

# Independent

Member APNS &amp; CPNE

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

www.dailyindependent.com.pk Quetta

Ph: 2841470/2841473 REG: No. BC-116 B/ID-445 Vol: XXVII No. 150, Rajab 29, 1447 AH Monday January 19, 2026 Pages 08, Price Rs. 15

CM Sarfraz Bugti says:

## Balochistan ends sale of government jobs, merit-based recruitment becomes reality

*Paperless, digital hiring process completed for the first time in Finance Department under fully transparent system*

### Independent Report

QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti has declared that the era of buying and selling government jobs in the province has come to an end, stating that the successful completion of a fully merit-based recruitment process is clear proof

of the government's resolve to enforce transparency and fairness.

Addressing a ceremony held on Sunday at the Finance Department for the distribution of appointment letters to successful candidates for Sub-Accountant posts, the chief minister said that there was a

time when people in Balochistan had almost lost hope that merit could ever be implemented. "Today, we have practically demonstrated that if intentions are strong and the system is transparent, merit can not only be enforced but sustained," he said.

Mir Sarfraz Bugti

noted that for the first time in the history of the province, recruitment for Sub-Accountant posts in the Finance Department was carried out through a completely paperless, digital and online system. He said that the entire process —

Continued on page 2



Tehreek Tahafuz Ayeen-e-Pakistan Chief Mahmood Khan Achakzai addresses media at Karachi Press Club during All Parties Conference.

## TTAP demands 'independent probe' into Feb 8 elections

### Monitoring Desk

KARACHI: The opposition alliance Tehreek Tahafuz-i-Ayeen Pakistan (TTAP) has demanded an "independent probe" into the alleged rigging in the February 8, 2024, election and "punishment for those responsible for it under Article 6 of the Constitution", as they held an All Parties Conference (APC) in Karachi on Sunday.

The TTAP delegation, led by the chairperson and the newly-appointed opposition leader in the National Assembly, Mehmood Khan Achakzai, has arrived in Sindh for four days. The visit is part of the mobilisation efforts for a nationwide 'street movement' called by the PTI, scheduled for February 8.

TTAP members also announced observing "Black Day" and nationwide strike on Feb 8, to commemorate the second anniversary of the last general

electoral elections in Pakistan, which they claimed were rigged.

According to the TTAP's manifesto, "Democracy rests on the foundation of transparent elections; therefore, restoring public trust in the transfer of power is possible only through fair elections."

The manifesto demanded "the immediate appointment of an impartial chief election commissioner and the holding of transparent elections under a new election commission."

It further called for an independent investigation into the alleged rigging in the Feb 8, 2024, general elections, the identification of those responsible, and their punishment under Article 6 of the Constitution, which corresponds to high treason.

"Through the 26th and 27th constitutional amendments, the independence of

the judiciary has been undermined by keeping the sword of judges' transfers hanging over their heads," it said.

Conscientious judges, including Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Athar Minallah, and Justice Shams Mahmood Mirza, have been sidelined."

"The TTAP manifesto said it "strongly condemned" the recent actions against Justice Tariq Jahangiri, terming his disqualification the "latest example of an attack on the judiciary".

It further condemned the "false cases and convictions" against PTI founder Imran Khan and his wife.

"TTAP demands the immediate release of all political prisoners, including former prime minister Imran Khan, Bushra Bibi, Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Senator Ejaz Chaudhry, Dr

Continued on page 2

## Parliamentary delegation to visit China from Jan 19-21

ISLAMABAD (APP): A

high-level parliamentary delegation led by Speaker of National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq is scheduled to visit the People's Republic of China from January 19 to 21, 2026, on the special invitation of the Chairman of the National People's Congress (NPC) of China, Mr. Zhao Leji.

The visit marks the first state-level and maiden official visit of the Pakistani Parliament in 2026 to the friendly country of China, underscoring the importance both sides attach to parliamentary diplomacy and bilateral cooperation.

While addressing a press conference at Karachi Press Club here on Sunday, she said that terrorism acts had been witnessed in Balochistan for the past 10 to 15 days, which were against the province.

She said that the media had the responsibility to show the face of positive Balochistan and avoid the separatists to be shown

## US President invited Shehbaz to become part of Gaza Board of Peace

WASHINGTON (INP): United States President Donald Trump has invited Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to become part of the Gaza Board of Peace, a body being formed to address the ongoing crisis in the Palestinian territory.

The Foreign Office spokesperson confirmed that Pakistan has formally received the invitation to join the peace board established for Gaza.

Responding to media queries, the spokesperson said that Pakistan will continue to play an active role in global initiatives aimed at promoting peace and stability in the region.

He emphasized that Pakistan remains in close contact with the international community to support efforts for lasting peace

in Gaza, adding that a just and durable solution to the Palestine issue must be achieved in line with United Nations resolutions.

Pakistan, he said, will continue backing diplomatic efforts to ensure long-term peace in the Middle East.

According to international media, the White House has already announced the names of several members of the Gaza Board of Peace, which has been created under President Trump's peace initiative.

The board is intended to coordinate on security arrangements, humanitarian assistance, and reconstruction efforts, while also encouraging reforms within the Palestinian Authority and governance structures.

## President, PM express grief over Gul Plaza fire in Karachi

KARACHI (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif have expressed profound grief over the tragic Gul Plaza fire incident in Karachi.

In their separate statements, they extended their condolences over the loss of precious lives and significant financial damage caused by the massive fire at a shopping plaza on MA Jinnah Road.

Chairman Bhutto Zardari offered heartfelt condolences to the families of those who lost their lives in the fire, stating that he shares in the grief of the affected families during this difficult time. He also conveyed his best wishes for a speedy recovery to the injured.

They emphasized that

## Farha dubs Balochistan separatists as handful of peace deteriorators

KARACHI (APP): Member of Balochistan Assembly (MBA) and Provincial President of the Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) Farha Azeem Shah on Sunday lambasted at the Balochistan separatists and termed them as a handful of peace deteriorators.

While addressing a press conference at Karachi Press Club here on Sunday, she said that terrorism acts had been witnessed in Balochistan for the past 10 to 15 days, which were against the province.

She said that the media had the responsibility to show the face of positive Balochistan and avoid the separatists to be shown

every effort should be made to ensure the injured receive the best possible medical care.

On the other hand, Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the tragic loss of lives and significant financial damage caused by the massive fire at a shopping plaza on MA Jinnah Road.

Chairman Bhutto Zardari offered heartfelt condolences to the families of those who lost their lives in the fire, stating that he shares in the grief of the affected families during this difficult time. He also conveyed his best wishes for a speedy recovery to the injured.

They emphasized that

## Gul Plaza blaze still burning as 56 remain missing, death toll rises to six in Karachi

*Sindh govt sets up helpline for information on Gul Plaza fire*

KARACHI (INP): As

20 others injured as

firefighters continued to

struggle for control even

after ten hours.

According to rescue

officials, the death toll rose

to six as teams recovered

more bodies from the

smoke-filled building.

The number of injured

surpassed 20, while per-

sonnel from KMC Rescue,

112, and Pakistan Navy

remained stationed at the

scene as the operation en-

tered its extended phase.

More than 20 fire tend-

ers, three snorkels, and

two water bowsers were

deployed in the ongoing

firefighting effort, with ad-

ditional water supplies be-

ing delivered through tank-

ers.

Thick smoke contin-

ued to billow from the up-

per portions of the build-

ing, and officials said it was

too early to estimate when

the blaze would be fully

contained.

Lieutenant Com-

mander of Pakistan Navy

said rescue efforts were be-

ing led by Captain Farhan

Sheikh and himself, with

five Navy fire tenders and

70 personnel actively par-

ticipating in the operation.

Pak Navy's Lieuten-

ant Commander Iftikhar

Ahmed confirmed that

more people were believed

to be trapped inside the

structure.

He added that one

body had been recovered by

the Navy team during the

night, while other rescue

units had retrieved four

more.

Rescue officials fear

Continued on page 2



KARACHI: Smoke rises as a blaze continues to engulf from Gul Plaza. Authorities have confirmed six deaths so far, including a firefighter, after the fire erupted at the mall located at MA Jinnah Road.

## Balochistan CM expresses deep grief over shopping center fire in Karachi

*Independent Report*

QUETTA: Governor

Balochistan Jaffar Khan

Mandokhel is scheduled

to depart for Saudi Arabia on

Monday i.e. January 19, 2026, in order to perform

Umrah, with a planned return on January 26, 2026.

During his absence, Deputy Speaker Provincial Assembly Ghazala Gola will assume the responsibilities of the acting governor.

She said that Pakistan successfully retaliated India in May. She said that Pakistan shot down their aircrafts and defeated her.

Farha said that the father of the nation Quaid e Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah created Pakistan and Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir saved her.

She said that Pakistani media reported with responsibility and Indian media released fake news.

In his statement, the chief minister described the incident as deeply distressing, noting that it has left not only the affected families but the entire nation mourning.

He extended his sincere sympathies to the bereaved families, praying that Allah grants the departed souls a place in

## Kohistani urges Achakzai to prioritize country's interest over loyalty, play positive role

*Independent Report*

QUETTA: Chief Minister

Balochistan Mir Sarfraz

Bugti has expressed profound sorrow and heartfelt

condolences over the tragic

fire at a shopping center in Karachi's Gul Plaza area

which resulted in the loss of precious lives and significant financial damage.

In his statement, the chief minister described the incident as deeply distressing, noting that it has left not only the affected families but the entire nation mourning.

He extended his sincere sympathies to the bereaved families, praying that Allah grants the departed souls a place in

the hereafter.

Meanwhile, on Double Road in Dihari, two women were allegedly harassed inside their home and deprived of their gold jewelry by unidentified persons.

The alarming incident has created fear among local residents, particularly women, and highlighted growing concerns about the security situation in residential areas.

While speaking to a local news channel, the state minister said that

Opposition leader

Mahmood Khan Achakzai

should rise above personal

## Pakistan 'to review' T20 World Cup participation if BCB's concerns persist

### Sports Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan are expected to reassess its participation in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 in India-Sri Lanka, following increasing concerns related to the Bangladesh cricket team, sources told.

The Bangladesh government has reached out to Pakistan for support over its decision to skip travelling to India for the tournament, citing security concerns, sources said.

They added that Pakistan supports Bangladesh's legitimate concerns, emphasising that they should be addressed and acted upon.

Pakistan has also stressed that no country should face pressure or threats from India, assuring Bangladesh of its full support on the matter.

On January 11, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) expressed its willingness to host

Bangladesh's matches in the T20 World Cup after the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) decided against travelling to India. "We've received definitive assurances that we won't move from the original schedule. We're definitely playing the group stage in Sri Lanka," a Cricket Ireland official confirmed.

They added that all Pakistani venues are fully prepared to stage World Cup matches and highlighted Pakistan's successful hosting of major ICC events, including the Champions Trophy 2025, and the ICC Women's Qualifier.

Meanwhile, in another development, Cricket Ireland (CI) clarified that the International Cricket Council (ICC) will not move Ireland's group-stage matches out of Sri Lanka, dismissing reports of a possible group swap with Bangladesh.

This follows claims that the BCB had requested a group exchange due to concerns over travelling to India. "We've received definitive assurances that we won't move from the original schedule. We're definitely playing the group stage in Sri Lanka," a Cricket Ireland official confirmed.

Under the current schedule, Bangladesh are in Group B with West Indies, England, Nepal, and Italy, playing their matches in Kolkata and Mumbai. Ireland is in Group C alongside co-hosts Sri Lanka, Australia, Zimbabwe, and Oman, with all fixtures in Sri Lanka.

The BCB reportedly discussed the possibility of a group swap with ICC officials in Dhaka on Saturday to minimise logistical challenges, though the proposal received little support from the ICC or Cricket Ireland.



SINGAPORE: High Commissioner Rabia Shafiq attending the inaugural exhibition of renowned Pakistani-American artist Anila Quayyum Agha at Sundaram Tagore Gallery.

## NZ register first ODI series win in India despite Kohli ton

### Sports Desk

MUMBAI: New Zealand overcame a valiant 124 by Virat Kohli to down India by 41 runs and seal their first-ever ODI series victory on Indian soil on Sunday.

Daryl Mitchell and Glenn Phillips guided New Zealand to 337-8 with a fourth-wicket stand of 219 after the tourists slipped to 5-2 and 58-3 in Indore.

Mitchell made 137 and Phillips hit 106 off 88 balls.

The Black Caps then bowled out India for 296 in 46 overs despite Kohli's 54th ODI century and clinched the three-match series 2-1.

## DG FIA reviews immigration operations at I'abad airport

ISLAMABAD (APP): Director General Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Riffat Mukhtar Raja visited Islamabad International Airport to review immigration operations and assess steps aimed at improving passenger flow.

During the visit, the DG Riffat directed officers to ensure the provision of the best possible immigration services.

He ordered the installation of a queue management system, phased implementation of e-gates, and deployment of additional staff to guide passengers during busy hours.

The official said that on January 13, immigration staff cleared 2,400 passengers within a single hour, reflecting heavy pressure during peak hours due to the simultaneous arrival of multiple international flights. Temporary congestion also occurs because of flight delays caused by weather conditions and technical issues.

According to the briefing, the FIA Immigration at

## PSL governing council backs 'player auction model' for season 11

### Sports Desk

LAHORE: The Pakistan Super League (PSL) governing council's working committee held a late-night meeting to discuss key matters for the upcoming season, including the player auction and retention policies, sources told Geo News on Sunday.

According to insiders, the committee agreed to introduce a player auction for PSL 11 and also finalised the rules for player retention.

The committee's decisions will be sent to PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi for final approval, with the option of convening a full governing council meeting if required.

Sources revealed that the defending champions Lahore Qalandars, along with Quetta Gladiators, Islamabad United, Karachi Kings and Hyderabad, voted in favour of the player auction model.

Peshawar Zalmi and the Sialkot franchise also voted in favour of the 'draughton' system, sources said.

It was also confirmed that the five existing franchises agreed on retaining four players each, one in each category, with one player eligible to be brought

into a lower category and designated as a brand ambassador, sources said.

The new franchises, meanwhile, will select their remaining players from the general player pool through the auction system. Two new franchises, however, insisted on zero retention.

"The remaining players will be auctioned, and franchises will pick their players in the auction," sources said.

The final formula for the PSL 11 auction and retention rules will be submitted to Mohsin Naqvi, with an official announcement expected within the next one or two days.

Sources said there is a possibility that it will not be made mandatory to include a player from the Emerging category in the playing XI.

The PSL auction is likely to be held during the first week of February, sources said.

Earlier, Naqvi advised franchise owners to increase the players' salary cap as the marquee league enters a new era with the addition of two new teams.

Highlighting the rise in franchise market value, he encouraged teams to adopt the auction model.



TTAP chief Mahmood Khan Achakzai (left) attends a meeting with QAT chief Ayaz Latif Palijo and others at his residence in Hyderabad

## Pakistan futsal teams make history with first ever international wins

### Sports Desk

BANGKOK: Pakistan's futsal breakthrough continued at the SAFF Championship in Thailand as the men's team secured their first-ever international win on Friday, a day after the women recorded Pakistan's maiden futsal victory.

In the men's event, Pakistan came back from a 2-0 deficit to beat Bhutan 4-2 at the Hua Mak Indoor Arena in Bangkok, registering their first-ever international victory in futsal.

Bhutan's Dawa Shering put his side ahead with two quick goals early on, but Pakistan responded through Hassan Zafar, who scored in the 28th minute to cut the deficit.

Asif Ahmed Chaudhry levelled the match in the 32nd minute before Adnan Ashfaq struck in the 34th and 35th minutes to complete the turnaround and seal the win.

Pakistan's starting five for the match featured Tahir Khan, Hassan Zafar, Humza Nusrat, Nisar Hussain and Salar Khan, with Abdul Wadud, Humza

Khan, Asif Ahmad, Adnan Ashfaq, Ali Agha, Abdul Hannan, Zaid Khan, Muhammad Elham and Rajab Ali listed among the substitutes.

Pakistan had opened the tournament with a 7-1 defeat to the Maldives in their first match.

In the women's event, Pakistan defeated Sri Lanka 3-2 on Thursday, with Azwa Chaudhry scoring a hat-trick to deliver the women's team's first-ever international futsal win.

Reacting to the landmark results, the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) said on Instagram that Pakistan's women's and men's futsal teams had "created history by winning their first-ever international matches at SAFF Futsal 2026".

The PFF said the teams delivered the wins "despite a lack of Futsal infrastructure in the country and the challenges", adding that Pakistan women beat Sri Lanka 3-2 while the men's team "came from behind to win against Bhutan 4-2".

## Hyderabad: Kodi Kodi players in action during All Pakistan Horse Riding Competitions as part of Winter Sports Festival 2026



HYDERABAD: Kodi Kodi players in action during All Pakistan Horse Riding Competitions as part of Winter Sports Festival 2026

## Gul Plaza blaze still..

### Continued from page 1

authorities warned that the entire building could give way at any moment due to severe structural damage.

Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari directed the Sindh chief minister to utilise all available resources to extinguish the fire.

Expressing grief over the loss of life and property, Bilawal offered condolences to the families of the deceased and called for an immediate investigation to prevent such incidents in the future.

A spokesperson for the Sindh government said all necessary resources were being provided and the administration was making every effort to bring the situation under control as swiftly as possible. Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab also expressed sorrow over the tragic incident.

Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM-P) senior leader Dr. Farooq Sattar meets senior Journalists Bachal Leghari and Irfanullah Khan in Karachi.

## Aysha Ayaz shines with gold as 8th Ranking Taekwondo Championship concludes in Swat

ISLAMABAD (APP): Aysha Ayaz clinched a gold medal in the 45kg category as the eighth Ranking Taekwondo Championship concluded in Swat, with the Swat National Team securing overall first position in the two-day event. The championship was recently held by the Regional Sports Office (RSO) Malakand Division, Swat, under the directives of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provincial government and the Directorate General of Sports Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, in collaboration with the district administration.

Aysha Ayaz delivered an impressive performance

in the 45kg weight category, securing the gold medal, emerging as one of the standout athletes of the championship.

Talking to APP after her victory, Aysha Ayaz said that winning a gold medal at a ranking championship was a proud moment for her. She said consistent training, discipline and the support of her coaches and family played a vital role in her success. She expressed hope to represent her region and Pakistan at higher-level national and international competitions in the future.

Aysha Ayaz is regarded as one of Pakistan's

promising young taekwondo athletes. She has won a total of 11 international medals, including four gold, three silver and four bronze medals, in various international competitions. Her international appearances include events held in Dubai (2020), Thailand (2022), Qatar (2023), Malaysia (2025) and Indonesia (2025). She has also received more than 15 awards in recognition of her sporting achievements, including government awards, HBL PSL Hamra Heroes Awards, National Youth Awards, Pakistan Star Awards and Women Power Awards.

### JI Women Wing (JI Youth) hosts "Meena Bazaar" in Capital

#### Continued from page 1

Yasmin Rashid, Umar Sarfaraz Cheema, Mian Mahmood ur Rashid, Sabizah Hamid Raza, Hassan Niazi, Ali Wazir, Haji Abdul Samad, Wali Mohmand, Dr. Mahraen Baloch, and the detainees of the Baloch Yakjeeti Committee," the manifesto said.

Moreover, it called for an end to restrictions or meetings of party leaders and family with Imran.

Referring to the PECA law, the manifesto termed it a move to "silence critical voices and curtail media freedom". It labelled the legislation as "black law" and demanded its "immediate revocation".

The manifesto also demanded that the ongoing military operation in the Tirah Valley be "stopped immediately", urging that the "federal government should take the provincial government into confidence on all matters".

"All issues with Afghanistan should be resolved diplomatically," the manifesto read, further asking that the "federal government should take the provincial government into confidence on all matters".

He emphasized that Islam accords women a dignified status, whether as mothers, daughters, or sisters.

The event was designed to highlight the artistic and creative talents of young women, provide healthy entertainment for children, and encourage their involvement in sports.

She said the event was

designed to highlight the artistic and creative talents of young women, provide healthy entertainment for children, and encourage their involvement in sports.

She said the event was

designed to highlight the artistic and creative talents of young women, provide healthy entertainment for children, and encourage their involvement in sports.

She said the event was

designed to highlight the artistic and creative talents of young women, provide healthy entertainment for children, and encourage their involvement in sports.

She said the event was

designed to highlight the artistic and creative talents of young women, provide healthy entertainment for children, and encourage their involvement in sports.

She said the event was

designed to highlight the artistic and creative talents of young women, provide healthy entertainment for children, and encourage their involvement in sports.

She said the event was

designed to highlight the artistic and creative talents of young women, provide healthy entertainment for children, and encourage their involvement in sports.

She said the event was

designed to highlight the artistic and creative talents of young women, provide healthy entertainment for children, and encourage their involvement in sports.

She said the event was

designed to highlight the artistic and creative talents of young women, provide healthy entertainment for children, and encourage their involvement in sports.

She said the event was

designed to highlight the artistic and creative talents of young women, provide healthy entertainment for children, and encourage their involvement in sports.

She said the event was

designed to highlight the artistic and creative talents of young women, provide healthy entertainment for children, and encourage their involvement in sports.

She said the event was

designed to highlight the artistic and creative talents of young women, provide healthy entertainment for children, and encourage their involvement in sports.

She said the event was

designed to highlight the artistic and creative talents of young women, provide healthy entertainment for children, and encourage their involvement in sports.

She said the event was

designed to highlight the artistic and creative talents of young women, provide healthy entertainment for children, and encourage their involvement in sports.

She said the event was

designed to highlight the artistic and creative talents of young women, provide healthy entertainment for children, and encourage their involvement in sports.

She said the event was

designed to highlight the artistic and creative talents of young women, provide healthy entertainment for children, and encourage their involvement in sports.

She said the event was

designed to highlight the artistic and creative talents of young women, provide healthy entertainment for children, and encourage their involvement in sports.

She said the event was

designed to highlight the artistic and creative talents of young women, provide healthy entertainment for children, and encourage their involvement in sports.

She said the event was

designed to highlight the artistic and creative talents of young women, provide healthy entertainment for children, and encourage their involvement in sports.

She said the event was

designed to highlight the artistic and creative talents of young women, provide healthy entertainment for children, and encourage their involvement in sports.

She said the event was

designed to highlight the artistic and creative talents of young women, provide healthy entertainment for children, and encourage their involvement in sports.

She said the event was

designed to highlight the artistic and creative talents of young women, provide healthy entertainment for children, and encourage their involvement in sports.



QUETTA: Provincial Secretary Finance Imran Zarkoon witnessing the online test of vacant posts of Sub Accountant.

## CM Bugti personally contacts successful candidates, reaffirms commitment to merit-based recruitment

*Successful applicants praise transparency of online testing process for Sub-Accountant posts in Finance Department*

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti personally contacted the successful candidates of the online test conducted for Sub-Accountant positions in the Finance Department and extended his congratulations on their success. During the telephonic interaction, the chief

minister inquired in detail about the testing process and sought feedback regarding its transparency and fairness. The successful candidates informed the chief minister that the entire online testing and recruitment process was conducted in a fully transparent, fair and merit-based manner.

Expressing their happiness and satisfaction, the candidates said they could hardly believe that they had secured government jobs without any recommendations or bribery. They appreciated the transparent recruitment system and thanked Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti for introducing a pro-

cess based purely on merit. The candidates stated that for the first time they felt confident that genuine merit-based employment opportunities were possible in Balochistan.

Speaking on the occasion, the chief minister said that the government is fully committed to making the system of govern-

ment recruitment completely transparent and to eliminating the culture of favoritism and corruption. He emphasized that restoring the confidence of youth and providing them with dignified employment opportunities remains the top priority of the provincial government.

## Ali Madad Jattak continues grassroots engagement to resolve public issues

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: Pakistan Peoples Party Central Committee member and Provincial Assembly Member Haji Ali Madad Jattak is actively engaged day and night in addressing public issues, emerging as a true public servant of the people of his Saraiab constituency. At Jattak House in Asifabad, delegations from various localities and prominent community

members met Haji Ali Madad Jattak and briefed him in detail on their grievances, civic issues and ongoing development needs of their areas. The visiting delegations raised concerns related to water supply, electricity, road infrastructure and other basic public amenities. Haji Ali Madad Jattak listened patiently to all delegations and, on the spot, issued directives to concerned departments to

ensure prompt resolution of public complaints. He assured the people that all possible steps would be taken to provide relief and improve basic facilities in the constituency.

Speaking on the occasion, community members appreciated his consistent role as a people-friendly representative, stating that he has always worked without discrimination to address citizens' problems.



QUETTA: Vice Chancellor BUMHS Professor Dr. Shabbir Lehri participating in the launching ceremony of Bolan Journal of Medical and Allied Sciences.

## BUMHS launches Balochistan's first-ever medical research journal

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: Bolan University of Medical and Health Sciences (BUMHS), Quetta — Balochistan's first and only public sector medical university — has achieved another major milestone in its academic and research journey with the formal launch of the Bolan Journal of Medical and Allied Health Sciences. The journal is the first medical research publication of its kind in the province, aimed at promoting quality medical research and strengthening an evidence-based healthcare system in Balochistan.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony as chief guest, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Shabbir Ahmed Lehri said that medical research remains a core priority of Bolan University, as it provides a solid foundation for improving healthcare standards. He noted that within a short span of time, the university has shown remarkable improvement in Higher Education Commission (HEC) rankings and continues to make steady progress in academic, research, and administrative domains.

The ceremony commenced with opening re-

marks by Prof. Dr. Rauf Shah. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Aslam Buzdar, Editor of the Bolan Journal of Medical and Allied Health Sciences, stated that the journal would serve as a credible and effective platform for promoting research culture in Balochistan, mentoring young researchers, and encouraging high-quality scientific work.

He further highlighted that from 2023 to 2025, Bolan University successfully conducted MDCAT examinations across Balochistan in a transparent manner.

leged that rulers imposed through "fake votes" are misleading the nation by projecting a false narrative of economic improvement through the media, while ground realities reflect worsening conditions for the masses. He termed the government's refusal to lower petroleum prices an "anti-people decision," stating that the rulers are shifting the burden of their own expenditures onto ordinary citizens. Ghauri expressed regret that even after a noticeable decrease in

international oil prices, the government has failed to pass on the benefit to the public.

The JUI-F spokesperson warned that maintaining high petroleum prices would further inflate the cost of food items and other daily-use commodities, pushing the poor and middle class deeper into economic distress. He said inflation continues to rise due to flawed economic policies, while the purchasing power of the people has been severely eroded.

QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Health Bakht Muhammad Kakar offering Fataha on the sad demise of mother of General Secretary PPP Rabbani Kakar.

## More fun for kids at Gwadar's Model Park as new electronic rides installed

GWADAR (INP): Families and young visitors in Gwadar now have more to enjoy at Model Beach Park, where a new range of modern electronic amusement rides has been installed to expand recreational options for children.

The coastal park, developed by the Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) as a dedicated space for women and children, has added attractions including Bike, 4 Bee Rides, Badai New Shape, Banmanus Kingkong, Buggi 2 Horse, Moto Car, Moto Cup, Panda Jahaz, Titanic Ship and Train rides, according to a Gwadar Pro's report.

Officials said the rides have been installed with a strong focus on safety and

quality, offering a comfortable and enjoyable environment for families.

Located along the scenic coastline, Model Beach Park has become a popular family destination in the port city. The park recently served as a hub for community activities during New Year celebrations, which featured cultural programs and fireworks and drew large numbers of women and children.

Another highlight of the park is the Baloch Insight Café, a three-container café that has emerged as a social space for women and families.

The café hosts gatherings and children's birthday celebrations and offers a variety of fast food and refreshments.

Earlier, GDA highlighted improvements to public parks and recreational facilities as part of broader efforts to promote youth-friendly activities, women's access and quality of life in Gwadar.

According to an official statement, the new rides and facilities were introduced on the instructions of Director General Chairman Moeen-ur-Rehman Khan, in line with the authority's ongoing efforts to develop leisure and community spaces alongside urban development.

Residents and visitors have welcomed the additions, saying they have further strengthened Model Beach Park's role as a safe and enjoyable recreational spot for children and families.



QUETTA: MPA Haji Ali Madad offering Fataha on the sad demise of father of senior journalist Shahid Rind.

## Khuzdar police intensify anti-narcotics drive, major seizure made in Wadh

**Independent Report**  
KHUZDAR: As part of the ongoing crackdown against narcotics, Khuzdar Police have carried out successful operations in the Wadh Circle, arresting drug smugglers and recovering a large quantity of narcotics.

The operations were conducted on the special directives of SSP Khuzdar Shahzada Umar Abbas Babar and Additional SSP Abdul Qudoos Dehwar. Under the supervision of DSP Wadh Circle Muhammad Ameen Lasi, SHO Wadh Abdul Wahab Sasoli, along with his team, carried out a targeted operation in the Wadh area.

During the action, the police arrested an accused identified as Zameer Ali, who was allegedly involved

in drug smuggling. A total of 36,000 grams of charas were recovered from his possession along with an ATC Mazda truck used for transportation. A case has been registered against the accused, and further legal proceedings are underway.

Speaking on the occasion, SHO Wadh Abdul Wahab Sasoli stated that no leniency would be shown to drug dealers and smugglers, adding that police operations against the drug menace would continue without interruption until this social evil is eradicated.

Khuzdar Police reaffirmed their commitment to pursuing the anti-narcotics campaign with full force to rid society of the scourge of drugs.

## DC Loralai takes eco-friendly initiative, gives cash reward to child for watering tree daily

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Loralai Miran Baloch has taken a unique and exemplary initiative to promote tree plantation and protect the environment, under which a cash reward is being given to a child who watered a tree daily.

He said that the aim of this initiative is to instill a sense of conservation of natural resources in children so that the foundation of a green and prosperous Pakistan could be laid in the future.

He also urged parents and teachers to educate children about tree plantation and environmental protection. Citizens commended the Deputy Commissioner's move and expressed hope that it would promote tree plantation in the area.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Food Haji Noor Muhammad Dummar offering Fataha on the sad demise of brother of Sardar Afzal Kibzai.

## Polio-free Gwadar prepares for first nationwide campaign

GWADAR (INP): Gwadar authorities have stepped up preparations for Pakistan's first nationwide polio drive of 2026, underlining the district's importance in maintaining polio-free status.

District officials held a high-level coordination meeting Friday to finalize arrangements for the February campaign, part of the National Immunization Days (NID), Gwadar Pro reported.

The meeting was chaired by Deputy Commissioner Gwadar Naequeebullah Kakar and attended by senior officials from health, administration, law enforcement and partner organizations.

Participants reviewed operational planning, logistics, security and surveillance measures for the drive, which will be the first nationwide polio campaign of the new year. Officials said a target of 35,364 children has been set for Gwadar district.

Representatives of the World Health Organization presented a detailed review of the previous campaign, including updates on suspected cases, environmental samples and demographic trends.

## Rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge systems installed at two major educational institutions

**Independent Report**

QUETTA: Rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge systems installed at two major educational institutions in Quetta have shown promising results amid one of Balochistan's worst droughts in recent years, officials said.

Balochistan received nearly 52 percent less rainfall than average in 2025, according to the Pakistan Meteorological Department, intensifying pressure on groundwater resources that supply most of the provincial capital's water needs.

In response to the growing water crisis, the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), under the European Union-funded Revival of Balochistan Water Resources Programme (RBWRP), implemented rainwater harvesting and recharge infrastructure at the Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS) and the Balochistan Agriculture College (BAC).

The systems were tested during rainfall events in December 2025. On December 20, Quetta received about 5 millimetres of rain, allowing storage tanks at BUITEMS to fill close to capacity without triggering groundwater recharge.

A heavier rainfall of 13 millimetres on December 30-31 fully filled the storage tanks and initiated the recharge process. Monitoring data showed that 4 cubic meters of water were recharged into the groundwater aquifer. Water quality tests recorded Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) at 155 parts per million, meeting standards for

safe recharge.

At the Balochistan Agriculture College, rainfall during the same period filled a 286,500-litre storage pond, while overflow contributed around 1.5 cubic meters to groundwater recharge, highlighting the benefits of larger storage systems.

Apart from rainwater harvesting, the site at BUITEMS also utilizes the overhead tank overflow water for storage, which is regularly used for horticulture purposes.

Deputy Country Representative IWMI, Dr. Muhammad



Traders in Quetta protest warehouse raids with Anjuman-e-Tajran Balochistan President Abdul Rahum Kakar present.



## KP CM chairs Bajaur jirga, announces relief package

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Sohail Afridi on Sunday chaired an important jirga comprising parliamentarians, tribal elders and notables of District Bajaur.

Participants of the jirga expressed full confidence in the Chief Minister and assured their complete cooperation.

The meeting held detailed discussions on the law and order situation in the province, improvement of Pakistan-Afghanistan relations, and the overall development strategy.

The Chief Minister announced that the compensation amount for the reconstruction of partially damaged houses due to the recent operation in Bajaur has been increased from Rs160,000 to Rs500,000.

Participants presented valuable suggestions for the establishment of lasting peace.

The Chief Minister said that tribal elders, the public, police and security forces have made great sacrifices for restoring peace in the province.

He said the role of the people and tribal elders of Bajaur in maintaining law and order is commendable.

He said that at the time of the merger of former

FATA, an annual allocation of Rs100 billion was promised, but only Rs168 billion has been released over the past seven years, while Rs532 billion is still outstanding against the federal government.

Afridi directed officials to raise the upper age limit for police recruitment in the merged districts and to accelerate work on the Bajaur martyrs' package. He also ordered the provision of security for tribal elders who have contributed to peace and national development. He further announced that schools and hospitals under the Roshan Qabair Package in the merged districts would be upgraded to improve access to education and healthcare.

He added that funds under the Annual Development Programme (AIP) are also not being provided by the federal government.

The Chief Minister directed the authorities to increase the upper age limit for police recruitment in the merged districts, expedite work on the Bajaur martyrs' package, and ensure security for tribal elders who played a role in restoring peace and contributing to national development.

He further said that under the Roshan Tribes Package, existing schools and hospitals in the merged districts would be upgraded to provide quality facilities to the people.

The chief minister praised the people of Bajaur and tribal elders for their role in maintaining peace. Referring to the merger of the former FATA with K-P, he said an annual allocation of Rs100b had been promised at the time, but only Rs168b had been released over seven years, leaving Rs532b outstanding from the federal government.

According to a de-

tailed security assessment

obtained by The Express Tribune, the province faced 1,588 terrorism-related incidents, reflecting a rapidly

escalating militant threat

across both settled and

tribal regions. Despite the

rise in attacks, security

forces managed to prevent

320 major strikes, while

137 police officers and

personnel laid down their lives

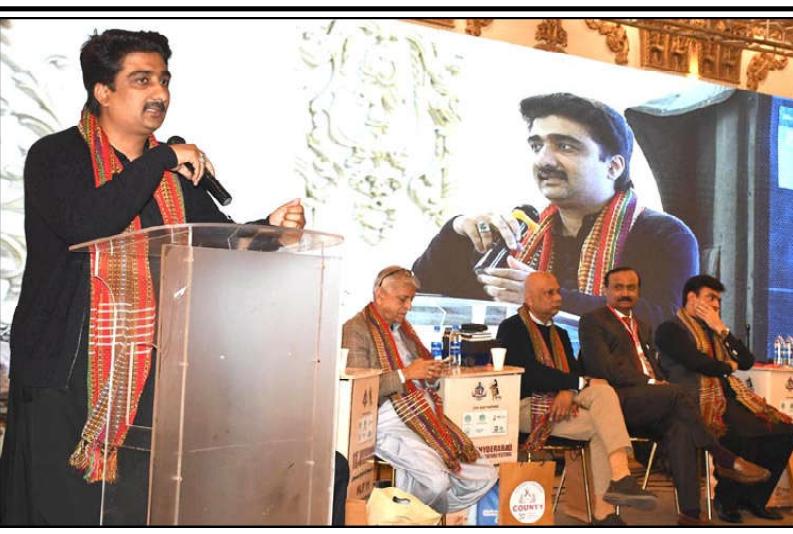
in the line of duty.

After firefighting operations

60 to 70 percent of the fire

was brought under control, the Chief Minister

was briefed.



HYDERABAD: Sindh Minister for Culture and Tourism, Syed Zulfiqar Ali Shah addressing during the 11th Hyderabad Literature Festival.

## Sindh CM receives report of Gul Plaza blaze

KARACHI (APP): A report of the fire incident at Gul Plaza was presented to the Chief Minister of Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah by the Commissioner Karachi and Deputy Commissioner South, here on Saturday.

According to the report, the fire incident at Gul Plaza occurred between 9:45 pm and 10:15 pm.

According to the briefing, more than 1,200 shops were gutted in the Gul Plaza fire.

After firefighting operations 60 to 70 percent of the fire was brought under control, the Chief Minister

was briefed.

Murad was informed that 6 people lost their lives while 22 were injured.

All the injured were shifted to the Burns Ward of Civil Hospital Karachi.

A total of 22 fire brigade vehicles, 10 water bowsers, and 4 snorkel vehicles took part in the rescue operation.

Thirty-three ambulances of Rescue 1122 also participated in the operation, the Chief Minister was informed.

The Chief Minister Sindh expressed his deep sorrow over the loss of precious human lives in the Gul Plaza fire incident.

He extended heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the families of the deceased.

He also expressed his grief over the heavy financial losses caused by the Gul Plaza tragedy.

The Chief Minister of Sindh paid tribute to the sacrifice of the firefighter, who embraced martyrdom while extinguishing the fire.

The firefighters risked their lives to save the lives of citizens, the Chief Minister said.

Murad directed that the injured persons be provided with the best possible medical facilities.

## Governor lauds Dera police for successful operation against militants

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Sunday praised the Dera Ismail Khan Police for a successful operation against militants in Kulachi area, paying rich tribute to their bravery and professionalism.

The Governor commended the police team under the leadership of the District Police Officer (DPO) Dera for neutralizing a militant during the operation and recovering a large cache of weapons.

He said that the suc-

cessful action reflects the courage and dedication of the KP Police and added that the entire province takes pride in its brave force.

Governor Faisal Karim Kundi congratulated all police personnel who took part in the operation and acknowledged their sacrifices in the fight against terrorism.

He also issued instructions to ensure the provision of the best possible medical treatment to the police official injured during the operation and prayed for his speedy recovery.

## Three killed in fatal car collision in Fatehjang

ATTOCK (INP): Three people were killed and another critically injured after a speeding car collided with a vehicle in Fatehjang on Sunday.

According to the report, the accident took place on Kohat Road in the Gagan area of the tehsil.

Rescue 1122 teams reached the site immediately after receiving the alert and shifted the victims to the Tehsil Headquarters Hospital.

The deceased were identified as 22-year-old Amir Khan and 26-year-old Rehman, while the identity of the third victim has yet to be confirmed.

## Sahulat Bazaars ease inflation, generate employment: CM

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's flagship Sahulat Bazaar initiative is delivering affordable, quality food items to the public, while generating employment opportunities for thousands of people across the province.

The briefing added that Sahulat Bazaars were currently operational in several cities, including Wazirabad, Chunian, Jaranwala, Chiniot, Khanewal, Bhalwal, Pattoki, Okara and Muzaffargarh, where citizens were being provided quality commodities at affordable prices. Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has set a target to complete 30 additional Sahulat Bazaars across the province by June 30. She directed the relevant authorities to expedite efforts to gradually establish convenience markets in every tehsil of Punjab.



Team Mushtaq Sarki leads protest rally against Jamat-e-Islami (JI) to protect Ajrak in Karachi.

## Blaze largely under control, cooling process underway: Sharjeel

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon has expressed his deep sorrow and grief over the fire incident at Gul Plaza shopping mall on M.A. Jinnah Road.

He said, "This is a deeply tragic incident in which precious lives have been lost. The government stands shoulder to shoulder with the affected families in their grief."

Sharjeel said that as soon as information about the incident was received, the government machinery has been present at the site since the night, and all available resources are being fully utilized to control the fire.

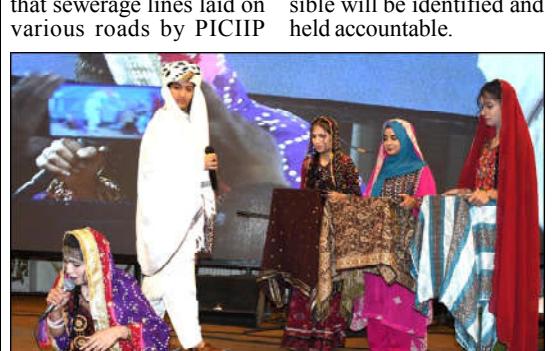
He said that forty snorkels are participating in

## Quality completion of PIICIP projects top priority: MPA Faisal

SIALKOT (APP): Member of Provincial Assembly (MPA) Chaudhry Faisal Ikram said that the completion of sewerage lines and water supply projects in the city under the Punjab Intermediate Improvement Cities Investment Program (PIICIP) in accordance with approved quality standards is a top priority.

He stated this during an important meeting with local officials of PICIP and NESPAK regarding the ongoing development projects in the city.

MPA Chaudhry Faisal Ikram pointed out that sewerage lines laid on various roads by PICIP



Sindh Local Government Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah inaugurates Bus Terminal in Rohri.

## Fed Govt spokesperson reviews rescue work at Gul Plaza fire-hit incident site

KARACHI (APP): The Spokesperson of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (Government of Pakistan) for Sindh Affairs, Raja Khalil Qamar Ansari, visited the fire-affected Gul Plaza building here on Sunday and extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.

The spokesperson said that the prime minister has issued clear instructions to further expedite rescue and relief efforts and directed all relevant institutions to work in close coordination to save more lives and ensure immediate assistance to the affected people.

Conveying a special message from Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Raja Khalil Qamar Ansari said that the federal government

is providing all possible

assistance to the affected

people.

Commissioner for emergency crackdown on encroachments after public complaints

PESHAWAR (APP): Following a surge of public complaints during an online public hearing, Commissioner Peshawar Division Riaz Khan Mahsud on Sunday ordered a decisive operation against encroachments and directed immediate steps to improve cleanliness across all five districts of the division.

He convened an emergency meeting here to finalize a comprehensive plan for removing illegal encroachments obstructing traffic in major bazaars, main roads, intersections, and other key locations in Peshawar Di-

and the entire nation stand shoulder to shoulder with the affected people in this hour of grief. The prime minister expressed profound sorrow over the loss of precious lives in the incident and extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.

The spokesperson said that the prime minister has issued clear instructions to further expedite rescue and relief efforts and directed all relevant institutions to work in close coordination to save more lives and ensure immediate assistance to the affected people.

During the visit, he met the affected families and expressed deep sorrow and solidarity over the tragic incident.

Conveying a special

message from Prime Minis-

ter Shehbaz Sharif, Raja

Khalil Qamar Ansari said

that the federal government

is providing all possible

assistance to the affected

people.

The operation, which will involve the use of heavy machinery, is expected to begin next week.

Measures to ensure long-term improvement in sanitation will also be approved during the meeting.

The meeting will be attended by Deputy Commissioners, District Police Officers, and concerned municipal officials from Peshawar, Nowshera, Charsadda, Mohmand tribal district, and Khyber district.

Authorities will jointly prepare an imple-

mentation strategy to re-

store traffic flow and im-

prove urban management.

## ECP announces new delimitation schedule for LG polls in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has announced a new delimitation schedule for Village Councils and Neighborhood Councils in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa ahead of the upcoming local government elections.

According to the ECP, delimitation will be carried out in phases across 24 districts starting in March.

These districts include

Peshawar, Mardan, Swabi,

Nowshera, Charsadda,

Swat, Buner, Kohat,

Abbottabad, Haripur, Dir,

Chitral, and other areas of

the province.

According to the ECP,

delimitation will be carried

out in phases across 24 dis-

tricts starting in March.

These districts include

Peshawar, Mardan, Swabi,

Nowshera, Charsadda,

Swat, Buner, Kohat,

Abbottabad, Haripur, Dir,

Chitral, and other areas of

the province.

According to the ECP, deli-

mitation will be carried

out in phases across 24 dis-

tricts starting in March.

These districts include

Peshawar, Mardan, Swabi,

Nowshera, Charsadda,

Swat, Buner, Kohat,

Abbottabad, Haripur, Dir,

Chitral, and other areas of

the province.

According to the ECP,

delimitation will be carried

out in phases across 24 dis-

tricts starting in March.

These districts include

Peshawar, Mardan, Swabi,

Nowshera, Charsadda,

Swat, Buner, Kohat,

## Khurram Schehzad highlights Pakistan's vision on digital assets at 27th ITCN Asia

ISLAMABAD (APP): Advisor to the Federal Finance Minister, Khurram Schehzad on Sunday emphasized the government's evolving role in the digital economy, stating that the primary responsibility of the government was to facilitate innovation and create an enabling environment for emerging technologies.

Khurram was addressing a Fireside Chat titled "Tokenizing the Sovereign Assets-Liquidity ready" at the 27th ITCN Asia held at the Expo Center, Lahore, according to press release issued by finance ministry here.

He noted that the government was actively working on policies aimed at empowering youth, particularly by opening avenues in

modern financial and digital sectors. Highlighting the global context, he said that Bitcoin has a capped global supply of nearly 21 million, making digital assets an important discussion point in today's financial landscape.

Schehzad shared that as per reports, Bitcoin/crypto mining is already taking place in Pakistan, indicating growing domestic engagement with crypto-related technologies.

He also shared that the Ministry of Finance has also planned to tokenize some portion of its domestic debt worth \$2 billion in first phase, primarily tapping retail investors.

Discussing regulatory and institutional develop-

ments, he said that the idea behind creating a dedicated framework or authority is linked to regulating and understanding crypto assets, while acknowledging that Pakistan is still at a nascent stage in this field.

He cited UAE's example, which has already established structured mechanisms for virtual assets, and stressed that Pakistan is learning and moving forward cautiously in this domain.

The session concluded with a discussion on the importance of balanced policymaking, innovation-friendly regulations, and global best practices to ensure that Pakistan can responsibly explore opportunities in digital and sovereign asset tokenization.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Sports and Energy Malik Faisal Ayub Khokh and MNA Malik Saif ul Malook launching first made in Pakistan Electric and Solar Bike, Car, and Bus Company.

## Reforms implemented to strengthen food, agricultural governance: Ministry

ISLAMABAD (APP): The government has started implementing comprehensive reforms to make food and agricultural governance more transparent, digital and publicly accountable, with a focus on curbing corruption, limiting discretionary powers and strengthening import and export systems, the Ministry of National Food Security and Research said here Sunday.

In a statement, the ministry said that 22 out of 31 registrations, licences, certificates and other permits had been fully automated. The digitalisation drive has been implemented across six attached departments dealing with plants, animals and seeds, significantly reducing human intervention, improving traceability and minimising systemic loopholes.

According to the statement, Federal Minis-

ter for National Food Security Rana Tanveer Hussain had specifically emphasized a rules-based system, verifiable decision-making and enhanced inter-agency coordination as key pillars of the reform agenda.

As part of the reforms, the Department of Plant Protection has been modernised, laboratory capacity enhanced, operational controls tightened and alignment ensured with international phytosanitary standards. The objective, the ministry said, was to strengthen biosecurity and safeguard Pakistan's export credibility.

The ministry has also improved import conditions for methyl bromide on scientific grounds, leading to a reduction in costs for importers. As a result, exporters of cotton, grains, pulses and other commodities are saving approxi-

mately Rs30,000 to Rs40,000 per container.

In one case related to methyl bromide, a suspicious import procedure was identified through internal scrutiny and third-party verification, the statement said adding the licence of the concerned company was suspended, and in coordination with Pakistan Customs, four consignments worth about \$1 million were stopped at the port before clearance. Disciplinary action has also been initiated against those responsible.

To protect export quality, the ministry has adopted a zero-tolerance policy against sanitary and phytosanitary violations.

Under strict monitoring and an improved traceability system, three consignments totalling 6.2 metric tonnes of mangoes sent to Norway were seized after attempts were made to ex-

port. Malik highlighted the African Continental Free

Trade Area (AfCFTA)—

the world's largest free trade area by number of countries—as an opportunity for Pakistan to gain preferential access, reduce tariff barriers, and integrate into regional value chains.

He warned that

Pakistan's export markets

remain concentrated in a few regions, leaving the economy vulnerable to external shocks, whereas African markets are seeking affordable, quality products in sectors where Pakistan has a competitive advantage.

Malik also stressed

that Africa offers avenues for investment, joint ventures, and technical cooperation. Pakistani expertise in agriculture, healthcare, education, construction, and small-scale manufacturing can contribute to Africa's development while opening new business opportunities for Pakistan.

Malik highlighted the

African Continental Free

Trade Area (AfCFTA)—

the world's largest free trade area by number of countries—as an opportunity for Pakistan to gain preferential access, reduce tariff barriers, and integrate into regional value chains.

He warned that

Pakistan's export markets

remain concentrated in a few regions, leaving the economy vulnerable to external shocks, whereas African markets are seeking affordable, quality products in sectors where Pakistan has a competitive advantage.

Malik also stressed

that Africa offers avenues for investment, joint ventures, and technical cooperation. Pakistani expertise in agriculture, healthcare, education, construction, and small-scale manufacturing can contribute to Africa's development while opening new business opportunities for Pakistan.

Malik highlighted the

African Continental Free

Trade Area (AfCFTA)—

the world's largest free trade area by number of countries—as an opportunity for Pakistan to gain preferential access, reduce tariff barriers, and integrate into regional value chains.

He warned that

Pakistan's export markets

remain concentrated in a few regions, leaving the economy vulnerable to external shocks, whereas African markets are seeking affordable, quality products in sectors where Pakistan has a competitive advantage.

Malik also stressed

that Africa offers avenues for investment, joint ventures, and technical cooperation. Pakistani expertise in agriculture, healthcare, education, construction, and small-scale manufacturing can contribute to Africa's development while opening new business opportunities for Pakistan.

Malik highlighted the

African Continental Free

Trade Area (AfCFTA)—

the world's largest free trade area by number of countries—as an opportunity for Pakistan to gain preferential access, reduce tariff barriers, and integrate into regional value chains.

He warned that

Pakistan's export markets

remain concentrated in a few regions, leaving the economy vulnerable to external shocks, whereas African markets are seeking affordable, quality products in sectors where Pakistan has a competitive advantage.

Malik also stressed

that Africa offers avenues for investment, joint ventures, and technical cooperation. Pakistani expertise in agriculture, healthcare, education, construction, and small-scale manufacturing can contribute to Africa's development while opening new business opportunities for Pakistan.

Malik highlighted the

African Continental Free

Trade Area (AfCFTA)—

the world's largest free trade area by number of countries—as an opportunity for Pakistan to gain preferential access, reduce tariff barriers, and integrate into regional value chains.

He warned that

Pakistan's export markets

remain concentrated in a few regions, leaving the economy vulnerable to external shocks, whereas African markets are seeking affordable, quality products in sectors where Pakistan has a competitive advantage.

Malik also stressed

that Africa offers avenues for investment, joint ventures, and technical cooperation. Pakistani expertise in agriculture, healthcare, education, construction, and small-scale manufacturing can contribute to Africa's development while opening new business opportunities for Pakistan.

Malik highlighted the

African Continental Free

Trade Area (AfCFTA)—

the world's largest free trade area by number of countries—as an opportunity for Pakistan to gain preferential access, reduce tariff barriers, and integrate into regional value chains.

He warned that

Pakistan's export markets

remain concentrated in a few regions, leaving the economy vulnerable to external shocks, whereas African markets are seeking affordable, quality products in sectors where Pakistan has a competitive advantage.

Malik also stressed

that Africa offers avenues for investment, joint ventures, and technical cooperation. Pakistani expertise in agriculture, healthcare, education, construction, and small-scale manufacturing can contribute to Africa's development while opening new business opportunities for Pakistan.

Malik highlighted the

African Continental Free

Trade Area (AfCFTA)—

the world's largest free trade area by number of countries—as an opportunity for Pakistan to gain preferential access, reduce tariff barriers, and integrate into regional value chains.

He warned that

Pakistan's export markets

remain concentrated in a few regions, leaving the economy vulnerable to external shocks, whereas African markets are seeking affordable, quality products in sectors where Pakistan has a competitive advantage.

Malik also stressed

that Africa offers avenues for investment, joint ventures, and technical cooperation. Pakistani expertise in agriculture, healthcare, education, construction, and small-scale manufacturing can contribute to Africa's development while opening new business opportunities for Pakistan.

Malik highlighted the

African Continental Free

Trade Area (AfCFTA)—

the world's largest free trade area by number of countries—as an opportunity for Pakistan to gain preferential access, reduce tariff barriers, and integrate into regional value chains.

He warned that

Pakistan's export markets

remain concentrated in a few regions, leaving the economy vulnerable to external shocks, whereas African markets are seeking affordable, quality products in sectors where Pakistan has a competitive advantage.

Malik also stressed

that Africa offers avenues for investment, joint ventures, and technical cooperation. Pakistani expertise in agriculture, healthcare, education, construction, and small-scale manufacturing can contribute to Africa's development while opening new business opportunities for Pakistan.

Malik highlighted the

African Continental Free

Trade Area (AfCFTA)—

the world's largest free trade area by number of countries—as an opportunity for Pakistan to gain preferential access, reduce tariff barriers, and integrate into regional value chains.

He warned that

Pakistan's export markets

remain concentrated in a few regions, leaving the economy vulnerable to external shocks, whereas African markets are seeking affordable, quality products in sectors where Pakistan has a competitive advantage.

Malik also stressed

that Africa offers avenues for investment, joint ventures, and technical cooperation. Pakistani expertise in agriculture, healthcare, education, construction, and small-scale manufacturing can contribute to Africa's development while opening new business opportunities for Pakistan.

Malik highlighted the

African Continental Free

Trade Area (AfCFTA)—

the world's largest free trade area by number of countries—as an opportunity for Pakistan to gain preferential access, reduce tariff barriers, and integrate into regional value chains.

He warned that

Pakistan's export markets

remain concentrated in a few regions, leaving the economy vulnerable to external shocks, whereas African markets are seeking affordable, quality products in sectors where Pakistan has a competitive advantage.

Malik also stressed

that Africa offers avenues for investment, joint ventures, and technical cooperation. Pakistani expertise in agriculture, healthcare, education, construction, and small-scale manufacturing can contribute to Africa's development while opening new business opportunities for Pakistan.

Malik highlighted the

African Continental Free

Trade Area (AfCFTA)—

the world's largest free trade area by number of countries—as an opportunity for Pakistan to gain preferential access, reduce tariff barriers, and integrate into regional value chains.

He warned that

Pakistan's export markets

remain concentrated in a few regions, leaving the economy vulnerable to external shocks, whereas African markets are seeking affordable, quality products in sectors where Pakistan has a competitive advantage.

Malik also stressed

that Africa offers avenues for investment, joint ventures, and technical cooperation. Pakistani expertise in agriculture, healthcare, education, construction, and small-scale manufacturing can contribute to Africa's development while opening new business opportunities for Pakistan.

Malik highlighted the

African Continental Free

Trade Area (AfCFTA)—

the world's largest free trade area by number of countries—as an opportunity for Pakistan to gain preferential access, reduce tariff barriers, and integrate into regional value chains.

He warned that

Pakistan's export markets

remain concentrated in a few regions, leaving the economy vulnerable to external shocks, whereas African markets are seeking affordable, quality products in sectors where Pakistan has a competitive advantage.

Malik also stressed

that Africa offers avenues for investment, joint ventures, and technical cooperation. Pakistani expertise in agriculture, healthcare, education, construction, and small-scale manufacturing can contribute to Africa's development while opening new business opportunities for Pakistan.

Malik highlighted the

African Continental Free

Trade Area (AfCFTA)—

the world's largest free trade area by number of countries—as an opportunity for Pakistan to gain preferential access, reduce tariff barriers, and integrate into regional value chains.

He warned that

Pakistan's export markets

remain concentrated in a few regions, leaving the economy vulnerable to external shocks, whereas African markets are seeking affordable, quality products in sectors where Pakistan has a competitive advantage.

Malik also stressed

that Africa offers avenues for investment, joint ventures, and technical cooperation. Pakistani expertise in agriculture, healthcare, education, construction, and small-scale manufacturing can contribute to Africa's development while opening new business opportunities for Pakistan.

Malik highlighted the

African Continental Free

Trade Area (AfCFTA)—

the world's largest free trade area by number of countries—as an opportunity for Pakistan to gain preferential access, reduce tariff barriers, and integrate into regional value chains.

## Trump threatens allies with tariffs to force Greenland sale

### Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump escalated his bid to acquire Greenland on Saturday, threatening tariffs of up to 25 per cent on eight European nations until his purchase of the Danish territory is achieved.

Trump aimed the threat at Denmark and fellow NATO members who have deployed troops to the mineral-rich territory in recent days. The ultimatum threatens to create unprecedented tension within the alliance. Writing on his Truth Social platform, Trump announced that starting Feb 1, all goods sent to the United States from Denmark, Norway, Sweden, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Finland would be subject to a 10 per cent tariff.

"On June 1st, 2026, the Tariff will be increased to 25pc. This Tariff will be due and payable until such

time as a deal is reached for the Complete and Total purchase of Greenland," Trump wrote.

The US president argued that the European nations are "playing this very dangerous game" and have introduced unsustainable risks.

"Therefore, it is imperative that, in order to protect Global Peace and Security, strong measures be taken so that this potentially perilous situation end quickly, and without question," he added.

It was not immediately clear what legal authority the president would invoke to impose the levies. Since returning to office, Trump has frequently utilised sweeping tariffs to combat what the administration labels unfair trade practices and to press foreign governments on US interests.

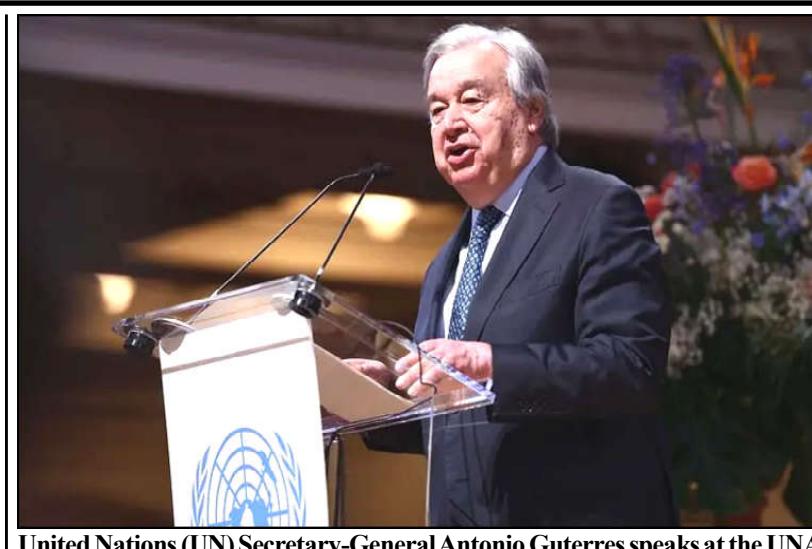
The president has repeatedly claimed the US "needs" Greenland for na-

tional security reasons and that Denmark is incapable of ensuring the defence of the island, which is home to 57,000 people and sits at the strategic gateway to the Arctic.

European NATO members recently deployed troops to Greenland for military exercises. France stated the mission was designed to demonstrate a commitment to defending the territory. Denmark confirmed the US had been invited to participate in those exercises.

Trump characterised the resistance from European allies as a threat to global stability, warning that the nations opposing the deal "have put a level of risk in play that is not tenable or sustainable."

Trump's announcement coincided with mass demonstrations on Saturday in Greenland's capital, Nuuk, and across Denmark.



United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Antonio Guterres speaks at the UN-UK conference to mark the 80th anniversary of the founding of the UN, at Methodist Central Hall, the site of the inaugural UN General Assembly, in London.

## EU leaders reject Trump's tariffs threat over Greenland

### Monitoring Desk

AMSTERDAM: The Netherlands' foreign minister on Sunday said that US President Donald Trump's threat to impose new tariffs on European allies until they agree to sell Greenland to the United States is "blackmail."

"It's blackmail what he's doing ... and it's not necessary. It doesn't help the alliance (NATO) and it also doesn't help Greenland," David van Weel said in interview on Dutch television.

Italy's prime minister

called US President Donald Trump's threat to slap tariffs on opponents of his plan to seize Greenland a "mistake" on Sunday, adding she had told him her views.

"I believe that imposing new sanctions today would be a mistake," Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni told journalists during a trip to Seoul, adding that "I spoke to Donald Trump a few hours ago and told him what I think."

The United States will also suffer if Trump implements threats to impose

tariffs on European countries opposing his plans to acquire Greenland, a French minister said on Sunday.

"In this escalation of tariffs, he has a lot to lose as well, as do his own farmers and industrialists," French Agriculture Minister Annie Genavre told broadcasters Europe 1 and CNews.

Ireland's Foreign Affairs Minister on Sunday described the tariffs being threatened by Trump over European allies' stance on Greenland as "completely unacceptable".

Tariffs on malnourished women, children

### Monitoring Desk

KABUL: Afghanistan's

Taliban government said on Saturday its goal was "to help all malnourished children and mothers", after the United Nations warned that millions

would experience acute malnutrition this year.

The World Food Programme's Afghanistan director John Ayliffe said this week that five million women and children would experience life-threatening malnutrition in a worsening crisis in the country of 40 million people.

The United Nations agency has said that nearly four million children would require treatment for malnutrition.

## Search for Indonesia plane missing with 11 people on board

MAKASSAR (AFP/APP): Indonesian authorities are searching for a small passenger plane after contact was lost on Saturday with the aircraft carrying 11 people, rescue officials told AFP.

The Indonesia Air Transport turboprop plane left from Yogyakarta and was headed for the city of Makassar on Sulawesi island, with three passengers and eight crew members on board, according to the Makassar search and rescue agency. Contact was lost shortly after 1:00 pm (0600 GMT).

Muhammad Arif Anwar, the head of the lo-

cal search and rescue agency, said teams were deployed to a mountainous area of Maros Regency, which borders Makassar, near the last known location of the plane.

The search on land and by air involved the air force, police and volunteers, he added.

Andi Sultan, operations chief at the Makassar search and rescue agency, said a helicopter and drones were being used to find the plane.

The aircraft manufacturer, France-based firm ATR, said it had been informed of "an accident" involving one of its planes.

## Taliban contest UN report on malnourished women, children

### Monitoring Desk

KABUL: Afghanistan's

Taliban government said on Saturday its goal was "to help all malnourished children and mothers", after the United Nations warned that millions

would experience acute malnutrition this year.

The World Food Programme's Afghanistan director John Ayliffe said this week that five million women and children would experience life-threatening malnutrition in a worsening crisis in the country of 40 million people.

The United Nations agency has said that nearly four million children would require treatment for malnutrition.

COPENHAGEN: Demonstrators wave Greenlandic flags as they take part in a rally in the Danish capital to protest against US threats to take over Greenland.

## Taiwanese reporter accused of bribing military officers to leak information to China

### Monitoring Desk

TAIPEI: A journalist in Taiwan was detained Saturday

on allegations of bribing army officers to provide military information to people from mainland China, as the self-ruled island cracks down on potential infiltration from China.

Taiwan's Qiaotao District Prosecutors Office said in a statement that a district court ordered the detention of the reporter surnamed Lin and five current and retired military officers.

The statement didn't identify the journalist, but CTI TV issued a statement about the detention of its reporter Lin Chen-you. The com-

pany said that it does not know the details of the case, but called for a fair judicial process, adding "God bless Taiwan."

While Taiwan regularly pursues espionage cases within the government and military, allegations against journalists are unusual.

Beijing, which claims Taiwan as its own territory and threatens to take control of the island by force if necessary, has been increasing military pressure against the island.

Last month, China's military launched large-scale drills around it for two days after a Washington announcement of large-scale arms sales to Taiwan.

## South Africa declares national disaster as floods batter region

### Monitoring Desk

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa on Sunday declared

a national disaster after widespread flooding that destroyed homes and killed dozens, while thousands sought shelter in neighboring Mozambique.

Heavy rains and storms have battered the two southern African countries for weeks, claiming more than 30 lives in South Africa's northeastern Limpopo and Mpumalanga provinces.

Rivers burst their banks and swallowed entire neighborhoods in several regions of Mozambique, displacing thousands including a woman who was forced to give birth on a rock as she sheltered from flood waters.

## China's Shijian-32 satellite launch mission fails

### BAKU (AZERTAC/APP):

The launch of the Shijian-32 satellite in China's Xichang Satellite Launch Center using a Long March-3B carrier rocket failed on Saturday, according to Xinhua.

and his party later wrote on X that he had been "forcibly taken" by an army helicopter from his compound. The army denied that claim. "The rumours of his so-called arrest are baseless and unfounded," army spokesman Chris Magezi told AFP.

"They are designed to incite his supporters into acts of violence," he added.

AFP journalists said the situation was calm outside Wine's residence early Saturday, but they were unable to contact members of the party due to continued communications interruptions.

The rocket blasted off at 12:55 a.m. (Beijing Time) at the launch center in southwestern Sichuan Province, but an anomaly occurred during its flight.

The cause of the failure is under investigation.

## Trump says no reason 'right now' for Insurrection Act in Minnesota

WASHINGTON (AFP/APP): US President Donald Trump said Friday there was no immediate need to invoke the Insurrection Act over protests against immigration raids in Minnesota, a day after threatening to use the law.

Amid the escalating row between Trump and Minnesota leaders this week, the president threatened the drastic measure that would have allowed him to deploy the military to police the protests.

"If I needed it, I would use it. I don't think there is any reason right now to use it," Trump told reporters at the White House when asked about the law that grants the deployment of soldiers on US soil.

The Insurrection Act allows a president to side-step the Posse Comitatus Act to suppress "armed rebellion" or "domestic violence" and use the armed forces "as he considers necessary" to enforce the 19th-century law.

## Iran considers 'gradually' restoring internet after shutdown

### Monitoring Desk

TEHRAN: Iranian authorities have said they are considering "gradually" restoring internet access after imposing a communications shutdown 10 days ago, as nationwide protests in the country began to subside following a crackdown by security forces.

Protests sparked in late December by anger over economic hardship exploded into protests widely seen as the biggest challenge to the Iranian leadership in years.

Iranian officials have said the demonstrations were peaceful before turning into "riots" and blamed foreign influence, namely from Iran's foes, the United States and Israel. The rallies subsided after the crackdown carried out by security forces amid a communications blackout that started on January 8 as the protests grew in size and intensity.

Government officials

have said calm has been restored, with schools re-opening on Sunday—Iran's weekend falling on Thursday and Friday—after a week of closure.

Late Saturday, the Tasnim news agency reported "the relevant authorities announced that internet access would be gradually restored", but gave no further details. Citing an unnamed "informed source", the agency said local messaging applications "will soon be activated" on Iran's domestic intranet.

On Sunday morning, AFP was able to connect to the internet from its Tehran office, though the vast majority of internet providers and mobile internet remain cut. Outgoing international calls have been possible since Tuesday, and text messaging was restored on Saturday morning. For days, text messages and international phone calls — and at times even local calls — were cut off.

## Americans increasingly reject immigration police methods

WASHINGTON (AFP/APP): US immigration agents now remind many Americans of the Gestapo—and not just the left-wing activists who have taken to the streets to protest violent raids commanded by President Donald Trump.

Avid Trump supporter and podcaster Joe Rogan, whose massive audience heard him repeat Republican talking points in the run-up to the 2024 election, fueled debate this week by airing those concerns.

"Are we really gonna be the Gestapo, 'Where's your papers?' Is that what we've come to?" Rogan asked millions of listeners.

"You don't want militarized people in the streets just roaming around, snatching up people many of which turn out to be US citizens that just don't have their papers on them," he said. A growing number of Americans agree with that sentiment. In every national poll, a majority condemns the actions of the ICE officer's innocence.

## 2025 was third hottest year on record: climate monitors

BRUSSELS (AFP/APP): The planet logged its third hottest year on record in 2025, extending a run of unprecedented heat, with no relief expected in 2026, global climate monitors said Wednesday.

The last 11 years have now been the warmest ever recorded, with 2024 topping the podium and 2023 in second place, according to the EU's Copernicus Climate Change Service and Berkeley Earth, a California-based non-profit research organization.

For the first time, global temperatures exceeded 1.5C relative to pre-industrial times on average over the last three years, Copernicus said in its annual report.

"The warming spike observed from 2023-2025 has been extreme, and suggests an acceleration in the rate of the Earth's warming," Berkeley Earth said in a separate report.

The landmark 2015 Paris Agreement commits the world to limiting warming to well below 2C and pursuing efforts to hold it at 1.5C—a long-term target scientists say would help

avoid the worst consequences of climate change.

UN chief Antonio Guterres warned in October that breaching 1.5C was "inevitable" but the world could limit this period of overshoot by cutting greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible.

Copernicus said the 1.5C limit "could be reached by the end of this decade—over a decade earlier than predicted".

But efforts to contain global warming were dealt another setback last week as President Donald Trump said he would pull the United States—the world's second-biggest polluter after China—out of the bedrock UN climate treaty.

Temperatures were 1.47C above pre-industrial times in 2025—just a fraction cooler than in 2023—following 1.6C in 2024, according to Copernicus.

The World Meteorological Organization, the UN's weather and climate agency, said two of eight datasets it analysed showed 2025 was the second warmest year, but the other six datasets ranked it third.

## Syrian president declares Kurdish a national language

### DAMASCUS (AFP/APP):

Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharar issued a decree on Friday declaring Kurdish a "national language", in an apparent gesture of good will towards the minority following the 2003 war in Iraq, has long been a contentious figure in the Middle East.

The 72-year-old political veteran was Friday named by US President Donald Trump as a member of a fledgling "Board of Peace" to help oversee Gaza.

He said Saturday he was "honoured" to have been named by Trump to join the board, adding he looked forward to working with "other colleagues in line with the president's vision to promote peace and prosperity".

He also welcomed as "a massive step forward" a Palestinian committee headed by former Palestin-

ian Authority deputy minister Ali Shaath, which began work in Cairo on Friday to govern post-war Gaza.

"It gives hope to people in Gaza that they can have a future different from the past and to the Israelis that they may have a neighbour which does not threaten its security," Blair said in a statement.

Blair has been credi-

ited in some media reports

with helping craft the US

leader's 20-point Gaza

plan alongside Trump's

son-in-law and adviser

Jared Kushner.

Blair has plenty of

experience in the region,

spending eight years as

the envoy for the Middle

East Quartet of the European

Union, United Nations,

Finland and Great Britain

## PMYP, Dellsons partner to launch zero cost digital remittance wallet for overseas Pakistanis

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Prime Minister's Youth Programme signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) on Sunday with Dellsons Associates Private Limited by the Prime Minister's Office to collaborate on developing a Digital Wallet linked with the Digital Youth Hub, aimed at enabling instant and zero cost remittances for overseas Pakistanis, particularly blue collar workers in the United Arab Emirates, as part of the government's drive toward a cashless and digital economy.

The LOI signing ceremony was witnessed by PMYP Chairman Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, with participation from representatives of the Ministry of Finance, ONE LINK, and United Bank Limited. The meeting was also attended by Dr Muhammad Ali Malik, Joint Secretary PMYP, and Ibrahim Amin, Founder and Chairman of Dellsons Associates Private Limited, along with their respective teams.

Under the proposed

collaboration, a regulated Digital Wallet will be integrated with PMYP's Digital Youth Hub, allowing overseas Pakistanis in the UAE to send remittances through formal banking channels at zero cost.

The initiative aims to ease financial access for migrant workers, enhance financial inclusion, and encourage the use of documented remittance systems. The partnership aligns with the prime minister's vision of a digital and cashless economy and supports PMYP's Four Es framework of education, employment, engagement, and environment.

Officials said the initiative would leverage financial technology to promote productive employment, secure cross border transactions, and digital literacy among Pakistani youth working abroad.

Dellsons Associates Private Limited, which operates in financial technology and digital payment solutions with active partners in the UAE, will support the design, development, deployment, and

management of the Digital Wallet. The remittance framework will be implemented in coordination with ONE LINK, United Bank Limited, and other relevant stakeholders.

According to the agreement, the project will comply fully with regulatory requirements of the Central Bank of the UAE and the State Bank of Pakistan, including anti-money laundering, counter-terrorism financing, know your customer, consumer protection, and cybersecurity standards. The implementing partners will also establish technological infrastructure, operational support systems, customer onboarding mechanisms, marketing outreach, and UAE-based service and support centres.

Officials said the collaboration is expected to boost formal remittance inflows, reduce dependence on informal transfer channels, strengthen digital adoption, and contribute to Pakistan's broader economic stability and digital transformation agenda.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti distributing appointment order amongst successful candidates of Sub-Accountant posts advertised by Finance Department.

## CM Bugti congratulates top candidates, emphasizes fairness in online test

### Independent Report

QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti personally contacted the successful candidates who qualified through the online test conducted for Sub-Accountant positions in the Finance Department, congratulating them on their achievement and reaffirming the provincial government's commitment to merit-based recruitment.

During the telephonic conversations, the chief minister inquired in detail about the testing arrangements, the online examination system and the overall transparency of the recruitment process. He emphasized that ensuring fairness, transparency and equal opportunity in government employment

is a core objective of his administration.

The successful candidates expressed complete satisfaction with the online testing mechanism, stating that the process was conducted in a highly transparent, impartial and merit-driven manner. They conveyed their happiness and surprise at securing government jobs purely on merit, without any political influence, favoritism or bribery.

Appreciating the initiative, the candidates thanked Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti for introducing a modern, digital and transparent recruitment system, saying it had restored their confidence in public institutions. Many candidates noted that for the first time they felt as

sured that deserving and capable youth in Balochistan could access government employment through a fair and credible process.

Speaking on the occasion, the chief minister said that eliminating corruption, favoritism and the culture of recommendation from public sector recruitment is essential for institutional reform and good governance.

He added that the provincial government is determined to fully digitize recruitment processes across departments to ensure lasting transparency and accountability.

Mir Sarfraz Bugti further stated that empowering educated youth through merit-based employment is vital for the province's progress and stability.

## Indian authorities blamed for exacerbating Kashmir's water crisis

SRINAGAR (INP): Indian illegally occupied Jammu Kashmir's crippling water crisis is a man-made disaster, with Indian authorities accused of neglecting the territory's water infrastructure and ignoring the impacts of climate change.

According to Kashmir Media Service, historic springs like Aripal, Nagbal, and Bulbul Nag in Pulwama have dried up, crippling water supply schemes and leaving thousands without access to drinking water.

According to officials, the operation was conducted under the leadership of District Police Officer (DPO) Sajjad Ahmed Sahibzada. As the law enforcement teams approached the suspected hideout, the militants opened fire, prompting police to return fire. During the exchange, one militant was killed while two others were injured. A police constable sustained minor injuries.

Police said the killed militant was involved in an attack on Khutti check post and targeted killings incidents.

## Police, CTD kill a militant in IBO

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Police and the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) carried out an intelligence-based operation in the Kulachi area and its surroundings on information regarding the presence of militants, police spokesman said on Sunday.

According to officials, the operation was conducted under the leadership of District Police Officer (DPO) Sajjad Ahmed Sahibzada. As the law enforcement teams approached the suspected hideout, the militants opened fire, prompting police to return fire. During the exchange, one militant was killed while two others were injured. A police constable sustained minor injuries.

Police said the killed militant was involved in an attack on Khutti check post and targeted killings incidents.

## Shaban moon likely to be sighted on January 20

KARACHI (INP): The Ruyat-e-Hilal Research Council has predicted that the crescent moon of Shaban-ul-Muazzam is unlikely to be sighted in Pakistan on Monday evening, January 19, 2026, due to unfavorable astronomical conditions.

According to the Council, this means that Shaban 1447 Hijri is expected to begin on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, after the completion of 30 days of Rajab-ul-Murajab.

Secretary General of the Council, Khalid Ijaz Mufti, said that the new moon will be born at 12:52am Pakistan Standard Time on the night between Sunday and Monday (January 18-19). However, at sunset on January 19, the age of the moon across all parts of Pakistan will be less than 18 hours, whereas a minimum of 19 hours is generally required for visibility.

"Years of neglect and mismanagement have made us vulnerable to climate change," said Ghulam Nabi, a social activist. Locals accuse authorities of prioritizing projects over people, forcing them to rely on irregular tanker services. "The government's response is too little, too late," said Nusrat Jan, a resident.

The situation is dire along River Jhelum and Rambira rivulet, with dozens of water supply schemes affected.

Guests have started to trickle in at the venue. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, federal and Punjab ministers, senators, political personalities, guests from foreign countries will also attend the function.

Years of neglect and mismanagement have made us vulnerable to climate change," said Ghulam Nabi, a social activist. Locals accuse authorities of prioritizing projects over people, forcing them to rely on irregular tanker services. "The government's response is too little, too late," said Nusrat Jan, a resident.

The situation is dire along River Jhelum and Rambira rivulet, with dozens of water supply schemes affected.

Guests have started to trickle in at the venue. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, federal and Punjab ministers, senators, political personalities, guests from foreign countries will also attend the function.

Years of neglect and mismanagement have made us vulnerable to climate change," said Ghulam Nabi, a social activist. Locals accuse authorities of prioritizing projects over people, forcing them to rely on irregular tanker services. "The government's response is too little, too late," said Nusrat Jan, a resident.

The situation is dire along River Jhelum and Rambira rivulet, with dozens of water supply schemes affected.

Guests have started to trickle in at the venue. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, federal and Punjab ministers, senators, political personalities, guests from foreign countries will also attend the function.

Years of neglect and mismanagement have made us vulnerable to climate change," said Ghulam Nabi, a social activist. Locals accuse authorities of prioritizing projects over people, forcing them to rely on irregular tanker services. "The government's response is too little, too late," said Nusrat Jan, a resident.

The situation is dire along River Jhelum and Rambira rivulet, with dozens of water supply schemes affected.

Guests have started to trickle in at the venue. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, federal and Punjab ministers, senators, political personalities, guests from foreign countries will also attend the function.

Years of neglect and mismanagement have made us vulnerable to climate change," said Ghulam Nabi, a social activist. Locals accuse authorities of prioritizing projects over people, forcing them to rely on irregular tanker services. "The government's response is too little, too late," said Nusrat Jan, a resident.

The situation is dire along River Jhelum and Rambira rivulet, with dozens of water supply schemes affected.

Guests have started to trickle in at the venue. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, federal and Punjab ministers, senators, political personalities, guests from foreign countries will also attend the function.

Years of neglect and mismanagement have made us vulnerable to climate change," said Ghulam Nabi, a social activist. Locals accuse authorities of prioritizing projects over people, forcing them to rely on irregular tanker services. "The government's response is too little, too late," said Nusrat Jan, a resident.

The situation is dire along River Jhelum and Rambira rivulet, with dozens of water supply schemes affected.

Guests have started to trickle in at the venue. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, federal and Punjab ministers, senators, political personalities, guests from foreign countries will also attend the function.

Years of neglect and mismanagement have made us vulnerable to climate change," said Ghulam Nabi, a social activist. Locals accuse authorities of prioritizing projects over people, forcing them to rely on irregular tanker services. "The government's response is too little, too late," said Nusrat Jan, a resident.

The situation is dire along River Jhelum and Rambira rivulet, with dozens of water supply schemes affected.

Guests have started to trickle in at the venue. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, federal and Punjab ministers, senators, political personalities, guests from foreign countries will also attend the function.

Years of neglect and mismanagement have made us vulnerable to climate change," said Ghulam Nabi, a social activist. Locals accuse authorities of prioritizing projects over people, forcing them to rely on irregular tanker services. "The government's response is too little, too late," said Nusrat Jan, a resident.

The situation is dire along River Jhelum and Rambira rivulet, with dozens of water supply schemes affected.

Guests have started to trickle in at the venue. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, federal and Punjab ministers, senators, political personalities, guests from foreign countries will also attend the function.

Years of neglect and mismanagement have made us vulnerable to climate change," said Ghulam Nabi, a social activist. Locals accuse authorities of prioritizing projects over people, forcing them to rely on irregular tanker services. "The government's response is too little, too late," said Nusrat Jan, a resident.

The situation is dire along River Jhelum and Rambira rivulet, with dozens of water supply schemes affected.

Guests have started to trickle in at the venue. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, federal and Punjab ministers, senators, political personalities, guests from foreign countries will also attend the function.

Years of neglect and mismanagement have made us vulnerable to climate change," said Ghulam Nabi, a social activist. Locals accuse authorities of prioritizing projects over people, forcing them to rely on irregular tanker services. "The government's response is too little, too late," said Nusrat Jan, a resident.

The situation is dire along River Jhelum and Rambira rivulet, with dozens of water supply schemes affected.

Guests have started to trickle in at the venue. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, federal and Punjab ministers, senators, political personalities, guests from foreign countries will also attend the function.

Years of neglect and mismanagement have made us vulnerable to climate change," said Ghulam Nabi, a social activist. Locals accuse authorities of prioritizing projects over people, forcing them to rely on irregular tanker services. "The government's response is too little, too late," said Nusrat Jan, a resident.

The situation is dire along River Jhelum and Rambira rivulet, with dozens of water supply schemes affected.

Guests have started to trickle in at the venue. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, federal and Punjab ministers, senators, political personalities, guests from foreign countries will also attend the function.

Years of neglect and mismanagement have made us vulnerable to climate change," said Ghulam Nabi, a social activist. Locals accuse authorities of prioritizing projects over people, forcing them to rely on irregular tanker services. "The government's response is too little, too late," said Nusrat Jan, a resident.

The situation is dire along River Jhelum and Rambira rivulet, with dozens of water supply schemes affected.

Guests have started to trickle in at the venue. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, federal and Punjab ministers, senators, political personalities, guests from foreign countries will also attend the function.

Years of neglect and mismanagement have made us vulnerable to climate change," said Ghulam Nabi, a social activist. Locals accuse authorities of prioritizing projects over people, forcing them to rely on irregular tanker services. "The government's response is too little, too late," said Nusrat Jan, a resident.

The situation is dire along River Jhelum and Rambira rivulet, with dozens of water supply schemes affected.

Guests have started to trickle in at the venue. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, federal and Punjab ministers, senators, political personalities, guests from foreign countries will also attend the function.

Years of neglect and mismanagement have made us vulnerable to climate change," said Ghulam Nabi, a social activist. Locals accuse authorities of prioritizing projects over people, forcing them to rely on irregular tanker services. "The government's response is too little, too late," said Nusrat Jan, a resident.

The situation is dire along River Jhelum and Rambira rivulet, with dozens of water supply schemes affected.

Guests have started to trickle in at the venue. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, federal and Punjab ministers, senators, political personalities, guests from foreign countries will also attend the function.

Years of neglect and mismanagement have made us vulnerable to climate change," said Ghulam Nabi, a social activist. Locals accuse authorities of prioritizing projects over people, forcing them to rely on irregular tanker services. "The government's response is too little, too late," said Nusrat Jan, a resident.

The situation is dire along River Jhelum and Rambira rivulet, with dozens of water supply schemes affected.

Guests have started to trickle in at the venue. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, federal and Punjab ministers, senators, political personalities, guests from foreign countries will also attend the function.

Years of neglect and mismanagement have made us vulnerable to climate change," said Ghulam Nabi, a social activist. Locals accuse authorities of prioritizing projects over people, forcing them to rely on irregular tanker services. "The government's response is too little, too late," said Nusrat Jan, a resident.

The situation is dire along River Jhelum and Rambira rivulet, with dozens of water supply schemes affected.

Guests have started to trickle in at the venue. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, federal and Punjab ministers, senators, political personalities, guests from foreign countries will also attend the function.

Years of neglect and mismanagement have made us vulnerable to climate change," said Ghulam Nabi, a social activist. Locals accuse authorities of prioritizing projects over people, forcing them to rely on irregular tanker services. "The government's response is too little, too late," said Nusrat Jan, a resident.

The situation is dire along River Jhelum and Rambira rivulet, with dozens of water supply schemes affected.

Guests have started to trickle in at the venue. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, federal and Punjab ministers, senators, political personalities, guests from foreign countries will also attend the function.

Years of neglect and mismanagement have made us vulnerable to climate change," said Ghulam Nabi, a social activist. Locals accuse authorities of prioritizing projects over people, forcing them to rely on irregular tanker services. "The government's response is too little, too late," said Nusrat Jan, a resident.

The situation is dire along River Jhelum and Rambira rivulet, with dozens of water supply schemes affected.

Guests have started to trickle in at the venue. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, federal and Punjab ministers, senators, political personalities, guests from foreign countries will also attend the function.

Years of neglect and mismanagement have made us vulnerable to climate change," said Ghulam Nabi, a social activist. Locals accuse authorities of prioritizing projects over people, forcing them to rely on irregular tanker services. "The government's response is too little, too late," said Nusrat Jan, a resident.

The situation is dire along River Jhelum and Rambira rivulet, with dozens of water supply schemes affected.

Guests have started to trickle in at the venue. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, federal and Punjab ministers, senators, political personalities, guests from foreign countries will also attend the function.

Years of neglect and mismanagement have made us vulnerable to climate change," said Ghulam Nabi, a social activist. Locals accuse authorities of prioritizing projects over people, forcing them to rely on irregular tanker services. "The government's response is too little, too late," said Nusrat Jan, a resident.

The situation is dire along River Jhelum and Rambira rivulet, with dozens of water supply schemes affected.

Guests have started to trickle in at the venue. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, federal and Punjab ministers, senators, political personalities, guests from foreign countries will also attend the function.

Years of neglect and mismanagement have made us vulnerable to climate change," said Ghulam Nabi, a social activist. Locals accuse authorities of prioritizing projects over people, forcing them to rely on irregular tanker services. "The government's response is too little, too late," said Nusrat Jan, a resident.

The situation is dire along River Jhelum and Rambira rivulet, with dozens of water supply schemes affected.

Guests have started to trickle in at the venue. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, federal and Punjab ministers, senators, political personalities, guests from foreign countries will also attend the function.

Years of neglect and mismanagement have made us vulnerable to climate change," said Ghulam Nabi, a social activist. Locals accuse authorities of prioritizing projects over people, forcing them to rely on irregular tanker services. "The government's response is too little, too late," said Nusrat Jan, a resident.

The situation is dire along River Jhelum and Rambira rivulet, with dozens of water supply schemes affected.

Guests have started to trickle in at the venue. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, federal and Punjab ministers, senators, political personalities, guests from foreign countries will also attend the function.