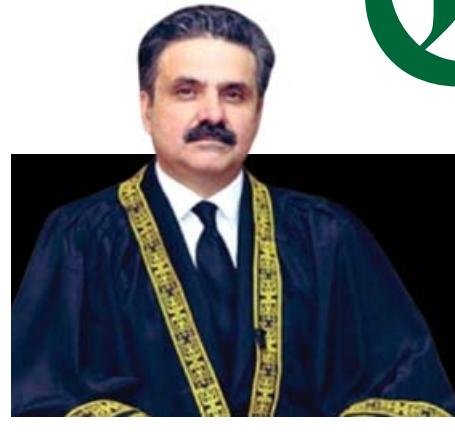




Daily The Spokesman



CJP summons JCP meeting to review permanent appointment of BHC judges

Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Yahya Afridi has summoned a meeting of the Judicial Commission of Pakistan on February 12. The JCP meeting will consider the permanent appointment of six additional judges of the Balochistan High Court.



Farooq Sattar urges Centre to take control of Karachi

Muttaqha Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) leader Dr Farooq Sattar on Tuesday said there was no need to impose governor's rule across Sindh under Article 145, urging the federal government instead to take direct control of Karachi under Article 148 of the Constitution.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Sha'abanul Moazzam 8, Wednesday, January 28, 2026 www.dailyspokesman.net [@daily_spokesman](https://www.facebook.com/daily_spokesman) [f](https://www.facebook.com/dailyspokesman) Daily Spokesman Vol: 19, Issue: 283 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Meeting

ABU DHABI: President Asif Ali Zardari in a meeting with H.E. Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, UAE Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence, accompanied by First Lady Bibi Aseefa Bhutto Zardari, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, and Federal Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control, Mohsin Naqvi.



Photo: Online

Zardari underscores tolerance, coexistence in talks with UAE minister

Spokesman Report

DUBAI: President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to tolerance and peaceful coexistence during a meeting with United Arab Emirates Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan.

The meeting focused on promoting dialogue, inclusivity and harmony among diverse communities.

Zardari paid tribute to the leadership of UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, praising the country's national vision of tolerance and human fraternity.

He said the UAE had emerged as a global example of coexistence, with more than 200 nationalities living in unity and mutual respect.

He noted that these principles closely align with Pakistan's own commitment to interfaith harmony, social inclusion and respect for cultural and religious diversity, as enshrined in the Constitution and reflected in societal traditions.

First Lady Bibi Aseefa Bhutto Zardari, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi and Pakistan's Ambassador to the UAE were also present.

Govt. prioritizing efforts to utilize new technologies for national development: PM



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif said that the government was working on a priority basis to leverage new technologies for the national and economic development.

He expressed these views during a meeting with a high-level delegation of leading experts in artificial intelligence that called on him during his recent private visit to London, United Kingdom last week, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release on Tuesday.

The delegation included senior leaders from global institutions and organizations such as BlackRock, the University of Cambridge, the University of Oxford, Deloitte, and some of the world's leading AI and technology companies. Chairman of the Pakistan Virtual Assets Regulatory Authority (PVARA), Bilal bin Saqib, was also present in the meeting.

During the meeting, the prime minister underlined the importance of global expertise; particularly the involvement of overseas Pakistanis, to accelerate Pakistan's digital and economic transformation.

During the meeting, Minister of State Bilal bin Saqib said that artificial intelligence was no longer a future concept for Pakistan but a golden opportunity of the present and the government was taking concrete steps in this regard.

The meeting between the prime minister and the delegation reflected Pakistan's broader strategy to promote digital transformation, foster innovation, and pursue a long-term vision for technology-driven public policy by engaging institutional partners with an international outlook, the press release added.

No military operation underway in Tirah Valley: Khawaja Asif

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Tuesday dismissed reports of a military operation in Tirah Valley, saying no such operation has taken place in the area for several years and that recent displacement is a routine, seasonal phenomenon linked to harsh winter conditions.

Addressing a joint news conference alongside Information Minister Attaullah Tarar and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Information and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa



Affairs Ikhtiar Wali Khan, Asif said seasonal migration from Khyber's border valleys, particu-

larly Tirah Valley, was a long-established phenomenon documented even in British-era gazet-

ters.

"Tirah Valley experiences

migration every year with the

onset of snowfall. This is neither

new nor unusual," Asif said,

noting that the area lies at an

altitude of around 17,000 feet

and becomes largely uninhabitable during peak winter months.

He rejected claims of any

ongoing or recent military operation,

saying no such action had

taken place in Tirah Valley for

several years. Asif accused the

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa govern-

ment of attempting to shift

blame for its administrative

shortcomings onto the army

and the federal government by portraying routine migration as a crisis.

The defence minister said heavy snowfall across valleys along the Afghan border forces residents to temporarily relocate to safer areas, often leaving behind a few family members to safeguard property. He described the process as natural and histori-

cal.

Asif said a jirga comprising 12 to 13 elders was convened on December 11 and held consultations with the provincial govern-

ment.

Continued on Page 7

Pakistan to observe Kashmir Solidarity Day on Feb 5 with full zeal: Amir Muqam

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and Safron, Engineer Amir Muqam, said on Tuesday that Kashmir Solidarity Day will be observed on February 5 with full enthusiasm, reaffirming Pakistan's support for the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination.

Chairing an inter-ministerial and inter-provincial coordination meeting at the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Council, the minister said thousands of Kashmiris have been martyred, many remain imprisoned in Indian jails, and thousands of children have been orphaned due to the ongoing conflict.

He reiterated that Pakistan would continue to provide political, moral and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri people until they achieve their right to self-determination.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (AJK chapter), senior officials from the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan, and focal persons from various federal ministries and provincial governments, including Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan.

The minister added that under Prime Minister

KP govt spokesperson harps on baseless narrative regarding Khyber district migration: Atta Tarar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Tuesday said the migration of tribes from District Khyber during the winter is a historical norm, rejecting the "baseless narrative" peddled by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government spokesperson.

Addressing a press conference alongside Defense Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif and the Prime Minister's Coordinator for Information, Ikhtiar Wali, the minister emphasized that the Afridi and Aka Khel tribes have a unique lifestyle, migrating from Tirah in winter and returning in summer.

Tarar noted that history bears witness to this seasonal migration, citing Edward A. Murphy's 1899 book, *The Khyber*, which references an official gazet-

ter from 1880. He pointed out that this historical record explicitly documents the tribes' habitual winter migration, describing it as an established reality recognized in international literature.

Responding to questions about the timing of the current movement, the minister explained that while winter traditionally began in October, climate change has significantly shifted seasonal cycles. He remarked that snowfall, which historically occurred in November, is now delayed until late January, representing a total seasonal shift.

He also referred to a notification issued by the KP government itself, which stated that the tribes are moving voluntarily. The minister urged provincial officials to avoid politicizing a centuries-old traditional practice.

DPM/FM Dar directs federal, provincial authorities to continue monitoring of key essential commodities

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, on Tuesday, directed federal and provincial authorities to continue close monitoring main essential commodities, particularly in view of the approaching month of Ramazan, to prevent any artificial price hike or exploitation of consumers by unscrupulous elements.

The DPM/FM chaired a meeting to review the availability and prices of essential commodities across the country and expressed satisfaction over an ample stock of key essential commodities across provinces, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister said in a press release.

The meeting was attended by Minister for National Food Security Rana Tanveer Hussain, SAPM Tariq Bajwa, chief secretary Balochistan, chairman TDAP, and officials from the Federal Board of Revenue, ministries of national food security and commerce, and provincial food department representatives.

Balochistan eliminated the terrorists through a prompt and effective operation," the minister said, offering heartfelt tributes to the personnel who took part in the raid.

He added that CTD and broader law-enforcement efforts remain essential for ensuring lasting peace in Balochistan.

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday commended the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Balochistan for successfully thwarting a terrorist plot during an operation in the Pishin district.

Naqvi lauded the CTD's "professional competence" and said the timely action by its personnel prevented a major threat to peace in the region.

He also prayed for the swift recovery of the officers injured in the operation.

"The brave officers of CTD

eliminated the terrorists through a prompt and effective operation," the minister said, offering heartfelt tributes to the personnel who took part in the raid.

He added that CTD and broader law-enforcement efforts remain essential for ensuring lasting peace in Balochistan.



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فرمان رسوی
تمامی اعلیٰ ملکیت ملک فیضیان یا ان
کے ملکیت کے ان اعلیٰ انتظامیں ان
کے ملکیت کے اعلیٰ انتظامیں کے
رسول اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم فرمایا تھا
کہ اپنے بھائی کے طبق کوئی مفت
کر دے بلکہ اپنے کے ساتھ دعا کے کیوں
اللہ کی درود کرنے والوں سے بھی
(6339) بھی مفت کر دے۔
Barkat Rice Mills
(Pvt) Limited

PM Rathore pledges support for Tajweed-ul-Quran Trust challenges

 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir, Faisal Mumtaz Rathore received a detailed briefing on administrative and financial affairs of the department of Religious Affairs and Auqaf, Zakat and Ushr, Social Welfare and Women Development, here today. Secretary Riffat Hussain, Principal Secretary Zafar Mahmood and Director Religious Affairs and Secretary of the Tajweed-ul-Quran Trust, Syed Wajahat Hussain Gardazi, were also present on this occasion. During the briefing, the Prime Minister was informed about the religious, educational, and reformative activities of the Tajweed-ul-Quran Trust. It was stated that the Trust is playing an effective role in promoting correct recitation of the Holy Quran, teaching Tajweed, raising religious aware-



ness, and fostering moral values. The Prime Minister was also apprised of the financial and other challenges faced by the Trust. Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore appreciated the services of the Tajweed-ul-Quran Trust and said that the institution's efforts

to promote the teaching of the Holy Quran and its recitation with proper Tajweed were commendable. He assured that the government would take all possible measures to resolve the Trust's financial difficulties and other issues. Terming religious education as a key to intellectual and moral

reform in society, he said that government would continue to provide its fullest possible support to religious and welfare institutions. He expressed the hope that the Tajweed-ul-Quran Trust would continue to carry out its responsibilities with sincerity, dedication, and professionalism.

Photo exhibition

LAHORE: Girls are taking interest in the beautifully made patriots of Pride of Pak Army, during exhibition at National college of Arts in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Former Candidate Dr. Irfan Ashraf Joins Muslim Conference, Boosts Organizational Strength

 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Contact Committees of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference have been fully activated. Former Assem-

bly candidate Dr. Irfan Ashraf, along with hundreds of his associates, has formally joined the Muslim Conference. It was stated that in the coming days the Contact Committees of the party will play a more effective and

dynamic role, which will significantly enhance the organizational strength of the Muslim Conference.

This announcement was made yesterday at the National Press Club, Islamabad, in the presence of the senior leadership of the Muslim Conference, where former Assembly candidate Dr. Irfan Ashraf, along with his companions, announced his

joining of the party. The leadership of the Muslim Conference warmly welcomed the new entrants and appreciated their decision.

Speaking on the occasion, President of the Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir, Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, said that the Muslim Conference will field its candi-

dates from all constituencies in the upcoming elections.

Dr. Irfan Ashraf further said that he does not believe in making exaggerated claims; however, he firmly believes that in the future no government in Azad Kashmir can be formed or functioned without the Muslim Conference.

When India Calls Itself the World's Largest Democracy, (Democracy) Itself Hangs Its Head in Shame

 Mushtaq Ahmed Butt

When India proudly presents itself to the world as the "world's largest democracy," it is not merely making a political claim—it is invoking a moment in which the very concept of democracy stands embarrassed and disgraced. The harsh reality is that democracy in India functions as nothing more than a façade, concealing behind it one of the most ruthless and expansionist colonial projects of the modern era. Nowhere is this deception more starkly exposed than in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK), where the ground realities tear apart the myth of India's so-called democratic credentials.

Democracy is not defined by slogans, ceremonial elections, or a few clauses written into a constitutional document. It is the practical guarantee of the people's free will, human dignity, political autonomy, and the inalienable right to self-determination. In occupied Jammu and Kashmir, however, democracy exists like a prisoner in chains—confined under the shadow of the gun. There, force speaks louder than law; fear overrides consent; and repression replaces representation.

In such an environment, claiming democracy amounts to nothing less than an insult to democracy itself.

Had India truly been a custodian of democratic values, it would not have trampled upon the fundamental, political, and human rights of millions of Kashmiris through brute force. Extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, collective punishments, prolonged curfews, internet blackouts, and the systematic silencing of dissent are realities that define life in IOJK. These are not the practices of a democratic state; they are the unmistakable hallmarks of an occupying and colonial power. In the face of such abuses, democracy stands perpetually shamed.

At the heart of democracy lies respect for the will of the people. In occupied Kashmir, this principle has been deliberately and systematically violated. The calculated attempt to reduce a Muslim-majority population into a minority, the issuance of domicile certificates to non-locals, the seizure of land and resources, and the erasure of indigenous identity collectively expose the truth: what is being imposed is not democracy, but rule by force, fear, and coercion. It is at this point that democracy itself recoils in shame at the injustice committed in its name.

In truth, democracy is not merely the act of casting a vote; it is the right of a people to determine their own political future. Until the people of Jammu and Kashmir are allowed to exercise their right to self-determi-

nation in accordance with United Nations resolutions, India's democratic claims will remain a hollow illusion—a calculated deception and an open mockery of the global conscience.

Today, the international community, the United Nations, the European Union, and global human rights organizations face an unavoidable question: how long will they continue to ignore repression carried out under the false banner of democracy? The time has come to reject India's fabricated democratic narrative and to take serious, concrete notice of the ongoing state violence, grave human rights violations, and dangerous demographic engineering in occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

The All Parties Hurriyat Conference reaffirms its unwavering commitment to highlighting the just, lawful, and peaceful struggle of the Kashmiri people at every international forum with clarity, dignity, and conviction. The world must be reminded—again and again—that when India calls itself the world's largest democracy, democracy itself lowers its eyes in shame, reduced to nothing more than a mask concealing occupation, oppression, and colonial ambition.

The writer is Secretary Information of All Parties Hurriyat Conference

PPP Demands Immediate Release of Hurriyat Leaders and Return of Martyred Remains

 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Azad Jammu and Kashmir has strongly demanded the immediate release of Hurriyat leaders including Yasin Malik, Dr. Qasim Faktoo, Masarat Alam Butt, Aasiya Andrabi, Nahid Nasreen, Fahmida Sofi, Ajaz Akbar and other leaders who have been detained in bogus cases, along with thousands of innocent Kashmiri civilians. The party also demanded the return of the mortal remains of Shaheed Muhammad Maqbool Butt and Shaheed Afzal Guru to their families, and called for justice through the platform of the OIC. It further urged the registration of cases in international war crimes courts against India for violations of bilateral agreements and international laws.



The demand was reiterated during a media interaction on the call of Jammu and Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee regarding Indian atrocities in occupied Kashmir and the release of political prisoners. Speaking to the media, Spokesperson to the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir, Shaukat Javed Mir, appealed for the immediate passage of a resolution for the release of Yasin Malik and dozens of other leaders who have been sentenced to life imprisonment, as well as thousands of political detainees.

Shaukat Javed Mir strongly condemned the hate campaigns and hostile actions against Chief of Defence Forces Hafiz Syed Asim Munir, Commanding Officer Ten Corps Lieutenant General Malik Aamir Ahsan, and Sector Commander Brigadier Faik Ayub. He said that the people of Pakistan and Kashmir stand united with their brave Armed Forces and national security institutions and consider themselves the frontline defenders of the nation. He expressed pride in the Armed Forces, their leadership, and the national heroes who have sacrificed their lives for the country and the nation.

DC Mela Inspects DHQ Hospital, Review Healthcare Facilities

 Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: Under the health vision of the Chief Minister Punjab, efforts are ongoing in Toba Tek Singh to provide quality, timely and free medical facilities to the public.



Deputy Commissioner Umar Abbas Mela paid a detailed visit to the DHQ Hospital and reviewed the healthcare services being provided in various departments.

On this occasion, Medical Superintendent Dr. Shahbab Alam briefed the Deputy Commissioner about the ongoing administrative and medical affairs of the hospital. The Deputy Commissioner inspected the OPD, Emergency Ward, various medical wards and the OPD registration counter arrangements.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the hospital administration to further improve the seating arrangements for patients' attendants and ensure the early completion of the under-construction shed to facilitate families accompanying patients. He also inquired from patients about the availability of free medicines. Patients and their attendants expressed satisfaction over the medical facilities and free medicines being provided at the hospital.

The Deputy Commissioner stated that the Trauma Center would be made functional immediately after being handed over to the hospital administration, which would further enhance healthcare services for patients. He added that improvement in the health sector is a top priority of the Punjab Government and continuous monitoring of hospitals is being carried out under the Chief Minister Punjab's health vision.

CDA CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR "RESOLVING TRAFFIC CONGESTION AT KASHMIR CHOWK AND SURROUNDINGS ISLAMABAD."

1. CDA invites electronic proposals from Engineering Consultancy firms registered with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) / PCATP for year 2025-26, in Project Profile Codes 1215(i,iii), 1231, Service Codes 0518, 0531, 0532, 0536, 0537, 0538, 0540, 0541, 0542, 0543, 0544 & 0546 and registered with Income Tax and Sales Tax Department for the services "Resolving Traffic Congestion at Kashmir Chowk and Surroundings Islamabad."

2. Electronic RFP documents containing detailed requirements, terms and conditions is available for the registered consultants on EPADS at (www.eprocurement.gov.pk) and www.ppra.gov.pk.

3. The electronic RFP documents prepared in accordance with the instructions in the RFP documents, must be submitted through EPADS on or before **February 12, 2026 by 11:00 AM**. Manual proposals shall not be accepted. The electronic RFP will be opened on the same day through EPADS on **February 12, 2026 at 11:30 AM**.

4. Notification of the GRC constituted in term of Rule-48 of Public Procurement Rules-2004, is provided on EPADS at www.eprocurement.gov.pk and www.ppra.gov.pk.

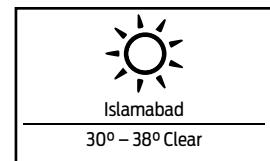
(ABID FAROOQ)

Dy. Director-II (P&CA-II), CDA

P&C wing, Block-III, Room No.28

CDA Secretariat, Sector G-7/4, Islamabad. Ph# 051-9252029

PDU(0) 6194/25


SERVICES
Namaz Timings

Fajr	5:42 am
Zohr	12:20 pm
Asr	3:56 pm
Maghrib	5:34 pm
Isha	7:00 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police
Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

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

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CMH	561111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

DEPARTMENTS

CDA	921234-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service	
E-7, F-10 & F-11	9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8	9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8	9266316

Attok Lawyer Praises Bar's Sacrifices for Justice
Raza Naqvi

ATTOK: The prominent lawyer and newly elected Member Punjab Bar Council Sardar Tauseef Ahmed Khan Advocate High Court while expressing his considered views has said that lawyer fraternity of the inter provincial bordering district Attok have also meritorious sacrifices at their credit to ensure administration of justice in the society besides protecting fundamental rights of the citizen as guaranteed under Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan 1973. He was talking to the media after attending a special meeting with the Tax and Corporate Laws Consultants include Mr. Inayatullah Khan Advocate along with Qazi Muhammad Shoaib Advocate here in his chamber on Tuesday. Speaking on the occasion, the Member Punjab Bar Council Sardar Tauseef Ahmed Khan said the Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali, Alama Muhammad Iqbal and First Prime Minister of Pakistan Rana Liaquat Ali Khan were also lawyers who led the nation to forge unity, discipline and confidence among their ranks emerging the new country Pakistan on the map of the world a true dream.

PM commends NAB's transformation

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Tuesday, formally reviewed National Accountability Bureau's performance and appreciated its transformation into a technology-driven institution.

He praised the integration of modern technologies, including the use of artificial intelligence in investigations.

Chairman National Accountability Bureau (NAB), Lieutenant General (R) Nazir Ahmed, called at him at the PM's House, and presented NAB annual report for the year 2025.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar was also present during the meeting, PM Office

Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister also commended NAB's e-Office framework, which aligned with the government's broader goals of austerity and transparency.

The prime minister further appreciated NAB's focus on public service delivery.

He reaffirmed the government's commitment to supporting NAB's professional independence and its mission to safeguard national resources.

While briefing the prime minister, the NAB chairman apprised him that in last year, NAB recovered Rs. 6.213 trillion, which was a record achievement.

He also apprised of the recovery of 2.98 million acres of state and forest land, valued at approximately Rs. 5.99



trillion, adding that Rs. 180 billion had been returned to 115,587 victims of fake and fraudulent housing and investment schemes; an important national service

that had helped restore public trust.

The NAB chairman further informed that NAB's Khuli Katcheri and Central Complaint Cell had successfully bridged

the distance between the state and its citizens, ensuring that the Bureau served as a means of grievances' redressal rather than intimidation.

Beautiful view

ISLAMABAD: Motorists are on their way during cloudy weather in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Relief for the poor and middle class in food prices before ramadan urged: Chaudhry Inam


City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Political and social leader Chaudhry Inam Zafar has called on the government to ensure affordable prices of essential food items before Ramadan so that poor and middle-class families can observe the holy month with dignity.

He urged the formation of an effective price control mechanism, establishment of subsidized Ramadan bazaars, and strict action against hoarders and profiteers. He said rising inflation and unjustified increases in prices of basic commodities have made life difficult for the common man, stressing that the authorities must take practical steps, monitor markets closely, and enforce official price lists to prevent public unrest during Ramadan.

Attack Police Bust Drug Smuggling and Illegal Arms Ring, Arresting Three

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Attack Police carried out operations against drug peddling and illegal weapons at various locations, arresting three suspects and recovering a large quantity of hashish, liquor, and a 30-bore pistol along with ammunition.

According to details, Sub-Inspector Azadar Hussain of Police Station Rangu, along with his team, arrested a suspect identified as Adnan Khan son of Jan Gul, a resident of Peshawar, during a checking operation and recovered 3,600 grams of hashish from his possession.

In another operation, Assistant Sub-Inspector Rizwan Ahmed, along with his team, arrested Afzal Ahmed son of Ijaz Ahmed, a resident of Kalu Khurd, Tehsil Hazro, District Attock, during checking and recovered an illegal 30-bore pistol along with ammunition from his possession.

Similarly, Assistant Sub-Inspector Asad Mahmood of Police Station Pindigheb, along with his team, arrested Adil Khan son of Ghazan Khan, a resident of Tehsil and District Charsadda, during a patrol and recovered 10 liters of liquor from his possession.

Balochistan CS reviews Green Pakistan initiative, modern tech to cultivate barren land

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan presided over a high-level review of the Green Pakistan Initiative (GPI) on Tuesday, describing the program as a cornerstone for the province's agricultural revolution and environmental resilience.

The meeting focused on transitioning from traditional farming to a technology-driven, corporate model designed to transform thousands of acres of barren land into productive assets.

Addressing the meeting, the Chief Secretary said the Green Pakistan Initiative is a vital national and provincial program aimed at boosting agricultural development and ensuring environmental sustainability.

He emphasized that the initiative focuses on bringing barren land under cultivation through the use of modern technology and corporate farming practices.

Shakeel Qadir Khan noted that the program is expected to significantly increase agricultural output, improve efficient use of water resources, and bring transformative changes to the lives of local farmers.

In addition to agriculture, the GPI also includes components such as dairy development, aquaculture, the blue economy, and tourism, all of which are expected to have wide-ranging positive impacts on the people of Balochistan.

The Chief Secretary further said that the initiative places strong emphasis on environmental protection by promoting effective utilization of water and natural resources, while laying the foundation for a sustainable, long-term green economy.

Under the Green Pakistan Initiative, Green Agri Malls and Smart Agri Farms have been established to provide farmers with access to modern agricultural facilities, including quality seeds, fertilizers, and agricultural machinery.

During the briefing, participants were informed that the core objective of the program is to enhance agricultural production by addressing shortages of key crops such as wheat, pulses, and oilseeds, increasing olive oil production, and bringing thousands of acres of land under cultivation.

The initiative incorporates modern irrigation systems, hybrid seeds, and drone technology, enabling up to 80 percent water savings while strengthening food security.

Punjab makes pharmacy services mandatory in all hospitals

Zain Khan Malghani

MULTAN: In a landmark move aimed at improving patient safety and strengthening medication management, the Punjab Healthcare Commission (PHC) has made pharmacy services and the appointment of qualified pharmacists mandatory in all public and private hospitals across the province.

The decision follows sustained advocacy by the Pakistan Pharmacists Association (PPA), whose high-level delegation held multiple meetings with senior PHC officials to highlight the absence of functional pharmacy services, rising medication errors and the risks posed to patients due to unsafe drug use.

The PPA delegation included Muhammad Alamgir Rao (President, PPA Centre), Prof Dr Furqan Hashmi (General Secretary, PPA



Centre), Abdul Majeed Bhatti Advocate (Press Secretary, PPA Punjab), and young pharmacist Dr Muhammad Umar. The delegation stressed that the presence of registered and trained pharmacists in every hospital is essential to safeguard patients' lives.

Acting on these recommendations, the PHC has issued an official notification making the establishment of pharmacy services compulsory in hospitals of all categories and directing institutions to appoint additional pharmacists. Medication management has been formally linked to patient safety standards.

According to the notification (PHC/CGS/80/23) dated January 19, 2026, addressed to chief executive officers, medical directors and medical superintendents, references were made to earlier communications from the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) dated May 23, 2019, October

27, 2020 and January 21, 2026. These documents noted that pharmacy services in many healthcare facilities across Punjab were either inadequate or non-functional, leading to unsafe medication practices, medication errors and adverse drug reactions.

The notification states that pharmacy services will be provided under Section 20 of the Punjab Pharmacy Practice Act 2012. Hospitals will be required to meet Medication Management requirements under the Minimum Service Delivery Standards (MSDS), covering drug procurement, storage, distribution and use through a structured system.

To strengthen pharmacovigilance and patient protection, the PHC has made it mandatory for hospitals to appoint qualified pharmacists, designate pharmacovigilance officers, ensure reporting of adverse drug reactions (ADRs), review drug interactions, conduct drug utilisation reviews, promote rational use of antibiotics and ensure safe handling of high-alert and high-risk medicines. These measures are also aimed at controlling antimicrobial resistance.

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: Almass Ayoub Sabir
 Vice Chairman: Asim Nazir Ahmad
 Editor: Naveed Ahmad Khan
 Head Editorial Advisory Board: Amjad Mehmood
 Bureau Chief Karachi: Khurram Jaffrani
 (jaffrani@adplus.pk)
 Bureau Chief Lahore: Syed Afraz Ali Nazish
 (afrazalishah@gmail.com)
 Head Office: AIMS Building, Street No. 4, H-8/1, Islamabad.
 spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com
 Phone: +92 51 2227123,
 WhatsApp +92 346 5008408
 Karachi Office: A111, Block C, Gulsha-e-Jamal, PRECHS,
 Karachi Phone: 021-33399390
 Email: spokesmankarachi@gmail.com
 Lahore Office: 7-E, Samanberg, Johar Town.
 spokesmanlahore@gmail.com
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UN chief warns 'law of the jungle' is replacing rule of law

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has warned that the global order is eroding as the rule of law gives way to what he called "the law of the jungle", as he urged world powers to recommit to international law as the foundation of peace, justice and multilateral cooperation.

He was addressing a high-level open debate of the UN Security Council convened by Somalia, which holds the Council presidency for January.

The discussion comes as conflicts multiply, global tensions rise, and confidence in international institutions and rules is fading – even as the UN marks 80 years since the adoption of its founding Charter, which set out principles meant to prevent wars and reduce suffering.

"The rule of law is a cornerstone of global peace and security," Guterres said, calling it "the beating heart" of the UN Charter.

For eight decades, he said, the Charter, alongside the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Geneva Conventions and other core legal instruments, has helped humanity avoid another world war and limit the toll of countless conflicts.

But the Secretary-General warned that commitments to international law are increasingly being ignored.

"Around the world, the rule of law is being replaced by the law of the jungle," he said, pointing to what he described as flagrant violations of the UN Charter and international law, including the illegal use of force, attacks on civilian infrastructure, human rights abuses and the denial of life-saving humanitarian aid.

From Gaza to Ukraine and beyond, he said, the rule of law is being treated as "à la carte menu," with States choosing which rules to follow. Such violations, he warned, set dangerous precedents, encourage impunity and erode trust among nations.

Looking ahead, the UN chief outlined three priority areas for action.

First, he urged countries to honour the commitments they made under the Charter, including settling disputes peacefully, safeguarding human rights and respecting the sovereign equality of States.

Second, he called for the use of peaceful tools to settle disputes – negotiation, mediation and judicial settlement, alongside stronger partnerships with regional organizations – and more investment in development to address the root causes of inequality and exclusion.

Third, he stressed the need for fair, independent judicial proceedings. He encouraged greater reliance on independent courts and tribunals, including the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and stronger support for international criminal justice.

"There can be no sustainable or just peace without accountability," Guterres said. "The rule of law must prevail."

How Trump Pushed the World Toward Beijing

There are moments in history when power does not merely shift—it exposes itself. The first year of Donald Trump's second term has become such a moment, not because it introduced entirely new instruments of American statecraft, but because it redirected the same tools of pressure, coercion, and economic weaponization that the United States once reserved for weaker or dependent nations toward its own traditional allies. In doing so, Washington did not just shock the global system; it fractured it, driving country after country—by calculation, necessity, or defiance—into the strategic and economic orbit of China.

For decades, the United States shaped the political and financial architecture of much of the developing world through a familiar mechanism: military reach, dollar dominance, and institutional leverage over global bodies such as the IMF and World Bank. Countries in South Asia, the Middle East, Latin America, Eastern Europe, and parts of Africa learned to live within a system where access to capital, trade, and even political legitimacy could be expanded or constricted at Washington's discretion. Many endured in silence, not because they agreed, but because they lacked the economic or military weight to resist.

Europe's pivot followed a parallel but more consequential path. The dispute over Greenland, framed by Washington as a strategic necessity for missile defense and Arctic dominance, was read in European capitals as a unilateral assertion of power that disregarded sovereignty and alliance consultation. The European Union, often divided on policy, responded with rare cohesion. The rejection of American demands was not merely territorial—it was systemic. It reflected a growing determination to insulate Europe's political and economic future from what it increasingly viewed as unpredictable American pressure.

This shift soon extended into the financial realm. European policymakers began

openly discussing the risks of overexposure to U.S. Treasury holdings and the vulnerability created by dollar-dominated trade and settlement systems. This trend has taken on new political meaning in an environment where financial access is increasingly treated as a strategic weapon.

At the same time, the BRICS bloc—now expanded to include major energy producers and regional powers—has accelerated efforts to build alternative mechanisms for trade settlement, development finance, and cross-border investment that bypass traditional Western-controlled institutions. Local-currency trade arrangements, new development banks, and parallel payment systems are no longer theoretical exercises; they are active projects driven by a shared desire to reduce vulnerability to American financial leverage.

In this environment, China has not needed to aggressively recruit allies. Its role as the central node of global manufacturing, trade, and infrastructure has done much of the work. With annual trade volumes exceeding \$4 trillion and deep supply-chain integration across Asia, Europe, Africa, and Latin America, China has become economically indispensable to much of the world. The Belt and Road Initiative, spanning more than 140 countries, has embedded Chinese capital, logistics, and construction into the physical and economic foundations of entire regions. For many states, disengaging from China is no longer a policy option—it is an economic impossibility.

Europe's own posture toward Beijing illustrates this reality. Only a few years ago, European policy focused on "de-risking" and restricting Chinese investment in strategic sectors. Today, that posture is being recalibrated at unprecedented speed. High-level dialogues on industrial cooperation, green technology, electric vehicles, and

infrastructure investment reflect a recognition that Europe's economic competitiveness is tied to engagement with China, not isolation from it.

Canada's recalibration mirrors this logic. Energy partnerships with the Gulf, expanded Asian trade, and financial diversification are not ideological statements; they are strategic hedges against a United States that has signaled its willingness to weaponize economic interdependence.

Across the Global South, the pattern is even more pronounced. Countries in Africa, Central Asia, Latin America, and Southeast Asia—many already deeply embedded in Belt and Road projects—see in this Western fracture a confirmation of their long-held belief that reliance on a single power center is dangerous. For them, China's appeal lies not in moral claims or ideological alignment, but in scale, speed, and predictability of economic engagement.

This is where the geopolitical landscape takes on its starker contrast. As China's economic centrality expands, the United States finds itself increasingly isolated in political terms. In this emerging narrative, only one relationship remains absolute: the United States and Israel, bound together in mutual political and strategic defense as much by global criticism as by shared policy.

Israel, facing growing diplomatic, legal, and public pressure across Europe, the Global South, and even within Western societies, leans heavily on American veto power and political backing in international forums. The United States, in turn, finds itself defending Israel in a world where sympathy and alignment are steadily shifting elsewhere. The result is a form of strategic isolation that contrasts sharply with China's expanding web of economic partnerships.

The Western Hemisphere, once consid-

ered America's natural sphere of influence, now reflects this tension. Caribbean and Latin American states increasingly engage China as a primary trade partner, infrastructure financier, and development lender. In Africa, China has surpassed traditional Western powers in trade volume and project scale. In the Middle East, even long-standing U.S. partners diversify toward Beijing for energy, technology, and investment ties.

What emerges is not a world won by China through conquest or coercion, but one reshaped by America's own confrontational posture. The paradox of this moment is that America's political capital is eroding. China, by contrast, often avoids overt military or ideological confrontation, relying instead on the slow, cumulative force of economic integration. The gravitational pull of markets, supply chains, and infrastructure has proven more durable than the shock of tariffs or the threat of sanctions.

In the unfolding order, China's rise has not been driven solely by its own strategy, but by the vacuum created as the United States confronts rather than consolidates. The world's capitals, boardrooms, and ministries increasingly calculate their futures not in terms of allegiance, but in terms of access—to markets, to capital, to infrastructure, and to stability. In that calculation, Beijing now sits at the center of the equation.

What history may ultimately record is not merely a contest between two powers, but a transformation in how power itself is measured. Military strength and financial dominance remain formidable, but in a world bound by trade, technology, and shared vulnerability, the ability to attract, integrate, and sustain economic relationships may prove to be the decisive force of the century.

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



Analysis
Qamar Bashir

For decades, the United States shaped the political and financial architecture of much of the developing world through a familiar mechanism: military reach, dollar dominance, and institutional leverage over global bodies such as the IMF and World Bank. Countries in South Asia, the Middle East, Latin America, Eastern Europe, and parts of Africa learned to live within a system where access to capital, trade, and even political legitimacy could be expanded or constricted at Washington's discretion. Many endured in silence, not because they agreed, but because they lacked the economic or military weight to resist.

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The Western Hemisphere, once consid-



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

Ramazan Nigehban Package-2026

Demonstrating a strong commitment to inclusive growth and social compassion, the Punjab government has launched an expansive Ramazan welfare initiative aimed at supporting the imppecunious strata. The Ramazan Nigehban Package-2026, approved by the Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, represents the largest and most comprehensive Ramazan-focused social protection programme ever undertaken in the province.

With a total allocation of Rs47 billion, the initiative is designed to benefit nearly one crore economically vulnerable individuals, reflecting the provincial government's strategic commitment to people-centred governance and inclusive development. Recognising the heightened household expenditures, the package aims to provide timely, dignified, and targeted support that ensures no deserving family is left behind.

Beyond financial assistance, the package includes food security and community care components. Under the programme titled "Nigehban Dastarkhwan - Maryam Kay Mehmam", eight iftar arrangements will be established in each tehsil, serving up to 2,000 fasting individuals daily at each location. The thoughtfully designed iftar menu includes dates, samosas, milk, traditional beverages, fruit, and chicken biryani, ensuring nutrition, dignity, and inclusivity.



Analysis
Qudrat Ullah

The Punjab Food Authority, in collaboration with field administrations, will monitor the daily operations of these dastarkhwan to guarantee compliance with food safety and hygiene standards. Senior district officials, including commissioners and deputy commissioners, will provide oversight, ensuring operational efficiency and accountability at every level.

In parallel, the initiative strengthens market access and price stabilisation through the establishment of Ramazan Sahulat Bazaars. A total of 65 bazaars

will operate across 30 districts, complemented by permanent, mobile, and temporary markets in additional districts. A provincial monitoring room equipped with 1,250 cameras will oversee pricing, cleanliness, security, and crowd management, showcasing Punjab's adoption of technology-en-

sised measures to moderate prices, expand supply chains, and ensure the uninterrupted availability of essential items. Identification of land for new Sahulat Bazaars in 60 tehsils illustrates a long-term vision to institutionalise affordable markets, supporting food systems resilience and urban economic stability beyond seasonal relief periods.

Addressing aneeting, the chief minister Punjab highlighted that the Ramazan Nigehban Package embodies a social contract rooted in compassion, dignity, and shared responsibility. She emphasised that no deserving household should feel neglected and encouraged private-sector philanthropy to complement government efforts.

For international observers, development experts, and multilateral organisations, the Ramazan Nigehban Package-2026 offers a compelling case study in subnational welfare innovation. By integrating digital governance, targeted subsidies, market interventions, and field-level oversight, Punjab has created a model that demonstrates how provincial governments in emerging economies can deliver inclusive, transparent, and efficient social protection at scale.

While effective implementation will ultimately determine measurable outcomes, the package's scale, intent, and innovative design mark a milestone in Punjab's social protection strategy, enhancing the province's global reputation as a leader in responsive, citizen-centred governance during moments of collective reflection and spiritual observance.

(The writer is a Lahore-based public policy analyst and can be reached at qudratulah@gmail.com)

Politics in a Changing Pakistan

Elections or civil-military conflicts are common explanations for Pakistan's ongoing political instability. However, these answers address symptoms rather than causes. In reality Pakistan's predicament is a reflection of a more serious structural issue. Political growth is not keeping pace with the rapid social transformation that is taking place. As a result, a society that has undergone significant change now functions inside a political structure that is still unprepared to handle this change.

Long-term changes in social structures values norms and interactional patterns are referred to as social change. Classical sociologists saw it as a shift from traditional to modern society, whereas Marx associated it with material transformation and class warfare. Over time however research has acknowledged that social development is neither intrinsically progressive nor linear. Instead, it is unevenly disputed and heavily influenced by power dynamics.

In developed societies societal change was progressively absorbed through institutional development. Industrialization was followed by welfare states increased citizenship and democratic consolidation. As societies evolved political institutions evolved alongside them. Consequently, conflict was resolved through law accountability and representation. Pakistan however has had a quite different experience.

Indeed, Pakistani society has changed significantly during the last two decades. Traditional social structures have been eroded by urbanization women's participation in public life and education has grown and digital media has transformed political communication.

This disparity reflects what Samuel Huntington described as political decay. Social mobilization expands more rapidly than political institutionalization. Pakistan today exhibits high levels of political participation including protests online activism and street mobilization. However public confidence in institutions continues to erode. Elections rather than stabilizing competition increasingly become flashpoints for contestation and delegitimization.

Recent political occurrences further underscore this reality. Millions have been energized by populist mobilization but it has also deepened societal divisions. Digital platforms have empowered citizens to question authority. Yet in the absence

of regulatory consensus political disagreement frequently escalates into a persistent crisis. Judicial intervention executive instability and disputed mandates have thus become recurring patterns rather than exceptions.

From a theoretical perspective Pakistan's trajectory challenges the assumption that social development inevitably leads to democratic consolidation. Marxist analysis emphasizes how economic inequality and elite capture constrain the transformative potential of social change. A postcolonial approach highlights colonial institutional legacies of centralization security and bureaucratic dominance that continue to shape state behavior. Joel Migdal's concept of a weak state and strong society appears particularly relevant. Although society has become more assertive the state lacks the autonomy and capacity to regulate it effectively.

In effect Pakistan has undergone social modernization without political modernization. Norms related to rights identity and participation have evolved more rapidly than constitutional and institutional frameworks. Consequently, rising expectations collide with limited state responsiveness. Each political crisis whether triggered by elections court rulings or street protests reinforces the perception that the system cannot resolve conflict fairly.

What then needs to be done. Bridging this gap requires moving beyond temporary solutions and personality-driven politics. Political progress demands stronger parties rooted in ideology rather than loyalty empowered local governments capable of managing urban and socioeconomic diversity and a credible rule of law applied consistently rather than selectively. Equally important is civic education so that political awareness translates into democratic norms rather than perpetual agitation.

Social transformation in Pakistan is irreversible. Therefore, the real question is whether political development will eventually catch up with a changing society or continue to lag behind. Until this fundamental mismatch is addressed instability will remain not an exception but a defining feature of Pakistani politics.

Dr. Muhammad Rizwan Bhatti holds a PhD in Political Science and writes regularly on terrorism counterterrorism countering violent extremism and policing affairs. He can be reached at rizwanbhatti79@gmail.com.



Analysis
Dr. Muhammad Rizwan Bhatti

India marks 77th Republic Day with diplomatic reception in Pakistan

By Naveed Ahmed Khan

ISLAMABAD: The High Commission of India in Pakistan marked the 77th Republic Day on Monday with a reception held at a local hotel. Chargé d'Affaires Geetika Srivastava and her team warmly received the guests. Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and Ambassador of Turkmenistan, Atadjan Movlalomov, was the guest of honour.

The reception was attended by Ambassadors and High Commissioners, including those from SAARC countries such as Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and the Maldives. United Kingdom High Commissioner Jane Marriott, Ambassador of France H. E. Nicolas Galey, and Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany Ina Lepel were also present on the occasion. A large number of guests from various walks of life, including members of the local Indian community, Pakistani officials, media representatives, and business figures, attended the reception.

HC Geetika Srivastava invited the heads of mission of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) member countries, including the Bangladesh High Commissioner, Md. Iqbal Hussain Khan, Ambassador Ms. Rita Dhital of Nepal, High Commissioner of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to Pakistan, Rear Admiral Fred Senev-



irathne (Rtd.), and Maldives High Commission representative Aishath Yasmeen, along with Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and Ambassador of Turkmenistan Atadjan Movlalomov, to join her on the stage and participate in the cake-cutting ceremony. The national anthems of India and Pakistan were also played on the occasion.

Earlier, while presenting a brief background of Republic Day, a young official of the Indian High Commission stated

that on January 26, 1950, the Constitution of India, adopted by the Constituent Assembly on November 26, 1949, came into force.

The day marked India's emergence as a sovereign democratic republic. Since January 26, 1950, the anniversary of the Constitution's commencement has been celebrated annually, and, in the speaker's words, its preamble begins with the line "We the people of India," signifying that all power rests with the people

who elect their representatives to govern on their behalf. After the brief presentation, guests were served traditional Indian cuisine, including daal (pulses), vegetable and mutton dishes, and world-famous sweets.

Republic Day, observed annually on January 26, commemorates the adoption of India's Constitution in 1950, formally establishing the country as a sovereign, socialist, secular, and democratic republic. The day holds immense historical signif-

icance as it symbolizes the culmination of India's long struggle for independence and the establishment of constitutional governance based on justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity. While independence on August 15, 1947, ended colonial rule, it was the adoption of the Constitution that completed India's transition to self-governance, founded on the rule of law, institutional accountability, and the will of the Indian people.

Photos by S Qureshi



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of Japan in Pakistan, in collaboration with The

Japan Foundation, hosted a successful screening of the 2022 Japanese (English sub-titled) comedy/science fiction film Mondays: See You 'This' Week! at the Embassy premises. Directed by Ry Takebayashi and written by Saeri Natsuo and Ry Takebayashi, the film follows employees at

The Embassy of Japan Hosted a Film Screening of Time-Loop Comedy "Mondays: See You 'This' Week!"

a small advertising agency trapped in a repeating work week, delivering clever wit and a relatable take on breaking free from life's "daily loop."

The Embassy of Japan with the support of the Japan Foundation has been holding Japanese film shows in Pakistan since many decades to provide an opportunity for the people of Pakistan to learn various aspects of Japanese tradition, culture, lifestyle and society.

Culture enthusiasts and movie-lovers thoroughly enjoyed this modern showcase of Japanese cinema's humor and creativity. Mr. Hammad who is studying Japanese language greatly appreciated the movie saying "It was great seeing through this movie that how the Japan's office culture works and their strength of team work depicted in the story. Ms. Amna Asif, a Japanese language teacher, commented that the time-loop concept

in the movie was a great lesson to learn that you live your life as you have no regrets.

Mr. Takane Kazumasa, Counsellor and Head of Culture and Public Affairs at the Embassy, addressed the guests, emphasizing film's role in fostering deeper people-to-people connections. "Film acts as a vibrant cultural bridge, further strengthening the friendly bonds between Japan and Pakistan," he stated.

Seal all skyline buildings sans fire safety measures: CM Maryam

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has directed that fire safety and hydrant systems has been made mandatory for all high-rise building, adding that high rise building should be sealed if they fail to comply the safety rules and regulations, reported 24NewsHD TV Channel.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz gave these directives while chairing an emergency meeting with commissioners and deputy commissioners regarding fire safety.

The CM directed that PERA force should conduct safety audits of all public and private buildings along with other departments. She directed



that safety standards in public and private buildings should be strictly implemented.

Meanwhile, on the orders of Secretary Housing Department Noor ul Amin Mengal, 108 fire hydrants will be installed at Lahore's important places, buildings and public areas in city. The locations of fire hydrants have been determined.

During the meeting, Secretary Housing directed that safety and secu-

rity of fire hydrants should be ensured. DG WASA told Secretary Housing that the relevant market committees will be responsible for the security of all fire hydrants. He said that a plan has been drawn up to complete the installation of fire hydrants by March 1. More than 1150 fire hydrants will be installed at important locations across the province. Punjab Emergency Service Department to use fire hydrants.

Meanwhile, Punjab Chief Minister has directed DC Lahore to ask hotel management, which had caught fire, to provide one crore compensation to each victim of the fire incident. CM Maryam ordered DC Lahore to hand over this amount to victim family after recovering from the hotel owner.

Multan police's major operation against fireworks in the city Jalalpur Peerwala

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: City Jalalpur Peerwala Police Station, taking a strong action against the illegal business of fireworks, recovered fireworks worth more than Rs. 1 crore and arrested 01 Accused Muhammad Raza son of Khushi Muhammad

During the search operation, fireworks worth more than Rs. 1 crore were recovered in detail 1. Cracker 1160000 2, 2448 sewing machines, 1728 chocolate bombs, 15752 small pomegranates, 296 color-filled sticks, 2400 winter pomegranates, 110 flaming balls, 2612 moon pomegranates, 4248 small bombs, 144 ship firecrackers, 124 large bombs with ropes, 208 large pomegranates, 40 color smogs, 33 round bombs, 100 sailing ships, 12 ice cream bombs, 5000 Kalashnikov firecrackers, 576 color-filled ships,

60 bombs, 3306 fruit sticks, 2880 small sewing machines and 17500 pop bombs were recovered.

SHO Police Station City Jalalpur Peerwala Irfan Hashmi, along with his team, under the leadership of SP Saddar Division Badar Munir and under the supervision of DSP Jalalpur Muhammad Ramzan, arrested the accused Muhammad Raza son of Khushi Muhammad, details of which are as follows: 1. Cracker 1160000 2, 2448 sewing machines, 1728 chocolate bombs, 15752 small pomegranates, 296 color-filled sticks, 2400 winter pomegranates, 110 flaming balls, 2612 moon pomegranates, 4248 small bombs, 144 ship firecrackers, 124 large bombs with ropes, 208 large pomegranates, 40 color smogs, 33 round bombs, 100 sailing ships, 12 ice cream bombs, 5000 Kalash-

nikov firecrackers, 576 color-filled ships, 60 bombs, 3306 fruit sticks, 2880 small sewing machines and 17500 pop bombs were recovered.

CPO Multan Sadiq Ali Dogar said that a strict crackdown is underway against the illegal business of fireworks in Multan. Fireworks are not only illegal but also pose a serious threat to human lives. The police are taking action against it with complete planning so that the citizens can be protected from any possible accident.

CPO Multan congratulated SSP Operations Multan Haider Ali, SP Saddar Division Badar Munir, DSP Jalalpur Muhammad Ramzan, SHO Police Station City Jalalpur Peerwala and their team for the successful operation and directed that indiscriminate action should be taken against illegal activities so that law and order can be ensured in the city.

Shocking Kidnapping, Ransom and Murder of Minor in Gojra

Special Correspondent

GOJRA: A deeply horrifying incident has shaken Gojra, tehsil Gojra of district Toba Tek Singh, where a 9-year-old boy was kidnapped for ransom and later brutally murdered. Police acted swiftly, arresting two nominated suspects and recovering the child's body.

According to details, the complainant, Mujahid Iqbal son of Maqsood Ahmed Kamboh, resident of Chak No. 39/3 JB, tehsil Gojra, district Toba Tek Singh, told police that he works as a salesman. His son, Abu Bakar, aged about 9 years, returned home from school at around 1:00 pm on January 20, 2026. After changing his uniform, he went outside to play but did not return.

When the child went missing, the parents became extremely worried and began searching

nearby streets and neighborhoods while raising an alarm. During the search, local residents Naeem Abbas son of Bashir Ahmed and Muhammad Ishaq son of Faqeer Hussain informed the family that they had seen the child being taken away on two unregistered 70cc motorcycles. On one motorcycle were Zulqarnain Raza and Iqbal alias Kamal, sons of Ziaullah, while two unidentified individuals were riding the other motorcycle. The suspects were allegedly heading towards Nawan Lahore with the child.

The complainant stated that when he tried to obtain information from the families of the suspects, no satisfactory response was given, raising serious suspicions that the child had been kidnapped and subjected to severe abuse.

Police said that on January 20, 2026, a call was received on

Rescue 15 from Madiha, wife of Mujahid Iqbal, reporting the kidnapping of her son. On this information, FIR No. 31/26 was registered at Nawan Lahore Police Station under Section 363 PPC.

On January 23, 2026, the complainant submitted an additional written statement, revealing that on the day of the kidnapping, he had received a phone call demanding Rs 3 million as ransom, which he had inadvertently failed to mention in the initial FIR. Following this, Section 365 PPC was added to the case.

During investigation, police arrested the nominated suspects Zulqarnain Raza and Kamal alias Iqbal, residents of Chak No. 39/3 JB, tehsil Gojra. During interrogation, the accused confessed to the crime and disclosed that they had fed the abducted child

apple jam mixed with fertilizer, which caused his death. They later buried the body in a pit dug by wild animals near the bank of the Bhadro Canal close to Chak No. 340 JB.

On the identification of the accused, a police team led by SDPO Gejra DSP Ilam Din Malghani, along with the SHO Inspector Sakeeb Raza and police personnel, reached the spot and recovered the body of Abu Bakar (aged about 8-9 years). The body was shifted to RHC Nawan Lahore for post-mortem examination. A team from the Punjab Forensic Science Agency (PFS) has also been summoned.

Police have added Sections 302 (murder) and 201 (causing disappearance of evidence) of the Pakistan Penal Code to the case. Further legal proceedings are underway in accordance with the law.



Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
188,202.85	188,587.66
Day's High	Day's Low
189,521.32	187,538.23
Index Value	Change
40,220,029,228	-384.81
Percentage	Time
-0.2%	27 Jan, 2026 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
10,207.80	+58.95
Percentage	Time
+0.58%	27 Jan, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
48,931.38	-481.02
Percentage	Time
-0.97%	27 Jan, 12:34 pm GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
53,333.54	+448.29
Percentage	Time
+0.85%	27 Jan, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	192.55	197.72
Bahrain Dinar	743.85	753.85
Canadian Dollar	203.77	207.31
China Yuan	38.00	41.4
Danish Krone	43.32	43.72
Euro	332.42	336.51
Hong Kong Dollar	35.50	36.38
Indian Rupee	2.80	3.31
Japanese Yen	1.8080	1.9092
Kuwaiti Dinar	908.00	917.97
Malaysian Ringgit	66.55	70.3
New Zealand \$	165.68	170.56
Norwegian Krone	27.61	27.91
Omani Riyal	728.60	738.59
Qatari Riyal	76.2	78.75
Saudi Riyal	74.90	75.35
Singapore Dollar	219.61	224.56
Swedish Korona	30.1	30.4
Swiss Franc	358.97	363.92
Thai Bhat	8.50	9.7
U.A.E Dirham	76.50	77.30
UK Pound Sterling	382.98	387.05
US Dollar	280.85	282.55

Kicking off the collaboration with the launch of the 'Inspire Greatness, together' campaign

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: TCL, a global leader in consumer electronics and the world's No. 1 Mini LED and ultra-large TV brand, proudly announces Arsenal's Bukayo Saka as its Brand Ambassador. It marks a significant milestone in strengthening the brand's global partnership with Arsenal Football Club, where TCL serves as the Official Global Consumer Electronics Partner.

TCL has recently teamed up with Arsenal and Bukayo Saka with the launch of 'Inspire Greatness, together', a new campaign that celebrates how football brings people together through moments on and off the pitch. It reflects the belief that greatness is not defined only by the game itself, but by the collective emotions, connections, and everyday rituals that unite supporters around the world.

ICAP Hosts the National Finance Olympiad 2025, Showcasing Pakistan's Top Finance Talent

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP) conducted the Grand Finale of the National Finance Olympiad (NFO) 2025, organised under the auspices of ICAP's Professional Accountants in Business (PAIB) Committee, bringing together finance professionals, industry leaders, and academics from across the country.

The event commenced with a welcome address by Mr. Samiullah

Siddiqui, Chairman PAIB Committee and Vice President ICAP, who highlighted ICAP's National Finance Olympiad as a flagship initiative aimed at strengthening strategic thinking, leadership, and decision-making capabilities among finance professionals.

He emphasized the importance of such platforms in upskilling finance leaders to navigate increasingly complex business in competitive environments.

This year Mr. Irfan Siddiqui, Founding Partner & former CEO and President, Meezan Bank Limited joined

as Chief Guest. He admired the platforms like NFO where the talent is not only showcased but enabled in a competitive environment to deal with business challenges including strategic insights and deliveries via storytelling.

This was followed by an address from Mr. Abdul Rahim Abbasi, Head of Corporate Finance, Unilever Pakistan who highlighted the value of industry-led initiatives in bridging professional knowledge with real-world business challenges and fostering commercially astute finance leadership.

Economy/Commerce

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

ACCA Summit: Climate Resilience and Digital Skills Key to Trillion-Dollar Economy

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Stronger policy alignment, institutional capacity and digital capability are essential to unlocking Pakistan's economic potential, federal leaders said today at the concluding conference of the 8th Pakistan Leadership Conversation (PLC), organised by the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA).

Addressing the conference, Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, Federal Minister, Board of Investment, emphasised the importance of collective action.

"Unlocking Pakistan's economic potential requires collective acceleration across government, business and institutions," said Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh. "By improving the ease of doing business, strengthening governance and supporting innovation, Pakistan can position itself as a more competitive and investable economy."

In a session focused on collective acceleration and economic transformation, Senator Dr. Musadik Malik, Federal Minister for Climate



Change and Environmental Coordination, highlighted the critical link between climate

leadership, coordinated reform and Pakistan's long-term growth ambitions.

Providing a global perspective, Melanie Proffit, President of ACCA, underscored the need for integrated thinking across climate, technology and skills.

"Countries that succeed in the next phase of growth will be those that connect climate ambition, digital transformation and human capability," said Melanie Proffit. "Finance professionals are uniquely positioned to strengthen accountability, guide investment decisions and enable responsible innovation."

Assad Hameed Khan, Head of ACCA Pakistan, Sadia Khan, Head of Finance, Asia Pacific, Adam Smith International. The panel comprised of Farrukh H. Khan, CFO, JAZZ, Farrukh H. Sabzwari, MD & CEO, Pakistan Stock Exchange, Mujeeb Zahur, Managing Director, S&P Global Pakistan, Musarat Jabeen, Executive Director, SECP and Mohsin Ali Chaudhry, Corporate Governance Officer & ESG Advisory Lead, IFC. Also speak on the occasion.

Visit

FAISALABAD: Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Mr. Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, visited the Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development and Management Company (FIEDMC) to review the progress of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) on Tuesday



Photo: PID

Failure to reduce interest rate is harmful for the industrial sector, Zubair Tufail

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: President of the United Business Group (UBG) and former President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), Zubair Tufail, has expressed deep disappointment over the decision of the State Bank of Pakistan's Monetary Policy Committee to keep the interest rate unchanged at 10.5 percent.

Zubair Tufail said that the decision not to reduce the interest rate would prove detrimental to national development and business activities. He stated that the Governor of the State Bank, Jameel Ahmad, himself acknowledged that exports have declined while imports have increased, which is clear evidence that high interest rates have pushed the economy into difficulties. He added that at such a time it was critically important to bring the interest rate into

single digits, a long-standing demand of the business community.

The UBG President questioned the justification for maintaining the interest rate at 10.5 percent when inflation has declined significantly. He said this decision would not only hurt investment but would also discourage foreign investors from turning to Pakistan, despite the sustained efforts being made in this regard by Army Chief Field Marshal General Asim Munir.

PQGTL IPO general public subscription begins from 28th Jan

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The general public will be able to subscribe to the initial public offering (IPO) of Pak Qatar General Takafal Limited (PQGTL) starting January 28th, following a strong response from institutional investors during the book-building phase.

A total of 7.5 million shares, representing 25 percent of the total IPO size, will be available to retail investors at a strike price of Rs 420 million in funds.

With the general public subscription now open, market watchers anticipate active participation, following the robust institutional interest observed earlier.



ecosystems, the initiative is expected to offer an alternative to informal borrowing channels that many low- and middle-income individuals rely on for short-term liquidity needs.



ISSI Hosts Public Talk on 'Europe, the Nordics, and the New Reality of Power Politics'

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a Public Talk titled "Europe, the Nordics, and the New Reality of Power Politics" on January 27, 2026, organised by the Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) at ISSI. The talk featured Ms. Hedda Langemyr, Founder of UTSYN – Centre for Security and Resilience, Norway, as the Guest Speaker.

In her introductory remarks, Dr. Neelum Nigar, Director, CSP, ISSI, welcomed the distinguished guest speaker and the participants. She highlighted the growing significance of European security dynamics and the relevance of Nordic strategic thinking in the evolving international environment.

geopolitical realities.

In his welcome remarks, the Chairman, Board of Governors (BoG), ISSI, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, warmly welcomed Ms. Langemyr and the participants, and appreciated CSP for convening a timely and thought-provoking discussion. He noted that global politics is witnessing an intensified return of power-based competition, strategic uncertainty, and evolving security challenges.

Delivering her keynote address, Ms. Hedda Langemyr thanked ISSI for hosting her and expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to engage with scholars and practitioners in Pakistan.

Ms. Langemyr discussed how geography and history continue to shape Nordic security thinking, particularly for Norway as a small state located in close proximity to Russia and strategically sensitive northern waters.

The session concluded with an interactive question-and-answer discussion, reflecting strong audience



interest in the topic. In the end, Ms. Hedda Langemyr was presented with ISSI memento by Chairman BoG ISSI Ambassador Khalid Mahmood.

Diplomatic Ryder Cup Islamabad 2026 at EIGHTEEN blends Golf, Diplomacy

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Club at Eighteen, in collaboration with Mövenpick Hotel Centaur Islamabad, successfully hosted the Diplomatic Ryder Cup Islamabad 2026 at the prestigious Eighteen Golf Course. The much-anticipated event brought together diplomatic missions from the United States and Europe for a spirited 18-hole golf competition, celebrating sportsmanship, friendship, and international engagement.

The tournament witnessed enthusiastic participation from several distinguished Heads of Mission, including Ms. Natalie Baker, Chargé d'Affaires of the United States; H. E. Mr. Maciej Pisarski, Ambassador of Poland; and H. E. Mr. Idesbald van der Graadt, Ambassador of Belgium, along with diplomats and members of the international community.

Competition remained intense throughout the day, with both teams demonstrating exceptional skill and determination. In a closely contested finish, team Europe emerged victorious, clinching the coveted Diplomatic Ryder Cup with a narrow three-point lead.

Adding to the day's excitement were on-course challenges with Brendan Kallander claimed the longest drive (Men) title, Michaela Chrtova won



longest drive (Women) and Gilles Hachez secured the closest to the Pin (Men) award.

The event concluded with brunch

providing an opportunity for diplomats, golfers, and guests to connect. Participants highly appreciated the world-class golf facilities and the exemplary event management by The Club at Eighteen, making the Diplomatic Ryder Cup Islamabad 2026 a memorable success.

plenary event management by The Club at Eighteen, making the Diplomatic Ryder Cup Islamabad 2026 a memorable success.

Arbaz Khan, Ahsan Ali, Hurrain Shahid, Khan Shah hit tons in Wing 999 Inter Departmental Cricket League

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Omar Associates and One Ten Communication 4th consecutive Victory in Group "B", While Medium Group winning 4th out of 5 Matches from Group "A" after beating their opponents in the Wing 999 Inter Departmental Cricket League Tournament at various Grounds.

The highlights of the day's play was brilliant 3rd Consecutive Century by Arbaz Khan 123, 2nd Consecutive Century Unbeaten 156 by Ahsan Ali, Centuries by Hurrain Shahid 136, Taha Mehmood 103, Khan Shah 101 and Deadly bowling by Medium Pacer Waleed Ali 5/51.

Score in Brief:

Omar Associates beat Pak Saudi International by 173 runs at Gulberg Gymkhana Ground. Omar Associates 378/4 in 40 overs. Hurrain Shahid 136 13x4 5x6, Arbaz Khan 123 13x4 6x6, M. Amir 39 not out, Haider Abbas 29, Adeel Meo 28, Saifullah Khan 2/47.

In reply Pak Saudi International 205 all-out in 38.1 overs. Ali Hassan 59 6x4 1x6, Fahad Nadeem 43, Saifullah Khan 32, Karan Kumar 24, Arif Yaqoob 2/22, Abdul Moiz 2/50, Zia ullah 2/60.

In the 2nd Match One Ten Communication beat D Cattle Farms by 7 Wickets at RLCA UP Ground. D Cattle Farms 220 all-out in 36.3 overs. Sikandar Soomro 79 4x4 7x6, Arsalan Farzand 66 5x4 1x6. Waleed Ali (mf) 5/51, Rehman Ghani 2/27, Nadir Shah 2/35. In reply One Ten Communication 224/3, in 15.5 overs. Ahsan Ali 156 8x4 19x6 not out, Habibullah 33.

In the 3rd Match Medicam Group beat Sindh Police by 7 Wickets at RLCA Gulberg. Sindh Police 278 allout in 39 overs. In reply Medicam Group 283/3 in 37.2 overs. Taha Mehmood 103 9x4 4x6, Khan Shah 101 12x4 3x6 not out, Ali But 31 not out, Shahroz Siddiqui 29. Majid Asghar 2/53.

National Essay Writing Competition 2025 Concludes with Prize Distribution Ceremony

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye, in collaboration with the National Book Foundation (NBF) of Pakistan and the Yunus Emre Turkish Cultural Center, successfully organized the Prize Distribution Ceremony of the National Essay Writing Competition 2025, aimed at university students across Pakistan.

The ceremony was attended by Her Excellency Wajihah Qamar, Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training, H. E. Dr. Ifran Neziroglu, Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to Pakistan, Dr. Kamran Jahangir, Managing Director of the National Book Foundation, senior officials, representatives of academic and cultural institutions, teachers, parents, and students.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Dr. Ifran Neziroglu highlighted that the essay competition was initiated for two key reasons: to celebrate and honor the centuries-old fraternal

bond between Türkiye and Pakistan, and to commemorate the sacrifice of two Turkish engineers, Cenk Yakin and Ufuk Arslan, who were martyred during a relief mission in Balakot following the devastating 2005 earthquake.

The Ambassador recalled that during the historic visit of H. E. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to Islamabad last year, both countries agreed to establish a "Shura of Fraternity" to strengthen cooperation in social, cultural, and academic fields. He stated that this competition stands as a practical example of that vision in action.

Ambassador Neziroglu paid tribute to the shared heroes and historical figures of both nations, including Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Allama Muhammad Iqbal, the Ali Brothers of the Khilafat Movement, and Abdurrahman Peshawari, emphasizing the importance of transferring this shared legacy to future generations through education and awareness. He congratulated all participating students and prize winners for their dedication,

creativity, and commitment.

He also expressed appreciation for Anatolia Travel Services for facilitating visa-related services and acknowledged the contributions of Mr. Halil Toker, Country Director of the Yunus Emre Turkish Cultural Center, for his role in strengthening bilateral cultural relations.

Addressing the ceremony, Minister of State Wajihah Qamar warmly welcomed the distinguished guests and congratulated the organizers for arranging a meaningful initiative under the auspices of the Embassy of Türkiye. She emphasized that Pakistan-Türkey relations are rooted in shared history, faith, values, and mutual respect, and represent a unique example of people-to-people brotherhood.

The Minister highlighted the role of youth and writing in shaping narratives and strengthening international relationships. She encouraged students to view themselves as future diplomats, scholars, and leaders who will further deepen Pakistan-Türkey

ties. She also expressed admiration for Türkiye's scholarship opportunities and academic exposure for Pakistani students, noting that such exchanges broaden horizons and foster lifelong bonds.

Reaffirming the Government of Pakistan's commitment to international academic collaboration, the Minister stressed that education remains the strongest bridge between societies.

She encouraged students to continue reading, writing, learning foreign languages—particularly Turkish—and exploring global cultures with confidence.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, prizes were awarded to the winning students:

First Prize: Maryam Batool, Akhuwat College for Women, Chakwal
Second Prize: Izza Naeem, University

of Management & Technology, Lahore
Third Prize: Muhammad Aariz Zafar, Pakistan Institute of Management Sciences, Peshawar

The ceremony concluded with a renewed commitment to strengthening Pakistan-Türkey friendship through education, culture, and youth engagement, reaffirming that the relationship between the two nations remains a timeless bond.

No military operation underway in Tirah Valley: Khawaja Asif

Continued from Page 1

He added that some jirga members also met representatives of the proscribed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

Following talks with the provincial authorities, a migration package was agreed upon and formalised through official documentation.

He stressed that the entire process was civilian-led and that the military or other security institutions had no role in the consultations or the migration arrange-

ments.

Referring to past security operations, Asif said a military operation had taken place in the area several years ago but was concluded after the return of internally displaced persons.

He said the current situation reflected a lack of basic facilities, with no hospitals, schools or police stations in the valley, despite commitments made to the jirga to establish such infrastructure.

The defence minister alleged that around 12,000 acres of land

in the area were under hemp cultivation, generating substantial profits that he claimed benefitted either influential political figures or the TTP.

He said federal efforts to establish schools, police stations and the writ of the state were facing resistance because they threatened entrenched interests.

Asif further alleged that certain elements within the provincial government had links with the TTP, accusing them of deliberately politicising the issue to conceal governance failures. He

said civilian authorities and local elders were working to resolve the matter, while the province continued to blame a "non-existent operation."

Information Minister Attallah Tarar cited British-era official gazetteers, saying records from as early as 1880 noted that Afridi and Aka Khel tribes migrated from Tirah Valley during winters, underscoring the historical nature of the practice. He added that climate change had delayed the onset of migration this year.

Ikhtiar Wali Khan questioned

the utilisation of a Rs4 billion package announced for migrants, noting that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf had governed the province for 13 years.

"The provincial government must explain how much of this amount actually reached the affected people," he said, adding that district administration had termed the migration voluntary and unrelated to the federal government or the military.

He also expressed concern that migrants could be used for political mobilisation during protests

planned for February 8.

Asif said Tirah Valley becomes completely snowbound in winter, making permanent residence impossible, but clarified that intelligence-based operations against militants would continue. He said peace was a fundamental right of local residents and that jirga elders were respected community figures.

On the broader security situation, Asif said there was no proposal under consideration to reverse the merger of the former FATA with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He noted a sharp rise in terrorism over the past two to three years, particularly after the Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan, adding that Pakistan had held multiple rounds of talks with the Afghan authorities.

He said that responsibility for the lack of peace and services in Tirah Valley primarily rested with the provincial government, but assured that the federal government was ready to support provincial efforts and that assisting displaced people remained a state responsibility.



Called on

ISLAMABAD: The Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, H.E. U Than Swe called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday.



Photo: Online

PM meets Myanmar's foreign minister, underscores expanding bilateral cooperation

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, U Than Swe, who is on an official visit to Pakistan, paid a courtesy call on the Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday.

Welcoming the visiting dignitary and reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening its longstanding relations with Myanmar, the prime minister underscored the importance of expanding cooperation in trade and economic engagement, education, culture, capaci-

ty-building, and people-to-people exchanges, a Prime Minister's Office news release said.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif particularly appreciated Myanmar's cooperation in combating trafficking and its support for Pakistan's engagement with ASEAN.

The Myanmar Foreign Minister thanked the Prime Minister for the warm welcome accorded to him and his delegation. He conveyed the greetings and good wishes from Myanmar's leadership and expressed Myanmar's desire to expand its ties with Pakistan in areas of mutual interest.

The Myanmar side also thanked the prime minister for Pakistan's timely support to Myanmar, following the catastrophic earthquake on March 28, 2025.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and SAPM Tariq Fatemi also attended the meeting.

Pak Army continues rescue, relief operation in snow-hit areas

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The rescue and relief operation led by Pakistan Army is continuing in the snowfall hit areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. In this regard, Pakistan Army established control centers in different areas of Balochistan including Ziarat, Bolan, Zhob, Qila Saifullah, Khojak Top, Lak Pass, Dukki, and Muslim Bagh.

Pakistan Army is also providing basic necessities including food, medical assistance to the rescued people and tourists. Similarly, rescue and relief activities is also in full swing in District Kurram amid intense rain and snowfall.



An immediate rescue operation was launched by Pakistan Army to assist the local population and restore ground communication links. All affected roads have been

fully restored by effectively utilizing heavy machinery and manpower.

Prompt relief activities enabled locals to regain access to markets and health-care centers. Additionally, critical ground routes were also restored. Pakistan Army officers and soldiers are personally monitoring the relief operations despite extremely harsh weather and difficult terrain.

Likewise, in Tirah Valley, the soldiers of Pakistan Army are actively engaged in relief efforts amid heavy snowfall, without caring for their own safety.

The Pakistan Army remains steadfast in its commitment to protecting the lives and property of the public and providing immediate assistance during natural disasters and emergencies.

Gul Plaza tragedy: Sindh Cabinet okays Rs10m per victim

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The District City team has collected evidence from the site, while forensic teams are examining multiple aspects of the case. Reuters file

The Sindh Cabinet on Tuesday approved Rs10 million in compensation for the family of each victim of the Gul Plaza tragedy, as identification efforts continued and investigators advanced the probe.

Authorities confirmed the identification of three more victims, taking the total number of identified fatalities to 27.

Police Surgeon Dr Samia said the medico-legal process for the remains of 73 bodies has been completed.

Of the identified victims, 20 were confirmed through DNA testing conducted at the Sindh Forensic DNA and Serology



Laboratory at the University of Karachi.

Dr Samia said the identification process is ongoing under standard protocols.

So far, 56 family samples have been collected to trace

65 missing persons. Further details will be shared as the process continues.

The compensation decision was taken at a Sindh Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah.

The cabinet was briefed that affected shopkeepers are being paid Rs500,000 each through the commissioner to cover kitchen and utility expenses.

The cabinet also approved interest-free loans of Rs10

million each for affected shopkeepers to help them restart their businesses.

The chief minister said the Sindh government will bear the interest cost on the loans.

He added that shop facilities would be arranged within two months to enable traders to resume operations, and pledged all possible measures for their protection and facilitation.

Expressing sorrow over the tragedy, the cabinet constituted a sub-committee headed by the chief minister.

The sub-committee includes provincial ministers Sharjeel Inam Memon, Nasir Hussain Shah, Saeed Ghani and Ziaul Hassan Lanjar.

It will review the inquiry report being prepared by the committee led by the Karachi commissioner and decide further action based on its findings.

President praises AD Ports role in boosting Pakistan's maritime sector



Spokesman Report

capacity, efficiency and regional competitiveness.

Both sides agreed that expanding and modernising port infrastructure would strengthen trade flows and support Pakistan's broader economic development, particularly seaborne trade.

The president also welcomed the establishment of AD Ports Group's representative office in Islamabad and appreciated its collaboration on digitalisation and customs facilitation to improve trade efficiency.

DPM Dar and Chinese Ambassador exchange views on regional developments



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister / Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Ambassador of China to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong, Tuesday, discussed bilateral issues of mutual interest and exchanged views on evolving regional and international developments.

sustaining momentum of high-level exchanges and further strengthening Pak-China bilateral cooperation, the Foreign Office Spokespersons said in a press release.

Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar has underscored the importance of sustaining momentum of high-level exchanges and further strengthening Pak-China bilateral cooperation.

Both sides discussed bilateral issues of mutual interest and exchanged views on evolving regional and international developments.

Federal Health Minister inaugurates another telemedicine center in Islamabad



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Health Mustafa Kamal on Tuesday inaugurated the fifth Telemedicine Center in Islamabad at Basic Health Unit (BHU) Bhukkar, reaffirming the government's strong commitment to rapidly fulfilling its promises to the public and strengthening the country's primary healthcare system.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony in the rural area of Islamabad, the Minister stated that the government is taking effective and practical measures to reinforce primary healthcare services nationwide. He emphasized that with the rapidly growing population, the patient burden on

hospitals is increasing continuously, and the most effective and sustainable solution lies in the optimal use of modern healthcare technologies, particularly telemedicine.

Mustafa Kamal highlighted that telemedicine enables the delivery of quality healthcare services not only in urban centers but also in remote and rural areas, ensuring that citizens have access to the same standard of medical consultation available in major cities. He noted that in today's digital age, a doctor's physical presence is no longer essential for basic medical care, as telemedicine has emerged as an efficient and reliable system for timely diagnosis and treatment.