data-driven intelligence with strategic communications. By combining Acumen's AI-powered media intelligence capabilities with XPR's deep understanding of narratives and stakeholder engagement, we aim to deliver sharper insights—not only at a local, but global level also."

## Governor Balochistan announces prize of Rs. 100,000 each for won gold medals of graduates

QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhel on Thursday announced a cash prize of Rs 100,000 each for the graduates who won gold medals in the third convocation of the University of Turbat, which caused a wave of joy among all the students of the university and the parents present there.

He expressed these views while addressing the participants of the third convocation of the University of Turbat.

Provincial Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani, Planning Minister Mir Zahoor Ahmed Buledi, Member of National Assembly Pulain Baloch, Parliamentary Secretary Haji Barkat Rind, Vice Chancellor Gwadar University Prof. Dr. Abdul Razaq Sabir, Vice Chancellor Makran University Prof. Dr. Saadat Baloch, Secretary Higher Education Saleh Muhammad Baloch, faculty members and administrative officers of Turbat University, educationists, regional dignitaries, and a large number of university students were present on the occasion.

The Governor said that Turbat University has been playing a very important role in southern Balochistan since its establishment saying that Vice Chancellor Dr. Gul Hassan and his entire team deserve tribute for providing the light of higher education to thousands of youth and bringing positive change in the society through modern education.

He said that this is the only university in Pakistan where 59 percent of female students are benefiting, it is very gratifying that Turbat University has created a proud name and position at the national level in a short period of time.

"All the government universities of the province are the foundations on which a modern and technologically strong society can be easily built", he said.

The Governor said that today we are not gathered here for just a formal ceremony, but this is a milestone that is the result of the academic excellence, strong determination and tireless efforts of our graduating graduates for education.

He mentioned that convocation is not just about distributing degrees, but it is an important opportunity for our youth to fulfill their dreams and step into practical life.



This development by Allama Iqbal Open University marks a significant step toward a digital revolution in the education sector which will benefit students, faculty and all institutional stakeholders.

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## Improvement of domestic gas supply

Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik while taking serious notice of the gas supply challenges being faced by domestic consumers, on Thursday directed the Sui companies to take all necessary and immediate steps to ensure maximum facilitation for household gas consumers, particularly during peak winter conditions.

Chairing a meeting to review the gas supply situation amid increased demand due to severe cold weather, he directed senior officials of Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL), Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC), and the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA), said a press release issued here.

He emphasized that providing relief to households remains the top priority of the government.

To ensure timely and effective decision-making, the Minister directed that weekly reports on gas demand and supply be submitted to the Petroleum Division, supported by daily operational-level monitoring.

A detailed report is already being presented to the Petroleum Division daily at 10:00 am, providing full visibility of the last 24 hours' gas supply situation to enable prompt corrective actions.

During the meeting, the Managing Director of Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited briefed participants on current gas availability. He informed that since January 6, gas supply has been increased from 691 MMCFD to 746 MMCFD.

He further stated that output from the Shiva gas field has been enhanced from 55 MMCFD to 65 MMCFD, contributing to improved supply.

Ali Pervaiz Malik emphasized that all possible measures should be explored to further ease pressure on domestic consumers.

He directed to examine the feasibility of diverting additional gas supplies from the industrial sector to the domestic sector, wherever possible, during the critical winter period.

The Managing Director of Sui Southern Gas Company informed the meeting that the gas supply situation has improved following the restoration of supplies from two gas fields.

He stated that 39 MMCFD additional gas has been provided to domestic consumers compared to the same period last year. He also shared that consultations are underway with industry stakeholders regarding the possibility of increasing weekly industrial gas supply shutdown from one day to two days, in order to prioritize household needs.

The Minister reiterated that the government is closely monitoring the situation and will continue to take decisive and consumer focused measures to ensure stability in gas supply during the winter season.

## Did Trump Avoid Israel's Iran Trap?

The Middle East has been subjected to a destructive and repetitive doctrine that promises peace through regime change but delivers only chaos, fragmentation, and endless war. At the core of this ideology stands Benjamin Netanyahu, whose long-held belief is that Israel's security and regional dominance require the dismantling of hostile governments rather than coexistence with them. From Iraq to Libya, from Syria to Afghanistan, from Lebanon to Gaza, this toxic philosophy has left entire societies in ruins—yet it is being recycled once again, this time against Iran.

Israel's current military campaign in Gaza and the West Bank, its permanent occupation of the Golan Heights, its repeated strikes inside Syria, and its confrontations with Lebanon all reveal a broader expansionist vision. However, Netanyahu understands that without neutralizing Iran—the only regional power capable of resisting Israeli military dominance—this vision cannot fully materialize. This is why Iran has been framed as an "existential threat," and why regime change in Tehran has become a central obsession.

At that critical moment, Donald Trump did not endorse regime change in Iran. He resisted plunging the United States into another open-ended conflict. However, Israel did not abandon its objective. Instead, it adopted a two-pronged strategy: destabilization from within and the grooming of a manufactured alternative leadership for Iran.

According to Iranian authorities, the current unrest was not merely spontaneous protest but was instigated, coordinated, and guided by Israeli intelligence networks operating under Mossad. Tehran presented evidence that Mossad-linked operatives were embedded among protest groups, receiving instructions

directly from headquarters in Tel Aviv. These instructions allegedly included plans to incite large-scale rioting, burn banks, destroy ambulances, attack police officers, and sabotage mosques and public infrastructure. The objective was not reform but disorder.

Most critically, Iranian officials revealed that even after the country shut down its domestic internet, communications between these operatives and their handlers continued through satellite-based systems, while Iran simultaneously faced hundreds of thousands of cyberattacks targeting its communications infrastructure. This exposed the operation as a coordinated hybrid assault combining street violence, cyber warfare, and psychological pressure.

When this evidence was reportedly shown to President Trump, his initial posture hardened. He openly stated that all options remained on the table. However, the situation shifted when Iran halted scheduled executions and refrained from further mass repression. Trump himself publicly stated that executions had been stopped and that there would be no further oppressive measures against protesters. With that declaration, he effectively poured cold water on Netanyahu's attempt to maneuver the United States into another Middle Eastern war.

Parallel to the destabilization campaign, Israel simultaneously cultivated a political alternative: Reza Pahlavi, the son of Iran's former monarch. Pahlavi has lived outside Iran since the age of twelve, spending his entire adult life in the United States. He has no organic political base inside Iran, no demonstrated grass-

roots support, and no tangible connection to the daily struggles of the Iranian people. For decades, he remained politically irrelevant. Suddenly, amid unrest, he was reintroduced as a "savior."

Despite living a luxurious lifestyle in the United States without any clearly defined source of income, Pahlavi has been aggressively promoted as a viable leader for Iran. He was invited to Jerusalem, where, in interviews with Israeli media, he openly spoke about historical alignment between Iran, Israel, and the Jewish people. In doing so, he publicly positioned himself as ideologically aligned with Israel's regional agenda. This appearance confirmed that he has effectively sold himself as a convenient figurehead—offered the illusion of kingship in exchange for political obedience.

This two-pronged Israeli strategy—instigating large-scale unrest while simultaneously presenting a pre-selected alternative ruler—mirrors earlier regime-change playbooks used elsewhere. However, it is fundamentally flawed. Reza Pahlavi does not represent modern Iran. He has no roots in today's Iranian society, no institutional backing inside the country, and no legitimacy among a population that has lived through revolution, war, sanctions, and resistance. Attempting to impose him as a solution only exposes the artificial nature of the entire project.

More dangerously, an attack on Iran would not resemble Iraq or Libya. Iran controls or influences critical waterways and trade corridors. It possesses strategic depth, hardened military infrastructure, and powerful allies. Any war would immediately draw in Russia and

China, turning a regional conflict into a global economic and military crisis. Energy markets would collapse, supply chains would fracture, and the United States would face overstretch and humiliation rather than victory.

While the U. S. mainland may be geographically distant, American military bases across the Middle East and beyond remain well within Iran's reach. Moreover, if Iran preserves even part of its nuclear infrastructure under such pressure, the eventual consequences for Israel could be far more severe than anything Netanyahu anticipates. A cornered Iran is not a defeated Iran.

At this moment, the United States is already deeply entangled elsewhere—in Venezuela, in the Greenland controversy in the Arctic, amid internal unrest over federal enforcement actions, and as the credibility of NATO and the United Nations continues to erode. Being dragged into another war engineered by Netanyahu would contradict every principle of "America First."

This is the moment for the United States to free itself from external pressure groups, including AIPAC, and to pursue an independent foreign policy grounded in national interest rather than ideological entanglements. The Middle East does not need another regime destroyed. It needs restraint, realism, and an end to expansionist fantasies that have already devastated an entire region.

History has already judged the regime-change doctrine. The only question now is whether the United States will finally refuse to repeat it.

*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*



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

## The Day India's Walls Became Instruments Against Women

**A** time when political leaders across the world are promising to work for gender parity, an act of vandalism in Gwalior India makes it grimly clear that women's dignity is still revered as dispensable. When public murals depicting women doing yoga are sexually desecrated, it raises a chilling question: If depictions don't go unharmed, what protection is there for real women on the streets of everyday life or far worse, in conflict zones like Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir? This is how casual acts of violation wield the enforcer's lash of systemic oppression and cut through the fabric of progress.

The truth is as grim as it is chilling, as a beautification project for the city, these black silhouettes with women doing yoga appeared on the buildings representing health and strength for women everywhere. However, these harmless Works of Art were defaced with sexual body parts scratched out representing the female figure being sexually belittled in this act of vandalism that was specifically aimed at women everywhere. A student took it to social media with her own reaction to the vandalism stating her utter revulsion and rage at the attitudes expressed through this act of vandalism. The incident received increased attention on social media with a commenter wryly remarking "Even the paintings should be contained within and covered up!" Bitter truth in the form of sarcasm highlights an indelible truth in every situation in life: the degradation of images of women normalizes their objectification in the real world. Women in every corner of the world whether in Delhi, France, London, Seoul or Karachi would feel the same sense of revulsion as the message goes beyond religious, cultural and

geographical differences. It is not about Muslim, Hindu or Christian women. It is simply about woman in general period. The message being sent is both universal and horrifying there is no place that is protected from this type of violence, including in symbolic representation.

The incident perfectly represents the paradox of a country like India, that cannot provide adequate protection for even a basic work of art. Instead of taking responsibility for investigating those responsible for the defacement and creating awareness about these types of incidents officials opted for the low cost, low effort solution of painting over the entire wall, thereby eliminating both the evidence of the acts of vandalism as well as the original artwork.

This type of targeted defacing of public art is considered a sexual harassment of public art and demonstrates a larger trend of violence against women and creates a social environment that enables individuals to vandalize with little fear of being punished. There are many terrifying statistics about the different types of violence against women in our society today: However, there is also hope and that hope comes from a grassroots movement. The youth of today have refused to accept or excuse the violence inflicted on women and are demanding change like in Gwalior a College Student took action by using paint and brushes to return dignity to the yoga murals that were destroyed. Although courageous actions of many young individuals will help create a new awareness, courage alone cannot replace institutional reform.

India prides itself on being the world's largest democracy yet its true measure lies not in lofty constitutions but in the everyday conduct toward its women citizens. India's treatment of women



Analysis

Sumaiyya Kainat

## Syrian government ...



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

## Kashmir: The Final Demographic War Against a Nation

**Mushtaq Ahmad Butt**

**K**ashmir today is no longer a territorial dispute frozen on the world map. It has morphed into the final onslaught against an entire people's identity and existence. India's contemporary strategy aims, after military occupation, to reduce Kashmiri Muslims into a minority on their own land and then erode their history, culture, language, and collective memory to the point where the territory remains—but the nation disappears from history.

This is a war that has moved beyond bullets and armor. It is now waged through laws, notifications, administrative decrees, and demographic engineering. In the 21st century, nations are not erased by tanks—they are erased by demographic reconfiguration.

The revocation of Articles 370 and 35A in 2019 was the first decisive legal strike. It opened the gates for external settlement and transformed Kashmir's status from a disputed region under international commitments into a field for demographic experimentation. What followed was a sweeping campaign of land seizures, conversion of agricultural estates, construction of industrial zones, establishment of housing colonies, and issuance of hundreds of thousands of new domiciles—each step quietly restructuring the valley's demographic and political landscape.

Yet perhaps the most painful silence is the silence of the Muslim world. A global community once described as a single body now refuses to feel the pain of its wounded limb. The indifference of more than fifty Muslim states adds salt to the wounds of Kashmiri identity. It is not mere weakness—it is history's indictment.

Today Kashmiri youth find themselves fighting not only bullets, but time, demography, and indifference. They understand a simple reality: bullets kill a generation, but demographic alter-

ation wipes out a nation. Hence the struggle has reached the final line between survival and annihilation.

History testifies that revolutions are not always born from arms—they also emerge from shame, awakening, or the sudden ignition of collective conscience. Kashmir today demands precisely that awakening from us.

The real question, therefore, is not what India is doing—but what we are doing. India may not win Kashmir through military victory, but through global and regional silence. If this silence persists, future generations will not ask how many bullets were fired—they will ask why Kashmir was lost. And perhaps the answer will be: Kashmir fell not to force, but to the world's silence.

Nature does not forgive spectators, and history does not spare silent nations.

Kashmir is no longer asking for pity—it is asking for voice. Because there are moments in history when voice itself becomes the first brick of revolution.

Otherwise, as the poet warned:

*"Moments erred—and centuries paid the price."*

This is the moment when Kashmir no longer needs spectators—it needs participants. The time has come for every segment of society to break the silence and assume responsibility. The time has come for:

- intellectuals to write
- media to speak
- youth to rise
- the Ummah to awaken

For Kashmir is no longer a routine political dispute. It is an ongoing human tragedy and the trial of a dying national identity. Its answer will not be found in vague statements and diplomatic formalities but in collective awareness, international intervention, and moral responsibility.

The decision will not be made by the world—it must be made by us.

# President Zardari addresses Bahrain Economic Development Board, highlights investment cooperation

## Spokesman Report

MANAMA: President Asif Ali Zardari addressed a reception at the headquarters of the Economic Development Board of the Kingdom of Bahrain, underscoring Pakistan's commitment to expanding economic cooperation, investment partnerships and institutional linkages with Bahrain.

In his remarks, the President expressed appreciation to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, for the warm hospitality extended during the visit. He also conveyed his gratitude to His Majesty for the conferment of the Sheikh Issa Award, describing it as a gesture that reflected the depth of bilateral ties and mutual respect between the two countries. The President noted that the reception reflected the close

and enduring friendship between Pakistan and Bahrain.

The President commended the Economic Development Board for its clear strategic vision and institutional strength, observing that Bahrain's success in positioning itself as an open and investor friendly economy offers valuable lessons in a rapidly evolving global environment.

As Bahrain's Finance Minister began briefing on economic development, the President interjected with a light remark, gesturing towards the Manama skyline and saying that the progress was visible before him and needed no explanation.

The President noted that the Economic Development Board plays a central role in shaping Bahrain's economic strategy, attracting foreign investment and supporting diversification across key sectors. He observed that the Board's close coordination with government institutions and the private sector



has helped Bahrain strengthen competitiveness, promote innovation and create a predictable and enabling environment for investors.

President Zardari said the EDB's model of policy coherence and investor facilitation offers a useful reference point for countries pursuing sustainable and inclusive growth. He noted that Pakistan follows Bahrain's development

journey with admiration and sees strong complementarities between the two economies.

Highlighting Pakistan's ongoing economic reforms, the President said the country is pursuing stability, digital modernisation and investment-led growth. He pointed to the Special Investment Facilitation Council as a streamlined platform to facilitate investors, with



priority sectors including agriculture, information technology, energy, minerals, logistics and tourism.

The President identified agriculture and food security, information technology and digital services, renewable energy and logistics as promising areas for Pakistan Bahrain collaboration. He also emphasised Pakistan's strategic geographic connectivity linking South Asia, Central Asia, China and the Middle East, which complements Bahrain's financial expertise and regulatory framework.

While outlining economic opportunities, the President also referred to regional security challenges and their impact on development, reaffirming Pakistan's resolve to counter extremism, strengthen internal security and

pursue peaceful relations with its neighbours, while safeguarding national interests.

The President reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to protecting investment and fostering mutually beneficial partnerships, and thanked the leadership of Bahrain and the Economic Development Board for their role in advancing bilateral economic cooperation.

## President Zardari and Bahraini Minister of Interior discuss security cooperation

## Spokesman Report

MANAMA: President Asif Ali Zardari held a meeting with Lieutenant General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Minister of Interior of the Kingdom of Bahrain. The meeting focused on enhancing bilateral cooperation in security, counter-narcotics measures and counter-terrorism.

During the discussion, the Bahraini interior minister recognised the role of his counterpart, Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi,



in strengthening cooperation between the two countries.

President Zardari responded warmly, referring to Minister

Naqvi as like a second son to him after his own son Bilawal.

Both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to deepening collaboration on shared security priorities and agreed to pursue coordinated efforts against threats posed by organised crime, illicit drugs and terrorism.

The engagement reflects the enduring partnership between Pakistan and Bahrain and underscores shared resolve to enhance regional security through practical cooperation.

## First Lady meets Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa



MANAMA: First Lady Bibi Aseefa Bhutto Zardari, called on Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, wife of His Majesty the King of Bahrain and President of the Supreme Council for Women (SCW), at the Council's headquarters here today.

During the meeting, both dignitaries exchanged views on the promotion of women's empowerment, inclusive development, and strengthening institutional frameworks for the advancement of women in society. The First Lady appreciated Bahrain's pioneering role and sustained achievements in empowering women through policy-driven initiatives and institutional leadership under the SCW.

The First Lady expressed deep admiration for Her Royal Highness's decades of distinguished service, steadfast commitment, and dedication, not only to the people of Bahrain and the advancement



of Bahraini women, but also as a meaningful contribution to the global cause of women's empowerment. She remarked that H. R. H. Princess Sabeeka continues to serve as an inspiring example for women across the world through her visionary leadership and enduring public service.

The First Lady also shared details of her ongoing and future initiatives aimed at empowering women and strengthening family and community support structures. In this context, she highlighted Sindh's flagship, women-centered recovery initiative undertaken after the unprecedented floods of 2022,



under the able leadership and vision of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, through which 2.1 million climate-resilient homes have been built, an achievement of global significance. She further noted that the ownership titles of these homes were transferred to the women of the household, reinforcing women's empowerment and enhancing economic and social security at the family level.

Both leaders expressed a shared vision for fostering inclusive development and promoting programmes that benefit families and children, underscoring the importance of community resilience, education, and social well-being.

The meeting was also attended by H. E. Dr. Sheikha Mariam bint Hasan Al Khalifa, Vice President of the Supreme Council for Women and former President of the University of Bahrain; H. H. Sheikha Hessa bint Khalifa Al Khalifa, Chairperson of INJAZ Bahrain; H. H. Sheikha Nayla bint Hamad Al Khalifa, Chairperson of Royal Life Saving Bahrain; and H. E. Ms. Anna bint Ahmed Al-Rumaihi, Minister of Housing.

## Bahrain's King Hosts Official Luncheon in Honour of President Zardari

## Spokesman Report

MANAMA: His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain hosted a luncheon in honour of the President Asif Ali Zardari, on Thursday during the President's four-day official visit to the Kingdom.

Accompanied by First Lady Bibi Aseefa Bhutto Zardari, the President was also invited by His Majesty to view the Kingdom's world-renowned collection of pure-bred Arabian horses at the Royal Stud. This exclusive tour of the private stables offered a



glimpse into one of the most prestigious equine collections globally. The President was informed that as a celebrated patron of equine heritage, His

Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa personally oversees the preservation of ancient Bahraini strains, including the Al Dahmeh, Kuheilat Jella-

bich, and Kuheilat Aafas. These lineages are famed for their "asil" (pure) status and are distinguished by their speed, intelligence and characteristic iridescent sheen.

President Zardari expressed his profound admiration for His Majesty's dedicated efforts in preserving these rare bloodlines. He noted that the Arabian horse holds a significant and revered place in the shared cultural and Islamic history of both Pakistan and Bahrain, serving as a symbol of the enduring bond between the two nations.



Honoring and carrying forward the contributions of such great personalities is a collective responsibility of all of us.

Mr. Shahzad Alam, WHO Representative, appreciated Hamdard's services in the health sector and acknowledged Madam Sadia Rashid's support in promoting WHO programs in Bahrain, including World Health Day.

Director General of Hamdard

University Islamabad Campus, Mr. Imtiaz Haider, said that Shaheed Hakim Mohammad Said believed that nations are built through character and service, not mere words. He emphasized that Hamdard University is committed to integrating education with ethics, research, and social responsibility. Thanking all guests and participants, he noted that such events are not merely commemorative but serve as a renewal of collective commitment to knowledge, moral values, and service to humanity.

The event concluded with a strong message of unity, reflection, and resolve, successfully honoring the lasting contributions of Shaheed Hakim Mohammad Said while promoting awareness of vital health issues critical to Pakistan's future.

## Hamdard University Islamabad Campus Hosts "Yadein, Batein" in Memory of Shaheed Hakim Mohammad Said

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Hamdard University Islamabad Campus organized a commemorative event titled "Yadein, Batein" to honor the life, vision, and services of Shaheed Hakim Mohammad Said, founder of Hamdard Foundation Pakistan. The event highlighted important public health issues, including blood donation, diabetes prevention, nutrition, and child health, while reaffirming Hamdard's long-standing commitment to community welfare. The ceremony was attended by prominent dignitaries, healthcare experts, academics, students, and representatives of national and international organizations.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, the Chief Guest, paid rich tribute to Shaheed Hakim Mohammad Said, describing him as the true identity of Pakistan and a rare leader who combined knowledge, character, and service. He noted that Hakim Said authored the first Urdu book published in the former Soviet Union, and his renowned travelogue "Safarnama-e-Roos" earned distinguished recognition in Russia. Senator Mushahid emphasized that Shaheed Hakim

Mohammad Said regarded the youth as the future of the Muslim Ummah and promoted a balanced and holistic approach to healthcare. He further added that Hamdard remains one of the few institutions in Pakistan that has successfully preserved its mission and impact over time.

Madam Sadia Rashid, Chancellor of Hamdard University and President of Hamdard Foundation Pakistan, said that Hamdard was established on the vision and lifelong services of Shaheed Hakim Mohammad Said. She stated that Hamdard University is not only an educational institution but a mission integrating education, healthcare, research, and national service. She added that Hamdard was founded on the vision of Shaheed Hakim Mohammad Said, that it is not only comprehensive but also the premier institution in medicine, and that the contributions of Shaheed Hakim Mohammad Said in the field of medicine are unforgettable. She emphasized that it is the collective responsibility of all to appreciate and carry forward the efforts of Hakim Said, noting that thanks to his endeavors, Pakistani students are achieving recognition in the field of medicine and that Hamdard University is a practical embodiment of his mission.

Lieutenant General (Rtd) Mo'inuddin Haider, Former Governor Sindh, said that Shaheed Hakim Mohammad Said was a non-controversial national hero. He highlighted Hakim Said's pivotal role in promoting national medicines internationally and his personal engagement with the World Health Organization (WHO). He also noted that Hamdard continued to flourish after his martyrdom and remains active not only in Pakistan but also in Bangladesh and India.

Hakim Abdul Hannan, President of the Pakistan Association of Eastern Medicine (PAEM), described Shaheed Hakim

Mohammad Said as a guiding light for health and education. He stated that the life of Hakim Mohammad Said teaches us that service, knowledge, and ethics are the greatest legacy for humanity. He added that the services of Shaheed Hakim Said teach us that knowledge and service keep humanity alive, and every individual has a responsibility to prioritize knowledge, character, and service in their life. He emphasized that Hakim Mohammad Said is a beacon not only for his institution but for the entire nation, that his vision continues to guide the youth today, and that we must remember his principles and implement them in our lives.

University Islamabad Campus, Mr. Imtiaz Haider, said that Shaheed Hakim Mohammad Said believed that nations are built through character and service, not mere words. He emphasized that Hamdard University is committed to integrating education with ethics, research, and social responsibility. Thanking all guests and participants, he noted that such events are not merely commemorative but serve as a renewal of collective commitment to knowledge, moral values, and service to humanity.

The event concluded with a strong message of unity, reflection, and resolve, successfully honoring the lasting contributions of Shaheed Hakim Mohammad Said while promoting awareness of vital health issues critical to Pakistan's future.

## Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
181,456.33	182,569.81
Day's High	Day's Low
183,717.53	180,783.62
Index Value	Change
31,072,820,173	-1113.48
Percentage	Time
-0.61%	15 Jan, 2026 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
10,238.94	+54.59
Percentage	Time
+0.54%	15 Jan, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
49,547.10	+397.47
Percentage	Time
+0.81%	15 Jan, 1:08 pm GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
54,110.50	-230.73
Percentage	Time
-0.42%	15 Jan, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	186	191
Bahrain Dinar	744.1	754.1
Canadian Dollar	200.75	205.5
China Yuan	39.59	39.99
Danish Krone	43.75	44.15
Euro	326	329
Hong Kong Dollar	35.75	36.10
Indian Rupee	3.04	3.13
Japanese Yen	1.7575	1.8575
Kuwaiti Dinar	908.1	918.1
Malaysian Ringgit	68.6	69.20
New Zealand \$	161.24	163.24
Norwegians Krone	27.66	27.96
Omani Riyal	728.7	738.7
Qatari Riyal	76.26	76.96
Saudi Riyal	74.85	75.25
Singapore Dollar	216.5	221.5
Swedish Korona	30.25	30.55
Swiss Franc	351.82	354.57
Thai Bhat	8.89	9.04
U.A.E Dirham	76.6	77.1
UK Pound Sterling	376.75	380
US Dollar	280.7	282.8

**TCL's 5th Flagship Store Opens in Karachi, Offering Complete Product Lineup**

### Commerce Desk

LAHORE: TCL, Pakistan's No. 1 LED TV brand, proudly announces the grand opening of its fifth flagship store in Karachi, reinforcing its commitment to bringing innovative technology and immersive experiences directly to consumers. Located at Abdullah Haroon Road, Saddar, Karachi, the new store offers TCL's complete product lineup, delivered through a premium retail environment designed to provide hands-on demos and expert guidance for every visitor.

Mr. Yang Li, Deputy General Manager of TCL Electronics Pakistan, stated, "The opening of our 5th flagship store in Karachi marks an important milestone in TCL's journey to bring advanced technology and premium living experiences to consumers across Pakistan. We aim to provide customers with a hands-on opportunity to engage with our latest innovations and enjoy a truly immersive retail experience."

**Pakistan's total liquid foreign reserves rise to \$ 21.25 billion**

KARACHI, JAN 15 (APP): The total liquid foreign reserves of Pakistan increased to US\$ 21,248.4 million as of January 09, 2026 while the reserves held by the State Bank of Pakistan stood \$16,071.8 million.

"During the week ended on 09-Jan-2026, SBP's FX reserves increased by US\$ 16 million to US\$ 16,071.8 million," the central bank reported on Thursday in its weekly statement on the position of liquid foreign reserves.

Meanwhile, the net foreign reserves held by the commercial banks also increased by \$ 40 million to \$ 5,176.6 million during the week, as shown in the break up of forex reserves for the period under review.

Total liquid foreign reserves held by the country in the previous week ended on January 02, 2026 were 21,192.4 million.

# Pakistan Engages Kazakhstan and Crop Trust at Global Food Forum in Berlin

### Spokesman Report

BERLIN, GERMANY: Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, arrived in Berlin to attend the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA) 2026, being held from 14–17 January 2026.

The forum, hosted annually by the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, convenes global leaders to advance cooperation on food security, sustainable agriculture, innovation and climate resilience.

On the sidelines of the forum, Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain held a positive meeting with Mr. Azat Sultanov, Vice Minister for Agriculture, Kazakhstan, during which both sides discussed strengthening bilateral cooperation in agriculture and food security.

The Pakistani side underlined the need for practical partnerships that support productivity, resilience and value-chain develop-



ment, while Kazakhstan expressed readiness to broaden engagement through structured collaboration between relevant institutions and technical bodies.

Mr. Azat Sultanov welcomed Pakistan's participation at GFFA 2026 and emphasized Kazakhstan's interest in expanding cooperation with Pakistan in areas of mutual benefit. He highlighted the value of sustained institutional linkages and regular technical-level engagement to translate shared priorities into actionable cooperation. The two sides discussed exploring avenues for collaboration that can contribute to improved farm outcomes, enhanced knowledge-sharing, and closer coordination on modern agricultural practices.

Mr. Stefan Schmitz commended Pakistan's focus on climate resilience and noted that safeguarding crop diversity is essential for long-term food security, improved nutrition, and the ability to respond to evolving challenges such as heat, drought, pests and diseases.

## Carbon emission test

ISLAMABAD: A large number of people are clearing the carbon emission test and registering their vehicles for M-Tag, at F-10 Park point as such registration centers are available in the different parts of the Federal Capital.

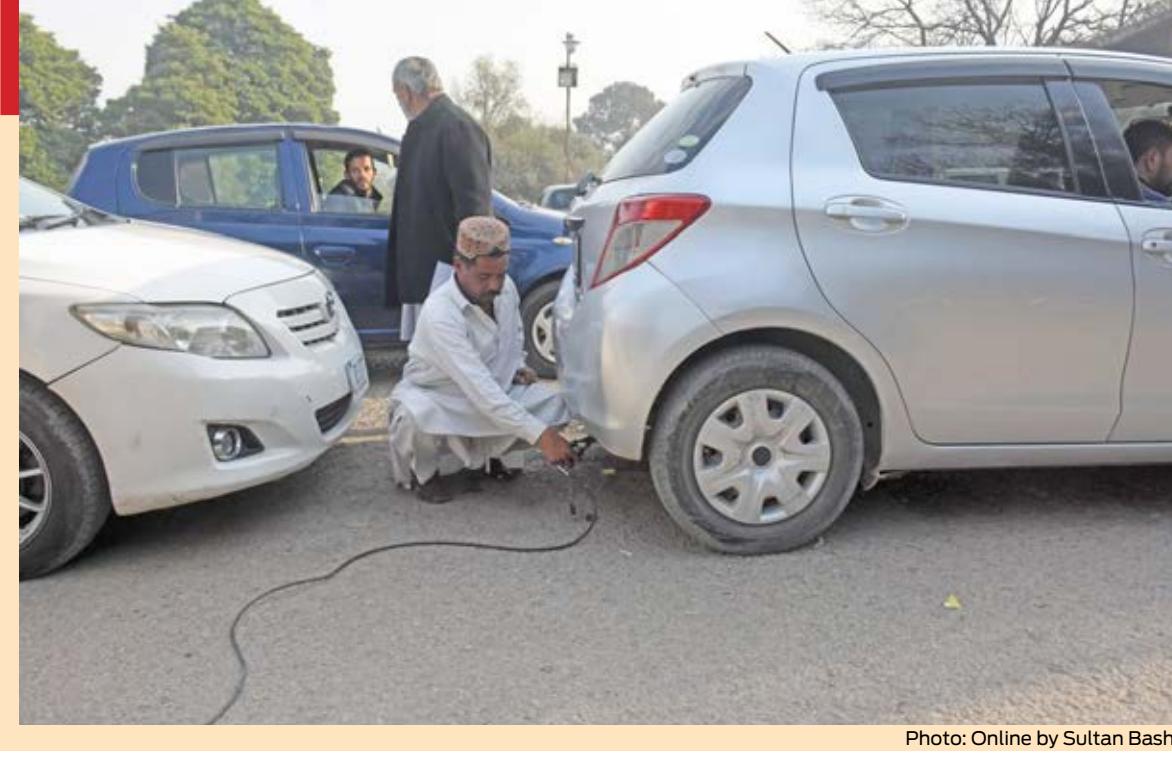


Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## Urgent need for conducive tax environment to broaden tax net: RCCI

### Commerce Desk

RAWALPINDI: Emphasizing the urgent need for a conducive and business-friendly tax environment to effectively broaden the tax net, the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (RCCI) hosted a high-level meeting with a visiting delegation of the Regional Tax Office (RTO), led by Ms. Farhat Qayyum, Chief Commissioner, RTO. RCCI highlighted that Pakistan currently has one of the highest tax rates in the region, which poses serious challenges to business growth and competitiveness.

Addressing the gathering, RCCI President Usman Shaukat stressed that sustainable economic growth is not possible without a fair, predictable, and growth-oriented tax regime.

He urged the tax authorities to reduce the excessive burden on existing taxpayers, recognize and acknowledge compliant and high tax-paying businesses, and shift the focus towards broadening the tax base instead of repeatedly taxing the same segment.

In her remarks, Chief Commissioner Ms. Farhat Qayyum appreciated RCCI's constructive and pragmatic recommenda-

tions for broadening the tax net and sought the Chamber's continued cooperation in improving tax compliance and revenue collection.

She informed the participants that digitization reforms are actively underway to curb malpractices, including digital invoicing and POS system installation, aimed at enhancing transparency and

minimizing human intervention.

The meeting was attended by Senior Vice President Khalid Farooq Qazi, Vice President Fahad Barlas, former RCCI Presidents Najam Rehan and Asad Mashadi, members of the Executive Committee, representatives of markets and trade associations, various business sectors, and members of the Tax Bar Association.

Technology, setting a new benchmark for intelligent, high-performance mobility.

## Chery Master Pakistan Disrupts Pakistan's D-SUV segment

### Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Chery Master Pakistan has officially announced the price of the all-new Chery Tiggo 8 Plug-in Hybrid (PHEV) in Pakistan at an introductory ex-factory price of PKR 10,999,000, marking a bold and defining moment in the evolution of Pakistan's SUV market.

A true global sensation, the Chery Tiggo 8 PHEV proudly stands as Pakistan's first and only seven-seater Plug-in Hybrid D-segment SUV. Built on Chery's latest-generation model and its advanced 5th-generation plug-in hybrid first platform, the Tiggo 8 PHEV is powered by the revolutionary Chery Super Hybrid (CSH) SUV.



## Customs Ensures Industry-Wide Implementation of official Bank Exchange Rates For Shipping Charges

### Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Customs has achieved a historic and industry-wide breakthrough by ensuring the application of official bank exchange rates for shipping charges, effectively ending the long-standing practice of arbitrary and excessive billing by international shipping lines.

The All-Pakistan Shipping Association (APSA), through a formal communication on 12 January 2026, has confirmed that all member shipping lines are now charging shipping fees strictly on the basis of exchange rates provided by their respective

authorized commercial banks, in accordance with State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) regulations.

This decisive development follows sustained engagement by a high-level committee constituted by Pakistan Customs, which held extensive consultations with shipping agents, terminal operators, trade bodies, and international shipping lines. As a key milestone, Maersk—the largest shipping line operating in Pakistan and handling nearly 26 percent of the country's total cargo—earlier began applying official bank exchange rates, setting a benchmark for the rest of the industry.

Written confirmations of compli-

ance have been received from major international shipping lines and their local agents, including Hapag-Lloyd, Ocean Network Express (ONE), COSCO Shipping, CMA CGM, Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC), OOCL, and United Marine Agencies, among others, establishing full industry-wide adherence to SBP-compliant exchange rates.

This achievement underscores FBR's firm commitment to safeguarding legitimate trade, promoting ease of doing business, and supporting Pakistan's export-led economic growth through effective regulatory oversight and stakeholder engagement.



Friday, January 16, 2026

# F-Class Shooter Mohsin Nawaz highlights sports infrastructure gaps in meeting with Minister Ahsan Iqbal

By Tahir Amin Malik

Pakistan's leading F-Class shooter, and Tamgha-e-Imtiaz Mohsin Nawaz, met with Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary to outline his vision for youth sports development and address infrastructure gaps in non-traditional sports.

Nawaz, who holds 10 international F-Class individual medals, the most by any Pakistani, shared his ambition to create a platform for training the next generation. He told the minister he wants to pass on the skills and experience he has earned over his two-decade career, emphasizing the need for government support to

promote healthy sporting activities among young people.

The shooter's credentials include silver and bronze medals at the 2024 European Long Range Shooting Championship and silver at the 155th NRA UK Imperial Championship. He is the first Pakistani to secure life memberships with both the UK and USA National Rifle Associations and has been nominated for the Tamgha-e-Imtiaz, the first shooter in the country's history to receive such consideration.

Beyond his athletic achievements, Nawaz brings expertise as a certified sports psychologist and emotional wellbeing coach. He stressed that developing sports requires psycho-

logical infrastructure alongside physical facilities. "Mental strength is the real weapon," he noted, advocating for support systems that protect athletes from negativity during international competitions. His work also explores how mental state influences metabolic health.

The meeting addressed practical obstacles facing shooters in Pakistan. Nawaz highlighted prohibitive import duties on precision equipment and the absence of adequate training facilities. He proposed that 50-meter ranges in major cities could provide essential training infrastructure if coupled with policy reforms easing equipment acquisition.

Nawaz, who represents KAHLES

Sports Optics and Peregrine Bullets as a global brand ambassador, recently set two national records at the 3rd F-Class National Long Range Shooting Championship in Jhelum. He suggested that reducing customs duties on sporting gear could help Pakistan field competitive shooters for the 2026 World Championship.

Minister Iqbal acknowledged Nawaz's self-made success as a potential template for aspiring athletes and expressed willingness to examine policy options. The discussion signals possible government attention to sports beyond cricket and hockey, though concrete measures remain to be announced.



## Book Launch 'Defense and Diplomacy: A Compilation of Selected Articles by S. M Hali'

By City Desk

India Study Center at the Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad organized the book launch ceremony titled "Defense and Diplomacy: A Compilation of Selected Articles by S. M Hali". The event was graced by Senator Nisar A. Memon, former Chairman, Standing Committee of the Senate on Defence and Defence Production, as the Chief Guest, and Air Chief Marshal (R) Sohail Aman, former Chief of Air Staff, as the Guest of Honour.

In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman Board of Governors, ISSI acknowledged the author's credentials. He said S. M. Hali is a prolific writer who has written over ten thousand articles in 22 years. He particularly praised chapter 5 of the book which deals with India's defense posture, Hindutva ideology, and the marginalization of the Muslims and minorities. He also expressed gratitude for Mr. Hali's continued association with the ISSI.

In his address as the Chief Guest, Senator Nisar A. Memon congratulated Mr. Hali on the publication of his 16th book, and regarded it as a culmination of a lifetime of rigorous and sustained intellectual inquiry. While regarding the book as analytical and balanced, Senator Nisar stated that the title of the book captures the fundamental truth of statecraft.



Director India Study Center, Dr. Khurram Abbas in his introductory remarks stated ISSI's commitment to always encouraging scholars' thought-provoking manuscripts. He highlighted the significance of the book by stating that in academic circles articles have a life span of a few days, however a book has the longest lifespan.

Mr. Sultan Mehmood Hali, the author of the book, expressed gratitude to the ISSI for hosting the launch and thanked the distinguished guests. He reflected upon his professional journey as a soldier,

journalist, as well as defence attached. He described the book not just as a compilation of articles rather as a culmination of his lived experiences and intellectual engagements.

Sharing his views about the book Ambassador Naeela Chohan, described it as a unique amalgamation of experience, analysis, and narrative skill. She regarded it as a beautiful and interesting contribution in Pakistan's relations with other countries.

Dr. Aalia Sohail Khan while sharing her views about the book offered a very

detailed scholarly appraisal. She particularly praised book's contribution to indigenous knowledge production.

In his remarks, Guest of Honor, Air Marshal Sohail Aman, appreciated ISSI for organizing timely event and described the book as a lifetime work of author's deep love for the country.

Vice Admiral Haroon, also appreciated author's contribution by regarding the articles as thought-provoking and well researched. The event concluded with formal launch of the book, followed by a group photo, and refreshment.

## Ethiopia, Pakistan Forge Strategic Cooperation for Driving Innovation & Growth

By Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The premier think tanks of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on Thursday signed a Memorandum of understanding (MoU) to institutionalize intellectual and policy cooperation for driving innovation and growth in both nations.

The MoU was virtually signed by H. E. Jafar Bedru Geletu, Executive Director of the Institution Foreign Affairs (IFA) Ethiopia, and H. E. Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman Board of Governors of the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI).

H. E. Dr. Oumer Hussein Oba, Ambassador designate of Ethiopia to Pakistan witnessed the ceremony here at the ISSI, Islamabad, while his counterpart Ambassador Atif Sharif Mian was present at the IFA Headquarters in Addis Ababa.



The MoU will allow the two institutions to establish a framework for cooperation in the fields of diplomatic training, professional development, research and analysis through delegations' exchange, conferences, co-publications and joint researches.

Felicitating both sides on achieving a milestone in the bilateral relations, the Executive Director IFA said Ethiopia and Pakistan have walked a long road together, guided by mutual respect, South-South solidarity, and a shared hope for a more stable, prosperous world.

"By combining IFA's deep knowledge of the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea with ISSI's regional research strengths, we are building a platform that can do real work: align our views on maritime security and trade routes, craft joint approaches to stability and counter-terrorism, and deliver policy recommendations that reflect today's realities," H. E. Jafar Bedru remarked.

Ethiopia is a gateway to Africa, said the ISSI Chairman while emphasizing on establishing robust academic linkages that are crucial to foster joint

research, delegations exchange and policy dialogues for benefit of both the nations.

H. E. Ambassador Dr. Oumer Hussein highlighted the positive trajectory of relations between the two countries and called for the two think tanks to actively collaborate to utilize each other's potentials.

He stressed the importance of reinforcing all existing pillars of the relationship particularly in political and economic spheres and urged both the institutions to work closely within this framework that is imperative for strengthening bilateral relations.

Pakistan's Ambassador in Ethiopia H. E. Atif Sharif noted growth in Pakistan-Ethiopia relations, highlighting opening of the Ethiopian Embassy Islamabad, start of Ethiopian Airlines operations in Karachi, delegations exchange in various sectors and the recent Pakistan Single Country Exhibition that held in Addis Ababa in October, 2025.

## PM vows nationwide rollout of Asan Khidmat Markaz

Continued from Page 1

The prime minister said services at the centres would be provided in line with international standards, adding that comprehensive planning was required to ensure the effective delivery of a wide range of government services at a single location. He stressed that measurable performance targets would be set for all centres and that quarterly third-party performance audits, in addition to internal audits, would be conducted to ensure transparency and accountability.

PM Sharif also directed to facilitate overseas Pakistanis through dedicated Asan Khidmat Markaz counters

be established at Pakistani missions abroad.

Welcoming the visit of the Azerbaijani delegation and Chairman Alvi Mehdiyev, the prime minister appreciated Azerbaijan's continued cooperation, noting that the Azerbaijani government had also assured support for setting up Asan Khidmat Markaz across Pakistan. He was briefed during the meeting on the recently established centre in Sector G-9, Islamabad, and informed that it would be expanded in the near future to further enhance citizen facilitation.

The Azerbaijani delegation praised PM Sharif's efforts to introduce

reforms and innovation in governance, recalling his role in administrative reforms during his tenure as chief minister of Punjab. The Azerbaijani ambassador also informed the meeting that, in addition to three weekly flights between Islamabad and Azerbaijan, one more flight would be added from March, a move welcomed by the prime minister as a step towards further strengthening bilateral ties.

Federal ministers Ahsan Cheema, Attaullah Tarar and Shaza Fatima Khawaja, along with Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Tariq Fatemi, were also present.

## Finance Minister, World Bank Discuss Investment

Continued from Page 8

The meeting also discussed employment and skills development as a critical pillar of economic growth. The Finance Minister highlighted the need for market-driven vocational and technical training, closer public-private collaboration, and alignment of skills development with domestic and overseas labour market demand, particularly in sectors such as IT, healthcare, nursing, hospitality, and construction. The World Bank shared its ongoing work on labour mobility, skills matching, and digital labour market platforms to enhance workforce productivity and overseas employment

opportunities.

Sectoral priorities including digital services exports, agriculture and agribusiness, minerals and mining, healthcare, and selected manufacturing segments were also discussed as potential focus areas for future World Bank-supported operations. Both sides agreed that targeted sectoral interventions, supported by regulatory and institutional reforms, could generate high-impact employment and export growth.

The World Bank also briefed the Finance Minister on the potential use of policy-based guarantees as part of future operations to support Pakistan's liability management, refinancing of high-cost debt, and innovative financing approaches, subject to achievement of agreed policy milestones. Climate finance, regulatory streamlining, and coordination with provincial governments were also discussed in the broader context of development financing and reform implementation.

The meeting concluded with an agreement to continue technical-level engagements to further refine priorities, narrow the scope of proposed interventions, and advance preparation of future World Bank-supported programs in line with Pakistan's reform agenda and the objectives of the Country Partnership Framework.

## Exercise Inspired Gambit-2026

Islamabad: Group Photo of Pakistan Army and United States Army during the Exercise Inspired Gambit-2026.



Photo: ISPR

# Finance Minister, World Bank Discuss Investment, Reforms and Jobs under Country Partnership Framework

## Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, held a meeting today at the Finance Division with Ms. Bolormaa Amgaabazar, Country Director, World Bank Pakistan, along with their respective teams, to review ongoing collaboration and discuss priority areas under the World Bank's Country Partnership Framework (CPF) with Pakistan.

During the meeting, the World Bank team briefed the Finance Minister on the progress of ongoing operations and projects under the CPF, including recent developments in fiscal and revenue reforms, macroeconomic stabilisation efforts, and policy-based engagements.

Both sides acknowledged that Pakistan has made progress



toward macroeconomic stability through prudent fiscal and monetary policies, and emphasized the need to translate this stability into sustained economic growth, higher

investment, and job creation. The World Bank highlighted the importance of accelerating private investment, noting that investment levels remain below the CPF target. The discussion focused on designing a

coherent, programmatic investment framework aligned with CPF objectives, covering business environment reforms, state-owned enterprise reforms,

trade facilitation, capital market development, and export competitiveness.

The World Bank proposed a results-based approach with clearly defined policy milestones, performance indicators, and targeted technical assistance to support implementation.

Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb underscored the government's commitment to structural reforms already underway, including tariff rationalisation, improved SOE governance, regulatory modernisation, and transparency initiatives. He also emphasized the importance of deepening capital markets, expanding access to long-term finance, and strengthening institutional coordination to support private sector-led growth.

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# ISPR's Internship 2026 engages 4,500 students in 25 cities

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: More than 4,500 students from across Pakistan have joined the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Winter Internship 2026, being organised under the auspices of the Pak Army in 25 cities at 27 different locations.

According to an TV

channel, the programme aims to strengthen national development, intellectual growth and confidence among young participants.

The internship, which runs from January 12 to February 20, brings together thousands of students who will receive specialised lectures on themes relating to national security.

The initiative seeks to intellectually, academically and nationally equip young people to contribute meaningfully to the country's progress and prosperity.

As part of the programme, participants will also visit various military installations to gain insight into the professional training and operational preparedness of

the Pakistan Army. Students participating in the internship described the programme as essential for the training and grooming of the younger generation.

They said the initiative provides opportunities to learn, think critically and move forward confidently in practical fields.

According to several

interns, the ISPR platform plays a constructive role in countering negative propaganda by providing factual awareness.

Expressing their admiration for the armed forces, the students said they felt a deep sense of connection, remarking that "the Army is from us, and we are from the Army."

# FBR notification resolves active taxpayer list issues for Azad Jammu and Kashmir residents

## Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The Inland Revenue Department of the Azad Government of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, in a press release, has stated that under the recent notification issued by the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), Government of Pakistan, a formal and effective solution has been provided to the issues being faced by the taxpaying community of Azad Jammu and Kashmir regarding the Active Taxpayers List (ATL) under the Income Tax system.

It was explained that taxpayers of Azad Jammu and Kashmir who were already included in the Active Taxpayers List under the relevant local tax laws had been facing practical difficulties in being identified and recognized on the FBR's online portal. As a result, issues such as double taxation and non-recognition of their tax status had arisen in certain



cases. With the enforcement of the said notification, these problems have now

been addressed and resolved.

In this regard, it is clarified that

eligible taxpayers included in the Active Taxpayers List of the Central Board of Revenue, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, will now also be duly recognized in the system of the Federal Board of Revenue in accordance with the prescribed rules and regulations. Their tax status will be determined through a uniform, transparent, and standardized mechanism.

The Inland Revenue Department stated that this initiative has not only eliminated the concerns of taxpayers regarding double taxation and non-recognition but has also significantly improved harmony, transparency, and administrative efficiency within the tax system.

The Department reaffirmed its commitment to continuing such reform-oriented measures in the future to facilitate taxpayers, ensure compliance with legal requirements, and promote effective inter-institutional coordination.

# US and Pakistan Armies Conclude Counter-Terrorism Exercise Gambit-2026

## City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Exercise Inspired Gambit-2026 is being conducted from 8 to 16 January 2026 between the Pakistan Army and the United States Army. The two-week-long exercise focusing on Counter Terrorism (CT), marks the 13th iteration of this bilateral training series, held since 1995.

Distinguished Visitors' Day ceremony was held on 15 January 2026 at the National Counter Terrorism Centre, Pabbi. Her Excellency Ms. Natalie Baker, Chargé d' Affaires of the United States of America to

Pakistan, accompanied by senior US military dignitaries, and Commander Rawalpindi Corps graced the occasion.

The visitors were briefed on the scope, objectives, and conduct of the exercise. A high level of professionalism and competence was demonstrated by participants of both armies, which was appreciated by the visiting dignitaries.

The exercise aims to enhance bilateral military cooperation through the exchange of counter-terrorism experiences, refinement of CT drills and procedures, and development of interoperability.

# Pakistan hopes Iran will overcome crisis soon



## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday said it was keeping a close eye on the situation in Iran and expressed the hope that Tehran would overcome the crisis soon.

At his weekly news briefing in Islamabad, Foreign Office Spokesperson Tahir Andrabi said that Pakistan supported peace and stability in Iran. "We want a peaceful solution to the Iran issue," he said, and expressed optimism that the government of Iran would soon overcome the crisis.

Andrabi further said that Pakistan was in contact with the US officials in connection with an indefinite suspension of processing of immigrant visa applications for 75 countries, including Pakistan.

However, he said that the review of immigration visa policy by the USA was a routine affair.

The spokesman said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had a telephonic conversation with the Emir of Qatar and both countries agreed to remain in contact with each other. "President Asif Ali Zardari is currently on a tour to Bahrain," he said, adding that Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar attended the OIC's foreign ministers' council meeting in Jeddah and reiterated Pakistan's stance on Somaliland.

Andrabi also strongly condemned inflammatory statements made by the Indian army chief, saying Pakistan rejected baseless allegations levelled by him.

# President pays tribute to security forces for eliminating Khawarij



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari Thursday paid tribute to security forces for eliminating Indian-backed Khawarij in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

In a post on X, he said, "War

against terrorism caused by external interference will continue."

"War against terrorism will continue until it is completely eradicated from the country," he added.

# Major reforms initiated in PNC to fast-track licensing, boost transparency

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Nursing Council (PNC), announced major reforms aimed at accelerating licensing, strengthening governance, and enhancing transparency in the nursing and other sectors.

The reforms are being proposed following the enforcement of the Pakistan Nursing and Midwifery Council Ordinance 2025, which grants the federal government authority to prevent administrative crises and ensure continuity in the council's operations.

PNC said past governance challenges had led to several challenges

including delays in registration, weak verification mechanisms, and erosion of public trust.

Under the new framework, licensing and registration processes will be streamlined to significantly reduce delays, while enabling better workforce planning aligned with national health needs. The revamped system will ensure that patients receive care from qualified and licensed nurses and midwives.

A key pillar of the reforms is end-to-end digitalization.

To further strengthen governance, the new law introduces independent audits, clear financial controls, and other