



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
نبی کریم ﷺ نے فرمایا کہ جس نے اسلام کے سوا کسی اور مذہب کی بھجوت مٹو قسم کھائی تو وہ میرا ہی ہوتا ہے، جس کی اس نے قسم کھائی ہے اور جس نے کسی چیز سے خود کٹی کر لی تو اسے جہنم میں اسی سے مذہب دیا جائے گا اور وہ اس پر اعلیٰ جہنم سے نکل کر آئے کے برابر ہے اور جس نے کسی مومن پر کفر کی تہمت لگائی تو اس کے قتل کے برابر ہے۔
(بخاری ص 105 نمبر 6105)
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Pakistan has avenged deaths of its innocent citizens, minister

Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Tariq Fazl Chaudhry said on Sunday that the Pakistan Air Force (PAF), by carrying out attacks inside Afghanistan, had avenged the loss of lives of innocent men, women and children in recent terror attacks. In a statement on X, a social media platform, he said that Pakistan Air Force successfully hit the sanctuaries of Fitna al-Khawarij.



Situation in Afghanistan akin to one prior to 9/11, says Zardari's spokesman

Spokesman for President Asif Ali Zardari Murtaza Solangi said on Sunday that the president had warned about the situation in Afghanistan as early as on February 8. "The president had said that under the Taliban rule, the situation akin to the one preceding 9/11 was developing in Afghanistan," Solangi said in a tweet, adding that the reemergence of terrorist organizations in the landlocked country had again started posing a threat to world peace.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Ramazanul Mubarak 5, Monday, February 23, 2026

www.dailyspokesman.net

@daily_spokesman



Daily Spokesman Vol: 19, Issue: 309 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Airstrike against terrorism

Aftermath of overnight Pakistani airstrike in the Girdi Kas village of Bihsud district, Nangarhar on Sunday.



Photo: courtesy AFP

DPM Dar contacts Bangladeshi FM, both sides pledge cooperation



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Bangladesh have agreed to expand cooperation across diverse sectors and in multilateral fora, building a forward-looking partnership for the peoples of both countries.

The understanding to this effect was reached during a telephonic conversation between Deputy Prime Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Bangladesh's Foreign Minister Dr. Khalil ur

Rehman.

The Deputy Prime Minister felicitated Bangladesh's Foreign Minister on his recent appointment.

Both leaders also expressed a desire to further strengthen bilateral ties with a shared vision of peace, stability, and prosperity.

They also agreed to expand cooperation across diverse sectors and in multilateral fora, building a forward-looking partnership for the peoples of Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Pakistan targets 7 terrorist camps along Pak-Afghan border in retributive response: MoIB

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MOIB) on Sunday confirmed that Pakistan had conducted "intelligence-based selective targeting" of seven terrorist camps and hideouts along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border in a "retributive response".

"In the aftermath of recent suicide bombing incidents

in Pakistan, including Imam Bargah at Islamabad, one each in Bajaur and Bannu followed by another incident today in Bannu during the holy month of Ramazan, Pakistan has concluded evidence that these acts of terrorism were perpetrated by Khawarij on the behest of their Afghanistan-based leadership and handlers," the ministry said in a news statement.

The ministry added that the

responsibilities for those attacks were already claimed by Afghanistan-based Pakistani Taliban belonging to Fitna al Khawarij (FAK) and their affiliates, and Islamic State of Khorasan Province (ISKP).

In the statement, it said the targeted camps and hideouts belonged to "Pakistani Taliban of FAK (Fitna Al Khawarij) and its affiliates and ISKP".

"Despite repeated efforts by

Pakistan to urge the Afghan Taliban Regime to take verifiable measures to deny use of Afghan Territory by terrorist groups and foreign proxies to carry out Terrorist activities in Pakistan, the Afghan Taliban Regime failed to undertake any substantive action against them," the ministry noted.

It maintained that Pakistan has always strived to maintain peace and stability in the region,

but at the same time, the safety and security of its citizens is the top priority.

"In this backdrop, Pakistan, in a retributive response, has carried out intelligence-based selective targeting of seven Terrorist camps and hideouts belonging to Pakistani Taliban of FAK and its affiliates and ISKP at the border region of Pakistan-Afghan border with precision and accuracy."

Continued on Page 7

Pakistan participates in Peace Board to stop Israeli brutalities on Gaza: Rana Tanvir

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanvir Hussain said that the purpose of participating in the Peace Board is to stop Israeli brutality on the people of Gaza, adding that sitting outside is not a solution, Pakistan will work with the global communities to bring lasting peace in Gaza.

Talking to media in Muridkay, Rana Tanvir said that due to successful diplomacy of the Prime

Minister and Field Marshal, the world was looking towards Pakistan.

Federal Minister claimed that Pakistan has joined the decision-making process at the international level.

To a question, he said that possible US attack on Iran will cause unrest in the region, the issue should be resolved through negotiations.

Rana Tanvir said Afghanistan was repeatedly requested by Pakistan to stop terrorism but in vain resultantly Pakistan was forced to



take retaliatory action.

Federal minister said that

"Pakistan will strike in Afghanistan in the future if it would be

necessary".

Rana Tanvir said that India and Afghanistan were involved in terrorism in Pakistan, our forces will eliminate it and leave.

He claimed that Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif has brought the country out of default, restored the economy, the upcoming budget will prove to be a year of poverty reduction.

Rana Tanvir said Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has given a Ramadan gift to the people by taking steps like cash assistance and Dastar Khwan.

Afghan nationals hail attack on terrorist safe havens in Afghanistan

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Afghan people have expressed support to Pakistan for eliminating terrorist safe havens in Afghanistan.

Afghan People's Movement

has hailed attack on terrorist safe havens. Fazal Ahmad Manawi, a senior member of the National Resistance Front (NRF) of Afghanistan, said that Afghan Taliban were a cruel group, every attack on their heads is welcome.

He further said that "Thank God the Afghan Taliban were being eliminated, adding that the "end of oppression from God's land is a great blessing".

Fazal Ahmad Manawi urged Afghan nationals to welcome any initiative that is beneficial



to the country and the people.

He urged the Afghans to prefer the interests of Afghanistan and the Afghan people

above all else. Fazal Manawi said that National Resistance Front wants excellent relations with all countries in the region.

Resolution passed by SA against creation of new province is unconstitutional: MQM-P

Bureau Report

KARACHI: MQM-P Convener Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui on Sunday flayed PPP-led Sindh government for moving a resolution in the provincial assembly against the creation of any new province and termed it unconstitutional.

The Sindh Assembly on Saturday passed a resolution declaring Karachi an inseparable part of the province and opposing any move that suggested otherwise.

MQM-P Convener Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui flanked by Farooq Sattar, Mustafa Kamal and Senator Faisal Subzwari addressing a press conference in Karachi said that yesterday a resolution against the Constitution of Pakistan was passed by one assembly of Pakistan.

Maqbool Siddiqui said a province had carried itself as if it were a separate country.



MQM-P leader asked the public and the intelligentsia to tell PPP that whether any province could pass a resolution that went against the Constitution.

"This resolution challenged Pakistan, its Constitution, its law and its state, he remarked, noting that it was being done by the party that had been in power in the province for the past 17 years. Siddiqui contended that Article 239 of the 1973 Constitution provided the procedure for establishing new provinces.

He said this resolution is not against any demand of ours but against Pakistan's Constitution, its state, presence and the PPP leader Bhutto.

India's Tejas fighter jet crashes during landing; pilot ejects safely

Agencies

DELHI: A domestically developed Tejas fighter jet of the Indian Air Force (IAF) crashed while landing after a routine training sortie, officials confirmed on Sunday.

The pilot ejected safely and did not suffer serious injuries. However, the aircraft sustained extensive damage and is likely to be declared unserviceable.

The IAF has ordered a high-level court of inquiry to determine the cause of the accident.

In addition, a comprehensive technical inspection of the entire Tejas fleet has been initiated to rule out any systemic fault.

The aircraft was among

the 32 single-seat Tejas jets delivered to the Air Force by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), the state-run aerospace manufacturer responsible for the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) program.

The incident comes at a sensitive time for the Air Force, which is already grappling with delays in the delivery of the upgraded Tejas Mark 1A variant.

The IAF has placed orders for 180 Tejas aircraft as part of efforts to strengthen its combat fleet, but production timelines have faced repeated setbacks.

This marks the third major accident involving the Tejas program in recent years.

AJK Premier unveils top priorities: education, women's rights, and religious harmony

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: The Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, has said that students' welfare, educational development and resolution of public issues, women empowerment and fostering religious harmony were among his government's top priorities.

The AJK premier made these remarks, while talking to different delegations that separately called on him here today.

Speaking on the occasion, he stressed on women's empowerment, religious harmony terming it as essential for inclusive development and strengthening democratic governance. Shaheen Kausar Dar on the occasion appreciated the government's 100-day performance.

The Prime Minister also highlighted the role of religious scholars in promoting peace, tolerance and inter-faith harmony. In his meeting with a delegation led by Chairman Ulema and Mashaikh Sahibzada Zulfiqar Ali, the PM said that collective and concerted efforts were required to eliminate sectarianism, extremism and hatred in society.

Former assembly member Shehzada Kausar Gilani, along with ticket holder Ishtiaq Gilani, and Umar Riaz the overseas PPP leader also met the Prime



Minister and extended their congratulations to the premier on assumption of office.

The delegations appreciated the successful conduct of the Overseas Convention and the government's 100-day performance.

The PSF delegation, led by Chairman

Coordinator with the Prime Minister Sardar Fozib Khan, included Arbaz Mustafa, Bilal Kazmi, Ubaid Sadiq, Raja Haseeb Advocate, Khan Nawab, Daniyal Baig, Afzal Haider, and others.

The Ulema and Mashaikh delegation, led by Sahibzada Zulfiqar Ali, comprised Sardar Ahmed Sagheer,

Murtaza Durrani, Shehzad Rathore, and Muhammad Ali Advocate.

The delegation led by PPP Azad Kashmir Central Vice President Rashid Salam Butt included Asghar Gujjar, Chaudhry Jameel Asghar, Haji Siddique, and Umar Riaz, while former minister Javed Butt was also present.

AJK PM mourns passing of Chaudhry Mushtaq Ahmed Kaira

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Faisal Mumtaz Rathore has expressed his profound grief and sorrow over the death of Chaudhry Mushtaq Ahmed Kaira the cousin of senior PPP leader and former federal minister Qamar Zaman Kaira. In his condolence message, the PM expressed his heartfelt condolences to Kaira family and prayed to Allah Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace. It may be recalled here that Chaudhry Mushtaq Ahmed Kaira breathed his last in Manchester UK, a day before yesterday.

Pakistan Air Force Strikes Prove Defense Might, Samia Sajid Commends Armed Forces

Bureau Report



MUZAFFARABAD: The Central Chairperson of the Muslim Conference Women Wing and Chairperson of Kashmir Women Alert Forum, Ms. Samia Sajid, while speaking to the media after the successful operation of the Pakistan Air Force, stated that the destruction of seven terrorist hideouts located in five provinces of Afghanistan clearly reflects Pakistan's strong defense capability, professional excellence, and unwavering commitment to national security. She said that Pakistan, as a responsible state, has always preferred peace; however, whenever the country's sovereignty and the safety of its citizens were threatened, the armed forces have responded decisively and effectively.

Paying tribute to the leadership of Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, she said that his courageous strategy, professional insight, and firm resolve to safeguard national dignity have not only boosted the morale of the Armed Forces of Pakistan but have also instilled renewed confidence and strength within the nation. She stated that under his leadership, Pakistan achieved success in the Battle of Truth - Bunyan al-Marsus - proving that the country's defense is in invincible hands.

May Allah Almighty keep Pakistan strong and everlasting, grant further successes to the Armed Forces of Pakistan, and bless the Kashmiri people with freedom. Ameen

AJK Residents Celebrate Restoration of Prime Minister's Sehat Card Program

Bureau Report



MUZAFFARABAD: The Minister for Health and Population Welfare, Government of Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Syed Bazil Ali Naqvi, has announced that on the special directives of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Shehbaz Sharif, the Sehat Card facility under the Prime Minister's National Health Program has been restored for the residents of Islamabad, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK). The program was formally inaugurated on 16 January 2026 in Islamabad.

According to a statement issued by the Health Department, under the Sehat Sahulat Card initiative, approximately 4.5 million residents of AJK are now entitled to free indoor medical treatment in public hospitals across AJK, selected private hospitals, as well as designated public and private hospitals in Rawalpindi and Islamabad. For this purpose, the Government of Pakistan has signed an agreement with State Life Insurance Corporation of Pakistan, under which treatment expenses will be covered with financial support from the federal government.

The program covers major illnesses and complex procedures, including cancer treatment, cardiac diseases, kidney ailments, gynecological surgeries, and other critical medical interventions, along with provision of essential medicines.

In the first phase, treatment facilities under the Sehat Card are being provided at CMH Muzaffarabad, CMH Rawalakot, District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital Mirpur, DHQ Hospital Bhimber, DHQ Hospital Kotli, DHQ Hospital Palandri, DHQ Hospital Bagh, DHQ Hospital Jhelum Valley, and DHQ Hospital Neelum. Abbas Institute of Medical Sciences (AIMS) Muzaffarabad and the Cardiac Hospital Muzaffarabad will also soon be included in the program.

Dera Food Authority cracks down on adulterated milk and mislabelled products

Syed Tauqeer Zaidi

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: The Food Authority Dera team, in line with directives issued by the provincial government, carried out a special operation at Bhakkar Pull Check Post in collaboration with the district administration and relevant departments.

During the blockade, motorcycles supplying milk were inspected. Milk samples were tested on the spot using a modern mobile laboratory. The tests confirmed the presence of water adulteration, upon which fines were imposed immediately and strict warnings were issued to the individuals concerned.

In addition, a vehicle transporting meat to Dera city was stopped. The consignment included offal, trotters and cow heads. The vehicle and meat were thoroughly inspected, and instructions were issued to ensure compliance with hygiene and sanitation standards.

Crackdown against profiteers underway on the direction of DC Umar Abbas Mela at TT Singh

Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: Acting on the directions of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, an effective crackdown against profiteering continued across Toba Tek Singh district during Ramazan. Under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Umar Abbas Mela, as many as 62 price control magistrates remained active in the field, carrying out continuous monitoring of markets. The district administration has directed shopkeepers to prominently display official price lists, warning that strict action will be taken against violators. Special inspections are also being conducted during iftar hours to ensure the availability of essential food items at government-notified rates.

During the last 24 hours, a total of 2,795 inspections were conducted across the district. As many as 50 violations of profiteering and related offences were established, leading to fines amounting to Rs204,500. One FIR was registered while one shop was sealed. According to details, in Toba Tek Singh tehsil, 1,299 inspections resulted in fines of Rs20,500 over overcharging and non-display of official rate lists. In Gojra, 652 inspections led to fines of Rs88,000 for overpricing and the sealing of one shop. In Kamalia, 299 inspections resulted in fines of Rs18,500 over rate violations and profiteering, while in Pir Mahal, 545 inspections led to fines of Rs77,500 and registration of one FIR for overpricing. Deputy Commissioner Umar Mela said the administration was ensuring public relief and strict implementation of official prices. He added that indiscriminate action against profiteers would continue throughout Ramazan and no one would be allowed to exploit consumers.

Inauguration

MIRPUR: Azad Kashmir Minister for Finance and Inland Revenue Chaudhry Qasim Majeed formally inaugurated the modern digital system by pressing the digital button.



Seventeen years of marriage

Mushaal Hussein Mullick

It feels unreal to say that when so many of those years have been marked by separation. And yet, here we are. Still bound by the same vows. Still holding on. Still waiting.

Today, you are in Tihar Jail, facing a death row sentence for leading a struggle you believed was not just for Kashmiri people, but for dignity, freedom, and even global peace. History may debate politics, but only our hearts know the personal cost our family has paid. The price of separation. The silence. The loneliness. The birthdays and anniversaries spent apart.

Our last goodbye in 2014 is etched into my soul. Raziya was in our lap, so small, so unaware of the weight destiny was placing on her parents. If I had known that hug would have to last for years, I would have never let go so easily. I would have memorized every detail of your face, every softness in your voice.

Seventeen years ago, I married Mohammad Yasin Malik not knowing that our love story would become one of patience and endurance. We dreamed like any other couple. A simple life. Shared mornings. Quiet evenings. Growing old together. Instead, we have learned how to love across walls, across courtrooms, across headlines.

They see a political prisoner. I see the man who held his daughter gently in his arms. The man who chose

conviction over comfort. The man who paid for his beliefs with years of his life, and with the loneliness forced upon his family.

Yes, the cost has been heavy. The nights have been long. The waiting has been exhausting. But love has not faded. If anything, it has deepened. It has learned to survive in silence. It has learned to breathe in absence.

Seventeen years. A marriage tested by time and trial. And still, my heart chooses you.

We are waiting for you... #WeMissYouYasin ♥



Islamabad
30° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 5:22 am
Zohr 12:21 pm
Asr 4:19 pm
Maghrib 5:58 pm
Isha 7:21 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance 115
PIA Flight Info 114
PIA Cargo 9280979
Railway Inquiry 117
Railway Exchange 9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi 555489
CAA 9281092

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

CDA 9221334-43
CDA 9208301-04
Met Office 9250360-6
RDA 5555864
TMA 5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan
Corporation 9209224
Potohar Town 9209224

Two killed, one critically injured in separate road accidents

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Two motorcyclists were killed while a pedestrian sustained critical injuries in two separate road accidents within the jurisdiction of Pindigheb Police Station on Sunday, police sources said.

In the first incident, a 26-year-old motorcyclist, identified as Haseeb Shahid, a resident of Kharrpa, died after his motorcycle collided with a pedestrian near the Kharrpa Interchange. According to police, the accident occurred when the pedestrian, Waqar Haider, was crossing the road. Both men were seriously injured and shifted by rescue teams to the Tehsil Headquarters Hospital. Haseeb Shahid later succumbed to his injuries, while the injured pedestrian was referred to a hospital in Rawalpindi due to his critical condition.

In a separate incident near Shehbazpur, within the same police limits, a 35-year-old motorcyclist, Sajjad Banaras, was killed in a collision between his motorcycle and a car. He was critically injured and moved to the Tehsil Headquarters Hospital, where he later died. The deceased, a resident of Kharrpa village who had recently been married, was laid to rest in his native area.

Police are investigating both incidents to determine the exact causes of the accidents.

Maryam Nawaz Sharif inaugurates CM Green Tractor Programme Phase-III, launches balloting

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif inaugurated Phase-III of the CM Green Tractor Programme and formally launched the balloting process. She congratulated successful farmers and personally telephoned one of the winners, Hamza Liaquat of Bahawalpur, to convey her greetings.

During the call, the chief minister said, "This is your CM Maryam Nawaz speaking. Your name has been selected in the balloting — congratulations to you and your family." She added that the Green Tractor Scheme is transforming the agricultural landscape and reaffirmed that Pakistan Muslim League (N) has always prioritised farmers' welfare.

During a briefing, Provincial Agriculture Minister Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani informed that 427,000 farmers owning up to five acres had applied for Phase-III of the scheme. He noted that

while 20,000 tractors were distributed over the past 25 years, a record 31,000 tractors were provided to Punjab's farmers within the last two years.

Officials further stated that tractor prices in Pakistan have more than doubled over the past five years, prompting the Punjab government to focus on promoting agricultural mechanisation in 2024.

Two phases of the CM Green Tractor Scheme have already been completed, with 21,000 tractors distributed, while another 10,000 tractors (50-65 horsepower) will be provided under the current phase.

The briefing added that Punjab currently has about 140 tractors per 10,000 acres — less than half the ratio in many other countries — underscoring the importance of tractors to the province's agricultural economy and the difficulty faced by small and medium farmers in purchasing them at full market prices.



Hunting

ISLAMABAD: Birds catching fish in the water at Rawal Dam, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

PMLN Candidate Ch Jahanzaib Safdar Attends Iftar Party

Zafar Chishti

MAMUKANJAN: Chaudhry Muhammad Jahanzaib Safdar, candidate of Pakistan Muslim League (N) for Provincial Assembly seat PP-103 Mamukanjan, attended a dignified Iftar party hosted on the special invitation of Mehr Safdar Riaz Bharwana. Rana Shahryar Member of the Provincial Assembly and Mian Ali Gohar Khan Baloch former Member of the National Assembly were also present on the occasion.

A large number of prominent political, social and business personalities from across the area participated in the Iftar gathering. A lavish spread of traditional dishes was arranged in honor of the guests and the warm reception added to the grace of the event.

Speaking on the occasion,



Chaudhry Muhammad Jahanzaib Safdar said that the holy month of Ramazan conveys a message of unity, brotherhood and mutual harmony.

He emphasized that public

service and regional development remain his top priorities and assured that ongoing development projects in constituency PP-103 would be further accelerated.

Rana Shahryar MPA and

Mian Ali Gohar Khan Baloch also thanked the host Mehr Safdar Riaz Bharwana and described such gatherings as an effective means of strengthening public engagement and community ties.

Fashion and Lifestyle Come Together at Eminent's Flagship Launch in Karachi

News Desk



KARACHI: Premium fashion and lifestyle brand Eminent celebrated the launch of its flagship store next to Lucky One Mall with a glamorous evening of fashion.

Designed for trendsetters men, women, and kids Eminent brings fashion, fragrances, cosmetics, and accessories together under one roof, offering more than retail: a complete lifestyle experience.

The launch featured a runway show with top models, with Fouzia Aman as showstopper, creating a high-energy, exclusive atmosphere attended by media, influencers, and fashion enthusiasts.

"Eminent is a lifestyle destination where confidence, versatility, and style

come together," said the CEO Omer Farooq.

Customers are invited to visit the flagship store and explore the latest collections.

Commissioner Multan Division Visited the Child Protection Institute

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: According to Mrs. Iram Saleemi Public Relations Officer, Commissioner Multan Division Aamir Karim Khan visited the Child Protection Institute and made a detailed review of the facilities provided to children in the institution. He inspected the administrative building, classrooms, computer lab, library and hostel.

It was informed in the briefing that a total of 120 children are under the care of the institution, on which the Commissioner termed the overall situation as satisfactory. During the visit, Commissioner Aamir Karim Khan also met the children and expressed satisfaction with the facilities provided by the children.

The Commissioner directed that with the cooperation of philanthropists, provision of ACs and swings on the hostel side should be ensured in the institution. He also directed the PHA to further improve the gardening.

Commissioner Aamir Karim Khan said that the girls' hostel building is available, it will be activated after the approval of the SNE. He also assured of organizing an Iftar dinner with the children and his participation.

Pindi Gheb College Students Make Waves at UET STEM Expo with Innovative Projects

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: At the STEM 2026 Science Expo held at University of Engineering and Technology Lahore (Attock campus), hundreds of students from universities and colleges across the country presented their scientific models and projects. Students from Punjab College Pindi Gheb also participated actively and achieved remarkable success.

Two groups from Punjab College Pindi Gheb presented their projects:

Second-year students Karishma Tanzeel and Hijab Fatima presented a unique project aimed at tackling the issue of air pollution and smog. Their model demonstrated a practical solution in which special panels can be installed in building windows to help purify polluted air. The project was highly appreciated by the judges and participants.

First-year students Nashaem Noor and Warsha Noor presented a model focused on converting waste plastic into eco-friendly bricks. Their concept addressed the growing problem of plastic pollution and proposed bricks that can be used for construction purposes.

Both groups from Punjab College Pindi Gheb delivered excellent performances and secured second and third positions in the event, bringing pride to their institution and the entire region.

On this occasion, the directors of Punjab Group of Colleges congratulated the successful students and praised the efforts of Principal Adnan Ishaq Khan and the teachers, calling it the result of quality education and effective guidance.

This achievement is a matter of pride not only for Punjab College Pindi Gheb but for the whole area.

Pakistani Politicians Condemn Bannu Terror Attack, Vow Support for Armed Forces

Abdul Waheed Khan

ISLAMABAD: Member of the National Assembly Malik Muhammad Idrees, Member of the National Assembly Dr. Shaista Khan Jadoon and Member of the National Assembly Asiya Naz Tanoli strongly condemned the terrorist attack carried out against security forces in Bannu, describing the incident as a cowardly, inhumane, and barbaric act aimed at destabilizing peace and undermining national security. Their statements were echoed by several prominent political, social, and regional leaders belonging to Hazara Division and



across Pakistan, who collectively reaffirmed their unwavering support for the armed forces and their determination to eliminate terrorism from the country.

According to official details released by security authorities, security forces had received confirmed intelligence regarding the presence of terrorists in the area. Acting swiftly on credible information, the forces launched a targeted operation to neutralize the threat. During the operation, terrorists attempted to carry out a suicide attack; however, the attempt was foiled due to the timely and professional

response of the security personnel. A fierce exchange of fire ensued, resulting in the elimination of five terrorists.

Despite successfully preventing a major catastrophe, the nation paid a heavy price. Lieutenant Colonel Shahzada Gulfray Tanoli, aged 43, a resident of District Manshera KP, along with Sepoy Karamat Shah, aged 28, a resident of District Peshawar KP, embraced martyrdom while defending the homeland. Their sacrifice once again highlighted the courage, dedication, and unwavering commitment of Pakistan's armed forces in the fight against terrorism.

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From Commitment to Retreat: India's Dual Policies Laid Bare at Chabahar

India's sudden retreat from its long-standing involvement in Iran's Chabahar port has intensified doubts about the reliability and coherence of its foreign policy, especially toward Tehran. Widely seen as a response to mounting US pressure rather than a calculated strategic shift, the move has highlighted how quickly India's major commitments can unravel when confronted by external constraints. Despite having already transferred funds and repeatedly portraying the project as central to regional connectivity, access to Central Asia and Afghanistan, and strategic autonomy, New Delhi effectively froze its participation once US sanctions loomed. This reversal undermined the project's momentum and sent a broader signal to international partners that India's diplomatic assurances may be conditional and vulnerable to pressure from more powerful allies.

The perception of a disorderly withdrawal was reinforced by the mass resignation of government-nominated directors from India Ports Global Limited and the shutdown of its official website, actions widely interpreted as hurried damage control rather than routine administrative steps. These developments fueled speculation that India's engagement with Chabahar may have involved objectives beyond commercial development, including possible strategic or intelligence uses, thereby eroding trust among regional stakeholders. Analysts argue that IPGL's opaque structure and unusual mandate made it particularly exposed once sanctions scrutiny intensified, raising fears of reputational or legal fallout. In this context, India's rapid disengagement appears less like prudent recalibration and more like an attempt to erase institutional footprints

and distance itself from potential international scrutiny.

Even more serious and geopolitically volatile allegations have also emerged in discreet expert discussions and analytical reports regarding the possible direct or indirect involvement of India's external intelligence agency, the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), utilizing the Chabahar port as a logistical base or a facilitation hub for regional operations.

From the narrower perspective of managing India's carefully curated international image and its self-proclaimed narrative of being a principled, independent actor in foreign relations, some expert commentators argue that a complete departure from Chabahar was ultimately viewed by New Delhi's decision-makers as the lesser of two geopolitical evils when compared to the alternative of remaining engaged under a cloud of growing international suspicion and potentially hostile regional scrutiny. Abandoning the multi-billion dollar project allowed India to execute a swift retreat from an increasingly uncomfortable and diplomatically flammable situation while simultaneously preserving its paramount strategic alignment with the United States and avoiding any secondary sanctions targeting its own economy. However, this calculated choice came at a profound and perhaps lasting cost: the blatant betrayal of a long-standing partnership commitment made to Iran and the conscious undermining of over a decade of painstaking diplomatic engagement built upon repeated high-level assur-

ances of mutual respect, shared destiny, and strategic partnership. The decision effectively dismantled, in full view of the international community, the very narrative of sophisticated, balanced, and multipolar diplomacy that India has consistently and assiduously promoted on every global forum from the United Nations to the G20.

By unilaterally ignoring its solemn commitments and sacrificing a long-term regional partnership with Iran on the altar of short-term strategic convenience and great-power alignment, India has once again, and with a stark vividness, exposed the inherent fragility and operational emptiness of its so-called "multi-aligned" or "balanced" foreign policy doctrine.

The Chabahar episode serves as a perfect historical illustration of how quickly and completely India appears willing to abandon even its most vital regional partners when the winds of geopolitical calculation shift direction, powerfully reinforcing the global perception that its foreign policies are driven overwhelmingly by momentary convenience and external diktat rather than by any internal consistency or allegiance to sovereign partnership. From bold commitment to furtive retreat, India's dual-track and often contradictory policies have been laid utterly bare at Chabahar, offering the world a textbook example of how ambitious strategic rhetoric can diverge, almost comically, from actual, on-the-ground strategic behavior when subjected to the slightest test of pressure.

Consequently, India's international

credibility as a dependable actor has undeniably suffered a severe blow as a direct result of this reversal, particularly among nations in the Global South and in regions like West Asia that view reliability, contractual fidelity, and diplomatic continuity as non-negotiable components of any meaningful strategic partnership. The demonstrated willingness to step back from a signed, sealed, and partially physically implemented inter-governmental agreement under the first sign of external pressure raises profound and legitimate doubts about India's dependability as a long-term partner in other ambitious infrastructure or security projects around the world. For the wider international community, including ironically the United States and other established global powers who may contemplate deeper strategic collaboration with India, this entire episode should serve as a crucial, real-world eye-opener. Trust in international relations is a fragile commodity, built patiently over decades through consistent action but capable of being eroded to nothing in an instant through a single act of perceived betrayal or weakness. India's chaotic and apparently self-interested handling of the Chabahar project underscores the inherent risks for any nation considering placing unquestioned faith in the promises and strategic visions emanating from New Delhi, as those promises may be summarily abandoned or renegotiated the moment circumstances change or a more powerful ally raises an eyebrow. In thus exposing the stark reality of India's dual policies to the scrutiny of the entire world, the Chabahar case now stands as an enduring and widely cited cautionary tale about the true, unvarnished nature of realpolitik and interest-driven diplomacy in the 21st century.



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

Islamic, Arab countries, OIC, GCC strongly condemn US envoy's statement over Arab States territories

The Foreign Ministers of Islamic and Arab countries have expressed their strong condemnation and profound concern regarding the statements made by the United States Ambassador to Israel, in which he indicated that it would be acceptable for Israel to exercise control over territories belonging to Arab states, including the occupied West Bank.

In a joint statement the foreign ministers of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, the Republic of Indonesia, the Republic of Türkiye, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the State of Qatar, the State of Kuwait, the Sultanate of Oman, the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Lebanese Republic, the Syrian Arab Republic, and the State of Palestine, and the secretariats of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the League of Arab States (LAS), and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), berated US envoy's statement.

"They affirm their countries' categorical rejection of such dangerous and inflammatory remarks, which constitute a flagrant violation of the principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, and pose a grave threat to the security and stability of the region," the Foreign Office Spokesperson, shared the joint statement with media on Sunday.

The ministries stressed that these statements directly contradict the vision put forward by U. S. President Donald J. Trump, as well as the Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict, which are based on containing escalation and creating a political horizon for a comprehensive settlement that ensures the Palestinian people have their own independent state.

They underscored that the plan was grounded in promoting tolerance and peaceful coexistence, and that remarks seeking to legitimize control over the lands of others undermined these objectives, fuelled tensions, and constituted incitement rather than advancing peace.

"The Ministries reaffirmed that Israel has no sovereignty whatsoever over the Occupied Palestinian Territory or any other occupied Arab lands. They reiterated their firm rejection of any attempts to annex the West Bank or separate it from the Gaza Strip, their strong opposition to the expansion of settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and their categorical rejection of any threat to the sovereignty of Arab states," it was asserted.

They further warned that the continuation of Israel's expansionist policies and unlawful measures would only inflame violence and conflict in the region and undermine the prospects for peace and called for an end to these incendiary statements.

The ministries underscored their countries' steadfast commitment to the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to the establishment of their independent state along the lines of 4 June 1967, and the end of the occupation of all Arab lands.



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

Kunan Poshpora: Official Confession, State Impunity, Zero Justice

There are nights which descend and pass, dissolving into the merciful obscurity of time. And then there are nights which refuse burial. Nights which do not recede with the dawn, but instead linger—breathing, festering, accusing—within the wounded consciousness of a people. The night of the twenty-third of February, nineteen hundred and ninety-one, in the twin villages of Kunan and Poshpora, was one such night. It did not conclude with sunrise. It did not end with the departure of boots from frost-hardened earth, specifically those of the Fourth Rajputana Rifles, who descended upon these villages like a winter storm armed with impunity. It endures still, suspended in the trembling voices of women who survived what civilised language itself struggles to contain.

What transpired beneath that winter sky was not merely an act of violence, but an assault upon dignity itself. Women—young and old, daughters and grandmothers alike—were subjected to violations so profound that they fractured not only the body, but the very architecture of trust upon which human society is founded. Their homes, once sanctuaries, were transformed into chambers of unspeakable violation. Their silence thereafter was not consent, but the silence of devastation—the silence of those who discover that the world will not hear them, or worse, will hear and yet refuse to listen.

This calculated erasure represents a second violence—quieter, perhaps, but no less cruel. It is the violence of enforced forgetting. The incident sent shockwaves through international media and was meticulously documented

by global human rights organisations, cited in communications by Special Rapporteurs, and recorded in the OHCHR reports of 2018 and 2019. Yet this international gaze did not translate into accountability. It is the insistence that pain, if unacknowledged by authority, may simply dissolve into nothingness. Files stagnate. Investigations languish. The Indian government erected walls of procedural opacity, granting stays to investigations, shielding the perpetrators behind the armour of AFSPA, and ensuring that court proceedings became exercises in futility rather than pathways to truth. Official voices speak in the language of procedure while avoiding the language of conscience. Thus, the survivors were made to inhabit a limbo more excruciating than resolution—a realm where suffering is neither acknowledged nor healed, but merely endured.

And yet, memory possesses a stubborn and incorruptible life of its own. The women remembered. Their children remembered. Their villages remembered. Memory became their resistance, their testimony, their defiance against obliteration. This refusal to be erased found powerful articulation in "Do You Remember Kunan Poshpora"? a searing chronicle authored by five young Kashmiri researchers—Samreen Mushtaq, Essar Batool, Natasha Rather, Ifrah Butt, and Munaza Rashid—who refused to let the archive of suffering remain buried under bureaucratic dust. For memory, unlike power, does not require permission to exist. It survives in whispers, in trembling pauses, in the haunted gaze of those who have seen the limits of human cruelty. It survives in the quiet courage of women who, though abandoned by institutions, refused

to abandon their truth.

These women were not symbols. They were human beings whose lives were irreparably altered. They carried forward not only their own pain, but the burden of collective disbelief. Their suffering seeped into the marrow of their days. It shaped their silences. It shadowed their relationships. It followed them into motherhood, into ageing, into every ordinary moment that could never again be wholly ordinary. To endure such violence is grievous. To endure its denial is annihilating.

What makes their endurance remarkable is not that they survived—that is merely biology—but that they continued to bear witness. They spoke when silence would have been easier. They remembered when forgetting would have been merciful. In doing so, they preserved not only their own dignity, but the moral conscience of humanity itself. For when the violated speak, they do not speak solely for themselves. They speak for truth. They speak for justice. They speak for the future, so that such nights may never again find shelter in the darkness of impunity.

History, though often delayed, is not infinitely patient. It records not only the deeds of power, but the suffering of the powerless. Decades have passed with no reparation for the victims and no punishment for the perpetrators. It remembers those who inflicted pain, and it remembers those who endured it. The night of Kunan and Poshpora remains an open wound upon the conscience of the world—a wound which cannot heal through denial, nor through silence, but only through truth.

For justice delayed may weary the soul, but memory does not die. It waits. It watches. And one day, it demands to be heard.

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Analysis

Sara Rasul Taus Bhanihal

Slogans, Revolution, and Our Political Priorities

In Pakistan's political history, many slogans have been raised and many faces have come and gone, yet some voices leave behind questions that linger in the hearts beyond the noise of temporary crowds. "Mustafvi Revolution" was one such slogan. It was not merely a political phrase but a dream a claim that politics should be aligned with the Seerah (life and teachings) of the Holy Prophet ﷺ, that power should be transformed into service, and that the system should be built upon justice. Dr. Tahir-ul-Qadri is still alive today. Although he has stepped back from practical politics, he remains engaged in intellectual and religious services. There was a time when he was on the streets, addressing rallies, and knocking on the doors of Parliament. The spoke of a revolution that would come not through weapons but through awareness. His stance was that the problem lies not only with rulers but with the entire system. Faces change, but the method remains the same. Corruption, nepotism, and injustice are not merely the weaknesses of individuals but the result of a decaying structure.

Dr. Tahir-ul-Qadri's struggle serves as a mirror, showing that no matter how sincere a leader may be, if the nation is not ready, the revolution remains incomplete. The term "Mustafvi Revolution" still lives and continues to question us: do we truly seek justice, or merely a new face? Do we desire integrity, or just a new slogan? Time has proven that political success requires not only truth but also strategy, alliances, and long-term patience. Perhaps his approach was more intellectual and rhetorical, while the field of politics is more practical and complex.

Yet his struggle was not without impact. He compelled us to think. His story is, in reality, our story. If we truly desire justice and change,

we must bring small revolutions into our own lives. Otherwise, every revolution whether called Mustafvi or by any other name will remain merely a slogan of the rally.

Even today, at nearly seventy-five years of age, Dr. Tahir-ul-Qadri continues to invite the nation toward the "Mustafvi Revolution" with the same passion and intellectual energy. He maintains that real revolution does not arise from the noise of the streets but from the construction of character. He reminds the public that if we refine our morals and incorporate truthfulness, integrity, trustworthiness, and justice into our lives, many societal problems will resolve themselves. In his view, the first stage of the Mustafvi Revolution is the reform of the individual, because without inner transformation, no political or economic change can be lasting. He regards the Seerah of the Prophet ﷺ not merely as a religious reference but as a complete code of life containing guiding principles for leadership, society, economy, and social justice.

His message is that if we correct our social values, prioritize fairness in economic dealings, adopt integrity as the standard in political decisions, and draw guidance from the Prophetic model in our collective priorities, our society will progress and a balanced system of human welfare can be established. He believes that Pakistan is not merely a piece of geography but an ideology, and its survival depends on implementing that ideology in practical life. If moral revolution begins with the individual and extends to the state, Pakistan can truly become a fortress of Islam a fortress founded not on extremism, but on justice, peace, knowledge, and service to humanity.

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Analysis

Muhammad Asif

Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un's Speech at Ceremony of Presenting Military Hardware

Comrades, The workers in the munitions industry have prepared the most valuable present for a glorious congress of the Workers' Party of Korea.

I propose giving warm applause, as a token of gratitude, to the workers and officials of the major munitions enterprise, who have come to the glorious Party congress with powerful military hardware.

You have performed really great feats. The valuable fruition of your loyal labour struggle is an expression of your absolute support to and trust in the Party's cause and a meaningful success that highlights the historic significance of the Party congress.

It is a source of pride for the congress of our Party to greet this inspiring event at the most crucial and responsible moment.

As I see the military hardware standing in a fine array, I really cannot but admire at the strength and technology of our workers in the munitions industry and describe them as miraculous products.

I extend my warmest gratitude to the workers, technicians and officials of the factory and all other workers and scientists in the munitions industry, who have prepared the greatest and most significant creation for the Party congress by waging a mass struggle for increased production with the warm and sincere loyalty they have cherished.

Comrades, The weapon we are seeing is called the 600mm super-precision multiple rocket launcher system.

This is really a great weapon system. As was outlined by the mass media some days ago, this is a focused strike

weapon most powerful in the world. The precision and power of tactical ballistic missile and the multiple launching functions of tubes are perfectly combined in this weapon.

Obviously, it is a multiple rocket launcher system, but it can be said to be a weapon that has virtually no difference from a high-precision ballistic missile in terms of precision and power.

It is really a wonderful and attractive weapon.

There is no need to further explain about its destructive power and military value.

This is because it can reduce the aimed target to ashes through surprise and simultaneous attack by fusing its destructive energy.

Those who have passable knowledge may know that no other nations have got this kind of weapon system.

Appropriate for a special attack, that is, for accomplishing a strategic mission, it incorporates AI technology and compound guidance system. This large-calibre superprecision multiple rocket launcher system, the one and only weapon in the world, has completely changed the role and conception of artillery accepted by modern warfare.

As I have already said, I am sure that no other countries in the world would be able to attain the technology that can match this class of weapon system within several years to come.

I am not allowed to talk about the principle and mode of using this weapon system.

Yet, I dare say it is more than clear that once this weapon is used, our belligerents' military infrastructure and command system will break down all



at once.

When this weapon is used actually, no force would be able to expect God's protection.

Comrades, Self-reliant defence capability is our lifeline and a source of our strength, and uninterrupted upgrading and rapid reinforcement of the means is our invariable target.

We will continue to demonstrate our achievements in defence technology that our geopolitical opponents will be greatly afraid of.

As I have mentioned several times, it will, on its own terms, be a responsible posture in exercising our deterrent.

It is undoubtedly a law and iron principle that the most powerful offensive capability constitutes the most reliable deterrent.

We must prepare such capability in reality and assure it with our own abilities, not in any spoken or written words.

To keep in mind a steadfast outlook

on the enemy, build up the strongest military muscle and maintain a thoroughgoing offensive mode of counteraction—herein lies the basic guarantee for our state's security environment.

Comrades, Availing ourselves of this meaningful opportunity, we have redoubled the confidence in our ever-upgraded and developing defence technology, as well as the will to modernize defence capabilities, which will be unshakable in any circumstances.

On the basis of this success, the Ninth Congress of our Party will make clear the nextstage plan and goal for strengthening the self-reliant defence capabilities.

Our undertaking for constantly upgrading the military strength capable of forcefully containing any threat and challenge by outside forces will be further accelerated, and this honourable struggle demands that our research group in the sector of national defence



and our working class in the munitions industry work harder and make greater efforts.

I firmly believe that they will achieve more wonderful and inspiring successes in carrying out their important mission for meeting the demands of the revolution and executing the Party's strategic plan.

The Ninth Party Congress will extend warm respect and gratitude to our heroic defence scientists and working class in the munitions industry, who are boundlessly faithful to the cause of the Workers' Party of Korea.

I once again express my thanks for this meaningful ceremony. Thank you.

48th Death Anniversary of Makhdoom Syed Alamdar Hussain Gilani, Observed

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: On the occasion of the 48th death anniversary of Makhdoom Syed Alamdar Hussain Gillani leader of the Pakistan Movement and former federal minister and Father Of Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, Mehfil-e-Hamd-e-Naat was held in the premises of Darbar Musa Pak Shaheed. Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani attended the anniversary ceremony and while addressing, he said that he was grateful to all the dignitaries and guests who attended the occasion. He said that his father, late Makhdoom Syed Alamdar Hussain Gilani, was a member of the Constituent Assembly,

held the post of Minister of Health and Local Government after the establishment of Pakistan and his signature is present on the 1956 Constitution. Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani further said that his father went barefoot to visit the Quaid-e-Azam and told Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah that he have made a constitution.

On the occasion of the death anniversary, tribute was paid to the Pakistan Movement and national services of the late Makhdoom Alamdar Hussain Gilani. On this occasion, Allama Farooq Khan Saecedi, while speaking, highlighted the struggle and services of the deceased, while Sajjada Nashin Darbar Musa Pak Shaheed

Makhdoom Syed Abul Hassan Gilani offered a special prayer. On the occasion of the death anniversary, Member of National Assembly Syed Ali Musa Gilani, Member of National Assembly Syed Ali Qasim Gilani, Member of Provincial Assembly Syed Ali Haider Gilani, Senator Rana Mahmoodul Hassan, Former Member of Provincial Assembly Murtaza Ali Khan Gilani, Senior Vice President of Pakistan Peoples Party South Punjab Khawaja Rizwan Alam, Senior leader Hashim Khan Babar and leader of Pakistan Peoples Party Malik Manzoor Domra, along with a large number of respected personalities and media persons attended.



Ceremony of Presenting 600mm-calibre Multiple Rocket Launchers Held

KCNA

The workers in the munitions industry of the DPRK are providing a sure guarantee for a continuous development and radical dramatic leap forward of the self-reliant defence capability, giving a boost to invincibility and mightiness of our state, at the outpost of the national defence industry revolution in the new era energetically led by the great Workers' Party of Korea.

In this course, they presented 600mm-calibre multiple rocket launchers, which embody their spirit of death-defyingly implementing the Party's policies and fervent patriotism and loyalty, to the Ninth Congress of the WPK.

The workers of a major munitions enterprise, who have taken the lead in implementing the Party's idea of self-reliant defence on defending the state, the people and the revolutionary cause by national efforts and its strategic line on the development of the national defence, prepared the main strike military hardware injecting the strongest power into the heroic Korean People's Army through their indomitable struggle for creation and increased production as the most valuable and precious gifts dedicated to the Party congress.

A ceremony of presenting 600mm-calibre multiple rocket launchers to the Ninth Congress of the WPK by the workers of the munitions industry sector was held in Pyongyang, the capital city of the DPRK, on February 18.

The absolute weapons, fully reflecting the patriotic soul of the soldiers in the national defence sector who had worked with devo-

tion for the accomplishment of the historic mission to consolidate the self-reliant defence capacity to be strongest in the world and symbolic of the definite military superiority of the armed forces of the DPRK, were lined up in fine array at the plaza of the April 25 House of Culture, demonstrating their might.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, attended the ceremony.

When he appeared at the venue, all the participants extended the highest respect and glory to the ever-victorious, iron-willed commander who has opened up a new realm of development of national defence of Korean style and is reliably defending the prestige and security of the state and people with his far-sighted wisdom, outstanding leadership ability and unrivalled courage, guiding the great cause of increasing the national defence capability.

Present at the ceremony were the participants in the Ninth Congress of the WPK and officials, scientists, technicians and workers of the munitions industry sector.

An official of the major munitions enterprise made a presentation report.

He respectfully reported to Kim Jong Un on presenting to the Ninth Congress of the WPK the fifty 600mm-calibre multiple rocket launchers the workers of his enterprise additionally produced in two months, out of their mind to uphold the Party's cause of building a powerful army with their boundless patriotism and loyalty.



He courteously presented to Kim Jong Un the written donation reflecting the pledge of unshakable faith and loyalty of all the workers in the munitions industry to uphold the revolutionary cause of the WPK with miraculous successes in the production of military hardware.

Expressing thanks for that, Kim Jong Un made a reply speech.

Saying that the workers in the munitions industry prepared the most precious gifts to be presented to the WPK congress, he courteously suggested giving warm

applause as a token of thanks to the workers and officials of the major munitions enterprise, who have come to the venue of the glorious Party congress with the powerful military hardware.

It is a source of pride for the congress of our Party to greet such an inspiring event at the most crucial and responsible time, he said, referring to the military value and efficiency of the focused strike weapon, most powerful in the world, and the invariable will of the WPK to modernize the national defence capabilities.



Saying that the main guarantee for ensuring the national security environment lies in thoroughly maintaining the resolute outlook on the enemy, building up the most powerful military muscle and applying the offensive mode of response, he expressed belief that the national defence research group and the workers in the munitions industry would attain more wonderful and inspiring successes in carrying out their important mission for meeting the demands of the revolution and executing the Party's strategic plan.

He awarded the Order of Kim Il Sung to the enterprise which has performed distinguished feats in carrying out the WPK's policy of defence industry revolution in the new era.

He presented the written donation of 600mm-calibre multiple rocket launchers to the chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army.

He personally drove a launcher vehicle, reviewing the weapons, symbolic of absolute power, which were lined up in the plaza of glory.

Thunderous cheers reverberated through the plaza that

witnessed an exciting event to be specially recorded in the WPK's history of leadership for accomplishing the great historic cause of building a rich country with a strong army.

Repeatedly expressing his satisfaction that the 600mm-calibre multiple rocket launchers are really admirable military equipment making it possible to successfully carry out the strategic plan for rapidly developing the war deterrent of the DPRK, he highly praised the workers in the munitions industry as the greatest revolutionaries and patriots who staunchly uphold the Party's cause with their thoroughgoing ideological and spiritual strength and inexhaustible creativity.

The venue of the ceremony was filled with boundless gratitude and reverence for the great teacher and benevolent father who called those who had left proud imprints of loyalty and fealty true to the mission they shouldered before the Party and the country to the venue of the historic Party congress, and put them on the platform of glory admired by the whole country.

The workers in the munitions industry sector were full of ardent enthusiasm to make a dash to attain the higher goals of bolstering up the national defence capabilities to be indicated by the Ninth Party Congress by dint of the invincible strength of trust, greater confidence and inexhaustible creativity, with which they follow their Party only.

After the ceremony was over, the delegates to and observers of the Ninth Party Congress looked round the super-powerful military hardware presented to the congress by the workers in the munitions industry.

The ceremony of presenting to the Ninth Congress of the WPK the military hardware produced by the workers in the munitions industry will be recorded in history as a significant occasion for redoubling the unshakable will of all the people across the country to dynamically advance toward a new victory of the revolution, rallied as one under the red flag of the WPK with firm faith in the validity and invincibility of their cause and absolute confidence in the future of their country which will be powerful and prosperous forever.

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
173,169.71	172,170.29	
Day's High	Day's Low	
174,148.32	169,592.52	
Index Value	Change	
17,898,540,478	+999.42	
Percentage	Time	
+0.58%	20 Feb, 2026 4:30 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
10,686.89	+59.85	
Percentage	Time	
+0.56%	20 Feb, 4:35 pm GMT	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
49,520.39	+125.23	
Percentage	Time	
+0.25%	20 Feb, 11:48 am GMT-5	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
56,825.70	-642.13	
Percentage	Time	
-1.12%	20 Feb, 3:45 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	195.37	200.11
Bahrain Dinar	742.02	751.52
Canadian Dollar	203.35	206.87
China Yuan	38	39.50
Danish Krone	43.32	43.72
Euro	328.97	332.69
Hong Kong Dollar	35.29	36.16
Indian Rupee	2.85	3.30
Japanese Yen	1.7908	1.8909
Kuwaiti Dinar	905.68	915.12
Malaysian Ringgit	66.60	68.35
New Zealand \$	165.05	168.75
Norwegians Krone	27.61	27.91
Omani Riyal	726.76	736.26
Qatari Riyal	76.07	79.06
Saudi Riyal	74.75	75.35
Singapore Dollar	219.03	223.96
Swedish Korona	30.1	30.4
Swiss Franc	358.78	361.78
Thai Bhat	8.5	8.65
U.A.E Dirham	76.4	77.4
UK Pound Sterling	376.29	380.51
US Dollar	280.30	282.25

SAARC expert warns South Asia on climate crisis frontline amid geopolitical tension

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry former President Iftikhar Ali Malik Sunday cautioned South Asia, home to nearly two billion people, is on the frontlines of the climate crisis including Pakistan.

In a statement here today he said region is sandwiched between geopolitical rivalry and ecological fragility. He said glaciers in the Third Pole are melting rapidly, threatening the water security of both Pakistan and India. Recurrent droughts are driving migration and deepening poverty in Afghanistan. Glacial lake outburst floods threaten mountain communities in Nepal, while Bangladesh faces rising seas that could submerge one-fifth of its land.

He said South Asia is warming up more rapidly than the rest of the world, and region cannot afford another century of hate and hostility. Its people share rivers, and lost futures.



monsoons, mountains and deltas. All these systems are under assault by nature posing a threat far greater than cross-border conflicts.

He warned the combination of climate change and conflict politics is fast turning this region into one of the world's most dangerous flash-points. He said World Bank predicted South Asia could lose up to 10 per cent of its GDP by mid-century due to climate impacts. Agriculture, which employs nearly half the region's population, is under siege from heat stress and unpredictable rainfall. He said Lahore, Delhi and Dhaka are choking under smog and water shortages. Health systems are collapsing under vector-borne diseases and heat-related illnesses. He said future of South Asia will not be decided on the battlefield but the cost of conflict will be measured in hunger, displacement

Preparation of Iftar

ISLAMABAD: People are busy in buying fritters for Iftar meals during holy month of Ramadan, at a local market, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

RRCSBAP Launches Ramadan Iftar Program for Needy Under CM Maryam's Vision



City Desk

RAWALPINDI: In line with the commitments of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, the "Nigehban Iftar Dastarkhwan" has been launched at Shehbaz Sharif Park, Rawal Road, through a joint effort of the Rawalpindi Restaurant Caterers Sweet and Bakers Association Pakistan and the district administration. The initiative will continue from 1st to 30th Ramadan, providing daily Iftar meals to laborers, daily wage earners, and deserving white-collar citizens in a dignified manner.

President Muhammad Farooq Chaudhry and Chairman Mumtaz Ahmed stated that quality Iftar is being served daily under the initiative. Member of the National Assembly Tahira Aurangzeb and Deputy Commissioner Hassan Waqar Cheema visited the site, reviewed arrangements, and appreciated the efforts. They also commended Patron-in-Chief Chaudhry Muhammad Naeem, Chairman Mumtaz Ahmed, and President Muhammad Farooq Chaudhry for promoting public welfare and social harmony. Association representatives reaffirmed their commitment to continue serving the public in line with the vision of Maryam Nawaz, ensuring that no deserving person is deprived of Iftar during Ramadan.

20 Million Consumers Under 24/7 Power Watch in Mepeco Region This Ramadan

Quratulain Asim

MULTAN: Chief Executive Officer Multan Electric Power Supply Company Engineer Gull Muhammad Zahid has said that on the special instructions of Prime Minister Mian Shabbaz Sharif and Federal Minister for Power and Energy and Secretary Power and Energy, during Ramadan.

More than 20 Millions consumers of Mepeco Multan Region including Muzaffargarh, Layyah, Rajanpur, Kot Addo, Taunsa Sharif, Khanewal, Lodhran, Vehari, Sahiwal, Pakpattan, Okara, Bahawalpur, Rahim Yar Khan and Bahawalnagar districts are being monitored in special control rooms established in MEPCO region to ensure uninterrupted and quality electricity supply to the consumers. Officers and staff are mobilized in the field and monitoring the system 24 hours a day.



Muhammad Rafiq Kanwal and Assistant Manager PDC Fahad Khan monitored the continuity of electricity supply at Power Distribution Center MEPCO and reviewed the system operations. On the instructions of Additional Chief Engineer MEPCO Multan Circle Syed Muhammad Mubashir Rizvi, SDOs monitored the power supply during Sehar and Iftar in the control room set up in the circle. Superintending Engineer MEPCO Circle Khanewal Mushtaq Ahmed Attangal performed special duty at the Customer Facilitation Center during Iftar.

Save \$8 Billion Annually: FPCCI Suggests Boosting Sugarcane, Pulse Cultivation

Commerce Desk

LAHORE FEB 22:- Convenor Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Regional Committee on Food Shahid Imran Sunday said more than 8 billions of dollars foreign exchange in food imports can be saved annually by ploughing more arable lands under sugarcane and pulses cultivation.

Speaking here today to a delegation of progressive farmers led by Chaudhary Muhammad Asif Arain from Sahiwal he urged policymakers to formulate long-term agricultural planning aligned with market demand to ensure sustainable

growth of the food sector. Promoting local cultivation, he said, would not only conserve foreign exchange but also generate rural employment, strengthen agro-based industries, and contribute positively to Pakistan's economic stability and self-reliance. He said according to Pakistan Bureau of Statistics data released a couple of days revealed Pakistan's food imported bill surged to \$5.502 billion during the first seven months of current fiscal year marking a 19.27 percent increase from \$4.613 bn in the corresponding period last year largely driven by higher arrivals of sugar and edible oil.

KFC seeks budget proposals from stakeholders

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Chief Executive Officer Pakistan Furniture Council, Mian Kashif Ashfaq, Sunday sought budget proposals from all stakeholders for the fiscal year 2026-27 for timely submission to the federal government.

Chairing here today board of directors meeting he said meaningful consultation with industry leaders, exporters, manufacturers, artisans, and allied sectors is vital to formulate practical recommendations that



reflect ground realities.

He said all viable suggestions would be consolidated in a comprehensive document and presented to relevant authorities, ensuring the voice of the furniture sector is effectively heard at the highest policy-making level.

Highlighting the importance of innovation and modernization, he called for proposals encouraging technological upgradation, skill development programs, and establishment of dedicated furniture parks. He said a well-structured budget,

aligned with industry needs, would strengthen Pakistan's competitiveness in international markets.

He said the furniture industry has immense potential to boost exports, generate employment, and contribute significantly to economic growth, provided it receives adequate policy support and fiscal incentives. Mian Kashif Ashfaq urged stakeholders to propose measures aimed at reducing production costs, rationalizing taxes, facilitating import of raw materials, and enhancing access to affordable financing.

South Punjab Food Delegation Heads to Jeddah for Trade and Investment Push

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Pak food exporters delegation from South Punjab, led by Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman Saif Ur Rehman, Sunday left for Jeddah on a two-week strategic visit aimed at exploring new avenues of foreign investment, collaboration, and joint ventures with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Prior to his departure here today he said we will hold meetings with leading Saudi importers, investors, chamber representatives, and business leaders to promote Pakistani food products and attract investment into modern food processing and cold chain infrastructure in South Punjab especially snacks. He said we will also explore prospects for establishing joint ventures in packaging, branding, and distribution networks to increase Pakistan's share in the Saudi food market. He hoped the visit would yield tangible results and open new doors for sustainable export growth and long-term economic cooperation.

He said the visit reflects growing economic ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia and offers a timely opportunity to enhance bilateral trade. He emphasized that South Punjab has immense potential in agriculture and food processing including snacks which can be unlocked through strategic partnerships and technology transfer.

Gold jumps Rs 7,100 per tola; settles at Rs 533,562

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold increased by Rs 7,100 and was sold at Rs 533,562 on Saturday against its sale at Rs 526,462 the previous trading day. All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association reported.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs 6,087 to Rs 457,443 from Rs 451,356 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up by Rs 5,579 to Rs 419,337 from Rs 413,758.

England Lions beat Pakistan Shaheens by 32 runs

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: England Lions beat Pakistan Shaheens by 32 runs in the second T20 at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium Nursery One in Abu Dhabi on Sunday afternoon to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match T20 series.

According to details, the third match of the series will be played at the same venue on Tuesday, February 24 with the first ball scheduled to be bowled at 7:30pm local time.

Earlier, after winning the toss and opting to field, Pakistan Shaheens made early inroads when Shahid Aziz dismissed Will Smeed for a first-ball duck. Ben McKinney (38, 25b, 6x4s) and Lions captain Jordan Cox (34, 30b, 4x4s, 1x6) steadied the innings with a brisk stand, before Saad Masood struck twice to finish with figures of two for 38 in three overs.

However, James Coles anchored the latter half of the innings and remained unbeaten on 48 off 30 balls, which included four fours and two sixes, as Lions posted 183 for five.

Right-arm fast bowler Shahid Aziz, who was playing his first match of the series, grabbed two wickets for 26 runs in his four overs.

In turn, Pakistan Shaheens got off to a decent start courtesy captain Shamyul Hussain (20, 15b, 1x4, 2x6s) and Maaz



Sadaqat, who top-scored with 32 off 25 balls, including two fours and as many sixes. The pair added 41 for the first wicket in 4.2 overs, but regular breakthroughs halted the chase.

Left-handed wicketkeeper-batter Saad Baig (20, 18b, 1x6) and Hasan Nawaz (20, 24b, 1x4) attempted to rebuild the innings, before Saad Masood, coming in at number seven

scored 30 off 17 balls, hitting two fours and two sixes.

Shahid (15, 7b, 1x4, 1x6) also chipped in with a cameo, but the required rate proved too steep as Shaheens were eventually dismissed for 151 with three balls to spare.

Left-arm spinner Coles starred with the ball as well, returning figures of four for 18, while Scott Currie and Sonny

Baker picked up two wickets apiece for the winning side.

Scores in brief: England Lions 183-5, 20 overs (James Coles 48 not out, Ben McKinney 38, Jordan Cox 34; Shahid Aziz 2-26, Saad Masood 2-38).

Pakistan Shaheens 151 all out, 19.3 overs (Maaz Sadaqat 32, Saad Masood 30; James Coles 4-18, Sonny Baker 2-24, Scott Currie 2-30).

ICC Men's T20 Cricket World Cup

Pakistan VS New Zealand Super Eights Opener Match Abandoned At Colombo



Asim Tanveer

COLOMBO: Persistent rain in Colombo forces abandonment of Pakistan's game with New Zealand, which was to open Super Eights stage.

An electronic screen displays match being abandoned due to rain during the 2026 ICC Men's T20 Cricket World Cup

Super Eight match between Pakistan and New Zealand

An electronic screen displays the match being abandoned due to rain during the 2026 ICC Men's T20 Cricket World Cup Super Eight match between Pakistan and New Zealand, at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo, Sri Lanka

Pakistan and New Zealand's Super Eights match to open the second phase of the 2026 T20 World Cup was abandoned because of rain without a ball being bowled.

The rain started at Colombo's R Premadasa Stadium as soon as Pakistan captain Salman Ali Agha won the toss and chose to bat first on Saturday.

More than 60 ground staff were on hand to cover the square and the majority of the playing surface.

The persistent rain eventually led to the umpires calling the Group 2 match off at 9:05pm local time (15:35 GMT).

Not even a five-over match was possible by the 10:16 pm (16:46 GMT) cut-off time, giving the two teams one point each.

Tournament co-host India plays South Africa in Ahmedabad in the first Group 1 match on Sunday, when co-host Sri Lanka and England meet in Group 2 in Pallekele.

PHF announces new adhoc committee to revitalize national sport

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) has announced the strategic formation of an Adhoc Governance and Management Committee.

This initiative marks a structural shift designed to modernize the administration and elevate the standards of hockey across the nation, said a press.

In a significant move for technical excellence, legendary Olympians Hassan Sardar and Islahuddin will co-chair the Professional Development Committee. Their mandate includes overseeing national team selection, specialized training protocols, and establishing rigorous benchmarks for coaches and players. The long-term management selection will be made by the Professional Advisory Committee co-chaired by ex-Olympians Islahuddin and Hassan Sardar. Additional membership of this committee will be made in consultation with these two legends.

To ensure specialized oversight, the PHF has separated corporate governance, marketing, and resource mobilization from technical hockey operations. The newly appointed committee members include Capt. Farrukh Atique: HR and Finance, Shakeel Shah (Member Customs): Departmental Coordination and Outreach, Amir Ibrahim (CEO Jazz): Corporate and Marketing Support, Ghulam Ali Mallah (ED IBCC): School and College Sports Promotion, Brig. (R) Akmal Aziz: Services and Institutional Coordination.

All members of the Governance Committee will work on an honorary basis, dedicating their expertise to revive and elevate Pakistan's hockey. "This is an interim roadmap to correct the direction. There is no shortcut for success, but clear direction and seriousness of effort will be visible," said a PHF spokesperson.

"We will mobilise all institutions to connect hockey at the grassroots level," added the spokesperson.

These structural reforms reflect the PHF's commitment to transparency and professional merit, ensuring the "National Game" receives the corporate and technical expertise required for a global comeback. The PHF is confident that these changes will bring about a positive transformation in the sport and restore Pakistan's hockey to its former glory.



Pakistan strikes 7 terrorist camps ...

Continued from Page 1

The ministry said, "Pakistan expects and reiterates the Interim Afghan Government to fulfill its obligations and deny use of its soil by Khwarizj and terrorists against Pakistan as the safety and security of people of Pakistan comes first and foremost."

"Pakistan also expects the international community to play a positive and constructive role by urging the Taliban regime to stand by its commitments as part of Doha Agreement to deny use of its soil against other countries; an act vital for regional and global peace and security," it added.

Pakistan's External Debt Profile Remains ...

Continued from Page 8

According to the State Bank of Pakistan's records, total debt servicing payments to specific creditors during the period under reference were as follows: the International Monetary Fund received \$1.50 billion, of which \$580 million constituted interest; Naya Pakistan Certificates payments totaled \$1.56 billion, including \$94 million in interest; the Asian Development Bank received \$1.54 billion, including \$615 million in interest; the World Bank received \$1.25 billion, including \$419 million in interest; and external commercial loans amounted to nearly \$3 billion, of which \$327 million represented interest payments.

While interest payments have increased in absolute terms, this rise cannot be attributed solely to an expansion in the debt stock. Although the overall debt

stock has increased slightly since FY2022, the additional inflows have primarily originated from concessional multilateral sources and the IMF's Extended Fund Facility (EFF) under the ongoing IMF-supported program.

During 2022-23, Pakistan faced heightened balance of payments pressures, which led to foreign exchange reserves falling below one month of import

cover. In response, the Government entered into an IMF EFF arrangement and mobilized financing from multilateral and other concessional partners. These measures played a critical role in rebuilding foreign exchange reserves and strengthening the country's external account position.

It is also important to note that the increase in interest payments reflects prevailing global interest rate dynamics. In response to the inflation surge of 2021-22, the U. S. Federal Reserve raised the federal funds rate from 0.75-1.00 percent in May 2022 to 5.25-5.50 percent by July 2023. Although rates have since moderated to around 3.75 percent, they remain significantly higher than 2022 levels. This global monetary tightening has kept international borrowing costs elevated and contributed to higher external interest payments.

The Government remains committed to prudent debt management, transparency, and the continued strengthening of Pakistan's macroeconomic stability. Accurate representation of debt statistics is essential to informed public discourse, and stakeholders are encouraged to consider the full context of Pakistan's external debt structure and evolving global financial conditions.

Male Staff Presence at Women University Multan Raises Safety, Policy Concerns

The inappropriate and policy-violating appointment of male employees in the administrative departments of Women University Multan has become a serious and alarming issue, posing a grave threat to the safe educational environment of female students.

Last year, the Governor of Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider, clearly announced that male professors, teachers, and administrative staff would be gradually removed from women's universities across the province to ensure a harassment-free and dignified environment for female students. The Governor also declared strict punishments for individuals involved in harassment and issued explicit instructions to all university administrations to implement the new policy.

However, despite the passage of one year, a large number of male staff members still remain at Women

University Multan. According to sources, more than 500 male employees are currently posted in various administrative departments, while only 12 to 13 female officials are serving in those sections. When several parents were asked about the appointment of male staff at the university, they stated that their daughters are experiencing severe mental distress. The presence of male staff in almost every administrative office is reportedly causing harassment concerns and psychological pressure for female students. Parents have questioned the Chief Minister and the Governor of Punjab as to why male staff are still appointed in a women's university, especially when assurances were given at the time of admission that a modest and secure educational environment would be ensured.

When contacted for her position, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Dr. Kulsoom Paracha, partially acknowledged the parents' complaints. She stated that

the majority of male staff had been recruited before her appointment numbering over 500 whereas under current requirements, only 120 female staff members are sufficient. She clarified that the presence of men in administrative departments is unnecessary and contrary to current policy, adding that only drivers and conductors may be male.

More concerning are allegations that several male employees were appointed in violation of rules and regulations. Eight individuals were reportedly recruited by awarding additional marks despite not meeting merit criteria, and this has been mentioned in audit observations. Some of these employees have obtained stay orders from courts to protect their positions. Many frequently remain absent from duty, and dozens of cases involving

them are currently under litigation, severely affecting the university's budget and administrative affairs. Although more than 500 individuals are posted in the administrative wing, the actual requirement is said to be only 120 employees.

The existing male staff often fail to attend regularly, remain occupied in court cases, and do not fully perform their duties. As a result, administrative matters are disrupted and the academic activities of female students are seriously affected. Teachers and female staff members are also reportedly under significant stress due to this irresponsible conduct, leading to delays in the commencement of classes and interruptions in students' education.

According to the current Vice Chancellor, the appointment of male staff

is against government policy, and the excessive number of male employees is placing an unnecessary burden on the university. Most of the work is carried out by only a few individuals, while others neglect their responsibilities and remain engaged in unproductive discussions. Several individuals in the administration, including Dr. Muhammad Kamran, Benazir Peter, Naeem Sabtain, Talha Saeed, Ahmed Faraz, Muhammad Aslam, Sumbal Hashmi, and Aroosa Akhtar, are holding senior positions but are allegedly not serving the university's interests effectively. This mismanagement is having long-term negative effects on the university's performance and educational standards. The Vice Chancellor expressed concern that unneeded and politically influenced appointments of male staff must be terminated immediately. Without reducing the number of administrative personnel and ensuring appropriate appointment of female staff, the university's system

will deteriorate further, resulting in wastage of budget and disruption of students' education.

Through this column, we urge the Chief Minister of Punjab, Maryam Nawaz Sharif, to introduce amendments to the university ordinance so that the appointment of male staff in women's universities is declared completely unlawful, and priority is ensured for female staff in administrative and academic positions. The disproportionate presence of male staff in women's universities limits opportunities for leadership and advancement for female students and faculty, making genuine gender equality difficult to achieve. It is an urgent necessity to introduce reforms in women's universities to provide students with a safe, effective, and dignified educational environment. The continued presence of excessive male staff is portrayed as a corrosive element weakening the entire institutional structure, and addressing this issue without delay is imperative.



Analysis

Zain-ul-Abideen Abid

Chinese new year

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik as Chief Guest at special celebration of Chinese New Year at Chinese Embassy on Sunday.



Photo: PID

Pakistan's External Debt Profile Remains Predominantly Concessional and Long-Term

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Finance wishes to clarify certain assertions made in a recent press commentary regarding the country's external debt position and associated interest payments. The figures presented in the commentary require contextual explanation to ensure an accurate and comprehensive understanding of Pakistan's external debt profile.

Pakistan's total external debt and liabilities currently stand at \$138 billion. This figure, however, encompasses a broad



range of obligations, including public and publicly guaranteed debt, debt of Public Sector Enterprises (both guaranteed and non-guaranteed), bank

borrowings, private-sector external debt, and intercompany liabilities to direct investors. It is therefore important to distinguish this aggregate

figure from External Public (Government) Debt, which amounts to approximately \$92 billion.

Of the total External Public Debt, nearly 75 percent comprises concessional and long-term financing obtained from multilateral institutions (excluding the IMF) and bilateral development partners. Only about 7 percent of this debt consists of commercial loans, while another 7 percent relates to long-term Eurobonds. In light of this composition, the claim that Pakistan is paying interest on external loans "up to 8

percent" is misleading. The overall average cost of External Public Debt is approximately 4 percent, reflecting the predominantly concessional nature of the borrowing portfolio.

With respect to interest payments, public external debt interest outflows increased from \$1.99 billion in FY2022 to \$3.59 billion in FY2025, representing an increase of 80.4 percent, not 84 percent as reported. In absolute terms, interest payments rose by \$1.60 billion over this period, not \$1.67 billion.

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Naqvi, Salik review Spanish Resident Card process in high-level meeting

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A special high-level meeting chaired by Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Minister for Overseas Pakistanis Salik Hussain was held in order to review the Spanish Resident Card process and got briefing in this regard.

The meeting reaffirmed the commitment of the Ministry of Interior to provide legal protection and facilities to Pakistanis living abroad.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs assured full support for the Spanish Resident Card process.

Pakistan's Ambassador to Spain, Dr Zahoor Ahmed, gave a detailed briefing on the Spanish Resident Card.

The Meeting was briefed that this policy is not for those seeking political asylum.

The provision of a character certificate and other required



documents has been made mandatory.

Eligible individuals will be issued a resident card for one year initially.

The path to permanent resi-

dence and citizenship will be paved after completing seven to eight years.

They decided that the process of document verification would be expedited so

that applicants would not face difficulties.

Separate character certificates are not acceptable, a single national character certificate will be issued by the

National Police Bureau Certificate will be issued, meeting decided.

Mohsin Naqvi said the verification process should be made easy and fast for the convenience of the applicants.

The applicants should be provided with complete facilities at every level, Mohsin Naqvi said.

Salik Hussain said it is gratifying that thousands of Pakistanis are getting legal status.

Pakistan's Ambassador to Spain Dr. Zahoor Ahmed, Consul General Barcelona and Community Welfare Attaché attended the meeting via Zoom.

Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry, Secretary Interior, Secretary Overseas Pakistanis, Additional Secretary Interior, Chairman NADRA, DG FIA, DG Passports, and other high-ranking officials attended the meeting.

PTA committed to protecting rights, fair charging, improving mobile services

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has assured that it will address recent concerns raised on social media regarding mobile tariffs, service quality, and unauthorised deductions, reaffirming its unwavering commitment to consumer protection.

To create a structured and fair tariff framework, PTA has notified the Mobile Tariff Regulations, 2025, said a news release.

Under these regulations, operators with Significant Market Power (SMP) are strictly required to obtain prior approval from PTA for any introduction or revision of tariffs.

Other operators may determine their tariffs based on business considerations, but remain subject to PTA's right to intervene if tariffs are found to be detrimental to consumer interests.

While PTA acts as a guardian of consumer interests, it also recognises that sustainable market conditions are necessary. It is important to note that Pakistan continues to have one of the lowest Average Revenue Per User (ARPU) and most affordable mobile data prices in the region.

PTA is proactively working to enhance service



quality. A key step in this direction is the upcoming spectrum auction planned for March 2025. This auction will require substantial investment from mobile operators to acquire new spectrum and deploy advanced network infrastructure. This will directly lead to measurable improvements in network quality, coverage, and data speeds for consumers across the

country.

All mobile operators have been strictly directed to obtain explicit, prior consent from subscribers before activating any Value-Added Services. Consumers are encouraged to regularly check and manage their active subscriptions through their respective mobile operator's official application.

Pakistan-Sino economic relations expanding, says Ali Pervaiz

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik says economic relations between Pakistan and China are expanding into new sectors, including petroleum and minerals.

He was addressing a special ceremony held in connection with the Chinese New Year at the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad.

The Minister extended heartfelt congratulations to the Chinese leadership, government, and people on the advent of the Chinese New Year. He said the Year of the Horse reflects the strength, resilience, and enduring

nature of the friendship between Pakistan and China.

Ali Pervaiz Malik noted that several joint projects are currently underway between the two countries in the minerals sector.

He said that following the success of the Saindak project, the Siah Diq project would mark the next milestone in bilateral mineral cooperation.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chinese Ambassador reaffirmed his country's commitment to continuing close cooperation with Pakistan across various sectors, including energy and minerals.

Tolerance for cross-border terrorism reached its limit: President Zardari

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has said that Pakistan's recent actions are rooted in its inherent right to defend its people against terrorism emanating from across its borders, and follow repeated warnings that went unheeded.

Referring to his statement of 8 February 2026, the President recalled that Pakistan had cautioned the international community that "when terrorist groups are allowed space, facilitation or impunity beyond national borders, the consequences are borne by innocent civilians all over the world." He had also stated that Pakistan takes strong exception to the situation in Afghanistan where the Taliban regime has created

conditions similar to or worse than pre-9/11.

In his statement, President Zardari said it is a matter of deep concern that the de facto authorities in Kabul, a regime not recognised by the United Nations, have continued to permit terrorist elements to operate from Afghan soil in violation of their commitments under the Doha Accord, wherein they pledged that Afghan territory would not be used against any country.

He noted that the most recent report of the United Nations Security Council Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team has reinforced Pakistan's long-standing position.

PTI figures join PML-N as Amir Muqam cites past governance, Kashmir agenda



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs Amir Muqam on Sunday welcomed a group of political figures and workers who announced their decision to join the Pakistan Muslim League (N), saying the move reflects public trust in the party's record and its approach to Kashmir.

Addressing a gathering, Muqam said Raja Mujahid Khan and thousands of supporters who were earlier linked with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf had joined PML-N. Muqam extended congratulations to PML-N leadership in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, including Shah Ghulam Qadir, for what he described as steady political growth.

He said the recent political shifts

were visible both on the ground and across social media platforms. According to Muqam, the party has seen a series of new entrants over recent weeks. He recalled earlier joinings by Mir Akbar Khan, followed by Peerzada, Ahmed Khan, Raja Saqib Khan, Chaudhry Razaq Khan and Sardar Tabarak Khan. He said the latest entry of Raja Mujahid Khan marked another stage in this ongoing trend.

Muqam said these figures carry long political backgrounds and public support in their areas, making their decision significant. He stated that people are joining PML-N under the leadership of Nawaz Sharif due to the party's past performance, particularly during its governments in Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Govt in effort to reduce power prices by decreasing taxes, Awais Laghari

Commerce Desk

DG KHAN: Federal Minister for Power, Awais Laghari said the government is making effort to reduce power prices by decreasing the tax burden on the public.

Speaking at a laptop distribution ceremony for students of Ghazi University at the Arts Council here, he highlighted several development projects planned for the region.

He said that Dera Ghazi Khan Airport would be made operational for local and international flights at start of the next year. A groundbreaking ceremony for a cancer hospital would also be held soon. The Minister noted that

Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif is concerned about youth employment and is committed to creating new opportunities.

The ceremony was attended by Punjab Assembly member Sardar Salahuddin Khosa, Commissioner Ashfaq Ahmed, Vice Chancellor of Ghazi University Professor Ashfaq Ahmed Chattha, and former Provincial Assembly member Syed Abdul Aaleem Shah.

The Minister further said the government is negotiating with the IMF to ensure that relief reaches the public in the next one to one-and-a-half years, particularly because industries face high corporate and other taxes.