

Rescue 1122 AJK announces protest over non-payment of risk allowance

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Personnel of Rescue 1122 Azad Jammu & Kashmir have expressed serious concern over the non-payment of their long-promised risk allowance and have formally announced plans to stage a peaceful protest in the coming days.

According to details, Rescue 1122 AJK personnel have not been paid risk allowance for approximately the past two to two and a half years. During this period, the Government of Azad Jammu & Kashmir has repeatedly assured that officials performing duties under hazardous and life-threatening conditions would be granted risk allowance. However, no practical progress has been made so far.

Recent reports indicate that the Finance Department of the Government of Azad Jammu & Kashmir has taken the position that, due to insufficient financial resources, payment of risk allowance to Rescue 1122 personnel is currently not feasible. This development has caused significant anxiety and unrest among the employees.

In this regard, Rescue 1122 Muzaf-



farabad personnel convened a collective meeting on March 24, 2026, to review the situation in detail. After thorough deliberation, it was unanimously decided that if the Government

of Azad Jammu & Kashmir does not take immediate and concrete steps regarding the approval and disbursement of the risk allowance, peaceful protests will be staged in the coming

days.

If you want, I can also make it slightly stronger in tone or more neutral and administrative depending on where you intend to publish it.

Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan Urges Special Care for the Needy During Ramadan

Spokesman Report



RAWALPINDI: President of the All Jammu & Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, has urged the public to extend special care and support to underprivileged and deserving individuals during the holy month of Ramadan.

He expressed these views during a meeting at Masjid an-Nabawi, where he met with Pakistan Muslim League (N) leaders Chaudhry Naeem Karim, Syed Anwar Shah, and others. On the occasion, Chairman Youth Wing Sardar Usman Ali Khan was also present.

Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan stated that Ramadan is a month of spiritual purification and forgiveness of sins. He described the blessed month as a priceless gift from Almighty Allah for His believers. He highlighted that the first ten days of Ramadan are a period of mercy, the second ten days are for forgiveness, and the last ten days are for salvation from Hellfire. Every moment of this sacred month, he said, is a precious divine blessing.

Concluding his remarks, Sardar Atiq Ahmed Khan said that if Muslims live their entire lives in accordance with the Sunnah of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), they will achieve success in both this world and the Hereafter.

Law enforcement will be ensured at all costs: RPO



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: The Newly Appointed Regional Police Officer and Deputy Inspector General Usman Akram Gondal in Multan Region took charge of his post. On arrival at the Regional Police Office, a decorated contingent of police greeted him while senior police officers welcomed him.

Later, the RPO also visited the District Police Line Multan, Commissioner Office and Additional IG South Punjab and held a meeting with the officers. He also met with senior officers of the important police units CTD and CCD. Later, he held a video link meeting with the District Police Officers of Vehari, Khanewal and Lodhran and discussed the law and order situation in detail. On this occasion, the RPO, while addressing the officers, said that law enforcement will be ensured at all costs and no compromise will be made on merit, transparency and justice.

The RPO clarified that the elimination of crime, protection of life and property of the public and provision of prompt justice will be given top priority in the districts of Multan, Vehari, Khanewal and Lodhran of Multan region. He directed that no compromise will be made on the observance of discipline and order, while indiscriminate action will be taken against the officials guilty of negligence or corruption.

Ahsan Iqbal visits UET Lahore, distributes 769 laptops among students

News Desk

LAHORE: The Prime Minister's Laptop Distribution Ceremony was held at the University of Engineering and Technology (UET) Lahore with the special participation of Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal. The Federal Minister was warmly received by Vice Chancellor UET Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir.

On the occasion, the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's Focal Person for Youth, Rizwan Anwar, was also present and highlighted the significance of the laptop scheme in empowering students.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor Dr. Shahid Munir expressed gratitude to the Federal Minister and said that seeing joy and hope on the faces of students was deeply heartening. He remarked that these laptops are not merely an educational facility but a strong step toward fulfilling students' dreams and securing a bright future. He added that the laptop scheme would significantly enhance students' academic and research activities and enable them to become an integral part of the digital economy. He encouraged students to make the best possible use of Information Technology through this initiative.

District Accounts Office Dadu condemns baseless and false reports

Azad Baloch

DADU: The District Accounts Office Dadu has strongly condemned the baseless, fabricated, and false news currently circulating in print media, electronic media, and on social media platforms.

The District Accounts Office has once again clarified that out of the 54 employees mentioned in the news reports, not a single individual has been paid even one extra rupee beyond their lawful and legitimate entitlement under the heads of pension, LPR, commutation, or any other benefits.

District Accounts Officer Mr. Zafar Abbas Umar, in his officially issued letter, further clarified that all government employees and pensioners have been paid their due amounts of commutation, LPR, and gratuity strictly in accordance with prescribed rules and regulations. These payments pertained to liabilities that had been pending for several months and were cleared promptly following clear directives and the availability of sufficient funds provided by the Finance Department Government of Sindh.

Derailed

RAWALPINDI: A view of the derailed Green line train while crossing the Bakery Chowk, with the blessing of Allah Almighty no-causality is reported.



Photo: Online

District & Sessions Judge Neelum Conducts Surprise Visit to District Jail (Judicial Lock-up)

Bureau Report

NEELUM: The District & Sessions Judge Neelum, Syed Waseem Ahmed Gilani, conducted a surprise visit to the District Jail (Judicial Lock-up) Neelum to review the conditions of detainees and facilities.

On the occasion, PDSP Raja Sagheer, SHO Police Station Athmuqam Muhammad Sadiq, and other concerned officials were also present.

During the visit, the District & Sessions Judge met with both female and male detainees lodged in the judicial lock-up and inquired about their issues and concerns. At present, one female accused is detained under Section 302, while several male



detainees are confined in connection with various other offenses.

During the inspection, it was revealed that due to the absence of a proper and permanent building for the Bakhshi Khana (Judicial Lock-up), prisoners are being kept in two separate holding rooms (Hawalat), where the required facilities are not adequately available. Expressing concern over the non-construction of a permanent judicial lock-up building, the District & Sessions Judge directed the higher authorities to take immediate steps to initiate and expedite the construction process.

He observed that in the absence of a proper judicial lock-up, housing minor offenders and those accused of serious crimes in the same room is contrary to legal requirements and human rights standards.

AKU-IED and NED University Conclude WASH and Rainwater Harvesting Education Project

News Desk

KARACHI: Communities in Murree and Kotli Sattiyar have benefited from a year-long initiative to improve Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) awareness and promote rainwater harvesting as a climate-resilient solution in these water-stressed regions.

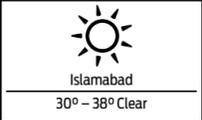
The project, titled Community Mobilisation and WASH Education under Rooftop Rainwater Harvesting in Murree District was formally marked

at a closing ceremony hosted by the Aga Khan University's Institute for Educational Development (IED), in collaboration with NED University of Engineering & Technology, at AKU's Karimabad campus. Despite receiving high rainfall, Murree and Kotli Sattiyar face chronic water shortages due to steep terrain, runoff, tourism pressure, and limited infrastructure. The Urban Unit at the Government of Punjab initiated a rooftop rainwater harvesting programme, integrating safe storage

and filtration systems across more than 1,100 households (phase-I), supported through community education led by IED and NED University.

Dr Salim Virani, Vice Provost Research, AKU; Dr Farid Panjwani, Dean, IED; and Arif Hasan. Project leaders Dr Fozia Parveen, AKU and Dr Abdul Ghaffar, NED reaffirmed continued collaboration through Phase II, including plans to establish a Water Quality Laboratory in Kotli Sattiyar by AKU.





SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 5:19 am
Zohr 12:21 pm
Asr 4:21 pm
Maghrib 6:01 pm
Isha 7:24 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

CMH 561111
MH 561116
MH 561116
Cantt Hospital 9270907-11
DHQ 5556311-4
RGH 9290301-7
Holy Family 9290322-7
PIMS 9261170-79
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
Rawal Town 5773343

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service
E-7, F-10 & F-11 9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8 9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 9266316
Wapda Islamabad 9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint 119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank
Rawalpindi 0331-5022125

District Development Committee Meets Under DC Umar Mela

Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: Under the vision of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the implementation of development projects is progressing rapidly in District Toba Tek Singh. In this regard, an important meeting of the District Development Committee was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Toba Tek Singh Umar Abbas Mela, where ongoing and proposed development schemes across the district were reviewed in detail. During the meeting, Deputy Director Development Naveed Iftikhar Olakh gave a comprehensive briefing on various schemes being executed under the Annual Development Program (ADP) 2025-26. He informed the participants about the progress achieved so far, the challenges faced and the future course of action. The briefing highlighted that numerous public welfare projects are underway in both urban and rural areas and their completion will significantly improve the provision of basic facilities to the public. The meeting also reviewed key initiatives including the

UAE Ambassador meets Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, gifts dates for deserving families of KPK

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: H. E. Salem Mohamed Al Zaabi, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, met with H. E. Faisal Karim Kundi, Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, at the UAE Embassy in Islamabad. During the meeting, the two sides discussed matters related to bilateral relations, investment opportunities, and the promotion of mutual cooperation between the United Arab Emirates and Pakistan.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening the longstanding, brotherly, and friendly relations between the two countries. Ambassador Al Zaabi highlighted the strong religious, cultural, and historical ties shared by Pakistan and the UAE. He noted that the UAE is considered a second home for Pakistanis, with around two million Pakistanis serving in various sectors and contributing significantly to the development of the UAE.

The Ambassador also expressed the UAE's need for skilled and technical



professionals across various fields, emphasizing that trained individuals from Pakistan, particularly from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, would be mutually beneficial.

Governor Faisal Karim Kundi highlighted Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's vast investment potential in sectors including mines and minerals, energy, agriculture, and tourism. He invited UAE investors and business leaders to explore opportunities in the province and benefit from its promising economic landscape.

As part of a humanitarian initiative during the holy month of Ramadhan, Ambassador Al Zaabi presented 3.6 tons of dates on behalf of the UAE for distribution among deserving people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

This gesture underscores the deep-rooted friendship and enduring partnership between Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates.



Silent Expressions II

ISLAMABAD:- Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training Wajiha Qamar taking interest in the Art work of special students during an exhibition entitled " Silent Expressions II" at Pakistan National Council of Arts in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

COMSATS University Islamabad successfully deploys SmartSelect@ CUI in 40th Selection Board

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) has successfully concluded its 40th Selection Board for recruitment and promotion of faculty under the Officer grade (OG) and Tenure Track System (TTS) streams. The Selection Board chaired by Prof. Dr. Raheel Qamar, Rector CUI held interviews and examined cases of appointment in higher grade

of 780 faculty members on OG Scale across CUI and 212 Faculty Members on TTS Scale across CUI.

Marking a major step towards institutional modernisation, the Selection Board, conducted over a span of sixteen days, represents the first-ever Selection Board held through electronic means at COMSATS University Islamabad using the University's in-house developed software, SmartSelect@CUI. This dedicated software was designed, developed, and deployed within an accelerated period of four weeks by CUI's own software development team, enabling efficient digital handling of cases, secure documentation, and streamlined decision-making.

SmartSelect@CUI provides a highly secure and efficient platform for conducting faculty evaluations, featuring system-generated blinded recommendations based solely on candidates'

academic credentials and performance indicators, thereby strengthening transparency and merit-based assessment.

As part of the University's continuing digital transformation agenda, SmartSelect@CUI is further being upgraded to incorporate AI-enabled features aimed at enhancing analytical evaluation and supporting evidence-based decision-making in future employee selection processes.

Self-Accountability and Spiritual Reform Urged at Weekly Zikr Gathering



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Patron-in-Chief of Idara Taleemat-e-Islamia Khayaban-e-Sir Syed Pakistan, Allama Syed Riaz Hussain Shah, said true wisdom lies in controlling one's inner self, adding that without self-reformation, spiritual growth is impossible.

The hosting duties were performed by Sheikh Muhammad Qasim, Deputy Director. Addressing a weekly Zikr and Dars-e-Quran gathering, he stressed that respect in the company of a spiritual mentor is essential for purification of the soul. He distinguished between desires, which follow the ego, and aspirations, which seek closeness to Allah. He urged people, especially in the blessed month of Ramadan, to remember Allah, follow the teachings of the Quran and Sunnah, and strive for personal and social reform.

ANP Leader Demands Ramadan Aid Beneficiary Lists in Mardan Mosques

Tariq Khan Yousafzai

TAKHT BHAI: ANP's Tehsil Council member Muhammad Rafee has urged the Commissioner, DC Mardan, and AC Takht Bhai to display lists of beneficiaries of the Ramadan package in mosques to ensure transparency. He said this would allow locals to verify the deserving recipients and increase trust in the administration. Rafee criticized the government's favoritism in distributing aid, citing past instances of corruption in the Ehsaas program.

He appealed to DC Mardan and concerned officials to display the lists in mosques to build trust in institutions and the state.

Illegal Constructions Demolished



Zafar Chishti

Toba Tek Singh: District Officer Planning (DOP) District Council Toba Tek Singh Hafiz Shoaib Sheikh has stated in a conversation with our correspondent that indiscriminate action against illegal constructions is ongoing across the district under the special directives of Deputy Commissioner Toba Tek Singh Umar Abbas Mela and the supervision of Chief Officer District Council Chaudhry Kashif Mahmood.

He informed that during recent operations, several illegally constructed buildings were demolished. He explained that the demolished structures had been erected without obtaining proper approval of building plans from the District Council, which is a clear violation of the law. DOP Hafiz Shoaib Sheikh further said that the concerned individuals had been issued multiple notices and warnings and were directed to fulfill the legal requirements. However, due to non-compliance with official instructions, the department was compelled to take action. He emphasized that no pressure or recommendations would be entertained in ensuring the enforcement of the law.

Government Reaffirms Commitment to Protecting Minority Heritage

Abdul Waheed Khan

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of the Standing Committee Nosheen Iftikhar visited Nanak Sar Gurdwara. The government's commitment to preserving national heritage and culture was once again demonstrated when Chairperson of the National Assembly Standing Committee on National Heritage and Culture Division, Nosheen Iftikhar, visited Nanak Sar Gurdwara yesterday. The historic site, an important place of worship for the Sikh community, is located in the Fateh Bhandar area of Daska, in Sialkot District, and is regarded as a significant symbol of the region's historical and cultural heritage. The visit reflected the government's



ongoing efforts to protect, restore, and maintain minority religious sites in Pakistan, aiming not only to promote interfaith harmony but also to

strengthen the country's cultural identity. On this occasion, Punjab's Provincial Minister for Minority Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora, along with the

Chairman of the Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) and the Additional Secretary (Shrines), was also part of the delegation. The presence of senior officials indicated coordinated efforts between federal and provincial institutions to safeguard minority heritage.

In her address, Nosheen Iftikhar stated that protecting minority places of worship is both a constitutional and moral responsibility of the state. According to her, restoring historical heritage promotes interfaith harmony, tolerance, and social stability. She added that safeguarding sacred sites is not merely about repairing buildings but also about respecting diverse beliefs and traditions, which helps project a positive image of Pakistan worldwide.

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Punjab: 730 Days of Good Governance

On Feb 26, 2024, Maryam Nawaz Sharif took oath as Chief Minister of Punjab, becoming the first woman to head a provincial government in Pakistan. Two years on, the province presents a picture of steady administrative change shaped by a focus on delivery, reform and public service.

This period has not been without challenges, yet the government's approach has reflected a clear shift from routine administration toward performance-based governance. A development outlay exceeding Rs 1,000 billion has been directed toward social sectors and infrastructure. What sets this period apart is the parallel use of digital monitoring systems that track spending and project implementation in real time. The aim has been simple: ensure that public funds translate into visible improvements on the ground while strengthening accountability.

The most visible impact is evident in healthcare. With more than Rs 200 billion allocated, the sector has witnessed improvements in facilities at district and tehsil headquarters hospitals. Diagnostic services have expanded, while basic health units and rural health centres have undergone upgrades. A phased reform plan has introduced mobile healthcare units to reach underserved populations in villages and peri-urban areas. The expansion of the health card programme has eased financial pressure on families by widening access to treatment. Emergency services have also improved, with ambulance coverage extended to motorway interchanges and greater attention paid to maternal and child health.

Education has moved alongside healthcare as a priority area. Over 30,000 public schools have undergone rehabilitation to address gaps in infrastructure, sanitation, and electricity. Recruitment on merit and teacher training programmes have injected new energy into the system. A comprehensive school census, supported by data from NADRA, has helped verify enrolment and improve planning at the district level.

The government has also introduced skill-based programmes for students after middle school, linking education with employability. The establishment of Schools of Eminence under public-private partnerships has transformed selected institutions into modern learning facilities. Smart classrooms and IT labs are being introduced gradually, marking a step toward digital learning. Scholarships, particularly for girls, aim to reduce barriers to education and improve retention rates.

Women's empowerment has emerged as a key theme. Interest-free loans and skill development initiatives have enabled many women to start small businesses and contribute to household incomes. Protection centres and legal aid services have been strengthened to provide support and security. These measures reflect a broader understanding that economic participation by women is essential for sustainable growth.

Infrastructure development has remained a central pillar of the government's agenda. More than Rs 400 billion

has been allocated for roads and connectivity. Thousands of kilometres of roads have been constructed or rehabilitated under various programmes, including large-scale restoration of damaged road networks. Farm-to-market roads have improved access for rural communities, supporting agriculture and local trade.

Major road corridors developed in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank are connecting key regions such as Sahiwal, Layyah, Vehari, and Jhang. These projects are expected to facilitate trade, reduce travel time, and stimulate economic activity. At the same time, efforts to modernise the police force through training, technology, and data-driven systems have aimed to improve law enforcement and public safety.

Environmental concerns have also received attention. The Climate Resilient Punjab Vision outlines a series of initiatives to tackle pollution and promote sustainability. Farmers have been provided with subsidised machinery, such as super seeders, to discourage crop burning. Anti-smog measures, including the use of specialised equipment, have been deployed in urban areas.

The Lahore Air Improvement Framework has introduced modern monitoring systems to identify pollution sources in real time. Air and water quality monitoring stations are being installed across the province, laying the foundation for a more informed environmental policy. Steps toward reducing plastic use and promoting cleaner transport options are

also part of the broader strategy. Digital governance has played a significant role in reshaping the relationship between citizens and the state. More than 50 public services have been digitised, making them accessible online. The e-Biz portal offers a growing number of services across departments, reducing the need for physical visits and paperwork. Complaint management systems and biometric verification in welfare programmes have helped improve transparency and reduce leakages.

These reforms have been implemented in a difficult economic environment marked by fiscal constraints and rising costs. Despite these challenges, the government has attempted to balance development spending with relief measures, including efforts to stabilise prices of essential commodities and support small businesses.

The past two years have therefore been about more than infrastructure projects or budget allocations. They reflect an evolving governance model that emphasises efficiency, transparency, and citizen-focused service delivery. While challenges remain, the direction suggests a continued focus on reform and institutional strengthening.

As Punjab moves forward, the progress made during this period offers both a record of achievement and a framework for future policy. The coming years will determine how effectively these foundations are built upon to ensure inclusive growth and long-term stability for the province.

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



Analysis

Qudrat Ullah

NA body demands, quick character, police verification for Overseas Pakistanis

The Standing Committee on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, chaired by Syed Rafiullah, MNA, met here on Wednesday to consider country-wise performance of Community Welfare Attachés (CWAs) in Europe and to review implementation of the Committee's earlier directions.

The Committee received mission reports from CWAs covering Italy, Spain and Greece and noted common operational shortcomings that require urgent remedial action.

Members recorded concern at repeated instances of passport loss, inconsistent character-verification practices across provinces, delays in apostille processing and limited capacity for regular prison outreach.

The Chair underlined that facilitation must be matched by clear, accountable processes and verifiable outcomes.

In Italy, the mission reported a substantial Pakistani population. The mission confirmed progress on a bilateral MOU signed in 2025 and an allocation of 3,500 labour slots (including 1,500 non-seasonal).

The Committee was apprised of continuing challenges: pending work visas, passport loss cases (including repeat losses), and verification backlogs in certain provinces (notably Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), where the national status verification is not yet online.

The CWA for Spain outlined the mission's efforts after a long vacancy: the station is working to regularise applicants (targeting 20,000 regularisations among 140,000 Pakistanis resident), but procedural hurdles remain — notably apostille delays, difficulties in obtaining national police bureau certificates, and problems with repeated passport losses.

The Committee welcomed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' plan for a one-window apostille operation (to be developed with National Police Bureau) and demanded an expedited timeline. Members also pressed for faster resolution of repatriation and death-case service queries.

In respect of Greece, Members took note of a documented community of about 51,000 Pakistanis. The mission reported employer interest in agriculture, construction and tourism and a nursing-recruitment approach from an Athens medical group. The Committee noted the difficulty of securing minimum-wage protections for undocumented workers and sought a report from the ministry on the issues related to staff of Greece station.

The Committee approved two PSDP initiatives proposed by the Ministry: (a) a Labour Market Research Cell to generate timely, sectoral intelligence; and (b) a Capacity-Building programme on Occupational Safety & Health to improve employer compliance and worker protection.

The Committee requested a list of CWA officers serving beyond authorised tenure and mandated that the Ministry regularise extensions under framed rules. The Committee asked the CWA in Spain to share details of 30-40 passport cases involving repeat loss and to take the matter up with the Directorate General of Immigration & Passports for remedial action.



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmi. (Courtesy of Ashfaq Al-Awcat)

Beyond Swift Retort to the Relentless Rise of Pakistan's Air Power

Nations are not secured by rhetoric; they are secured by resolve. From the earliest days of Pakistan's statehood, the architects of its defence understood a stark truth: survival in a hostile neighbourhood demands mastery of the skies. It was not enough to possess aircraft; Pakistan required an air arm animated by conviction, sharpened by discipline and immune to coercion. The vision articulated by Muhammad Ali Jinnah was not poetic flourish—it was strategic foresight. An Air Force "Second to None" was not a slogan; it was an imperative. That imperative has shaped the institutional DNA of Pakistan Air Force. Over decades, it cultivated a culture where preparation is habitual and excellence is compulsory. Its officers, airmen and civilian staff were schooled to think beyond the immediate horizon, to anticipate rather than react, and to convert adversity into advantage. In this crucible of discipline, the modern PAF was forged.

This transformation was not theoretical. In May 2025, when confronted with renewed provocation, the PAF responded under unified command with a clarity that underscored its maturation. Multi Domain Operations unfolded with surgical precision. Adversarial assets were neutralized not in isolation but as part of a coordinated matrix of kinetic and non-kinetic effects. The response was calibrated yet decisive, reaffirming that deterrence remains credible only when it is demonstrably enforceable. What distinguishes the contemporary PAF is not merely its inventory but its intellectual capital. Technology, however advanced, is inert without mastery.

The lifeblood of air power remains training; rigorous, unforgiving and continuous. From basic flight instruction to high-end multinational exercises, PAF air warriors are conditioned to operate in complex, contested environments. They are trained to absorb ambiguity, to make split-second decisions under immense pressure and to execute with clinical accuracy. Education and innovation are no longer peripheral pursuits; they are strategic enablers. PAF Leadership Development programs cultivate commanders who are as comfortable with algorithms as they are with aerodynamics. Exposure to international best practices broadens horizons, while indigenous research grounds ambition in national capability. This synthesis of global insight and local ingenuity has ensured that PAF remains adaptive in an era defined by disruption.

Parallel to operational refinement runs a determined march toward self-reliance. For too long, developing nations have equated security with dependence. Pakistan has chosen a different path. Through a burgeoning aerospace ecosystem and expanding science & technology parks, the foundations of sustainable air power are being laid at home. Indigenous maintenance, avionics upgrades and system integrations are reducing vulnerabilities while strengthening strategic autonomy. Self-reliance is not isolation; it is resilience. By embedding innovation within national industry, PAF under the astute command of Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber is cultivating a virtuous cycle—military requirements stim-

ulate technological growth, which in turn enhances national capacity. The dividends extend beyond defence, invigorating sectors that underpin economic vitality and scientific advancement.

Seven years after Swift Retort, the security of Pakistan's skies rests not on chance but on determination of our Men & Women in Blues. PAF stands today as a fully integrated, Multi-Domain Force capable of shaping outcomes across the spectrum of conflict. Its doctrine is refined in peace, validated in crisis and informed by the unyielding pursuit of excellence. Deterrence, however, is a dialogue. It communicates through capability and credibility. PAF's recent operations have reiterated that Pakistan's sovereignty is neither negotiable nor vulnerable. PAF leadership has ensured that by development of its home grown Kill Chain any miscalculation by the adversary will encounter swift correction. The calculus for any adversary is therefore stark: escalation invites consequences that are immediate and proportionate. Air power is as much about spirit as it is about steel. Aircraft may patrol the skies, but it is conviction of our Shaheens that anchors them. Pakistan Air Force embodies a tradition where professionalism is sacred, preparation is perpetual and patriotism is instinctive. It has evolved from a force that answered challenges to one that shapes the strategic environment. From Operation Swift Retort to Marka e Haq and beyond, PAF's journey has been neither accidental nor easy. It has been earned through sacrifice, foresight and steadfast resolve. As regional dynamics grow increasingly complex, one reality endures: the guardians of Pakistan's skies remain vigilant, capable and unbowed. For a nation that values its sovereignty, that assurance is priceless.



Analysis

Izmi Herlani

The Prophetic Biography (Seerah): A Perfect Model of Mercy, Character, and Humanity

The blessed life of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is not only a guide for the Muslim world but a universal model for all humanity. Every aspect of his life reflects excellence in character, compassion, gentleness, and service to others. Allah granted him the highest rank of noble character and instilled all virtues of good conduct naturally within his personality. His mercy was not limited to any one group or nation; rather, it embraced all creation, benefiting humanity in every age and continuing to do so until the end of time.

The Prophet ﷺ always carried a pleasant and cheerful expression on his blessed face. He was gentle and kind in temperament never harsh-hearted or rough in speech. He did not raise his voice unnecessarily, nor did he criticize or expose the faults of others. Generosity, openness, and forgiveness were defining features of his character. He was extremely modest, even more modest than a veiled young woman. Whenever anyone asked him for something, he gave according to his ability. He treated children, women, and the weak with exceptional kindness and compassion.

His teachings on social relations were equally profound. He taught that praying for others in their absence brings reward, greeting others with a smile is charity, encouraging good and preventing wrong is charity, guiding the lost and removing harmful objects from the road is charity. He advised people to conceal others' faults, reconnect with those who break ties, given to those who withhold, and forgive those who behave badly. Such teachings form the foundation of a society built on love, tolerance, and mutual respect.

The Prophet ﷺ was perfect in both appearance and character. His companions compared his radiant face to the full moon. His presence was so engaging

that everyone felt personally addressed by him. He was gifted with concise yet comprehensive speech, expressing deep meanings in brief words. He taught that the most beloved deeds to God are those that bring happiness to others and that the most beloved person to God is the one most beneficial to His creation.

He declared service to humanity to be among the highest forms of worship. Relieving a believer's hardship, reconciling disputes between people, and responding to ignorance with patience are actions that raise a person's rank before God. He taught that all creation is God's family and that the most beloved to God is the one who benefits His family the most.

In summary, the life of the Prophet ﷺ is a complete lesson in mercy, character, service, and love. If humanity adopts his teachings in personal and social life, a peaceful, just, and compassionate society can be established. The Prophetic model stands as a shining beacon of guidance for all people, illuminating the path of righteousness until the end of time.

The life of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ teaches us powerful lessons about kindness, compassion, and good character. His example shows that true greatness lies in treating everyone with respect, helping those in need, and speaking gently with others. He cared deeply for children, the poor, the sick, and the weak, and encouraged people to forgive, give charity, and maintain strong family and social relationships. By following his model of patience, humility, and service to humanity, we learn how to become better individuals and build a peaceful and caring society. His life reminds us that small acts of kindness and sincerity can bring great positive change in our lives and in the lives of others.

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Analysis

Muhammad Asif

Chairman Senate Reaffirms Strategic Partnership with Turkmenistan; Calls for Deeper Parliamentary and Economic Engagement

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: His Excellency Chairman Senate of Pakistan, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, received His Excellency Atadjan Movlamov, Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Pakistan, during a call-on meeting at the Parliament House, Islamabad.

Welcoming the Ambassador, the Chairman Senate reaffirmed that Pakistan and Turkmenistan enjoy cordial and brotherly relations anchored in mutual respect, shared values, common history, culture, and a longstanding tradition of cooperation. He fondly recalled his official visit to Turkmenistan in May last year, during which he held productive meetings with the leadership of Turkmenistan, including President Serdar Berdimuhamedov. He noted that these engagements further strengthened mutual understanding and opened new avenues for bilateral collaboration.

Highlighting the historical foundations of bilateral ties, the Chairman Senate observed that Pakistan was among the first countries to recognize Turkmenistan's independence in 1991, with diplomatic relations formally established in May 1992. He reiterated Pakistan's consistent support for Turkmenistan's policy of permanent neutrality and recalled Pakistan's role

as co-sponsor of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution recognizing Turkmenistan's neutrality.

Referring to recent high-level engagements, the Chairman Senate highlighted the visits of Pakistan's President, Prime Minister, and Deputy Prime Minister to Turkmenistan, including the Prime Minister's participation in the United Nations International Forum of Peace and Trust in December 2025, commemorating the 30th Anniversary of Turkmenistan's Neutrality. On the sidelines of the Forum, the Prime Minister held a substantive bilateral meeting with President Serdar Berdimuhamedov, where both sides emphasized enhancing economic cooperation and expanding bilateral engagement. An invitation was also extended to the President of Turkmenistan to undertake an official visit to Pakistan in 2026. The Chairman Senate expressed confidence that the forthcoming visit would further strengthen bilateral ties and deepen people-to-people contacts.

Underscoring the strategic importance of Turkmenistan for Pakistan, Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani highlighted the vast potential for collaboration in energy, LPG, trade, and investment. He emphasized the significance of advancing regional connectivity, including railway linkages



and the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline project, as well as expanding economic cooperation through trade and investment opportunities. He also apprised the Ambassador of Pakistan's Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), which offers a one-window operation to facilitate foreign investment, and invited Turkmenistan to explore investment opportunities in IT, infrastructure, pharmaceuticals, and other priority sectors.

Highlighting the importance of parliamentary diplomacy, the Chairman Senate referred to the successful convening of the 1st Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC) in Islamabad under the theme "Peace, Security and Development." He underscored that the theme

remains highly relevant in the contemporary global context. Recalling his visit to Turkmenistan at the invitation of the Speaker of the Milli Majlis, he extended invitations to the President of Turkmenistan and the Speaker of the Milli Majlis to visit Pakistan, expressing confidence that such exchanges would further solidify bilateral relations. He also invited participation in the forthcoming ISC scheduled to be held in Cambodia.

The Chairman Senate further noted that Parliamentary Friendship Groups in both countries continue to serve as effective platforms for dialogue and legislative cooperation. Following the general elections in Pakistan in February 2024, new Parliamentary Friendship Groups with Turkmenistan were constituted in both Houses



of Parliament. He emphasized that regular exchanges of parliamentary delegations, joint meetings, and seminars are vital for strengthening mutual trust and promoting cooperation on regional and global issues.

The Ambassador of Turkmenistan appreciated Pakistan's continued support and reaffirmed his country's commitment to expanding cooperation across political, economic, cultural, and parliamentary domains. He expressed strong optimism regarding enhanced collaboration in energy and railway connectivity, transit trade,

and regional connectivity, including through Gwadar Port.

Concluding the meeting, the Chairman Senate reiterated that Pakistan attaches high importance to its friendly relations with Turkmenistan and remains committed to translating longstanding goodwill and institutional engagement into tangible and mutually beneficial outcomes for the peoples of both countries. He conveyed his best wishes to President Serdar Berdimuhamedov and the Speaker of the Milli Majlis, and expressed Pakistan's keen anticipation of their forthcoming visits.

Malaysia-Pakistan Bonds Highlighted During Embassy's Festive Iftar Gathering



Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The High Commissioner of Malaysia, Dato Azhar Mazlan, hosted an iftar dinner for friends, bringing together a distinguished gathering, including the heads of missions from ASEAN countries. Ambassadors of Thailand to Pakistan, Ambassador of Myanmar, Ambassador of Philippines, and Ambassador of Vietnam to Pakistan, former Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman of the Pakistan ASEAN Friendship Association, Zafar Bakhtawari

and media person attended the Iftar dinner.

On this occasion, guests were served a delightful mix of traditional Malaysian and Pakistan's cuisines, along with a variety of Iftar dishes.

The hosts warmly welcomed all the guest, exemplifying their traditional hospitality with grace and cordiality.

The Iftar dinner, hosted at the Malaysian Embassy in Islamabad by Malaysia's Ambassador to Pakistan, His Excellency Azhar bin Mazlan, was attended by distinguished personalities from different sectors.



Addressing the gathering, Ambassador Azhar bin Mazlan welcomed the guests and stated that their presence was a source of honor and great significance for the Embassy of Malaysia to receive you as guest in our annual Iftar dinner.

The Ambassador said that Muslims are bound together in a brotherhood, and the month of Ramadan teaches patience and consideration for others. Mutual harmony and unity, he noted, are among its core principles.

He further emphasized that Muslims followed one religion Islam, along with faith and culture.

Fasting, he said, instills discipline and serves as training that should be upheld throughout the year.

Malaysian envoy also referenced the saying of Pakistan's founder, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, "Faith, Unity, and Discipline," describing it as the spiritual foundation for the progress and prosperity of

any society.

The Ambassador stated that Malaysia and Pakistan are two brotherly Islamic countries that have enjoyed exemplary relations in various sectors since their independence.

He highlighted that economic and trade relations between Malaysia and Pakistan are progressing to new heights. The people of both countries share close bonds rooted in religion and a shared centuries-old history.

He added that it is now



the collective responsibility of all stakeholders to further strengthen bilateral relations and explore new avenues of cooperation, enhancing people-to-people connections between the two nations.

The Malaysian Ambassador noted that Pakistan, with a population of 250 million, holds

immense economic potential, and both countries can work together to further develop this potential.

He concluded by stating that Malaysia, as an important country in the ASEAN region, can play a significant role in strengthening Pakistan's economic integration with ASEAN.

OIC-COMSTECH Announces 70 Fellowships for Yemeni Scholars Under Phase III

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Coordinator General of OIC-COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary, along with H. E. Mohammed Motahar Alashabi, Ambassador of the Republic of Yemen, and H. E. Salimullah Taha, Ambassador of the Republic of Sudan to Pakistan, launched Phase III of the COMSTECH-CCoE Yemen Program at the COMSTECH Secretariat in collaboration with the Embassy of the Republic



of Yemen in Islamabad and CCoE member institutions.

Prof. Choudhary announced 70 fellowships for Yemeni scholars,

reaffirming COMSTECH's commitment to strengthening scientific capacity and promoting academic collaboration across the

OIC region. He highlighted that the initiative serves as a platform for scientific diplomacy, enabling Yemeni researchers to benefit from

advanced training and institutional partnerships.

H. E. Ambassador Alashabi expressed heartfelt appreciation to COMSTECH and the participating universities for their generous support, stating that the fellowships will significantly contribute to enhancing the professional capabilities of Yemeni scholars and supporting Yemen's higher education sector.

The ceremony was attended by heads and representatives of leading institutions including

the University of Lahore; University of Management and Technology; Nur International University; Khawaja Fareed University of Engineering and Information Technology; International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences; Kohsar University Murree; National University of Sciences and Technology; Riphah International University; Fatima Jinnah Women University; University of Swat; Bahria University; National University of Technology (NUTECH);

Ibadat International University; COMSATS University Islamabad; Iqra University; Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi; and Pak-Austria Fachhochschule Institute of Applied Sciences and Technology (PAF-IAST).

On the occasion, the university leadership assured their full cooperation in the effective implementation of Phase III of the program, reiterating their commitment to facilitating Yemeni scholars and strengthening academic linkages under this important initiative.

Roots International: The Only School in Pakistan Achieving 1,400+ Cambridge Climate Quest Certifications

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Roots International Education Network has set an unprecedented milestone, becoming the "only school in Pakistan" to have over 1,400 students successfully complete the Cambridge Climate Quest Certification, a globally recognised climate literacy programme developed by Cambridge University Press

& Assessment in collaboration with Cambridge Zero. This remarkable achievement highlights the school's commitment to climate education, global citizenship, and nurturing future changemakers.

The Prize Distribution Ceremony was honoured by the presence of distinguished national and international leaders, including:

* Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani -

Chairman Senate of Pakistan
* Uzma Yusuf - Country Director, Cambridge Examination
* Usman Shaukat - President, RCCI
* Sheikh Atif Ikram - President, FPCCI
* Syeda Amnah Batool - Member National Assembly & Focal Person, Prime Minister's Youth Programme
* Misbah Khar - Member Senate of Pakistan

* Sarabjit Singh - Second Secretary, Climate & Economic Affairs British High Commission
Walid Mushtaq, CEO of Roots International Education Network, highlighted that empowering students with globally recognised climate certification demonstrates the school's dedication to developing informed, responsible, and action-oriented leaders for the future.



Roots International continues to stand at the forefront of

educational innovation in Pakistan, inspiring young learners

to lead meaningful change on a global scale

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
164,626.29	166,258.54
Day's High	Day's Low
168,191.64	164,229.36
Index Value	Change
25,226,314,251	-1632.25
Percentage	Time
-3.0.98%	25 Feb, 2026 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
10,806.41	+ 125.82
Percentage	Time
+ 1.18%	25 Feb, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
49,440.15	+ 265.65
Percentage	Time
+0.54%	25 Feb, 12:35 pm GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
58,583.12	+ 1,262.03
Percentage	Time
+ 2.20%	25 Feb, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	197.40	201.05
Bahrain Dinar	742.02	751.52
Canadian Dollar	203.40	206.90
China Yuan	38.25	39.30
Danish Krone	43.32	43.72
Euro	329.92	334.44
Hong Kong Dollar	35.29	36.16
Indian Rupee	2.8	3.25
Japanese Yen	1.7803	1.8800
Kuwaiti Dinar	905.68	915.12
Malaysian Ringgit	66.50	68.45
New Zealand \$	165.33	168
Norwegians Krone	27.61	27.91
Omani Riyal	726.76	736.26
Qatari Riyal	76.07	77.75
Saudi Riyal	74.75	75.5
Singapore Dollar	219.28	223.22
Swedish Korona	30.1	30.4
Swiss Franc	358.42	362.85
Thai Bhat	8.5	8.65
U.A.E Dirham	76.3	77.3
UK Pound Sterling	378.06	382.32
US Dollar	280.40	282.30

One Punjab, One Standard, One Design

CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif to introduce global infrastructure & design standards in Punjab

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif chaired a special meeting to have a detailed briefing on standardization of infrastructure in the province. She emphasised on the need to implement uniformity and global standards in construction, for the first time in Punjab. She said that the essence of progress and standardization of quality lies in ending construction disorder; and added that buildings will remain, but their identity will be new, as Punjab's infrastructure will not be marked by scattered constructions but by uniform development. She directed the authorities concerned to adopt 'One Punjab, One Standard' policy for uniform development and discipline in the province.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said



that Punjab's roads, schools, hospitals, and bus stops will now become ambassadors of 'Brand Punjab,' as now, in every city, every street, and every highway of Punjab, a single wave of discipline and aesthetic beauty will be visible.

Chief Minister Punjab highlighted that a decision has been taken to construct uniform roads, green belts, signboards, and footpaths across the province, besides setting a uniform design for kiosks/small shops on roadsides. She added that discipline is the true beauty of progress, and vowed that from Lahore to Rajanpur, every street will be neat, every highway will be beautiful, and every institution will be a masterpiece of order and discipline. She flashed that uniform design of infrastructure and road furniture makes a city aesthetically attractive.

Hard Work

ISLAMABAD: Workers of local administration are repairing the streets lights at Sector G-8 in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

President FPCCI Expresses Concern Over Proposed Legislation to Amend Trade Organization Rules

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Atif Ikram Sheikh, President Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), has expressed grave concern over the proposed legislation to amend the Trade Organization Rules, stating that it has sent shockwaves through the business community nationwide.

In a statement, He said that the business community has serious reservations about the Trade Organization Rules 2013 Amendment Bill.

"The business environment is already shaky due to internal and external trade barriers and pressures. Chambers of Commerce are the last resort for the business community to raise their voice. The proposed legislation will eliminate district-level chambers, destroy institutional structures, and devastate district economies.

President FPCCI emphasized that district chambers play a vital role in shaping local economies and contrib-



uting to the country's economic growth. "Any restriction on trade organizations could exclude export-oriented businesses from representation. The amendment will demoralize the business community and discourage SMEs and women-led businesses."

He urged the parliament to reject

the bill and allow district chambers to continue their operations. "This move will have far-reaching consequences for the economy and the business community. We request the authorities to reconsider the proposed legislation and ensure that the district chambers are allowed to function effectively."

Saquib Fayyaz Magoon Raises Alarm Over Proposed Amendments to Trade Organization Rules

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, Senior Vice President of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) and Chairman of BMP-Progressive (BMPP), has expressed serious concern over the bill tabled in the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Commerce seeking amendments to the Trade Organization Rules (TORs) 2013. He cautioned that any abrupt changes to the existing framework could result in the closure of numerous representative trade bodies across the country.

In a statement, Saquib Fayyaz Magoon stated that the proposed move has



created uncertainty within the business community at a time when the economic environment is already under pressure due to domestic and external challenges. "Chambers of Commerce and Industry are the principal platforms through which the business community collectively raises its concerns and contributes to policy advocacy," he said.

NAB Achieves Major Breakthrough with Recovery of Illegally Occupied Railway Land



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Karachi has marked a significant victory in its mission to protect state assets by successfully retrieving 43.11 acres of prime land belonging to Pakistan Railways. The recovered property, situated at Survey Numbers 48, 49, 50, and 51 in Deh Khanto, Juma Goth, Karachi is valued Rs. 9,671 million.

The recovery is the culmination of a persistent investigative process that originally began on July 13, 2019. Initial allegations suggested that government land had been encroached upon by private textile mills. Although the inquiry was temporarily closed following a Supreme Court decision, it was formally rescheduled in 2025 at the request of Pakistan Railways. The renewed investigation was specifically focused on officials from the Railway and Revenue Departments and others, involved in ongoing encroachment.

While Pakistan Railways held the stance that possession had been secured in 2021 pursuant to the Honorable Supreme Court's orders, NAB's investigative findings revealed that private textile mills remained in actual possession of the site. Through the dedicated efforts of NAB officers, the inquiry was finalized, leading to the successful retrieval of the land. The 43.11 acres have now been officially acknowledged and handed back to the physical possession of Pakistan Railways.

This retrieval represents a major success story for the Bureau, showcasing the devotion and excellence of its officers in fulfilling their official obligations. By restoring high-value state land to the public sector, NAB has further strengthened its integrity and image as a frontline institution in the fight against the illegal occupation of government property.

Mega Motor Company Signs Financing Deal with British International Investment for Pakistan

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Mega Motor Company (Private) Limited (MMC), official partner of BYD in Pakistan, has signed a financing agreement with British International Investment (BII), the UK's development finance institution and impact investor, to support the establishment of Pakistan's first purpose-built large-scale NEV manufacturing plant.

Under the agreement, BII will provide long-term foreign currency financing, accounting for 25 percent of the total project cost, to be invested

in MMC's state-of-the-art, purpose-built NEV manufacturing facility. Scheduled to go live in H2 2026, the plant will deploy cutting-edge automation and world-class manufacturing systems, benchmarked against leading global automotive standards. The agreement is among the earliest green energy-linked funding arrangements for Pakistan's automotive manufacturing sector and is expected to play a pivotal role in expanding access to affordable clean transport.

Aly Khan, CEO of Mega Motor Company (MMC), said, "Pakistan stands at a crit-

ical inflection point, where clean mobility is integral to achieving the country's long-term economic and energy objectives. Through this collaboration, MMC is leading that transition laying the foundations of a globally competitive NEV ecosystem for the country.

Stephen Priestley, Managing Director and Head of Financial Services Group, and Industries, Technology and Services, at British International Investment said, "This investment aligns with our priority on supporting sustainable industrial transformation and climate action.

TECNO Spark Go 3 Launched in Pakistan



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: TECNO Mobile has officially launched the Spark Go 3 in Pakistan, designed specifically for the youth. The smartphone delivers 4-Year Lag-Free Performance, durable build, and a bold, modern design at an accessible price.

The device is available in four striking colors — Ink Black, Titanium Grey, Aurora Purple, and Galaxy Blue — reflecting individuality and youthful energy. It features a 5000mAh battery with 15W fast charging, 4GB + 4GB

Extended RAM, and 128GB storage for smooth multi-tasking and ample space.

A 120Hz display ensures ultra-smooth scrolling, while IP64 water and dust resistance and 1.2m drop protection offer reliable durability. Powered by TECNO AI, Spark Go 3 also includes Free Link with Flash Call for low-signal areas and a built-in IR remote for home appliances.

The phone is available nationwide at PKR 29,999, PTA-approved, and comes with a 12+1 month official warranty.



TIKA continues Ramadan solidarity with families across Pakistan

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA), as part of its 2026 Ramadan initiatives, has successfully implemented a nationwide food assistance programme to support families in need across Pakistan, in collaboration with public institutions and civil society partners.

The initiative was carried out in partnership with Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal, AJK Zakat Department, Ghazali Education Trust, Al Mustafa Welfare Society, Shah Jahan Mosque Community, and Idara Al Khair Welfare Society. The programme reached vulnerable communities in Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Mardan, Muzaffarabad, Haveli Kahuta, Lahore, Multan, Hyderabad, Thatta, and various districts of Karachi, as well as Lasbela and Hub (Uthal) in Balochistan. Under this programme, food packages were distributed to approximately 3,700 households nationwide.

A distribution ceremony in Islamabad was held on February 25, 2026, in cooperation with Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal. The event was attended by H.



E. Irfan Neziroğlu, Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to Pakistan, and Ms. Saliha Tuna, Programme Coordi-



nator of TIKA Islamabad.

During the visit, Ambassador Neziroğlu engaged with beneficiary families, extended Ramadan greetings, and shared warm interactions with mothers and children.

Through this initiative, TIKA reaffirms its commitment to supporting communities during the holy month of

Ramadan, while further strengthening the enduring friendship and people-to-people ties between Türkiye and Pakistan.

The programme reflects the true spirit of Ramadan—solidarity, compassion, and brotherhood—bringing communities together and fostering hope among those in need.

Pakistani visitors to the UK can now use eVisas

Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

LONDON: Those travelling to the UK, including tourists, can now use a new eVisa system, receiving confirmation by email rather than stickers in passports.

Visitors will continue to submit their applications online and attend a visa application centre to provide biometrics. Successful applicants will have a digital record of their immigration status provided through an eVisa, accessible through an online UK Visas and Immigration account. It means applicants no longer need to attend a visa application centre a second time to collect their passport, instead holding on to it after their biometrics session.

eVisas provide a more secure way to manage immigration status and reduce the risk of lost or damaged documents. Applicants can generate a share code to prove their visa status at borders and elsewhere. There is no change to visa processing times, eligibility criteria or

conditions.

British High Commissioner, Jane Marriott CMG OBE, said "This is a hugely exciting step for Pakistanis visiting the UK for tourism, visiting loved ones, or business meetings, that removes a big step from the application process. As well as being able to save time by holding on to your passport, the new share code system makes it easier than ever to demonstrate your visa status."

UK visa applicants are strongly discouraged from using visa agents. Applicants should apply directly on gov.uk, the only source for trusted information.

Last year eVisas were successfully rolled out for students and those on work visas. Thousands of people across the globe have already used them at UK airports. Existing sticker visas are unaffected by today's changes.

Further guidance is available at www.gov.uk/eVisa.



Workshop & Training Camp at Public School Hyderabad Organized by Pakistan Council for Sports and Education

Sports Desk

HYDERABAD: The Pakistan Council for Sports and Education (PCSE) successfully organized a Workshop and Training Camp of Minifootball and football at Public School Hyderabad for nearly 200 boys and girls. The camp was conducted by qualified coaches and national team players under the leadership of President PCSE, Syed Asrar-ul-Hassan Abidi.

Inspiring Words by Principal Mr. Iqbal Memon

Principal Mr. Iqbal Memon warmly welcomed the council and expressed heartfelt gratitude for selecting PSH as the venue for this prestigious activity. In his motivational address, he said:

"We are truly thankful to PCSE for choosing Public School Hyderabad for this wonderful initiative. Our students are full of natural talent, passion, and determination. They only need proper guidance and opportunity to shine.

I firmly believe that the youth of our school have the potential to represent



Pakistan at national and international levels. This training camp has opened a new door of confidence and hope for our students.

Talent exists in every classroom and on every playground of this institution.

With platforms like this, our students can transform their dreams into achievements and bring pride to their parents, teachers, and the entire nation. We deeply appreciate PCSE for recognizing our talent and trusting our institution."

President PCSE Syed Asrar-ul-Hassan Abidi also thanked the Principal and school management for providing excellent facilities and cooperation. He emphasized that PCSE is committed to promoting physical and educational activities across Pakistan on a free-of-cost basis to ensure no talented child is left behind.

The coaching team included Mr. Farhan Ahmed, Mr. Asif Ayan, Mr. Ather Hussain, Ms. Alisha Shahzad, Mr. Sajid Ali, Mr. Shayan, Mr. Mozzam, and Mr. Bashir.

PSH sports coaches Mr. Muhammad Ali Kamrani, Mr. Mohsin, Ms. Sanam Bloch, and Ms. Arham actively participated, while Sports Coordinator Mr. Rehan remained present throughout the session.

The young athletes demonstrated remarkable energy, discipline, and enthusiasm, making the workshop and training camp a memorable and inspiring event for the future sports stars of Pakistan.

PM Keir Starmer Expresses Concern Over Manchester Central Mosque Incident, Announces £40m Security Funding

Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

LONDON: Keir Starmer has expressed deep concern following an incident at Manchester Central Mosque, describing the development as worrying, particularly for Muslim communities during the holy month of Ramadan.

In a statement the Prime Minister said he was concerned to hear about the incident that took place at the mosque last night. He acknowledged that such events are especially distressing during Ramadan — a time of peace, reflection, and community gathering for Muslims across the UK and around the world.

Sir Keir extended his gratitude to volunteers and emergency services for their swift response, praising their professionalism and rapid action in ensuring safety at the scene.

Highlighting the government's commitment to protecting places of worship, the Prime Minister stated that up to £40 million has been allocated to strengthen security at mosques, Muslim schools, and community centres. The funding aims to enhance protective measures and provide reassurance to communities amid growing concerns over safety.

He reaffirmed that the government will continue to take action to ensure that all communities are able to live and practice their faith without fear. The incident has sparked wider discussions about the safety of religious institutions and the importance of community cohesion, particularly during significant religious periods such as Ramadan. Authorities are expected to provide further updates as investigations continue.

Afzal Khan MP Condemns Armed Incident at Manchester Central Mosque

Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

MANCHESTER: Afzal Khan has strongly condemned the incident at Manchester Central Mosque, where two individuals reportedly entered the mosque carrying weapons.

In a public statement, the MP said he was "deeply concerned" about the incident that occurred last night. He confirmed that thankfully no one was injured and that Greater Manchester Police have arrested one of the suspects in connection with the matter.

Mr Khan stated that he is in direct contact with the mosque leadership, the Mayor of Greater Manchester, and the Prime Minister to discuss the situation and ensure appropriate action is taken.

He also pointed out that earlier this week, additional funding had been announced by the Chancellor and the Home Secretary to enhance security at mosques. According to him, the latest incident highlights why such funding is essential to protect places of worship and reassure Muslim communities.

Describing the attack as a result of far-right rhetoric targeting Muslims, Afzal Khan said, "This is Islamophobia, plain and simple," calling for unity and stronger measures to safeguard communities from hate-driven incidents.

Authorities continue to investigate the case as community leaders urge calm and solidarity during Ramadan.



ICC Men's T-20 Cricket World Cup Super Eight Match

Asim Tanveer

COLOMBO: Lanka lost to New Zealand by 61 runs in a do-or-die match and were eliminated from the World Cup semi-finals, while Pakistan's chances of reaching the semi-finals further diminished.

In this match played in Colombo, Sri Lanka won the toss and invited New Zealand to bat, which put a total of 168 on the board.

New Zealand started the innings in a smoky manner, but in the middle, Sri Lanka controlled New Zealand and lost them by 6 wickets for 86 runs.

However, for the seventh wicket, captain Mitchell Santner and Cole McConaughey made a lightning-fast partnership of 84 runs off 48 balls, taking the team



to a total of 168 runs for 7 wickets.

Mitchell Santner was the top scorer for New Zealand with 47 runs. McConchie remained unbeaten on 31. Rathan Ravindra scored 32, Finn Allen scored 23 and Glenn Phillips scored 18.

For Sri Lanka, Mahesh Theekshana and Dashmantha Chimera

took three wickets each, while Danath Welalaghe took one wicket.

Sri Lankan batting: Chasing a mountain-like target on a turning wicket, the Sri Lankan batsmen failed to make any progress, with their opening 4 batsmen falling for 29 runs in

the 9th over.

Patham Nissanka was dismissed for 0, Kaushal Mendis for 11, Charith Asalanka for 5 and Pawan Rattanaik for 10.

Shanaka and Kamandu Mendis made 16 runs for the fifth wicket, but Shanaka was also dismissed for a total of 46.

Sri Lanka scored 13 runs for the sixth wicket, but Hemantha was also caught at 59, while a partnership of 18 runs was made for the seventh wicket, but Sri Lanka's last hope, Kamandu Mendis, also returned to the pavilion at a total of 77, scoring 31 runs.

Sri Lanka's eighth wicket fell for 105 runs when Villalaghe returned to the pavilion after scoring 29 runs.

Sri Lanka could score 107 runs for the loss of 8 wickets in the stip-



ulated 20 overs.

Part-timer Rathan Ravindra from New Zealand took 4 wickets, Matt Henry took two, while Glenn Phillips and Mitchell Santner took one wicket each.

Sri Lanka out, Pakistan's problems also increased

This match of Super Eight

Now how can Pakistan play the semi-final?

For this match, a change was made in the Sri Lankan team where the experienced Charith Asalanka was included in the team in place of Kamil Mishra.

Sri Lanka had captain Dasan Shanaka, Patham Nissanka, Kaushal Mendis, Charith Asalanka, Pawan Rattanayake, Kamandu Mendis, Danath Vilalage, Dushan Hemantha, Dushmantha Chimera, Mahesh Theekshana, Dilshan Madushanka.

The New Zealand team consisted of captain Mitchell Santner, Tim Seifert, Finn Allen, Rathan Ravindra, Glenn Phillips, Mark Chapman, Daryl Mitchell, Cole McConaughey, Matt Henry, Ish Sodhi and Lockie Ferguson.

Pakistan Governance Forum 2026

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, addressed the Pakistan Governance Forum 2026 on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

Dar says Pakistan prepared for shifting global order, reaffirms stance on Kashmir & Gaza

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Wednesday said Islamabad was fully prepared to navigate a rapidly transforming international order, while reaffirming its positions on Jammu and Kashmir, Gaza and regional security.

Addressing the inaugural session of the Pakistan

Governance Forum 2026, Dar said the global system established after the Second World War was "in flux", with norms, institutions and alliances undergoing rapid change.

"The emerging trends are multi-polarity, mini-lateralism and mounting geopolitical contestation," he said, adding that Pakistan's foreign policy was equipped to respond to the new realities. He said Pakistan's fore-

most priority remained the security of its people and the protection of its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

DPM Dar said persistent provocations from Pakistan's eastern neighbour, referring to tensions with India, and terrorism emanating from across its western border had not diminished Islamabad's commitment to peace and dialogue. He described the unresolved dispute over Jammu and Kashmir as being

at the heart of regional instability.

Pakistan, he said, continued to call for a just and peaceful resolution of the dispute in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolutions and the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination. He reiterated Islamabad's demand for the reversal of India's measures of August 5, 2019, regarding Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Turning to major power relations, Dar said Pakistan's "all-weather" partnership with China was deepening through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) 2.0 and sustained strategic dialogue. He noted that during his meeting in Beijing in January with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, both sides reaffirmed convergence on Afghanistan, Jammu and Kashmir, water security and counter-terrorism.

PM Shehbaz assures full federal support for Sindh projects in meeting with Murad Ali Shah

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday assured complete federal cooperation for the timely completion of development projects in Sindh during a meeting here with Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah.

The chief minister briefed the prime minister in detail on the progress of ongoing development initiatives in the province, a Prime Minister's Office news release said.

The prime minister said the federal government would extend all possible support to ensure early completion of projects in Sindh. He directed the relevant ministries to maintain close coordination with the provincial government to accelerate public welfare initiatives.

PM Shehbaz Sharif Appreciating Sindh's leadership as



a key partner in the coalition government, the prime minister said strong coordination between the federation and provinces would

strengthen the democratic system and help address public issues effectively.

Matters relating to Sindh's political situation and other

issues of mutual interest also came under discussion.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Federal Ministers

Azam Nazeer Tarar and Ahsan Iqbal, and Adviser to the Prime Minister Rana Sanaullah were also present at the meeting.

Moscow-Islamabad Media Forum Set for February 2026 Ahead of Sharif's Visit

News Desk

MOSCOW: The Moscow-Islamabad Media Forum will be held on February 27, 2026, to coincide with the official visit of the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, H. E. Shehbaz Sharif, to Moscow, scheduled for the first week of March 2026.

The forum will serve as a platform for journalists, political experts, and diplomats from Pakistan and Russia to discuss the current state of bilateral relations, explore future opportunities, and analyze how the Russia-Pakistan partnership impacts global politics, the economy, and the media landscape today.

Fitna al-Hindustan blamed for latest terrorist attacks in Balochistan

News Desk

QUETTA: The Balochistan Assembly session began 20 minutes late on Wednesday under the chairmanship of Speaker Abdul Khalique Achakzai, with lawmakers strongly condemning a recent terrorist attack in Turbat that claimed the lives of women and children.

During the session, Provincial Minister Zahoor Buledi informed the House that terrorists had attacked a house in Turbat, martyring women and children. He termed the incident highly condemnable and called for a resolution against the attack.

Chief Minister Sarfaraz



Bugti also denounced the attack, stating that the targeting of a family was an inhumane act. He assured lawmakers that terrorists involved in this incident would

be brought to justice and announced that compensation would be provided to the affected family.

The assembly offered Fateha for the martyrs of Turbat and

Chaman. A joint condemnation resolution against the attack in Buledi was presented by Zahoor Buledi and unanimously passed by the House.

Speaking on the floor, Buledi said that Fitna al-Hindustan was involved in the incident and urged the federal government to take action. He claimed that India had increased funding to its proscribed organisations and said countries supporting terrorists, including India and Afghanistan, should be exposed. He stressed that unless political parties, civil society and people from all schools of thought unite in condemnation, such incidents would continue.

Pakistan turns from default risk to global case study, targets \$1tr economy by 2035: Ahsan



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday said Pakistan's economic turnaround over the past two years has drawn global attention, with major international financial institutions presenting the country's recovery as a model case study.

"In the last two years, the incumbent government has steered Pakistan, which was on the brink of bankruptcy, to a position where, through governance and reforms, every major international financial institution is now presenting Pakistan's economic transformation as a case study," the minister told APP on the sidelines of the Pakistan Governance Forum-2026, themed "Reimagining Governance for URAAN Pakistan."

He said the forum was convened to align all stakeholders, federal and provincial governments, ministries, departments and the private sector, around actionable reforms under the Uraan Pakistan agenda to achieve a \$1 trillion economy by 2035.

"Well, the purpose of the Pakistan Governance Forum is to create alignment so we can collectively work towards our economic goals, implement the 5Es framework, Equity,

Exports, Energy, Environment, E-Pakistan, achieve exports over \$100 billion, transform Pakistan into a technology-led economy, embrace AI, and address climate, energy and social challenges," he said.

Ahsan Iqbal stressed that infrastructure alone could not drive growth. "The best hardware is useless without software. Buildings and roads have little value if we do not invest in the skills, health and capacity of our people," he said, underlining the centrality of human capital.

The planning minister warned that Pakistan faced two paths: "If we continue with business as usual, Pakistan may at best become a \$600 billion economy by 2035. But with transformational reforms and positive national synergy, we can achieve the \$1 trillion target. The difference between these outcomes is the coefficient of governance."

Highlighting key challenges, he cited the 2.55 percent population growth, 40 percent child stunting, nearly 25 million out-of-school children and a tax-to-GDP ratio of just 10 percent.

"Until we address education, health, population planning and stunting, we cannot compete with the rest of the world. Exports are the lifeline of our future, and without achieving the targeted scale, we cannot ensure economic sovereignty," he said.

The planning minister said the forum also gave the private sector a platform to raise issues directly with policymakers, enabling evidence-based solutions to accelerate reforms.

AJK PM Rathore Chairs Key Meeting on Essential Commodities Supply and Quality Control



Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: A high-level meeting chaired by Prime Minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore reviewed the overall performance of the AJK Food Department and arrangements being made for the provision of essential commodities.

During the meeting, prime minister was given a comprehensive briefing on flour stocks, supply chain management, district-level distribution, quota allocation to flour mills, and quality control mechanisms.

The meeting also reviewed progress on establishing a static food laboratory and improving food standards in line with directives of the Supreme Court of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing the meeting Prime Minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore emphasised on strict implementation of court orders, zero tolerance for artificial shortages, hoarding, profi-

teering, or substandard items. He also stressed on 24/7 market monitoring to ensure stable prices and uninterrupted supply of quality essential goods.

The Prime Minister directed that the court's orders be implemented in letter and spirit and that an effective monitoring system be put in place. The Prime Minister made it clear that no disruption or any artificial shortage in flour supply would be tolerated.

He ordered indiscriminate action against hoarders, profiteers, and the sale of substandard food items. The meeting was attended by the Senior Minister Mian Abdul Waheed, Minister for Finance and Inland Revenue Chaudhry Qasim Majeed, Minister for Food Chaudhry Javed Iqbal Budhanvi, Principal Secretary Zafar Mahmood, Director General Food Department Masood ur Rehman, Secretary Food Sardar Suhail Azam and others.

LHC questions Indian citizen's authority to appoint attorney in Pakistan

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court heard preliminary objections in a petition filed by Indian citizen Karnail Singh challenging the nikah of his wife Sarbjit Kaur in Pakistan. The court sought arguments on the legal point of how a foreign national can appoint an attorney within Pakistan under local laws.

Justice Farooq Haider presided over the hearing. Advocates Nawaz Sheikh and Ali Changezi Sindhu appeared on behalf of the petitioner.

Counsel submitted that Karnail Singh had appointed former MPA Mahinder Pal Singh as his representative to file the petition.

According to the plea, Sarbjit Kaur had arrived in Pakistan on November 3, 2025, on a 10-day

pilgrimage visa.

The petition alleged that the woman was blackmailed through objectionable photographs and forcibly converted to Islam before contracting marriage.

It further argued that under the Hindu Marriage Act, a change of religion does not automatically dissolve a prior marriage.

LHC constitutes full bench to hear property ownership ordinance case

The registrar's office had raised an objection, stating that the Special Power of Attorney had not been verified by the Foreign Office.

During the hearing, the court questioned how an Indian citizen could legally appoint an attorney in Pakistan and directed the petitioner's counsel to present arguments strictly under Pakistani law.