



Daily The Spokesman



MQM-P hints at starting protests over non-formation of commission on Gul Plaza fire

Hinting at holding protest demonstrations against the non-formation of a judicial commission on Gul Plaza inferno, Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) leader Farooq Sattar said on Saturday that people would now not remain silent and hold those responsible accountable.



Pakistan Army rescues hundreds from snow-hit regions

The Pakistan Army is actively carrying out rescue and relief operations following heavy snowfall in various parts of the country, including Tirah, Mohmand, Kalam, Swat, Murree, Azad Kashmir, Zhob and Gilgit-Baltistan. Army teams are engaged in clearing highways and roads blocked by snow to ensure smooth traffic flow.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

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Meeting with Somalian Delegation

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari in a meeting with Mr Ali Yousuf, Minister of Interior of Somalia, at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Saturday.



Photo: PID

Pakistan, Somalia sign agreement abolishing visas for diplomatic passport holders and discuss deepening cooperation

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari met the Minister of Interior of Somalia, Mr Ali Yousuf, reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to strengthening bilateral engagement and witnessed the signing of an agreement abolishing visa requirements for holders of diplomatic passports between Pakistan and Somalia.

The agreement was signed by Mr Hamza Adan Haadoow, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Somalia, and Mr Dawood Muhammad Baraech, Special Secretary, Ministry of Interior and Narcotics Control of Pakistan.

The President noted that Africa is an important part of the world's geopolitical landscape and that

Pakistan seeks to strengthen its ties with African states including Somalia. Pakistan values its engagement with Somalia and supports closer collaboration in areas of shared interest.

President Zardari was informed that this visit by the Somali Interior Minister is the first bilateral official visit from Somalia to Pakistan in the past 35 years.

The Somali Interior Minister

expressed his appreciation to the government of Pakistan, especially the Ministry of Interior, for the warm hospitality extended to him and his accompanying officials during the visit. He stated that he was in Pakistan on the invitation of the Interior Minister of Pakistan and conveyed his thanks to the President and the people of Pakistan.

Mr Mohsin Raza Naqvi,

Federal Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control, and Mr Talal Chaudhry, Minister of State for Interior and Narcotics Control, were also present during the meeting. Other members accompanying the Somali Minister included Mr Sheikhnur Mohamed Hassan, Ambassador of Somalia to Pakistan, and Mr Osman Abdulla, Deputy Police Chief.

Imaan Mazari, Hadi Chatha get 17-year jail terms, Rs36 million fine in tweet case

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: District and Sessions Courts Islamabad pronounced 17-year imprisonment to each rights activists and lawyers Imaan Mazari and her husband Hadi Ali Chatha in controversial tweets case on Saturday.

Imaan Mazari and Hadi Ali Chatha boycotted the court

proceedings today. Islamabad High Court had ordered Imaan Mazari and Hadi Ali Chatha to cross-examine witnesses till today.

The court sentenced Imaan Mazari and Hadi Ali to a total of 17 years in prison and a fine of Rs 36 million. Both accused were sentenced to 2 years imprisonment and a fine of Rs 10 lakh.

Imaan Mazari and Hadi Ali Chatha were produced through video link due to judicial remand in other case. Barrister Fahad,

of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA).

According to the court decision, under Section 10, they were sentenced to 10 years imprisonment and a fine of Rs 30 million, while under Section 26A, they were sentenced to 2 years imprisonment and a fine of Rs 10 lakh.

Imaan Mazari and Hadi Ali Chatha were produced through video link due to judicial remand in other case. Barrister Fahad,

Usman Rana Advocate, Barrister Mansoor Azam appeared in court on behalf of the prosecution.

State Counsel Taimur Janjua appeared in court on behalf of Imaan Mazari and Hadi Ali Chatha. A total of 5 witnesses were presented by the prosecution in the case. A challan consisting of more than 30 pages was presented by the prosecution in the court.

Imaan Mazari and Hadi Ali were accused of spreading the agenda of PTM and other banned organizations. The accused were also accused of spreading material against state institutions. The prosecution also provided various tweets of Imaan Mazari and Hadi Ali Chatha as evidence in the challan. The prosecution also presented Imaan Mazari's anti-state speech in the court.

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Authorities have registered a formal case in Nabi Bakhsh Police Station over the Gul Plaza fire incident, with the government taking the role of complainant, police sources confirmed on Saturday.

The FIR includes clauses relating to negligence and carelessness, though no individuals have been held responsible yet,

as the official investigation report has not been received. The case has therefore been registered against "unknown" persons.

Police sources said multiple factors worsened the situation during the incident, including power outages and several locked doors within the building, which hindered evacuation and rescue efforts.

After filing the FIR, the authorities sealed the Gul Plaza prem-

ises, pending further investigation. Investigators continue to examine the circumstances leading to the tragedy, while the public awaits clarity on accountability for the loss of lives. At least 80 percent of the search and rescue operations have been completed, with debris from the demolished sections still being cleared.

The FIR has been registered against unknown persons, citing negligence and carelessness and

has been sealed after registration. Investigators also recovered four DVRs from the site, which are being analyzed for evidence regarding the fire's cause.

Valuables, including 1.5 kilograms of gold and over Rs100,000

in cash, were recovered and returned to their owners. Officials report that 10-11 people remain missing, while the total number of missing has been revised to 82 after accounting for duplications and safe returns.



A Leading National Daily

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فرمان رسوی
فرمان رسوی
ابو بکر شیخ اللہ عنہ فیلان کیا کہ جنک
میں کے زمانہ میں بھی ایک فیلان
پیچھے کی طرف کو ملجم ہوا
کہ فیلان کی سلطنت اور ان نے پورا نہیں
کریں گی پسی پریلے کو ملجم ہیں
علیہ وسلم نے فیلان کو ملجم ہیں
پاٹے گی جس کی حکومت ایک عورت کے
پاٹھ میں ہے
Barkat Rice Mills
(Pvt) Limited

Pakistan Army rescues hundreds from snow-hit regions

The Pakistan Army is actively carrying out rescue and relief operations following heavy snowfall in various parts of the country, including Tirah, Mohmand, Kalam, Swat, Murree, Azad Kashmir, Zhob and Gilgit-Baltistan. Army teams are engaged in clearing highways and roads blocked by snow to ensure smooth traffic flow.

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DPM, Turkish FM review regional, international issues



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar spoke on the phone with

Foreign Minister of Turkey, Hakan Fidan. They reviewed developments following Davos, and agreed to remain in close contact on key regional and international matters.

Govt employees to protest against privatization, pension reforms



Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: All Government Employees Grand Alliance (AGEGA) announced to hold a protest march in Islamabad against privatization and pension reforms of the federal government January 26 (Monday).

The protest march will start from the Ministry of Finance to the Parliament House at 11 am. All employees of different federal ministers and other departments will participate in the march.

Protesters, including workers from federal ministries, divisions, and institutions, as well as employees from all four provinces, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Azad Kashmir, are calling for immediate action to address their financial hardships.

All Government Employees Grand Alliance rejected the government's privatization policy. They demanded that the federal government regularize daily wages and contract employees. They also

extended their full support to the Balochistan government employees.

It is necessary to mention here that in February 2025, thousands of government employees from across Pakistan gathered outside Parliament House in Islamabad, staging a massive sit-in protest to demand salary increases, pension protection, and an end to the privatization of government institutions.

Workers, including

PTI will not be allowed to create anarchy, says PM's aide

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Coordinator on Information for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Affairs Ikhtiar Wali Khan has said that the PTI will not be allowed to create anarchy and chaos in the country.

In a televised message on Saturday, Ikhtiar Wali appealed the public to reject the PTI's protest call for 8th February. He also criticized the performance of PTI government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He said that there will be no protest in Punjab, Sindh, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on February 8.

Ikhtiar Wali said that if someone tried to jam the country, then the result would be different. He said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf

announced to hold a demonstration on February 8 only to disturb the law and order situation in the country.

Ikhtiar Wali claimed that the people of the country will reject this call. He said that the



Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government will use government machinery for the protest.

Ikhtiar Wali said that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government is planning to sell universities and other educational institutions of the province.

ICCI delegation meets AJK PM; Investment & business reforms top agenda

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, led by its President Sardar Tahir Mahmood, called on Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Faisal Mumtaz Rathore here today.

The delegation congratulated prime minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore on assuming office and expressed its best wishes to him. Talking to the delegation, Prime Minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore said that economic development of Azad Kashmir, promotion of investment and provision of facilities to the business community are among the top priorities of the government.

He said that the government was undertaking practical steps to create a business-friendly environment in the liberated territory including the implementation of tax reforms, infrastructure development, and the promotion



of tourism.

On this occasion, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Sardar Tahir Mahmood invited Prime Minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore to visit the Chamber of Commerce, which he accepted. Speaking on the occasion, Sardar Tahir

Mahmood said that the Chamber was ready to extend all possible cooperation to the government for the promotion of investment, joint ventures and commercial activities in Azad Kashmir.

He appreciated the leadership and development vision of Prime Minister Rathore and assured the

business community's positive role in the development of Azad Kashmir. The delegation included Senior Vice President Tahir Ayub, Vice President Chaudhry Irfan, Former President Ijaz Abbasi, Former Senior Vice President Muhammad Naveed Malik, Executive Members Malik Najeeb and others.

Illegal parking stand

RAWALPINDI: A view of the massive traffic jam along the both sides of the College road due to the illegal parking stand, but here the local administration is cheery on top as according the contractors of illegal parking stands, they are paying monthly charges to them, which needs the action of high authorities.



Photo: Online

All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference Conventions Signal Resilience

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The recent convention of the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference was not merely a party gathering; it emerged as a clear testament to the survival, resilience, and continuity of ideological politics in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. At a time when politics has become entangled in personal interests, temporary slogans, and the scramble for power, the Muslim Conference's series of successful conventions across Azad Kashmir and adjoining areas stands as compelling evidence that the ideology is still alive, workers remain energized, and the leadership



continues to hold a deep place in the hearts of the people.

The enthusiastic participation of workers, youth, women, and elders at these conventions completely dispelled the notion that ideological politics has weakened.

Usman Ali Khan; Syed Yasin Naqvi; Saleem Awan; Syed Tasawur Abbas Mousavi; Sheikh Maqsood Ahmed; Sajjad Anwar Abbasi; Mir Rizwan-ur-Rehman; Raja Mehtab Advocate; Sardar Mubashir Jandad, Saqlain Fida Kazmi; Khawaja Auj-e-Hanah Ahmed; Sikandar Habib Mir; and other party colleagues turned it into one of the most successful conventions.

The presence of Mohtarma Maqsoom Zahoor Kazmi, President, Muslim Conference Women's Wing, Muzaffarabad Division; Maryam Mubashir, General Secretary, Women's Wing, City Muzaffarabad; Sakina Liaqat Awan from

the Refugee Camp; Nasreen Akhtar Raja, Vice Chairperson, Women's Wing, District Bagh; Mohtarma Syeda Saba Kazmi, Senior Vice President, Women's Wing, District Muzaffarabad; Mohtarma Aamna Mughal, President, Women's Wing, Kotla Constituency; Mohtarma Pakiza Tabassum, Senior Vice President, Women's Wing, Kotla Constituency; Safina Hameed; and Mohtarma Salma Kazmi, President, Rawalpindi Circle Women's Wing—along with a large number of women workers—proved that the women of the Muslim Conference today stand in the front ranks on intellectual, organizational, and ideological fronts.

FBR and AJK officials meet to fast-track cigarette track and trace system

Bureau Report

MIRPUR: A comprehensive and high-level meeting was held at the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Headquarters, Islamabad, to deliberate in detail on important policy, administrative, and technical matters regarding the implementation of the Track and Trace System (TTS) on cigarette manufacturing companies operating in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting was termed highly significant, during which notable and positive progress was achieved.

According to the spokesperson of the Inland Revenue Department, the meeting was attended from the Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir by Commissioner Inland Revenue (South Zone) Syed Ansar Ali and Deputy



Commissioner Inland Revenue Syed Ali Asghar. Representing the Federal

Board of Revenue were Project Director Track and Trace System (TTS) Javed

Iqbal Tarar and Deputy Director TTS Mr. Khalid. Various aspects of the Track and Trace System were thoroughly discussed, and it was emphasized that bringing the production, distribution, and sale of cigarettes in Azad Jammu and Kashmir under effective monitoring through modern technology is an urgent need of the time.

While addressing the meeting, Project Director TTS Javed Iqbal Tarar stated that the Track and Trace System is a modern, integrated, and transparent mechanism that will enable real-time electronic monitoring and vigilance of cigarette products. He said that the implementation of this system will not only enhance transparency and increase tax revenues but will also effectively curb illegal production, tax evasion, and smuggling.

India a usurper, has no moral justification to celebrate its Republic Day: DFP

Kashmir is NOT an internal matter – it is a DANGEROUS NUCLEAR FLASHPOINT in South Asia.

Abdul Majeed Tahir

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party has said that India, which has deprived Kashmiris of their fundamental rights, has no moral justification to celebrate its Republic Day.

In a statement issued here today, the DFP spokesman, Advocate Arshad Iqbal, while referring to India's imperialistic presence in the region and relentless repression of Kashmiris' political and human rights, said that a country grossly involved in death and destruction in occupied Kashmir and holding its people hostage for decades has no right whatsoever to celebrate Republic Day.

He said that the entire world knows that India is a usurper which has always trampled Kashmiris' aspirations and their democratic rights under jackboots, besides keeping them under illegal military occupation for the last over 78 years.

The spokesman, while condemning the double standards of the Indian rulers, said that on the one hand the Indian leadership makes lofty claims of being the world's largest democracy, while on the other it has deprived Kashmiris of their basic rights.

Student suicide attempt sparks massive protest at Kashmir University over alleged professor harassment

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: A wave of intense protest erupted outside the University of Kashmir, Chehla Campus, after a serious incident of alleged harassment of a female student by a professor, exposing what students described as the criminal negligence and complete apathy of the university administration.

Angry students blocked the main highway by burning tyres, bringing traffic to a complete standstill. The protest was staged against the alleged immoral and shameful act of a professor and the administration's failure to take immediate and lawful action.

According to the protesting students, the incident occurred around 1:00 p.m. when a professor attempted to harass a female student in the campus cafe, allegedly grabbing her arm and engaging in inappropriate behavior. Following the incident, the victim reportedly suffered severe mental stress and fear, and even attempted suicide, highlighting the alarming lack of safety and protection for female students on campus.

Gaza Peace Push Threatened by Looming Iran Confrontation, Masood Khan

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Ambassador Masood Khan, former President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and former Pakistan Ambassador to the United States and the United Nations, has cautioned that the proposed Gaza "Board of Peace," spearheaded under President Donald Trump's 20-point formula, is unfolding amid deeply volatile regional dynamics, with the risk that parallel military escalation—particularly against Iran—could undermine any credible prospects for peace. He made these remarks during a televised discussion on emerging developments in Gaza, Iran, and the wider Middle East.

Ambassador Khan observed that while several key Muslim countries, including Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Qatar, Egypt, Jordan, and Indonesia, have associated themselves with the peace framework aimed at stabilizing Gaza, disturbing signals of renewed military activity and heightened rhetoric toward Iran are simultaneously emerging. He said this contradiction raises serious questions about the coherence and sustainability of the peace initiative, especially as reports and images circulating on social media suggest preparations for possible confrontation.

Concluding his remarks, Ambassador Khan said Pakistan's decision to remain engaged is driven by the belief that working from within the framework offers a better chance to advocate for ceasefire, humanitarian relief, and eventual political settlement.

Pakistan Army conducts timely and effective relief operations in Nikyal Sector



Shaukat Ali Malik

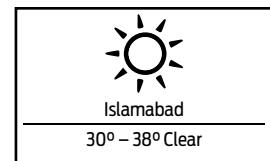
KOTLI: The Pakistan Army successfully conducted timely and effective relief operations in the Nikyal sector following heavy snowfall that caused severe road blockages and left several citizens stranded in harsh weather conditions.

Due to continuous snowfall, the main road connecting Kotli to Nikyal was blocked at multiple points, resulting in numerous vehicles being stuck, with families and individuals facing extreme cold and limited access to basic necessities. Responding swiftly to the situation, the Pakistan Army initiated immediate relief measures to ensure the safety and well-being of the affected population.

On January 23, at approximately 8:22 PM, a Lieutenant Colonel (Commanding Officer), accompanied by another officer and Pakistan Army troops, proceeded towards the Peer Nasora point, where several vehicles were immobilized due to heavy snow accumulation.

An Army vehicle carrying essential relief supplies, including food items, clean drinking water, hot tea, juices, and petrol, reached the affected area despite challenging terrain and adverse weather conditions. The stranded individuals were promptly provided with food and refreshments, while families—particularly women, children, and the elderly—were safely evacuated and shifted to secure locations.

A civil rescue team from Kotli also arrived at the site and actively participated in the relief efforts alongside the Pakistan Army, demonstrating effective coordination between military and civil authorities.


SERVICES
Namaz Timings

Fajr	5:43 am
Zohr	12:20 pm
Asr	3:53 pm
Magrib	5:31 pm
Isha	6:57 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 &
& Rescue Services	451122
Motorway Police	9266044
Motorway Police	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

CMH	561111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	555631-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	926170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

DEPARTMENTS

CDA	921334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886

CEO CBD
Punjab Imran
Amin Reviews
NSIT City
Development
News Desk

LAHORE: A high-level review meeting to evaluate the progress of NSIT City was held under the chairmanship of CEO CBD Punjab, Imran Amin. The session focused on ongoing development works, including hardscaping, landscaping, and public realm enhancements.

The meeting was attended by Executive Director Technical Riaz Hussain, Director Architecture & Planning Sameer Aftab Sial, Director Construction Asif Babar, Director Project Management Asif Iqbal, Director Engineering Umar Hayat, the Project Manager NSIT City, representatives of project contractors, and officials from NESPAK.

During the briefing, the CEO was apprised of the current status of hardscaping, landscaping, and public realm works, with particular emphasis on finishing stages of public spaces. Detailed discussions were held on material specifications, quality benchmarks, and design elements to ensure durability, sustainability, and visual excellence.

CEO CBD Punjab Imran Amin underscored that quality would not be compromised at any stage of development. He directed all stakeholders to ensure strict compliance with international standards in infrastructure development and urban design, reiterating that NSIT City is envisioned as a world-class technology hub integrating functionality, sustainability, and contemporary urban aesthetics.

Newborn abducted from Muzaffarabad Hospital recovered within 48 hours; three arrested

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: The District Police Muzaffarabad have achieved a commendable success by safely recovering the newborn baby who was abducted from CMH Muzaffarabad, within just two days.

During this successful operation, the newborn, who was abducted from CMH on January 21, was recovered during a successful operation conducted on the night of January 23 from the hilly area of Lamiya Patian. The recovery was made by DSP City, SHO City, SHO Saddar, along with their teams.

According to police sources, the newborn, who was abducted from CMH on January 21, was recovered during a successful operation conducted on the night of January 23 from the hilly area of Lamiya Patian. The recovery was made by DSP City, SHO City, SHO Saddar, along with their teams.

Later that same night, SSP Riaz Haider Bukhari, in the presence of the Commanding Officer CMH, Deputy Commanding Officer, police officials, and a large number of local residents, formally handed over the recovered baby to his mother.

On this occasion, the mother of the newborn and other family members expressed profound gratitude and appreciation for the police, offering prayers and expressing pride in the City Police Muzaffarabad.



Enjoyment

ISLAMABAD: Families are enjoying at Monument on clear sunny day after rainy days in Federal Capital on Saturday.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

DC Mela monitors cleanliness and beautification drive in Tehsil Kamalia

Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: Under the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, Deputy Commissioner Umar Abbas Mela conducted a field visit to Tehsil Kamalia to review municipal services and the ongoing grand cleanliness and beautification drive.

He inspected various areas of the city to assess progress on cleanliness, beautification and civic facilities projects.

Assistant Commissioner Kamalia Iqra Nasir and Chief Officer MC Ali Raza were also present and provided detailed briefings on municipal service improvements and the ongoing cleanliness operation.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed work in parks, green belts, graveyards, main roads and markets, including street cleaning, washing, lane marking, zebra crossings and wall painting.

The district administration remains



committed to making Tehsil Kamalia a clean, safe and attractive city, while continuously improving municipal and healthcare services for residents.

PPAF and CSAI join forces for critical education infrastructure upgrade in Thatta

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) and China Three Gorges South Asia Investment Limited, (CSAIL) have signed a Grant Agreement to renovate and rehabilitate Government Primary School Daad Bux Chang in Jhimpur, Thatta, Sindh, under TGWS's CSR initiative. The 12-month project, will include constructing classrooms and a toilet block, building a boundary wall, planting trees, installing an RO water filtration system, hiring teachers, and running community mobilisation and enrolment campaigns.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Chief Executive Officer PPAF, Mr. Nadir Gul Burech, said the agreement formalises a meaningful partnership between PPAF and CSAIL,



reflecting a shared commitment to sustainable development, community

wellbeing, and inclusive growth. He noted that CSAIL's engagement

in Pakistan extends beyond renewable energy generation to responsible corporate citizenship. "Supporting education infrastructure is a strategic CSR priority, as it lays the foundation for human capital development and intergenerational progress," he said.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy CEO of China Three Gorges South Asia Investment Limited (CSAIL), Mr. Liu Yonggang, said: "We at CSAIL are committed to developing renewable energy in Pakistan while supporting local communities through our corporate social responsibility. This partnership with PPAF to rehabilitate a school in Jhimpur will improve access to education for local children and contribute to community wellbeing. We are pleased to sign this agreement on the 75th anniversary of China-Pakistan relations."

Azad Kashmir leader hails General Munir: India facing defeat on all fronts

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD / SIALKOT: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, stated that Pakistan has been blessed by Almighty Allah with a courageous, resolute, and visionary leadership in the form of Field Marshal General Syed Asim Munir, a Hafiz-e-Quran and a true believer. He said that due to his clear vision, strategic thinking, and bold actions, India is facing defeat on both geographical and ideological fronts. He added that Pakistan's past policies of defeatism and apology have now begun to change completely.

He expressed these views while talking to various delegations during his visit to Sialkot. Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan said that the leadership of the Field Marshal has revived and strengthened the thoughts and philosophy of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Allama Iqbal, placing Pakistan on a new path of strength, dignity, and power. He remarked that Bunyan-un-Marsoos has fully exposed the reality of India's defensive capabilities and demonstrated Pakistan's strong defense posture.

Meanwhile, during his visit to Sialkot, a dinner was hosted in honor of Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan by former Minister Hafiz Hamid Raza. The dinner was attended by former Minister Ch. Maqbool Gujjar, President of Muslim Conference Punjab District Waheed-ul-Haq Hashmi, and other notable personalities.

Railway Union Chief Slams Privatization Plans During Faisalabad Visit

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: When Pakistan Railways Prem Union Chairman Ziauddin Ansari arrived at Faisalabad station on his way to Karachi via Karakoram Express, he was enthusiastically welcomed by Chief Organizer Khalid Mahmood Chaudhry, Zonal President Zaheeruddin Babar, Secretary Kazim Farooq Gul, Zonal Vice President Nooruddin, Zonal Organizers Bao Tahir, Babar Nawaz, Abdul Sami, Sajid Imran, Abdul Rehman, Noor Ahmed, Muhammad Kashif and other zonal and local committee officials and workers and garlanded them. Addressing the welcoming workers on this occasion, Ziauddin Ansari said that the railway employees are the backbone of the railway, the railway institution is running day and night with the hard work of the workers. The Prem Union is proud of its labor brothers, the role the employees are playing in continuing the train operations of the railway despite adverse conditions is commendable. The passion of the railway employees cannot be defeated. He said that the biggest charitable and welfare organization of Pakistan Privatization is tantamount to treason against the country and the nation, no one will be allowed to privatize the railways employees will shed their blood to save the railways but will not allow anyone to loot the railways in the name of privatization. He said that the Prem Union is fighting for the problems of the railways and railway workers keeping in mind the will of Allah and the success of the hereafter, keeping all kinds of affiliations and prejudices above. Every railway worker, going beyond all regional, linguistic, political prejudices and distinctions, prioritizes his duties and responsibilities only for the betterment of Pakistan Railways and keeping its train operations better and normal, and this is his first priority.

Ibrahim Hasan Murad Holds Special Meeting with Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Former Provincial Minister and renowned educationist Ibrahim Hasan Murad paid a special visit to senior politician and President of Pakistan Muslim League (Q), Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain. During the meeting, Ibrahim Murad inquired about Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain's health and extended his best wishes for his long life, good health and well-being. Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Chaudhry Shafaq Hussain was also present on the occasion.

Speaking during the meeting, Ibrahim Murad said that Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain is a wise, visionary and principled leader whose services are a priceless asset to Pakistan's political history. He noted that Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain has always prioritized national interest over personal and political considerations and provided prudent leadership during challenging times.

Paying tribute to Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain's historic role in the issuance of the educational charter, the former provincial minister said that this support paved the way for the promotion of higher education, for which he would always remain grateful.

On the occasion, Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Chaudhry Shafaq Hussain appreciated the educational services of Ibrahim Hasan Murad and said that with more than 60 percent of Pakistan's population comprising youth, equipping them with modern knowledge and skills is the most pressing need of the time. He further emphasized that strong linkages between academia and industry would play a key role in national development.

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Inclusion of Islamabad International Airport in Privatisation Programme Under Long Term Concession Mode

The government has been actively considering a range of options for outsourcing operations at three major airports—Islamabad International Airport (IIAP), Karachi's Jinnah International Airport (JIAP), and Lahore's Allama Iqbal International Airport (AI-IAPI)—through appropriate modes, including management contracts and long-term commercial concessions. As part of this strategy, the Islamabad Airport has been included into the active privatization program, consistent with the ongoing process for airports at Karachi and Lahore.

The primary objectives of the government are to enhance efficiency, improve service delivery, maximize revenue generation, upgrade infrastructure, and attract domestic and international private sector investments. This has involved constructive dialogue with entities from valued partner nations, including the United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, as well as other international stakeholders. These efforts are in line with Pakistan's overarching economic vision to cultivate mutually beneficial collaboration to modernise the aviation sector.

The Privatisation Commission has noticed some misleading reports that suggest 'cancelling of any proposed agreement for Islamabad International Airport' and strongly refutes such reports. In this context, the claim that "Pakistan has cancelled any lease agreement with the UAE" is contrary to the facts and misleading, as no such agreement or lease was ever signed for any of the airports including Islamabad International Airport.

In November, 2025, due to high level of interest from various investors for participating in these concessions, the government decided to move from G2G mode to an open bidding mode for all three airports. In this competitive process, all domestic and foreign investors, will have a level playing field to participate in the bidding process. This decision does not have any political or diplomatic background, and is based purely on economic and procedural reasons.

The envisaged competitive process for airport outsourcing will prioritize inclusivity, welcoming participation from all eligible entities, including those from the valued partner nations and beyond, while affording equal opportunities to local and foreign investors. This is designed to promote transparency and fair competition, deliver the most advantageous results for Pakistan's economy, and reinforce our enduring relationships with international partners.

Trump's Naval Push Toward Iran

President Donald Trump's casual but chilling reference to an "armada" of U.S. warships heading toward the Middle East has once again pulled the world into a familiar but deeply unsettling theater of power, pressure, and peril. Speaking aboard Air Force One, he framed the movement of naval force as a precaution—"just in case"—while pointing to what he called a "good sign" that Iran had paused the hanging of protesters. Yet behind this language of conditional restraint lies a strategic pattern that many across the developing world, and especially in the Middle East, recognize all too well: the choreography of threat, softening, and sudden strike.

The USS Abraham Lincoln carrier strike group, with its five thousand sailors, squadrons of fighter jets, electronic attack aircraft, and escort ships, was already moving through the Indian Ocean as Trump spoke. It will soon join destroyers and littoral combat ships in a region that has rarely gone long without a U.S. aircraft carrier patrolling its waters. The official justification is deterrence—ensuring Iran does not escalate its response to mass protests that erupted in late December over worsening economic conditions.

There is a deeply rooted memory, especially in countries that have lived through the consequences of great-power intervention, of how negotiations and reassuring rhetoric can unfold alongside active military preparation. In Pakistan's case, assurances were once delivered at the highest levels even as U.S. forces were already in motion—American cruise missiles crossed Pakistani airspace and struck targets inside Afghanistan, despite parallel diplomatic engagements and the presence of senior U.S. generals in Islamabad offering guarantees that Pakistan's territorial integrity would not be violated.

A similar pattern, in this view, emerged during periods when Iran was engaged in nuclear negotiations and discussions over its regional role, only to face sudden, precision strikes against sensitive mili-

tary and nuclear-related sites under the cover of diplomatic dialogue. For many in the region, these episodes have fused into a collective perception that threats, softening gestures, and sudden force are not separate phases, but part of a single strategic sequence—one designed to lower vigilance before the moment of decisive action.

This is why Trump's "armada" comment resonates far beyond Washington or Tehran. It revives fears of a scenario in which the visible calming of tensions becomes the prelude to a more devastating escalation. The strategic geography makes those fears sharper. The Middle East is not just a battlefield of ideologies and alliances; it is the heart of the global energy system. The Strait of Hormuz, a narrow maritime artery through which a significant share of the world's oil supply passes, lies within the range of any serious confrontation between the United States, Iran, and their respective allies.

From a military perspective, the asymmetry of power is stark. The United States and Israel possess unmatched capabilities in intelligence, cyber operations, satellite surveillance, and precision strike. Carrier-based aircraft, submarines, and long-range missiles offer the ability to hit multiple targets across Iranian territory within hours. Analysts often point to the vulnerability of fixed installations—nuclear enrichment sites, command centers, and air defense systems—to such a coordinated assault. The possibility of decapitating strikes against senior leadership, a tactic seen in other conflicts, adds another layer of volatility to the equation.

Iran, for its part, is not without options. Its strategy has long relied on a combination of conventional forces, missile capabilities, and a network of regional allies and proxies across Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, and Yemen. Any large-scale attack on Iranian soil would almost certainly

trigger responses against U.S. bases in the region and against Israel, potentially pulling multiple states into a widening conflict. Even limited engagements could spiral rapidly, driven by miscalculation, domestic political pressures, or the simple momentum of retaliation.

Yet the most complex challenge Iran faces today is not purely military. The protests that have shaken the country since late December represent a profound internal strain. Managing unrest at home while confronting external pressure stretches any state's capacity. Energy, attention, and resources must be divided between maintaining domestic order and preparing for potential confrontation abroad. This dual-front reality complicates decision-making in Tehran and increases the risk

of unintended escalation. The specter of broader involvement looms as well. China and Russia, both significant players in global energy markets and strategic rivals of the United States, have their own stakes in the stability of the Gulf. Disruptions to Iranian oil exports or regional shipping would affect their economies and their geopolitical calculations. While direct military intervention by these powers may be unlikely, their diplomatic, economic, and possibly covert responses could further complicate an already crowded chessboard.

Beyond strategy and statecraft lies the human cost. The last decades of conflict in the Middle East have produced waves of refugees, shattered cities, and generations marked by trauma. A new, large-scale war involving the United States, Israel, and Iran would not be confined to military targets. It would reverberate through civilian populations, sending millions fleeing across borders and deepening humanitarian crises in countries already struggling with displacement and poverty.

This is why Trump's offhand phrase—"just in case"—carries such weight. It suggests a readiness to cross a threshold that, once crossed, cannot easily be uncrossed. The movement of an armada is not a symbolic act; it is a material commitment of lives, resources, and global attention. It signals to allies and adversaries alike that the option of force is not theoretical but operational.

Yet there remains another path, one that history shows is harder to sustain but far less costly in the long run. Diplomacy, backed by genuine multilateral engagement rather than unilateral pressure, offers a way to address both Iran's internal crisis and the region's broader security dilemmas without lighting the fuse of a wider war. Such an approach requires patience, restraint, and a willingness to accept outcomes that may fall short of maximal goals.

The world now watches as warships move across the Indian Ocean and protesters continue to fill Iran's streets. Between these two forces—one internal, one external—lies a fragile moment in which choices made in Washington and Tehran will shape not only their own futures but the stability of the global system. An armada can project power, but it cannot rebuild trust, heal societies, or secure lasting peace.

In the end, the true test of leadership will not be measured by the number of ships deployed or the range of missiles at the ready, but by whether this moment of tension becomes another chapter in a long history of devastation or a turning point toward a more durable, if imperfect, equilibrium. The stakes are not just regional. They are global, and they will be felt in the lives of millions who have no voice in the decisions now being made over the waters of the Gulf.

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 Rasmal. (Courtesy of Asharq Al-Awsat)

Pakistan's Strategic Resurgence: Unity of National Leadership in a Changing World Order

The world today stands at a critical inflection point. Traditional power centers are under strain, global institutions appear increasingly ineffective, and new alignments are emerging amid economic uncertainty, geopolitical rivalries, hybrid warfare, and diplomatic polarization. In such an environment, the success of states no longer depends solely on material resources or military strength, but on the coherence of political vision, strategic foresight, and institutional harmony. Pakistan's contemporary trajectory must be understood through this very lens.

In recent years, Pakistan has faced a convergence of severe challenges: economic fragility, political instability, diplomatic pressures, and an increasingly volatile regional security environment. Yet, amid these headwinds, the most significant strength Pakistan has demonstrated is the growing alignment between its political leadership, military command, and national security institutions. This unity of purpose has become the cornerstone of Pakistan's gradual re-emergence as a confident and responsible state on the global stage.

This harmony became particularly evident during moments of heightened regional tension. When confronted with India's aggressive posturing and coercive signaling, Pakistan responded neither with emotional escalation nor strategic ambiguity. Instead, a calibrated blend of military readiness, diplomatic engagement, and political unity conveyed strength without provocation. This was a perceptible shift in international perception, with global actors increasingly

recognizing Pakistan as a stabilizing force rather than a source of volatility in South Asia.

On the diplomatic front, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar has played a crucial role in redefining Pakistan's external engagement. Foreign policy has been consciously linked with economic diplomacy, prioritizing trade, investment, energy cooperation, and regional connectivity. Pakistan's outreach is no longer framed solely through security narratives but increasingly through development partnerships and economic opportunity.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recent engagements at global forums in Switzerland, including Geneva, symbolized this renewed confidence. Pakistan presented its reform agenda, commitment to transparency, and desire for constructive global integration with clarity and assurance. Accompanied by a high-level delegation—including the Deputy Prime Minister, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, Information Minister Attalullah Tarar, Economic Affairs Minister Ahad Cheema, and Special Assistant Tariq Fatemi—the visit underscored institutional coherence and seriousness of purpose.

Within this evolving global context, discussions have emerged about alternative international platforms, including proposals attributed to the U.S. President regarding a forum of approximately sixty countries, at times referred to in policy circles as a "Gaza Peace Board" type initiative or parallel consultative grouping. While such ideas do not yet constitute a formal or operational alliance, they reflect a broader reality: dissatisfaction

with existing multilateral mechanisms and the search for more agile, issue-specific coalitions. For Pakistan, meaningful participation in any such emerging framework can only be effective if anchored in sustained political-military unity and strategic clarity at home.

Finally, Pakistan's internal political stability remains indispensable to this national resurgence. Encouragingly, recent developments—such as the consensual and statesmanlike approach toward the nomination of Leaders of the Opposition in the National Assembly and Senate—demonstrate a willingness to bridge political divides. This spirit of accommodation must be deepened. It is imperative that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) also reassesses its confrontational posture, particularly campaigns that undermine state institutions and national security narratives.

Constructive opposition, not institutional antagonism, is the democratic path forward. Pakistan's future prosperity depends on political reconciliation, economic reform, and the resolution of structural governance challenges, including issues arising from the Eighteenth Amendment, through dialogue and constitutional wisdom rather than polarization.

In sum, Pakistan's renewed standing is not the product of a single leader or institution. It is the outcome of synchronized political vision, professional military leadership, and disciplined statecraft. This strategic harmony is Pakistan's greatest asset—and its most reliable guarantee of stability, dignity, and progress in an increasingly uncertain world.

The writer is a seasoned columnist, policy analyst, and advocate for Pakistani diaspora engagement. His writings focus on national development, geopolitical strategy, and the role of overseas Pakistanis in shaping a prosperous future.

26th January in Jammu Kashmir: A Republic Built on Occupation, Not Consent-I

While India unfurls its tricolor and celebrates its democratic constitution on 26th January, the people of Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) mark the same day as Black Day—not out of spite, but as a solemn reminder that the Indian Republic's promises remain a cruel fiction in their lived reality. This observance is not a rejection of constitutional ideals per se, but a powerful indictment of how those ideals have been systematically denied to Kashmiris through decades of occupation, betrayal, and institutionalized violence.

The foundation of Kashmir's Black Day lies in the betrayal of international commitments. United Nations Security Council resolutions explicitly recognized the Kashmiri right to self-determination, promising a plebiscite to determine their political future. India initially accepted these resolutions but has since rendered them dead letters through perpetual delay and denial. For Kashmiris, Republic Day thus becomes a bitter anniversary: while India celebrates its sovereignty, it simultaneously denies Kashmiris the very exercise of sovereign choice that the international community guaranteed them. This fundamental breach of trust transforms India's constitutional celebrations into a theater of hypocrisy.

This denial of political rights has been enforced through brute military might and a legal architecture designed for oppression. With nearly a million troops stationed in the region, IOJK remains one of the world's most militarized zones. This occupation is not merely about numbers; it is about impunity. Draconian laws like the Armed

Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) and the Public Safety Act (PSA) provide blanket immunity to security forces, shielding them from prosecution even for egregious human rights violations. Soldiers operate with the knowledge that they can detain, torture, or kill without consequence. For Kashmiris, the Indian Constitution's guarantee of life and liberty is meaningless when its armed forces enjoy license to violate these rights with impunity.

The human cost of this impunity is measured in shattered lives and blinded futures. The use of pellet shotguns against civilian protesters—weaponry designed for hunting animals, not controlling crowds—has left thousands maimed, with hundreds of young men, women, and children permanently blinded. These "dead eyes" have become a haunting symbol of Indian democracy's hollow claims. While India's Republic Day parade showcases military precision and national pride, Kashmiri families mourn children who will never see again, their vision sacrificed to maintain occupation. This is not governance; it is collective punishment.

The unilateral actions of August 5, 2019, represented the final assault on whatever remained of Kashmiri autonomy. In a single day, India revoked Article 370 and 35A, dissolved the region's special status, bifurcated the state, and imposed a total communications blackout. Thousands of political leaders, activists, and even ordinary citizens were preemptively detained. This was not constitutional amendment; it was constitutional annihilation imposed without consulting the very people whose future was being decided.

To be continued



Aima Afraz

Teachers, backbone of the education system, says Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani

By Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani has said that the future of Pakistan is linked to the extent to which the country provides effective and quality education to its youth. The success of Pakistan, which has a young population and immense potential, depends on the quality of universities. He was addressing the oath-taking ceremony of the executive body of the Academic Staff Association (ASA) at the Jinnah Auditorium Bahauddin Zakaria University Multan on Saturday.

He said that universities should function as centers of education, research, innovation and social responsibility in their respective regions. The Chairman Senate said that as Chairman Senate, he has been declaring education as the central pillar of national policy-making at the parliamentary forum. He stressed on curriculum reforms, aligning education with the needs of the modern job market and strengthening ties between Pakistani universities and world-renowned institutions.

Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani while describing teachers and academic staff as the backbone of the education system, said that the rise and fall of nations is linked to the strength of



teachers.

He said that academic staff associations play an important role in protecting professional rights as well as promoting educational standards, institutional harmony and intellectual freedom.

The Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani while appreciating the role of BZU in promoting quality education in South Punjab and across the

country, demanded the Punjab government to establish a campus of Bahauddin Zakaria University in Shujabad. He said that this campus will directly benefit the students of Shujabad, Jalalpur Pirwala, Alipur, Lodhran and surrounding areas. He expressed hope that Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz would approve this demand without delay.

He reminded that Bahauddin

Zakaria University was established in 1975 during the tenure of former Prime Minister Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto through an Act of Parliament, while Islamia University Bahawalpur and Gomal University Dera Ismail Khan were also established under the same decision.

This was a far-sighted national decision to promote higher education in backward areas, with the

aim of ensuring educational equality for sustainable national development. Referring to his tenure as Prime Minister (2008 to 2012), Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani said that despite severe economic and security challenges, strenuous efforts were made to strengthen government universities and increase access to higher education in backward areas.

He said that during the same period,

100 PhD scholarships were given to BZU under the Faculty Development Program. He said that today Bahauddin Zakaria University Multan is the largest university in South Punjab, which is providing education to thousands of students and is playing a prominent role in teaching, research and regional development.

The Chairman Senate reiterated that throughout his public life, he considered education as the basis of national development, social justice and democratic stability.

He said that investment in education is not an expense but a long-term national responsibility and a state priority. On this occasion, Vice Chancellor BZU Multan Dr. Zubair Iqbal highlighted the improvement in the university's ranking and the steps taken during the last one and a half years.

He said that a comprehensive five-year strategy has been prepared for the overall improvement of the university. President Academic Staff Association Dr. Benjamin while highlighting the problems faced by the faculty, expressed his determination to play a full role for the betterment of the university. He thanked the Chairman Senate and called him a benefactor of South Punjab and BZU Multan.

Uzbekistan-Pakistan: Strategic partnership toward regional stability and integration

By Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: On January 23, a round-table discussion titled "Uzbekistan - Pakistan: Bridging regions and creating new opportunities" was held at the International Institute for Central Asia in Tashkent.

The event, organized in cooperation with the Embassy of Pakistan in Uzbekistan, brought together representatives of relevant ministries, business circles, analytical centers, and the academic community.

It is worth noting that in recent years, relations between the two friendly countries have risen to an entirely new level. In particular, the formalization of the strategic partnership in 2021 indicates that bilateral ties have reached a qualitatively new stage. Today, this cooperation is characterized by active political dialogue, expanded trade and economic relations, increased investment flows, and intensified cultural and humanitarian exchanges.

In particular, the official visit of the Prime Minister of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif to Uzbekistan in February 2025



provided strong momentum to this process. During the visit, important agreements were reached to deepen cooperation in trade, transport, science and education, culture, and security. The sides set clear targets to increase bilateral trade turnover to \$2 billion.

Last year, the increase in mutual trade volume to \$400 million indicates that Pakistan is becoming an important foreign trade partner for Uzbekistan.

As part of efforts to strengthen economic cooperation, the opening of the UzbekPak International Trading Centre and the UzbekPak Cultural

Centre in Karachi became an essential institutional step. These platforms serve not only to promote industrial and agricultural products, but also to strengthen cultural ties between our peoples.

Cooperation in transport and logistics is another priority area of Uzbekistan - Pakistan relations. The Uzbekistan - Afghanistan - Pakistan Trans-Afghan railway project has significant potential as a strategic transport corridor linking Central and South Asia. In addition, agreements reached to develop air cargo transportation between Tashkent and Karachi,

including the delivery of agricultural products, are gaining practical importance.

During today's meeting, these pressing issues were discussed, creating a significant opportunity to develop approaches for a new qualitative stage of the strategic partnership and to advance concrete initiatives in trade, transport, education, science, culture, and tourism. Within the framework of the event, special attention was paid to strengthening ties among the analytical, academic, and business communities of Uzbekistan and Pakistan.

In addition, practical recommendations were developed for inclusion in the agenda of the high-level dialogue, and new initiatives were put forward to enhance Pakistan's cooperation with Central Asian countries.

In a word, cooperation between Uzbekistan and Pakistan is turning into a strong bridge built on trust, pragmatism, and shared interests. The roundtable discussion held in Tashkent has become an essential step toward further expanding and strengthening this bridge.

Gaza death toll surges to 71,654, with 171,391 reported wounded as Israeli aggression continues

By WAFA

GAZA: The death toll from the Israeli ongoing aggression has risen to 71,654 Palestinians, with 171,391 reported wounded, since the beginning of the offensive on October 7, 2023, according to medical sources.

They affirmed that four new fatalities were received at Gaza hospitals over the past 48 hours, along with 12 new injuries. A number of victims remain trapped under rubble or lying in the streets, as ambulance and civil defense crews are still unable to reach them due to the massive destruction and the absence of supplies.

Since the ceasefire came into effect on October 11, the number of fatalities has increased to 481 with 1,313 injuries, while 713 bodies have been recovered from beneath the rubble.

A three-month-old Ali Abu Zur passed away due to severe cold at Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital, bringing the number of infant deaths from the cold since the beginning of winter season to 10.

Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is the Modern Conscious and Global Face of Pakistan

By Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Pakistan Peoples Party South Punjab President Makhdoom Syed Ahmed Mahmood, Senior Vice President of Pakistan Peoples Party South Punjab Khawaja Rizwan

Alam and Chief Coordinator South Punjab Abdul Qadir Shaheen, while expressing their views on the domestic and international political situation, have said that Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is the modern, conscious and global face of Pakistan's foreign policy and diplomatic continuity after Quaid-e-Azam Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto.

He said that Bilawal Bhutto Zardari not only understands the language of modern global politics and its changing requirements, but also presents Pakistan's position by combining narrative formation, effective use of media, global economy and geopolitics into a coherent intellectual framework. This is why his speech is heard and understood not only at the political but also at the policy level.

Makhdoom Ahmed Mahmood, Khawaja Rizwan Alam and Abdul Qadir Shaheen said that as Foreign Minister, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari represented Pakistan at a time when the country was facing serious challenges such as diplomatic isolation, economic pressure and negative global perception. During this period, he brought the Kashmir issue back to the forefront of the global conscience, played a role in shaping a coherent global narrative against Islamophobia, effectively highlighted the impacts of climate change in the context of developing countries like Pakistan and represented the collective interests of the Global South.

Three Palestinians injured in colonist attack in Beit Furik, east of Nablus

By WAFA



canisters.

Meanwhile, Israeli colonists also attacked local Palestinian residents in the town of Qusra, south of Nablus, on Saturday.

Qusra Mayor Hani Odeh told WAFA that colonists assaulted residents in the western area of the town under the protection of the Israeli occupation army, leading to violent confrontations that included heavy gunfire.

He added that colonists set up tents three days earlier in the western area of the town, despite the land being located in Area A, under full Palestinian control, warning of the danger this poses to the town.

Malaysia-Pakistan Education Ties Strengthened at EMGS Networking Reception in Islamabad

By Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Education Malaysia Global Services (EMGS) successfully hosted a networking reception in Islamabad, graciously hosted by His Excellency Dato' Mohammad Azhar Mazlan, High Commissioner of Malaysia to Pakistan, reaffirming strong educational cooperation between Malaysia and Pakistan.

Addressing the gathering, High Commissioner Dato' Mohammad Azhar Mazlan highlighted the deep-rooted and brotherly rela-

tionship between Malaysia and Pakistan, built on shared cultural, religious, and people-to-people ties. He emphasized that Malaysia remains a preferred study destination for Pakistani students due to its high-quality education system, internationally recognized universities, and affordable tuition fees. He noted that a growing number of Pakistani students are currently enrolled in leading Malaysian public and private universities, contributing positively to academic and cultural exchanges.

Speaking on the occasion,

Mr. Moeen Ahmed, Regional Head - South Asia, Education Malaysia Global Services (EMGS), welcomed participants from Pakistan's education sector. He highlighted Malaysia's strong academic standards, industry-focused programs, and student-friendly environment. He encouraged Pakistani students to explore the diverse study opportunities available at Malaysian universities, which offer globally competitive education and career pathways.

The event served as an impor-

tant platform for dialogue, collaboration, and networking between Malaysian higher education institutions and Pakistan's education stakeholders. Representatives from several leading Malaysian universities participated, including the University of Malaya, Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM), Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL), Asia Pacific University of Technology & Innovation (APU), UCSI University, and the University of Cyberjaya (UOC).

The reception reaffirmed

EMGS's commitment to strengthening Malaysia-Pakistan educational cooperation and promoting Malaysia as a leading global education destination for Pakistani students.



Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Current	Prev. Close
187,688.16	187,033.26
Day's High	Day's Low
188,106.82	186,825.61
Index Value	Change
33,745,158,847	+654.90
Percentage	Time
+0.35%	22 Jan, 2026 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
10,150.05	+11.96
Percentage	Time
+0.12%	22 Jan, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
49,546.33	+469.10
Percentage	Time
+0.96%	22 Jan, 12:09 pm GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
53,688.89	+914.25
Percentage	Time
+1.73%	22 Jan, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	189.51	194.59
Bahrain Dinar	743.90	753.89
Canadian Dollar	201.77	205.25
China Yuan	38.00	42.5
Danish Krone	43.27	43.67
Euro	327.67	331.68
Hong Kong Dollar	35.50	36.38
Indian Rupee	2.8	3.31
Japanese Yen	1.7549	1.8530
Kuwaiti Dinar	908.00	917.97
Malaysian Ringgit	66.55	70
New Zealand \$	162.80	167.60
Norwegians Krone	27.56	27.86
Omani Riyal	728.65	738.64
Qatari Riyal	76	78.5
Saudi Riyal	74.90	75.35
Singapore Dollar	216.97	221.85
Swedish Korona	30.16	30.46
Swiss Franc	350.92	355.94
Thai Bhat	8.5	9.7
U.A.E Dirham	76.55	77.35
UK Pound Sterling	376.44	380.79
US Dollar	280.75	282.55

Honda launches 2026 models of CG125, CD70 bikes

News Desk

LAHORE: Good news for those using motorcycles in Pakistan as Atlas Honda has introduced the latest models of its motorcycles CG 125 and CD 70. Not big mechanical changes have been introduced in these models and emphasis has been laid on latest graphics and better finish.

The company has also announced its prices.

The price of Honda CG 125 (2026 model) is 238,900.

Although, there is no difference between the 2025 and 2026 models in terms of the mechanical structure and engine; however, new graphics, better design have given a new look to the motorcycle.

Honda CG 125 is amongst those motorcycles which is very popular with the people due to its strong body and reliable engine.

Atlas Honda has fixed the price of CD 70 at 159,900.

This model too is popular among motorcyclists due to its better mileage, strong body and lower maintenance rates.

Gold, silver prices surge by Rs.6,500 per tola

ISLAMABAD: Gold prices registered a sharp increase in both local and international markets on Saturday as the price of 24-karat gold per tola increased by Rs 6,500 to settle at Rs 521,162.

According to the All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association, the price of 10 grams of 24-karat gold also went up by Rs 5,573 to Rs 446,812 whereas the price of 10 grams of 22-karat gold rose by Rs 5,109 to Rs 409,592.

In the international market, gold prices climbed by \$65 to \$4,988 per ounce.

Meanwhile, silver prices also witnessed a notable increase. The price of 24-karat silver per tola surged by Rs 526 to Rs 10,801, whereas the price of 10 grams of silver rose by Rs 451 to Rs 9,260.

On the global front, the price of silver increased by \$5.26 to \$103.26 per ounce.

Pakistan, Etisalat agree to settle dispute over PTCL

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar met with Jassem Mohammed Bu Ataba Al Zaabi, Chairman of Etisalat (e&c) and the Abu Dhabi Department of Finance, and discussed with him investment prospects, including Etisalat's stake in Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) and both sides agreed to resolve the issues relating to the PTCL. This was said in a statement released by the Pakistan Foreign Ministry on Saturday.

The meeting with the Etisalat chairman in Dubai comes against the backdrop of a long-running dispute over the privatization of PTCL. The UAE-based telecom group has withheld a final payment of about \$800 million linked to its 2005 acquisition of a 26 percent stake in PTCL, citing delays in the transfer of properties included in the deal, a position disputed by Pakistan.

The issue has resurfaced in recent years as Pakistan seeks to revive investor confidence, advance privatization plans and stabilize its



finances under a programme backed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The meeting reviewed Pakistan-UAE trade and economic cooperation, explored opportunities to enhance investment, and discussed e&c's pending issues and ongoing engagement

in Pakistan, including through its stake in PTCL," the Foreign Ministry said.

Pakistan and the UAE maintain close political and economic ties, with Abu Dhabi providing critical financial support to Islamabad in recent years through deposits, loans

and investment commitments as Pakistan navigates a fragile economic recovery.

"DPM/FM highlighted the Government of Pakistan's commitment to facilitating investment by the private sector and partner countries, and to further strengthening economic cooperation between the two brotherly countries," the statement said.

According to another statement released hours after the first one, the Foreign Ministry said Deputy Prime Minister / Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar met with Jassem Mohammed Bu Ataba Al Zaabi, Chairman of the Department of Finance Abu Dhabi, Secretary General of Abu Dhabi's Supreme Council for Financial and Economic Affairs, Chairman of Etisalat (e&c), and Vice Chairman of Abu Dhabi

Holding Company (ADQ), in Dubai.

The meeting highlighted the deep-rooted historic ties of brotherhood, friendship, and mutual support between Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates, which continue to serve as a strong foundation for bilateral cooperation.

Unique selling

ISLAMABAD: A vendor is selling key chains (Engraved with Names) at Rose and Jasmine Garden to earn daily wages for the livelihood of his family.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

JDW Sugar Mills Limited held 36th Annual General Meeting in Lahore



Asim Tanveer

the financial year ending September 30, 2026.

In addition to statutory business, the management briefed participants on the Company's Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives, with particular focus on the TICER project valued at over Rs. 2 billion, which is expected to become operational in the coming months. TICER is South Punjab's first state-of-the-art institute focused on modern IT education that would enable South Punjab's youth to compete on international level and it will be instrumental in creating more job opportunities for the youth.

During the meeting, members approved the annual financial statements for the financial year ended September 30, 2025, declared a final cash dividend of Rs. 45 per share, and appointed auditors for

Three die, five injured, 275 rescued after fire breaks out in Lahore hotel

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Three people died, five injured and 275 were rescued after a fire broke out in Indigo Hotel located at Hussain Chowk in Lahore's posh area of Gulberg on Saturday. According to report, Rescue 1122 firefighters launched a swift operation and were able to bring the blaze under control. They were now checking the hotel again as if there was anyone still trapped inside.

Police informed media men that the staffers of foreign airlines used to stay at this hotel.

According to initial investigation, the fire broke out in the basement of the hotel due to gas leakage and five people received burn injuries.

The injured persons have been shifted to Services Hospital for urgent treatment.

Rescue personnel said they faced difficult conditions due to excessive smoke in the basement but they succeeded in dousing the fire.

Police said one of the burnt persons has been identified as 46-year-old Mubeen.

Rescue 1122 authorities said that the Rescue Command and Control Center



received a fire call from Indigo Hotel at 12:25 pm, and search and rescue teams responded immediately from the command and control.

The plaza is 19 stories high, consisting of three basements and constructed on four kanals.

The plaza has three basements and basement one is severely affected.

Rescue 1122 authorities said that the

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif commanded rescue personnel calling them my heroes and paid tribute.

The Punjab Chief Minister shared the photos of the personnel on social media platforms.

Maryam Nawaz said rescue personnel rendered excellent services in the aftermath of the fire in Gulberg Plaza.

PHMA demands equal access to export facilitation for value-added textile sector

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: The Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers & Exporters Association (PHMA) has demanded equitable access to government export facilitation schemes for the value-added textile sector, comparable to those extended to the rice sector.

This demand was voiced by Mr Ahmed Afzal Awan, Senior Vice Chairman, PHMA (North Zone), who expressed serious concern over the government's decision to include the rice sector—having an export share of approximately \$3 billion—under the Export Development Fund (EDF) and the Duty Drawback of Local Taxes and Levies (DLTL) mechanism, involving substantial financial allocations, while the value-added textile and apparel sector continues to be overlooked.

Mr Awan stated that achieving national export targets would not be possible without practical facilitation measures, particularly those aimed at reducing the cost of production and ensuring a level playing field with regional competitor countries.

From the World's No.1 NEV Brand, BYD Sealion 7 and Atto 2 Debut in Pakistan

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Mega Motor Company (MMC), in partnership with BYD, the world's no.1 New Energy Vehicle (NEV) manufacturer, announced the launch of BYD Sealion 7 and BYD Atto 2 in Pakistan, marking another milestone in the country's transition towards clean and sustainable mobility. Launched at a dealership event in Lahore, the two models strengthen BYD-MMC's growing NEV portfolio in Pakistan by addressing both premium and urban lifestyle segments, with bookings now open nationwide.

Speaking at the launch, Lei Jian, Country Head of BYD Pakistan, said, "We are delighted to introduce two of our highest-selling models to Pakistan. These launches reinforce our commitment to transforming the country's automotive landscape by bringing BYD's globally proven technology and innovation to local customers. As the world's No.1 NEV brand, BYD now offers a portfolio in Pakistan designed to meet diverse customer needs and journeys, making the transition to new energy vehicles both practical and rewarding."

Danish Khaliq, Vice President – Sales and



Strategy at BYD Pakistan – Mega Motor Company, added, "At BYD-MMC, we are expanding our portfolio to ensure there is a vehicle for every journey, every ambition, and every stage of Pakistan's transition to electric

mobility. From an all-electric smart SUV designed for urban mobility to a premium, performance-led SUV, these two launches introduce possibilities that have not existed in their segments before."

Ayub Khokhar will be the chief guest of historic cycle race

 Sports Desk

LAHORE: Country's biggest cycling ride and race will be organized in Lahore on January 25, 2026 (Sunday) under the banner of Punjab Sports Department.

Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar will be the chief guest of historic cycle race and ride. Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muhammad Ali, Director General Sports Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry, Director Sports Rana Nadeem Anjum, Director Admin Abid Shaukat and several other notable figures will also be present on this occasion.

There will be four parts of mega cycle race – cycle ride, boys' cycle race, girls' cycle race and children's cycle race.

The upcoming mega cycling event will be Punjab Sports Department's first major sports activity of the year 2026. Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth



Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar will also ride a bicycle during the cycle ride in which more than 500 cyclists are expected to participate.

The cycle ride will start from Liberty Chowk Manjal and culminate at Liberty Chowk after passing through CBD Kalma Chowk. The girls, boys and children races will go round the Gaddafi Stadium from the entrance gate Nishat Park Sports Complex Liberty Chowk side and end in front of Gaddafi Stadium.

After the completion of four races,



the closing ceremony will be held at the National Hockey Stadium where cash

prizes will be distributed among the top position holders.

PCB's u-17 talent hunt tournament; IMC, Galaxy Club players reach semifinals

 Sports Desk

RAWALPINDI: In the Under-17 Talent Hunt Tournament organized by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), players from IMC School and Galaxy Club displayed outstanding performances and successfully advanced to the semifinals.

The young cricketers' consistency and excellent teamwork earned them a prominent position in the tournament. Team captain Muhammad Abdullah shown exceptional all-round performance. He secured a total of 470 runs, including 6 half-centuries, while also excelling with the ball by claiming 30 wickets. He turned matches in his team's favour on three occasions by taking five-wicket hauls.

Similarly, Muhammad Huzaifa



showcased brilliant bowling, taking 27 wickets overall, including three five-

wicket hauls, effectively dismantling opposition batting line-ups. Abdul Hadi

Shah also contributed significantly with 16 wickets and played a key role in the team's victories.

In the batting department, Muhammad Inshal Ahmed impressed with a magnificent century and a half-century, proving his immense talent.

The tournament organizers praised the overall performances of all the players. On this occasion, the young cricketers attributed their success to the guidance and professional coaching of National Coach Zahoor Bhatti.

They stated that Coach Bhatti's hard work, discipline, and use of modern training methods instilled confidence and the drive to excel in the young players, which ultimately led to their impressive results in the tournament.

VC urges ethical, professional university management at UAJK training moot

 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Vice-Chancellor of the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Professor Nasir Jamal Khattak, underscored the need for professionalism, ethical conduct and institutional ownership in university administration, urging officers to translate training into improved governance and service delivery.

He was addressing the closing ceremony of the National Outreach Programme for University Management (NOPM) at UAJK, where 25 administrative officers from different cadres completed a structured capacity-building programme organised in collaboration with the National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE), the Higher Education Commission (HEC).

The National Outreach Program for University Management, held from January 19 to 23, 2026, focused on strengthening professional, administrative, and leadership capacities of university officials. The program covered key areas including professional communication and office procedures, leadership and team building, ethical public governance, project and financial management, procurement and PPRA rules, strategic planning, and policy development.

Special emphasis was placed on AI-enabled workplace efficiency, digital record management, e-governance, data-driven



decision-making, and cybersecurity. Through interactive sessions, participants were equipped with practical skills to enhance institutional performance, transparency, accountability, and smart governance in line with national priorities.

Prof. Khattak said universities could not function effectively without a competent and ethically grounded administrative cadre, adding that training initiatives such as NOPM were essential for strengthening institutional systems and public service delivery. He appreciated HEC and NAHE for supporting professional development programmes for university management nationwide.

Zafar Iqbal, Director Students' Finan-

cial Aid and programme coordinator, thanked the Planning Department, Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC), NAHE-HEC, resource persons and organising team for their coordinated efforts.

Speaking on behalf of the participants, Afshan Munir Qadri, Assistant Director of Planning, and Zeeshan Zia Abbasi, Accounts Officer, termed the programme a valuable learning experience and thanked the university management for investing in professional growth opportunities.

Dr Mubashar Naqvi, Public Relations Officer, moderated the closing ceremony. Registrar Prof. Dr Saadat Hanif Dar and Director of Planning Prof. Dr Ansir Yasin

also attended the session.

Certificates were distributed among the participants who completed the programme, while certificates of appreciation were also awarded to supporting staff members in recognition of their role in the successful conduct of the training.

Earlier, the vice-chancellor presented a souvenir to Prof. Dr. Shahid Ali of the Institute of Management Sciences (IMSciences), Peshawar, acknowledging his contribution as a resource person, particularly in the areas of strategic planning and policy development.

Souvenirs were also exchanged between the vice-chancellor and members of the organising team as a token of mutual appreciation.

Support and Strengthen PhD Holders Working at the School Level in Sindh Province

PhD Qualified teachers are a valuable resource for any Education system. When these highly trained professionals work at the school level, they bring advanced knowledge, research skills, and a passion for learning that can strongly raise teaching standards and student outcomes. To make the most of this talent, the School Education & Literacy Department, Government of Sindh, should create some pathways for research, professional growth, recognition, and fair benefits for PhD holders working in schools. Why support PhD teachers at the school level:

1. Improves classroom learning: PhD teachers use research-based methods, critical thinking, and deep subject knowledge to make lessons richer and more up-to-date.

2. Builds a research culture: when schools have teachers who do research,

other teachers and students learn to ask better questions and use evidence in decision-making.

3. Raises teacher morale and retention: Showing clear career growth and offering fair benefits keeps talented teachers in the public system.

4. Connects schools to universities and global knowledge: PhD teachers can link schools with higher education and international networks, bringing best practices to local classrooms.

PhD-holding teachers should be provided:

1. Provide structured Research Opportunities

2. Allocate small grants and time allowances for school-based research (action research, classroom experiments, and curriculum studies).

3. Create yearly calls for mini-research projects with simple application and reporting formats.

4. Share research results on the

Departments website and in short local journals or newsletters just like STEDA has started Journal and online database registration of teachers.

2. Offer International and National Training & Exchange Pathways

Create a transparent shortlist and nomination process for international conferences, workshops, and short-term exchange programs.

3. Reserve seats for PhD-holding school teachers in national training programs and scholarships.

4. Offer virtual exchange programs and presentations with partner universities abroad.

5. Professional Development & Short Courses

6. Regularly organize short-term

courses on research methods, action research, pedagogy, school leadership, and assessment.

Link professional development to credit points or badges that count toward promotion and performance evaluation.

4. Financial Recognition: PhD Allowance

5. Increase monthly PhD allowance of Rs. 25,000 for PhD holders working at the school level (to be adjusted if needed by policy) same as universities policy.

6. Promotion Pathways Aligned with College Policy

7. Mirror the successful college policy: Allow promotion (e.g., to Subject Specialist/ equivalent) upon completion of PhD plus research output.

7. Suggested promotion criteria: PhD + at least 2 research publications (in recognized journals or Department-reviewed publications) OR approved Department-level research projects.

8. Set clear timelines, transparent evaluation panels, and appeal procedures.

9. Make rules for PhD holders specially as rules are made for Teachers license pass candidates i.e. allowances, promotion and certificate like that give benefits to PhD holders.

10. Create a Public Database of PhD Holders on the School Education Website

11. Maintain an up-to-date, searchable database listing all PhD-qualified teachers across Sindh.

12. This makes it easy to identify expertise for research collaborations, training roles, and exchange programs.

13. The Benefits at the school level will be

14. Better lessons for students.

15. Stronger schools that solve their own problems using research.

16. Motivated teachers who stay longer in public service.

17. Stronger links between schools, colleges, and the world.

So supporting PhD holders at the school level is an investment in better classrooms, stronger teacher capacity, and a culture of learning. With clear rules, a simple database, modest funding, and strong transparency, the School Education & Literacy Department, Government of Sindh, can turn this vision into a practical, high-impact program that helps schools and students across the province. If the Government of Sindh facilitates and utilizes the abilities of PhD holders, no doubt they will not leave the School Education Department and will serve continuously in the Education Department.

Renowned Pakistani boxer injured during match in Kazakhstan



 Sports Desk

Renowned Pakistani boxer Shoaib Khan Zahri was injured during a fighting event in Kazakhstan, leading to the cancellation of Pakistan's bout against India, officials said.

The injured fighter Zahri, who hails from Balochistan, suffered a shoulder fracture during the contest in Oskemen City, Kazakhstan, preventing him from completing the fight.

Despite the injury, Zahri continued to compete bravely before the bout was halted as his pain intensified.

Medical staff provided immediate treatment at the venue and later confirmed a shoulder fracture, officials said.

Zahri is receiving further medical care, while event organisers said his match against Indian boxer Shivam has been postponed till the fighter's full recovery of the fighter.

Annual golf gymkhana championship makes progress

 Sports Desk

LAHORE: In the annual

gymkhana golf championship one days progress established

national player Hussain hamid

as the leading man.in a fight-

ing battle quite a few players

emerged as real fighters with

a strong urge to capture this

prestigious title that uplifts

your standing in the world of

golfwhile players like danish

Javed, Mohsen zafar and

Salman jehangir had passion-

ate emotions around this title, they concluded the day searching

for the big title where many other contenders existed.but

then competitive sport does not lag behind desires.you real-

ly have to produce winning scores to back up such claim.and

the one successful was none else but great Hussain hamid who

managed to come up with a score of gross 73.that score turned

to a great enabler in the race towards success.as things stand

in the competitive race the man in the runner up position is danish

Javed with a gross score of 75 followed closely by Mohsen zafar

at gross 76, and Salman jehangir at gross 76.other capable chal-

lengers lagging a little behind are omer Farooq and Qasim Ali

Khan along with several seasoned ones.the final round is on

sunday.let see how the race moves.the game has been good and

quality oriented.

Bangladesh replaced by Scotland at T20 World Cup 2026: report

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has decided to replace Bangladesh with Scotland at the Men's T20 World Cup 2026, following Bangladesh's continued refusal to travel to India for the tournament, according to a report by Cricbuzz. The report claims ICC chief executive Sanjog Gupta formally informed board members on Saturday that Bangladesh were not complying with the governing body's earlier decision to stick to the existing schedule.

With no breakthrough after weeks of discussions, the ICC moved to enforce its stance and extend a formal invitation to Scotland, who will now take Bangladesh's place at the marquee event.

The decision brings an end to nearly three weeks of back-and-forth between the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) and the ICC.

The dispute centred on Bangladesh's refusal to play their World Cup matches in India, citing security concerns, and their insistence on relocating fixtures to Sri Lanka.

According to the report, the ICC informed the BCB via email on Friday evening after Bangladesh conveyed that its government had not granted permission for the team to travel to India for the tournament, scheduled to begin on February 7.

The matter had escalated earlier this week when the ICC Board held an emergency video conference on Wednesday.

During the meeting, a majority of directors reportedly voted in favour of replacing Bangladesh should they continue to reject the agreed schedule.

The BCB was given until Thursday to consult its government and confirm whether it would travel to India. However, both the Bangladesh government and the board reiterated their position.

Bangladesh were drawn in Group C and were set to play their first three matches in Kolkata, followed by a group-stage fixture in Mumbai.

Rescue Operation

Pakistan Navy undertakes medical evacuation of Sri Lankan national from merchant vessel MV GREY PALM, 800 NM (Approx. 1500 km) off Pakistan's coast.



US Ambassador, Interior Minister discuss steps to curb illegal immigration, strengthen security cooperation

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi held an important meeting with US Ambassador to Pakistan, Natalie Baker, here, where both sides discussed expanding cooperation in areas of mutual interest and strengthening Pakistan-US relations.

According to the Interior Ministry, the two officials held detailed talks on enhancing collaboration, particularly in curbing illegal immigration and improving the effectiveness of the pre-immigration clearance system. Both sides also agreed to increase cooperation at all levels in law-enforcement training, especially for the police.

A key decision made during the meeting was to launch joint opera-



tions under comprehensive SOPs against networks involved in fake and fraudulent visa activities. Minister Naqvi reiterated that the government has adopted a "zero-tolerance policy"

toward agent mafias and those facilitating illegal migration. He welcomed US support in this regard.

"I am personally monitoring the actions against fake visa networks,"

Naqvi said, adding that Pakistan's passport has been made foolproof through modern technology. Calling illegal immigration a serious issue, he noted that the government's robust crackdown against those attempting to reach the US illegally is ongoing.

Naqvi stated that effective government measures have resulted in a 47 percent reduction in illegal immigration. He stressed that individuals involved in producing or facilitating fake documentation deserve no leniency.

US Ambassador Natalie Baker reaffirmed Washington's commitment to its relationship with Pakistan.

"We attach special importance to our ties with Pakistan," she said. "Our priorities are aligned, and expanding mutual cooperation will further strengthen our relationship."

Climate crisis failure of global justice, not just environment: Dr Musadik Malik

City Desk

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Climate Change Dr Musadik Malik on Saturday said that the global climate crisis should be viewed not merely as an environmental challenge but as a failure of international cooperation and justice.

Addressing a session titled "From Lab to World Stage: The Power of Science Diplomacy" on the second day of ThinkFest 2026 at the Alhamra Arts Council, Dr Malik stressed the need to move beyond isolated scientific research and adopt what he termed "scientific diplomacy."

He said science has the



unique power to bridge divides between nations, enabling

research and global projects despite political differences.

"Science is the only language

that remains universal," he remarked.

Highlighting Pakistan's

vulnerability to climate change, the minister noted that the country contributes less than one percent to global carbon emissions yet remains among the hardest hit by climate-related disasters. For developing nations, he said, scientific collaboration is a necessity for survival rather than a luxury.

The minister also called for global accountability, pointing out the imbalance between financial profits and environmental costs. He said countries that benefit the most from carbon-intensive industries often face the least immediate consequences, while poorer nations bear the brunt of climate impacts.

Amir Muqam urges action committee back to talks for sustainable solutions

Spokesman Report

Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON, Engineer Amir Muqam, has once again invited the Joint Awami Action Committee to come to the negotiating table, emphasizing that dialogue is the only effective and constructive way to resolve public issues.

The Federal Minister stated that the negotiation process remains the most viable path toward addressing the genuine concerns of the people and finding sustainable solutions. He expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for the restoration of the Schatz Card Program in Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan, which will ensure the provision of quality healthcare facilities to the public.

Engineer Amir Muqam highlighted that the Prime Minister of Pakistan has initiated major projects in the education sector without any prior demand.



Currently, work on five Danish Schools is in progress in Azad Kashmir. He further added that practical progress is being made on the Laptop Scheme, educational reforms, and other development projects.

He reaffirmed that the people of Azad Kashmir are being provided facilities on a priority basis. The Federal Minister noted that as a result of negotiations, most of the demands of the Awami Action Committee have already been fulfilled.

Maritime sector posts record Rs100b profit after sweeping reforms; Junaid Anwar Chaudhry



the country as a regional trade and logistics hub.

Junaid Anwar Chaudhry, outlining the Ministry's annual performance, described 2025 as a "transformative year" marked by more than two dozen initiatives spanning legislation, digitization, infrastructure development and human resources, said a press release.

These reforms are modernizing our ports, shipping and fisheries to unlock the true potential of the blue economy," Junaid Chaudhry said, adding that Pakistan had aligned its regulatory framework with international standards, including conventions of the International Maritime Organization and the Hong Kong Convention on ship recycling.

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Kashmir Council EU Ali Raza Syed called on Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Faisal Mumtaz Rathore here today. On the occasion, Mr. Syed presented the draft of the European Author's book Wait & See to the Prime Minister, which provides a detailed photographic account of serious human rights violations committed by the Indian army in occupied Kashmir.

Pertinently, the book's launch ceremony will be held in Muzaffarabad on January 29, with AJK Prime Minister as chief guest. Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister appreciated Ali Raza Syed's services for the Kashmir cause, exposing Indian atrocities and its ugly face before the world.

He assured that the government of Azad Kashmir would utilize all



possible resources to support and strengthen the movement. He noted that freedom of occupied Kashmir was the first and foremost priority.

He expressed the optimism that occupied Kashmir will soon be freed from the clutches of India and the entire state of Jammu and Kashmir will be

become a part of Pakistan. Mr. Ali Raza Syed, thanked the Prime Minister for the honor and congratulated him on assuming office.