



# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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## Misinformation biggest challenge of present era, says Attaullah Tarar

Federal Information Minister Attaullah Tarar Monday said misinformation has emerged as the most serious challenge of the present era, stressing that the government alone cannot effectively counter it without the collective role of media, educational institutions and civil society.



## Pakistani students stranded in Afghanistan allowed to return home via Torkham

The return process began today at the Torkham border in Landi Kotal, where 28 Pakistani students crossed into Pakistan. Authorities said special arrangements have been made to facilitate the students' return.

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## Meeting

RAWALPINDI: Indonesian Defence Minister Lieutenant General Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin (Retd) and COAS & CDF Field Marshal Asim Munir meet at the General Headquarters.



Photo: ISPR

## Indonesian Defence Minister meets Field Marshal Asim Munir to boost bilateral ties

Naveed Ahmad Khan

RAWALPINDI: Lieutenant General Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin (Retd), Minister of Defence of the Republic of Indonesia, called on Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, COAS & CDF, at General Headquarters (GHQ), Rawalpindi.

The meeting focused on matters of mutual interest, evolving regional and global security dynamics, and exploration of avenues for enhancing bilateral defence cooperation. Both sides underscored the importance of strengthening institutional linkages,

training collaboration, and defence industrial cooperation between Pakistan and Indonesia.

The visiting dignitary lauded professionalism of Pakistan Armed Forces and acknowledged their sacrifices in the fight against terrorism. He also expressed Indonesia's desire to further expand defence ties with Pakistan across multiple domains.

The COAS & CDF reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to fostering strong and enduring defence relationship with Indonesia, based on shared values, mutual respect, and convergence of strategic interests.

## Six police personnel martyred in Tank blast

Syed Tauqeer Zaidi

TANK: At least six police personnel were martyred in a blast near their vehicle in the Tank district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Monday.

The incident, which again raised concerns about the deteriorating security conditions in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, took place within the limits of Gomal police station.

The additional SHO of Gomal police station was among those martyred, while three law enforcers sustained injuries.

Those martyred were identified as SHO Ishaq Khan, Sub-Inspector Aslam Khan, driver Abdul Majeed, and Elite Force personnel Arshad Ali, Hazrat Ali and Ehsanullah.

According to police officials, the blast occurred while the police vehicle was on routine patrol.

The injured personnel were immediately shifted to a nearby hospital, where the condition of some was

reported to be critical. In a separate incident, security forces were also targeted in Lakki Marwat.

An improvised explosive device (IED) blast took place near a bridge at Darra Tang within the jurisdiction of the Saddar police station.

Police said the explosive material had been planted near the bridge, injuring SHO Saddar police station Raziq Khan and two other police personnel.

Officials added that the district police officer (DPO) of Lakki Marwat was scheduled to pass through the same route for an inspection of police checkpoints.

A day earlier, an advocate had also been abducted by unidentified armed men from the same area, creating fear and panic among area residents.



## PM directs for setting new targets for technical, vocational training programmes

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday expressing satisfaction over recent performance of National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTC), directed to set new targets for technical and vocational training programmes to further improve outcomes in future and ensure implementation of the Apprenticeship Law.

The prime minister was

chairing a review meeting on the newly introduced vocational training ecosystem in the country, during which ongoing training programmes under the NAVTC were reviewed in detail.

The prime minister said that providing international certifications to Pakistani manpower to enhance global competitiveness was a welcome development.

He added that, by the grace of Allah, positive results of technical and vocational training programmes under NAVTC

were now emerging.

He directed that a biometric attendance system be implemented for trainees and instructors in all NAVTC partner training institutions.

Emphasising coordination with provincial institutions, the prime minister instructed that NAVTC programmes be expanded to provide training to a larger workforce across the country.

While presenting statistics, it was informed that over the past

year, 146,000 individuals received training through NAVTC, while more than 15,000 were awarded international certifications. Through the Takmeel initiative, over 300,000 individuals received training, and more than 280,000 people secured employment in Saudi Arabia through this system. Moreover, after evaluation of more than 350 institutions, NAVTC granted them licences to provide internationally recognised training.

The meeting was also told

that, in addition to launching a pilot project for industry-specific vocational training for over 10,000 individuals, 2,600 new institutions had been registered. It was explained that payments to training providers were made on the basis of results. Briefings were also given regarding Google, Microsoft, and other international certification bodies.

The meeting was informed that all targets assigned to NAVTC by the prime minister had been achieved.

## Fazl criticises media's role, questions democratic system

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Monday criticised the role of media and the prevailing political system, saying that negative and unverified information spreads rapidly, contrary to the teachings of Islam.

Addressing the Provincial Digital Media Convention organised by JUI Punjab in Lahore, Fazl said that in political life the basic question has always been

that Muslims live in an Islamic state, yet media priorities and practices are often against Shariah. He said negative content spreads much faster on social media than positive messages, adding that disrespect, insults and ridicule go viral while good things are ignored.

He regretted that even respected scholars who teach for hours can be mocked worldwide if a casual remark goes viral. He said religion teaches people to hide the flaws of others, but

the situation in media and politics is completely different, where negative news is spread across the world without verification.

The JUI chief said that secret agencies also engage in such practices, alleging that when someone speaks against them, files are created to find faults. He stressed that any information should be properly investigated before being shared and criticised the culture of creating fake news to assassinate character or mock individuals.



## Defence Minister Khawaja Asif arrives in Morocco on two-day official visit

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif has arrived in Morocco on a two-day official visit, where he was warmly received by Moroccan military officials and senior government representatives.

Khawaja Asif reached Casablanca for his official visit from January 12 to 14, 2026. Upon his arrival at the airport, he was welcomed by Major General Ahmed Hatoutou, Commander of the Casablanca Army, senior Moroccan officials, and Pakistan's Ambassador to Morocco,



Syed Adil Gilani.

An official statement said that during the visit, Pakistan and Morocco will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote defence cooperation.

This agreement is being described as a significant step toward strengthening bilateral defence relations between the two countries.

The defence minister is scheduled to meet Morocco's Minister Delegate for National Defence Administration, Abdelatif Loudyi. He will also lead delegation-level talks aimed at

enhancing cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

The statement added that the signing of the MoU marks a historic and mutually beneficial development in Pakistan-Morocco defence ties. Under the agreement, an institutional framework will be established to ensure sustained defence engagement.

It will also open new avenues for future collaboration in various defence and security sectors, including military training, exchange of expertise, capacity building, and other joint initiatives.

## Uzbek and Kazakh presidents to visit Pakistan in February



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Amid a sharp progress in Pakistan-Central Asian relations, the presidents of two important countries will visit Pakistan in the first week of February, according to the Foreign Office spokesperson.

Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev will visit Paki-

stan, and important agreements will be signed with the two Central Asian countries.

Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart will inaugurate a chess centre at the Sports Complex in Islamabad during his visit.

Uzbek President Mirziyoyev will hold talks on strengthening regional ties, and Uzbekistan and Pakistan will take forward the railway line project.

# Rathore meets JI Chief, discusses Kashmir prisoners and local governance issues

**Bureau Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Faisal Mumtaz Rathore has expressed his serious concern over the plight of Kashmiri prisoners languishing in Indian jails, warning that their lives are under grave threat. He expressed these views while speaking to Dr. Muhammad Mushtaq Khan, Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan, who called on him here today. "The lives of Kashmiri leaders and pro-freedom activists, including Yasin Malik, who have been booked under draconian laws and left to rot in far-off Indian jails, are facing serious threats," the Prime Minister said.

He also expressed his desire to visit the central office of Jamaat-e-Islami in the near future. On the occasion, Dr. Muhammad Mushtaq Khan congratulated the Prime Minister on assuming office and extended



his best wishes. He highlighted the importance of Azad Kashmir as the base camp of the Kashmir freedom movement, stressing that peace and stability in the liberated territory were essential for strengthening the struggle. Dr. Khan called for the early completion of the Public Service Commission to provide employment to unemployed youth on merit and

urged the appointment of the Election Commission to ensure a transparent electoral process. He also demanded the immediate resolution of issues relating to the Jhelum Valley University campus. Dr. Khan welcomed the announcement regarding the restoration of student unions, and called for the immediate announcement of a schedule for student union elec-

tions. He said that Jamaat-e-Islami has always supported positive initiatives and highlighted public issues in a timely manner. The JI Chief also invited the Prime Minister to visit the Jhelum Valley constituency. Deputy Secretary General of Jamaat-e-Islami Azad Kashmir, Jameel Rathore, and Sahibzada Younis were also present on the occasion.

## AJK PM visits hospital to check on President Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry's health

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, visited a private hospital to inquire after the health of President of the State, Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry.

During the visit, the Prime Minister met with the President's son and Minister of the Government, Chaudhry Yasir Sultan, and the President's brother-in-law, Chaudhry Majid Ismail, and received a detailed briefing on the President's health condition. Director General Political Affairs, Aamir Zeeshan Jarral, and former Advisor, Murtaza Durrani, accompanied the Prime Minister, while former Minister for Information, Sardar Abid Hussain Abid, was also present on the occasion.

The Prime Minister expressed his best wishes for the speedy recovery of President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry. He consoled Chaudhry Yasir Sultan and said that the entire nation is praying for the President's health and well-being. He further prayed that Allah Almighty may grant him complete and swift recovery.



## Ex-AJK President urges Pakistan to embrace self-belief for global success

**Spokesman Report**



LAHORE: Ambassador Masood Khan, former President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and former Pakistan Ambassador to the United States, China and the United Nations, emphasized that Pakistan's greatest opportunity in a rapidly changing global order lies in correcting its national self-image and believing in its own inherent strengths. He said that nations achieve greatness not merely through resources, but through confidence, purpose, and collective resolve. He was addressing a large and interactive gathering at Lahore Gymkhana on "Opportunities for Pakistan in the Changing Global Order" hosted by Mr. Abdul Basit.

Ambassador Khan stated that Pakistan's strategic geography, demographic strength, and expanding middle class place it among countries best positioned to benefit from global realignments. Drawing on decades of diplomatic service across major world capitals, he described Pakistanis as resilient, talented, and globally competitive, noting that whenever Pakistanis apply themselves with discipline and vision, they excel at the highest levels.

## Awami Rabta Mohim: Mushaal Mullick demands release of Yasin Malik, urges UN action

RAWALPINDI: Under the ongoing "Awami Rabta Mohim" (Public Outreach Campaign) for the release of Kashmiri Hurriyat Leader Muhammad Yasin Malik, Ms. Mushaal Hussein Mullick visited Rabi Center, Murree Road, Rawalpindi today with her daughter and sister, alongside President Anjuman-e-Tajran Punjab Sharjeel Mir, Rabi Centre President Mr. Sami Khan, and Mr. Adnan Khan.

Campaign participants distributed pamphlets on Yasin Malik's hanging case, Indian atrocities and human rights violations in IOJK, and shared Save Yasin Malik material. Ms. Mullick briefed the media, stating that Kashmir remains a nuclear flashpoint and warned that punitive actions against Kashmiri leadership would further destabilize the region.

Hundreds gathered in solidarity, chanting slogans for Yasin Malik's release and against Modi's extremist policies. Ms. Mullick urged the UN and international bodies to ensure Kashmir is resolved as per UN resolutions, demanded an immediate moratorium on any execution process, and called for Yasin Malik's unconditional release in the interest of regional peace.

She emphasized that Yasin Malik abandoned violence and became a recognized advocate of peace, yet after decades he is again facing what she called fabricated cases. She warned that any irreversible step would fuel anger and instability, and urged India to return to the path of peace and dialogue.

## Asma Butt promotes hope and awareness in society through her creative work and positive outlook

Renowned director and writer Asma Butt celebrated the New Year and her birthday by cutting a cake with prominent political, social, and artistic figures. She extended her heartfelt wishes for Pakistan's progress, prosperity, and peace.



The event was attended by senior PML-N leaders, including Haji Syed Shahid Iqbal, Naem Gul Pasha, Raja Rashid Habib, Malik Najeed, lawyer Raheel Khan Yusufzai, trader Sain Ijaz, and other notable personalities.

Guests praised Ms. Butt for promoting hope and awareness in society through her creative work and positive outlook. In response, she thanked everyone and prayed for a year of success and stability for Pakistan, emphasizing the continued role of artists in promoting the country's positive image.

## ANP Leadership Convenes in Takht Bhai amidst organizational concerns

**Tariq Khan Yousafzai**

TAKHT BHAI: A meeting of members of the Awami National Party (ANP) from Tehsil Takht Bhai, including Tehsil Council, District Council, Village Council members, and like-minded colleagues—was held at Hujra Hotel, Takht Bhai, under the chairmanship of senior party leader Nazim Noshawan Khan. A large number of responsible office-bearers from all Union Councils of Tehsil Takht Bhai, along with Tehsil and District Council members, participated in the meeting. The duties of Stage Secretary were performed by Niaz Ali Khan Makori. The meeting agenda was presented by Israr Mohmand, while Khalid Khan thanked all the honorable participants. The speakers included prominent Khudai Khidmatgar Syed Qayum Takkar, Hifz-ur-Rehman, Maqsood Khan Advocate, Nazim Attallah Khan Mohmand, former Tehsil General Secretary Haji Tariq Khan, Asif Pashtoon, Khanamullah, Qaiser Khan Tanoli, Muntazir Safi, Jawad Jan Takkar, Junaid Takkar, Waleed Afghan, Adnan Shah, Ibrahim Shah, Inamullah, Muhammad Ibrahim. Important decisions were unanimously taken. The participants unanimously decided to establish a ten-member Advisory Council, which will prepare a panel of suitable candidates to resolve the organizational crisis in the tehsil.

## Eating

ISLAMABAD: A herd of deer are eating grass at small Zoo along the Faisal Avenue in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## DFP concerned over plight of Kashmiri prisoners, demands their immediate release

**Abdul Majeed Tahir**

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party has sought the urgent attention of the United Nations and other human rights organizations towards the plight of Kashmiri prisoners who continue to languish in Indian jails for the past several years.

In a statement issued here today, the DFP spokesman, Advocate Arshad Iqbal, said that it was quite unfortunate

that the Indian authorities have criminalised political dissent in the region, which has led to the incarceration of Kashmiri political activists.

He said that prominent Kashmiri leaders, including Shabbir Ahmed Shah, Muhammad Yasin Malik, Mussarat Aalam, Syeda Asia Andrabi, and dozens of others, who have been in jail for many years in fake and fabricated cases, were being punished solely for raising their voice for justice and for their fearless advocacy of Kashmiris'

right to self-determination.

He appealed to the United Nations, OIC, European Union, and international human rights organizations to take immediate action to save the lives of these Kashmiri leaders, whose lives, he said, were at grave risk.

He warned India that any move that undermines the very lives of Kashmiri freedom fighters would have far-reaching consequences.

He voiced his serious concern over a petition filed to convert the life sentence

of Kashmiri leader Yasin Malik into the death penalty, terming it an act of utter injustice and cruelty.

He reiterated that Yasin Malik, Shabbir Ahmed Shah, and other Kashmiri leaders have dedicated their entire lives to the freedom of Kashmir.

"Since their lives are in grave danger, it is high time that international institutions and organizations should play their role for their effective treatment and immediate release," the spokesman said.

## AJK leaders visit Islamabad to check on ailing Azad Kashmir President and PML-N Senior leader



**Abdul Majeed Tahir**

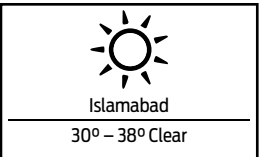
ISLAMABAD: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, visited Islam-

abad to inquire after the health of President of Azad Kashmir, Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, and former Federal Minister and senior leader of Pakistan Muslim League (N), Raja Zafar-ul-Haq. He offered prayers for their speedy and complete recovery.

On the occasion, while talking to the President's son, Ch Yasir Sultan, Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan said that parents are a priceless asset for their children, and righteous children are no less than a blessing for their parents. He added that the prayers

and best wishes of the people are with President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry.

He prayed that Allah Almighty may grant Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry complete and swift recovery. Ameen.



**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr ..... 5:45 am  
Zohr ..... 12:16 pm  
Asr ..... 3:42 pm  
Maghrib ..... 5:19 pm  
Isha ..... 6:47 pm

**EMERGENCY**

Rescue (Police) ..... 15  
Bomb Disposal ..... 15  
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad ..... 1122 & 16  
Emergency Ambulance ..... 1122 & 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

**KP Minister orders province-wide crackdown on unlicensed pharmacies, substandard drugs**

PESHAWAR: The Provincial Minister for Health, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Khaliq ur Rehman has ordered strict legal action against all unlicensed medical stores and directed to launch a province-wide enforcement campaign against substandard and falsified medicines, with immediate effect.

These decisions were taken at a meeting held in the Committee Room of the Health Department under the chairmanship of the Minister for Health, in collaboration with the Secretary Health and senior officials of the Directorate General of Drug Control & Pharmacy Services on Monday here.

The Minister directed all drug inspectors and field officers to intensify advocacy and awareness campaigns with chemists and druggists through their respective unions and associations to ensure strict compliance with drug laws, rules, and regulations across the province.

To ensure transparency and accountability, the Minister ordered that all enforcement activities shall be reported on a daily basis, supported by pictorial evidence, through duly compiled Daily Activity Reports. These reports will be reviewed fortnightly by the Minister for Health and the Secretary Health.

Reaffirming the government's zero-tolerance policy, the Provincial Minister for Health stated that no compromise will be made on the quality, safety and efficacy of medicines and that protecting public health remains the top priority of the government.

# Naval Chief Chairs Bahria University Board Meeting, approves key academic reforms

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf NI, NI(M), T. Bt, in his capacity as Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Board of Governors (BoG) of Bahria University, chaired the 55th Board of Governors (BoG) meeting at Bahria University Head Office, Islamabad on 12 January 2026.

The session of BoG commenced with a detailed briefing on the university's key activities, flagship programmes and strategic initiatives. During the meeting, Admiral Naveed Ashraf lauded the recent milestones achieved by Bahria University, including its advancements in academic excellence, research output and innovative learning methodologies to cater to the needs of today's evolving digital world.

During the meeting, key academic, research and institutional initiatives undertaken were reviewed and approved. These included the re-organization of

Bahria Business School and the ratification of the revised policy for Psychological Service Centers to enhance student and BU community wellbeing. In addition, amendments to University Statutes and Academic Regulations were also approved.

Progress on strategic development and innovation initiatives were also presented, including the advancement of the Pakistan Maritime Science and Technology Park (PMSTP). The Board reviewed authorization for the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the China Sinology Center (CSC), formally executed in Beijing, to develop the research facility at Bahria University Lahore Campus (BULC).

The BoG meeting was attended by the Board members including Rector Bahria University Vice Admiral Abid Hameed HI(M), senior academicians, Vice Chancellor, senior naval and civil officers and relevant top management of Bahria University.



## Foggy weather

ISLAMABAD: A view of the Margalla Hills seems blur during foggy weather in evening at Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## Prominent Figures attend launch of Saeed Mehdi's explosive memoir in Karachi

News Desk

KARACHI: Saeed Mehdi's book 'The Eyewitness. Standing in the Shadows of Pakistan's History' published by Lightstone Publishers was launched in Karachi today in the presence of over 500 guests including Sirajuddin Aziz, Banking Ombudsman, Miftah Ismail, Azad Iqbal, grandson of Allama Iqbal, Syed Naved Husain, Aftab Nabi, Shahnaz Wazir Ali, and Saeed Mehdi's wife Zarnab and daughter Rubab. The speakers were Shazia Marri, Dr Ishrat Husain, General Moeenuddin Haider, Mazhar Abbas, Nawab Kaifee and Ameena Saiyid, MD Lightstone Publishers and Director Adab Festival.



directors Nadia Ghani, Omayra Aziz Saiyid, Saadia Mirza and Raheela Baqai managed the proceedings. Shayma Saiyid sang Watan ki Mitti Gawan Rehna.

## Condolences for Hafiz Fazal ur Rahim by Abdul Aleem Khan

News Desk

LAHORE: President of the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party & Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan visited Jamia Ashrafia in Lahore where he expressed deep sorrow and grief over the demise of Hafiz Fazal Ur Rahim Ashrafi, Mohtamim of the renowned religious institution.

Federal Minister & President of the IPP Abdul Aleem Khan offered "Fateha" for the eternal peace of the departed soul and extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and relatives. He said that the religious services of Hafiz Fazal Ur Rahim would always be remembered. On this occasion, IPP Punjab General Secretary and Member of the Provincial Assembly Shoaib Siddiqui, Party leaders Rana Javed Iqbal and Lucky Khan were also present with the Party President and offered "Fateha" for Hafiz Fazal Ur Rahim Ashrafi.

## AIOU Launches Partner Admission Portal for International Students

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has formally launched the "AIOU Partner Admission Portal (APAP)" to modernize, streamline and expedite the admissions and registration process for international students. Through this advanced online portal, overseas educational institutions and authorized representatives can register themselves to facilitate international student admissions.

The portal was inaugurated by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, Speaking on the occasion he stated that the portal would not only make the admissions system more transparent and efficient but also enhance global access to the university for students worldwide. He added that this initiative is a significant milestone in advancing the university's digital vision and strengthening international academic linkages, which is expected to increase both the number of international students and the overall quality of education in the future.

The Director, Directorate of International Collaboration and Exchange, Dr. Zahid Majeed gave a detailed presentation on the portal. He explained that in line with the Vice Chancellor's directives, a decision was made to engage partners at the global level to assist with international student registration, and the portal has now been officially launched.

He further informed that a 26% increase in international student enrollments was recorded for the Fall Semester 2025 and it is expected that this number will rise significantly in the coming semesters through the use of this portal.

The ceremony was attended by university faculty members, principal officers, and representatives of relevant departments.



## Awaam Pakistan Party Establishes National District Organizing Oversight Committee

News Desk

KARACHI/ISLAMABAD: In view of the organizational needs of Awaam Pakistan Party and with the aim of further strengthening, organizing, and enhancing the effectiveness of the party structure at the grassroots level, the party leadership has constituted a National District Organizing Oversight Committee to ensure supervision, coordination, and monitoring of organizational affairs at the district level across the country.

According to a formally issued notification in this regard, Dr. Azhar Aslam has been appointed as the Convener of the National District Organizing Oversight Committee. The committee will be responsible for facilitating, guiding, and effectively overseeing the performance of district organizing committees established throughout the country.

The statement further said that the committee will ensure that all organizational activities carried out at the district level are fully aligned with the vision, core principles, and strategic objectives of Awaam Pakistan. Maintaining organizational standards, discipline, and mutual coordination within the party structure will also be among the committee's key responsibilities.

The National District Organizing Oversight Committee will have the authority to directly coordinate with provincial, divisional, and district office-bearers as needed, present recommendations to the party leadership based on ground realities, and promote effective communication and coordination between the central organizational structure and district-level organizations.

## NIMUN 2026 calls for global cooperation

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Marking the beginning of one of the country's most anticipated academic diplomacy platforms, the four-day NUST International Model United Nations (NIMUN) 2026, was held at the university main campus. Hosted by NUST Business School (NBS), NIMUN's opening ceremony welcomed distinguished guests, chairs, delegates, and international delegations from Uzbekistan, Syria, and Afghanistan, setting the tone for four days of meaningful dialogue and collaboration grounded in the fundamental spirit of the United Nations.



Zahid Latif delivered an insightful and thought-provoking speech. He reflected upon the historical evolution of the United Nations, tracing its formation from the ashes of global conflict to its current status as the

cornerstone of international peace-keeping, collaboration, and humanitarian advocacy.

The ceremony was graced by the esteemed presence of Ms Mio Sato, United Nations Resident Coordi-

nator (Acting) and Chief of Mission in Pakistan at the International Organization for Migration (IOM), who honored the occasion as the chief guest and keynote speaker. In her address, she emphasized that diplomacy extends far beyond the realms of debate, negotiation, and argumentation.

The ceremony also featured an address by Dr Naukhez Sarwar, Dean and Principal, NUST Business School, who highlighted the decade long legacy of NIMUN, nurturing countless young diplomats, critical thinkers, researchers, and leaders. Dr Sarwar welcomed delegates back to NUST, reaffirming the university's commitment to academic excellence and global engagement.

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# ‘Trump’s March Toward Imperialism?’

**H**as the United States crossed an invisible threshold—moving from the imperfect discipline of democracy toward the raw logic of imperial power? This question now dominates global debate as policies under Donald Trump continue to unsettle alliances, fracture long-standing norms, and force even America’s closest partners to rethink assumptions that once seemed immutable. What is unfolding is not a series of isolated decisions but a coherent shift in worldview—one that increasingly privileges domination over consent and coercion over cooperation.

At the heart of this transformation lies a philosophy that treats democratic restraint as weakness. Trump’s oft-reported admiration for leaders who rule without resistance—where courts, parliaments, media, and civil institutions do not question authority but obey it—signals impatience with democratic friction. In this vision, speed replaces deliberation, command replaces consensus, and power is measured not by legitimacy but by the capacity to impose outcomes. Democracy becomes inefficient; obedience becomes desirable.

This imperial turn has manifested first through kinetic pressure. Military strikes in Syria, operations in Somalia, actions in Nigeria, and open threats against South Africa—including rhetoric about sanctions and even force under the pretext of protecting white-owned businesses—signal a willingness to punish states that defy U. S. narratives or strategic preferences. These actions reinforce a message long associated with empire: compliance brings tolerance, resistance brings punishment.

Yet imperialism today does not rely on military force alone. Equally powerful is what might be called financial imperialism, and it has become a defining feature of Trump’s second term. Soon after returning to office, the administra-

tion imposed sweeping tariffs on countries across the globe—friends and foes alike. Trade agreements, alliances, and shared security commitments offered no exemption. The logic was blunt: access to the vast consumer market of the United States would be weaponized as leverage.

These tariffs function as a form of economic strangulation. Countries dependent on U. S. consumers are forced to renegotiate trade on American terms, align politically with Washington’s preferences, or face severe economic pain. Unlike traditional sanctions, which are often justified through international mechanisms, these measures are unilateral and indiscriminate. They transform consumer demand into a geopolitical weapon, compelling submission not through tanks but through markets. This is economic imperialism in its modern form—control exercised through trade dependency rather than formal occupation.

The effect is cumulative. Kinetic pressure establishes fear, while financial pressure ensures compliance. Together, they recreate the imperial model in a contemporary guise. This pattern is evident in Eastern Europe. During the previous administration, vast sums were transferred to Ukraine under the banner of defending sovereignty. Under Trump, that relationship has been reframed. Assistance has become transactional, aid transformed into debt. Ukraine is now pressed to repay support through access to rare-earth minerals, effectively exchanging natural wealth for protection. This is not alliance; it is tribute enforced by dependency.

Nowhere is this logic clearer than in Venezuela. American oil companies have operated there since the 1940s, extracting enormous wealth while the population remained impoverished. When Venezuela

reasserted control over its resources, those companies were expelled. Under Trump, they are invited back. Closed-door meetings with energy executives have reportedly encouraged the repossession of assets, renewed extraction, and export of profits—once again enriching corporations and the imperial center while leaving Venezuelan society poorer. The state loses control; the empire gains wealth. This is classical imperial extraction dressed in modern corporate language.

Territorial ambition has also resurfaced openly. Trump’s statements regarding Greenland, suggesting it would be taken with or without consent, shattered a taboo long thought buried. The justifications—strategic minerals, military positioning, and Arctic shipping routes shortened by climate change—mirror the calculations of nineteenth-century empires. Sovereignty becomes negotiable; consent optional. Utility, not law, determines ownership.

Pressure on Iran, often aligned with the strategic objectives of Israel, follows the same imperial script. Sanctions designed to choke the economy, constant threats of military action, and open discussion of regime change all signal an intent to subordinate an entire nation to external will. Security is the stated rationale; domination is the method.

What makes this moment uniquely troubling is that imperial practices are no longer confined to foreign policy. At home, the expansion of federal power increasingly resembles internal occupation. National Guard units and immigration agencies have been deployed across states without consent, overriding governors and local authorities. Historically, empires consolidate control by placing boots on the ground; political authority follows physical presence. Financial leverage reinforces

this control. Federal funding for universities, healthcare systems, social programs, and research institutions is conditioned on political obedience—whether suppressing protests, aligning with official narratives, or endorsing favored foreign policies.

Executive authority has expanded at extraordinary speed. Trump’s prolific use of executive orders has narrowed legislative debate and constrained judicial oversight. Institutions designed to check power—courts, media, academia, welfare agencies—are not abolished but subordinated. Their survival becomes conditional. This is how empires govern: not by destroying institutions, but by bending them.

The global consequences are profound. Once a major power normalizes kinetic, financial, and economic imperialism, imitation becomes inevitable. Europe will feel pressure to secure resources. Russia will justify expansion. India and other regional powers will follow suit. Smaller states, particularly those rich in minerals or strategically located, will exist in perpetual fear—not of chaos, but of orderly extraction sanctioned by power.

The world before January 2025 and the world after January 2026 no longer feel the same. The United States, once a flawed champion of democratic norms, increasingly resembles an empire rediscovering old instincts. History offers a warning that should not be ignored. Imperialism does not stabilize the international system; it militarizes it. It replaces cooperation with fear, law with force, and legitimacy with coercion. And in the end, it corrodes the democracy at its core, leaving behind power without consent and authority without trust.

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Qamar Bashir

## EU to send large election observation team to Bangladesh

**C**hief Observer of the European Union Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) Ivars Ijabs said the EU is going to send a large election observation team to Bangladesh, noting that the forthcoming election will be historic for the country.

Ijabs said this at a meeting with Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus at the State Guest House Jamuna here this morning.

“Chief Observer of the European Union Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) Ivars Ijabs met Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus at 11:30 am to discuss preparations for the upcoming national election and referendum,” said Chief Adviser’s Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam at a media briefing at the Foreign Service Academy here this afternoon.

He described the meeting as highly important, with extensive discussions covering election preparedness, the level playing field for political parties, and the referendum, particularly the “Yes” vote.

During the meeting, the EU EOM chief stated that he witnessed positive feelings and strong enthusiasm across the country regarding the upcoming polls and the referendum. As a reason, he mentioned that the previous three parliamentary elections were not considered credible.

Ijabs sought detailed information on election preparations and the level playing field, Shafiqul Alam said, adding that there was no discussion during the meeting regarding the Awami League or its participation in the election.

The press secretary said that the EU EOM emphasised on “Yes Vote” in the referendum, saying it is crucial because it will enable the implementation of essential and necessary reform agendas.

Ijabs further informed the Chief Adviser that the EU election observation mission will spread across the country, monitor all areas, and engage in discussions with major political parties as well as other stakeholders.

In response, Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus assured the EU that the upcoming election and referendum would be completed smoothly and would be free, fair, credible, peaceful, and festive.

He said that the Election Commission and the interim government are fully prepared to ensure the smooth conduct of both the election and the referendum, adding that a level playing field will be ensured for all political parties and that he does not foresee any major problems in this regard.

Prof Yunus thanked the EU for sending the election observation mission, describing it as “extremely important” for holding a credible election and for Bangladesh’s democratic transition.



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

## Venezuela’s Crisis: A Strategic Lesson for Pakistan

**T**he economic, political, and social crisis that Venezuela has experienced in recent years offers a clear warning for developing countries across the world. Despite being rich in natural resources, the country’s severe economic collapse proves that resources alone are not a guarantee of progress. Rather, sound governance, sustainable policies, and strong institutions determine the future of nations. In this context, Pakistan can view Venezuela’s experience not merely as a foreign event but as a practical lesson from which timely learning is essential for national stability and survival.

The most important lesson relates to economic dependence. For decades, Venezuela’s economy relied almost entirely on oil, which brought short-term prosperity but discouraged serious efforts to diversify the economy. When global oil prices declined, the entire system collapsed. For Pakistan, the lesson is clear: although Pakistan does not depend directly on oil exports, excessive reliance on limited sectors such as agriculture, remittances, or a narrow industrial base can also be risky. Sustainable development requires balance and diversification across industry, agriculture, technology, exports, and domestic production.

Venezuela’s experience also carries lessons in foreign policy. International isolation, sanctions, and limited diplomatic engagement deepened the crisis. Pakistan must pursue a balanced, pragmatic foreign policy rooted in national interest. Excessive dependence on any single global bloc or power can harm long-term interests. Venezuela’s fate demonstrates that isolation in the international system can inflict severe and lasting economic damage.

The autonomy of state institutions and the rule of law are equally critical lessons. In Venezuela, the weakening of the judiciary, electoral bodies, and other pillars of the state blocked

pathways out of crisis. For Pakistan, this highlights that strong institutions and constitutional supremacy provide the most sustainable solutions to national challenges. When institutions operate independently of political pressure, policy continuity and public confidence are strengthened. Restrictions on media and information flow also aggravated Venezuela’s crisis. Attempts to conceal realities fueled rumors and uncertainty. Pakistan must promote a free yet responsible media environment to ensure transparency and informed public discourse. Accurate information supports better decision-making and accountability.

Venezuela was a country richly blessed by nature. Beneath its soil lay nearly three hundred billion barrels of oil; above the ground stretched a vast landmass, a long coastline connected to the sea, and land borders with important neighbors such as Brazil, Guyana, and Colombia. On the map, it appeared not merely as a country but as a masterpiece of nature itself. The world knew Venezuela as “the country with the largest oil reserves,” yet what the world failed to recognize

was that its real weakness did not lie beneath the ground but above it. For years, the country remained engaged in verbal confrontation with a major global power harsh statements, threats, and fiery speeches were common but behind the scenes, one critical pillar was quietly deteriorating: defense. Then came a moment when history turned before the sun could even rise. The air was filled with noise, radar systems fell silent, command centers plunged into darkness, and within hours the air defense was paralyzed, key installations reduced to ashes, and the halls of power left empty. It is said that the president and his wife were taken from their bedroom, and a nation that believed itself invincible became a lesson for the world within a few hours.

At that moment, a bitter truth was exposed: oil wells do not turn into tanks, roads do not become missiles, and tall buildings are not defen-

sive shields. Without invincible defense, development becomes meaningless, the economy temporary, resources lifeless, and sovereignty an illusion. Such a country cannot take a firm stand on any issue because the enemy knows that one button will be pressed and everything will be reduced to zero. This is why the incident was not merely the story of one nation but a message for every country in the world.

In this context, attention naturally turns to Pakistan not a country with the most oil, not the largest economy, nor an abundance of the most advanced facilities, yet possessing one strength above all others: defense. It was with this confidence that Pakistan’s military leadership once declared, “If we ever feel that we are going down, we will take half the world down with us.” This was not just a statement but a declaration that this country is not an easy target. By the grace of God, Pakistan possesses the force that keeps nations alive an invincible defense. History bears witness that the nation whose defense is strong is the nation that decides its own future. Long live the Pakistan Army, and may Pakistan live forever.

Ultimately, Venezuela’s crisis teaches that national development is a comprehensive and interconnected process. The economy, politics, institutions, and society are deeply interlinked; weakness in one area affects the entire system. For Pakistan, Venezuela’s experience acts as a mirror, revealing potential risks and vulnerabilities. Timely reforms, visionary leadership, and people-centered policies are essential to avoid similar pitfalls.

In conclusion, Venezuela’s example should not instill fear in Pakistan but encourage wisdom and foresight. It reminds us that a strong economy, transparent governance, political stability, institutional autonomy, and a balanced foreign policy are the true guarantors of national security and prosperity. If Pakistan seriously internalizes these lessons, it can not only avoid major crises but also pave the way for sustainable and inclusive development.

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Muhammad Asif

## Pakistan’s Economic Renaissance: From Crisis to Stability in 2025

**P**akistan has emerged from economic turmoil to achieve remarkable stability in 2025, showcasing one of the most impressive turnarounds in the region. After grappling with soaring inflation and dwindling foreign reserves in 2023, the country has successfully implemented disciplined reforms that have restored investor confidence and economic momentum.

The most striking achievement has been the dramatic reduction in inflation. From a devastating peak of 38% in 2024, inflation plummeted to just 5.6% by December 2025. This represents one of the steepest declines in inflation rates globally, achieved through tight monetary policy by the State Bank of Pakistan and improved supply conditions. Food prices have stabilized, with perishable items showing significant price drops, though staples like chicken and sugar remain elevated.

The Pakistan Stock Exchange delivered exceptional returns in 2025, ranking among the world’s best-performing markets. The KSE-100 index generated approximately 48% returns during the year, reaching an all-time high near 174,000 points. This surge placed Pakistani equities as the second-best performing asset class after gold, outpacing real estate and fixed income investments significantly.

The economic stabilization has not yet translated into broad-based prosperity, leaving millions vulnerable.

The trade deficit widened to \$21.3 billion as import growth of 11.8% outpaced export growth. Pakistan’s fiscal deficit, while improved to 2.6% of GDP, remains a concern. Corruption continues to cost the economy an estimated 5-6.5% of GDP

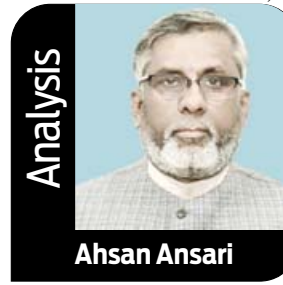
annually, hampering development efforts. Climate vulnerability, with recurring floods and droughts, poses ongoing risks to agricultural productivity and economic stability.

The government’s “Uraan Pakistan” economic transformation plan aims to achieve sustainable 6% GDP growth by 2028 through export-led expansion. This ambitious target requires addressing fundamental competitiveness issues, including high tariffs, inadequate infrastructure, and energy sector inefficiencies.

Success depends on maintaining reform momentum, broadening the tax base, attracting sustained foreign investment, and creating millions of jobs for Pakistan’s young population. The country must transition from stabilization to inclusive growth that lifts all segments of society.

Pakistan’s economic performance in 2025 demonstrates that disciplined policy implementation can reverse even severe economic crises. The dramatic fall in inflation, robust stock market returns, and reserve accumulation provide a foundation for sustainable growth. However, translating macroeconomic stability into improved living standards for ordinary Pakistanis remains the ultimate test.

As Pakistan enters 2026, the outlook is cautiously optimistic. Continued adherence to IMF program commitments, political stability, and favorable global conditions will determine whether this stabilization can evolve into the sustained prosperity that Pakistan’s 240 million citizens deserve. The economic renaissance is underway, but the journey toward inclusive, sustainable development is far from complete.



Ahsan Ansari

# Indonesian Defence Delegation meets PAF Chief to deepen air force ties

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: A defence delegation led by Minister of Defence of the Republic of Indonesia, Lieutenant General (Retd) Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin, called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, NI (M), H.J, Chief of Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force, at Air Headquarters, Islamabad, following the recent state visit of the Indonesian President.

The meeting reaffirmed the historic and brotherly ties between Pakistan and Indonesia and focused on strengthening bilateral Air Force cooperation, particularly in capacity building, training and technological collaboration. The Air Chief briefed the delegation on PAF's modernization drive, including infrastructure development, revamped training and induction of niche capabilities to enhance readiness for multi-domain operations.

The Indonesian Defence Minister praised PAF's professionalism, combat readiness and indigenization achievements under the National Aerospace



Science & Technology Park, and expressed strong interest in expanding cooperation in training, aviation and

aerospace domains. The meeting reflected growing momentum in Pakistan-Indonesia

defence ties and a shared resolve to deepen cooperation through sustained engagement and dialogue.

# Statement by Cultural Counsellor Majid Meshki Concerning Recent Events and Demonstrations in Iran

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Last week, the Islamic Republic of Iran experienced events and disturbances that drew the attention of both friends and enemies of the Islamic Revolution. Once again, in the modern era, the confrontation between right and wrong was revealed to the world.

Approximately two weeks ago, fluctuations in Iran's foreign exchange market and their direct impact on the purchasing power of traders and merchants led to peaceful protests in Tehran's marketplaces. These protests eventually resulted in the temporary closure of markets and shops, as well as limited and peaceful demonstrations in Tehran's commercial districts. In response, the Honorable President, Dr. Pezeshkian, together with the government's economic team, promptly met with representatives of market associations and trade unions. Agreements were reached to stabilize the exchange rate and reopen markets and shops.

However, external enemies who had been waiting for such an opportunity took full advantage of the situation and decided to wage a multi-layered and comprehensive campaign against the Islamic Revolution and the Iranian people. The reality is that the twelve-day war imposed by the Zionist and American governments over the past six months has ended, yet they are seeking revenge for the severe blow they suffered at the hands of



the Islamic Republic of Iran during that conflict.

Accordingly, they have attempted to impose a new form of warfare on the Muslim and revolutionary people of Iran through a wide range of measures, including threats of renewed military conflict, intensified economic sanctions, and even failed attempts to block the inflow of foreign currency into the country. Through these actions, the enemy has sought to create an economic crisis, hinder scientific progress, and provoke internal unrest by steering protests toward violence and confrontation.

Anti-revolutionary elements, while exploiting Iran's internal challenges, attempted to pave the way for foreign military intervention and to complete their unsuccess-

ful plan to overthrow the Iranian system during the twelve-day war. Under this plan, and driven by illusions of success, the enemy hastily deployed its covert forces and initiated violent demonstrations in several cities to destabilize Iran's economy.

Two distinct groups entered the scene with the support and encouragement of the United States and the Zionist regime. The first group consisted largely of naive and inexperienced youth who, lacking a proper understanding of the country's conditions and challenges, were influenced by emotions and social-media propaganda. Unknowingly, they became tools of the enemy, contributing to violence and the destruction of public property. The second group

comprised armed terrorists who had been trained in advance by hostile forces and financially supported with the aim of changing Iran's political system. These terrorists attempted to facilitate American military intervention by killing Iranian security personnel.

Following the clear and decisive message of the Supreme Leader, peaceful protesters separated themselves from the rioters and terrorists. Ayatollah Khamenei, while affirming the legitimate right of trade unions, merchants, and citizens affected by inflation to protest, firmly rejected any concessions to rioters and terrorists. He emphasized that the Islamic Republic of Iran was founded on the blood of millions of martyrs and that no compromise would be made with saboteurs.

Consequently, measures were taken to safeguard peaceful protesters, and law-enforcement forces played a decisive role in preventing terrorists and rioters from infiltrating their ranks. The government also demonstrated patience and restraint in dealing with violent elements, while striving to raise public awareness about the enemies' malicious intentions and the brutality of the rioters.

As a result, the aware and discerning people of Iran stood firmly behind the government and expelled the rioters from among themselves, while rejecting calls from foreign governments,

traitors, and monarchists. Due to these actions, armed terrorists and violent rioters who were damaging public and government property were ultimately isolated, and over the past two nights, most Iranian cities have remained calm.

Tragically, a number of compatriots lost their lives during these events. For this reason, the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has declared three days of national mourning. It is hoped that, by the grace of Almighty God, this latest conspiracy against the Islamic Revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran will also end in decisive failure.

Once again, the proud and courageous Muslim nation of Iran identified its true friends and true enemies, witnessing firsthand how the President of the United States openly supported armed terrorists who showed no mercy toward Iranian lives and property. Leaders of the Zionist regime also acknowledged the presence of their forces alongside these terrorists, while some European Union officials expressed strong support for the rioters.

In contrast, the people and government of Pakistan firmly supported the Iranian people, system, and leadership, and unequivocally opposed terrorism and media incitement against Iran. This friendship with Pakistan will undoubtedly be remembered in history and will contribute to the strengthening of relations between the two nations.

## Saudi Arabia's Industry Minister Bandar Al-Khorayef Visits Pakistan Pavilion at Future Minerals Forum



RIYADH, KSA: Ahead of the official opening of the Future Minerals Forum (FMF) 2026, Saudi Arabia's Minister of Industry and Mineral Resources, H. E. Bandar Ibrahim Al-Khorayef, accompanied by H. E. Eng. Khalid bin Saleh Al-Mudaifer, Vice Minister for Mining Affairs, visited the Pakistan Pavilion and praised it as one of the most visually impactful features of the event.

Highlighting its marked improvement over previous editions, the minister described the pavilion as a premier platform for the global mining community. The Pakistan Pavilion, themed "The Mineral Marvel," has already attracted strong interest from international investors.

Organized by Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) as the Lead Partner on behalf of the Ministry of Energy, the pavilion features interactive exhibits and the newly launched National Minerals Data Center, a digital portal aimed at modernizing mineral governance and promoting investment in Pakistan's mining sector.

## A Social Gathering in Multan Enriched with Knowledge and Insight



News Desk

MULTAN: A social gathering organized by the Civil Society Forum (CSF) in Multan proved to be an intellectual enriching experience, with the distinguished water resources expert, former Director of the Kalabagh Dam, scholar of Iqbal studies and renowned intellectual, Engineer Mumtaz Ahmad Khan, in attendance.

His discourse on the Kalabagh Dam, the national water crisis, key national issues, and the philosophical dimensions of Allama Iqbal (RA) was well-argued, comprehensive, and deeply insightful. Even at this stage of life, his mental sharpness, energy, and continuity of knowledge are truly admirable.

Such intellectual forums play a vital role in nurturing social awareness. The Civil Society Forum and Mr. Shahid Mahmood Ansari deserve sincere congratulations for organizing this meaningful session.

Personalities like Engineer Mumtaz Ahmad Khan are indeed national assets. He truly deserves a Presidential Award, which is his rightful due.

Among those present at the social gathering were Mr. Shahid Mahmood Ansari, Mr. Muhammad Iftikhar Mughal, Leader of Tanzeem Jawan Fikr Pakistan, Dr. Rashid Hussaini, Mr. Adil Mahmood Ansari, Mr. Malik Imran Yousof, Mr. Rab Nawaz Bhutta, Poet Madam Gul Nasreen, Shahida Pirzada Sehgi, Farhat Chughtai, Mr. Iqbal Khanzada, Mr. Baloch Sahib, and Mr. Tasawur Hayat Yazdani.

## Foreign Secretary inaugurates five-day Cyber Capacity Building Program in Islamabad



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Secretary Amina Baloch Monday inaugurated a five-day Cyber Capacity Building and Policy Training Program in Islamabad, aimed at strengthening national capabilities to address evolving cyber threats and governance challenges in cyberspace, reported 24NewsHD TV channel.

The program is being organized in collaboration with the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) with the support of Global Affairs Canada, and is being held from January 12 to 16, 2026. It is being conducted in close coordination with Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony, the foreign secretary underscored the growing importance of cybersecurity for national stability, international peace and security, and sustainable development.

She highlighted Pakistan's active engagement in multilateral processes related to Information and Communication Technology (ICT) security, particularly under the United Nations framework on responsible state behaviour in cyberspace.

Amina Baloch also discussed key aspects of international cooperation in cyberspace, including international law, voluntary norms, confidence-building measures and capacity-building initiatives. She said that comprehensive international cooperation was essential to effectively address shared cyber challenges faced by states.

Other speakers at the event included UNIDIR Director Robin Geiss, Canadian High Commissioner to Pakistan Tariq Ali Khan, and UN Resident Coordinator in Pakistan Muhammad Yahya.

The speakers emphasised the importance of international collaboration and capacity building in the cyber sector, highlighting the value of policy-based training combined with practical exercises.

They also underlined the need to enhance state capabilities to counter a wide range of cyber threats, including cyberattacks targeting critical infrastructure.

# The Silent Soldiers

More than ten million Pakistanis live across the world and this number is not merely a statistic, it is the economic lifeline of Pakistan. Yet the true story of this migration is far deeper and more complex than the pursuit of employment alone.

Every Pakistani who goes abroad steps onto a battlefield, one that appears silent but is, in reality, a constant arena of struggle. This front may differ from military borders but its demands are no less intense. Soldiers standing at the nation's borders protect the homeland with their lives and in much the same way, overseas Pakistanis offer their sacrifices in the form of emotional, financial, legal and social pressures, burdens made heavier by weak government policies.

The daily life of an overseas Pakistani is not limited to hard work, it is a continuous struggle marked by the scarcity of time, harsh circumstances, the sting of loneliness, the weight of separation and the pres-

sure of financial responsibilities. Their patience, labor, and sacrifice are their true assets. They support their families while also sustaining Pakistan's economy. Billions of dollars in remittances reach Pakistan every year yet their services are acknowledged only through ceremonial statements and nothing more.

The real crisis emerges when these soldiers return home.

They do not receive the respect, convenience, or recognition they truly deserve. Placing them in the category of foreigners or outsiders is an administrative injustice that disregards their decades of service. They may be expatriates but they are guardians of the homeland, protectors of its identity and architects of its economy.

Considering the child of a Pakistani citizen as a foreigner in their own country is a grave policy failure that must be corrected.

A recent example is the reduc-

tion of seats for overseas Pakistanis in medical colleges and the imposition of foreigner-level fees raised from sixty thousand rupees to ten thousand dollars. This is not only unjust but also contrary to national consciousness. It ignores the fundamental reality that the children of overseas Pakistanis hold Pakistani identity, carry Pakistani passports and belong to the same soil.

Legal and administrative hurdles form yet another battlefield for overseas Pakistanis. Heavy fees for mobile phone registration, complicated rules for importing assets, banking restrictions, and lack of cooperation in government offices all these challenges become battles they should not have to fight in their own homeland.

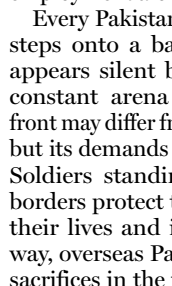
Ironically, the same person who is considered an ambassador of Pakistan abroad is treated as a stranger upon returning home.

The greatest truth of the overseas

front is that the soldier fighting here never fully returns home. Even a few days of vacation bring no real peace, for he knows he must soon return to the same front where his identity holds no value, only his labor does. This void can be filled through government policies, strategic planning, and administrative reforms, yet sadly, it continues to widen with each passing year.

As a nation, we must accept that overseas Pakistanis are not merely senders of remittances, they are people who have divided their lives into two parts, one for their homeland and the other for their families. Their dignity, their convenience, the resolution of their issues and their guidance must be a national priority, for those who continue to beat for their homeland even while living far away are the true national asset.

Salute to the silent soldiers of the overseas front, those who protect the nation's economy, their families hopes and their own identity. Their struggle continues, their resolve remains high and their sacrifices await their rightful place in the solemn pages of history.



Analysis  
Waqar Naseem Wamiq

**Bull & Bears**  
PSX 100-Share  
Index Fluctuation

**Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index**

Current	Prev. Close
182,384.14	184,409.67
Day's High	Day's Low
184,439.06	182,303.56
Index Value	Change
33,674,327,888	-2025.53
Percentage	Time
-1.1%	12 Jan, 2026 4:30 pm

**Europe: FTSE 100 Index**

Index Value	Change
10,140.70	+16.10
Percentage	Time
+0.16%	10 Jan, 4:35 pm GMT

**USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average**

Index Value	Change
49,421.46	-82.61
Percentage	Time
-0.17%	12 Jan, 12:31 pm GMT-5

**Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average**

Index Value	Change
51,939.89	+822.63
Percentage	Time
+1.61%	9 Jan, 3:45 pm GMT+9

**Open Market Forex Rates**

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	186	190.5
Bahrain Dinar	744	754
Canadian Dollar	201	205
China Yuan	39.59	39.99
Danish Krone	43.75	44.15
Euro	326.75	329.75
Hong Kong Dollar	35.75	36.10
Indian Rupee	3.04	3.13
Japanese Yen	1.7700	1.8700
Kuwaiti Dinar	908	918
Malaysian Ringgit	68.6	69.20
New Zealand \$	161.24	163.24
Norwegians Krone	27.66	27.96
Omani Riyal	728.6	738.6
Qatari Riyal	76.26	76.96
Saudi Riyal	74.85	75.5
Singapore Dollar	216.5	220.5
Swedish Korona	30.25	30.55
Swiss Franc	351.82	354.57
Thai Bhat	8.89	9.04
U.A.E Dirham	76.5	77.35
UK Pound Sterling	377	380
US Dollar	280.75	282.75

*QR Phishing Attacks Rise Fivefold in Second Half of 2025: Kaspersky*



**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Kaspersky reports a spike in phishing emails containing malicious QR codes. Detections for these jumped from 46,969 in August to 249,723 in November – a more than fivefold growth – as cybercriminals increasingly exploit QR codes. Attackers use QR codes in emails more frequently because they provide a simple and cost-effective way to conceal malicious URLs, evading detection by many protective solutions.

These QR codes are often embedded directly in email bodies or, even more commonly, within PDF attachments – an evolution that both masks phishing links and encourages users to scan them on mobile phones, which may have weaker security than work PCs.

Malicious QR codes commonly appear in mass phishing campaigns as well as targeted ones. Links embedded within them may lead to phishing forms impersonating login pages for services like Microsoft accounts or internal corporate portals, designed to steal usernames, passwords, and other credentials. Fake HR notifications urging employees to review or sign documents, such as vacation schedules, or even visit lists of terminated staff, ultimately directing to credential-stealing sites. Fraudulent invoices or purchase confirmations in PDF attachments, often combined with vishing (voice phishing) tactics that prompt victims to call provided phone numbers to “cancel” or clarify the transaction, enabling further social engineering attacks.

These tactics exploit trust in routine business communications, leading to credential theft, account takeovers, data breaches, and financial fraud.

# Advancing Digital Financial Inclusion Through the Offline Payments Innovation Challenge

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: As we enter 2026, accelerating digital payments adoption remains a national priority, with intermittent connectivity persisting to be one of the most critical bottlenecks limiting scale and inclusion. While significant progress has been made in recent years, the inability to access stable internet or cellular coverage in many parts of the country continues to limit everyday digital transactions. Digital payments, in particular, remain elusive for millions of users and businesses, specifically in rural, remote, and disaster-affected areas.

In response to this challenge, Karandaaz Pakistan convened the final pitch round of the Offline Payments Innovation Challenge, an extensive evaluation process to identify secure and scalable digital payment solutions leveraging Raast for environments with limited or no internet



connectivity. The initiative marks a shift from problem recognition to solution development, bringing together innovators and ecosystem

players to build practical, locally relevant technologies that can function beyond the constraints of always-on connectivity.

The challenge attracted a strong response from across the financial ecosystem, with multiple high-quality and innovative proposals received from startups, fintech, and technology innovators, of which a select few were shortlisted for the pitch round. The participants presented their solutions over two days to a six-member national and international judging panel comprising Ms Layanah Al-Wreikat, Director, JoPacc, Jordan; Ms Sabiha Ahmed, Private Sector Development Advisor, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office; Mr Shauzab Ali, Principal Project Officer, Asian Development Bank; Mr Muhammad Imaduddin, Director, Digital Innovation & Settlement Department, State Bank of Pakistan; Dr Zartash Afzal Uzmi, Professor and Lead, Center for Digital Assets Research, LUMS; and Mr Sharjeel Murtaza, Chief Digital Officer, Karandaaz Pakistan.

## Procurement Reforms

ISLAMABAD: Hasnat Ahmed Qureshi, Managing Director PPRA, accompanied by Dr Aslam Wa-seem, DG Legal PPRA, and Sheikh Afzaal Raza, Project Director EPADS, highlighted landmark procurement reforms while briefing journalists at PID.



Photo: PID

## PAAPAM welcomes government measures to protect overseas Pakistani car import schemes

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Association of Automotive Parts & Accessories Manufacturers (PAAPAM) has lauded the Government of Pakistan for its timely and decisive measures to regularize used car import schemes, describing the move as a major step toward restoring their original intent for genuine Overseas Pakistanis while safeguarding the country's local automotive and auto parts industry.

PAAPAM noted that for years, loopholes in the Personal Baggage, Transfer of Residence, and Gift schemes were widely misused for commercial resale. Instead of benefiting bona fide expatriates, these schemes facilitated smuggling-like practices, encouraged reliance on

informal remittance channels, and caused significant foreign exchange losses. The unchecked import of nearly 40,000 vehicles annually severely disrupted local assembly operations, undermined vendor investments, threatened employment, and eroded national revenue.

Senior Vice Chairman (SVC) PAAPAM emphasized that the new framework strikes a sustainable balance between international liberalization pressures and national industrial priorities. By stabilizing demand for locally manufactured parts, protecting jobs across vendor networks and assembly plants, and ensuring fair competition, the policy strengthens Pakistan's economy while preserving the long-term viability of the auto sector.

## LONGi Wins Corporate Impact Award at 2025 S&P Global Platts Global Energy Awards

**Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: LONGi, a global leader in solar technology, has been recognized at the prestigious 2025 S&P Global Platts Global Energy Awards, securing the Corporate Impact Award in recognition of its contribution to advancing clean energy access and strengthening energy resilience worldwide.

Considered one of the most respected platforms in the global energy sector, the S&P Global Platts Global Energy Awards celebrate leadership, innovation, and excellence across the energy value chain. This year's program featured 211 finalists from 166 companies across the world, with only 21 winners selected across all categories.

Commenting on the achievement, Eric Xin, Deputy General Manager, LONGi Green Energy Technology Co., Ltd., said, “This recognition reflects LONGi's belief that clean energy must go beyond technology and deliver real impact on the



ground. Projects like Mozambique demonstrate how solar power can uplift communities, strengthen local resilience, and create long-term value. For markets like

Pakistan, this reinforces the importance of scalable, reliable, and affordable solar solutions in addressing energy challenges and supporting sustainable growth.”

## New PSO Petrol Pump Opens in Faisalabad Under Advocate Malik Usman Awan



**Abdul Majid**

FAISALABAD: The special guest of the inauguration ceremony of Malik Muhammad Usman Advocate's PSO petrol pump on Sargodha Road was former MPA Qamar-uz-Zaman Awan, Additional Attorney General of Pakistan Javed Awan,

Khalid Awan, and others. A large number of local people and petrol pumpers were present at the ceremony. Proprietor Malik Muhammad Usman Awan Advocate has said that the public will be fully served at our petrol pump. With the new team, the delivery of petroleum products will continue in a very good manner.

## 53rd CTP Probationary Officers of IRS Visit Federal Board of Revenue

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Nine probationary officers of the Inland Revenue Service (IRS) from the 53rd Common Training Programme (CTP), undergoing training at the Civil Services Academy (CSA), Lahore, visited the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Headquarters as part of their Inland Study Tour. The visit aimed to familiarize the newly inducted officers with the organizational structure, functions, and operational framework of FBR.

The officers were briefed in a session chaired by Mr. Zubair Bilal, Member Inland Revenue (Operations), who highlighted the role of FBR in revenue collection and tax administration. He emphasized the professional competencies required from FBR officers, including strong expertise in taxation and accounting, along with a sound understanding of tax laws. He also outlined the mandate of the Inland Revenue Operations Wing, focusing on revenue enhancement

through taxpayer profiling, data-driven analysis, and effective sharing of actionable intelligence with field formations.

Mr. Shafiqat Rasool Sandhu, Secretary Inland Revenue Operations, delivered detailed presentations on FBR's revenue mobilization strategies, institutional reforms, and change management initiatives. He further briefed the officers on the cadre structure, roles, and responsibilities of officers, and their contribution to the overall functioning of



the organization. The presentations were followed by an interactive question-and-answer session in which the probationary officers actively participated.

At the conclusion of the visit, the faculty of the Civil Services Academy appreciated the FBR management for arranging a comprehensive and

informative briefing. As a gesture of goodwill souvenirs were exchanged.

The faculty and probationary officers termed the visit highly successful, noting that it provided valuable insights into FBR's role in fiscal governance, institutional reform, and public sector modernization.

# Punjab Sports Minister expresses condolences on the demise of former Test cricketer and Chief Selector Muhammad Ilyas

**Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar has expressed deep sorrow and grief over the death of former Test cricketer and Chief Selector Muhammad Ilyas. He prayed for the elevation of the departed soul's ranks, forgiveness, and patience for the bereaved family.

In his condolence message on Monday, the Provincial Minister said that Muhammad Ilyas rendered invaluable services to Pakistan cricket both as

a player and later as chief selector, which will always be remembered. He stated that the late cricketer represented Pakistan in 10 Test matches and significantly contributed to enhancing the stature of national cricket.

Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar further said that Ilyas also played a key role in the promotion of women's cricket as the head of the Women's Cricket Selection Panel. He added that legends like M Ilyas are a valuable asset to Pakistan cricket, and their services serve as a guiding light for the younger generation.



## Test cricketer, chief selector Muhammad Ilyas passes away



**Sports Desk**

LAHORE: Former Pakistan Test cricketer, Chief selector Muhammad Ilyas passed away after protracted valiant fight against cancer here on Monday. He was 79.

An all-rounder who opened the innings and bowled googlies, Muhammad Ilyas' cricketing career spanned over six years (1964-1969) during which he played 10 test matches for the country.

Muhammad Ilyas was shifted to home a few days back after being treated for liver cirrhosis at a private hospital in the city but he could not survive and passed away peacefully with his family at the bedside.

Chairman PCB Mohsin Naqvi, legendary batsman Javed Miandad, Sadiq Muhammad, Kamran Akmal and former federal Secretary Sports Ashraf Khan expressed deep sorrow and grief over the sad demise of Muhammad Ilyas. They lauded the services of the former cricket and chief selector for Pakistan cricket.

## Medicam Group win in Wing 999 Inter Departmental Cricket League Tournament

**Sports Desk**

KARACHI: Due to All-round Performance by Ali But first he got 2 Wickets for 31 runs and then he scored unbeaten with 51, Shahroz Siddiqui also played and scored 62 to help Medicam Group beat Saudi Titans by 6 wickets at CAA Cricket Stadium.

The Tournament is being organized by Regional Cricket Association Karachi with the collaboration of Wing 999 Sports.

**Scores in Brief:**

Medicam Group beat Saudi Titans by 6 Wickets at CAA Cricket Stadium. Saudi Titans 167 allout in 34.2 overs. Huzaifa Munir 49 5x4 2x6, Hassan Danish 32, Wahid 21, Basit Khan 20. Afnan Khan (sla) 2/28, Ali But (ob) 2/31. Naimat Khan (sla) 2/33.

In reply Medicam Group 168/4 in 23.2 overs. Sheroze Siddiqui 62 10x4 2x6, Ali But 51 7x4 2x6 not out Fahad Ansari 23.

Programme, Tuesday 13th January, Sindh Police vs Custom Academy at Gulberg Gymkhana, Appie Farms vs Pakistan Stallions at Eid Gah Ground Korangi, 14th January Wing 999 vs Medicam Group at Eid Gah Ground Korangi.

## Why Medical Ethics Will Matter More In The Age Of AI Diagnosis?

**Omama Touqueer**

Artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly changing the way diseases are diagnosed. Advanced digital tools can analyze medical images, detect patterns, and assist in clinical decision-making with remarkable speed. While these developments are improving efficiency in healthcare, they have also raised an important concern: can technology replace ethical human judgment? The answer remains no. Medicine is not only about accuracy, but also about responsibility, trust, and compassion. AI diagnosis relies heavily on large volumes of patient data. This raises ethical questions related to privacy, data ownership, and informed consent. Medical information is deeply personal, and its misuse can harm patients beyond physical illness.

Moreover, AI systems are limited to data and algorithms. They cannot understand a patient's emotional state, social background, or cultural values. These human factors are essential in ethical medical care.

In this evolving system, Allied Health Sciences professionals, especially Anesthesia Technologists, play a vital role. They work closely with both patients and technology, ensuring safe monitoring, accurate data handling, and ethical use of advanced machines.

While AI may assist in monitoring or alerts, it is the technologist who interprets these signals responsibly and responds in real time, always prioritizing patient safety.

Medical ethics protects the trust between healthcare professionals and patients. AI should support clinical practice, not replace human responsibility. Final decisions must remain in human hands, guided by ethical principles and professional accountability.

The purpose of this article is to highlight that technological progress must move alongside ethical awareness. The future of healthcare will be strongest when AI enhances human expertise rather than replacing it, allowing compassionate and trustworthy medicine to thrive.

(Author is BS-AHS (Anesthesia Technology in UOH-AHS-MLT Department, KPK, Pakistan)

## All squads revealed for ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026

The highly anticipated ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 is set to begin next month, with most participating teams having already announced their squads.

The marquee event will be played from 7 February to 8 March across Sri Lanka and India.

The event will feature 20 teams, divided into four groups of five, with the top two from each group advancing to the Super Eight stage. A total of 41 matches will be played in the tournament, including the semi-final and final.

Defending champions India were the first team to name their squad for the 2026 World Cup.

Group A includes arch-rivals India and Pakistan, along with the USA, Namibia, and the Netherlands.

Group B features 2022 winners Australia, hosts Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe, Oman, and Ireland.

Group C comprises two of the tournament's most successful teams, England and West Indies, who will also face Bangladesh and Italy — with the latter set to create history with their first-ever appearance.

Meanwhile, Group D includes New Zealand, 2024 runners-up South Africa, Afghanistan, and Canada.

## Manghopir Star Football Club defeated the host Hussaini Club 3-1 in the exhibition match

**Sports Desk**

KARACHI: The exhibition match played between the host Hussaini Football Club Central and Manghopir Star Football Club was won by Manghopir Star Club by 3-1 goals. New Karachi Old Hussaini Football Club Noorani Eidgah Ground Sector 11-G has been restored after 5 years.

A large number of football fans and players showed great enthusiasm and congratulated the Muslim Khatri and Patni community and the Noorani Sports Committee for organizing a wonderful match. In the match played, captain Saifullah scored two goals for the winning team, while the only goal of the host club was scored by Yusha.

The Chief guest, President Patni Jamaat Wali Muhammad Malik Patni, said in his address at the closing ceremony that Noorani Eidgah Hussaini Football Ground is an Old football ground of New Karachi.

Under the leadership of Chief Organizer Sadiq Khatri, wonderful football tournaments



have been organized frequently in the past, while famous teams of Karachi and international players continue to play on this ground and I am very happy that the splendor of football has

been restored here after these 5 years.

I congratulate the Muslim Khatri and Patni community along with the Noorani Sports Committee for this.

I and Sadiq Khatri and on my behalf announce that a wonderful tournament will be organized on the occasion of Hussaini Football Grounds. Mango Peer Star Captain

Saifullah is very grateful to Hussaini Club Secretary Hassan Ghanchi and Noorani Sports Committee for inviting us and providing us with the opportunity to play here.

Media Manager Muhammad Nizam also addressed the ceremony. In the closing ceremony, the chief guest presented the winner trophy to Saifullah of the winning team while the runner-up trophy to Hussaini Football Club Captain Shah Khalid. Saifullah was given trophies for scoring two goals and Yusha for scoring one goal.

On this occasion, Bice-President Muslim Khatri Anjuman Muhammad Ayub Khatri, Haji Khatri. Vice President Patni Jamaat Muhammad Yaqub Malik Patni. Secretary Hussaini Club Hassan Ghanchi. Hanif Hala and Sonu Patni of Noorani Sports Committee. Waqar Mansoori. Hafiz Tahir. Shakeel Michael. Siddique Patni and other local dignitaries were also present. Finally, the players were presented with a gift of Sindh Ajrak and other gifts by the administration.

## Abdul Javed bags Islamabad Snooker Cup title

**Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Abdul Javed Junior emerged as the champion of the Islamabad Cup Snooker Championship after defeating Shan Naimat 4-2 in the final played at the Shender 41 Snooker Academy.

The week-long championship was organized by the Islamabad Billiards and Snooker Association (IBSA) under the umbrella of the Pakistan Billiards and Snooker Association (PBSA), said a press release.

The final match was witnessed by the chief guest, Member of the National Assembly (MNA) Malik Abrar Ahmed. Senior Vice President of IBSA Saleem Akhtar Rana, Secretary Faheem Anwar Khan, President of the Rawalpindi Billiards and Snooker Association Dr Aamir Khan, along with other notable personalities, were also present on the occasion. Abdul Javed Junior displayed an outstanding performance in the Senior category final against Shan Naimat, registering the highest break of the tournament with a superb 99-point break. He won the final with frame scores of 75-21, 48-61, 114-19, 81-34, 47-69, and 84-29.

In the Masters category, Musaddiq Malik claimed the title with an impressive 4-1 victory over Sattar Khan.



Speaking at the closing ceremony, MNA Malik Abrar Ahmed praised Pakistani snooker players for bringing international recognition to the country through

their remarkable performances.

He encouraged the youth to actively participate in sports and assured that the government would provide maximum

support and facilities to talented young athletes.

The championship concluded with the distribution of prizes among the winners.

## Pakistan to take on USA on Tuesday

**Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan U19 will take on USA U19 in their second warm-up match of the ICC Men's U19 World Cup at the Bulawayo Athletic Club in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe on Tuesday.

The first ball of the match will be bowled at 9.30 am local time, with the toss scheduled at 9am, said a press release.

The Pakistan team held a training session at the Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo on Monday, where the players took part in net sessions as well as fielding drills for three hours. Pakistan, who are placed in Group C of the mega event, saw their first warm-up match on Saturday against Bangladesh

washed out, with only 36.3 overs of Bangladesh's innings possible at the Masvingo Sports Club.

The 16-team tournament is scheduled to take place from January 15 to February 6 in Namibia and Zimbabwe. Champions of the 2004 and 2006 ICC U19 editions, Pakistan will face England in their opening fixture at the Takashinga Sports Club in Harare on January 16.

Pakistan will enter the mega event on the back of winning two tournaments - the ACC Men's U19 Asia Cup and the U19 tri-series. Pakistan defeated India by 191 runs in Dubai to clinch the ACC Men's U19 Asia Cup title, while they beat hosts Zimbabwe by nine wickets in Harare to secure the tri-series

trophy.

Looking ahead to the team's preparations for the ICC Men's U19 World Cup, head coach Shahid Anwar, speaking exclu-



sively to PCB Digital said, "The players' strong performances in the past have boosted their confidence, which is very encouraging. Our preparations are progressing well and everything has been planned with the objective of winning the World Cup.

"We are fortunate to have this group of players and all the coaches feel equally privileged. One in-built quality in these boys is that they never give up and continue to fight till the last ball.

"The teamwork within the group is outstanding, with everyone complementing each other. Unity, faith and discipline remain our core values.

"The entire coaching staff works with the players individually, focusing on their natural strengths and enhancing their super strengths. If we continue to rely on our strengths against any opponent, I am confident we will achieve positive results."

15-member squad: Farhan Yousaf (captain), Usman Khan (vice-captain), Abdul Subhan,

Ahmed Hussain, Ali Hasan Baloch, Ali Raza, Daniyal Ali Khan, Hamza Zahoor (wk), Huzaifa Ahsan, Momin Qamar, Mohammad Sayyam, Mohammad Shayan (wk), Niqab Shafiq, Sameer Minhas and Umar Zaib.

Non-traveling reserves: Abdul Qadir, Farhanullah, Hassan Khan, Ibtisam Azhar and Mohammad Huzaifa.

Support staff: Sarfaraz Ahmed (manager/mentor), Shahid Anwar (head coach/batting coach), Rao Ifikhar (bowling coach), Mansoor Amjad (fielding coach), Abrar Ahmed (trainer), Syed Nazir Ahmed (media manager), Dr Ali Aun (doctor), Ubaidullah (physio), Ali Hamza (analyst).

## NITB meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding NAVTTC on Monday.



Photo: PID

## PM directs digitization of necessary Hajj procedures to facilitate pilgrims this year

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday directed the National Information Technology Board (NITB) officials to ensure digitization of all necessary stages of Hajj to facilitate pilgrims this year and access to government facilities easier for the masses through technology.

The prime minister

chaired a review meeting on matters pertaining to the NITB here, a Prime Minister's Office news release said.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif appreciated the extensive preparations made by the Ministry of Information Technology and other concerned ministries to set up Asan Khidmat Markaz in the federal capital.

He also added that he would soon hold a review meeting on QR-based feed-

back system for overseas Pakistanis.

During the briefing, the NITB officials apprised the prime minister that after the appointment of the new CEO of NITB, the entire structure of the institution was being reorganized in line with contemporary requirements. However, the officials informed that all preparations were complete to open Asan Khidmat Markaz for citizens in the federal capital.

"A secure new app for all government sector institutions will be launched soon. Moreover, an integrated One Patient One ID system is in the final stages of preparation for timely and better service delivery in public hospitals," the officials said in the briefing.

The officials opined that this system would improve the performance of hospitals and provide better care to patients. They added that

an analytics dashboard for the judiciary using big data was also being developed.

It was noted that the NITB was running over 145 government websites, more than 126 portals, and 31 mobile phone applications.

Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema, Federal Minister for Information Technology Shaza Fatima Khawaja and senior government officials were present in the meeting.

## Chinese Chaoniu (EV) Electric Motorcycle Company Explores Investment and Localization Opportunities in Pakistan

## Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Following the Prime Minister-led Pak-China B2B Investment Conference held in Beijing in September 2025, a distinguished three-member delegation from Shenzhen-based EV technology firm Chaoniu (Electric Motorcycle) visited the Board of Investment (BOI) to explore opportunities for collaboration, localization, and investment in Pakistan's emerging electric vehicle (EV) sector.

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Erfan Iqbal, Additional Secretary (EDG-II), and was attended by senior BOI officials, including Mr. Adeel Hassan (China & IC Expert) and Mr. Imran Khan (Director SEZ). The Chinese delegation was led by Mr.



Lu Zhong (CEO, Chao Ning / Trend of Electrical Technology) and Mr. Wang Jie (Business Manager), accompanied by their Pakistani business partner Mr. Bajwa.

During the meeting, Mr. Lu Zhong briefed the participants on Shenzhen City Worldwide New Energy Technology Company Limited, noting that the company conducts

its research and development activities in Shenzhen, one of the world's leading technology hubs, while its manufacturing operations are located in another region. He informed

that the company employs over 100 skilled professionals and specializes in integrated EV motor systems that enable the conversion of conventional motorcycles into electric vehicles.

Under the leadership of Federal Minister for Investment, Mr. Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, the Board of Investment continues to play a pivotal role in promoting foreign investment, expanding industrial cooperation, and enhancing Pakistan's global economic integration—particularly with China, its longstanding strategic partner. This engagement marks another important milestone in deepening Pak-China industrial collaboration and accelerating progress under CPEC Phase-II.

## BISP introduces free SIMs to combat illegal deductions

## News Desk

KARACHI: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Program, Senator Rubina Khalid, met Senator Yousaf Balooh and other dignitaries at Balooh Hall, Lyari, today. Senator Rubina Khalid was warmly welcomed upon her arrival in Lyari. Sindh Government Spokesperson MPA Sadia Javed, MPA Shazia Karim Sanghar, and other dignitaries of the area were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the participants at Balooh Hall, Chairperson BISP Senator Rubina Khalid said that the Government of Pakistan has introduced a new, transparent, and secure payment system under the Benazir Income



Support Program, named Social Protection Wallets. Under this system, the Benazir Income Support Program is providing free SIMs to ensure that

women receive their payments directly, fully, and with dignity.

She clarified that free SIMs will be provided only through BISP offices or government-designated campsites, and women must bring their own mobile phones for this purpose. Senator Rubina Khalid instructed women to immediately lodge a complaint if anyone demands extra money or attempts any deduction.

Addressing the women beneficiaries, she said that Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto was a brave and fearless leader who never bowed before oppression or injustice. She urged women to show the same courage and firmly refuse if anyone demands illegal payments.

## President to visit Bahrain from January 13 to 16



## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, H. E. Mr. Asif Ali Zardari, will undertake an official visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain from 13-16 January 2026. He will be accompanied by a high-level delegation.

During the visit, the President will hold meetings with His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the King of the Kingdom of Bahrain, and His

Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Bahrain. The discussions will focus on bilateral, regional, and international issues of mutual interest.

The visit seeks to reinforce Pakistan's longstanding cooperation with the brotherly Gulf nation while expanding opportunities for collaboration in trade and economic partnership, defence and security, and people-to-people ties.

## NA Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Convenes Meeting of Parliamentary Leaders on 12th January 2026



## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has convened a meeting of Parliamentary leaders to be held on 12th January at 4:00 p.m in the Parliament House, Islamabad.

The meeting, to be chaired by Speaker National Assembly Sardar

Ayaz Sadiq, will formulate the strategy for the 23rd session of the National Assembly.

During the meeting, parliamentary leaders will deliberate on key matters expected to come under discussion during the upcoming session of the National Assembly. All heads of parliamentary parties have been invited to attend the meeting.

## PPP, PTI stage walkout from National Assembly over violations of constitution



## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Members of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Monday staged a walkout from the National Assembly during the session, protesting what they termed violations of the Constitution and law through the promulgation of ordinances.

The walkout was announced after strong objections were raised by PPP leader Syed Naveed Qamar, who said that for the first time in Pakistan's history an ordinance had been issued without the signature and approval of the President. He questioned how the government could issue an ordinance without the President's signa-

ture, saying such a step had not been taken even during the dictator's era. Declaring that the party could not be part of the House under these circumstances, he said the PPP would continue its protest until the government takes corrective measures.

Earlier, the National Assembly session began under the chairmanship of Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, 37 minutes later than the scheduled time. The panel of chairs for the current session included Ali Zahid, Abdul Qadir Patel, Shehla Raza and Nuzhat Sadiq. Fatcha was offered for the mother of MNA Moazzam Ali, former minister Manzoor Wattoo and others, with the prayer led by MNA Engineer Ali Muhammad Khan.