



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ

ابو ہریرہ رضی اللہ عنہ نے بیان کیا کہ رسول اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا جب امت ضائع کی جائے تو قیامت کا انتظار کرو۔ پوچھا: یا رسول اللہ! امت کس طرح ضائع کی جائے گی؟ فرمایا جب کام ہاتھ لوگوں کے سپرد کر دیئے جائیں تو قیامت کا انتظار کرو۔ (صحیح بخاری، حدیث نمبر 6496)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



Minister for national dialogue to reach consensus

Federal Law Minister Azam Nazir Tarar said on Tuesday that all parties should rise above their differences, sit together and hold a national dialogue to steer the country out of present crisis



FCC to hear suo moto notice of Arshad Sharif murder case today

Federal Constitutional Court (FCC) will hear suo moto notice against the murder of journalist Arshad Sharif on Tuesday. A two-member bench headed by Justice Aamir Farooq will hear the case. The Court has already issued notices to Ministry of Interior, FIA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, IB and PFUJ.

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Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets a delegation from Ericsson led by President Patrick Johansson on Tuesday.

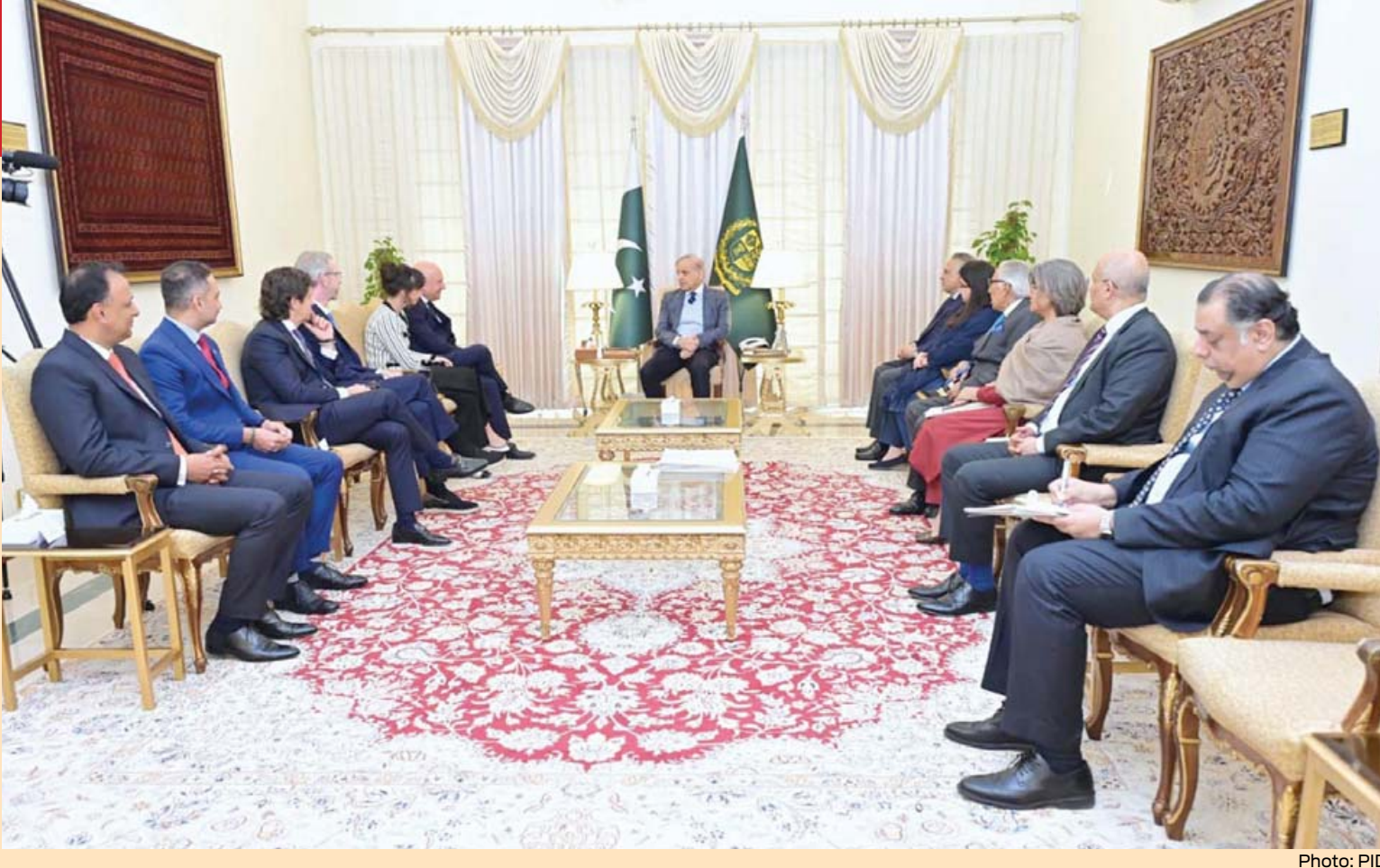


Photo: PID

PM reaffirms govt's support for foreign investors, strategic technology partners

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday reaffirmed the government's commitment to supporting foreign investors and strategic technology partners.

In a meeting with a delegation from Ericsson here at the PM's House, the prime minister welcomed the delegation and

appreciated Ericsson's longstanding investment in Pakistan and its contribution to the development of the country's telecommunications sector. He acknowledged Ericsson's presence in Pakistan that spans more than six decades.

The delegation was led by Patrick Johansson, President and Head of Market Area Europe, Middle East and Africa

at Ericsson.

The meeting focused on the importance of next-generation digital connectivity for economic growth, productivity and public service delivery.

The prime minister highlighted Pakistan's interest in learning from Ericsson's global experience in advanced networks, including 5G, while ensuring secure and resilient

infrastructure aligned with national needs.

Discussions also covered cooperation on digital skills development, financial inclusion and the expansion of cashless payment systems, as well as the use of technology to strengthen disaster preparedness and institutional resilience.

The Ericsson delegation

praised the Government of Pakistan's efforts to develop and upgrade the country's IT infrastructure including the 5G spectrum auction.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Minister for IT Shaza Fatma Khawaja, SAPM Syed Tariq Fatemi and senior officials also attended the meeting.

UAE and Pakistan Launch Pre-Immigration Clearance to Speed Up Travel

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates have agreed to introduce a "pre-immigration clearance" system that will allow passengers traveling from Pakistan to skip lengthy immigration queues upon arrival in the UAE.

The agreement was reached during a meeting between Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and a UAE delegation led by Director General of Customs and Port Security Ahmed bin Lahij Al Falasi. Discussions focused on strengthening bilateral cooperation, particularly in simplifying

travel and immigration procedures.

Under the proposed system, immigration checks for UAE-bound passengers will be completed in Pakistan before departure. Karachi has been selected as the pilot location for the initial rollout.

Minister Naqvi said the initiative would significantly reduce processing time for travelers, enabling them to exit UAE airports as domestic passengers. "This system will make travel easier, save time, and greatly improve the passenger experience," he said.

The UAE delegation welcomed

the proposal, calling it beneficial for citizens of both countries and affirming full cooperation in its implementation.

Both sides agreed to continue coordination to finalize the administrative and technical framework for the pilot phase. If successful, the program will be expanded to additional airports in Pakistan.

The visiting delegation included Executive Director Digital Transformation Juma Abdullah Al-Qabi, Executive Director Airports Hammad Saif Al-Mashghouini, and other senior officials. Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry and Federal



Secretary Interior Khurram Agha also attended the meeting.

Zero tolerance for financial fraud and crime: Talal Chaudhry

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry on Tuesday told the National Assembly that there was "zero tolerance" for financial fraud and criminal misconduct, assuring the House that all cases highlighted by lawmakers were being investigated and

acted upon.

Responding to a point of order raised by Member National Assembly Sher Afzal Marwat, he said the incident reported by the member in which money was allegedly taken from citizens had led to the arrest and charging of the police officials involved.

He said such complaints

were taken very seriously and that there was zero tolerance for this kind of behaviour within the police.

Referring to another case mentioned by MNA, a Rs 100 million incident, Talal Chaudhry said it had not yet been established that any police official was involved.

He informed the House that

a multi-agency investigation was under way and assured members that, should any evidence of involvement by officials surface, strict action would be taken in line with the zero-tolerance policy.

He added that lawmaker had earlier also pointed out issues related to the National Cyber Crime Investigation (NCCI)

wing, and that a number of complaints and reports — including a high-profile case involving a YouTuber — had led to action against senior NCCI officers.

Some of these officers, he said, had been placed under suspension, were under investigation and, in certain cases, arrested.

Four Indian-Sponsored Terrorists Neutralized in Balochistan Counter-Terror Operation



City Desk

RAWALPINDI: On 12 January 2026, security forces conducted an intelligence based operation in Kalat District of Balochistan, on reported presence of terrorists belonging to Indian proxy, Fitna al Hindustan.

During the conduct of operation, own forces effectively engaged the terrorists' location, and after an intense fire exchange, four Indian sponsored terrorists were sent to hell.

Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from

the terrorists, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities in the area.

Sanitization operations are being conducted to eliminate any other Indian sponsored terrorist found in the area. Relentless Counter Terrorism campaign under vision "Azme Istehkam" (as approved by Federal Apex Committee on National Action Plan) by Security Forces and Law Enforcement Agencies of Pakistan will continue at full pace to wipe out menace of foreign sponsored and supported terrorism from the country.

Dar receives briefing on wheat stocks in Pakistan

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar on Tuesday chaired a meeting to review the current wheat reserves in Pakistan, amid ongoing efforts by the government to ensure national food security.

According to a statement issued by the Deputy Prime Minister's Office, the meeting was briefed by the relevant committee on the status of wheat stocks across the country. Officials informed the meeting that the level of wheat reserves was satisfactory.

The statement said the federal government currently holds around 2 million metric tons of wheat, which can be released to the provinces according to their needs. The availability of stocks would help ensure smooth supply

and price stability, particularly during periods of increased demand.

Dar reiterated the government's commitment to ensuring food security and the timely distribution of wheat across the country. He stressed



the importance of coordinated efforts between the federal and provincial governments to manage reserves efficiently.

The meeting was attended by Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Tariq Bajwa, the Secretary Food, the Chief Secretary Punjab, officials from the Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP), and senior representatives of the concerned ministries.

3 new trees to be planted for each tree cut: Dr Musadik Malik

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr Musadik Malik said the Capital Development Authority (CDA) will plant three trees for every one cut, while the Ministry of Climate Change will launch additional plantation drives across Islamabad.

He stated this during a media briefing on the occasion of his field visit to Shakarparian on Tuesday to review the ongoing process of paper mulberry tree cutting and the plantation of indigenous species. During the visit, the minister inspected the removal of paper mulberry trees and assessed

the progress of reforestation efforts using native plants.

Dr Musadik Malik said that the cutting of paper mulberry trees in Shakarparian was carried out only after scientific identification and assessment. He warned that strict action would be taken if negligence or any violation of the law was found at any stage of the process.

The minister directed the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to conduct a complete tree count and collect comprehensive data.

He said that a public hearing had been held at F-9 Park and that its minutes had been called for. He also sought complete details of all public hearings conducted across Islamabad.

AJK minister inaugurates 126th Annual Urs of Hazrat Sain Saheli Sarkar (RA)

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The nine-day celebrations of the 126th annual Urs of Hazrat Sain Saheli Sarkar (RA) have formally commenced. The inauguration of the Urs was performed by the Minister for Auqaf, Religious Affairs and Information, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Chaudhry Muhammad Rafiq Nayyar.

On the opening day, special arrangements were made at the shrine of Sain Saheli Sarkar (RA) for recitation of the Holy Quran, Fatcha Khwani and collective prayers, in which a large number of devotees participated. On this occasion, the Minister visited the shrine, laid a ceremonial chadar and offered prayers for the elevation of the spiritual ranks of Sain Saheli Sarkar (RA).

Among those present were Secretary Auqaf and Religious Affairs Amir Mahmood Mirza, Spokesperson to the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir



Shaukat Javed Mir, Director General Auqaf Department Azad Kashmir Muhammad Younis Chaudhry, Director Information Muhammad Bashir Mirza and other officials.

While addressing the gathering, Chaudhry Muhammad Rafiq Nayyar said that Sain Saheli Sarkar (RA) was a true custodian of the noble tradition of saints, founded on divine love, peace

and devotion. He said that foolproof arrangements have been made for the 126th Urs to ensure convenience and safety of the devotees. He urged scholars and religious leaders to play their role in promoting religious harmony and unity, adding that saints have always preached love, tolerance and brotherhood.

Earlier, on the commencement of

the Urs, the district administration, police, municipal corporation and other concerned departments had made comprehensive and foolproof security and administrative arrangements to ensure ease and comfort for the devotees during their visit to the shrine. The nine-day celebrations have formally begun and will continue until the concluding prayers.

Muzaffarabad Chambers delegation visits IPO Head Office, Islamabad



Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Muzaffarabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) headed by Khawaja Ahtisham Woogra, President MCCI, visited IPO Head Office, Islamabad for meeting with Mr. Nauman Aslam, Director General IPO-Pakistan for cooperation and support the larger national objectives of creating an effective and strong IP footprint in Pakistan.

Welcoming the MCCI delegation, Director General IPO-Pakistan appreciated the significant role being played by the Muzaffarabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MCCI) in assisting the government to develop the type of policy framework needed to bring meaningful improvements in the business environment aimed at spurring economic growth in the country. The Government is committed to provide all out support to the business community and structure the economy on strong foundations through a scheme of incentives and structural reforms to help them emerge in this state of intense competitive environment. He further said that IPO-Pakistan has embarked on an inclusive advocacy program to create awareness amongst the masses. I am fully confident that together we can synergize our efforts to further the shared goals of economic development of the country through advocacy, networking, business support and information dissemination. Therefore, I believe that your support and cooperation will go a long way in materializing the objective of educating the people about the significance of IP in protecting and further promoting businesses within Pakistan and abroad.

All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference ramps up mobilization for key workers' meet

Bureau Report



MUZAFFARABAD: Under the auspices of the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference, Muzaffarabad Division, extensive preparations are underway to ensure the success of the "Kashmir Banega Pakistan" Workers' Convention. Party leadership and workers have rolled up their sleeves and accelerated the door-to-door public outreach campaign to mobilize maximum participation.

Preparations are in full swing in all areas including Neelum Valley, Hattian Bala, Leepa Valley, Muzaffarabad City, and all Union Councils of the division, where organizational activities and coordination efforts are being carried out with vigor.

Senior party leaders and committee chairpersons who are actively overseeing and participating in the campaign including former Minister Shamim Ali Malik, Raja Waqar Khan President Muslim Conference Jhelum Valley Chairperson Social Media Committee Sumaiya Sajid Raja, Chairperson Administration Committee Syed Tasawwar Abbas Mousavi, Chairperson Finance Committee Saleem Awan, Mir Rizwan Ur Rehman Advocate, Chairperson Reception Committee Sardar Sajjad Anwar Abbasi, Sheikh Maqsood Ahmed, Social Media Committee Member Maimoona Kiyani Advocate, Khawaja Anan Ahmed Balaji, Chairperson Contact Committee Syed Yasir Ali Naqvi Advocate, Nasreen Raja, Chairperson Media Committee Haroon Azad, and Youth Wing leader Sikandar Habib Mir.

The leadership expressed confidence that, with the collective efforts of all party workers and the overwhelming response from the public, the "Kashmir Banega Pakistan" Workers' Convention will prove to be a landmark event and a strong demonstration of the people's unwavering commitment to their ideological stance.

Over 114,000 Huffaz of the Holy Qur'an Produced in One Year Across Pakistan Including AJK

Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD/MUZAFFARABAD: Wifaq-ul-Madaris Al-Arabia Pakistan has once again set a remarkable and historic global record by producing 114,243 students who completed the memorization of the Holy Qur'an (Hifz) across Pakistan, including Azad Jammu and Kashmir, during a single year. This achievement is unparalleled not only in Pakistan but worldwide, reaffirming Wifaq-ul-Madaris Al-Arabia Pakistan as the largest Islamic educational network producing the highest number of Huffaz of the Holy Qur'an in the world.

In recognition of its outstanding religious and educational services, Wifaq-ul-Madaris Al-Arabia Pakistan has previously been awarded by Rabita Al-Alam Al-Islami (Muslim World League) for producing the largest number of Huffaz globally. No other Islamic country or educational network matches Wifaq-ul-Madaris Al-Arabia Pakistan in this distinguished honor.

According to Seyad Adnan Shah a prominent Kashmiri scholar Muzaffarabad the statistics released by the Mohtamim of Wifaq-ul-Madaris Al-Arabia Pakistan for Muzaffarabad Division, the regional distribution of students who completed Hifz this year is as follows:

Islamabad: 2,429, Punjab: 47,074, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: 34,148, Sindh: 22,018, Balochistan: 7,135, Azad Jammu and Kashmir: 1,754, Gilgit-Baltistan: 365

Seyad Adnan Shah revealed That annual examinations for students completing Hifz-ul-Qur'an in Muzaffarabad Division will be conducted from January 10 to January 15, 2026. For this purpose, thousands of expert Qaris and senior teachers of the Hifz departments have been engaged across the country. These examiners have undergone comprehensive training under the supervision of regional and district-level officials of the Hifz department of Wifaq-ul-Madaris Al-Arabia Pakistan, covering examination procedures, assessment standards, and result compilation.

The Secretary General (Nazim-e-Aala) of Wifaq-ul-Madaris Al-Arabia Pakistan, Maulana Muhammad Hanif Jalandhari, expressed profound gratitude to Almighty Allah for enabling the institution to achieve such a monumental milestone. He termed it a great honor and blessing for Wifaq-ul-Madaris Al-Arabia Pakistan and reaffirmed the resolve to continue serving the cause of Qur'an and Sunnah, safeguarding Islamic identity, and contributing to the intellectual and moral training of the Muslim Ummah.

Condolence

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhary, talking to media after offering condolence to the bereaved families of G7/2 gas leakage incident on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

Bazil Ali Naqvi Visits Kotli, Inspects DHQ and THQ Sehnsa Hospitals

Bureau Report

KOTLI: The Minister for Public Health and Population Welfare, Azad Government of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, Syed Bazil Ali Naqvi, visited Kotli and conducted a detailed inspection of the District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital Kotli and the Tehsil Headquarters (THQ) Hospital Sehnsa. Minister for Higher Education Zafar Iqbal Malik and Minister for Revenue Chaudhry Muhammad Akhlaq accompanied him during the visit.

The Minister thoroughly reviewed various departments of DHQ Hospital, including wards, emergency unit, laboratory, pharmacy, X-ray unit and other medical facilities. He received a comprehensive briefing on the availability of medical services, medicines, and attendance of the medical staff. He directed the hospital administration to ensure courteous behavior with patients and emphasized that no negligence or compromise



in treatment would be tolerated.

On the occasion, Medical Superintendent DHQ Hospital Dr. Nasrullah, District Health Officer Kotli Dr. Syed Shafiq Hussain Shah, Deputy Medical Superintendent Dr. Syed Hasnain Bukhari, Senior Cardiologist

Dr. Usman and Dr. Ansar Malik were also present. MS Dr. Nasrullah briefed the Minister on ongoing reforms in the health department, government priorities for improving healthcare services, administrative and technical status of the hospital, availability of medical staff,

supply of medicines, and issues faced by the public.

The visit is being termed as a significant and positive step towards making the overall performance of the Health Department more effective, organized and people-friendly.

Masood Khan warns of dangerous escalation between the United States and Iran

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador Masood Khan, former President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and former Pakistan Ambassador to the United States and the United Nations, has cautioned that the deepening crisis between the United States and Iran represents one of the most dangerous flashpoints in the Middle East, marked by the near-total absence of diplomacy and a growing risk of military escalation with grave consequences for regional and global security.

Speaking during a televised discussion

on unfolding protests in Iran and the evolving U.S. posture, Ambassador Khan said the situation is far more volatile than past episodes of unrest. While protests are internal in nature, he warned that the external dimension is expanding rapidly, creating a "very scary" scenario for peace and stability. He stressed that Pakistan, as Iran's immediate neighbour with a shared border of nearly 900 kilometres, would be among the countries most directly affected by any escalation.

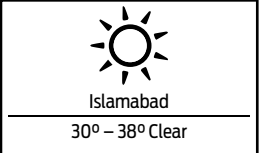
Ambassador Khan noted that President Donald Trump's statements—indi-



cating openness to talks while simultaneously threatening military action—have injected further uncertainty into an already fragile situation. He observed that what began as domestic unrest,

largely driven by economic distress and the cumulative impact of long-standing sanctions, is increasingly being internationalised, raising the risk of external intervention.

Ambassador Masood Khan said the situation remains fluid and unpredictable, with no clear solution in sight. He urged the international community to activate whatever diplomatic channels remain to prevent a catastrophic conflict. "We are not living in a utopia," he said, "but without diplomacy, the costs—for Iran, for the region, and for neighbours like Pakistan—will be unbearable."



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr5:45 am
Zohr12:16 pm
Asr3:42 pm
Maghrib5:20 pm
Isha6:48 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police9266044
Motorway Police9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance115
PIA Flight Info 114
PIA Cargo 9280979
Railway Inquiry117
Railway Exchange9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi5555489
CAA 9281092

HOSPITALS

CMH561111
MH561116
MH561116
Cantt Hospital9270907-11
DHQ5556311-4
RGH9290301-7
Holy Family9290322-7
PIMS9261170-79
Polyclinic 9218300-09
Shifa International4603666

DEPARTMENTS

CDA9221334-43
CDA 9208301-04
Met Office 9250360-6
RDA5555864
TMA 5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan
Corporation 9209224
Potohar Town 9209224
Rawal Town 5773343

COMPLAINTS

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

Balochistan Industry Facing Collapse Due to Soaring Electricity Tariffs Warns APP Leader

News Desk

KARACHI/QUETTA: Syed Aman Shah, Provincial Convener of the Awaam Pakistan Party (APP) Balochistan, stated that exorbitant electricity tariffs have pushed industries—particularly in Balochistan—into a severe crisis. The continuous increase in power prices has driven industrial production costs to unbearable levels, forcing small and medium-sized enterprises to shut down one after another.

He said that as a result of this industrial stagnation, millions of laborers and skilled workers have been rendered unemployed, a development that is disastrous not only for their families but also for the national economy as a whole.

Syed Aman Shah emphasized that Balochistan is already suffering from a lack of basic facilities, investment, and employment opportunities. In such circumstances, the closure of industries has further shut the doors of employment for the youth. Rising unemployment is fueling social unrest, poverty, and crime, for which flawed economic policies and unrealistic electricity tariffs bear direct responsibility.

Mushaal Hussein Mullick says no power can stop the Kashmir Freedom Movement

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Chairperson of the Peace & Culture Organisation (PCO) and Hurriyat leader Mushaal Hussein Mullick said that no power in the world can stop the Kashmir freedom movement, adding that millions of Kashmiris have sacrificed their lives for this cause and these sacrifices will never go in vain. She stated that the sacrifices of the Kashmiri people will continue to strengthen and carry forward the freedom struggle led by Yasin Malik.

Mushaal Hussein Mullick made these remarks during public outreach activities in Rawalpindi, where she, alongside Ms Sabien Hussein Mullick (Secretary General, Peace & Culture Organisation) and her daughter, visited Teench Bhata Bazar as part of the people-to-people mobilisation campaign. She said that hundreds of citizens and trader-community representatives welcomed the delegation with flowers and garlands, while taranas of Kashmir echoed through the market, reflecting deep public solidarity

with the Kashmiri cause and the demand to save Yasin Malik.

Highlighting the humanitarian crisis, Mushaal Hussein Mullick said oppression has reached extreme levels in occupied Kashmir, where, she claimed, young people are taken hostage and families are pushed into endless rounds of jails, courts, police stations, and army camps, often without knowing the whereabouts of their missing loved ones.

She urged the international community to take serious notice of grave human rights violations in occupied Kashmir and to play its role in ensuring the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination, in line with international commitments and principles of justice.

During the Teench Bhata engagement, trader representatives from Punjab, Rawalpindi, and the Teench Bhata market reaffirmed support for the campaign and pledged to amplify the message through market networks, community forums, and public solidarity initiatives.



Model

ISLAMABAD: A stunning view of the models of the historical buildings on green belt of the road in the private town, which is located in the slums of Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Faisalabad Region Police sign MoU with Career Institute for fee concessions

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: The Regional Police Office (RPO) Faisalabad has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Career Institute (Private) Limited to provide special educational fee concessions for the children of police officers and personnel.

The MoU was signed by Regional Police Officer Faisalabad, Sohail Akhtar Sukhera and Chairman of Career Institute (Pvt) Ltd, Muhammad Adeel Javed.

Under the agreement, 100 per cent fee concession will be granted to the children of police martyrs (Shuhada), 75 per cent concession to the children of Ghazi police officers and 50 per cent concession to the children of serving police personnel.

Speaking on the occasion, RPO Sohail Akhtar Sukhera said the objective of the agreement was to ensure access to quality education for the children



dren of police personnel. He said that the MoU would help police families complete their children's education without financial hardship and would

contribute to their long-term welfare.

The RPO Sohail Sukhera reiterated that the Faisalabad police remained fully

committed to the welfare of its martyrs, Ghazis and serving personnel and to securing a better future for their families through educational support.

Kamalia ASP Ali Ahmed vows uncompromising action against criminals and drug dealers

Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Kamalia Ali Ahmed talking to our correspondent, stated that indiscriminate operations against criminal elements and drug dealers are ongoing to ensure the complete eradication of crime and narcotics from the area. He emphasized that the Kamalia police are fully committed to maintaining law and order and will not tolerate any criminal activity. ASP Ali Ahmed further said that police personnel are carrying out regular patrolling on a daily basis. During these patrols, any suspicious individuals are immediately stopped and searched to prevent criminal activities at an early stage. He added that, by the grace of Allah, the continuous and effective actions of the police have resulted in a significant reduction in street crime. The public is also cooperating with the police, which has played a vital role in improving the overall security situation in Kamalia. ASP Ali Ahmed reaffirmed that the police will continue their efforts with the same dedication to provide a safe and peaceful environment for citizens and to eliminate crime and drug menace from society completely.



Jl announces nationwide referendum against Punjab Local Government Act

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Jamaat-e-Islami has announced to hold a nationwide referendum on January 15 in the second phase of its resistance movement against the Punjab Local Government Act. Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman will visit the



central camp at Ghanta Ghar Chowk on January 17. A camp will be set up at Ghanta Ghar Chowk from January 15 where workers will get citizens, traders and influential people from all sections of society to cast their votes. Camps will be set up in front of central mosques across the city on Friday, January 16, while in the next two days, mobile camps will be set up in markets and residential areas across the district to solicit public opinion and cast their votes. Jamaat-e-Islami District Ameer Professor Mehboob-uz-Zaman Butt, while giving details at a press conference at Al-Markaz-ul-Islami Chiniot Bazaar, said that the new local government system of Punjab is a direct attack on the democratic and constitutional rights of the people. The solution to public problems is not possible until the local government institutions are given complete financial, administrative and political autonomy. Jamaat-e-Islami will continue to resist this law vigorously and force the government to withdraw it. Local leaders Mian Tahir Ayub, Rao Sikandar Azam, Rai Nadeem-ur-Rehman, Sheikh Mushtaq, Afzal Shaheen were also present on this occasion. They said that the current government has taken away the right of public decision-making by making local government institutions subordinate to bureaucracy. It is in conflict with the Constitution of Pakistan.

Sudanese Engineers receive certificates under NUTECH-OIC-COMSTECH collaborative program

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Certificate Distribution Ceremony for the specialized technical training program for Sudanese engineers, jointly organized by OIC-COMSTECH and the National University of Technology (NUTECH), was held on 13 Jan 2026. Certificates were awarded to 20 Sudanese Engineers who successfully completed the CAD/CAM/CNC Operations and Machine Building Course hosted at NUTECH under COMSTECH's sponsorship. The program provided

intensive hands-on training in modern manufacturing technologies, including computer-aided design and manufacturing, CNC operations, and machine building, equipping participants with industry-relevant technical skills.

H. E. Salih Mohamed Ahmed Mohamed Siddig, Ambassador of the Republic of Sudan to Pakistan, graced the occasion as a Chief Guest, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General OIC-COMSTECH, Engr. Moazzam Ejaz, Rector NUTECH, along with senior officials from Sudan Embassy also attended the event.

Chief Guest H. E. Salih Mohamed Ahmed Mohamed Siddig, Ambassador of the Republic of Sudan to Pakistan, commended NUTECH and COMSTECH for their efforts in providing high-quality technical training and emphasized the importance of equipping Sudanese engineers with advanced skills to support the country's industrial and technological development. In his remarks, Rector NUTECH, highlighted the University's focus on hands-on, practical training aligned with modern industrial needs. He reaffirmed NUTECH's commitment

in partnership with OIC-COMSTECH to supporting international capacity-building programs and expressed confidence that the trained engineers would contribute effectively to industrial development in Sudan. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General OIC-COMSTECH emphasized that COMSTECH remains committed to promoting human resource development, applied research, and technology transfer across OIC countries. He stated that such training initiatives are designed to equip young professionals with industry-rel-



evant skills and to foster long-term academic and technical collaboration among member states. Ambassador Mr. Aftab Ahmad Khokher, Assistant Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) for Science and Technology, appreciated the

COMSTECH-NUTECH joint training initiative, stating that such collaborative programs play a vital role in strengthening capacity building, promoting scientific cooperation, and enhancing technical skills among professionals from OIC member states.

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Israel-U. S. Image Warfare Against Iran

Wars in the modern era are no longer fought only with bullets, missiles, fighter jets, or nuclear deterrence. Increasingly, they are fought long before any kinetic action begins—on a quieter, more deceptive battlefield: the battlefield of perception. Images, videos, and narratives now travel faster than diplomacy, bypassing borders, institutions, and even reason. In this new reality, social media has become one of the most dangerous weapons ever devised—capable of destabilizing societies without firing a single shot.

Over recent weeks, a flood of videos has emerged on social media platforms claiming to show massive demonstrations across Iran. The imagery is dramatic: endless crowds filling wide boulevards, national flags lining streets with striking uniformity, and aerial perspectives suggesting a country on the verge of total upheaval. There is no denial that Iran, like many nations under economic pressure and political strain, experiences dissent and protest. That fact is neither new nor controversial. What demands scrutiny, however, is whether the specific videos being circulated reflect organic reality or constructed spectacle.

Second, the perspective and scaling appear inconsistent with physical reality. Buildings recede naturally with distance, but the human forms within the crowd retain disproportionate clarity far beyond what optics and aerial resolution would allow. In authentic drone footage, individuals quickly lose definition as distance increases, blending into texture and motion. Here, human figures remain visually distinct deep into the frame, defying the expected behavior of light, distance, and atmospheric interference.

Third, the symbolic repetition is striking. Flags appear at near-identical intervals, with uniform size, color saturation, and orientation. In real protest envi-

ronments, symbols are irregular: some flags hang limp, others ripple unpredictably; many are partially obscured or tilted at varying angles. Perfect visual repetition is a hallmark of design, not of lived reality.

Fourth, there is an absence of micro-chaos. Even a single frame extracted from authentic protest footage captures motion blur, raised hands, head turns, banners at differing angles, and small disturbances rippling through the crowd. The video in question presents magnitude without motion—an image that appears alive but lacks the subtle disorder that defines real human movement.

Fifth, the information environment itself raises questions. Iran is among the most tightly controlled digital spaces during periods of unrest. Internet throttling, platform disruptions, and communication blackouts are common responses to internal instability. Under such conditions, high-definition, uninterrupted aerial footage does not typically circulate freely or repeatedly. Scarcity, not abundance, defines information flow from closed environments. The sudden frequency and clarity of this material therefore contradict known patterns of access and control.

This contradiction prompted further scrutiny. History provides sobering lessons. Before Iraq was invaded, narratives and visuals prepared global opinion. Before Libya collapsed, selective imagery framed intervention as humanitarian necessity. Before Syria descended into prolonged catastrophe, emotionally charged footage simplified complex realities into moral binaries. In each case, media preceded missiles. Images softened resistance, manufactured urgency, and created justification for actions whose consequences were later measured in

human tragedy.

The current moment bears uncomfortable similarities. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has once again openly revived the language of regime change in Iran, addressing the Iranian public directly and encouraging confrontation with the existing state. This rhetoric is not accidental nor unprecedented.

It follows a long-established pattern in which internal unrest is legitimized externally to legitimize future action.

At the same time, the familiar and highly combustible narrative of Iran's alleged nuclear ambitions has been reintroduced with renewed intensity. Despite years of inspections, contradictory intelligence assessments, and shifting red lines, nuclear alarmism is once again being used to mobilize fear—particularly within Western political circles. Its function is clear: to draw the United States back into a regional confrontation centered on Israeli security calculations.

Statements from Washington reinforce this trajectory. When American leadership publicly warns that Iran will be struck “where it hurts” if unrest is met with force, such language serves as a signal—not merely to Tehran, but to global audiences. It signals that escalation is conceivable, that internal disorder could justify external intervention, and that public opinion must be conditioned in advance.

Simultaneously, the re-emergence of Reza Pahlavi, son of Iran's former monarch, as a proposed alternative leadership figure follows a familiar script. His sudden prominence, international exposure, and expressed willingness to lead mirror past efforts to elevate external figures as symbols of legitimacy during periods of destabilization. History shows

that such figures often resonate more with foreign audiences than with populations on the ground—but they serve an important narrative function nonetheless.

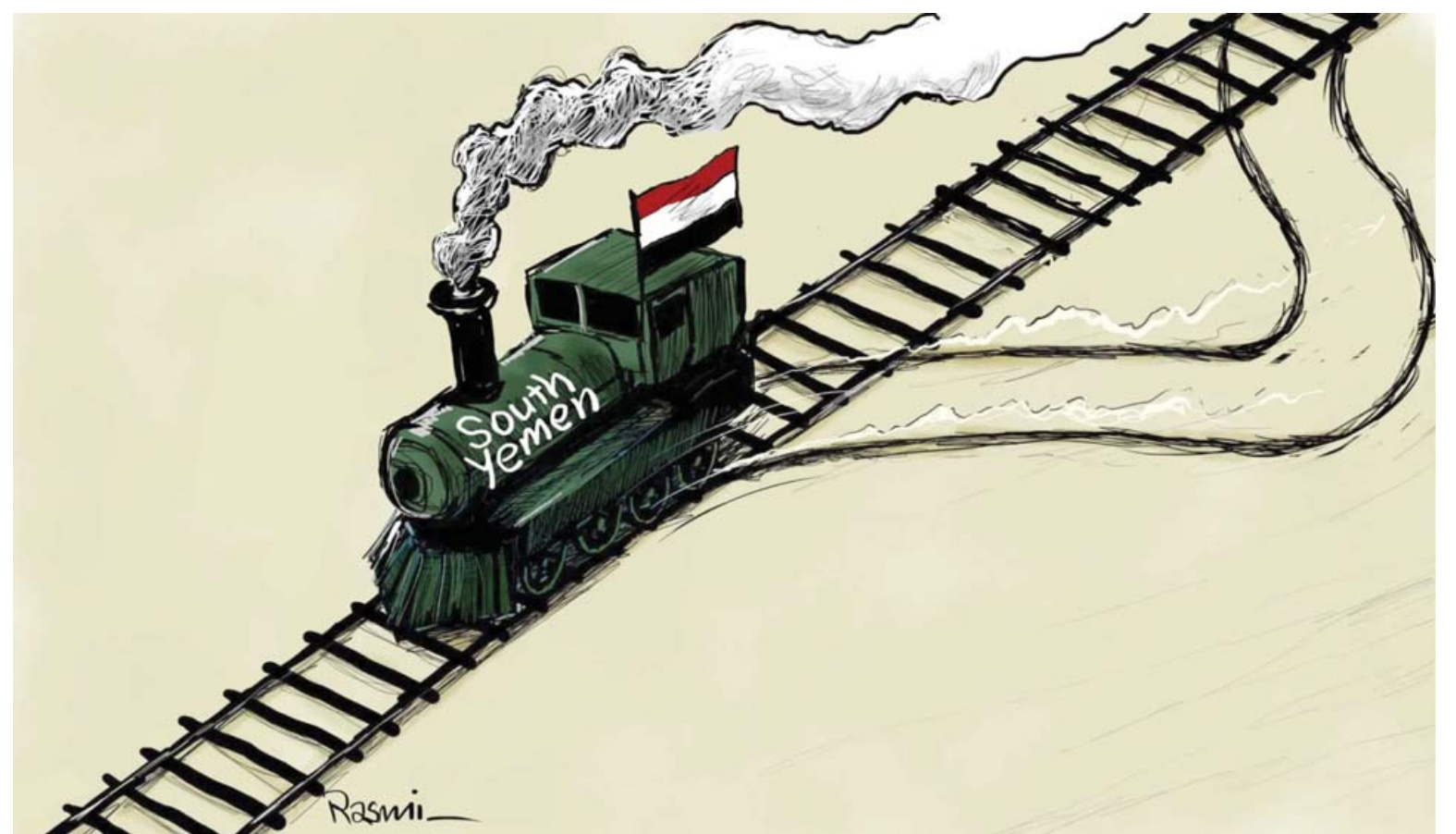
It is within this convergence—Israeli advocacy for regime change, American military signaling, revived nuclear fear narratives, and the elevation of an external political alternative—that the circulation of dramatic protest imagery must be understood. These visuals do not merely document events; they construct inevitability. They suggest total collapse, universal opposition, and moral urgency—all prerequisites for public acceptance of actions that would otherwise face resistance.

This does not mean dissent does not exist in Iran. It does. But exaggeration, fabrication, and narrative inflation have historically been used to convert limited unrest into justification for catastrophic intervention. The consequences of such manipulation are not abstract. They are measured in destroyed cities, displaced populations, and generations condemned to instability.

Today, wars begin not with sirens but with shares. Not with explosions but with engagement metrics. By the time missiles are launched, the psychological battlefield has already been won.

The responsibility therefore lies with citizens, journalists, and analysts alike to resist reflexive belief. To pause. To question. To distinguish between organic human expression and manufactured spectacle. Justice demands evidence. Peace demands restraint. And truth demands patience.

In the age of instant imagery, seeing is no longer believing. Verification is. *The writer is Press Secretary to the President (Rtd), Former Press Minister, Embassy of Pakistan to France, Former Press Attaché to Malaysia and Former MD, SRBC. He is living in Macomb, Michigan.*



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmi. (Courtesy of Ashraf Al-Awdat)

Why Kashmir Remains a Question of Self-Determination Under UN Mandate

Mushtaq Hussain

law has historically viewed such practices with deep suspicion, particularly in disputed or occupied territories.

In Kashmir, demographic engineering functions as a pre-emptive strategy: if the electorate can be changed, the vote becomes irrelevant.

Within this broader framework, the push to divide Jammu and Kashmir into three distinct political units—Kashmir Valley, Jammu, and Ladakh—must be understood as a strategic maneuver rather than administrative rationalization. This approach reflects a classical Chanakyan doctrine: dissolve a unified political problem by atomizing it into competing identities. Once the dispute is no longer perceived as singular, the demand for a single, collective act of self-determination loses coherence.

Ladakh's separation established the precedent. The current effort to encourage separatist administrative narratives in Jammu follows the same logic. Indian intelligence and security structures have actively promoted slogans advocating separate provincial status for Jammu, deliberately redirecting local grievances away from the central question of occupation.

For decades, India's approach to Kashmir relied heavily on the cultivation of manufactured local partners—political figures designed to project an illusion of indigenous consent while substantive power remained centralized in New Delhi. This strategy was integral to sustaining India's claim that Kashmir's political processes reflected popular will rather than coercion.

Historically, prominent local leaders such as Sheikh Abdullah, Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad, Ghulam Mohammad Shah, and Mufti Mohammad Sayeed were often positioned as intermediaries. While some of these figures initially represented Kashmiri aspirations, their autonomy was constrained, and their authority frequently subsumed under New Delhi's strategic objectives. These leaders exemplify the pattern of

managed consent: local legitimacy was tolerated only to the extent that it aligned with the occupying power's goals.

In the post-2019 period, India appears to have shifted away from this model. Local intermediaries are increasingly replaced by ideological actors, such as groups aligned with Hindu nationalist organizations, combined with demographic adjustments through domicile laws. This signals a move from proxy governance to direct ideological and administrative control, where even the symbolic influence of Kashmiri political figures is largely marginalized.

In this framework, the names mentioned serve as historical markers for readers. They illustrate how India has repeatedly leveraged local personalities to lend credibility to policies whose ultimate goal has been to consolidate control, manage dissent, and undermine the principle of self-determination.

Kashmir is no longer merely a regional issue; it is a stress test for the international system. The normalization of unilateralism, demographic alteration, and legal redefinition in defiance of UN resolutions sets a dangerous precedent.

International commitments can be rendered obsolete through delay and reengineering, then the credibility of multilateral conflict resolution collapses.

India's strategy seeks to redefine the dispute out of existence. But unresolved questions do not disappear; they metastasize. Fragmentation, demographic manipulation, and ideological consolidation may produce temporary control, but they do not generate legitimacy or lasting peace.

The people of Kashmir were promised a choice. That promise remains unfulfilled. Whether the international community still considers self-determination a living principle—or merely a historical slogan—will be determined by its response to Kashmir today.

Generational Blame Is a Recipe for Disaster

The debate between Generation Z and the so-called Boomer generation has moved well beyond academic circles. What once belonged to sociological inquiry has now entered the public square—often in the form of sharp accusations, viral slogans, and emotionally charged narratives. Increasingly, one generation is framed as enlightened and progressive, while the other is cast as the root of society's failures.

This framing may be rhetorically powerful, but it is intellectually shallow—and ultimately unproductive.

Generation Z is frequently celebrated as the most informed cohort in history. Yet being surrounded by information is not the same as engaging in learning. To a certain extent, the generation also suffers from a subtle delusion of grandeur and self-righteousness. Many assume that dissenting voices are necessarily ill-informed or intellectually inferior, while their own awareness, shaped largely by social media consensus, often remains unexamined. Confidence is mistaken for comprehension; volume for validity.

Today, the ability to think independently is no longer merely an academic virtue. In an age of algorithmic persuasion and constant emotional stimulation, it has become a moral necessity. Dialogue, not denunciation, sustains democratic culture. Understanding, not outrage, bridges generational divides.

My own perspective is shaped by a series of intellectual journeys: from extremism to tolerance, where rigid certainty gave way to empathy; from compliance to conscience, where blind following yielded to ethical responsibility; and from populism to reason,

where slogans were replaced by substance. These transitions taught me a simple but unsettling truth: certainty without inquiry is fragile, and conviction without compassion is dangerous.

True education does not produce followers trained to echo fashionable opinions. It nurtures thinkers capable of resisting manipulation, questioning inherited assumptions, and engaging respectfully with disagreement. At its best, education equips individuals to hold strong beliefs without surrendering curiosity—and to argue without dehumanizing those who disagree.

This moment, therefore, calls for more than commentary; it demands action. Students must learn to question before they conclude. Educators must teach thinking rather than allegiance. Parents must model dialogue instead of dogma. In a time when emotions are easily mobilized and minds are quietly steered, choosing reason is an act of courage.

Pause before sharing. Question what you are being persuaded to believe. Seek evidence. Listen across differences. Resist the comfort of easy certainties. The path of reason may be slower and more demanding, but it remains the only path that safeguards intellectual freedom—and sustains a thoughtful, humane society.

The writer is an educator, social awareness advocate, and the voice behind several impactful online campaigns aimed at reviving empathy and moral consciousness among youth. He regularly writes on issues of social decay, educational reform, and the urgent need for character-building in modern societies. He tweets @ToleranceAdvocate.

Hamdard Schools mark 106th Hakim Mohammed Said Birth Anniversary with Grand Food Fair

KARACHI (PRESS RELEASE): Hamdard Public and Village Schools celebrated the 106th birth anniversary of Shaheed-e-Pakistan Hakim Mohammed Said as Founders' Day with great enthusiasm and devotion on January 12, 2026, at Bilawal Stadium at Madinat al Hikmah Karachi. On this occasion, the Annual Food Fair 2026 was also organized, showcasing the creativity, teamwork, and entrepreneurial spirit of students and teachers.

The event was graced by Mrs. Qudsia Akbar, CEO Limbless Foundation Pakistan, as the Chief Guest. Other distinguished guests included Ms. Sadia Rashid (Hilal-e-Imtiaz), President Hamdard Foundation Pakistan; Mrs. Fatema Munir Ahmed, Vice President Madinat-ul-Hikmah; Mr. Faisal Nadeem,

Chief Financial Officer; Prof. Dr. Imran Amin, Vice Chancellor Hamdard University; Administrator Khalid Naseem, along with several notable guests.

Addressing the gathering, Mrs. Qudsia Akbar expressed her gratitude for the warm invitation and commended Hamdard's continued commitment to education and community development. She paid rich tribute to the visionary contributions of Hakim Mohammed Said, highlighting his lifelong dedication to education, nation-building, and the welfare of children. She also acknowledged the remarkable role of Ms. Sadia Rashid in carrying forward the legacy and mission of Hakim Said with dedication and foresight.

Speaking on the occasion,



Mrs. Sadia Rashid stated that Hakim Mohammed Said had a deep love for children and strongly believed that the progress and prosperity of Pakistan depended on educating the younger generation and

instilling in them a sense of patriotism, ethics, and knowledge. She reaffirmed Hamdard's resolve to continue serving the nation through education and character-building.

During the event, the honor-



able guests visited various food stalls set up by students and teachers, appreciating their hard work, creativity, and enthu-

siasm. The ceremony concluded on a joyful note, applauding the dedication of students, the guidance of teachers, and the collec-

tive efforts of the school administration, leaving participants with a memorable and enjoyable experience.

WHO and Gavi Equip Pakistan with 20 4x4s to Target Zero-Dose Children

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The World Health Organization (WHO) today handed over 20 four-wheel-drive (4x4) vehicles to Pakistan's Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) to enhance immunization activities and supervision in geographically challenging areas. The 4x4 cars will be assigned to 20 priority districts with a high concentration of children who have never been vaccinated ("zero-dose" children).

With financial support from Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, the distribution plan allocates three vehicles each for Sindh, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Balochistan; two each for Pakistan-administered Kashmir (PAK), Gilgit-Baltistan and at the federal level; and one each for the Capital Development Authority (CDA) and Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT).

The vehicles will address transport shortages that have previously hindered immunization performance in high-risk districts – particularly in remote areas – improving managers' mobility to supervise field activities directly, verify micro-plans, and ensure that vaccines are available even in the most distant communities.



"We are thankful to WHO and Gavi for this support. Our ecosystem currently faces significant challenges regarding water, sanitation, and health infrastructure, putting the health of our population at large at risk. To effectively reduce the burden of diseases, it is vital that we ensure our children are vaccinated against 13 vaccine-preventable diseases. We must prioritize immunization because, ultimately, prevention is better than cure. These vehicles are to reach out to zero-dose children here in Pakistan, the underprivileged people, and those who do not have awareness," said Federal Health Minister Syed Mustafa Kamal.

The new vehicles, aimed at improving governance oversight and supportive supervision, will support the Expanded Programme on Immunization teams to bridge the gap between urban centers and hard-to-reach populations. The primary goal is to identify and vaccinate "zero-dose" children.

"Reliable transport is essential for effective public health work. These vehicles will enhance regular supervision and resolve logistical issues on-site. WHO remains committed to partnering with Pakistan in strengthening its immunization systems to protect every child from vaccine-preventable diseases. In Pakistan, vaccines are protecting millions



of children every year, and WHO will continue to partner with Pakistan and its people to build a healthier future for all," said WHO Representative in Pakistan, Dr. Luo Dapeng.

The initiative follows an analysis that identified the need for health systems strengthening (HSS) in terms of field supportive supervision to improve immunization outcomes in priority areas with geographical barriers.

"This ceremony marks a significant step forward in Pakistan's health systems strengthening. The vehicles you see before us will strengthen our services in our hard-to-reach and security threatened areas, ensuring that vaccines reach all our communities, and that no child is left behind. Let's move forward together with purpose and unity," said Director General of the Federal Directorate of Immunization

(FDI) Dr. Musa Khan.

In 1978, Pakistan launched its Expanded Programme on Immunization in partnership with WHO. Since then, every year, over 7 million children and 5.5 million pregnant mothers are protected with life-saving vaccines.

Globally, every ten seconds, vaccination saves a life. In the last 50 years alone, vaccines have saved 154 million lives.

Japan pledges ¥2.91 billion grant for child health upgrade in South Punjab

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Japan has extended a grant aid of 2,910 million Japanese Yen to Pakistan for the Project for the Improvement of Child Health Care Facilities in South Punjab. Notes to this effect were signed and exchanged between H. E. Mr. AKAMATSU Shuichi, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan and Mr. Muhammad Humair Karim, Secretary of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, in Islamabad on January 13th, 2026. Subsequently, Grant Agreement was also signed and exchanged between Mr. MIYATA Naoaki, Chief Representative of JICA Pakistan Office and Mr. Miran Mohiuddin Soomro, Senior Joint Secretary of the Ministry



of Economic Affairs. In this project, a new child health care facility will be constructed at Children Hospital Multan which is a public medical institution serving as the regional hub hospital in Multan district. The new facility will have the depart-

ments of Emergency, Pediatric ICU, Neonatal ICU, Surgery and Laboratory.

The objective of the project is to strengthen the diagnostic and treatment systems in the Children's Hospital and the Institute of Child Health Multan. This project also seeks to improve its

function as a specialized tertiary care hospital and a disaster response hub hospital in the region through the expansion of the facility and the provision of medical equipment. These improvements are necessary to provide the healthcare services for high-risk neonates, infants and children with serious illness or injuries. This project will contribute to improving the quality of healthcare services for children in south Punjab and neighboring provinces.

H. E. Mr. AKAMATSU Shuichi, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan said: Today's signing marks an important step in our continued cooperation to improve the quality of health services for children in Pakistan. I am confident that this project

will make a significant contribution to pediatric health care in South Punjab and beyond."

Mr. MIYATA Naoaki, Chief Representative of JICA Pakistan Office said: "This project will help in achieving the targets of sustainable development goals by reducing the infant mortality rates and raising the standard of pediatric emergency care."

This project will also serve as a center of excellence meeting the requirement of a modern teaching hospital with international standards. It will not only alleviate the pressure of tertiary hospitals in other surrounding cities but also open up opportunities for families from all over southern part of Punjab, with improved accessibility and better chances of saving lives.

RPO Rawalpindi holds Open Court in Fateh Jang, visits police stations

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Regional Police Officer (RPO) Rawalpindi Region, Syed Khalid Hamdani, along with District Police Officer (DPO) Attock Sardar Mavarhan Khan, SP Investigation Attock Zainab Ayub, and SP Headquarters Rawalpindi Sardar Babar, held an open court at TMA Hall Fateh Jang under the Punjab Government's Open Door Policy.

During the open court, a large number of citizens submitted their written complaints.

The RPO listened to their grievances and issued on-the-spot orders to the concerned officers to resolve the issues on a priority basis. Speaking on the occa-

sion, Syed Khalid Hamdani said that providing justice to citizens without delay or discrimination is one of the police's top priorities, and all possible steps are being taken to ensure this.

Later, the RPO Rawalpindi, along with the DPO Attock, SP Investigation, and SP Headquarters, visited Police Station Fateh Jang and Police Station Qutub (New Airport). He inspected the front desks, lock-ups, record rooms, and offices, and issued instructions to further improve cleanliness and overall arrangements.

The RPO also directed police officers to treat visiting citizens with courtesy and ensure prompt resolution of their problems.

The Kalhora era, The rise of Hyderabad and the historical role of Faqir Bilawal Zardari...

Rehmatullah Burio

It would not be wrong to say that the political, governmental and personal era of Asif Ali Zardari and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is the structure and continuity of a history. In our society, where great arguments and testimonies have to be given to accept and make someone's great work accepted, sometimes due to some empty slogans and followers, people accept it blindly without giving any testimony or evidence. After some recent studies, many such allegations have come to light, which even my own mind does not believe. But history and records and papers do not need any testimony and proof. In this regard, an article is presented below, which also brings forward a great role in the history of Hyderabad city.

The Kalhora era is considered an important and decisive period in the political and urban history of Sindh. This period was not only a time of

restoration of local governance, but also saw the development of urban planning, defense strategies, and administrative structures.

The establishment of the city of Hyderabad is a major historical development of the same period, which was established by Mian Ghulam Shah Kalhoro on the site of the ancient Nirun Kot. Historians such as Mir Ali Sher Qani and Dr. Nabi Bakhsh Khan Baloch write that Nirun Kot had been a center of military and administrative importance since the Arab era. During the Kalhoras' reign, when Sindh had to face internal rebellions and external threats, the need for a strong, secure, and centralized capital city was felt. In this context, Hyderabad was reorganized, where a fortified fort, protective walls, military barracks, and administrative centers were established. The power of the Kalhoras was supported not only by the rulers, but also by many informal and traditional figures. The name of Faqir Bilawal Zardari stands

out among such figures, about whom written history is limited, but oral traditions and local historical references are quite strong. Faqir Bilawal is remembered as a dervish, a brave warrior and a politically conscious individual. According to local traditions, Faqir Bilawal Zardari went to Iran during the Kalhora period, where the political and military system of the Safavid Empire was at its peak at that time. In Iran, he learned about royal etiquette, diplomatic behavior and war tactics. Researchers like historians Ghulam Muhammad Lakho and Dr. Hamida Khuro write that during that period, Iran was the most important military and intellectual center of the Islamic world, from where the experiences learned proved to be extremely useful for the local rulers. After his return,

Faqir Bilawal Zardari participated in wars with various opposing parties in Sindh. According to oral history, his strategy and courage brought political stability to the Kalhora. The direct benefit of this stability reached the new capital city of Hyderabad, where peace and security were possible without any major obstacles. It should be clear that Faqir Bilawal Zardari's role was not directly related to the construction project of Hyderabad, but his role was important in ensuring defense, peace and political continuity in the early period of the city. History rarely mentions such personalities, but their contribution to the establishment of states and cities is fundamental. In conclusion, it can be said that the establishment of Hyderabad was the result of the rule of the Kalhoras, their

political insight, and the joint struggle of the brave personalities associated with them. Personalities like Faqir Bilawal Zardari will always be remembered as silent but effective figures in the history of Sindh. Looking at the current situation in Hyderabad, it is necessary that just as Faqir Bilawal Zardari played a role in the consolidation and security of Hyderabad during the Kalhoras' era, today, one of his descendants, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and his servant, Minister of Works and Services Haji Ali Hassan Zardari, are working for the development of Hyderabad by following the instructions of the leadership. It is as if they are refreshing the past and bringing forward a long history of service. In this regard, Provincial Minister of Works and Services Haji Ali Hassan Zardari reviewed the development works in Hyderabad city, inaugurated them and presented the schemes with figures, as if they were refreshing the memories of the Kalhoras' era. How

could he have talked about the public development projects of Hyderabad and the instructions of President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari, Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Madam Faryal Talpur Sahiba to get it out of its problems? Wherever there is a spirit of public service and the urban beauty of Hyderabad, there is no doubt about it. But if we call this a historical sequence, it will not be wrong to call it a continuation of history. There is a historical sequence from Fakir Bilawal Zardari to Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. In the next few days, a research article will be presented on a thousand-year solution for the new structure and beauty of Hyderabad. Which will also be a sequence that will have a connection between the past and the present. In the recent past, from President of Pakistan Asif Ali Khan Zardari, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Madam Faryal Talpur Sahiba, to a provincial minister, Haji Ali Hassan Zardari will also be mentioned in the new structure of Hyderabad.



Analysis

Rehmatullah Burio

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
183,951.50	182,384.14	
Day's High	Day's Low	
184,304.86	180,589.95	
Index Value	Change	
47,492,405,957	+ 1567.36	
Percentage	Time	
+0.86%	13 Jan, 2026 4:30 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
10,137.35	-3.35	
Percentage	Time	
-0.033%	13 Jan, 4:35 pm GMT	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
49,289.97	-300.23	
Percentage	Time	
-0.61%	13 Jan, 12:02 pm GMT-5	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
53,549.16	+1,609.27	
Percentage	Time	
+3.10%	13 Jan, 3:45 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	186.5	190
Bahrain Dinar	744.15	754.15
Canadian Dollar	200.50	204.85
China Yuan	39.59	39.99
Danish Krone	43.75	44.15
Euro	327	329.5
Hong Kong Dollar	35.75	36.10
Indian Rupee	3.04	3.13
Japanese Yen	1.7600	1.8600
Kuwaiti Dinar	908.15	918.15
Malaysian Ringgit	68.6	69.20
New Zealand \$	161.24	163.24
Norwegians Krone	27.66	27.96
Omani Riyal	728.7	738.7
Qatari Riyal	76.26	76.96
Saudi Riyal	74.8	75.3
Singapore Dollar	216.25	221.25
Swedish Korona	30.25	30.55
Swiss Franc	351.82	354.57
Thai Bhat	8.89	9.04
U.A.E Dirham	76.45	77.3
UK Pound Sterling	376.5	379.5
US Dollar	280.7	282.7

Finance Minister meets Icoin Technology Delegation

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, today held a meeting with a visiting delegation from Icoin Technology Inc. led by its Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Chet Silvestri.

During the meeting, the Finance Minister briefed the delegation on the Government of Pakistan's ongoing efforts to develop a structured and responsible framework for digital assets. He also apprised the delegation of the progress made toward the establishment of a Pakistan Crypto Council and the Pakistan Virtual Assets Regulatory Authority (PVARA), outlining the rationale, sequencing of policy actions, and the broader implications of these initiatives for market development, financial inclusion, transparency, and consumer protection.

Mr. Chet Silvestri shared insights from the United States and Canadian markets, drawing on Icoin Technology's experience of working with banks, exchanges, and large-scale consumer platforms. He outlined how regulatory clarity in mature markets has enabled traditional financial institutions to engage with digital assets through existing infrastructure, rather than reinventing core banking systems. He explained the role of wallet-based middleware and switching technologies that allow



banks to connect securely with exchanges, manage liquidity, enhance compliance, and offer digital asset services to customers through familiar banking applications.

Icoin Technology Inc. is a blockchain infrastructure company focused on developing an advanced hardware wallet system for cryptocurrency. The delegation also included Lt. Gen.

(R) Terry Robling, Advisor to Icoin Technology, Mr. Mahmood Azhar Jabbar, Chief Executive Officer of Techaccess, and Mr. Tariq Hafeez Malik, Chief Technology Officer of Techaccess.

Meeting

RIYADH: Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik held a meeting with H.E. Bandar Ibrahim Al-Khorayef, Saudi Minister of Industry and Mineral Resources on the sidelines of Future Minerals Forum on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia Deepen Mining Cooperation, Explore Joint Investment Opportunities

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik is in Riyadh leading Pakistani delegation at the Future Minerals Forum (FMF) 2026, hosted by the Ministry of Industry and Mineral Resources of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

On the sidelines of the Forum, Ali Pervaiz Malik held a meeting with H. E. Bandar Ibrahim Al-Khorayef, Saudi Minister of Industry and Mineral Resources. Discussions focused on strengthening bilateral cooperation in the mining and minerals sector, exploring joint investment opportunities, and enhancing collaboration across the mineral value chain.

The Pakistani delegation comprises senior policymakers, heads of state-owned enterprises, private sector representatives, and leading mining sector stakeholders, including PPL, OGDCL, Mari Energies, GHPL, FWO, PMDC,

Saindak Metals, and Balochistan-based mineral companies, along with specialized service providers.

Pakistan's participation at FMF 2026 is being organized by Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division). Under the theme "Mineral Marvel - Unleashing Pakistan's Mineral Revolution," the Pakistan Pavilion showcases the country's rich geology, flagship mining projects, and investment opportunities.

H. E. Nawaf bin Saeed Ahmad Al-Malkiy, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan, welcomed the Pakistani delegation and extended full support for Pakistan's participation. He commended the leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Federal Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik, noting that Pakistan's presence at FMF 2026 would further strengthen the longstanding brotherly relations between the two countries.

SECP Warns General Public to Beware of Unauthorized Investment Platforms

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has identified illegal online trading platforms operating under the names "Hillhouse Capital/ Hillhouse Investment" and "S-169 Wharton." These platforms are enticing the public with exaggerated promises of high returns on investments in listed company shares.

The public is hereby informed that "Hillhouse Capital/ Hillhouse Investment" and "S-169 Wharton" are neither licensed nor authorized by SECP to operate any investment or trading platform. SECP has reported these illegal platforms to relevant law enforcement agencies.

The SECP regularly cautions the general public to remain vigilant against such illegal investment and trading platforms, which are often promoted through WhatsApp groups by individuals fraudulently misusing the names of licensed brokers, reputed institutions, or renowned professionals. The general public is advised to engage only with SECP-licensed securities and futures brokers and to contact them exclusively through the official communication channels provided on their respective websites.

MD WASA Multan orders immediate Crackdown on Defaulters of Sewerage and Water Supply Bills

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Managing Director WASA Faisal Shaukat has issued orders to further intensify the indiscriminate crackdown on defaulters for non-payment of sewerage and water supply bills and to increase the speed of GIS survey. He has also directed to take strict action against those who illegally restore disconnected connections and register FIRs. MD WASA has directed to ensure the achievement of the recovery target of Rs 245 million for January 2026 at all costs and has ordered all deputy directors, assistant directors and circle in-charges of the recovery department to work hard and adopt effective strategies. He issued these



orders yesterday while monitoring the performance of the recovery department. Director Recovery Abdul Majeed, Deputy Director Recovery Muhammad Arshad and other officers were also present on the occasion.

MD WASA informed the consumers to cooperate with the teams present in the field for GIS survey. Data is being compiled to further improve their facilities. Online facility is available for payment of WASA bills through banks, post offices, NADRA and Jazz Cash. Monthly duplicate bills can also be downloaded from WASA website. Consumers should ensure timely payment of their dues so that water and sewerage supply can be further improved.

Pak-Qatar General Takaful Pakistan's First Dedicated Non-Life Shariah-Compliant Takaful Company to go Public Next Week

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pak-Qatar General Takaful Limited (PQGTL), a Pak-Qatar Group Company, is one of Pakistan's pioneering dedicated Shariah-compliant takaful providers, is set to launch its Initial Public Offering (IPO) next week to raise up to Rs. 420 million, the company said in a statement on Monday.

The book-building process is scheduled for January 21-22, with investor registration

opening on January 16. Under the current offering, PQGTL will issue 30 million shares, with a floor price of Rs. 10 per share and a ceiling price of Rs. 14 per share. Of the total offering, 22.5 million shares (75%) will be allocated to institutional investors, while 7.5 million shares (25%) will be offered to the public. The general public subscription is scheduled for January 28-29.

Following the IPO, PQGTL will become the first dedicated

general (non-life) takaful operator to be listed on the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX), at a time when the benchmark KSE-100 Index continues to scale new historic highs.

The listing forms part of PQGTL's strategy to enhance its paid-up capital base, enabling the company to meet applicable regulatory capital requirements for non-life insurers and Takaful operators, while supporting future growth initiatives.

"Arif Habib Limited has been

mandated by Pak-Qatar General Takaful Limited to act as the consultant and book runner for raising funds through the Initial Public Offering," the company stated.

The IPO follows the successful listing of Pak-Qatar Family Takaful Limited (PQFTL) last month, which raised Rs. 901 million in Pakistan's first-ever Islamic insurance sector IPO at a strike price of Rs. 18.02 per share. That offering—Pakistan's largest dedicated family takaful

IPO—was oversubscribed by 3.5 times, reflecting strong investor appetite for Shariah-compliant financial products.

The proceeds from the IPO will be utilized to fund strategic initiatives, including investments in software and other intangible assets, hardware and infrastructure, marketing and brand development, human resource enhancement, and the establishment of new branches, as well as the transformation of existing branches to improve operational



efficiency and customer experience.

National Solidarity Conference convenes in Multan chaired by Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: A National Solidarity and Message of Pakistan Conference was held in Multan, which was chaired by Chairman Central Crescent Sighting Committee Pakistan/Khatib and Imam Badshahi Mosque Lahore Ambassador of Peace Maulana Syed Muhammad Abdul Khabir Azad. On this occasion, CCPO Multan Sadiq Ali Dogar, Representative Commissioner Multan Karim Bakhsh, Deputy Commissioner Multan Noman Siddique, all Deputy Commissioners and DPOs and other dignitaries were present.

The conference was attended and addressed by eminent scholars and great Shaykhs of all schools of thought, Multan Divisional and District Peace Committee members and Bahawalpur DG Khan Division Peace Committee members, Manager Auqaf Multan Waseem Yousuf, Zonal Administrator Multan Rana Tariq and renowned social figures, including Mufti Fateh Muhammad Rashidi,

Allama Abdul Rashid Turabi, Qazi Abdul Ghaffar Qadri, Pir Masood Qasim Qasmi, Allama Farooq Khan Saeedi, Mufti Muhammad Ahmed, Maulana Muhammad Fakhruddin Razi, Pir Muhammad Shah Hussain, Bishop Multan Lord Paul, Father Shahzad Tanveer, Allama Mujahid Abbas Gardezi, Mian Ajmal Abbas, Maulana Obaidullah Naqshbandi, Maulana Abdul Haq Mujahid, Malik Khawar Hasnain Bhutta, Allama Abdul Rahim Gujjar, Maulana Inayatullah Rahmani, Hafiz Muhammad Kashif, Mufti Hamid Hassan, Mufti Rafiq Shah Jamali, Allama Zubair Ahmed Siddiqui, Hafiz Muhammad Akram Kanjo, Mufti Muhammad Usman Pasruri, Muhammad Usman Jalandhari, Muhammad Saleem Bilal Attari, Muhammad Arshad Qadri, Allama Sajjad Hussain Qomi, Mufti Muhammad Ishaq Shah Jamali, Hafiz Bilal Masood Qasmi, Smt. Muhammad Qasim Qasmi, Colonel Dr. Syed Shafiq Ahmed, Allama Syed Ghazanfar Abbas Naqvi, Dr.

Muhammad Ali Arshad Baloch, Qari Muhammad Bashir Golroi, Mufti Muhammad Shafiq, Qari Muhammad Ramzan, Mufti Muhammad Qasim Qasmi, Allama Riaz Ahmed Owaisi from Bahawalpur, Abdul Razzaq Shaiq, Mufti Abdul Latif, Allama Ghulam Yasin Siddiqui, Maulana Syed Abdul Mabud Azad, Syed Abdul Basit Azad, Maulana Iqbal Rashid, Syed Nadeem Haider Naqvi, Allama Yasin Rahi, Qari Abdul Ghani Saqib, Sheikh Abu Hurairah Ajmal Khan and Sahibzada Syed Abdul Basir Azad, Haji Ghulam Hussain Warsi and other scholars were present in large numbers. Addressing the conference, Ambassador of Peace Maulana Syed Muhammad Abdul Khabir Azad said that the beloved homeland Pakistan came into existence on the basis of Islam and the Holy Word, the protection of Pakistan is the responsibility of the entire nation, Pakistan is in dire need of unity, unity and national solidarity, freedom is a great blessing of Allah Almighty, for

which we thank Allah Almighty. When our eternal enemy India cowardly attacked Pakistan, the federal government, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, the armed forces Pakistan, all the scholars and the entire nation united and crushed the enemy's arrogance.

The Islamic world's trust in Field Marshal General Hafiz Syed Asim Munir and Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif is proof of love for Pakistan.

The victory of the battle of truth is the victory of the entire Muslim Ummah. The entire nation pays tribute to the great commander of the Muslim Ummah, Field Marshal General Hafiz Syed Asim Munir and the unparalleled sacrifices of the Pakistani armed forces. Maulana Syed Muhammad Abdul Khabir Azad, while addressing the gathering, said that Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif's elevation of the dignity of the Imams of the mosques in Punjab and the distribution of monthly honorarium to them is



a commendable initiative.

It is a matter of great pride and honor for us that Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman calls himself the ambassador of Pakistan. Turkey's inclusion in the Pakistan-Saudi Arabia defense agreement will help strengthen the defense of the Islamic world. Maulana Syed Muhammad Abdul Khabir Azad

said that today the eyes of the enemies are definitely on Pakistan. The enemy forces, the Fitna al-Kharij and Fitna al-Hindustan, are causing chaos in Pakistan. They want to harm our national unity by creating instability and terrorism and dividing us in the name of linguistics. We have to stay awake and jointly thwart all the evil conspiracies of the enemy country.

Religious harmony, national unity and promotion of the message of Pakistan are the need of the hour for establishing peace in our beloved homeland Pakistan. The message of Pakistan is a unanimous fatwa and statement of all scholars, in which terrorism, armed rebellion against state institutions and suicide attacks have been declared forbidden.

Visit Shah Allah Ditta

ISLAMABAD: Focal Person of Prime Minister's Youth Program Zeeshan Ali Naqvi presenting a shield to the Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Division Aurangzeb Khan Onichi on his visit to Shah Allah Datta Cave. Federal Parliamentary Secretary Farah Naz Akbar and Federal Secretary National Heritage Asad Gilani also present on this occasion.



Photo: Online

Wing 999 Inter Departmental Cricket League Tournament

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Wing 999 Sports Third Victory in a row after beating Fay International by 54 runs in the Wing 999 Inter Departmental Cricket League Tournament here on Monday at Gulberg Gymkhana Ground. All-round Performance by Usman Raheem.

The highlights of the days All-round Performance by Usman Raheem first he scored 48 and then capturing 3 wickets for 16 runs.

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

Scores in Brief: Wing 999 Sports beat Fay International by 54 runs at Gulberg Gymkhana Ground. Wing 999 Sports 224/8 in 40 overs. Syed Hamza 52 4x4 5x6, Usman Raheem 48 5x4 1x6, Ashiq Ali 34 not out, Abdullah Alam 25. Asad Malik 2/46, Syed M. Huzaifa 2/48.

In reply Fay International 170 all-out in 32.5 overs. Abdullah Khan 51 9x4, Abdul Hanan 31 not out, Asad Malik 30, Usman Raheem 3/16, Raza 3/48, Aftab Alam 2/24, Tariq Khan 2/41.

Private School Association Congratulates Newly Elected Bar Association Presidents

News Desk

RAWALPINDI: The All Pakistan Private Schools Management Association (APPSMA) has extended heartfelt congratulations to its Patron-in-Chief for Hasan Abdal, Syed Aqdas Hussain Shah, Advocate High Court, on his election as President of the Hasan Abdal Bar Association. Congratulations were also conveyed to Chaudhry Kashif Hanjra, Advocate High Court, Executive Member of APPSMA, on his election as President of the Daska Bar Association. The leaders expressed hope that these elections would play a positive role in resolving the issues faced by private educational institutions.



These views were expressed in a joint statement by APPSMA Central President Kashif Adeb Jawadani, Secretary General Amjad Ali Khan, President North Punjab Abrar Ahmad Khan, Senior Vice President Muhammad Furqan Chaudhry, Vice President North Punjab Colonel (R) Fawad Hanif, President Central Punjab Syed Abbas Ali Shah, President South Punjab Mrs. Ghazala Wayen, President Women Wing Mrs. Sakeena Taj, Divisional President Gujranwala Saeed Cheema, Central Leader APPSMA Azam Saeed, Divisional President Qazi Noor-ul-Hassan, Senior Vice President North Punjab Shahid Latif, Secretary General Rawalpindi Division Aamir Anwar, District President Rawalpindi Abrar Ahmad, Advocate, Patron-in-Chief APPSMA District Attock Abrar-ul-Haq Shakir, Divisional Legal Advisor Malik Hafeezullah, President District Attock Haji Arshad, Think Tank Member Iftikhar Hussain Malik, and APPSMA leaders from Hasan Abdal Farooq Hussain, Muhammad Azam, Iqbal Khan, Malik Muhammad Sajjad, along with others. The leaders stated that private educational institutions operating on low fees are currently facing severe financial and administrative challenges. Due to the closure of institutions for one month, it has become extremely difficult to pay building rents, staff salaries, and other operational expenses, while no serious effort is yet visible at the government level to address these issues.

UAJK signs MoU with Muslim Hands to strengthen student support and community development

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Muslim Hands International to strengthen cooperation in higher education, student training, and community development.

The MoU signing ceremony was held at the Muslim Hands School of Excellence, Islamabad. The UAJK delegation was led by Vice Chancellor Prof. Nasir Jamal Khattak and included Prof. Dr. Wajid Aziz Lone, Prof. Dr. Khawaja Ansar Yasin (Director Planning), Dr. Muhammad Naeem Ahmed (Director ORIC), and Sardar Zafar Iqbal (Director Students Financial Aid).

The MoU was signed by Syed Javed Gillani, Executive Director Muslim Hands International, and Dr. Muhammad Naeem Ahmed, Director ORIC, University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Senior officials from Muslim Hands International, including Ms. Zartash Afzal (Manager Training), Mir Aman Hunzai (Manager Education, Muslim Hands Pakistan), and other



representatives, were also present on the occasion.

Under this MoU, Muslim Hands International will provide scholarships, internships, startup support, and opportunities for community-based projects for UAJK students. The initiative aims to enhance students' practical exposure, entrepreneurial skills, community engagement, and social action planning in alignment with National Development

Goals (NDGs) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The partnership reflects a shared commitment to expanding access to higher education for talented but financially disadvantaged students, viewing education as a catalyst for sustainable social change. Through this collaboration, both institutions seek to remove financial barriers and open new pathways for a brighter future for young learners.

Prior to the MoU signing ceremony, the UAJK delegation, led by the Vice Chancellor, visited the Muslim Hands School of Excellence to explore opportunities for collaboration in education, training, and community engagement. During the visit, the delegation toured various sections of the campus and appreciated the academic environment, students' enthusiasm, and the school's distinctive architecture, which bears resemblance to the historic Alhambra of Granada, Spain.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Nasir Jamal Khattak thanked Muslim Hands for continued support and commitment to student development. In return, the leadership of Muslim Hands reaffirmed their full cooperation in achieving shared objectives of youth empowerment, education, and social development.

The Vice Chancellor also held discussions with Syed Javed Gillani, Executive Director Muslim Hands Pakistan, and other officials regarding Muslim Hands' contributions to the social sector in Pakistan, as well as future collaboration in education, training, and youth development.

ECC Approves TSGs to Support Development, Defence and Digital Initiatives

Continued From Page 8

On a summary submitted by the Information Technology and Telecommunication Division, the ECC approved a technical supplementary grant of Rs 800 million for the establishment of the Asan Khidmat Centre in Islamabad as a flagship, citizen-centric public service delivery initiative. On another summary from the same Division, the Committee approved a technical supplementary grant of Rs 3.7 billion for Public Sector Development

Programme (PSDP) projects aimed at strengthening digital connectivity, enhancing IT infrastructure, promoting e-governance and supporting the development of the national ICT ecosystem, with a direction that the funds be appropriately deployed on the designated projects.

The ECC also took up a proposal regarding the establishment of Digital Enforcement Stations by the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) along the Indus, Hub and Balochistan

rivers, in line with the decision of the Prime Minister dated 19 September 2024. Against the proposed technical supplementary grant of Rs 10 billion, the Committee approved an allocation of Rs 3 billion for the third quarter, with the remaining amount to be allocated in the fourth quarter.

A summary submitted by the Petroleum Division on the future of the Asia Petroleum Limited (APL) Pipeline was also considered. The ECC constituted a committee comprising representatives of the Petroleum Division, Finance Division, Law and Justice Division, Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) and Pakistan State Oil (PSO) under the ambit of the National Task Force-Implementation of Reforms (Power Division) to formulate a way forward by 31 January. The committee will negotiate the terms of the Implementation Agreement, including the Guarantee Agreement and Letter of Agreement with APL, and will also decide on the question of ownership of fuel and the

alternative use of the pipeline. Towards the conclusion of the meeting, the ECC considered a request from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for a technical supplementary grant of Rs 1 billion for its Film and Drama Finance Fund established under the National Film and Broadcasting Policy, 2018. The initiative aims to strengthen Pakistan's film and drama industry and support the country's strategic narrative at national and international forums through responsible,

high-quality screen content. The ECC approved an allocation of Rs 700 million, with the direction that the Ministry submit a six-monthly report to the Committee on the utilization of funds against clearly defined key performance indicators, ensuring competitive, transparent spending through the involvement of top-quality professional content producers from the industry.

The meeting was attended by Federal Minister for Power Sardar Awais Ahmad Leghari,

Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik (who participated virtually), Federal Minister for Investment Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal, and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Industries and Production Division Haroon Akhtar Khan, along with federal secretaries and senior officials from the concerned ministries, divisions and regulatory bodies.

ECC Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, chairing a meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet met today at the Finance Division on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

ECC approves TSGs to support development, defence and digital initiatives

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet met today at the Finance Division under the chairmanship of Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb.

The meeting considered a number of proposals and

summaries submitted by various ministries and divisions, including requests for the grant of technical supplementary grants (TSGs), along with other important policy and administrative matters.

On two separate summaries submitted by the Defence Division, the ECC approved a technical supplementary grant of Rs 2 billion for the Sustain-

able Development Goals Achievement Programme (SAP) in Punjab during the current financial year. The Committee also approved a technical supplementary grant of Rs 5.081 billion for defence services, covering capacity enhancement, infrastructure development, community engagement and cyber security. The ECC decided that this

amount would be released in a phased manner and that, due to its recurring nature, the related expenditure would be incorporated into the regular defence budget from the next financial year.

The ECC further considered and approved a technical supplementary grant of Rs 322.87 million for the provision of 15 coasters for the Director-

ate General of Special Education to facilitate the transport of special children enrolled at the Autism Centre of Excellence being set up in Islamabad. The Centre is intended to cater to at least 300 children suffering from Autism Spectrum Disorder by providing them with a safe and enabling learning environment.

Continued Page 7

Four killed, including father and son, in terrorist attack on peace committee members in Bannu

Syed Tauqeer Zaidi

BANNU: In another tragic incident of terrorism, four members of a peace committee, including a father and his son, were killed when unknown terrorists opened fire on them in Bannu district.

According to police, the incident occurred in the Huwad area of Bannu. The victims were returning from a jirga held in Gulbadin Landai Dhok when their vehicle reached a designated spot, where terrorists who were already lying in wait ambushed them and opened indiscriminate fire.

As a result of the firing, all four occupants of the vehicle died on the spot. Police confirmed that the deceased included a father and his son.

Soon after receiving information about the incident, a large contingent of police and security forces reached the scene. The bodies were shifted to the District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital Bannu.

Police and security forces cordoned off the area and launched a search operation.

According to police officials, checkpoints have also been set up at



various locations to trace and arrest the attackers.

Following the incident, fear and panic have spread in the area. Local residents strongly condemned

the attack on the peace committee members and demanded that the government ensure the immediate arrest of the terrorists and bring them to justice.

Pakistan and Morocco ink MoU on defence cooperation

Spokesman Report

CASABLANCA: Federal Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif undertook an official visit to the Kingdom of Morocco from 12 to 14 January 2026.

During the visit, Pakistan and Morocco signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Defence Cooperation, marking an important milestone in further strengthening bilateral defence and security collaboration between the two countries.

Minister for Defence held a meeting with Mr. Abdellatif Loudiyi, Minister Delegate to the Head of Government in charge of the National Defense Administration of Morocco, and led delegation-level talks focused on enhancing cooperation in areas of mutual interest. He also held a separate meeting with Mr. Nasser Bourita, Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation, and Moroccan Expatriates of the Kingdom of Morocco.

Federal Minister for Defence also presented a Pakistan-made football to the Moroccan Defence Minister. Prior to the meetings, the Federal Minister



for Defence visited the Mausoleum of Mohammed V, where he offered Fateha and signed the Mausoleum Guests Book.

These engagements provided an

opportunity for both sides to exchange views on a wide range of bilateral and regional issues, reaffirming their shared commitment to peace, stability, and cooperation. The visit reflects the long-

standing friendly relations between Pakistan and Morocco and underscores the mutual desire to further deepen cooperation in defence, security, and other areas of shared interest.

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Naqvi condemns militant attack on peace committee members in Bannu



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday condemned a militant attack on peace committee members in Bannu, expressing deep sorrow over the martyrdom of four members in the incident.

Naqvi extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and

reaffirmed the government's commitment to countering terrorism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He said attempts to derail peace efforts in the region would not succeed.

"The cowardly actions of militants cannot weaken the nation's resolve," the minister said, adding that Pakistan stands united against all forms of terrorism.

AJK govt abolishes 7 secretary-level posts as agreed with Joint Public Action Committee



Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: In a major administrative reform move, the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) cabinet on Tuesday approved the abolition of seven secretary-level posts by merging various administrative departments.

According to official sources, the decision was taken in line with an agreement reached with the Joint Public Action Committee, aimed at streamlining governance and reducing administrative expenditures. As part of the reforms, several departments have been merged, leading to the elimination of redundant positions.

The abolished posts include those of Transport and Population Welfare

secretaries. Additionally, the positions of Disaster Management and Tourism and Archaeology secretaries have been done away with under the new arrangement.

Further, the cabinet approved the abolition of the posts of Religious Affairs and Endowments and Information Technology secretaries. The position of ex-officio Environmental Protection Agency secretary has also been abolished.

Officials said the reforms are intended to improve efficiency, enhance coordination among departments, and ensure better utilization of public resources. The implementation of the decision will take effect immediately, with responsibilities redistributed among the relevant merged departments.

Govt restores health card scheme in Islamabad, AJK, GB

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has finally decided to resume the health card facility for over 10 million residents of Islamabad, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and Gilgit Baltistan.

Health Card Scheme to start from January 16, 2026 and will remain in force till June 30, 2027. According to the federal government, the health card is an important public welfare scheme. The people express joy over the restoration of the health card as the decision is being welcomed by the masses.

Earlier, it was reported that the PC-1 worth of Rs40 billion has been approved by the National Steering Committee of Sehat Sahulat Programme (SSP) chaired by Federal Health Minister Syed Mustafa Kamal. The service will be resumed from Jan 16.

The meeting of the committee was attended by health secretary Hamid Yaqoob, special secretary of health and CEO of SSP Arshad Khan, along with members of the National Steering Committee.

The committee reviewed progress on the restoration and launch of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) services to all permanent resident



families of ICT, AJK, and Gilgit-Baltistan. The CEO of Federal SSP Arshad Khan shared prime minister's directives for immediate restoration of the services.

The committee approved the revised PC-1 with an estimated cost of approximately Rs40 billion, extending up to 30th June 2027, to provide free hospitalisation services to all permanent resident families of ICT, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan under the UHC model of Federal Sehat Sahulat Programme.

It was also decided to extend existing contracts with State Life Insurance Corporation and Nadra through addenda to ensure uninterrupted services, while outstanding liabilities will be cleared from the PSDP as per the prime minister's directions.

Former prime minister Nawaz Sharif had first launched the health card programme on Dec 31, 2015.