



Daily The Spokesman



Naqvi says new convention centre will be built in Islamabad for SCO Summit

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has confirmed that a new convention centre will be built in Islamabad for Shanghai Cooperation (SCO) Summit. Mohsin Naqvi on Friday said preparations have been launched and the construction of the convention centre will be completed in two years.



TV anchor Iqrar ul Hassan launches new political party

Renowned anchor Iqrar ul Hassan on Thursday announced the formation of a new political party. Addressing a press conference at Lahore Press Club, Iqrar ul Hassan unveiled the name of his party as "Pakistan Awam Raj Tehreek." Iqrar ul Hassan announced that he would never hold any office or assume any government position.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

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Health card launching ceremony

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif presenting a symbolic health card to a resident of Islamabad to mark the launch of PM's Health Card scheme, in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

PM launches health card scheme for residents of GB, AJK and Islamabad

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has launched the Prime Minister's Health Card Scheme, providing universal health coverage to the residents of Islamabad Capital Territory, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

The Prime Minister further said this initiative is not only a step in this direction but also a revival of the Health Card Scheme, which was

launched by his leader, Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, in 2016 for the first time in Pakistan's history. He added that around ten million people in Islamabad Capital Territory, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan will benefit from this programme.

Earlier, speaking on the occasion, Minister for National Health Services Syed Mustafa Kamal said more hospitals are being included in the programme to facilitate the

residents of Islamabad Capital Territory, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan.

Chief Executive Officer of the Prime Minister's Health Card Programme, Arshad Kaimkhani, briefed that a CNIC, and a B-Form in the case of a child, will serve as identification for availing treatment at designated hospitals. He clarified that the scheme is completely cashless, with no requirement for payment or reimbursement.

Arshad Kaimkhani further explained that the programme has been designed on a third-party insurance model, and every hospital admission transaction can be tracked. He added that, at present, only hospitalization services are being offered through the card, and in the future, outpatient department and other healthcare services will be included in line with the Prime Minister's vision.

Princess Zahra Aga Khan arrives in Karachi on three-day visit

Spokesman Report

KARRACHI: Princess Zahra Aga Khan, daughter of Prince Karim Aga Khan, arrived in Karachi on a three-day visit on Friday, where she was received at Jinnah International Airport by Sindh Minister for Culture Syed Zulfiqar Ali Shah.

The provincial minister welcomed Princess Zahra by presenting her with flowers and

conveying the Sindh government's greetings. Princess Zahra thanked the provincial government for the warm reception and hospitality.

Speaking on the occasion, Syed Zulfiqar Ali Shah paid tribute to the Aga Khan family's contributions for the development and welfare of the Ismaili community, adding that the family's efforts had strengthened social progress in the province and beyond.

He also noted that Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari had consistently

improving society and were highly valued across Pakistan.

The minister said Chief Minister Sindh Murad Ali Shah had personally taken initiatives for the development and welfare of the Ismaili community, adding that the family's efforts had strengthened social progress in the province and beyond.

He also noted that Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari had consistently

described the services of the Aga Khan family as a source of pride for the country.

Princess Zahra's visit is

expected to include engagements related to social development and community initiatives, officials said.



Power Division announces historic turnaround in energy sector through transparency

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Power Division on Friday announced a historic transformation of Pakistan's energy sector during 2025, attributing the turnaround to strict adherence to transparency, merit and rules-based governance.

In a statement issued here,

a spokesperson for the Power Division said that by replacing a culture of discretion and recommendations with open, rules-based systems, the Division has delivered massive public savings and empowered millions of consumers.

The spokesperson further said that losses in the power sector

were reduced by Rs 191 billion, while circular debt was brought down by Rs 780 billion without any new borrowing. In addition, future liabilities amounting to Rs 4,500 billion were avoided through the cancellation of unnecessary and costly projects.

These unprecedented savings

were achieved through transparent e-procurement, merit-based appointments of experts and board members, and a strong reliance on data-driven decision-making," the spokesperson said, adding that the reforms had directly enabled significant tariff relief for consumers.

The statement said that as a result of these measures, the

industrial cross-subsidy burden was reduced by Rs 123 billion, while the national average electricity tariff declined substantially. It added that by renegotiating inefficient contracts, terminating costly plants, and launching a clear plan to settle circular debt, the government is systematically lowering costs for all consumers.

فرمان رسوی
تم کو عیادتیں مارکے خیر پر یا یا کو
اساں ملکیں پالے خالے خود کو، پسیں شعی
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دیا، پھر اس کی تکمیل میں خیانت رہے
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بچکے دعوے یا کے کے کے کے
Barkat Rice Mills
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TV anchor Iqrar ul Hassan launches new political party
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Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

DPM Dar chairs

meetings on diplomatic engagements, e-commerce ecosystem



engagements and planned visits.

The deputy prime minister directed the officials to ensure thorough preparation and coordinated follow-ups to advance Pakistan's political and economic interests.

Meanwhile, he also chaired a meeting focused on accelerating Pakistan's e-commerce ecosystem, expanding digital trade, and strengthening the IT-enabled services sector.

The meeting was attended by Special Assistant to PM Tariq Bajwa, along with secretaries for IT, finance and commerce, and officials from the relevant ministries.

Security forces kill 12 Indian-sponsored terrorists in Balochistan: ISPR

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar on Friday chaired a session with Foreign Secretary Anna Baloch and senior officials of the foreign ministry to discuss the upcoming diplomatic

engagements and planned visits.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the incident occurred on January 15, 2026, when around 15 to 20 Indian-sponsored Fitna al-Hindustan terrorists carried out multiple attacks in Kharan city, District Kharan.

The terrorists attacked the Kharan City Police Station, the National Bank of Pakistan and Habib Bank Limited. During the attacks, they looted Rs 3.4 million from the banks.

The terrorists also attempted to create a hostage situation at the police station.

"Security forces effectively responded and engaged the terrorists, prompting them to retreat. During the ensuing clearance operation, twelve terrorists were sent to hell in three different engagements," the ISPR said.

It added that a sanitisation operation is underway in the surrounding areas of Kharan to eliminate any other terrorists.

"A relentless counterterrorism campaign under vision 'Azm-e-Istehkam' (as approved by Federal Apex Committee on National Action Plan) by the security forces and law enforcement agencies of Pakistan will continue at full pace to wipe out [the] menace of foreign-sponsored and supported terrorism from the country," it said.

Mahmood Khan Achakzai appointed opposition leader in National Assembly

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The process for appointing the opposition leader in the National Assembly was completed on Friday, with Speaker Ayaz Sadiq signing the notification appointing Mahmood Khan Achakzai.

Sources said that after

signing the notification, the Speaker handed it over to PTI leaders Gohar Ali Khan and Amir Dogar.

The leadership issue in the

National Assembly has been

formally resolved.

The National Assembly

session, presided over by

Speaker Ayaz Sadiq, began

with the announcement that

there would be no question

hour.

The Speaker called the

chief whip to his chamber

and formally issued the notification appointing Mahmood Khan Achakzai as opposition leader.

During the session, the Speaker told PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar that party leaders' guidance would help improve the Assembly's performance and invited him for consultations.

Gohar reminded the house

that the notification for the opposition leader was promised by Thursday.

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Over 45,000 Graduates to be Awarded Dastar-e-Fazilat under Wafaq-ul-Madaris Al-Arabia Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD/MUZAFFARABAD: Under the auspices of Wafaq-ul-Madaris Al-Arabia Pakistan, the largest and most organized religious educational and examination network in the country, the annual examinations are being conducted nationwide from 27th Rajab to 3rd Shaban 1447 A. H., corresponding to 17th to 23rd January 2026.

According to spokesperson Seyad Adnan Shah in a detailed statement issued by the divisional coordinators, a total of 659,335 male and female students from across Pakistan, including more than 10,000 from Azad Jammu and Kashmir, are participating in these examinations. This reflects a comprehensive,

systematic, and well-coordinated academic and examination process in the field of religious education. Compared to last year, there has been an overall increase of 28,074 candidates.

Among the total candidates, 116,607 Huffaz (male and female) appeared in the annual examinations. The examination phase of the Hifz-ul-Quran department has been completed in accordance with its traditional discipline and organization. For this purpose, 1,180 examination centers were established nationwide, where 4,014 examiners conducted the examinations.

Under the guidance and directives of Vice President of Wafaq and President of Ittehad Tanzimat-e-Madaris Azad Kashmir, Maulana Saeed



Yousaf Khan, the divisional coordinators have established examination centers and deployed staff across all three divisions of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. These efforts are being supervised by Maulana

Abdul Saboor Madani (Coordinator, Poonch), Maulana Syed Adnan Ali Shah (Coordinator, Muzaffarabad), and Maulana Muhammad Qasim (Coordinator, Mirpur).

As a result of these examinations, more than 45,000 male and female graduates will complete the eight-year Dars-e-Nizami curriculum and will be honored with the prestigious title of Dastar-e-Fazilat.

The examination system of Wafaq-ul-Madaris Al-Arabia Pakistan has consistently been recognized by various governmental and educational circles as transparent, organized, and of high academic standard, which stands as a practical demonstration of the credibility and prestige of religious seminaries in Pakistan.

Group photo

MIRPUR: Group photo of students who received laptops under the Prime Minister of Pakistan Youth Laptop Scheme with Vice Chancellor Allama Iqbal Open University Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood.



All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference Gears Up for Landmark Muzaffarabad Workers Convention

Bureau Report

RAWALPINDI / MUZAFFARABAD : The All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference has remained steadfast in serving the people of the State of Jammu and Kashmir on the basis of its ideology and commitment since its inception in 1932. Its foundation is rooted in the ideology of accession to Pakistan and the slogan "Kashmir Banega Pakistan". The movement for accession to Pakistan is, in fact, the movement for the completion of Pakistan. It is hoped that the forthcoming Workers Convention in Muzaffarabad will prove to be one of the largest and



most significant conventions in the

history of the State.

Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan stated that the heritage entrusted to today's workers is the legacy of great leaders such as Rais-ul-Ahrar Chaudhry Ghulam Abbas and Mujahid-e-Awwal Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan. When one looks into the history of Muzaffarabad Division, it reveals numerous respected, dignified, and illustrious personalities whose names are immortal in history. This great legacy is now in the hands of the present generation, for which gratitude is owed to Almighty Allah.

He urged workers to renew their commitment to carry forward the mission of great leaders including

Rais-ul-Ahrar Chaudhry Ghulam Abbas, Ghazi-e-Millat Sardar Ibrahim Khan, Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan, Mujahid-e-Awwal Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan, and Raja Muhammad Haider Khan. He recalled the famous words of Mujahid-e-Awwal Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan that even if they were to be sacrificed while walking on the path of truth, it would be an honor, and they would never retreat from their principles.

He announced that Workers Conventions would also be held in Mansehra, Abbottabad, Rawalakot, Bagh, Mirpur, Samahni, and other constituencies of the valley.

A Delegation of Multan Chambers visited the Safe City Control Room

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: A delegation from the Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry visited the Safe City Control Room Multan. The delegation was led by President Mian Bakhtawar Tanveer Sheikh. The delegation included Vice President Azhar Baloch, former President and Convener Government Liaison Sub-Committee House Khawaja Muhammad Hussain, former Senior Vice President Sohail Tufail, former Vice President Naveed Iqbal Chughtai, members Khawaja Nadeem Shalzad, Ali Murad Siddiqui and Secretary General House Muhammad Shafiq. Upon reaching the Safe City Control Room, DSP Ilyas and Social Mobilizer Adil Ansari welcomed the delegation and conducted a detailed inspection of various departments of the control room. On this occasion, the delegation was also given a multimedia briefing on the aims and objectives of the Safe City project, its performance and the effective use of modern technology. President House Mian Bakhtawar Tanveer



Sheikh, while expressing his impressions, said that the Safe City project is a wonderful, far-sighted and modern technology-based initiative of the Punjab government. He said that timely detection and prevention of crimes is becoming possible through modern cameras, data analysis, artificial intelligence and monitoring systems, which is playing a key role in establishing a safe and peaceful city.

He further said that the effective and transparent use of modern technology by the Punjab government is not only ensuring the safety of lives and property of citizens but also significantly improving the performance of law enforcement agencies. The Speaker of the House paid tribute to the leadership of the Punjab Police, the Safe City Administration and the Punjab government for the effective

performance of the Safe City Control Room. Mian Bakhtawar Tanveer Sheikh said that improved law and order situation leads to the promotion of business activities, increase in investment opportunities and restoration of confidence of traders, and the Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry will continue to fully support such positive steps of the Punjab government

South Zone inland revenue exceeds Q3 target by over 1.2 billion rupees

Bureau Report

MIRPUR: The Inland Revenue Department (South Zone) has demonstrated outstanding performance by surpassing its assigned revenue target for the December quarter of the financial year 2025-26. Against the target of Rs. 28 billion, the department successfully collected Rs. 29.20 billion, thereby achieving an excess collection of Rs. 1.20 billion.

Commissioner Inland Revenue (South Zone), Syed Ansar Ali, congratulated the officers and staff of the department on achieving this remarkable milestone and praised their dedication, professionalism, and collective efforts in exceeding the assigned target.

The spokesperson also stated that Prime Minister of Azad Government of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, Minister for Finance and Inland Revenue, Chaudhry Qasim Majed, and Chairman AJK Central Board of Revenue / Secretary Inland Revenue, Muhammad Raqeeb Khan, have appreciated the exceptional performance of the Inland Revenue Department (South Zone). They congratulated the leadership, officers, and field formations for exceeding the assigned revenue targets and expressed confidence that the department will continue to achieve its annual targets with the same dedication and efficiency.



Baba Shadi Shaheed Urs concludes with grand devotion and dignitary attendance

Bureau Report

BHIMBER: The Urs ceremony of Darbar-e-Aalia Hazrat Shadab, commonly known as Baba Shadi Shaheed, concluded with great devotion and religious spirit. The closing ceremony was attended by the Minister for Augaf and Information, Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Ch. Rafiq Nayar, as the Chief Guest. Deputy Commissioner Bhimber, Ch. Haq Nawaz, along with district and tehsil administration officers, officials of the Augaf Department, and other dignitaries were also present on the occasion.



The Minister for Augaf and Information, Ch. Rafiq Nayar, along with Chairman Chib Forum Raja Yousaf, Member District Council Ch. Adeel Ali Shan, Master Iqbal, Director Augaf Muhammad Shafiq, Parvez Iqbal (AD), Assistant Commissioner Mian Hissam Sajid, and other dignitaries, visited the shrine, laid a floral wreath, and paid homage. Renowned scholars recited verses from the Holy Quran and offered Darood-o-Salam.

Private schools demand inspection notice period and timely certificates from PIERA

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Abrar Hussain Malik, Central President of the All Pakistan Private Schools & Colleges Association stressed that "Schools should be notified at least three working days before inspections, and registration/renewal certificates should be issued on time."

Association submitted a detailed letter to PIERA Chairman Dr. Ghulam Ali Mallah highlighting administrative, legal, and operational challenges faced by private schools, including immediate fines after registration deadlines, complex forms, and frequent health campaigns disrupting school operations. The delegation called for reinstating a reasonable grace period, simplifying registration/renewal processes, a minimum three-year registration term, removal of unnecessary data requirements, and exemption of charitable institutions from fees.

The delegation also urged consultation with stakeholders on the Out-of-School Children Project, legal and administrative support during notices or court cases, and inclusion of all stakeholders in policy making. Association expressed confidence that PIERA will take practical steps to resolve these issues.

Nishtar Medical College holds Workshop on Artificial Intelligence

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: A one-day workshop on the use of artificial intelligence for assessing and improving educational quality was organized at Nishtar Medical University, Multan, titled "AI in Educational Quality Assurance using AI-Driven Feedback Analysis". The workshop was held at the Syndicate Hall of Nishtar Medical University and was attended by a large number of faculty members. The special guest of the event was the Vice Chancellor of Nishtar Medical University, Prof. Mehnaz Khakwani, while the guest of honor was the Principal of Nishtar Medical College, Prof. Rashid Qamar Rao. The training workshop was facilitated by Prof. Dr. Shamila Hameed, Dr. Hamid Hassan, Dr. Ali Rabbani, Dr. Faiza Ikram and Dr. Maryam Khan. Guest speaker in the workshop, Prof. Dr. Zahra Nazish, gave a detailed discussion on the analysis of educational feedback, interpretation of data and preparation of practical recommendations. The chief guest, Vice Chancellor of Nishtar Medical University, Prof. Dr. Mehnaz Khakwani, said on the occasion that the use of modern technology and artificial intelligence in educational institutions can play a key role in improving the quality of education. He appreciated the efforts of the organizers for organizing the workshop on this important topic and distributed certificates among the organizers and participants of the workshop.

Rawalpindi Police hold awareness walk on kite flying, aerial firing hazards

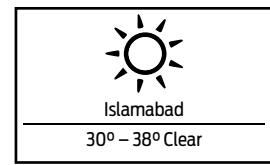
RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Police conducted an awareness walk on Friday to highlight the hazards of kite flying and aerial firing, and to educate the public on the legal consequences of such activities.

The walk, launched on the special instructions of City Police Officer (CPO) Syed Khalid Hamdani, took place across areas under Race Course and R.A. Bazaar police station limits.

A large number of citizens attended, including Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Cantt Chaudhry Khalid Mehmood, station house officers (SHOs) of Race Course and R.A. Bazaar, and representatives of the Traders' Association.

A police spokesman said kite flying had been declared a non-bailable offence, punishable with three to seven years' imprisonment. He added that the public was urged not to engage in kite flying, aerial firing, fireworks, or any other unlawful acts. Pamphlets were distributed to raise awareness about the hazards and legal implications.

The spokesman said strict legal action would be taken against violators and appealed to parents to educate their children about the dangers of kite flying and the associated penalties.


SERVICES
Namaz Timings

Fajr	5:45 am
Zohr	12:17 pm
Asr	3:45 pm
Maghrib	5:23 pm

Isha 6:51 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
Policlinic	9218300-99
Shifa International	4603666

DEPARTMENTS

CDA	9212334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service	
E-7, F-10 & F-11	9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8,	9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8	92266316
Wapda Islamabad	9217579-80
Wasa Water Tank	
Rawalpindi	0331-5022125

Spotify
Spotlights Shae Gill as RADAR Pakistan Artist

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Recognized as one of the country's top emerging voices, Shae Gill has been named Spotify RADAR Pakistan's featured artist for 2026. Shae Gill's unique vocals and her commanding ability to blend contemporary with the traditional has allowed her to conquer the hearts of audiences not just locally but abroad.

To celebrate her achievements, Spotify is featuring her most recent release, "Insecurity", a powerful Punjabi track that depicts dealing with exactly what the title says. With more than 256K streams accumulated since its launch, the track continues to hit all the right notes for listeners.

Simultaneously, the world's most popular streaming platform will also showcase Shae Gill's personal and professional evolution as an artist through a special mini-documentary which is part of the global artist development program.

Over the past month, Shae Gill's powerful notes have resonated with audiences not just in Pakistan but across borders with top streamed countries including, but not limited to the United States, United Kingdom, Bangladesh and Canada.

Over 50,000 residents deprived of healthcare facilities, demand immediate action from Punjab Chief Minister

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: More than fifty thousand residents of Gondal Mandi and its surrounding areas, a major commercial center of Attock district located on the interprovincial border of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, have been deprived of modern healthcare facilities for the past ten years due to an alleged delay in the reconstruction of a hospital. The affected residents have urged Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif to take immediate notice of the situation.

Prominent social and political figures of the area, including Qazi Badr Manzoor, former Assistant Tehsildar Malik Abdul Rasheed, Qazi Basharat Siddiq, former Union Councilor Kamma Fayyaz Ahmed, and Lala Muhammad Ghous, told the media that around thirty years ago, late Qazi Naseem Razaq, former Chairman of Markaz Tehsil Attock, constructed a hospital on four kanals and two marlas of land near GT Road, Gondal Mandi, with the cooperation of the Punjab Health Department. The hospital was fully functional and provided comprehensive medical facilities.

However, due to negligence by the Health Department, the hospital building was destroyed by floodwaters over the

past ten years. Doctors and paramedical staff also disappeared, rendering the facility non-operational. In 2021, former Punjab Provincial Minister Syed Yawar Abbas Bukhari announced the approval of a grant worth Rs. 55 crore on public demand, but after the fall of the government, the project became entangled in political conflicts and remained stalled.

The residents further stated that despite the Punjab government receiving an annual revenue of approximately Rs. 4 billion from Gondal Mandi, not even one percent has been spent on the area's development. As a result, hundreds of critically injured patients from road accidents on the interprovincial highway, as well as emergency patients suffering from heart attacks, strokes, and other life-threatening conditions, have lost their lives while being shifted to hospitals in Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Attock, and Hazro.

According to public circles, Pakistan Muslim League (N) Member of the National Assembly from Attock, Sheikh Aftab Ahmed, had promised during the election campaign to reconstruct the hospital. However, despite repeated reminders after winning the election, no tangible progress has been made so far.

The people of Gondal Mandi and surrounding areas have appealed to



Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif to take immediate notice and

ensure the completion of this public welfare project so that modern health-care facilities can be provided to the local population.

Organic Community Market

ISLAMABAD: Jan 16- Families are visiting different huts during an "Organic Community Market" by CDA at Hills Park in Sector F-6 of the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Social Cooperation Initiative and Zakat Foundation Team Up for Winter Aid

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: With a determination not to leave deserving and disadvantaged families and individuals alone in the severe cold of Islamabad, the "Social Cooperation Initiative" in collaboration with the "Zakat Foundation of America" distributed "Winter Relief Packages" among poor families and needy individuals. The aim of this campaign is to protect poor families and needy individuals from the harshness of the weather and provide them with a sense of security.



On this occasion, the leadership of the "Social Cooperation Initiative" thanked the "Zakat Foundation of America" and said: "The winter season is a very difficult time for disadvantaged families and needy individuals. Our goal is to ensure that no deserving person is deprived

of assistance. This campaign is not just about distributing goods, but also a commitment to serving humanity and social inclusion."

CBD Punjab announces Grand Open Auction 2026

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (PCBDDA), also known as Central Business District Punjab (CBD Punjab), has announced its first Grand Open Auction of 2026, scheduled to be held later this month. The auction will offer a curated portfolio of premium commercial, hospitality and residential plots across CBD Punjab's flagship developments, reaffirming its role as a key driver of economic growth and planned urban development in Punjab.

The upcoming auction will feature high-value investment opportunities within CBD Punjab Quaid District and CBD NSIT City two strategically planned areas developed on the principles of modern, sustainable and future-ready urban planning. The initiative reflects CBD Punjab's continued commitment to creating world-class business, lifestyle and investment destinations.

A major highlight of the auction is a prime 10-kanal plot in CBD Quaid District titles as CBD Arena, envisioned as a flagship destination for recreational sports and active public life. Designed to promote healthy lifestyles and community engagement, CBD Arena will host world-class recreational sports facilities aligned with its people-centric planning ethos. The plot carries a reserve price of Rs. 50 million per kanal with an approved Floor Area Ratio (FAR) of 1:2, offering significant development potential.

Commenting on the announcement, CEO CBD Punjab, Imran Amin, said, "CBD Punjab's continued success in transparent and competitive auctions reflects strong investor confidence in our vision. Through the Grand Open Auction 2026, we aim to accelerate economic activity, attract quality investment, and promote sustainable urban development across Punjab."

Book Launch Ceremony Held on the Life of Freedom Fighter Deen Muhammad Faqir

Syed Tauqeer Zaidi

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: A memorable and dignified book launch ceremony was held here for a book written on the life and struggle of renowned freedom fighter and spiritual figure Deen Muhammad Faqir, also known as Deen Faqir, who is regarded as a living chapter of history among the Bettani tribes.

According to details, the ceremony was organized at a local private school and was attended by a large number of prominent personalities from academic, literary, tribal and social circles, making the event truly impressive. The book highlights the life, struggles and services of Deen Muhammad Faqir, who is considered a symbol of freedom, resistance and honor in the history of the Bettani tribes.

Among the notable participants were Maulana Muzaffar Shah, Faqirzada Zarghoon Shah, Faqirzada Mir Badshah, Alauddin Bettani, Taj-ul-Shu'ara Sarwar Jan Sarwar, former XEN Haji Masal Khan Bettani, Haji Roudyar Bettani, Abdul Saeed, Iqbal Masood, GM Tariq Khan Bettani, Chief of Dabbara Nisar Khan Bettani, Haji Maiwa Khan Bettani, Mufti Ismail Bettani, Maulana Ilyas Bettani, Malik Raftullah (Patto Lala) Bettani, Maulana Qutbuddin Bettani of Lakkhi Marwat, Shams Masood, Ziauddin Barki, Principal Iqra School Jameel Ahmad, the author of the book Sohail Bettani, Mufti Allah Noor, Maulana Hafta Jan, Sultan Wazir, Rahmatullah Bettani Advocate, Dr Akhtar Zaman, Engineer Mumtaz Bettani, Asim Khan Bettani, Nadir Khan, President of All Bettani Students Najeebullah Bettani, former student leaders Jameel Khan Bettani and Irshad Khan Bettani, and many others.

CS Reviews Uplift Projects in Multan, Reaffirms Commitment to Revive Historic Grandeur

Zain Khan Malghani

MULTAN: Chief Secretary Punjab Zahid Akhtar Zaman on Friday inspected various uplift and development projects in Multan, stating that the Punjab Development Program would prove a milestone in improving urban facilities across the province.

During his visit, the Chief Secretary emphasized that there would be no compromise on the pace, quality, or transparency of development works. He warned that negligence or unjustified delays in project execution would

not be tolerated under any circumstances.

Inspecting key sites including Brand Road Gulgash, Multan Avenue, and the Walled City Project at Fort Kohna Qasim Bagh, Zahid Akhtar Zaman directed the local administration to expedite work so that the public could benefit at the earliest. He stressed the historical significance of the Walled City Project and ordered the immediate upgradation of the historic Damdama as well as the restoration of the fort's boundary wall in line with its original architectural identity.

During a briefing by the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner Multan, it was informed that the Walled City Project includes the establishment of a world-class modern museum along with several heritage conservation initiatives. These projects aim to present Multan's centuries-old history on an international platform while promoting tourism and boosting the local economy.

The Deputy Commissioner further briefed that the Multan Avenue project is envisioned as a modern commercial hub, which will enhance the city's



aesthetic appeal and provide a major boost to business activities.

The visit was attended by the Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab, Multan, and other senior officials.

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President, PM felicitate Muslims on Shab-e-Meraj

President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday said the blessed occasion of Shab-e-Meraj represents a profound expression of spiritual elevation, complete faith and closeness to Allah Almighty for the entire Muslim Ummah.

In his message on Shab-e-Meraj, the president said that on this sacred night Allah Almighty bestowed an honour upon His beloved Prophet Muhammad Mustafa (peace be upon him), which transcends human understanding and continues to serve as a source of guidance for believers across generations.

President Zardari said the event of Meraj teaches that through firm faith, patience and obedience, human beings can aspire to the highest moral and spiritual ranks. He added that the occasion also reminds Muslims that hardships and trials are temporary, while the mercy and support of Allah Almighty are everlasting.

The president said that on Shab-e-Meraj the Muslim Ummah was granted prayer, which establishes a direct and constant bond between humankind and the Creator. He noted that Salaah is not merely an act of worship but a means of self-discipline, character building and fostering a sense of collective responsibility, which forms the foundation of a just and balanced society.

President Zardari urged people to incorporate its teachings into their daily lives by promoting tolerance, respect for the rule of law, social justice and compassion for humanity. He stressed the need for collective efforts to build a state where peace, patience and moral values define the national character.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday extended heartfelt greetings to the nation and Muslims around the world on the blessed and spiritually uplifting occasion of Shab-e-Meraj.

In his message, the prime minister prayed that Allah Almighty may grant Muslims the ability to benefit from the religious significance and spiritual blessings of the sacred night. He said Shab-e-Meraj holds profound spiritual and faith-based importance for the Muslim Ummah, as it commemorates the miraculous ascension of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

The prime minister said the night conveys timeless lessons of strengthening faith, devotion in worship, patience, piety and closeness to Allah. He noted that Shab-e-Meraj also highlights the importance of steadfastness in faith, obedience to Allah and the pursuit of high moral character.

PM Shehbaz Sharif said the occasion reminds Muslims that prayer is the ascension of a believer and a means through which individuals and societies become morally, spiritually and practically stronger. He urged people to draw lessons from the blessed night by shaping their individual and collective lives in accordance with Islamic teachings and by promoting tolerance, brotherhood, justice and fairness.

Psychology of poverty

In Pakistan, poverty is often discussed in numbers, percentages, GDP ratios, and economic growth rates. Policymakers debate fiscal reforms, economists analyse inflation trends, and politicians promise relief packages. Yet, what remains largely ignored is the psychology of poverty — the effect chronic deprivation has on the human mind, behaviour and social fabric. Poverty is not only an economic condition but also a psychological experience, one that influences how millions of poor in Pakistan think, feel, and act every day.

Behind statistics lie complex emotional realities: uncertainty, humiliation, despondency and a persistent sense of powerlessness. Poverty is not merely about lack of money; it is about lack of dignity and agency. It distorts one's sense of self, narrows cognitive functions, and traps individuals in cycles of stress and short-term survival. Inflation, unemployment, and debt create an unbearable cognitive load for the poor largely ignored by policymakers and health professionals alike.

One of the most damaging psychological aspects of poverty is chronic uncertainty. A poor family in rural Sindh or an informal daily wage labourer in Karachi lives on the edge perpetually, asking: 'can I earn enough to feed my family today?' This constant state of worry leads to prolonged physiological arousal that impairs memory, attention, and emotional regulation.

Children raised in such environments often exhibit heightened anxiety



Iqra Liaqat

and difficulty concentrating in school. Adults experience exhaustion, irritability, and depression. Over time, the brain becomes wired for survival rather than growth. When survival is the priority, planning for the future becomes a luxury. This explains why many development programmes fail: they expect long-term rational decision-making from individuals whose daily lives allow no psychological space for it.

Poverty is hugely stigmatising as the poor are blamed as being lazy, uneducated, or irresponsible. While the rich can argue that they acquired their wealth through merit, ignoring advantages such as education, inheritance and class that may have helped to secure it, the poor begin to blame themselves for their failures, even when they can do little to change their circumstances.

This 'internalised stigma' is not only unfair but psychologically damaging, as the poor see themselves as inferior or undeserving. They remain invisible and excluded from any decision-making. They are subjected to daily indignities of humiliation, lack of justice, exposure to pollution and violence that take a cumulative psychological toll.

At the same time, many poor see the immense wealth displayed by other Pakistanis. The number of luxury cars on our roads, the huge palatial houses, the manicured lawns of the gated communities and golf courses and the unfettered spending in our weddings are there for all to see. The poor cannot even dream of this, creating a 'cognitive dissonance' within them leading to psychological

reactions including anger, frustration, depression and despondency.

Pakistan already faces a mental health crisis, with one in four people estimated to suffer from depression or anxiety, a figure significantly higher among low-income populations. Yet, mental health remains a neglected issue in public policy.

For the poor, access to mental health care is nearly impossible. The cost, stigma, lack of awareness and accessibility to the few services make psychological care a privilege of the wealthy. Consequently, emotional suffering is often expressed through physical symptoms — fatigue, headaches, or chronic pain — and misdiagnosed and treated inadequately. This neglect perpetuates the false notion that the poor are 'resilient' or 'used to suffering'. In reality, they have no choice but to silently endure the psychological distress.

Importantly, the political discourse must shift away from portraying the poor as passive recipients of charity. They are active agents surviving against immense odds. Recognising their resilience, rather than pitying their condition, is the first step toward social healing.

Poverty in Pakistan is not only a failure of economics; it is a crisis of the mind. It erodes hope, corrodes trust, and diminishes the belief in collective progress. For millions of Pakistanis, poverty means living with daily psychological strain that no relief package can quantify.

If Pakistan truly seeks inclusive development, it must place mental well-being at the heart of its poverty alleviation agenda. The fight against poverty is not only about raising incomes; it is about restoring dignity, rebuilding confidence, and healing minds.

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Trump's Instigation of Treason: From Venezuela to Iran

Imagine a moment so extreme that it defies the basic logic of national loyalty. Picture American opposition leaders traveling to Moscow, praising Vladimir Putin, and applauding the removal or arrest of a sitting U.S. president. Then imagine them standing before Russian media, thanking the Kremlin for "helping restore democracy" in the United States. Such an act would not be celebrated as dissent. It would be condemned as criminal, as treasonous, as an open assault on the constitutional order and sovereignty of the nation itself.

In this context, Maria Corina Machado's public gesture toward Donald Trump—offered in appreciation for the economic and financial strangulation of her own country and the abduction of a sitting Venezuelan president by U.S. power during the dark hours of January 3—strikes many as more than political theater. To her critics, it appears as an act of high treason: the symbolic selling of national sovereignty to a foreign power in exchange for political backing to ascend to office.

This is why the language of treason enters the conversation. To challenge one's own government is a political right. To applaud a foreign power for economically suffocating one's own society is, in the eyes of many, a moral rupture. Sanctions do not fall on presidents alone. They fall on hospitals that cannot import medicine, on families whose wages collapse under inflation, on children whose futures are narrowed by scarcity. To praise these tools as instruments of "liberation" is, for critics, to sever political ambition from national responsibility.

The same pattern, many argue, is now being traced in Iran. For decades,

Iranians have demonstrated that organic struggle is not only possible but powerful. In 1979, a mass popular movement overthrew one of the most entrenched, Western-backed monarchies in the region. That transformation, whatever its later consequences, was not engineered in foreign capitals. It was carried by millions in the streets of Tehran, Isfahan, and Shiraz. It was internal, national, and unmistakably indigenous.

Yet today, critics point to the re-emergence of Reza Pahlavi—who left Iran as a child more than four decades ago and has lived his adult life in the West—as a symbol of what they describe as "exiled leadership" being elevated by foreign powers. To them, the idea that someone disconnected from the daily realities of Iranian society can be positioned as a national alternative, while U.S. and Israeli leaders openly signal support for regime change, contaminates the authenticity of domestic protest.

When President Donald Trump issues statements hinting at military action "in support of protesters," critics argue that the organic nature of Iranian dissent is immediately compromised. What may begin as a homegrown demand for reform becomes vulnerable to being branded—internally and internationally—as a foreign-engineered project. The protester in the street is no longer just a citizen with a grievance. He or she becomes, in the narrative of the state, a potential proxy of external power.

This is not merely a theoretical concern. History is crowded with examples where foreign intervention discred-

ited legitimate internal movements by attaching them to geopolitical agendas. In 1953, Iran's democratically elected Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadegh was overthrown in a covert U.S.-British operation after nationalizing the country's oil industry. The Shah who replaced him ruled for more than two decades with Western backing, until a revolution erupted that reshaped the region and locked Iran and the United States into a cycle of hostility that continues to this day.

For those who view Venezuela and Iran through this historical

lens, the pattern appears consistent. Sovereignty is tolerated when it aligns with great-power interests and challenged when it does not. Venezuela's vast oil reserves—estimated at over 300 billion barrels, the largest proven reserves in the world—are not an abstract statistic. They represent strategic leverage in a global energy system where access to supply shapes diplomacy, alliances, and conflict.

This is why the charge of unpatriotism carries such emotional weight. To fight your own government is a political act. To fight your own society's economic survival by endorsing foreign coercion is, for critics, something far more severe. It is seen as stepping outside the national tent and inviting an overwhelming external force inside—one that may crush institutions, fracture unity, and redraw the country's future according to interests that are not its own.

Even the Arctic has entered this conversation. Greenland, an autono-

mous territory of Denmark that consistently ranks among the world's strongest regions for governance, transparency, and human rights, has become a subject of geopolitical attention because of its rare earth minerals, strategic location, and emerging shipping routes. The implication is stark: in an era of intensifying global rivalry, even the most stable and democratic societies can become strategic assets rather than simply sovereign communities.

At its core, this controversy is not about medals, exiles, or speeches. It is about a red line between internal reform and external allegiance. It is about whether political ambition remains rooted in the will of the people or becomes dependent on the pressure of foreign capitals.

Organic struggle carries legitimacy because it is earned at home. It rises from neighborhoods, workplaces, universities, and streets. It persuades before it compels. It mobilizes before it conquers. Imported struggle arrives differently—through sanctions, asset seizures, diplomatic isolation, and military signaling.

History's judgment on such alliances is rarely kind. Nations may survive bad governments. They rarely emerge whole when their sovereignty becomes a bargaining chip in someone else's strategic game. The ultimate right to shape a country's future, this argument insists, must remain in the hands of its own people—not in the applause of foreign leaders, and not in the shadow of global power.

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



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

Mosque Profiling in Indian-Occupied J&K: Grave Breaches of International Law and Crimes Against Humanity

Jammu and Kashmir is a United Nations-recognized disputed territory, whose legal and political status remains unresolved under international law. Numerous UN Security Council resolutions affirm that the future of the territory must be determined through a free and impartial plebiscite. Despite these binding commitments, India continues its prolonged and illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir, exercising effective military control through military force and administrative domination. This occupation has been marked by systematic human rights violations, suppression of fundamental freedoms, and policies that amount to crimes against humanity.

The recent directive of profiling mosques/Masjid and religious leaders in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir by Government of India represents a serious escalation in the repression of the Kashmiri people and constitutes a clear violation of international humanitarian and human rights law.

Under the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, which governs the conduct of an occupying power, India is legally bound to respect the religious institutions, customs, and convictions of the occupied population. *Article 27 explicitly requires protection of religious practices, while Article 33 prohibits collective penalties* and intimidation. Mosque profiling violates both provisions by placing religious institutions under suspicion and surveillance solely due to their religious character. Furthermore, Article 53 forbids the destruction or interference with institutions dedicated to religion unless absolutely required by military necessity—a threshold that mosque profiling fails to meet.

These actions also breach international human rights law, particularly the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which India is a state party. Article 18 guarantees freedom of thought, conscience, and religion, while Article 17 protects individuals and institutions from arbitrary or unlawful interference with privacy. The selec-

tive targeting of mosques and Muslim clergy violates the principle of non-discrimination, enshrined in Article 26 of the ICCPR, and undermines the equal protection of the law.

Mosque profiling cannot be viewed in isolation. It forms part of a broader pattern of repression and demographic engineering in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Since India's unilateral actions of August 2019, the occupying power has introduced new domicile laws, altered land ownership regulations, and facilitated settlement policies aimed at changing the demographic composition of the territory. Such actions constitute a direct violation of Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which prohibits the transfer of the occupying power's civilian population into occupied territory.

The cumulative impact of arbitrary detentions, enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, surveillance, restrictions on religious freedom, and demographic changes by India meet the legal threshold of crimes against humanity under international criminal law. Mosque profiling reinforces an environment of fear, stigmatization, and systematic persecution, particularly against the Muslim majority population of Kashmir.

In conclusion, the profiling of mosques in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir represents a serious breach of international humanitarian law, international human rights conventions, and UN-mandated legal obligations. As the occupying power, India bears full responsibility for ensuring the protection of religious institutions and the fundamental rights of the Kashmiri people. The international community, including the United Nations and relevant human rights mechanisms, must urgently address these violations and take concrete steps to ensure accountability, justice, and the realization of the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination.

The author is senior leader of All Parties Hurriyet Conference (APHC) and legal expert of international law. He can be reached at faiz.naqshbandi@gmail.com



Syed Faiz Naqshbandi

Federal Minister Qaiser Sheikh Reviews Progress on CPEC Phase-II Industrial Cooperation and SEZ Development

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Mr. Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, paid an official visit to the Project Management Unit of the CPEC Industrial Cooperation Development Project (PMU CPEC-ICDP) at the Board of Investment, Islamabad, to review progress on industrial cooperation and the development of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) under Phase-II of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

During the visit, the Federal Minister Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh was comprehensively briefed on Pakistan's engagement with China under CPEC Phase-II, with particular focus on SEZ-led industrialisation and Pakistan-China business-to-business (B2B) cooperation, which form the backbone of the upgraded CPEC framework. The

briefing was attended by Additional Secretary BOI Dr. Erfat Iqbal, Director General / Project Director PMU CPEC-ICDP Mr. Mehmood Tufail, Director General (SEZ) Mr. Riaz-ul-Haq, along with other senior officers of the Board of Investment.

Federal Minister Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh was apprised of the institutional mandate and coordinating role of PMU CPEC-ICDP as the dedicated execution and implementation arm of the Board of Investment for industrial cooperation under CPEC. In this regard, BOI serves as the lead Pakistani agency for the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Industrial Cooperation, with China's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) as the counterpart lead agency. Since its inception in 2019, PMU CPEC-ICDP has played a pivotal role in revitalising Pakistan's SEZ framework, increasing



the number of approved SEZs from 7 to 44, including the notification of 37 new SEZs through coordinated efforts

led by BOI.

Key achievements highlighted during the briefing included progress

on the Karachi Industrial Park (KIP), development initiatives for the Gilgit-Baltistan SEZ, and the approval of the Land Lease Policy for BQIP, which has addressed a longstanding structural bottleneck for investors. The Federal Minister was also informed of BOI's facilitation in ensuring the provision of utilities to SEZs, enabling their transition from planning stages to operational readiness.

The Federal Minister Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh was further informed that 2026 will mark the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China, and that PMU CPEC-ICDP has planned a series of commemorative and investment-focused initiatives during the year to further deepen bilateral industrial cooperation.

Appreciating the efforts of BOI and PMU CPEC-ICDP, the Federal Minister Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh

emphasised that continuity, institutional capacity, and preservation of institutional memory are essential for sustaining momentum under CPEC Industrial Cooperation. He underscored that a coordinated, long-term approach would be critical for effective implementation of CPEC Phase-II priorities and for delivering on bilateral commitments agreed between Pakistan and China.

The Board of Investment under the leadership of Federal Minister Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh reaffirmed its strong commitment to proactive investor facilitation, policy coordination, and effective implementation of CPEC Phase-II industrial cooperation initiatives, and will continue to work closely with all federal and provincial stakeholders to ensure a predictable, transparent, and investor-friendly environment for domestic and foreign investors.

WHO and BISP establish 40 new centres to treat 15,000 severely malnourished children across Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The World Health Organization, in partnership with the Benazir Income Support Programme, will now support a total of 169 centres and 700 staff across the country, covering more than 70,000 children annually and providing counselling to 120,000 mothers and caregivers.

15 January 2026, Islamabad, Pakistan - The World Health Organization (WHO), in partnership with Pakistan's Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), has supported the establishment of 40 new nutrition stabilization centres since November to provide life-saving treatment to children under five suffering from severe acute malnutrition with medical complications. With these new facilities, WHO will now support a total of 169 centres and 700 staff across the country, covering more than 70,000 children annually and providing counselling to 120,000 mothers and caregivers.

One of the new centres was inaugurated this week at Bacha Khan Medical Complex in Swabi, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province, by Chairperson BISP Senator Rubina Khalid, WHO Representative in Pakistan, Dr. Luo Dapeng, and KP Health Minister Khaleeq Ur Rehman.

"BISP's Benazir Nashonuma Programme is an important and effec-



tive initiative for promoting the health and nutrition of mothers and children. These nutrition stabilization centres, established in partnership with WHO, provide life-saving treatment and will be expanded to more areas across Pakistan in phases, with the cooperation of provincial governments", said Chairperson BISP Senator Rubina Khalid.

The 40 new centres will cover an estimated 15,000 children annually and have been supported by WHO teams through repairs and reno-

vations, capacity building, human resource support, provision of supplies - including therapeutic food - and comprehensive technical assistance.

The cure rate for children treated in stabilization centres supported by WHO and BISP across the country stands at 97%.

"We are particularly thankful for and proud of this collaboration because we are saving thousands of lives, managing the most challenging cases of malnutrition with medical complications using

a science-based approach. Without the treatment provided in the stabilization centres, these children would unfortunately die. Even a single child dying from malnutrition is already one too many," said WHO Representative in Pakistan Dr. Luo Dapeng.

"WHO stands with Pakistan to continue saving the lives of children and securing a healthier future for all without distinction, no matter their economic status, where they live, or who they are."

Pakistan remains among the 10 countries in the world where more than half of the under-five population suffers from either stunting or wasting, or both. The prevalence rate of stunting among children under five is 40 percent - totaling 10 million stunted children - while wasting affects 17.7 percent, resulting in 5 million wasted children. Acute malnutrition is causing an annual economic loss of USD 17 billion.

Despite these challenges, evidence indicates that the interventions under BISP's Nashonuma programme - in partnership with WHO and other UN agencies like WFP and UNICEF - are delivering some of the strongest results ever documented globally for a nutrition programme, with measurable impact on stunting reduction and child survival.

These results include a 20% decline in stunting by six months of age and a 5.6 percentage-point reduction in low birth weight among beneficiaries.

KSrelief Commences Winter Kit Distribution in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSrelief) has officially commenced the distribution of Winter Kits in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) as part of its large-scale Winterization Initiative aimed at supporting vulnerable communities affected by severe winter conditions across Pakistan.

Under this initiative, KSrelief is distributing 4,000 Winter Kits across six cold and snow-prone districts of KP, including Lower Chitral, Upper Chitral, Upper Dir, Upper Kohistan, Mansehra, and Kurram. The district-wise distribution includes 800 Winter Kits each for Lower and Upper Chitral, Upper Dir, Upper Kohistan, Mansehra, and Kurram.



This KP-focused distribution forms part of KSrelief's nationwide winter support program, under which 22,000 Winter Kits are being distributed across 28 of the coldest and most vulnerable districts in Pakistan. The initiative targets communities severely impacted by harsh

winter conditions in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, as well as selected areas of Punjab and Sindh experiencing extremely low temperatures.

Each Winter Kit contains two polyester quilts, warm shawls for men and

women, and winter clothing for both children and adults, ensuring comprehensive protection against extreme cold for beneficiary families.

To ensure transparency, coordination, and effective implementation, the project is being carried out in close collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMA), Relief, Rehabilitation and Settlement Department (RRSD) KP, local authorities, and Hayat Foundation.

Through this coordinated humanitarian effort, the winterization initiative is expected to benefit more than 154,000 individuals nationwide, reaffirming KSrelief's continued commitment to alleviating winter-related hardships and improving the living conditions of vulnerable populations across Pakistan.

Central Annual Mourning at Roza-e-Masooma-e-Sindh Continues from Morning till Late Night

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

HYDERABAD: Religious scholars have said that on the Day of Ghadir, Allah Almighty caused the Holy Prophet (PBUH) to make the most significant declaration of his prophethood, and it was from this very day that hostility toward the chain of Wilayah reached its peak—a hostility that continued even after the tragedy of Karbala.

These views were expressed by Allama Ayaz Ali Qumi and renowned Zakir-e-Ahl-e-Bait

(AS) Syed Gauhar Abbas Naqvi while addressing the central Majlis-e-Aza held in connection with the martyrdom of Imam Musa Kazim (AS) at Roza-e-Athar Masooma-e-Sindh Syeda Khadija Maham (AS) in Agham Kot, Sindh. The annual mourning gathering was organized by the Zaireen Khidmat Committee Agham Kot Sindh under the patronage of Syed Manzar Naqvi.

The speakers stated that enmity against the system of Imamat intensified from

Ghadir and continued relentlessly, resulting in eleven Imams attaining martyrdom through the sword or poison. They said the martyrdom of the seventh Imam, Imam Musa Kazim (AS), is also a link in this painful chain of oppression.

They added that on the day of Imam Musa Kazim's (AS) martyrdom, thousands of devotees gathered in Agham Kot to offer condolences to his اور پرنسیپی daughter at the shrine of Masooma-e-Sindh. The speakers strongly condemned

Following separate male and female mourning gatherings, the

prolonged halt in the construction work of Roza-e-Athar and demanded its immediate completion.

Prior to the main address, renowned elegy reciters including Syed Ali Raza Shah Kazmi of Karachi, Syed Ali Raza Shah Kazmi of Sajan Sawai, Saleem Raza Sehar, Syed Ghulam Shabbir Shah, Agha Arsalan Mirza, and others presented Nauhas in the court of Imamat.

Security duties were performed by the Hussaini Scouts Agham Kot Sindh under the supervision of Haji Hassan Ali Laghari, while volunteers from the Rind community assisted in organizational arrangements. Despite severe

annual symbolic coffin procession was taken out, accompanied by Nauha-khwani, matam-dari, and zanjeer-zani. The central

annual mourning continued

till late at night, with thousands of mourners from across Sindh participating.

Security duties were managed by Zawar Abdul Sattar Dars



remained present from morning till night, while overall arrangements were managed by Zawar Abdul Sattar Dars

Zubair Mughal Appointed as Shariah Adviser at Open Space Financial, Nigeria

Spokesman Report



DUBAI, UAE: AlHuda Centre of Islamic Banking and Economics (AlHuda CIBE) announces the appointment of its Managing Director, Mr. Muhammad Zubair Mughal, as Shariah Adviser to Open Space Financial Services Limited, Nigeria's AI-powered Neo-Fintech, effective January 1, 2026. The appointment reflects the growing international confidence in AlHuda CIBE's expertise in Islamic finance, ethical banking, and Non-Interest Financial frameworks. Mr. Mughal has formally accepted the appointment and will commence his advisory role with immediate effect.

This strategic engagement underscores Open Space commitment to embedding strong ethical and Shariah governance principles within its Non-Interest Financial operations, while also highlighting AlHuda CIBE's expanding role in supporting fintech innovation through sound Islamic finance practices. AlHuda CIBE has long been engaged in advising financial institutions, regulators, and market participants across multiple jurisdictions, providing structured guidance on Islamic financial engineering, regulatory frameworks, product development, market and gap analysis, and Shariah-compliant financial modelling.

With over twenty years of global experience in Islamic banking and finance, Mr. Mughal brings deep technical knowledge and practical insight into the development and oversight of Non-Interest Financial products. In his capacity as Shariah Adviser, he will guide Open Space on Shariah governance structures, compliance frameworks, product validation processes, and the overall alignment of its Non-Interest Financial offerings with internationally accepted Islamic finance principles, regulatory expectations, and investor governance standards.

The collaboration is designed to strengthen Open Space ethical finance architecture, ensuring transparency, responsible financial practices, and inclusive access to finance through technology. It also reinforces AlHuda CIBE's mission to promote ethical and Shariah-compliant financial systems by supporting institutions that aim to integrate innovation with strong governance and compliance foundations.

Open Space Financial Services Limited operates an AI-driven fintech platform offering Non-Interest Financial Products alongside conventional services including savings, investments, credit, insurance, and inventory finance. Through this appointment, AlHuda CIBE continues to expand its global advisory footprint, contributing to the advancement of Non-Interest Finance and ethical fintech development within Nigeria and beyond.

Data Darbar Extension Reviewed, Inter-Departmental Coordination Stressed, Dr. Ehsan Bhutta

News Desk

LAHORE: Reaffirming the government's strong commitment to the preservation and development of religious heritage, Secretary/Chief Administrator Auqaf Punjab Dr. Ehsan Bhutta stated that Data Darbar shrine is being developed as a model shrine for devotees, providing modern facilities while preserving its sanctity and historical importance, and that the Extension of Data Darbar project is a landmark initiative of national and religious significance. He expressed these views during his visit to the TEPA office, where he reviewed each component of the project in detail and held a comprehensive discussion on progress, technical aspects and implementation mechanisms. Dr. Ehsan Bhutta said that Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar is personally monitoring the Extension of Data Darbar project, reflecting its importance at the highest level, and has directed all concerned departments to ensure its timely completion through close coordination and effective oversight. He further conveyed that Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz has emphasized transparent, efficient and quality-driven execution of all development projects related to public facilitation.



More than 3000 female players to participate 20 sports disciplines in Khelta Punjab Pink Games

By Tahir Amin Malik

Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar has said that more than 3000 female players will participate 20 different sports disciplines in the women's biggest sports event-Khelta Punjab Pink Games which are scheduled to be organized from February 11 to 15, 2026. He shared this information while addressing a high-profile meeting at the National Hockey Stadium on Friday.

The meeting was attended by Vice Chairman Sports Board Punjab Malik Sulaiman, Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muhammad Ali, Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry and other officers. Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muhammad Ali gave an in-depth briefing regarding administrative affairs.

Addressing the meeting, Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar said that under-21 female players will participate in inter-division competitions during Khelta Punjab Pink Games. The provin-



cial minister directed to conduct transparent and merit-based open trials in all divisional headquarters for the selection of participating women teams.

Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar said that providing equal opportunities to women athletes is top priority of Punjab Sports Department. "Punjab Sports Department will continue to organize

competitive sports events for female athletes of the province in future as well".

Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar said that the Basant festival will be celebrated in a befitting manner at the Punjab Stadium on February 7. "During Basant Festival, a musical night will be conducted and eye-catching fireworks show will be presented to amuse the

large gathering".

Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar said that more than 50 colorful stalls will be installed at Punjab Stadium during Basant Festival. He instructed to make special arrangements for families in Basant Festival. "Punjab Stadium will be made a hub for sports and cultural activities during Basant Festival".

DC Mela conducted a detailed visit to Tehsil Pirmahal

By Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: Under the development and people-friendly vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, Deputy Commissioner of Toba Tek Singh Umar Abbas Mela, conducted a detailed visit to Tehsil Pirmahal. The purpose of the visit was to assess public facilities, ongoing development projects and the performance of government institutions. During the visit, Assistant Commissioner Pirmahal Waqas Zafar and officials from the relevant departments were also present. The Deputy Commissioner visited Iqbal Park in Pirmahal, where the park's restoration, cleanliness, plantation and public facilities were reviewed. Expressing satisfaction with the arrangements, he directed that the parks be made more active as healthy recreational centers for the citizens. Later, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the old and central cemetery in Pirmahal, directing improvements in the cleanliness system and overall arrange-



ments. He emphasized the need to ensure the implementation of a regular cleaning schedule in cemeteries. Deputy Commissioner Umar Abbas Mela also visited the under-construction Pira Office in Pirmahal, where the pace and quality of the

construction work were reviewed. He instructed the relevant officials to ensure the project is completed within the stipulated time frame, without compromising on quality. Following this, a visit was made to the Grain Market, where the

cleanliness and administrative matters were reviewed with further improvements being directed. The Deputy Commissioner also inspected the ongoing beautification projects in the city and the artwork on the walls. He stated that the removal of wall chalking and the addition of artwork would significantly enhance the city's beauty, while also highlighting regional culture, language and ethical values. Later, during a visit to the THQ Hospital Pirmahal, the medical facilities, availability of medicines, staff attendance and services provided to patients were assessed. The Deputy Commissioner also inspected the under-construction new block of the hospital and instructed that the work be completed soon.

On this occasion, Deputy Commissioner Umar Abbas Mela stated that providing quality healthcare facilities is the top priority of the Punjab government and through visits to various tehsils, immediate solutions to public issues and effective implementation of government policies are being ensured.

PSX witnesses strong buying as KSE-100 crosses 185,000 level

By Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Strong buying momentum was observed at the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX), with the benchmark KSE-100 Index closing above 185,000 on Friday.

The bulls maintained their grip throughout the session, pushing the index to an intra-day high of 185,208.98.

At close, the benchmark index settled at 185,098.83, up by 3,642.50 points or 2.01%.

Analysts attributed the buying spree to expectations of a further policy rate cut in the upcoming Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting.

"There has been fresh buying from funds and institutional investors, while selling pressure has largely subsided," Sana Tawfiq, Head of Research at Arif Habib Limited, said.

"Following yesterday's PIB auction,



where yields have declined, the market is anticipating that a rate cut could be announced in the upcoming MPC. This reflects broader market expectations," she added.

Buying interest was seen in key sectors, including automobile assemblers, cement, commercial banks, fertiliser, oil and gas exploration companies, OMCs and power generation. Index-

heavy stocks, including HUBCO, MARI, OGDC, POL, PPL, PSO, SSGC, SNGPL, MCB, MEBL, NBP and UBL, traded in the green.

The federal government on Thursday announced that prices of petroleum products will remain unchanged for the next fortnight, starting January 16, 2026. As per the notification, the price of High Speed Diesel (HSD) has been maintained at Rs257.08 per litre, while Motor Spirit (petrol) will continue to be sold at Rs253.17 per litre.

On Thursday, PSX ended the session sharply lower as heightened volatility, weak investor sentiment and sustained selling pressure across key sectors overshadowed select gains in heavyweight stocks, pushing major benchmark indices into negative territory. The benchmark KSE-100 Index closed at 181,456.34 points, down 1,113.48 points, or 0.61%.

World-Renowned Surgeon-Scientist and Biotech Founder Dr. Adil Haider Appointed Inaugural Chief Artificial Intelligence Officer at CI-MED

By News Desk

PAKISTAN, ILLINOIS USA: Dr. Adil Haider, a globally recognized surgeon-scientist, academic leader, and founder Boston Health AI, has been appointed as the Inaugural Chief Artificial Intelligence Officer (CAIO) at The Carle Illinois College of Medicine (CI-MED), the world's first engineering-based medical school.

Dr. Haider will lead the strategic vision and responsible deployment of artificial intelligence across the College of Medicine, advancing AI-enabled medical education, trans-

lational research, and clinical innovation. His appointment reflects CI-MED's long-standing commitment to integrating engineering, data science, and medicine to improve patient-centered care.

"Working across healthcare systems around the world has taught me that technology alone does not transform care; context, trust, and clinical reality do," said Dr. Haider. "Artificial intelligence gives us a powerful opportunity to strengthen systems of care at scale, but only if it is built responsibly, governed thoughtfully, and grounded in real clinical needs."

"By establishing the role of chief AI officer, Carle Illinois is signaling that artificial intelligence is not peripheral, but foundational to the future of medicine," said CI-MED Dean Mark Cohen. "Dr. Haider brings a unique combination of academic rigor, clinical expertise, and entrepreneurial experience. His leadership will help ensure that AI at Carle Illinois is innovative, ethical, and meaningfully improves health outcomes, transforming our clinical, research, innovation, and educational missions for the future."

Dr. Haider will also serve as

Medical Director for Informatics at Carle Foundation Hospital, helping align academic innovation with real-world clinical practice. He will additionally serve as a Visiting Professor in the Siebel School of Computing and Data Science within the Grainger College of Engineering, strengthening collaboration across medicine, engineering, and computing.

Dr. Haider joins CI-MED after a transformative 6.5-year tenure as Dean of Aga Khan University Medical College, where he quadrupled research funding, achieved top-100 global rankings, and secured

multiple international accreditations. He has also held senior academic roles at Harvard Medical School, Brigham and Women's Hospital, and Johns Hopkins. In 2024, he founded Boston Health AI, a health-tech firm operating in the United States, the United Arab Emirates, and Pakistan, focused on building end-to-end clinical support tools that improve efficiency, quality of care, and health equity for one billion lives globally.

He has authored over 450 peer-reviewed publications and remains deeply focused on advancing ethical, scalable AI to improve care globally.

Secretary Sports Punjab Muhammad Ali chaired an important meeting

By Sports Desk

LAHORE: Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muhammad Ali has presided over an important meeting on Friday to review sports affairs, facilities and other relevant matters of Bahawalpur Division.

Additional Secretary Sports Shabbir Hussain Cheema and Director Admin Abid Shaukat attended the meeting at the Punjab Stadium in person while Divisional Sports Officer Bahawalpur M Amir Hameed and District Sports Officers participated in the meeting through video link.

The sports officers of Bahawalpur Division gave a briefing about the sports activities in Bahawalpur division during the last year and newly constructed and rehabilitated sports development schemes of this region.

Addressing the meeting, Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muhammad Ali said that best sports infrastructure has been established in Bahawalpur division. "Historic Diring Stadium Bahawalpur has been equipped with all modern facilities and the sports officers should put in maximum efforts to identify fresh talented athletes".

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muhammad Ali has directed the sports officers of Bahawalpur division to create suitable playing opportunities for maximum number of players in the grounds. He also instructed the officers to take effective measures to increase the revenue from sports facilities of Bahawalpur division.

Qasim Ali Khan leads Alfallah Amateur Golf Championship at Gymkhana

By Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: National golfer Qasim Ali Khan produced a composed and authoritative performance to take the outright lead in the Alfallah Amateur Golf Championship 2026 at the Lahore Gymkhana, reaffirming his status as one of Pakistan's most promising amateur golfers.

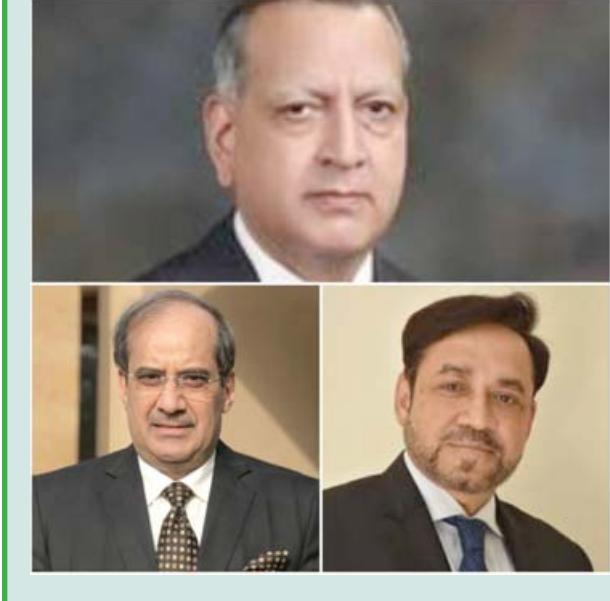
Competing under challenging, misty and cold conditions, Qasim displayed exceptional control and maturity in his game to finish the round with an impressive gross score of 70, the best of the field. His round was marked by remarkable accuracy off the tee and an assured touch on the greens, where his putting stood out for its consistency and composure. Despite the demanding weather, Qasim's calm course management and technical precision set him apart from the rest of the competitors.

The championship, restricted to golfers with handicaps of 10 and below, attracted a strong field of over 150 amateur players from across the country. In such a competitive environment, Qasim's ability to dominate the course and maintain rhythm throughout the round reflected not only his skill but also his growing experience at the national level.

Close behind the leader was Saad Habib of Multan, who delivered an encouraging performance to post a gross score of 72. The young golfer's display highlighted his potential and fighting spirit, earning him well-deserved recognition among the leading contenders. Sam Latif followed in third place, continuing to impress as a consistent amateur capable of mounting a serious challenge as the championship progresses.

Another notable performance came from Ahmed Gibran of Lahore Gymkhana, who carded a gross 73. His disciplined play and steady scoring left a strong impression and kept him firmly in contention. A tightly packed group of golfers, Salman Jehangir, Ameer Khawar Khawaja, Abdul Moez, and Muhammad Maneka, were all clustered on gross 74, underlining the depth and competitiveness of the field.

AFIGP Pakistan concludes National Elections 2026



By City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Association of Former Inspectors General of Police (AFIGP) Pakistan, a registered professional body of retired Inspectors General of Police, has successfully concluded its National Elections 2026.

Following the completion of the electoral process, Dr. Shoail Suddle was elected President unopposed, Dr. Tariq Masood Yasin was elected Vice President unopposed, and Dr. Syed Kafeem Imam was elected General Secretary through ballot.

The elections were conducted in a transparent, fair and orderly manner by the AFIGP Election Commission, headed by Mr. Kamal Uddin Tipu as Election Commissioner, with Mr. Qudratullah Khan and Mr. Sultan Azam Temuri serving as Members. To ensure broad-based and inclusive participation of members across the country, digital polling was employed. With the formal notification of results, the AFIGP National Executive Body now stands duly constituted.

Established in 2017, the Association of Former Inspectors General of Police (AFIGP) Pakistan is a registered professional body committed to advancing police reforms, officers' welfare, and the strengthening of professional policing standards. Since its inception, AFIGP has played a constructive role as an independent think tank, providing evidence-based advice to governments and relevant institutions on policing, internal security, and criminal justice governance in Pakistan.

Pak-Russian ties

Pakistan's Ambassador to Russia Faisal Niaz Tirmizi (centre) along with Russian President Vladimir Putin (right), during a ceremony at Moscow's Grand Kremlin Palace, on January 15, 2026.



Photo: X/@RusEmbPakistan

Putin calls Russia-Pakistan ties 'genuinely mutually beneficial'

Spokesman Report

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin has described Russia's relations with Pakistan as "genuinely mutually beneficial," underscoring Moscow's growing engagement with Islamabad across multiple sectors.

The remarks came as Pakistan's Ambassador to Russia, Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, formally presented his credentials to President Putin during a cere-

mony at the Grand Kremlin Palace on Thursday, according to the Pakistani Embassy in Moscow.

"We maintain close cooperation with Pakistan, a full member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, the largest regional organisation in terms of economic, technological, and human potential.

Russia-Pakistan relations are genuinely mutually beneficial," President Putin said, as quoted by the Embassy of

Russia in Pakistan in a post on X.

President Putin termed

Pakistan a close partner and noted with appreciation that bilateral cooperation was expanding in areas including trade, diplomacy, commerce, education, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, railways, industry, health and information technology.

During the ceremony, Ambassador Tirmizi conveyed greetings and best wishes

from the President, the Prime Minister and the people of Pakistan to the Russian leader.

Ambassador Tirmizi assumed charge of Pakistan's mission in Moscow on October 26, 2025.

Pakistan's Ambassador to Russia, Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, formally presented his credentials to President Putin during a ceremony at the Grand Kremlin Palace.

His tenure is expected to focus on strengthening bilat-

eral ties, particularly in energy, trade, connectivity, culture and education, while also promoting people-to-people contacts and supporting the Pakistani diaspora in the Russian Federation.

The credential presentation marks another step in the steady expansion of Pakistan-Russia relations, particularly within multilateral frameworks such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.

US Chargé d'Affaires Natalie Baker praises Pakistan's reforms process

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Friday met US Chargé d'Affaires Natalie Baker, with both sides reaffirming their commitment to strengthening economic cooperation, trade, and investment between Pakistan and the United States.

During the meeting, Natalie Baker praised Pakistan's improving economic stability and ongoing economic recovery, lauding the government's reform process and macroeconomic agenda. She acknowledged the steps taken by Pakistan to stabilize the economy and create a more predictable and investor-friendly environment.

The US Chargé d'Affaires reaffirmed the United States' full support for promoting trade and investment with



Pakistan and expressed bilateral economic relations.

She noted that sustained

reforms would help unlock

new opportunities for cooperation between the two countries.

The Finance Ministry also welcomed a cryptocurrency cooperation agreement between Pakistan and the US-based company Liberty Financial, describing it as a positive development that reflects growing confidence in Pakistan's reform trajectory and openness to innovation in the financial sector.

Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb reiterated the government's firm commitment to the continuation of economic reforms, emphasizing policies aimed at maintaining macroeconomic stability, encouraging foreign investment, and fostering sustainable growth.

Both sides agreed to continue engagement to deepen economic ties and explore new avenues of collaboration in trade, investment, and emerging financial technologies.

Pakistan Army rescues passengers after bus accident in Upper Chitral

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: At least two people were killed and several others injured after a Flying Coach bus met with an accident in Upper Chitral, prompting a swift rescue operation by the Pakistan Army despite difficult terrain and severe weather conditions.

The bus, travelling from Peshawar to Chitral, veered off the road near Koragh along a riverbank. Thirteen passengers were on board at the time of the accident, officials said.

Pakistan Army personnel reached the site shortly after the incident and provided immediate first aid to the injured.



treatment.

Despite narrow and rugged roads, snowfall and harsh weather, the Army successfully completed the rescue operation. Passengers were moved to a safe location, where they were also provided with warm clothing to protect them from the cold.

Local residents expressed gratitude to the Pakistan Army for its timely intervention, praising the professionalism and dedication of the troops in carrying out the operation under challenging conditions.

The incident once again underscored the Pakistan Army's role in emergency response and its continued commitment to assisting civilians in remote and high-risk areas.

PM reaffirms resolve to crush terrorism, says peace, prosperity remains govt's core objective



Spokesman Report

now steadily moving towards prosperity and stability.

Minister for Information Attaullah Tarar said the national narrative to discourage terrorism and promote peace and stability would be further strengthened. He said committee members would visit different parts of the country to convey a message of peace and counter hate-based narratives.

Chairing a meeting of the Quaid-e-Azam Committee (QPAC) here, the prime minister said the committee would play a pivotal role in strengthening the national narrative against extremism and terrorism, similar to the historic role played by Ulama in the creation of Pakistan. He recalled that Pakistan was created to implement the principles of peace, justice and tolerance, adding that the country was

Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) Chairman and Coordinator of the National Paigham-e-Aman Committee, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashraf, said committee members would visit terrorism-affected areas, interact with local communities, religious scholars and the armed forces, and serve as front-line ambassadors of peace.

US Should Refrain from Further Aggression Against Iran: Rafiq Nayyar

Bureau Report

SAMAHNI: The Minister for Information and Auqaf, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Rafiq Nayyar, has stated that the United States must refrain from any further aggressive actions against Iran, as such measures could lead to highly negative and dangerous consequences at the international level. He emphasized that in the prevailing circumstances, the Muslim Ummah should demonstrate unity and solidarity instead of division and should openly support Iran.

He expressed these views while talking informally to journalists during his visit to Samahni. The Minister warned that any new adventurism by the United States would pose serious threats not only to regional stability but also to global peace.

The Minister further informed that the issue related to the Health



Card has been completely resolved and the public is now benefiting from this facility. Similarly, regarding the establishment of an airport, the Government of Azad Kashmir has completed all its required actions, and the necessary documents have been submitted to the Planning Commission. He expressed hope that the airport project would commence in the near future.

Unregulated social media use by minors a serious national concern: Tariq Fazal



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry on Friday told the Senate that the growing and unregulated exposure of children under 18 to social media platforms was an extremely serious issue, requiring a coordinated and comprehensive response from all state institutions.

Responding to a calling attention notice raised by Falak Naz and others regarding the excessive and unmonitored use of social media applications by minor children, the minister said the issue transcended political lines and could not be confined to one era, one government, or one side of the aisle.

"This is not an opposition-versus-government matter. It is a collective national issue," he said.

He said the concern raised by Senator Falak Naz was valid and must be examined through the relevant parliamentary forum.

The minister said that no single institution could resolve the problem, as it required simultaneous input from Interior, Education Ministries, FIA Cyber Wing and National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency and regulatory bodies etc.

He said countries across the world were struggling with similar concerns. "This problem is escalating everywhere. No country has fully handled it or found a perfect model," he said.