



Daily The Spokesman



Sharjeel Memon warns JI over plan to block Karachi roads

Sindh Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon has reacted sharply to the planned protests and sit-ins by Jamaat-e-Islami in Karachi said that no one would be allowed to take the law into their own hands. He said Jamaat-e-Islami violated restrictions in Saturday's protest in front of the Sindh Assembly and tried to enter the Red Zone.



Malik Liaquat appointed as AJK Inspector General of police

The federal government has appointed senior police officer Captain (r) Malik Liaquat Ali as Inspector General (IG) of Azad Kashmir Police. Currently serving as a DIG in the Punjab Police, Malik Liaquat will replace IG Police Rana Abdul Jabbar, who is presently attending the National Management Course.

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Field Marshal Asim Munir holds key talks with Rubio, others in Germany

Spokesman Report

GERMANY: Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Chief of the Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces, held talks with world leaders during his visit to Germany from February 12 to 14.

The COAS interacted with several dignitaries on the sidelines of the 62nd Munich Security Conference, according to a statement by the ISPR.

Field Marshal Asim Munir met with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and discussed with him matters of mutual interest, including global and regional security dynamics and counterterrorism cooperation.

As part of his interactions with the German authorities, the CDF called



on Alexander Dobrindt, Germany; Günter Sautter, Chancellor of Germany and Federal Minister of the Interior, Federal Republic of

Foreign Policy & Security Policy Adviser to Federal

Armed Forces.

The meetings focused on contemporary security issues, bilateral defence cooperation and the need for promoting global peace and security through bilateral and multilateral dialogue, the statement added.

Besides, Field Marshal Asim Munir held a productive engagement with Admiral Renato Rodrigues de Aguiar Freire, Chief of the Joint Staff, Brazilian Armed Forces and discussed bilateral military cooperation.

Gen Rodolph Haykal, Comd Armed Forces, Lebanese Republic, also called on Field Marshal Asim Munir.

During the interaction, the global and regional security situation and measures to enhance bilateral defence collaboration were discussed.

Holy Family Hospital had arrived at the jail earlier and entered through gate number five, carrying medicines, medical equipment, and specialised machines, particularly for eye examinations, sources said.

An ambulance from

cellor Stocker at the Federal Chancellery.

Both leaders are expected to discuss matters of mutual interest and avenues for strengthening cooperation between the two countries.

The prime minister and the Austrian chancellor will also jointly co-chair a meeting of leading business figures aimed at enhancing trade and investment ties between Pakistan and Austria.

Doctors complete medical examination of Imran Khan at Adiala Jail

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: A team of doctors completed a medical examination of former Prime Minister Imran Khan at Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi, officials and sources said on Sunday.

An ambulance from

which included Dr Amjad, Dr Nadeem Qureshi, Dr Afaq, Dr Sikandar, and Dr Arif, conducted a detailed examination of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder for about an hour, sources added. A technician accompanied the team.

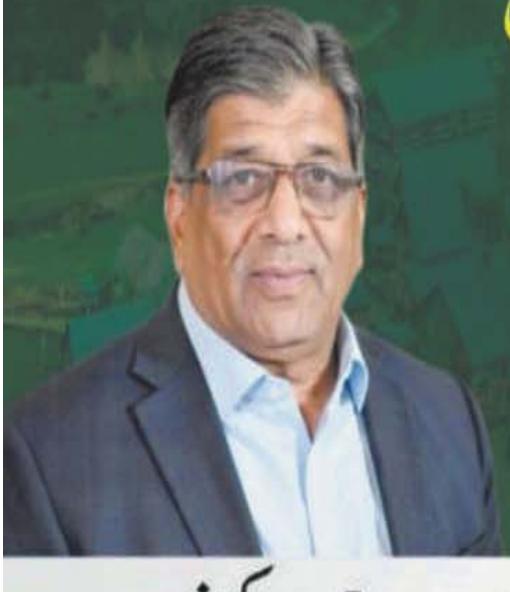
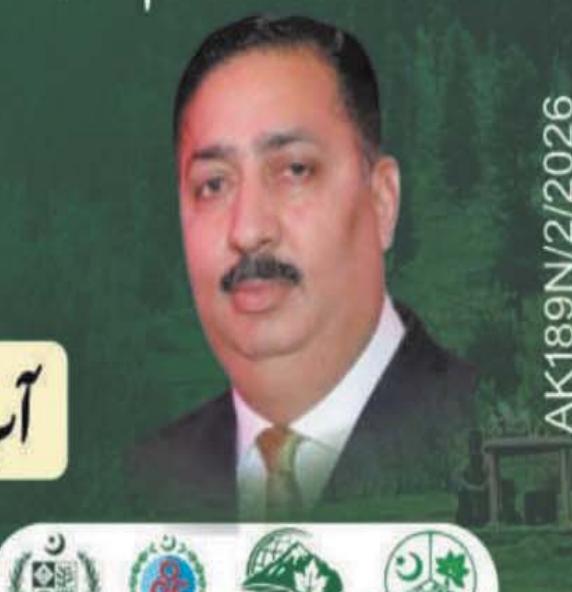
Continued on Page 7




OVERSEAS KASHMIRIS CONVENTION

Azad Jammu and Kashmir

16th February, 2026 | Muzaffarabad

کہتے ہیں

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Azad Kashmir PM Hails Overseas Community as Economic Cornerstone

 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir, Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, has said that overseas Kashmiris are a valuable asset to the state whose contribution to boosting the local economy is highly significant.

In his special message, the prime minister said that the overseas Kashmiris living abroad have always played an important role in the region's progress.

He said that the purpose of the Overseas Convention was to engage the community in development activities, utilize their experience, and generate investment opportunities.

Terminating Overseas Convention, being organized in collaboration with



facilities to investors.

Referring to the different measures being undertaken to effectively address the problems faced by overseas Kashmiris, the PM said that these initiatives included the establishment of a special court for overseas Kashmiris, the launch of the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Web Portal (linked to the Prime Minister of Pakistan's portal) for the timely resolution of their complaints, and the introduction of a one-window operation to facilitate investment.

The Prime Minister also invited members of the Joint Action Committee to attend the convention urging them to cooperate with the government in paving the way for a brighter future for the public rather

than blocking roads.

He stated that all departments have worked diligently with coordination, strategic planning, and teamwork to ensure the success of the convention.

The PM Rathore expressed hope that the convention would prove to be a golden opportunity for strengthening cooperation, development, and mutual relations.

It is worth to mention here that the convention would feature panel discussions and policy dialogues in which representatives from various sectors will deliberate on issues faced by overseas Kashmiris. In addition, investment proposals in the fields of information technology, energy and water resources, industry, tourism, and minerals would be presented to attract investors.

Protest

Muzaffarabad: Justice of the Supreme Court of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Justice Raja Saeed Akram Khan, is presenting a certificate of appreciation to Staff Officer Taimur Mumtaz Mir for his excellent performance during the Golden Jubilee celebrations.



Photo: Online

PPP's Public Power Show in Muzaffarabad Signals Massive Local Support Shift

 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: History was made in Union Council Anwar Sharif, a magnificent and historic public power show of the Pakistan Peoples Party, a large number of people, workers and elders of the area participated.

According to the details, a referendum of public trust was held in Union Council Anwar Sharif, which made it clear that the people now stand only with the politics of practical service and truth.

Local government ticket holders of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf from village Kathili joined the PPP under the leadership of Public Health Minister Syed Bazil Ali Naqvi, which made it clear that ideological politics and practical measures are the priority of the people.

Addressing the public meeting on this occasion, the speakers said that in the past the people of village Kathili and Nandal were deprived of basic facilities.

Severe difficulties in transportation, lack of educational institutions, and absence of basic infrastructure



hindered the development of the area. But today, the inauguration of a half-kilometer road in Nandal and a 3.5-kilometer road in Kathili is a practical proof that when the leadership stands with the people, resources themselves make a way. These roads are not just a means of transportation but are new avenues of development and prosperity.

Finance Minister of the Azad Jammu

and Kashmir State Qasim Majeed said in his address that the People's Party believes in practical measures and public service. He said that the roads inaugurated today are a practical proof that the government believes in fulfilling its promises.

He made a special announcement that a model high school would be established in Kathili village so that the girls of the area could get quality

education and promote education. He said that development and education are the top priority of the government and more development projects would be started soon by using resources in a fair and transparent manner.

The speakers made it clear that Union Council Anwar Sharif has now become a strong and permanent "one-sided" union council of the PPP politically.

Merit-Focused Director Amjad Hussain Minhas Gets Dignified Farewell in Bagh

 Bureau Report

BAGH: Information Department, District Bagh organized a farewell ceremony on the retirement of Director Public Relations Amjad Hussain Minhas.

The farewell ceremony was attended by officers and officials of the Information Department, Agriculture Department, Livestock, Social Welfare, Revenue Department and other departments and a large number of senior journalists from Bagh district. The farewell ceremony was hosted by Deputy Director Information Poonch Division Sardar Parvez and officials of the Bagh District Office, while



the ceremony was addressed by former Director Information Amjad Hussain Minhas, Social Welfare Officer Sardar Waqas Saleem, Deputy Director Agri-

culture, Member Board of Governors Press Foundation Raja Ashraf, Secretary General Press Club Syed Tahir Gardezi, former Presidents of Press Club Bagh Sardar Tahir Ahmed Abbasi, Raja Abdul Hafeez, Sardar Ishaq Hussain, former Secretary General Press Club Mahmood Rather, former Public Relations Officer along with Government Minister Sardar Shahzad, Sardar Irshad Shujaabadi and others.

Addressing the ceremony, the speakers said that Amjad Hussain Minhas considered service as service and his services were acknowledged throughout the state. Not only in the Information Department, but the journalistic community

also appreciates his services.

Speaking at the ceremony, former Director Public Relations Amjad Hussain Minhas said that in his service, he has tried to fight for the rights of his subordinates and give them their rights. Working according to merit certainly creates difficulties, but a person's conscience is satisfied in the eyes of Allah, what he did was for the restoration of merit. At the end of the ceremony, Deputy Director Information Poonch Sardar Pervez and officials of the Information Department presented a taif to former Director Amjad Hussain Minhas, while journalists presented him with bouquets of flowers and garlanded him.

Free Limbs Camp by Jahangir Khan Tareen Ignites Hope for People with Disabilities



 Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Jahangir Khan Tareen has said that persons with disabilities are a respected and vital part of society, and it is a collective responsibility to support and empower them. He expressed these views during his visit to the annual free rehabilitation camp organized by the Lodhran Pilot Project for persons with disabilities.

Reaffirming his commitment, Jahangir Khan Tareen stated that efforts to rehabilitate and assist deserving individuals will continue with dedication and consistency.

Chief Executive Officer of Lodhran Pilot Project, Dr. Abdul Saboor, briefed Jahangir Khan Tareen during the visit and informed him that nine free camps have been organized so far. Through these camps, a total of 1,327 deserving persons with disabilities from across the country have been provided free artificial limbs.

During the visit, Jahangir Khan Tareen also met with the beneficiaries including children, women, and men who expressed their gratitude to Jahangir Khan Tareen, calling the initiative a new source of hope, confidence, and an important step toward leading active lives.

Participants stated that the provision of artificial limbs is not only reducing their physical difficulties but is also enabling them to participate more effectively in social and economic activities, helping them regain dignity and independence.

Faisalabad Jamaat-e-Islami Protests Karachi Crackdown on Peaceful Activists



 Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Like the rest of the country, Jamaat-e-Islami workers in Faisalabad also staged a protest demonstration at Chiniot Bazaar Chowk under the leadership of District General Secretary Yasir Iqbal Khara Advocate, Nadeem-ur-Rehman, Sheikh Afzal Shaheen, Khalid Mahmood Chaudhry, and others against the police violence, lathi-charge, shelling and arrests on peaceful protesters of Jamaat-e-Islami in Karachi. Speaking on the occasion, the leaders said that peaceful protest is the constitutional and democratic right of every citizen, but the Sindh government has tried to silence those who raise their voices for their rights through force. Baton charge and tear gas shelling on unarmed workers is the worst example of state oppression. Peoples Party should keep in mind the outcome of Hasina Wajid, those who tried to eliminate Jamaat-e-Islami have become a lesson today. We strongly condemn the police violence, shelling and unjustified arrests on peaceful workers. The arrested workers should be released immediately, action should be taken against the officials involved in the violence and the protection of the fundamental rights of the citizens should be ensured. He said that the use of force is not a solution to the problems but only makes the situation worse. This kind of treatment of political workers is unacceptable and voice will be raised against it at every democratic and constitutional forum. The rulers who are intoxicated with power should remember that sticks and shells cannot suppress the public consciousness. The more the oppression increases, the stronger the resistance will be. We clearly declare that every attempt to suppress the voice of truth will fail. The people have woken up, the houses of oppression will have to bow before the power of the people.

Pakistan Begins Distribution of Tralai Kalan Tragedy Compensation Package



 City Desk

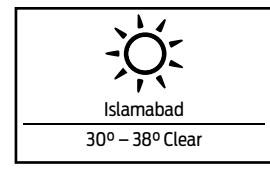
ISLAMABAD: The Government of Pakistan has formally commenced the implementation of the relief and compensation package announced by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for the families of the martyrs and those injured in the Tralai Kalan tragedy.

As part of the first phase of disbursement, the Prime Minister's Youth Programme Focal Person, Syed Zeeshan Ali Naqvi, accompanied by Assistant Commissioner Yasir Nazeer, visited the homes of the martyrs on Sunday to personally hand over compensation cheques worth Rs. 5 million each to the bereaved families. During the visits, prayers were offered for the elevation of the martyrs' ranks, and heartfelt condolences were conveyed to their families.

Sources confirmed that the distribution process for all remaining families of the martyrs, as well as for the injured, will be completed within the coming week to ensure timely financial support.

Earlier, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had announced a comprehensive compensation package, under which Rs. 5 million would be provided to each family of the martyrs, Rs. 3 million to the critically injured, and Rs. 1 million to those who sustained minor injuries.

The families of the martyrs and other affected residents of Tralai Kalan expressed their appreciation to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, and the federal government for their prompt response and support during this difficult time.


SERVICES
Namaz Timings

Fajr	5:29 am
Zohr	12:22 pm
Asr	4:13 pm
Maghrib	5:52 pm
Isha	7:16 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

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

CDA	9212334-43
CDA	9208301-4
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	9226316
Wapda Islamabad	9217579-80

Tori Mir Ali
Delegation
Raises
Concerns
Over Spin
Wam Project
Irregularities
with Bannu
Commissioner
News Desk

BANNU: A delegation from Tori Mir Ali, led by Malik Waliullah, met with Khalid Mahmood, Commissioner of Bannu Division. The delegation informed the Commissioner about the ongoing development projects being carried out by private companies at the tehsil level in Spin Wam and the alleged financial irregularities in these projects.

During the meeting, Muhammad Faheem, Deputy Commissioner Bannu, was also present. On the occasion, the Commissioner assured the delegation that a thorough review of the development schemes would be conducted and a formal inquiry would be initiated into the alleged embezzlement.

He made it clear that injustice against the people of Tori Mir Ali would not be tolerated under any circumstances. The delegation also submitted a written application and expressed gratitude to the Commissioner, hoping that he would treat the public's grievances as his own and ensure effective redressal.

NOWPDP Rickshaw March Champions Inclusive Mobility and Economic Empowerment

City Desk

LAHORE: NOWPDP (Network of Organizations Working for People with Disabilities) and HSY (Hassan Shehryar Yassin), Global Brand Ambassador of NOWPDP, hosted an inclusive Rickshaw March 2026 at the historic Lahore Fort to highlight the importance of inclusive mobility and economic empowerment for persons with disabilities (PWDs).

The occasion witnessed customized rickshaws travelled from the Picture Wall to the Royal Kitchen of the Lahore Fort, translating policy dialogue into visible action. Beyond providing accessible mobility, the retrofitted vehicles create tangible entrepreneurship and business opportunities for persons with disabilities, enabling them to navigate public spaces with greater confidence and independence.

In his Keynote speech as Chief Guest, Dr. Shakeel Ahmed Bhatti, Advisor to the Chief Minister of Punjab on Education, positioned inclusion within a governance framework:

"Inclusion must move beyond dialogue into policy and practice. NOWPDP demonstrates how collaboration can remove systemic barriers and expand opportunity."

He further emphasised that sustained impact will only be possible when public policy, employers and education systems move in alignment, ensuring inclusion is embedded into institutional processes rather than treated as a standalone initiative:

"With over 17 years of advancing disability inclusion in Pakistan, NOWPDP continues to drive sustainable pathways that move persons with disabilities from the margins into the mainstream economy. At the core of this strategy is The Rickshaw Project (TRP), launched in 2012 to provide customized, retrofitted rickshaws that unlock independent mobility and income generation, evolving from a simple access intervention into a scalable livelihood model rooted in dignity and entrepreneurship."



HSY emphasized the broader societal shift required "When persons with disabilities lead their own journeys, society moves forward with them."

Inauguration

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Heritage & Culture Aurangzeb Khan Khichi at inauguration ceremony of ISLOO International Fashion Festival 2026, at Silk Road Culture Center, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

IMARAT and HSY Unite to Redefine Luxury Living in Pakistan

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: In a landmark collaboration that celebrates Pakistan's creative excellence and entrepreneurial vision, IMARAT Group of Companies and HSY (Hassan Shehryar Yasin) proudly announce the launch of IMARAT's Signature Apartments at IMARAT Downtown Islamabad, featuring interiors exclusively designed by HSY Home.

Launching on 14th February 2026, this first-of-its-kind partnership brings together two homegrown power brands — one that has redefined urban development in Pakistan, and another that has shaped the country's fashion identity for over three decades.

At its core, this collabora-

tion is about belief in Pakistani talent, Pakistani innovation, and Pakistani design.

IMARAT's forward-thinking approach to architecture, urban planning, and proptech now merges with HSY's legacy of craftsmanship, detail, and storytelling.

Together, they introduce a fully integrated lifestyle experience — where the excellence of construction meets the artistry of curated interiors.

"For us, this is about building more than structures," said a representative of IMARAT. "It is about building

a future-facing Pakistan — confident, sophisticated, and globally competitive."

Hassan Shehryar Yasin added, "For over 30 years, my work has celebrated Pakistan — its beauty, its resilience, its identity. With HSY Home, we extend that celebration into the spaces where life happens. This collaboration is a statement of what Pakistani brands can achieve together."

The Signature Apartments at IMARAT Downtown signal a new chapter for the country's luxury landscape — one where fashion, architecture, and lifestyle converge under a shared national vision.

Together, IMARAT and HSY reaffirm a simple belief: The future of luxury in Pakistan will be designed and built by Pakistan.



All Steel and Iron Traders Association Rawalpindi delegation meets RCCI Leadership

Commerce Desk

RAWALPINDI: A high-level delegation from the All Steel and Iron Traders Association Rawalpindi held a strategic meeting with the leadership of the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) to discuss initiatives aimed at bolstering trade and addressing the challenges faced by the local business community.

The delegation was led by Mian Akram Farid, Patron of the All Iron and Steel Traders Association Rawalpindi. The delegation included Vice Chairman Malik Afzal, along with senior members Tariq Waheed Butt, Muhammad Yaqoob, Mian Fayyaz,

Sohail Altaf. "The Chamber is committed to raising its voice at every forum to resolve their issues and will continue to work tirelessly on their behalf."

Altaf also expressed gratitude for the Association's efforts in registering new members and specifically lauded Mian Akram Farid's long-standing dedication to the Rawalpindi business community, noting his family's legacy as pioneers in the local trade sector.

During the session, Mian Akram Farid highlighted the association's long-standing history and active involvement in Rawalpindi's economic landscape. Discussions focused on exploring opportunities to expand the iron and

steel sector, enhancing the ease of doing business, and strengthening the operational framework for local traders.

Mian Akram Farid fondly remembered the late Mian Parvez Aslam, former President of the Chamber and a renowned business figure, whose tireless efforts helped the Rawalpindi Chamber achieve its prominent status. He assured that all senior officials and members of the All Steel and Iron Traders Association stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the Rawalpindi Chamber in resolving business-related issues.

Vice Chairman Malik Afzal noted the active participation of association members in the Chamber's recent membership campaign and formally

submitted new membership forms to the Chamber leadership. Senior member Tariq Waheed Butt thanked the RCCI leadership for their warm reception.

The meeting concluded with a mutual commitment to strengthening the partnership between the Association and the Chamber to foster economic development in Rawalpindi. To symbolize this enduring partnership, Mian Akram Farid presented the Association's special insignia to Group Leader Sohail Altaf, while Sohail Altaf presented the Rawalpindi Chamber shield to Mian Akram Farid.



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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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China-Pakistan space cooperation: A new milestone of all-weather friendship

Pakistan's second domestically developed Earth observation satellite, PRSC-EO2, successfully launched on 12th February, into its pre-determined orbit by China's Jielong-3 carrier rocket from the maritime area off Yangjiang in Guangdong Province. As the sole foreign satellite among the seven onboard, its smooth launch has aroused widespread enthusiasm across China and Pakistan, serving as a vivid witness to the two nations' profound friendship and marking a new pinnacle in China-Pakistan space cooperation.

This was stated by Prof. Cheng Xizhong, Senior Research Fellow at the Charhar Institute, a non-governmental Chinese think-tank on diplomacy and international studies based in Beijing.

He said that developed independently by Pakistan's Space & Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO), PRSC-EO2 boasts advanced high-resolution imaging capabilities. It will furnish crucial data and high-precision imagery to support Pakistan's natural resource management, environmental monitoring, disaster prevention and mitigation, as well as national development planning, injecting robust and sustainable momentum into the country's pursuit of high-quality sustainable development.

This remarkable achievement has been widely acclaimed by Chinese and Pakistani public opinion, with mainstream media of both countries commenting that it not only represents a major milestone in Pakistan's space development journey but also a shining example of win-win cooperation between the two "iron brothers".

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif hailed the launch as "another glorious space milestone" for his country, noting that it not only reflects the steady advancement of Pakistan's space technology and independent research capabilities but also embodies the enduring China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership—a bond that has stood the test of time and is now steadily expanding into the frontier realm of space exploration, he added.

Following the inking of the 2025 agreement on astronaut selection and training, a Pakistani astronaut is poised to become the first foreign national to enter China's space station, a breakthrough that fully demonstrates that China-Pakistan cooperation has entered a new phase featuring higher technology, greater sophistication and broader fields.

As "iron brothers" who have always stood firmly by one another, China and Pakistan have continuously deepened cooperation in various fields. The successful launch of PRSC-EO2 is a vivid embodiment of their all-weather friendship, laying a solid foundation for more fruitful and in-depth cooperation in the space sector and promising greater benefits for the peoples of both nations in the days ahead, he added.

Pak Clear Stance on Iran Issue, Gaza Board of Peace and Abraham Accords

Pakistan's approach to Middle Eastern geopolitics is marked by continuity and principle, particularly on Palestine, the Abraham Accords, regional security initiatives, and tensions involving Iran, and is anchored in its historical, ideological, and moral foreign policy foundations. It has consistently and unequivocally refused to join the Abraham Accords across all diplomatic forums, not due to external pressure or shifting alliances, but because of its enduring commitment to the Palestinian cause. Since its inception, Pakistan has supported Palestinian self-determination and the establishment of an independent, sovereign state based on pre-1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with UN resolutions and international consensus. Consequently, its rejection of the Accords reflects an ethical stance rather than opposition to peace, as it views normalization frameworks that sideline occupation and Palestinian rights as inadequate and unjust.



Abdul Basit Alvi

tional legitimacy of Pakistan's foreign policy choices and has tangibly strengthened public trust in its diplomatic institutions. Furthermore, the unambiguous clarity and unwavering consistency of Pakistan's messaging have served as a vital tool to counter misinformation, deliberate obfuscation, and strategic misinterpretation, particularly regarding highly sensitive and easily conflated issues such as the distinction between the Abraham Accords and humanitarian initiatives, the nature of its association with the Board of Peace, and its reservations about Western-led regional security initiatives.

Domestically, the government's clear and principled stance on these interconnected Middle Eastern issues has been widely appreciated, endorsed, and celebrated by the Pakistani populace. In an international environment often characterized by realpolitik, moral ambiguity, shifting loyalties, and purely transactional diplomacy, Pakistan's willingness to openly, boldly, and freely express its point of view—even when it may not align with powerful global actors—stands out as a mark of sovereign dignity. A significant plurality of Pakistanis view this diplomatic assertiveness not as mere defiance but as a reflection of national strength, self-confidence, and intellectual independence. The widespread perception that Pakistan is standing firm, often with notable diplomatic courage, on issues of global justice, human dignity, and the sanctity of international law resonates deeply with a population that holds moral clarity and solidarity with oppressed peoples as cherished values. This popular appreciation transcends mere rhetorical support; it actively reinforces a powerful sense of national unity and pride.

particularly in moments when Pakistan's positions are seen to be in steadfast harmony with widely held ethical, religious, and humanitarian convictions, thereby providing the foreign policy establishment with a formidable asset of domestic consensus.

At the broadest level of strategic analysis, Pakistan's calibrated and values-driven approach illustrates a sophisticated and ongoing attempt to balance pragmatic realism with immutable principle in an increasingly complex, multipolar, and often adversarial global order. By refusing to join the Abraham Accords, meticulously clarifying the strictly humanitarian and non-political nature of its association with the Board of Peace, thoughtfully declining participation in the Gaza Stabilisation Force, and proactively advocating for diplomacy over force in relation to Iran, Pakistan sends a coherent signal to the world that it seeks constructive and responsible engagement in world affairs without compromising the core values that constitute its national identity. This approach, while potentially foregoing certain immediate diplomatic or economic rewards offered by more transactional relationships, contributes decisively to Pakistan's long-term credibility and stature as a nation that prioritizes justice, equitable peace, and inclusive dialogue over short-term expediency. For many observers, analysts, and ordinary citizens within Pakistan, it is profoundly encouraging to witness their nation asserting its sovereign views with confidence, articulating them with consistency, and defending them with calm persuasion on the international stage, reinforcing the enduring belief that a truly strong and respected nation is one that can articulate its foundational principles clearly, defend them with reasoned argument, and pursue them with steadfast resolve in the great and enduring arena of international relations.

The Epstein Files Set Imran Khan Apart

When the latest waves of documents connected to the Jeffrey Epstein investigation began surfacing, most of the names that appeared followed a familiar and uncomfortable pattern. The references revolved around social proximity, elite networks, reputational damage, and questions of judgment. Against that backdrop, one name stood apart—not because of scandal, but because of how it was framed.

Imran Khan's reported mention was different. According to summaries that emerged from the broader document releases, he was not linked to misconduct or impropriety. Instead, he was described in private correspondence as "really bad news" and a "greater threat." The term was political rather than personal, strategic rather than social. In a collection of files that cast shadows over many reputations, his distinction appeared to lie in geopolitical discomfort rather than scandal.

That difference matters because it shifts the conversation from morality to strategy. A leader described as a threat is not being accused of vice but of independence. The question then becomes: dangerous to whom, and for what reason? To understand why that framing resonates so strongly in Pakistan, one must revisit a moment that altered the country's political trajectory. That moment arrived in early March 2022.

The language recorded in the cable is unmistakably conditional, tying bilateral warmth to a specific political outcome. Forgiveness if he is removed; difficulty if he remains.

The sequence that followed intensified scrutiny. The meeting took place on March 7, procedural steps toward a no-confidence vote began on March 8, and by April 10, Khan had been removed from office. Correlation does not prove

orchestration, and political transitions are rarely explained by a single document. Nevertheless, the cable demonstrates that diplomatic pressure was applied at a sensitive moment. It also reveals that Washington viewed Khan's neutrality on Ukraine as a personal policy choice rather than institutional consensus.

Khan's foreign policy posture had consistently emphasized strategic independence. He refused to grant U.S. military basing rights after America's withdrawal from Afghanistan, publicly declaring "Absolutely not" when asked about hosting foreign forces. He defended Pakistan's abstention at the United Nations on Ukraine and rejected public pressure from European diplomats, asking pointedly at a rally whether Pakistan was expected to behave as a subordinate state. He argued that engagement with Russia was necessary to secure affordable energy and food for Pakistan's struggling population.

Beyond Ukraine, Khan elevated the issue of Islamophobia on the global stage, pressing the United Nations to recognize anti-Muslim discrimination and urging respect for religious dignity. He framed Pakistan as a country that would engage with all powers without entering rigid alliances. Supporters viewed this as sovereignty in action, while critics considered it diplomatic miscalculation. What cannot be denied is that his posture disrupted established expectations about alignment in a polarized global environment.

Following his removal, Pakistan's external positioning shifted noticeably. Military-to-military engagement with the United States regained momentum, and reports surfaced of Pakistani-manufactured ammunition appearing in Ukraine. Diplomatic warmth between Islamabad

and Western capitals returned, and new defense cooperation frameworks were discussed. These developments do not conclusively prove that pressure determined political outcomes, but they align with the cable's suggestion that a change in leadership would ease tensions and remove the "dent" in relations.

It is within this broader context that the contrast with the Epstein-related references acquires symbolic weight. Many powerful men whose names appeared in those documents faced reputational questions because of association with a disgraced financier. Imran Khan's distinction, by contrast, was reportedly rooted in strategic apprehension rather than personal scandal. He was not depicted as compromised; he was characterized as disruptive.

The cable published by The Intercept reinforces that interpretation. Its "assessment" section records the Pakistani ambassador's view that Lu could not have delivered such a strong message without approval from higher authorities. Whether or not that assessment was accurate, it underscores how the exchange was perceived inside Pakistan's diplomatic apparatus. The document captures a moment when international expectations and domestic politics collided.

Since Khan's removal, Pakistan has experienced deep polarization, economic strain, and intensified debate over the balance of civilian and military authority. His critics argue that his governance record warranted parliamentary removal and that institutional checks functioned as designed. His supporters argue that his defiance of geopolitical alignment invited external pressure that altered the course of domestic politics. The truth may

reside in the interplay of both internal and external forces.

What the documentary record shows is not a signed directive of regime change, but evidence of diplomatic leverage. In international politics, leverage often operates through incentives and signals rather than commands. The phrase "all will be forgiven" is not an order; it is a conditional promise. Such language does not prove conspiracy, but it does demonstrate expectation.

That is why the distinction matters. The Epstein files, as publicly discussed, did not place Imran Khan among scandal-tainted elites. Instead, they appear to reflect concern about his independent trajectory. The March 7 cable then provides context for why that concern may have existed, showing that his policies generated friction at the highest levels of diplomacy. In a world structured around predictable alignments, independence can be unsettling.

Imran Khan's story, therefore, is not merely about allegations or denial. It is about how sovereignty interacts with global power. He was not framed in those documents as morally compromised; he was framed as politically inconvenient. Whether that inconvenience contributed to his removal remains debated, but the documentary evidence confirms that it was noticed.

In the end, what set him apart was not scandal but stance. In a system accustomed to compliance, saying no can carry consequences. The documents do not illuminate the pressures surrounding it. And in doing so, they explain why, among many powerful names, one stood apart.

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



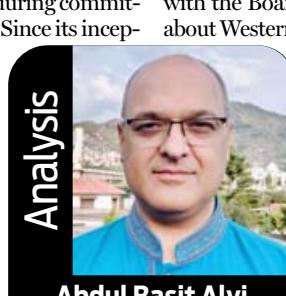
Qamar Bashir



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

Pak Clear Stance on Iran Issue, Gaza Board of Peace and Abraham Accords

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Abdul Basit Alvi

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Domestically, the government's clear and principled stance on these interconnected Middle Eastern issues has been widely appreciated, endorsed, and celebrated by the Pakistani populace. In an international environment often characterized by realpolitik, moral ambiguity, shifting loyalties, and purely transactional diplomacy, Pakistan's willingness to openly, boldly, and freely express its point of view—even when it may not align with powerful global actors—stands out as a mark of sovereign dignity. A significant plurality of Pakistanis view this diplomatic assertiveness not as mere defiance but as a reflection of national strength, self-confidence, and intellectual independence. The widespread perception that Pakistan is standing firm, often with notable diplomatic courage, on issues of global justice, human dignity, and the sanctity of international law resonates deeply with a population that holds moral clarity and solidarity with oppressed peoples as cherished values. This popular appreciation transcends mere rhetorical support; it actively reinforces a powerful sense of national unity and pride.

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At the broadest level of strategic analysis, Pakistan's calibrated and values-driven approach illustrates a sophisticated and ongoing attempt to balance pragmatic realism with immutable principle in an increasingly complex, multipolar, and often adversarial global order. By refusing to join the Abraham Accords, meticulously clarifying the strictly humanitarian and non-political nature of its association with the Board of Peace, thoughtfully declining participation in the Gaza Stabilisation Force, and proactively advocating for diplomacy over force in relation to Iran, Pakistan sends a coherent signal to the world that it seeks constructive and responsible engagement in world affairs without compromising the core values that constitute its national identity. This approach, while potentially foregoing certain immediate diplomatic or economic rewards offered by more transactional relationships, contributes decisively to Pakistan's long-term credibility and stature as a nation that prioritizes justice, equitable peace, and inclusive dialogue over short-term expediency. For many observers, analysts, and ordinary citizens within Pakistan, it is profoundly encouraging to witness their nation asserting its sovereign views with confidence, articulating them with consistency, and defending them with calm persuasion on the international stage, reinforcing the enduring belief that a truly strong and respected nation is one that can articulate its foundational principles clearly, defend them with reasoned argument, and pursue them with steadfast resolve in the great and enduring arena of international relations.

Pakistan and Uzbekistan: Building a Strategic Bridge Between Central and South Asia

The relationship between Pakistan and Uzbekistan represents a significant and evolving partnership in Central and South Asia, shaped by shared history, cultural affinities, and emerging economic and strategic interests. Since Uzbekistan gained independence in 1991 following the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Pakistan was among the first countries to recognize it and establish diplomatic relations. Over the past three decades, both nations have steadily worked to transform historical goodwill into a multidimensional partnership encompassing trade, connectivity, security cooperation, and cultural exchange. In an era marked by shifting geopolitical dynamics and regional integration initiatives, Pakistan-Uzbekistan relations are gaining renewed importance as both countries seek to position themselves as key players in transregional connectivity linking Central Asia with South Asia and beyond.

Energy cooperation presents promising opportunities for the future. Central Asia's vast energy resources, including natural gas and electricity, are of great interest to energy-deficient South Asian countries. Pakistan and Uzbekistan have explored possibilities for regional energy projects that could support sustainable development and economic growth. Cooperation in renewable energy, technology transfer, and infrastructure development could further expand this dimension of the partnership.

Despite the positive trajectory, challenges remain. Geographic barriers, limited direct transport links, and bureaucratic hurdles can slow the pace of cooperation. Both coun-

tries must continue to invest in infrastructure, streamline regulations, and encourage private-sector engagement to fully realize the potential of their partnership. Regional political complexities and security concerns also require careful diplomatic management. However, the strong political will demonstrated by both governments suggests a shared commitment to overcoming these obstacles.

Looking ahead, the future of Pakistan-Uzbekistan relations appears promising. As regional integration gains momentum and new economic corridors emerge, both countries are well positioned to benefit from deeper cooperation. By leveraging their historical ties, strategic location, and complementary economic strengths, Pakistan and Uzbekistan can build a partnership that contributes not only to their national development but also to broader regional peace and prosperity. Strengthening connectivity, expanding trade, enhancing security cooperation, and promoting cultural exchange will remain key priorities.

In conclusion, the relationship between Pakistan and Uzbekistan is evolving into a comprehensive partnership rooted in history yet oriented toward the future. It reflects a shared vision of regional connectivity, economic collaboration, and mutual respect. As both nations navigate the complexities of the modern geopolitical landscape, their growing cooperation serves as an example of how neighboring regions can work together to achieve common goals. With sustained commitment and forward-looking policies, Pakistan and Uzbekistan have the potential to shape a more interconnected and prosperous regional order.



Muhammad Asif

President Zardari vows to defend Pakistan, announces medical university

Bureau Report

RAHIM YAR KHAN: President Asif Ali Zardari has said that the foremost challenge facing the country today is to safeguard Pakistan against internal and external threats, as hostile forces are attempting to destabilise the nation through various means.

Addressing a public gathering, he stated that enemies of Quaid-e-Azam's vision look at Pakistan with ill intent, but the nation, united with the strength of its people, will not only respond firmly but will also protect and strengthen the country.

The president stated that the Pakistan People's Party represents the federation and carries the true spirit of national unity. He remarked that leadership demands responsibility and courage, adding that anyone who does not consider themselves capable of fulfilling a responsibility should refrain from assuming it. In an apparent reference to political opponents, he said that true

leadership requires resilience and steadfastness rather than fear or retreat.

Referring to his earlier tenure, President Zardari said he fully understands the importance of South Punjab and recalled that he had appointed Yusuf Raza Gilani as Prime Minister and Makhdoom Ahmad Mahmood as Governor of Punjab to ensure development and representation. He stated that 30 percent of the development budget had been allocated to South Punjab at the time, although only 28 percent could ultimately be utilised.

Former Governor of Punjab Makhdoom Ahmad Mahmood, Member of Provincial Assembly Mumtaz Ali Khan, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider, Members of the National Assembly Makhdoom Syed Mustafa Mahmood and Makhdoom Syed Murtaza Mahmood, MPA Sardar Raees Nabeel, Provincial Minister Sindh Haji Ali Hassan Zardari, and a large number of party workers attended the gathering.



Govt takes concrete steps to promote youth talent and national culture: Aurangzeb Khichi

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Division, Aurangzeb Khan Khichi Sunday announced that the government is implementing measures to encourage young talent and promote Pakistan's cultural heritage.

Speaking at the logo unveiling ceremony of the Isloo International Fashion Tourism Festival 2026, the minister outlined the government's commitment towards supporting the creative industries and preserving national culture.

The ceremony was held at the Silk Road Culture Centre, Sir Syed Hall where the official logo of the festival was unveiled in the presence of media representatives and cultural stakeholders.



The Ambassador of Azerbaijan also attended the event as a special guest.

Addressing the gathering,

Aurangzeb Khichi specifically urged those associated with the fashion industry to organize special competitions that highlight the traditional

cultural attires of all provinces, with particular emphasis on Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir.

He stressed the importance of showcasing these regional traditional attires on the global stage, emphasizing that Pakistan's diverse cultural heritage deserves international recognition and visibility.

In a significant announcement, the federal minister reaffirmed his ministry's commitment to supporting emerging talent across various creative fields.

He stated that the Ministry of Culture will provide free facilities to young artists, painters, and craftsmen for exhibitions. This initiative demonstrates the government's practical support for removing barriers that often prevent talented youth from displaying their work and reaching wider audiences.

IWT violations by India exposes millions of people to starvation, hunger amid looming threats to livestock, agriculture

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The repeated violations of Indus Water Treaty (IWT) by India has exposed millions of people in Pakistan to hunger and starvation amid looming threats to livestock and agriculture sectors in Pakistan, experts said, urging World Bank being

IWT guarantee to force fascist Modi Govt to reverse it.

The recent extraordinary reduction of water flow in Chenab River by India could threaten livestock and agriculture sectors especially in Azad Kashmir and Punjab provinces, said Professor Dr Zilakat Malik, former Chairman Economics Department at University of Peshawar while talking to APP.

In December 2025, he said the Chenab River in Pakistan has experienced an extraordinary reduction in water flow at the Marala headworks, with levels dropping to 870 cusecs, significantly below the 10-year minimum of 4,000-4,400 cusecs.

He said that blocking or restricting water was a serious offence under international law and the world especially UNO and World Bank should take notice of repeated IWT violations by the India over petty issues.



Opposition protests enter third day over Imran Khan's health

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf and other opposition groups continued their protest for the third consecutive day on Sunday over the health of former prime minister Imran Khan amid plans to transfer him to a hospital.

Demotions are ongoing simultaneously outside the Parliament House, Parliament Lodges, and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa House in Islamabad, while the capital's main thoroughfare, Constitution Avenue, remains fully blocked.

The PTI-led Tehreek-e-Tahafuz-e-Aain Pakistan (TTAP) has stated that sit-ins will continue until Imran Khan is transferred to Al-Shifa Eye Hospital.

A PTI spokesperson urged that no treatment be initiated without the presence of Khan's personal doctors.

Meanwhile, a medical panel formed by the federal government to examine Imran Khan could not visit Adiala Jail on the night between Saturday and Sunday.

The PTI founder will be transferred to the hospital in light of the medical board's recommendation.

It may be mentioned that the Supreme Court has ordered that a full medical report on Khan be submitted before February 16.

PPP to vet govt bills before parliamentary introduction

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The PML-N-led federal government has decided to fully involve its coalition partner, the Pakistan Peoples Party, in the legislative process to ensure a smoother legislative process.

Under a new arrangement, prior consultations and approval from the PPP will be mandatory before any government bill is tabled in parliament.

According to official sources, the Prime Minister's House has issued formal instructions to the Ministry of Law and Justice, stating that no bill will be presented in parliament without the party's endorsement.

The sources said the move follows the return of certain bills by the president, after which the government opted to adopt a more coordinated approach with its allies.

To facilitate this process, a committee comprising coalition parties has been established under the leadership of PPP senior leader Sherry Rehman to consult on proposed legislation.

Under the new strategy, coalition parties will first be consulted, followed by obtaining PPP approval, and only then will government bills be introduced in Parliament.

Government circles said the initiative aims to strengthen harmony within the ruling coalition and ensure that the legislative agenda progresses without interruptions.

Meanwhile, PPP sources indicated that the party will continue to evaluate each bill in the context of public interest before offering its opinion.

Officials added that the new procedure will be implemented immediately, with its practical effects expected to become visible in the coming days.

City Desk

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja has said that the provision of technology-driven and AI skills to the youth of the country was an important step towards the development of the country.

She said, today, 'I met the children aged 8, 9 and 10 years old, who were working for technological firms established across the world.'

Addressing IT entry test ceremony organized by Saylani Welfare International Trust at Hockey Stadium here, the Federal IT and Telecommunication Minister said that no one



could stop our children if they were equipped with tech-based skills.

Lauding the role of Saylani Welfare

International Trust, she said that the initiative of conducting an IT test was commendable.

Speaking on AI policy, Shaza Fatima said that Pakistan had launched an AI policy and was taking steps in line with Digital Pakistan initiative.

Governor of Sindh Muhammad Kamran Khan Tessori, addressing the ceremony, said that the Federal IT Minister was dedicatedly working for making the future of the youth bright.

He said that Pakistan was the winning nation, she defeated India in May 2025 and now she (Pakistan) would beat her (India) in 'Marka e AI'.

Special Assistant to Chief Minister of Sindh on Science and IT, Ali Rashid, on the occasion, said that the federal and provincial governments were working together for the future of the youth in IT.

PTI fails to deliver for people relief despite 13 years rule in KP: Muqam

Bureau Report

SWAT: Federal Minister for Azad Kashmir, Gilgit Baltistan Affairs and SAFRON Engr Amir Muqam here Sunday, the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa gave PTI the mandate three times, yet instead of providing relief, they are being pushed into difficulties and hardship.

"Sometimes there is a shut-down strike, sometimes a wheel-jam strike, and now roads are being blocked in the name of one person's release. As a result, patients are dying in ambulances, people are missing their flights, and there are severe difficulties in the timely supply of food items."

He expressed these views while addressing an open court (Khuli

Kachehri) at Fizagat, Swat, on Sunday. A well-attended and effective open court was held in Fizagat, Swat, under the chairmanship of Federal Minister Engineer Amir Muqam, in which party office-bearers, workers, and hundreds of citizens participated. Heads of federal departments and senior officials were also present.

The Federal Minister listened in detail to public complaints and issued on-the-spot instructions to the relevant authorities for resolving several issues.

While addressing the gathering, Engineer Amir Muqam said that the ban imposed on gas connections in Malakand by PTI in 2018 has been lifted, and work on gas supply projects in various areas is progressing rapidly.

Haroon Akhtar inaugurates Artificial Intelligence Center at PITAC

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) for Industries Haroon Akhtar Khan inaugurated the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Center here at Pakistan Industrial and Technical Assistance

Centre (PITAC) on Sunday.

Talking to media on this occasion, the SAPM said that it is the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to equip the youth with emerging technologies and skills such as Artificial Intelligence. He emphasized that acquiring AI expertise has become part of the hour.

He said, "The world is progressing at

a very rapid pace, and we must prepare our coming generations accordingly."

In line with Prime Minister's directions, he said, the PITAC has established an Artificial Intelligence Center, an Electric Vehicle (EV) facility, and a Podcast Center to promote modern technical skills.

Haroon Akhtar Khan highlighted that learning these skills is now essential, as economic growth is not possible without technological advancement. He appreciated the outstanding performance of PITAC and reaffirmed that this is the era of Artificial Intelligence, and Pakistan must move forward to remain competitive globally.

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
183,049.80	182,153.55
Day's High	Day's Low
183,801.70	182,054.64
Index Value	Change
24,924,229,716	+896.25
Percentage	Time
+0.49%	11 Feb, 2026 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
10,472.11	+118.27
Percentage	Time

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
50,186.90	-1.24
Percentage	Time

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
57,650.54	+1,286.60
Percentage	Time

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	197.60	199.25
Bahrain Dinar	743.00	752.51
Canadian Dollar	206.02	209.57
China Yuan	38	40
Danish Krone	43.32	43.72
Euro	333.96	337.24
Hong Kong Dollar	35.34	36.21
Indian Rupee	2.80	3.30
Japanese Yen	1,818.2	1,9200
Kuwaiti Dinar	906.85	916.30
Malaysian Ringgit	66.50	67.50
New Zealand \$	168.35	170.75
Norwegian Krone	27.61	27.91
Omani Riyal	727.70	737.21
Qatari Riyal	76.17	79.17
Saudi Riyal	74.8	75.25
Singapore Dollar	220.40	225.36
Swedish Korona	30.1	30.4
Swiss Franc	363.10	367.44
Thai Bhat	8.5	8.7
U.A.E Dirham	76.45	77.30
UK Pound Sterling	383.20	386.99
US Dollar	280.55	282.2

Stop Potato Waste: FPCCI Urges Action on Surplus Losses



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Convenor Federation of Pakistani Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Regional Committee on Food Shahid Imran Sunday said that surplus crops essential potatoes should never be wasted at any cost, as such losses amount to squandering precious natural resources and hard-earned national wealth.

Speaking here today to a delegation of progressive farmers led by Chaudhary Nazir Ahmad Arain of Renalakhurd district Okara he emphasized that Pakistan, being an agrarian economy, produces significant quantities of wheat, rice, sugarcane, maize, fruits and vegetables. However, due to inadequate storage facilities, poor supply chain management and lack of value addition, a considerable portion of surplus produce goes to waste every year. This, he noted, not only causes financial losses to farmers but also exerts unnecessary pressure on water, energy and land resources used in cultivation.

Shahid Imran stressed the urgent need to modernize warehousing, introduce cold chain systems and promote food processing industries to convert surplus crops into exportable and value-added products. He said efficient post-harvest management and agro-processing zones can help stabilize prices, ensure food security and enhance farmers' incomes.

He further called for public-private partnerships to invest in silos, dehydration plants and packaging facilities. By preventing wastage and utilizing surplus effectively, Pakistan can strengthen its food security, boost exports and protect its natural resources for future generations, he concluded.

Building Bridges for Growth: RCCI's Successful U.S. Visit

Commerce Desk

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) concluded a highly productive trade delegation visit to Washington, D. C., marking a significant milestone in advancing Pakistan-U. S. economic cooperation. The delegation, led by RCCI President Usman Shaukat, engaged in high-level meetings with U. S. government officials, policymakers, and leading business institutions to identify priority sectors and unlock new avenues for bilateral trade and

investment.

During the visit, the delegation held strategic discussions with officials from the United States Department of State and the United States Department of Commerce to explore enhanced collaboration in high-growth industries. Key dialogues with Tom Suozzi and Chris Van Hollen focused on strengthening legislative support and fostering trade in sectors with significant potential, including rare earth minerals, pharmaceuticals and healthcare, and information and communications technology



(ICT).

At the Embassy of Pakistan in Washington, D. C., the delegation met with Ambassador Rizwan Saeed Sheikh and Minister (Trade & Investment) Mohammad Hanif Channa, highlighting the vital role of private-sector diplomacy in strengthening economic ties and facilitating cross-border partnerships.

Further engagements with the New York City Economic Development Corporation, the Greater New York Chamber of Commerce, and the Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey centered on exploring joint ventures, investment opportunities, and the establishment of sister-chamber partnerships to institutionalize long-term collaboration.

Exhibition

High Commissioner Muhammad Saleem joined the Feed Canada Association in Ottawa on February 14, 2026



Rashiduddin, General Manager, Serena Hotel Faisalabad and Noman Shabbir, Director Sales & Marketing, had the honor of meeting H.E. Jane Marriott, British High Commissioner to Pakistan at the Lahore Literary Festival. It was a pleasure to pay tribute to her for the hospitality and arrangements provided by Serena Hotels. Proud to be a part of an event that brings together global voices.

ICCI President urges unity among Islamabad Markets for Economic Strength

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Sardar Tahir Mahmood, said that the business community of Islamabad plays the role of a backbone in the national economy, and unity and harmony among all markets of Islamabad are the need of the hour. He said that the newly elected presidents of Islamabad's markets and centers will receive full patronage from the Chamber, and a joint struggle will continue for the resolution of issues faced by traders.

He expressed these views while addressing a dinner held at a local hotel in honor of the newly elected business leadership. The dinner was hosted by ICCI Executive Member Roheen Anwar Butt in honor of the elected office-bearers of four markets of Islamabad, including President of Blue Area Yousaf Rajput, Chairman Blue Area Haji Chaudhry Muhammad Naeem, President of G-11 Markaz Naeem Akhtar Awan, President of E-11 Markaz Zahir Abbasi, and President of G-8 Markaz Ajab Khan.

The ceremony was attended by ICCI President Sardar Tahir Mahmood and Secretary General of the United Business Group (UBG) Zafar Bakhtawari as chief guests.

In his address, Sardar Tahir Mahmood said that the Chamber would continue to act as a strong bridge between traders and the government. He reaffirmed that the issues of all markets of Islamabad would



be taken up with the relevant authorities on a priority basis and that every possible step would be taken to create a business-friendly environment.

Addressing the gathering, UBG Secretary General Zafar Bakhtawari said that unity among the business community is its real strength. He said that bringing the leadership of different markets onto a single platform is a positive development and will further strengthen mutual coordination. He

congratulated the newly elected presidents and expressed hope that they would play an effective role in resolving the issues of traders in their respective markets.

Former ICCI President Khalid Iqbal Malik, Roheen Anwar Butt, Haji Chaudhry Muhammad Naeem, Naeem Akhtar Awan, Yousaf Rajput, Zahir Abbasi and Ajab Khan also congratulated the newly elected presidents and assured them of his full cooperation.

Global Race for Critical Minerals Intensifies Amid Green Tech Boom Alerts: Iftikhar Malik

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, former President Iftikhar Ali Malik, Sunday predicted that global competition for critical minerals and strategic metals is set to intensify sharply in the days to come, as major economies race to secure supply chains for emerging technologies and clean energy transitions.

In a statement here today he observed that lithium, cobalt, nickel, rare earth elements and copper have become the backbone of modern industrial growth, powering electric vehicles, renewable energy storage systems, semiconductors and advanced defense technologies. With



the world shifting toward green energy and digital transformation, demand for these minerals is rising exponentially, trig-

gering a new wave of geo-economic rivalry among leading nations. He emphasized that developing countries, particularly in South Asia especially Pakistan must adopt forward-looking policies to capitalize on this evolving landscape. He said regional cooperation, technology transfer and transparent regulatory frameworks would be essential to attract responsible foreign investment while safeguarding national interests.

While concluding he said that the race for critical minerals is not merely about resources but about technological supremacy and economic resilience, and South Asia especially Pakistan must act collectively to secure its rightful place in the rapidly changing global order.



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Chief Executive Officer Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) Mian Kashif Ashfaq Sunday called for revisiting the new solar policy fully ensuring people-friendly and supportive of sustainable economic growth.

Chairing here today board of directors meeting he emphasized that solar energy has emerged as a reliable and affordable alternative for industry, agriculture, domestic and small businesses struggling with escalating electricity tariffs and frequent power shortages. He said 546000 consumers have invested in their hard-earned savings in rooftop solar systems

with the hope of reducing energy costs and contributing to a greener Pakistan. Any abrupt changes in net metering rates or additional taxation, he warned, could undermine investor confidence and slow down the momentum of renewable energy adoption.

Mian Kashif Ashfaq stressed that policy stability is crucial to attract further domestic and foreign investment in the renewable sector. He urged the government to consult stakeholders, including industry representatives, consumers, and energy experts, before finalizing amendments. A balanced and transparent framework, he said, would protect consumer interests while safeguarding the national grid.

He reiterated that a progressive and people-centric solar policy will not only ease the burden on citizens but also help Pakistan move toward energy independence and environmental sustainability.

T 20 World Cricket Cup 2026

Pakistan Cricket Team Poor Performance: India Beat Pakistan By 61 Runs



Asim Tanveer

COLOMBO: Due to the worst performance of the Pakistan cricket team, India defeated Pakistan by 61 runs. In the biggest match of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, India defeated Pakistan by 61 runs and confirmed its place in the Super 8. Pakistan had won the toss and invited the Indian cricket team to play first. India had set Pakistan a target of 176 runs in reply. Pakistan's innings started disastrously. They were 3 for 13 and 4 for 34. Sahibzada Farhan made 0, Saim Ayub 6, Salman Ali Agha 4 and Babar Azam 5. Pakistan scored only 38 runs for 4 wickets in the 6 overs of the power play. After that, Usman Khan took over the bat and scored some quick runs. Shadab Khan was supporting him. Pakistan scored 71 for 4 wickets in the 10 overs of their innings. In the next over, Usman Khan was stumped off Patel's ball with 44 runs off 34 balls. Pakistan were 5 for 73. After that, wickets kept falling. Mohammad Nawaz 4 and Shadab Khan went for 14. Pakistan were 78 runs for 7 wickets at once. The 8th wicket fell to Faheem Ashraf at 97, who could make 10. Abrar on the next ball Ahmed also got a duck. Bowler Viran Chakravarthy got a hat-trick. Usman Tariq failed to make the attempt but



the Indian team went on review. The attempt failed. The Pakistani team was bowled out for 114 runs in 18 overs. The last wicket was taken by Usman Tariq. India won by 61 runs and reached the Super 8.

All the bowlers took wickets from India. Axar Patel took 2 wickets for 29 runs. Chakravarthy also took 2 wickets for 17 runs. Hardik Pandya and Bumrah got 2 wickets for 16 and 17 runs respectively.

Earlier, India had set Pakistan a target of 176 runs to win. Pakistan has also become the first team to play with 6 spinners in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup. In the big match

of the T20 World Cup 2026, Pakistan won the toss and fielded India first and restricted them to 175 runs for 7 wickets in 20 overs. Abhishek Sharma was dismissed. Tilak Verma scored 25 runs. Ishan Kishan batted aggressively and scored 77 runs off 40 balls. He hit 10 fours and 3 sixes. Hardik Pandya's big wicket was dismissed.

India cheated by fixing the handshake, ICC used it again, Pakistan and Bangladesh cheated, Breaking News

In the 19th over of the innings, Usman Tariq got Indian captain Suryakumar Yadav caught by Saim



Ayub. He could score 32 runs on 29 balls. India scored 175 runs for 7 wickets in 20 overs. In the last over, Shivam Dubey was run out for 27 and Axar Patel was caught out for zero.

From Pakistan, Saim Ayub took 3 wickets for 25 runs and Uzman Tariq took one wicket for 24 runs. Salman Agha took one wicket for 10 runs in 2 overs. Abrar Ahmed got 38 runs

in 3 overs and Shadab Khan got 17 runs in one over. Mohammad Nawaz gave away 28 runs. All three failed. Shaheen Afridi got 31 runs in 2 overs for one wicket.

India Heavy Favorites as T20 World Cup Clash with Pakistan Looms Amid Rain Scare

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: The T20 World Cup 2026 match between Pakistan and India is scheduled for Sunday (February 15, 2026) at the R. Premadasa Stadium in Colombo. This is a crucial Group A match where both the teams have won two matches so far. If we look at the chances of winning, most analysts, former players and betting odds have India as the favourites. This was said by analyst Qamar Zaman Butt while speaking. He further said that India is being considered as the favourites because India's record against Pakistan in the T20 World Cup is 7-1 (i.e. 7 wins, only one loss). The Indian team is looking better in current form, including a strong batting lineup (like Suryakumar Yadav, Hardik Pandya etc.) and versatile bowling (both spin and pace). Former Australian captain Michael Clarke has also predicted that India will win because the Sri Lankan pitches (which are spin-friendly) can be beneficial for India. Betting markets are showing India's chances of winning at around 70-75% (i.e. 1.28 to 1.35 odds) while Paki-



stan's is 25-30%.

Pakistan also has a good chance if their pace attack (which is fast) takes early wickets. If the pitch helps spin, their spinners can be effective. Some analysts are also looking at the possibility of giving Pakistan an upset, especially if they handle the pressure. Importantly,

there is a high risk of rain in Colombo. Several reports have a 50-90% chance of heavy rain and thunder showers. If the match is abandoned due to rain or fewer overs are played, the points can be shared, which will affect the race for the Super Eights for both teams. Qamar-uz-Zaman Butt estimates that if the match is

played in full, India has a high chance of winning (around 60-70%) but anything can happen in T20Is. Especially in a high-pressure match like India vs Pakistan. Let's pray that there is no rain and we get to see a great contest. India is still the clear favorite. Betting odds for India to win are around 1.25 to 1.30 (i.e. 70-75% chance) while Pakistan are at 3.00+. Most predictions and analysts (like BetMGM, Oddschecker, and cricket websites) are giving India the edge because of their team form, balance (especially spin bowling which will come in handy on the Colombo pitch) and 7-1 record against Pakistan in the World Cup. Pakistan still have a chance to pull off an upset if their pace attack (Shaheen Shah, Naseem Shah etc.) gets going early or if the pitch turns more than their spinners (like Shadab or Usman Khan) can change the game. There is still a risk of rain (50-65% chance) so if the match is not played in full then there is a possibility of sharing the points which could be good or bad for both the teams in the race for the Super Eights but hopefully there will be some great cricket to watch and whoever wins will have fun.

Pakistan grabs three bronze medals in 6th South Asian Sepaktakraw Championship

Sports Desk

KARACHI: The 6th South Asian Sepaktakraw Championship was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from February 7 to 9, with teams from Pakistan, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka participating. Pakistan competed in three events and secured bronze medals in all three categories. In the women's Regu event, Pakistan's team defeated Sri Lanka with ease, while the men's Regu team lost their semi-final to Sri Lanka with scores of 15-13, 15-12, and 12-15. The Pakistan women's team, led by captain Didar Rani, included Urooj Naz, Maryam Butt, Durre Naja, and Iram Naz, all of whom displayed impressive performances. The men's team, captained by Muhammad Khalid, featured Sarfaraz Rahman, Farhan, Balaj Khan, Nauman Alam, and Anas Rahman, who also played commendably. Coaches Muhammad Saleem and Maryam Kerio praised the efforts of both teams, particularly the women's squad, and expressed confidence that Pakistan will win medals in the upcoming World Cup and King's Cup later this year. Team head Deen Muhammad Kerio said the players lived up to expectations with their strong performances. The achievement was warmly congratulated by Pakistan Sepaktakraw Federation President Sardar Muhammad Khan, Secretary General Naushad Ahmed Khan, Sindh Olympic Association Secretary Ahmed Ali Rajput, Sindh Sepaktakraw Association Chairman Dr. Muhammad Arif Hafeez, President Shabbir Ahmed, and other officials, who lauded the teams for bringing home bronze medals.

CMB girls clinch Kashmir Basketball Cup

Cambridge Madrasa tul Banaat (CMB) team defeated Sacred Heart Cathedral (SHCHS) High School in the final match of Kashmir Basketball Cup Girls Tournament by 16-12 at SHCHS, Regal Chowk on Tuesday.

Shaista (6), Captain Malaika Siraj (4) and Iqra (4) were the top scorers from the winning team while Kainaat Akbar and Zarmeem were the prominent players from losing side with 5 and 4 scores respectively.

Himayat-e-Islam Degree College (HIDC) for Women, Unique Girls High School and



(retd) Naseem Butt and General Secretary PBBA M Akram, Boxing Qualified Judge Haji

Abdul Khaliq Mughal, Secretary Pak Referee Board (PBRF), Imtiaz ul Hasan, Mahmood

Ahmed, Tariq Elahi, Waseem Shah and Saudul Hasan were also present on this occasion.

Doctors complete medical examination of Imran Khan at Adiala Jail

Continued from Page 1

The examination included eye checks, blood sampling, and various other tests. Preliminary medical records, including blood pressure, pulse rate, body temperature, blood sugar levels, and his current eye condition, have been documented and sent to the Punjab government.

Jail medical staff continue to conduct daily check-ups of Khan and maintain regular records, sources said. In view of the sensitivity of the matter, the federal government had constituted a

special medical panel to examine Khan in jail and submit recommendations.

The government has said a decision on whether to shift Khan to a hospital for further treatment will be made based on the medical board's report. PTI officials have expressed concern over Khan's health, calling for transparency in all stages of his treatment.

Authorities said arrangements for the medical examination inside the jail have been completed, and they are awaiting the submission of the doctors' full report.

