

Maryam approves setting up of Stroke Management Centres in all districts

LAHORE (INP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has approved the establishment of Stroke Management Centres in every district of the province to ensure timely and effective treatment for stroke patients.

The chief minister has given in-principle approval for the deployment of neurologists and paediatric neurologists at all DHQ hospitals. In addition, one doctor and one nurse from each district will be pro-

vided three months of specialised stroke management training on an urgent basis. Maryam Nawaz also directed the immediate launch of a telemedicine project for stroke patients, enabling doctors at district hospitals to seek instant guidance from specialists and consultants via telephone for emergency treatment.

The chief minister ordered the initiation of a nurses' training programme for stroke management centres and the launch of a pub-

lic awareness campaign on stroke prevention and timely treatment. She stressed the critical importance of "golden hours" in stroke care and said she would personally lead the awareness campaign.

She further announced that stroke management centres will also be established in every children's hospital across Punjab, adding that no patient should be forced to travel to major cities for treatment.

PM laptop scheme connects students of backward areas to digital world: Muqam

SWABI (APP): Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON Amir Muqam, on Tuesday said the Prime Minister's laptop scheme has connected students across the country, especially those from backward areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to modern education and the digital world.

Addressing a laptop distribution ceremony at the University of Swabi as chief guest, the federal minister said that youth are the nation's most valuable asset and the guarantors of Pakistan's bright future.

He expressed pride and happiness over interacting with students, calling such gatherings a symbol of hope and progress for the country.

Muqam paid tribute to Prime Minister Muhammad Shehzad Sharif for his visionary leadership, stating that the prime minister has always placed youth at the center of national development.

He termed the PM's laptop scheme a revolutionary initiative that is empowering students with access to technology and modern learning tools.



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif presides over the special meeting to establish Stroke Management Centre.

TENDER NOTICE

The Chief Officer Municipal Committee Barkhan invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2025-26 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates.

Bid Security 2% of Estimated cost and Tender Fee Rs. 1000/- for each work.

S#	Description of work	E/Cost
1	Construction of Black Top Road One (01) Km at Saddar Bazar Barkhan.	11,000,000
2	Construction of PCC street & side drains at Ward No. 1 & MC Barkhan.	18,500,000
3	Repair & Renovation of Municipal Committee Office Barkhan.	4,000,000
4	Repair & Renovation of S.P.O Office Barkhan.	2,500,000
5	Construction of PCC street at Ward No. 3, 4 & 5 MC Barkhan.	23,144,000

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **ELIGIBILITY OF BIDDERS:** All mandatory requirements are mentioned in Bidding documents for qualifying the eligibility criteria. **PROCEDURE OF PROCUREMENT:** Single stage – One envelope bidding procedure. **BID SECURITY:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit at Call of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **TENDER DOCUMENTS:** The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,000 PKR deposited in A/C 5520-8 NBP Barkhan. **ISSUANCE OF TENDER DOCUMENTS:** From the date of publication of NIT to 12 February, 2026 during office hours on working days. **LAST DATE OF BID SUBMISSION:** The Tenders must be submitted latest by 12 February, 2026 till 11:00 AM. **TENDER OPENING:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 12:00 PM. **ADDRESS:** Municipal Committee Barkhan Phone No. 0332-3515770. **Email:** muhammadjaved647272@gmail.com

CHIEF OFFICER

Municipal Committee Barkhan

AB No. 765/27-01-2026

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TENDER NOTICE

The Assistant Director Local Government Loralai invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works Under BSDI for the Year 2025-26 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates. Only electronic bid will be submitted, No physical bid is required. **Bid Security 3% and Tender Fee Rs. 2000/- for each work.**

S#	Description of work	E/Cost
1	Construction of Sewerage Line, Tuff Tiles, B/T Roads, Drains at various Mohalla of Loralai City.	90,000,000

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **ELIGIBILITY OF BIDDERS:** Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work. Turnover of at least 63,000,000 PKR Amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm. All bidder participates in bids must provide undertaking on Non Judicial Stamp paper that they will perform the work accordance with Contact agreement and specifications provided in PC-1/Estimate. Pursuant to sub-Clause 4.1 of the General Condition of contract, the work shall be completed on or before the dated stated i.e 30 June, 2026. The bid must accompany a power of Attorney issued by the authorized representative of the firm having the name & CNIC of the person to whom Power of Attorney has been issued, on behalf of the Firm etc. The bidder must have completed at least 3 assignments of specific nature. **PROCEDURE OF PROCUREMENT:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure **BID SECURITY:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit at Call of 3 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **TENDER DOCUMENTS:** The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gov.pk **ISSUANCE OF TENDER DOCUMENTS:** Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gov.pk **LAST DATE OF BID SUBMISSION:** Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 11 February, 2026 till 11:00 AM through supplier dashboard. **TENDER OPENING:** All tenders will be opened on same day 11 February, 2026 at 12:00 PM on EPPS System. **ADDRESS:** Office of the Assistant Director Local Government Loralai. Phone no: 0824410886. Email: mikaleemsadgrd@gmail.com

Assistant Director Local Govt. Department Loralai

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ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the National Accountability Bureau, Lt. General (R) Nazir Ahmed calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehzad Sharif.

SAU hosts under-17-19 Sindh wrestling championship

Continued from page 1

within Parliament's constitutional mandate, and the judiciary is not authorized to interfere in fiscal policy.

During earlier hearings, counsel for the Revenue Division, Hafiz Ahsan Ahmed Khokhar, presented detailed arguments asserting that courts are empowered only to interpret tax laws, not to rewrite them or invalidate their effectiveness.

He emphasized that the Revenue Division operates as an autonomous body under the Rules of Business 1973 and has full legal authority to file appeals and pursue litigation without requiring consultation with the Ministry of Law or the Attorney General's Office.

The counsel further argued that all appeals filed by the Secretary Revenue Division, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), and the Commissioner, Inland Revenue were fully maintainable under Article 99 of the Constitution, the Rules of Business 1973, and relevant provisions of the Income Tax Ordinance.

Hafiz Ahsan also

maintained that Section 4C constitutes an independent charging provision and does

not amount to double taxation. He clarified that the Super Tax is not applied retrospectively and that tax liability arises only upon the filing of returns, meaning it does not affect completed transactions.

The court was informed that Super Tax does not apply to Modarabas, mutual funds, and benevolent funds, and that existing sector-specific tax exemptions will continue. Regarding the oil and gas sector, the court accepted the position that companies may seek relief through appropriate legal forums if they believe they qualify for specific exemptions.

Agreeing with the Revenue Division's arguments, the Federal Constitutional Court ruled that the High Courts had exceeded their constitutional authority by "reading down" Section 4C.

The court reaffirmed that fiscal policy decisions, including tax structures and financial measures, lie solely within Parliament's jurisdiction.

All petitions challenging the Super Tax have been dismissed, and the disputed High Court rulings have been declared partially void.

CORRIGENDUM

The tender notice published in daily newspaper on January 22, 2026 (Reference No. PRQ 3364/21-01-2026) the deadline for submitting the tender (TSE-252601949853, TSE-252601949823, TSE-252601949773, TSE-252601949763, TSE-252601949753, TSE-252601949623, TSE-252601949553) have been extended to February 6th, 2026. This extension is due to the public holiday for Kashmir Day. All other terms and conditions of the tender remain the same.

Executive Engineer-Roads CWPP& H Department, District Duki

PRQ No.3489/27-1-2026

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Khalq-e-Jehri

The tender notice published in daily newspaper on January 22, 2026

(Reference No. PRQ 3364/21-01-2026) the deadline for submitting the tender (TSE-252601949853, TSE-252601949823, TSE-252601949773, TSE-252601949763, TSE-252601949753, TSE-252601949623, TSE-252601949553) have been extended to February 6th, 2026. This extension is due to the public holiday for Kashmir Day. All other terms and conditions of the tender remain the same.

Correspondence: Executive Engineer-Roads CWPP& H Department, District Duki

PRQ No.3489/27-1-2026

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TENDER NOTICE

The Executive Engineer Buildings Zobh invites a sealed Tender/Bid for execution of various

development works under the scheme on from eligible contractors/firm with the Bid Security @ 2% of

estimated cost in shape of Call Deposit (Refundable). The non-refundable Tender Form Fee Rs.1500/- for each tender to be deposited in any National Bank of Pakistan Branch situated in Balochistan

through Green Book Challan in a head of account (C02716) (verified by the District Accounts Officer)

S# Name of Work/s

Estimated Cost

Date of bid submission

1 DETAILED ESTIMATE FOR REPAIR & RENOVATION GOVT. BOYS DEGREE COLLEGE GIRLS DEGREE COLLEGE AND GPS SABKAZAI AT DISTRICT ZOBH. TSE-2526019553

2 DETAILED ESTIMATE FOR REPAIR & RENOVATION GBHS YASEENZAI, GPSB HUSSAIN NIRKA, GHS LILLI TORU DERGA AND GPS TORU DERGA AT DISTRICT ZOBH. TSE-25260195543

3 DETAILED ESTIMATE FOR REPAIR & RENOVATION GBMS NASARABAD, GPS BEHROL KILLI, GBHS KILLI HAZRAT SAB, GBPS KILLI HABIB KHALI GUSTO AND GBPS KILLI SHER GHANI RAKHPORH AT DISTRICT ZOBH. TSE-25260195543

4 CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITION ROOMS GBPS BAT PAREZA KHARWANDI AND GPS NAREZAI AT DISTRICT ZOBH . TSE-25260195553

5 CONSTRUCTION OF COMPUTER LAB AT GBHS (MODEL) ZOBH TSE-25260195513

6 CONSTRUCTION OF IT LAB AT GOVT: BOYS DEGREE COLLEGE ZOBH

10000000 10-02-2026

7 CONSTRUCTION OF IT LAB AT GOVT: GIRLS DEGREE COLLEGE ZOBH

10000000 10-02-2026

8 CONSTRUCTION OF IT LAB AT GHSS ZOBH MILITIA ZOBH TSE-25260195593

10000000 10-02-2026

9 CONSTRUCTION OF LIBRARY GHSS NASARABAD AND SCIENCE LAB ZOBH MILITIA ZOBH TSE-25260195513

10000000 10-02-2026

10 REPAIR / UPLIFT OF HOTEL & MISSING FACILITIES TSE-25260195543

15000000 10-02-2026

11 Furniture & Fixtures (Total Item(s) Count: 3) TSE-252601955691

20000000 10-02-2026

12 DETAILED ESTIMATE FOR REPAIR & RENOVATION OF DHQ AT DISTRICT ZOBH. TSE-25260195593

11516800 10-02-2026

Procurements shall be made under BPP Rules 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 7,000,000 PKR Amount in 3 subsequent previous years Presence in Active Tax Payer List BRA Registration Certificate. The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Joint Venture is not Allowed. The Bidder must have functional/corporate in quota Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at Call of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gov.pk **Issuance of tender Documents:** Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gov.pk **Last Date of bid submission:** Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 12 February, 2026 till 11:00 AM through supplier dashboard. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at 12:00 PM on EPPS System Address: Brewery Road, Quetta. Phone no: 0819213092 Fax no: 0819213094 Email: proc@bprb.gov.pk

INCHARGE SEU. NADRA CLIFTON-DSU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration Succession Certificate by Ghulam fatima with regards to movable & immovable assets of deceased Ishaq Khan citizen number 42003-03-412300 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs: 1. muhammad ishaq (husband) 2. muhameeda khan (sister) 3. hameeda aslam (sister) 4. amna khan (sister) 5. khalid (son) 6. muhammad islam (son) 7. ahsan khan (son) 8. muhammad fatima (daughter) On the above application the concerned heirs are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person or Undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this

NP slams state action against protesters, accuses govt of crushing democratic dissent

Independent Report

QUETTA: The National Party has strongly denounced the alleged use of force, shelling and arrests against political workers, officials and employees during joint protest rallies organized by the All Parties and Grand Alliance, terming the actions a deliberate move to silence democratic expression.

In a statement issued on Monday, the party's central spokesperson said the so-called "Form-47 government" is attempting to hide its political shortcomings by unleashing co-

ercive measures against peaceful demonstrators. He described the shelling of protesters and what he called arbitrary detentions as a stark reflection of a fascist approach adopted by the current administration.

The spokesperson said that the demands raised by the Grand Alliance are legitimate and firmly rooted in constitutional rights. However, instead of opting for serious negotiations and constructive engagement, the government has chosen repression and violence, a course he said cannot be justified under any circumstances.

Ziarat DC orders zero tolerance for absent doctors after midnight hospital check

Independent Report

ZIARAT: Deputy Commissioner Ziarat Abdul Qudus Achakzai has issued a stern warning of strict disciplinary action against doctors and staff found absent or negligent at Basic Health Units (BHUs) in rural areas, announcing that surprise inspections will be carried out on a regular basis to improve healthcare delivery. The warning came during a late-night, unannounced inspection of DHQ Hospital Ziarat, where the deputy

commissioner reviewed the attendance of doctors and paramedical staff, inspected hospital wards, and assessed the availability of medicines and essential medical facilities. Assistant Commissioner Ziarat Sajid Rehman accompanied him during the visit.

Speaking on the occasion, Abdul Qudus Achakzai said ensuring the continuous and effective functioning of health facilities is a top priority of the district administration.



NASIRABAD: Commissioner Nasirabad Salah-ud-Din Noorzai and other officers inaugurate construction work of Circuit House.

Police SIs challenge direct promotions of levies officers in BHC

Independent Report

QUETTA: Sub-Inspectors of Balochistan Police have filed a constitutional petition in the Balochistan High Court contesting the provincial government's decision to directly promote Levies personnel to the rank of Police Inspector.

While the petitioners expressed support for the integration of Levies officers into the police, they strongly objected to the bypassing of seniority, arguing that the move hampers their career progression and contravenes established promotion rules.

Citing their educational qualifications—including Master's and Bachelor's degrees—and extensive field experience in investigations, operations, and administrative duties, the petitioners highlighted that despite their competence, promotions have been delayed. Many officers, even after nearly 18 years of service, have advanced only once—from Assistant Sub-Inspector to Sub-Inspector—whereas regulations stipulate promotion to DSP within 15 years.

The petition also raised concerns that police officers' career advancement has been systematically neglected compared to other government departments.

The direct elevation of Levies officers to Inspector and DSP ranks has generated frustration, leaving many officers with limited prospects of reaching Superintendent of Police before retirement. The officers have requested the court to annul the recent promotions, implement a permanent solution to the long-standing promotion issues.



QUETTA: A view of rainy weather in provincial capital.

PTI decries arrest of Jahangir as open assault on democracy and constitutional rights

Independent Report

QUETTA: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Balochistan Senior Provincial Vice President and noted tribal figure Syed Sadiq Agha has sharply criticized the arrest of the party's Provincial General Secretary Jahangir Rind along with other protesting employees, terming it a clear case of political victimization and a serious breach of fundamental human and political rights enshrined in the Constitution of Pakistan.

In a statement issued here, Syed Sadiq Agha said that peaceful protest is a constitutionally protected

right of every citizen, and its suppression through force casts grave doubts on the credibility of the democratic system. He maintained that Jahangir Rind was peacefully expressing solidarity with employees over their lawful and genuine demands, adding that speaking out on public issues is not a crime but a moral and political obligation of responsible leadership. He said the detention of an elected political office-bearer for highlighting public concerns exposes the government's frustration and vindictive politics. According to him, instead of accommodating dissent,

Police reaffirm commitment to combating crime following attack on constable

Independent Report

LORALAI: Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police Loralai Range, Junaid Ahmed Sheikh, has reiterated that police operations against criminal elements will continue without interruption, asserting that law enforcement will not bow to pressure or threats.

The DIG personally visited Constable Dilawar Khan at his home after the officer was injured in a shooting by unidentified armed men last night in Pathankot. During the visit, DIG Sheikh met with the constable and his family, commended their courage, and assured them of immediate and top-quality medical care. Accompanying the DIG were SSP Loralai Malik Muhammad Asghar Usman, SDPO Karim Mandokhai.

Police reassert commitment to combating crime following attack on constable

Independent Report

KHUZDAR: Dr. Tufail Baloch, Commissioner of Kalat Division, has called for a large-scale and strategically planned tree plantation campaign in Khuzdar, emphasizing that saplings should be distributed according to area size and population density to maximize impact.

During a visit to the Forest Department Nursery in Suni, Khuzdar, Dr. Baloch, accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Abdul Razaq Sasoli, inspected the nursery facilities and received a detailed briefing from District Forest Officer Owais Akbar.

Zehri regarding the types, quantities, and maintenance of saplings.

The Commissioner highlighted the critical role of trees in combating environmental pollution, mitigating global warming, regulating local temperatures, improving rainfall patterns, and reducing the severity of natural disasters. He stressed the need to increase sapling numbers to achieve maximum coverage.

Dr. Baloch urged the Forest Department to engage the public, including schools, government offices, and local communities, ensuring the plantation drive is executed effectively.

Commissioner Kalat Division Launches tree plantation drive

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Excise and Taxation Department of the Government of Balochistan has issued a notification detailing the transfer and posting of newly promoted Grade-19 officers awaiting assignment.

As per the official orders, Niaz Ahmed (BPS-19) has been transferred and appointed as Divisional Director, Excise and Taxation, Rakshan Division, while Abdul Habib (BPS-19) will continue his responsibilities as Divisional Director, Excise and Taxation, Nasirabad Division.

Excise Dept announces key transfers of grade-19 officers

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Regional Meteorological Centre Balochistan has forecast light to moderate rain over the next 12 hours across several districts, accompanied by snowfall in mountainous regions. Areas likely to be affected include Quetta, Ziarat, Kalat, Chaman, Pishin, Harnai, Khanozai, Kan Mehterzai, Muslim Bagh, Mastung, Loi Band, Kila Abdullah, Gulistan, and Dobandi.

Wednesday is expected to remain extremely cold and mostly dry in much of the province, with night temperatures dropping sharply. Quetta, Ziarat, Chaman, Pishin, Kila Abdullah, Kila Saifulullah, Mastung, and Kalat could experience lows

DC Musakhel pledges full execution of govt development agenda

Independent Report

MUSAKHEL: Deputy Commissioner Musakhel Abdul Razaq Khajjak has reaffirmed the Balochistan government's commitment to fully implementing its development vision, emphasizing that public welfare and ongoing projects will remain uncompromised.

The assurance came during a meeting with District Chairman Alam Khan Musakhel, attended by Assistant Commissioner Najeebullah Kakar. The District Chairman highlighted the need for strategic planning to enhance the quality of development ini-

tatives, strict oversight of all projects, and improvements in health, sanitation, and access to safe drinking water.

He urged all departmental district officers to maintain regular attendance to ensure citizens can access justice and government services directly, in line with the provincial development agenda.

Deputy Commissioner Khajjak assured full cooperation in executing these directives. The District Chairman expressed gratitude for the DC's efforts and extended best wishes for continued progress across the district.



CHAMAN: AC Chaman Imtiaz Ali Baloch reviews road clearance operation on both sides of Kozak Top.

Naseerabad divisional circuit house renovation completed

Independent Report

NASEERABAD: The renovation of the Divisional Headquarters Circuit House in Dera Murad Jamali has been successfully completed under the special supervision of Commissioner Naseerabad Division, Salauddin Noorzai. The refurbishment included complete interior upgrades of rooms, as well as renovation and beautification of the lawn and other residential areas.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Deputy Commissioners Khalid Khan (Jaffarabad) and Muhammad Ramadan

Pal (Usta Mohammad), SSP Asad Nasir, Assistant Commissioner Bahadur Khan Khosa, Executive Engineer B&R Abdul Rehman Kakar, Assistant Director Local Government Ahmed Nawaz Jattak, and other senior officials.

Commissioner Noorzai described the renovation as a critical priority and pledged continued efforts to further improve the facility, ensuring high-quality services for visitors. He emphasized that the Circuit House is an important government property and that all available resources were utilized to upgrade it.

Balochistan braces for snow and freezing temperatures

Independent Report

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Wednesday is expected to remain extremely cold and mostly dry in much of the province, with night temperatures dropping sharply. Quetta, Ziarat, Chaman, Pishin, Kila Abdullah, Kila Saifulullah, Mastung, and Kalat could experience lows between -5°C and -7°C, with the coldest conditions expected in the early morning hours.

Snowfall over the past 24 hours has been recorded at 12.0 inches in Ziarat, 2.0 inches in Kalat, and in Quetta at City (4.8 inches), Brewery (2.8 inches), and Saryab (0.5 inches). Rainfall measurements included Noshki (17.0 mm), Dalbandin (16.7 mm), Jiwani (16.0 mm), Pasni (16.0 mm), Zhob (12.0 mm), Gwadar (11.7 mm), Kalat (11.0 mm), and various areas of Quetta: Sambungli (17.0 mm), Saryab (12.8 mm), City (11.0 mm), and Brewery (9.0 mm). Light rainfall was also observed in Chaman (11.0 mm), Pishin (9.0 mm), and Turbat (8.6 mm).



QUETTA: An aged man selling plastic pots to support family during winter season.

Gwadar's Rs312.406m restoration project set to complete

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD (INP): A mega project to restore five historical sites in Gwadar city costing Rs312.406 million is all set to be completed with original renovation and landscaping under the Gwadar Smart Port City Master Plan 2026.

These historical sites include Rest House (Padago), Indo-European Telegraph Office, the Portuguese Watchtower, Omani Watchtower and the Omani Fort. A GDA official told Gwadar Pro that the objective of this project is to preserve the city's ancient culture and historical

legacy, ensuring it is passed on to future generations.

As part of the Gwadar Old Town Restoration Project, five significant historical sites are ready to be showcased to the public, he added.

He said this initiative not only guarantees the preservation of the city's ancient culture but also serves as an important effort to keep the remnants of the past alive alongside the city's future development.

This project will not only boost local and international tourism but also

highlight the historical background of the city.

Under the project, the old historical structure, namely the Indo-European Telegraph Office, is being conserved, which was established in the 18th century. The old building was initially built to house the Indo-European Telegraph Line offices. In the aftermath of the Great War of Independence in 1857, the Colonials in order to overcome their fear of isolation, decided to connect England with India by telegraph lines. Restoration of Rest House (Char Padago) car-

ries a profound importance in Balochi culture.

Once Gwadar was purchased by Pakistan, this building was adopted for various official uses. Gwadar Development Authority realizing the historical character of the building decided to salvage the building and put it to befitting usage, for the promotion of cultural heritage.

The Portuguese Watchtower was built to protect the area from the eastern side of the Arabian Sea. It is located in Shahi Bazar, which was famous as a center of trade, according to Gwadar Pro on Tuesday.



KOHLU: DIG Sibi Division Barkat Hussain Khoso alongwith SP Tayab Iqbal and DSP Sher Muhammad visiting Police Line.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Wednesday January 28, 2026

Overstayed welcome

It is about time the three gentlemen took their leave. The five-year terms of the chief election commissioner and the two members of the Election Commission of Pakistan representing Sindh and Balochistan expired on Jan 26 last year, yet the trio continue to serve well beyond their constitutionally mandated terms. This indefinite extension in their tenures, secured through a controversial constitutional amendment, has served no tangible national good. It has, instead, become a symptom of the deep, institutional rot in Pakistani democracy. However, with the recent appointment of a new opposition leader in the National Assembly, who is not only a stalwart of Pakistani politics but could also prove a much more reasonable counterparty for this government, there is an opportunity to start the process afresh. It could prove a test case for a fresh start between the government and the opposition.

It is most unfortunate that no substantive progress has been made in filling these important constitutional posts in the year since a reshuffle became due. While the Constitution envisaged fresh appointments within 45 days of a vacancy arising, this government, perhaps anticipating difficulties dealing with a PTI loyalist as opposition leader, had introduced a provision in the 26th Amendment allowing incumbents to continue in office till their successors were appointed. This 'convenience' gradually became a constraint, keeping stakeholders complacent rather than pushing them to take decisive action. The extended delay this has caused has only undermined the ECP's legitimacy at a time when public trust in democratic institutions is already rock bottom. Pakistan's electoral integrity depends on the credibility and effectiveness of the ECP. It plays a central role not only in organising elections but also in safeguarding the democratic process itself.

The constitutional mechanism for appointing the CEC and ECP members requires meaningful consultations between the prime minister and the leader of the opposition in the National Assembly. With a new leader of the opposition formally notified, a procedural obstacle that had been delaying progress has been removed. There is, therefore, no justification for further procrastination. The government and opposition must restart the appointment process with urgency, transparency, and good faith. Political bickering, in the form of demands for parliamentary committees or providing widely divergent nomination lists, should be eschewed in favour of consensus on candidates whose integrity, impartiality and administrative competence are beyond reproach. The ECP must be reshaped on the basis of a broad political agreement and respect for constitutional procedure. To delay this further will only allow narratives of institutional decay and political manipulation to take deeper root.

Arifa Noor

The young chief minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sohail Afridi, is attracting considerable attention, since he has been catapulted into this position. Much of it has been because of the criticism directed at him by those at the centre, in Islamabad and beyond. It turned him from an unknown face into an equal of sorts, thanks to the very people who targeted him. But, along with this, his own decisions to reach out to the people have also got him attention.

Since his ascension to the post of chief minister, he has travelled to Lahore and Karachi in a bid to mobilise people. And while he did not prove very successful in Lahore, in Karachi and Hyderabad he drew impressive crowds for someone whose name was barely known to people outside the party a few months ago. In Lahore, while the people were few, he still managed to create enough of a spectacle thanks to the antics of the government there.

Jawed Naqvi

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney finished two significantly groundbreaking visits to Beijing and Davos last week and they hold a message for nations and leaders feeling the heat from President Donald Trump's insulting and arrogant behaviour with friend and foe alike.

And while Carney maintained his country's relations with the US were multifaceted and far-reaching, he was pleased that his rare talks with President Xi Jinping had set up guardrails for greater predictability in bilateral relations and to keep each other's interests in mind. He also clarified — perhaps to avoid needlessly poking Donald Trump in the eye — that there hadn't been a free trade agreement with Beijing even if thousands of electric cars from China would be plying Canadian roads in the coming days. And if this riles the US, so be it.

Why is it so difficult for Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, representing a no less major power, to speak up like

Before that, in Islamabad, he made surprise visits to markets to mingle with those out and about.

In some ways, his outreach to the people is striking in this environment in which few are making the effort to do politics. The parties in power are far too busy roaming in byzantine corridors, enjoying their plush surroundings, and few of those outside in the cold are relevant enough to matter. And while PTI continues to tread around, eternally confused, Afridi has ignored the noise around him and walked his own path.

For instance, soon after he became chief minister, he spent some time in Islamabad, meeting groups of journalists, from anchors to bureau chiefs to reporters. And while little of his interactions were reported on mainstream media, what he said dominated YouTube channels and casual conversations in the capital. His point of view and that of the KP government soon became familiar to hacks in Islamabad. It was quite an

effective communication strategy.

This was then followed by the trips to other provincial capitals to kick-start what he and his colleagues call a 'street movement'.

In some ways, his approach also contrasts with the approach of his predecessor, a more traditional politician, who too addressed jalsas and rallies till the Nov 26 event in Islamabad. However, for Ali Amin Gandapur, the rallies never appeared to be more than a sideshow as, from all accounts, he thought Imran Khan's release would be a result of negotiations he was carrying out away from the limelight.

Afridi, on the other hand, is focusing on the people; it could be argued that he doesn't have the contacts to try and carry out negotiations. Be that as it may, it is still obvious that for a young politician and a relatively unknown one, he has a way with people. The ability to go out in the crowds and get them enthused is something that hasn't been practised by many

outside of the few leaders right at the top. Other than party heads, most politicians tend to stick to their constituency and rarely look beyond.

But it also has to be said that Afridi can do this because of circumstances peculiar to the PTI. The party's main leader, Imran Khan, is behind bars. Few of its senior politicians are still around and free; and beyond them, there is no clear hierarchy within the party. In addition, the family is also not in a position to lead the party publicly, because of Gandapur tried to play unlike the previous KP chief minister, Sharif proved to be successful, far more than anyone could have imagined.

Even now, if there is one person whose coverage on television overshadows the prime minister's, it is Maryam Nawaz in Punjab. This is less so because of her official position and more because of her standing as Nawaz Sharif's daughter.

And this gives him an edge. It allows him to lead interactions with the press and the public. Even though he is always surrounded by his young Turks while at a rally, or

during an interaction in a room, he is the chief minister, and few forget this.

But, to repeat, all of this is possible because Khan is behind bars and incommunicado.

Consider the other parties, where no one other than the main family leadership has the space to dominate political space. When Nawaz Sharif was behind bars, it was his political heir and daughter who took to the streets, not Hamza Shehbaz, let alone others. And Shehbaz Sharif opted for the role that Gandapur tried to play; unlike the previous KP chief minister, Sharif proved to be successful, far more than anyone could have imagined.

Even now, if there is one person whose coverage on television overshadows the prime minister's, it is Maryam Nawaz in Punjab. This is less so because of her official position and more because of her standing as Nawaz Sharif's daughter. Contrast this with the chief minister of Sindh, Murad Ali Shah, who has been around for much longer. But he rarely

Be at the table, or on the menu**Carney**

Carney? Holding the BRICS presidency for 2026, Modi is required to host a summit of its increasingly powerful and influential leaders in New Delhi around August. However, when Modi does speak, he usually speaks about a municipal election his party would win or has won, if he is not otherwise threatening to replace this or that opposition government in the coming state polls.

The last time one heard him speak on a foreign policy issue from Indian soil was the threat he made (unusually) in English in Bihar about avenging the death of innocent tourists in a terror attack in Kashmir in April last year. It resulted in Operation Sindo against Pakistan, which apparently served no purpose other than to reveal India's shocking diplomatic isolation under Modi's watch.

Going by the claims of Modi's own preferred media, he is a great speaker, a charismatic one, in fact. So why does the prime minister of India get tongue-tied facing Trump, whose presidency he canvassed for in

2020, which for likelier other reasons Trump lost.

In Davos, Carney spoke even more boldly about souring ties with the US. He told the ruling elites that the 80-year-old world order under US stewardship had ruptured and that there was a need to rearrange equations. The betterment of humanity and protecting its only known hospitable planet was paramount.

"We knew the story of the international rules-based order was partially false, that the strongest would exempt themselves when convenient, that trade rules were enforced asymmetrically, and we knew that international law applied with varied rigour, depending on the identity of the accused or the victim," Carney's message was blunt. "Let me be direct. We are in the midst of a rupture, not a transition."

Carney's address was backed by the German chancellor and was followed by what seems like a Europe-Canadian pact to shun Donald Trump's self-promoted Board of Peace for Gaza. Its endorsement by lead-

ing Islamic states including Pakistan, Egypt and Turkey makes it trickier to fathom the true intentions.

Imagine the lot working with Benjamin Netanyahu who for his own reasons has enrolled himself aboard. It's not easy to see how Israel and Pakistan could be in a team that too in the name of alleviating the suffering of Palestinian people! India would have plunged headlong for the plan, but the unstated fear of being seen in the company of Pakistan has perhaps put it in a spot.

Trump's plan, in any case, is widely seen as a half-baked idea that postures to tend to the humanitarian pleas of the victims of Israeli genocide. It's also hampered by an even greater worry that Trump may be seeing the body as a substitute for the UN itself.

It's in this context that Carney's call for a new game plan for the "middle powers" finds traction, a group to which India presumably belongs as the world's fourth largest economy. The call was to collectively negotiate the jostling of Big Powers, which impacts

everyone, including the Global South. Thus, Carney not only came close to the BRICS ideal of multipolarity, he surpassed it in his zeal to locate a world without nerve-wracking uncertainties or any more inbuilt inequalities with the US.

What did Carney say that melds with the agenda of a multipolar world, which should make India and other BRICS nations take notice? Like them, he spoke of the threat to multilateral institutions, namely the WTO, the UN, COP, the very architecture of collective problem-solving. "When the rules no longer protect you, you must protect yourself. But let's be clear-eyed about where this leads. A world of fortresses will be poorer, more fragile and less sustainable." In other words, individual deals with the bully are ill-advised.

"Hegemons cannot continually monetise their relationships. Allies will diversify to hedge against uncertainty. They'll buy insurance, increase options in order to rebuild sovereignty that was once grounded in rules but will

Justice, Pakistan-style**Naween A. Mangi**

When we speak of justice in Pakistan, the discussion usually unfolds in courtrooms, legal reforms, constitutional clauses, and televised outrage. Rarely does it begin in villages — and yet it is there, far from cameras and commentary, that the justice system reveals its true form.

What follows is not an exceptional story. That, precisely, is the problem.

In a rural area of Sindh, a group of politically influential men decided that community development work had crossed an unacceptable line. Their objection was not to corruption or inefficiency, but to ideas: girls attending school, women working outside their homes, women managing projects and exercising leadership. These, they declared, were signs of 'social vice'.

The first tactics were subtle. Men positioned themselves on roads used by school buses and women staff, standing in scant, obscene attire, leering and taunting. The intent was humiliation — a reminder that public space was not meant for women.

When this failed, the strategy escalated. Messengers arrived demanding that property be handed over. The implication was clear: surrender what you have built and leave, or stay at your own risk. These demands were accompanied by routine, nightly gunfire. When questioned, the explanation was almost mocking — they were merely 'killing doves'.

Eventually, ambiguity disappeared. Shots were fired openly at security personnel and staff on more than one

occasion. The police were approached for protection. If an officer occasionally decided to show up after a report was filed, he joked openly that they had 'received nothing', and without such incentives how were they expected to act? Corruption did not even bother to cloak itself in euphemism.

As pressure mounted and rumours circulated that the police might intervene, the accused were quietly relocated. Influential landlords provided them safe houses — places of comfort and protection — while those who had been attacked continued to live in fear. In much of rural Pakistan, justice is not decided by evidence but by proximity to influence.

Then another attack took place. A guard was fired upon. Again, formal complaints were filed. For months, letters were written — repeatedly and respectfully — to every rung of the police hierarchy: SP, SSP, DIG, IG. Not a single response was received. Silence, it seems, is also an institutional tool.

When the matter finally reached court, the last illusion dissolved. Those seeking protection were made to stand shoulder to shoulder with the very men who had fired at them. There was no acknowledgment of risk or vulnerability. Instead, the judge directed his irritation at the victims, scolding them for 'causing trouble' by forcing the accused to appear in court so often — as though persistence itself were an offence. The message was unmistakable: endurance would be punished.

Believing that a higher court might restore balance, legal recourse was pursued upward. What emerged revealed

Broken federalism**Aisha Khan**

Pakistan is confronting international climate change under a governance model that was not designed for systemic, cross-border crises. Floods, heatwaves, droughts and glacial melt now interact with food security, public health, migration and fiscal stability. Yet the constitutional and fiscal architecture created after the 18th Amendment disperses authority, fragments accountability and leaves the federation with too little capacity to coordinate national responses. In a warming country already facing economic stress, this model is becoming a multiplier of vulnerability rather than a shield against it.

The 18th Amendment devolved extensive powers to the provinces, abolishing the Concurrent List and making provinces primarily responsible for key sectors such as health, education, agriculture, water and environment. Devolution addressed genuine grievances about over-centralisation and provincial autonomy. However, climate change is not a sectoral issue; it is a system shock. Rivers do not respect provincial boundaries, heatwaves spread across regions, and climate-induced migration strains cities far from the point of impact. Effective climate governance therefore requires strong federal coordination, data integration, financing capacity and enforcement authority. The current system constrains this.

The National Finance Commission (NFC) Award compounds this weakness. Under the prevailing formula, around 82 per cent of the divisible pool is distributed on the basis of population, leaving the federation fiscally hollowed out.

After debt servicing and development, federal spending space is minimal. This means Pakistan negotiates international climate finance, adaptation funds and loss-and-damage commitments without the domestic fiscal leverage to co-finance, scale or sustain them.

Provinces, meanwhile, often lack technical capacity, long-term planning frameworks and incentives to invest beyond electoral cycles.

Visible consequences include the 2022 floods with losses exceeding \$30 billion, cutting across Sindh, Balochistan, Punjab and KP. Yet response and recovery were uneven and despite shared basins, water governance remains weak. Inconsistent standards for early warning and data platforms are not failures of intent but of structure.

Deforestation and its wider national implications are other emerging concerns. Does provincial autonomy give sub-national governments the right to put at risk the lives of communities in other parts of the country?

The scale of deforestation in KP, GB and AJK and its impact in 2025 on downstream communities is another example of the devastating consequences of this disconnect. The 18th Amendment and the NFC Awards should therefore not only be seen as institutional arrangements but as a moral and ethical compact designed to facilitate cooperative governance and not mini-power centres for serving political agendas.

Provincial scale is another overlooked constraint. Punjab alone governs a population larger than most countries, while Balochistan's vast territory poses administrative challenges. Oversized provinces dilute accountability, seek the limelight or coverage, for he is aware that his position is safe as long as he stays in the shadows. He has to play second fiddle to the party leadership and he does. Recently, when the party held an event in Islamabad to highlight the governance record of the Sindh government, the entire presentation was given by Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari. The chief minister of the province simply spoke for a few minutes before giving way to BBZ. Afridi, at the moment, doesn't have to play second fiddle. And he is also proving that he has the potential to reach out to the people and be effective in communicating with them. But will he have the space to continue taking such a prominent position and role when Khan is out of jail? For in the past, most leaders who led parties while the main leader was in trouble, didn't last for long, once the good times returned. Consider the fate of Javed Hashmi and Amin Fahim. Will Afridi end up like them? This will be the real test for Imran Khan and the PTI.

Centralisation power in provincial capitals and struggle to deliver services in peripheral regions. Climate impacts disproportionately hit those peripheries — riverine belts, arid zones, coastal districts — where governance is weakest.

Pakistan does not need to abandon federalism; it needs to rebalance it. Revisiting the 18th Amendment does not mean decentralisation but rather federalisation. Climate, water, disaster risk reduction and inter-provincial infrastructure should be treated as shared competencies with clear federal leadership. The NFC Award must be re-configured to include criteria such as climate vulnerability, geography, revenue generation and performance, while restoring sufficient fiscal space to the centre to govern effectively.

Equally important is administrative reform. Creating smaller, more manageable provinces or empowered regions would bring government closer to vulnerable communities, improve service delivery and allow tailored climate responses. Smaller units enhance oversight, reduce elite capture and align planning with local ecological realities.

Under a changing climate, governance structures are not neutral. They either absorb shocks or amplify them. Pakistan's current model, designed for political balance rather than planetary stress, is increasingly misaligned with reality. Without structural reform, climate change will continue to expose the fault lines of a fragmented federation, weakening the state and making disasters costlier. Survival now necessitates thinking beyond politics as usual.

Sindh Cabinet approves major relief for Gul Plaza victims, forms subcommittee under CM

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Provincial Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, approved an extensive relief and rehabilitation package for victims of the Gul Plaza tragedy, constituted a high-level subcommittee under the chief minister to review the inquiry committee's findings for further necessary action, and sanctioned multi-billion-rupes infrastructure, transport, water, and welfare projects aimed at accelerating Karachi's development and strengthening public service delivery.

At the outset of the meeting, the cabinet offered fatah for the shuhda of the Gul Plaza tragedy. The chief minister said the government's foremost responsibility was to provide immediate relief to affected families while ensuring accountability.

"There can be no compromise on human life. Relief, justice, and prevention must go hand in hand," Murad Ali Shah said.

Gul Plaza tragedy: relieve, rehabilitation, and over-

sight. The cabinet expressed profound grief over the loss of lives in the Gul Plaza incident and approved a comprehensive compensation and recovery package. Families of the deceased will receive Rs 10 million each as financial compensation.

To support affected traders, the cabinet approved interest-free loans of Rs 10 million each shopkeeper, with the Sindh government bearing the entire interest cost. In addition, Rs 500,000 per shopkeeper will be provided as immediate subsistence support to cover household and utility expenses.

The chief minister directed that alternative commercial spaces be provided within two months to enable shopkeepers to resume their businesses, which the cabinet also approved.

A high-level subcommittee, comprising Ministers Sharjeel Inam Memon, Nasir Hussain Shah, Saeed and Ziaul Hassan Lanjar, was constituted to review the inquiry

committee's report and ensure that responsibility is fixed and justice is delivered. It may be recalled that the chief minister had constituted an inquiry committee under Commissioner Karachi Hassan Naqvi with Additional IGP Karachi Azad Khan and others as its members.

"No negligence will be overlooked. Those found responsible will be held accountable," the CM said.

The cabinet approved Rs 19.116 billion for the immediate execution of six major road infrastructure projects in Karachi. These include the Star Gate flyover, Malir Halt underpass, Sohrab Goth flyover, and the reconstruction of important arteries linking M-9 to Malir and Main Korangi Road to Khayaban-e-Saadi.

These projects are essential for easing congestion, improving road safety, and supporting Karachi's economic activity," Murad Shah said, directing the Local Government Department to commence work without delay.



Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over cabinet meeting at CM House in Karachi.

Strengthen accountability, merit Wajihah highlights transparency & digital reforms in education sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training (MOFEP), Ms. Wajihah Qamar, outlined comprehensive transparency measures and digital reforms implemented across the education sector to strengthen accountability, merit, and public trust.

During the press conference on Tuesday, the Minister emphasized that transparency, digitization, and citizen-centric governance are at the core of the Ministry's reform agenda, in line with the Government's commitment to institutional integrity to transparent, accountable, and efficient service delivery.

Ms. Wajihah Qamar stated that since 2024, all procurements within MOFEP are being carried out strictly under PPRA Rules through the e-Pak Acquisition and Disposal

System (EPADS). Tenders are openly advertised, while bid opening, evaluation, and award processes are digitally recorded. Financial approvals follow defined digital workflows, significantly reducing manual intervention and the scope for favoritism.

The Minister highlighted that MOFEP has been 100 percent E-Office compliant since February 2019, making it one of the first federal ministries to achieve this milestone. All official correspondence, approvals, and decisions are processed digitally, ensuring a complete audit trail, time-bound decision-making, and elimination of undocumented verbal instructions.

Ms. Wajihah Qamar explained that NAVTTC trainings follow strict merit through written tests, monitored delivery, and syllabus compliance. Databases are maintained for successful trainees, with periodic follow-ups to track employment outcomes and analyze training effectiveness.

She informed that a monitoring and reporting portal is operational for Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) schools, while an AI-based Education



SARGODHA: Vice Chancellor University of Sargodha Prof. Dr. Qaisar Abbas and Parliamentary Secretary for Livestock award degrees to students on the second day of the 12th Convocation at the university's multipurpose hall.

CDA chief meets Nepali envoy, discuss sister-city plan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) and Chief Commissioner Islamabad Muhammad Ali Randhawa on Tuesday met Nepal's Ambassador to Pakistan, Rita Dhital, at the CDA Headquarters, where matters of mutual interest, including ways to further strengthen bilateral relations, were discussed.

The meeting was also attended by CDA Member Administration Talat Mahmood and senior officials.

Randhawa said Pakistan attached great importance to its relations with Nepal and described the two countries as friendly nations with longstanding ties. Ambassador Dhital praised the beauty and urban planning of Islamabad, particularly appreciating the role of the CDA in preserving the capital's natural environment. She said the city's green spaces and numerous parks contributed to a peaceful and pleasant atmosphere.

The CDA chairman said the authority was strictly following the Islamabad Master Plan to ensure the protection and expansion of the city's green cover.

The two sides also discussed a proposal to declare Islamabad and Kathmandu as sister cities. The Nepali envoy said work on a draft agreement in this regard was under way.

Issues related to the plot allocated for the Nepali Embassy in the Diplomatic Enclave were also reviewed.

particularly appreciating the role of the CDA in preserving the capital's natural environment. She said the city's green spaces and numerous parks contributed to a peaceful and pleasant atmosphere.

According to the notification, the headquarters of Upper Swat District will be Matta, and will include the tehsils of Matta, Bahrain, and Khwaza Khela.

On the other hand, the headquarters of Swat District has been designated as Gulkada, and it will include the tehsils of Babozai, Kabal, Charbagh, and Barot. Officials say that the division of the district will help improve administrative affairs, ensure the timely provision of public services, and enable effective implementation of development projects.

During the online open court, the Provincial Minister for Public Health Engineering, Fazal Shakoor Khan, participated in the online session. He was accompanied by the Secretary Public Health Engineering, Additional Secretary, Chief Engineers, and other senior officers of the department.

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LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif in a group photo with Provincial Ministers Overtake Valley Google for Education team after completion of training session "Empowering Punjab with AI".

CM Punjab launches first AI training for Punjab cabinet

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif led the province's first-ever artificial intelligence (AI) training session for provincial ministers, describing the initiative as the beginning of a new digital era in Punjab.

The chief minister said that digital technology had the capacity to transform conventional thinking and working methods, adding that AI support had become indispensable for effective governance and sustainable reforms. She emphasized the responsible and ethical use of AI to ensure positive, inclusive, and long-term impact.

The training featured

detailed briefings on the application of AI in governance, policy frameworks, opera-

tional decision-making, sector-specific reforms, and policy

summary analysis.

Cabinet members

were also introduced to the

effective use of Google tools,

including Gemini, for official

and administrative work.

Participants were in-

formed that under Google for

Education's Tech Valley ini-

tiative, a master training

programme for 3,000 teach-

ers would be launched

across Punjab. Additionally,

more than 300,000 student

IDs would be created in the

School Education Depart-

ment, while 200,000 stu-

dents and 2,000 teachers as-

sociated with the Punjab

Education Foundation

would receive specialized AI

and digital training.

KP govt launches major police, prison reforms

PESHAWAR (APP): Under the leadership of Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Sohail Khan Afridi, the provincial government has initiated comprehensive reforms to strengthen the police and prison systems as part of its first 100-day reform agenda.

The reforms aim to establish a professional, people-friendly and credible police force capable of ensuring rule of law, effectively countering terrorism and safeguarding the lives and property of citizens.

To enhance counterterrorism capabilities, the government has approved Rs 7.77 billion for the movement, weapons, equipment, and modern response systems of



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training, Ms. Wajihah Qamar addressing a press conference at PID Media Center.

Lanjar assures PA of transparent, impartial inquiry into Gul Plaza incident

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Assembly session on Tuesday continued amid rumpus in the house.

The session started with recitation from Holy Quran and Naat Sharif with Deputy Speaker in the chair.

Questions and answers session regarding Auqaf, Religious Affairs, Zakat and Ushr was also held.

While speaking on the floor of the House about the protest by MQM-Pakistan on Gul Plaza Judicial Commission demand, the Sindh Minister for Law, Home and Parliamentary Affairs Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar assured the House that transparent, impartial, and comprehensive investigations into the recent incident Gul

plaza will be conducted, and all requirements of justice will be fulfilled.

He informed that the Chief Minister of Sindh

presented a policy statement in the House, and the opposition was also given a full opportunity to express its views.

The Opposition Leader spoke on a point of order, however, the Home Minister clarified that irresponsible statements on such a sensitive matter could worsen the situation.

Therefore, it is essential to speak on the basis of facts.

The Sindh Home Minister apprised the House that the provincial cabinet has decided that the Karachi Commissioner's report will be received soon.

NAB KP arrests CEO Star Land Marketing, Director in Rs3.73 bln fraud case

PESHAWAR (APP): The National Accountability Bureau (NAB), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, has arrested Chief Executive Officer of Star Land Marketing (Private) Limited, Bilal Hassan, and its Regional Director, Iftikhar Ahmad, in connection with a large-scale financial fraud involving public investments amounting to Rs3.73 billion.

During the meeting, serious concerns were expressed over what was termed the provincial government's lack of interest in the Tirah operation.

They regretted that instead of focusing on resolving the problems faced by the people, political point-scoring was being prioritized, which they described as unfortunate.

The meeting also witnessed an exchange of views on the deteriorating law and order situation in the province and the severe lack of good governance.

Participants highlighted issues related to the provision of clean drinking water, drainage, and ongoing development schemes, and also shared valuable suggestions to further improve the department's performance. The Provincial Minister on-the-spot issued directives to the concerned officers for immediate and effective resolution of public complaints and emphasized that any negligence or delay in addressing public issues would not be tolerated.

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President Zardari lauds AD Ports Group growing investment in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari, Tuesday, appreciated AD Ports Group's long-term investment and growing role in Pakistan's maritime and logistics sector, describing it as a key pillar of Pakistan-UAE economic cooperation.

He highlighted the group's ongoing investments at Karachi Port as instrumental in enhancing port capacity, efficiency, and regional competitiveness.

Managing Director and Group CEO of AD Ports Group Captain Mohamed Juma Al Shamsi, Tuesday, paid a courtesy call on the president in Abu Dhabi, President's Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

The meeting was attended by First Lady Bibi Aseefa Bhutto Zardari MNA, Chairman People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Pakistan's Ambassador to the UAE.

Both sides agreed that

the expansion and modernisation of port infrastructure would strengthen trade flows and support Pakistan's broader economic development and country's seaborne trade.

The president welcomed the establishment of AD Ports Group's Representative Office in Islamabad and appreciated the group's collaboration on digital and customs facilitation initiatives aimed at improving trade efficiency.

DPM Ishaq Dar directs Federal, provincial authorities to continue monitoring of key essential commodities

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister/ Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, on

Tuesday, directed federal and provincial authorities to continue close monitoring of key essential commodities, particularly in view of the approaching month of Ramazan, to prevent any artificial price

hike or exploitation of consumers by unscrupulous elements.

The DPM/FM chaired a meeting to review the availability and prices of essential commodities across the country and expressed satisfaction over an ample stock of key essential commodities across provinces, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister said in a press release. The meeting was attended by Minister for National Food Security and

Rana Tanveer Hussain, SAPM Tariq Bajwa, chief secretary Balochistan, chairman TDAP, and officials from the Federal Board of Revenue, ministries of national food security and commerce, and provincial food department representatives.

Sindh surpasses wheat cultivation target for 2025-26

HYDERABAD (APP): The Director General Agriculture Extension Sindh has contradicted a news published in a daily newspaper regarding the Awan-e-Zaraat Sindh, stating that wheat cultivation in Sindh has surpassed the federal government's target for the year 2025-26.

According to a press release issued here on Tuesday, he said the federal government had set a wheat cultivation target of 1,416,430 hectares (3,500,140 acres) for 2025-26, whereas wheat was cultivated on 1,495,589 hectares (3,695,750 acres) during the period, which is 5.6 percent higher than the set target.

PSX stays bearish, loses 385 points to close at 188,203 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The benchmark KSE-100 Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Tuesday continued with a bearish trend, losing 384.80 points, a decline of 0.20 percent, to close at 188,202.86 points compared to 188,587.66 points on the previous trading day, according to PSX data.

During the session, the ready market recorded a trading volume of 749,247 million shares with a traded value of Rs 53,061 billion, against 870,446 million shares valuing Rs 57,197 billion in the previous session. Market capitalization declined to Rs 21,147 trillion from Rs 21,162 trillion a day earlier. Out of 486 active companies in the ready market, 160 advanced, 278 declined, while 48 remained unchanged. K-Electric Limited topped the volume chart with 90,164 million shares, followed by Hascol Petroleum with 47,948 million shares and Bank of Punjab with 35,973 million shares.

Muzaffarabad Chamber, LCCI discuss economy, business cooperation

LAHORE (APP): A delegation from the Muzaffarabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry led by its President Khawaja Ihshtisham Woogar met with Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) office-bearers here at LCCI on Tuesday.

Matters of mutual interest, the current economic situation and business cooperation were discussed in detail during the meeting that was attended by LCCI President Faseem ur Rehman Saigol, Senior Vice President Tanveer Ahmad Sheikh and Vice President Khurram Lodhi, former LCCI president Tahir Javed Malik, former SVP Zafar Mahmood Chaudhry and former Executive Committee members. Muzaffarabad Chamber's delegation

comprised its Executive Committee members Raja Abid Khan, Malik Ejaz Gilani, Shabab Mateen, Muhammad Irfan Kayani, Hasan Taj and Raja Abdul Rasheed.

During the meeting, LCCI President Faheem ur Rehman Saigol said that Lahore Chamber is a major and active chamber, and given Pakistan's current economic situation, it is necessary for the country's business community to be united. He emphasized that government should receive a single joint budget proposal to enable effective measures for economic stability.

He added that Lahore Chamber has decided to work collaboratively through the Federation platform to provide concrete proposals for economic stability.

Muzaffarabad Chamber's delegation



ABUDHABI: President Asif Ali Zardari in a meeting with Captain Mohamed Juma Al Shamsi, Managing Director and Group CEO of AD Ports Group, accompanied by First Lady Aseefa Bhutto Zardari, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, and the Pakistan Ambassador to UAE.

Minister directs PR to boost revenue, improve freight, passenger services

LAHORE (APP): Railways Minister Muhammad Hanif Abbasi on Tuesday directed Pakistan Railways (PR) administration to enhance revenue by extending greater facilities to the business community, saying that any deficiency of material in coaches should be met without delay to avoid operational issues.

Welcoming the business community's confidence in the two cargo trains currently in operation, Hanif Abbasi said preparations should be finalized for launching a third cargo train in the near future.

He also ordered the preparation of a model plan comprising 50 wagons for the transportation of automobiles to further tap freight potential.

The meeting was informed that operational officers would inspect the quality of refurbished coaches to ensure standards.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum, Ali Pervaiz Malik in a meeting with Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan Timothy Kane.

Pakistan, Australia discuss coop. in mining, gemstones

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Australia on Tuesday discussed avenues for enhanced bilateral cooperation in the mining and gemstone sectors.

The minister also underscored the government's efforts to develop and formalize the gemstones sector, stressing its potential for value addition, export growth and employment generation.

The Australian high commissioner said Australian companies were already actively involved in the Reko Diq project, while additional firms had shown keen interest in joining the venture.

He added that Australian companies would be

encouraged to participate in the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum, expressing hope for a strong Australian presence at the event.

Highlighting the growing global importance of copper and gold for the energy transition, the high commissioner said that Pakistan's mining sector had attracted significant international attention.

He expressed optimism about collaboration in the gemstones sector through knowledge-sharing, training and technical assistance.

WB urges Pakistan to improve tax system, expand tax base

ISLAMABAD (INP): The World Bank has released a report on development in South Asia, emphasizing the need to improve Pakistan's tax system and expand the tax base. The report also suggests discouraging pollution as a way to increase revenue.

According to the World Bank, groundwater levels in South Asia are rapidly declining, and Pakistan is among the world's most water-scarce countries. Poor irrigation systems and inefficient agricultural practices are leading to significant water wastage. The

report noted that modern irrigation projects in Punjab have saved 57 percent of water, while advanced agricultural initiatives have increased crop yields by 14 to 31 percent.

In Pakistan, electricity and gas subsidies are being linked to the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP). Subsidy reforms are expected to reduce misallocation, financial losses, and circular debt.

The World Bank suggested that fuel subsidies could instead be redirected toward social protection programmes.

Gold prices fall by Rs1,500 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): Gold prices registered a decline in the local market on Tuesday as the price of 24-karat gold per tola decreased by Rs1,500 to settle at Rs530,562.

The price of 10 grams of 24-karat gold fell by Rs1,286 to Rs454,871, while the price of 10 grams of 22-karat gold went down by Rs1,179 to Rs416,980, according to the All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association. Silver prices witnessed an upward trend, with the price of 24-karat silver per tola increasing by Rs212 to Rs11,640, whereas the price of 10 grams of silver went up by Rs182 to Rs9,979.

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'American Doctor' tells of brutality in Israel-Hamas war

PARK CITY (AFP/APP): At the start of "American Doctor," a new documentary about US medics working in hospitals in the Gaza Strip during the Israel-Hamas war, director Poh Si Teng initially declines to film pictures of dead Palestinian children that one of the doctors is trying to show her.

Teng worries that she will have to pixelate the gruesome scene to protect the dignity of the children. "You're not dignifying them unless you let their memory, their bodies, tell the story of this trauma, of this genocide. You're not doing them a service by not showing them," Jewish-American doctor Mark Perlmutter tells her.

"This is what my tax dollars did. That's what your tax dollars did. That's what my neighbor's tax dollars did. They have the right to know the truth."

"You have the responsibility, as I do, to tell the truth. You pixelate this, that's journalistic

malpractice."

Teng's unflinching film follows Perlmutter and two other American doctors—one Palestinian-American and the other a non-practicing Zoroastrian—as they try to treat the results of the unspeakable brutality visited on a largely civilian population in Gaza since Israel launched its retaliation for Hamas's October 2023 attack. Alongside the severed limbs and the open wounds the doctors labor on with their Palestinian colleagues, we also see the trio's attempts at advocacy—in Washington's corridors of power and in Israeli and American media.

The documentary also depicts the practical difficulties they face—the surgical scrubs and antibiotics they have to smuggle across the border to get around the Israeli blockade, and the last-minute refusals of Israeli authorities to let them in. And we see the bravery of men voluntarily going to work in hospitals that are

repeatedly hit by the Israeli army.

Israel rejects accusations its numerous strikes against Gaza hospitals amount to war crimes, saying it is targeting "terrorists" in these facilities and claims Hamas operatives are holed up in tunnels underneath the hospitals.

The attacks include the so-called "double tap" strike on the Nasser Hospital in Khan Yunis, South of the Strip, in August 2025 where the three men have worked.

Emergency responders and journalists who had rushed to the scene after a first projectile hit were killed when a second was fired at the same spot.

Feroze Sidhwa, perhaps the most eloquent of the three doctors, repeatedly makes the case throughout the film that he has never seen any tunnels and that in any case, even the presence of wounded fighters in a hospital does not make it a legitimate target.



Sailors aboard the Philippine Navy frigate BRP Jose Rizal salute during a ceremony near Scarborough Shoal in disputed waters of the South China Sea.

UNRWA chief slams Israel over arson attack on agency's HQ

UNITED NATIONS (APP): The head of embattled UN relief agency for Palestinians, UNRWA, has condemned reports that its headquarters in East Jerusalem have been set alight by Israeli authorities. It comes after Israeli arsonists "stormed and demolished" buildings in the compound last week, UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini said.

"Allowing this unprecedented destruction is the latest attack on the UN in the ongoing attempt to dismantle the status of Pal-

estine Refugees in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and erase their history," Lazzarini said.

In a short statement, the senior UN official added that there were "no limits to the defiance of the United Nations" and international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Last Tuesday's move by Israeli authorities to send bulldozers into the Sheikh Jarrah compound where they tore down UNRWA structures prompted swift condemnation from senior UN officials including Sec-

retary-General Antonio Guterres and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Turk.

Ahead of that dra-

matic development, on 14 January, Israeli forces entered an UNRWA health centre in East Jerusalem and ordered it to close. The agency reported that its workers were "terrified" and that the deteriorating situation was a direct result of legislation passed by the Israeli parliament in December, stepping up existing anti-UNRWA laws adopted in 2024.

US aircraft carrier has arrived in Middle East

WASHINGTON (AFP/APP): The USS Abraham Lincoln carrier strike group has arrived in the Middle East, the US military said on Monday, dramatically boosting American firepower in the region.

The carrier and its accompanying ships were ordered to the region as Iran cracked down on mass protests.

While President Donald Trump has since backed away from military action against Tehran, he has insisted all options remain on the table.

The strike group is currently deployed to the Middle East to promote regional security and stability," US Central Command, which is responsible for

American forces in the region, said in a post on X.

Trump told Axios in an interview on Monday that the United States has "a big armada next to Iran," but said Tehran is eager to talk: "They want to make a deal. I know so. They called on numerous occasions."

A senior US official meanwhile said to reporters during a call that Washington is "open for business" if the Iranians "want to contact us."

The protests in Iran started in late December, driven by economic grievances, but turned into a mass movement against the Islamic republic, with huge street demonstrations for several days from January 8.

Russia kills 6 in Ukraine, hits energy sites

ODESA (AFP/APP): Russian forces killed six people and wounded dozens of others, including two children and a pregnant woman, in attacks on Ukraine's energy facilities, Kyiv announced Tuesday.

President Volodymyr Zelensky said the latest bombardment undermined peace efforts and urged allies to step up pressure on Moscow to end the war, which is grinding towards its fourth anniversary.

"Every such Russian strike erodes the diplomacy that is still ongoing and undermines the efforts of partners who are helping to end this war," he wrote on social media.



A city worker shovels heavy snow from a sidewalk in a residential neighborhood in the aftermath of a winter storm in the St. Louis area, Missouri, US.

France's president to meet Denmark, Greenland leaders

PARIS (AFP/APP): France's president will meet the leaders of Denmark and Greenland in Paris on Wednesday for "a working lunch", his office said Tuesday.

Emmanuel Macron will "reaffirm European solidarity and France's support for Denmark, Greenland, their sovereignty and their territorial integrity," the presidency said.

The meeting comes days after US President Donald Trump backed down from threats to seize Greenland, a mineral-rich Arctic island that is an au-

tonomous Danish territory. The three leaders will discuss "security issues in the Arctic and the economic and social development of Greenland, which France and the European Union are ready to support", Macron's office said.

Faced with Russian threats and US ambitions for Greenland, Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen and Greenland leader Jens-Frederik Nielsen have been making rounds with European leaders this week including talks in Hamburg and Berlin ahead of visiting Paris Wednesday.

Spain to regularise 500,000 undocumented migrants: minister

MADRID (AFP/APP): Spain's left-wing government will on Tuesday approve a decree that will regularise 500,000 undocumented migrants, the migration minister said, the country's latest break with harsher policies elsewhere in Europe.

Elma Saiz told public broadcaster RTVE that the beneficiaries would be able to work "any sector, in any part of the country" and pointed to "the positive impact" of migration.

"We are talking about estimations, probably more or less the figures may be around half a million people," she added, saying the government was "recognising and dignifying" people already in Spain.

Sources from her ministry said the measure would affect those living in Spain for at least five months and who had applied for international protection before December 31, 2025.

The regularisation will also include children of the applicants who already live in Spain, the sources added.

The application period will open in April and continue until the end of June, Saiz said.

The decree will not need to be passed in parliament, where the Socialist-led coalition lacks a majority.

Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez says Spain needs migration to fill workforce gaps and counteract an ageing population that could imperil pensions and the welfare state.

Minneapolis mayor says 'some' US immigration agents to leave city

MINNEAPOLIS (AFP/APP): Some federal immigration agents will leave Minneapolis Tuesday, the city's mayor said, as US President Donald Trump struck a conciliatory note after nationwide outrage over the killings of two American citizens.

Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey said in a post on social media platform X that "some federal agents" will begin leaving the city, but did not provide specifics of how many. "I will continue pushing for the rest involved in this operation to go," Frey added.

Frey said he spoke with Trump on Monday, adding: "The president agreed the present situation can't continue." The White House was scrambling as video of the latest shooting went viral, prompting street protests, criticism from former presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama and, increasingly, from within Trump's Republican Party. In a marked change of tone, Trump said he had sent his top border enforcer Tom Homan—whom the president described as "tough but fair"—to Minneapolis on Monday.

Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey said he spoke with Trump on Monday, adding: "The president agreed the present situation can't continue." The White House was scrambling as video of the latest shooting went viral, prompting street protests, criticism from former presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama and, increasingly, from within Trump's Republican Party. In a marked change of tone, Trump said he had sent his top border enforcer Tom Homan—whom the president described as "tough but fair"—to Minneapolis on Monday.

Gazans long for reopening of 'lifeline' Rafah crossing

GAZA CITY (AFP/APP): With Gaza's vital Rafah border crossing expected to soon reopen, residents of the war-shattered territory are hoping to reunite with family members, or are looking to leave themselves.

The Rafah crossing between Gaza and Egypt is the Palestinian territory's only gateway to the outside world that does not lead to Israel and is a key entry point for both people and goods.

It has been closed since Israeli forces took control of it in May 2024, except for a limited reopening in early 2025, and other bids to reopen failed to materialise.

Following a US-brokered ceasefire that took effect in October, Rafah is

expected to reopen for pedestrians, after visiting US envoys reportedly pressed Israeli officials to reopen the crossing.

"Opening the Rafah crossing means opening the door to life for me. I haven't seen my wife and children for two years since they left at the beginning of the war and I was prevented from travelling," said 48-year-old Mahmud al-Natour, who hails from Gaza City.

"My children are growing up away from me, and the years are passing by as if we are cut off from the world and life itself," he told AFP.

Randa Samih, 48, also called the crossing "the life-line of Gaza," but is worried about whether she would be able to leave.

US monster storm kills 30

(40.6 cm) recorded in Boston, Massachusetts.

The storm was linked to at least 30 deaths, according to a compilation of state government and local media reports, with causes including hypothermia as well as accidents related to traffic, sledding, ATVs and snowplows.

Seven people were killed when the small plane they were traveling in crashed while taking off in a snowstorm in Bangor, Maine, the Federal Aviation Administration said.

One man in New Jersey was found in the snow unresponsive with a shovel in his hand.

In New York City, eight more people were found dead amid plummeting temperatures, and an investigation to determine the causes was underway.

It was not known if all of these fatalities were storm-related.

Electricity began blinking back on across the south but as of Tuesday morning more than 540,000 customers remained without it, according to the tracking site Poweroutage.com.

North Korea fires ballistic missiles towards Sea of Japan

SEOUL (AFP/APP): North Korea fired what appeared to be two ballistic missiles towards the Sea of Japan on Tuesday, Tokyo said.

South Korea's Joint Chief of Staff also said it had detected a "projectile" being fired towards what Seoul calls the East Sea.

Japan's coast guard, citing the defence ministry, said it had detected two ballistic missiles and that both were estimated to have already splashed down.

Japanese news agency Jiji Press reported the two missiles had landed outside of the country's Exclusive Economic Zone, citing defence ministry sources.

The test is Pyongyang's second of the month, following a salvo of missiles fired hours before South Korea's leader headed to China for a summit.

55,000 local observers to watch elections in Bangladesh

DHAKA (BSS/APP): The Election Commission (EC) has allowed 55,454 local observers to monitor the 13th National Parliamentary Election and the Referendum scheduled for February 12.

Of them, 7,997 observers from 81 observation organizations centrally registered with the EC, and constituency-based 47,457 observers have been given permission to observe the elections.

A letter, signed by EC Secretariat Director (Public Relations) and Information Officer Md Ruhul Amin Mallick, revealed the information on Monday.

According to the letter, only voters of the respective polling centres and those carrying EC-approved identity cards will be allowed to enter the polling centers.

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Pakistan says: India's illegal occupation of Kashmir is root cause of South Asian instability

UNITED NATIONS (INP): Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Asim Iftikhar, has said that India's illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir in gross violation of Security Council resolutions is the root cause of instability in South Asia.

Speaking at a High-Level Open Debate of the United Nations Security Council, Ambassador Asim Iftikhar said that lasting peace in South Asia required resolving the Kashmir dispute in line with UN resolutions and ensuring respect for treaty obligations, including water-sharing agreements. He also condemned India's unilateral suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty as "another blatant breach of international obligations, threatening lives, livelihoods of millions, endangering peace and security."

"Pakistan rejects the weaponisation of water and

critical natural resources," Ahmad stated, noting that treaty compliance is a cornerstone of international legal order.

Ambassador Asim said the erosion of the rule of law was contributing to conflict, humanitarian crises and weakening trust between countries.

He said international law was meant to make relations between states predictable and stable. But when countries ignore agreed rules, he warned, law risks losing its meaning. The Pakistani envoy emphasised that "reaffirming international rule of law is not an abstract legal exercise but a prerequisite for peace, justice, and collective security."

"Selective application of legal norms, erosion of treaty obligation and unilateral actions have weakened trust among states and strained the multilateral system in the UN Charter," he stressed. "When law

yields to power or expediency, instability deepens, disputes entrench further, and peaceful coexistence jeopardised." He cautioned against attempts to normalise unilateral actions outside the UN framework.

Referring to tensions with India, Ambassador Ahmad said Pakistan had experienced violations of international law first-hand. He stated that last May, "India carried out an unprovoked military aggression in breach of international law and Pakistani sovereignty." He noted that Pakistan, "acting in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter," exercised "its inherent right of self-defence in responsible, restrained and proportional manner."

"Our response established that there can be no new normal based on coercion or impunity," he said, adding that "respect for international law remains the only legitimate norm governing interstate conduct."

ISLAMABAD: The Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan, Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi, meeting with a delegation comprising members of the Rawalpindi High Court Bar Association, Tehsil Bar Association Kabal, and Mohmand Bar Association, Mohmand District, at the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

India's hesitation on US-led peace board stems from Kashmir fears, shifting Washington ties: Masood

MIRPUR (APP): Ambassador Asif Ali Zardari directed to provide best medical facilities to the CTD personnel injured in the anti-terrorist operation. The president emphasised that operations against terrorists were essential for establishing peace in the country and the region.

Naeemur Rehman says:

'Not even a single project is completed timely in Karachi'

Independent Report

KARACHI: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Pakistan supreme leader Eng Hafiz Naeemur Rehman has said that neither provincial status, nor federal control, but an empowered local government is the most viable solution to the woes of Karachi.

The JI Pakistan Ameer said this while addressing a press conference, held at Idara Noor-e-Haq—the JI Karachi headquarters, here on Tuesday.

Neither provincial control nor federal control—the solution to Karachi's problems lies only in an empowered city government.

"A system of occupation cannot function by dis-

respecting the people's vote," he said, adding that Karachi's authority should belong only to the citizens of Karachi.

"Today, the people are dissatisfied with the Sindh government; tomorrow, they will raise their voice against the federation, he said while further commenting on the demands for federal control or provincial status.

"Empowered local government systems are successful in all major cities of the world," he said while highlighting that London and New York in the West, and Tehran and Istanbul in the Muslim world, are successful examples of this model.

HYDERABAD: Awami National Party central president Aimal Wali Khan addressing to Bacha Khan Peace Conference, organized by Awami National Party Jamshoro district, at local hotel.

Balochistan Govt prioritizes public welfare through healthcare reforms: Bakht

Independent Report

QUETTA: Balochistan Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Karak has reaffirmed that addressing public concerns remains the provincial government's foremost priority, with concrete measures underway to improve healthcare delivery. Speaking to visiting delegations, he highlighted that reforms grounded in transparency, merit, and good governance are central to restoring public confidence and ensuring citizens receive healthcare services at their doorstep.

The minister noted that significant steps have been taken to maintain medical facilities, ensure the

availability of medicines, and monitor staff attendance in government hospitals.

Special initiatives are underway to extend basic healthcare services to remote areas, alongside development plans focusing on upgrading existing hospitals, establishing new health units, and rehabilitating medical centers to provide enhanced treatment facilities.

Karak emphasized that the government is working closely with public representatives and relevant departments to tackle issues related to clean drinking water, sanitation, and environmental health.

Court stops arrest of PTI founder in May 9 case, five other cases

ISLAMABAD (INP): The District and Sessions Court of Islamabad on Tuesday stopped the arrest of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder in the May 9 case and five other cases, extending pre-arrest bail for him and his wife Bushra Bibi until February 6.

The court also directed that the PTI founder must be presented at the next hearing, either in person or through a video link.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Muhammad Afzal Majoka heard the case. The court passed the orders during proceedings related to the May 9 case and other pending cases registered against the PTI founder.

Due to the absence of the PTI founder, arguments on the pre-arrest bail applications could not be heard.

Renowned television actor Khalid Hafeez Khan passes away

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistani entertainment industry is mourning the loss of renowned television actor Khalid Hafeez Khan, who passed away recently, leaving fans and colleagues deeply saddened.

Known for his impeccable comic timing and memorable performances, Khalid Hafeez Khan had become a household name, particularly for his role as 'Mr. Shamseem' in the iconic PTV comedy drama 'Guest House', a show that continues to be celebrated by viewers decades after its original airing.

According to family sources, his funeral prayers will be offered after Asr prayers at the 'H-11' cemetery in Islamabad, and friends, colleagues, and fans are expected to pay their respects.



ISLAMABAD: The Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, H.E. U Than Swe called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehzad Sharif.

CM Bugti lauds timely & effective of action of CTD against suspects in Pishin

QUETTA (APP):

Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Tuesday appreciated the timely and effective action of the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) in Pishin district against suspects.

He said that the law enforcement agencies are performing their duties with full professionalism and determination to establish law and order in Balochistan.

In a statement, the Chief Minister paid tribute to the courage, bravery and sense of duty of the CTD personnel who were injured in the exchange of fire during the operation and expressed his best wishes for their speedy recovery.

Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that CTD Balochistan and

police personnel are standing on the front line in the war against terrorism and are taking all possible steps to protect the lives and property of the people.

He said that the recovery

of rocket launchers, SMGs and explosives from the terrorists during the operation is clear evidence that these elements were busy trying to sabotage the peace of the province and had links with banned organisations.

The CM mentioned that the government has always given top priority to peace and law enforcement, the agencies have been given clear instructions to continue their operations without discrimination under the zero tolerance policy against terrorism.

He also expressed satisfaction that the protection of the civilian population was given priority while upholding the state writ during the operation.

Mir Sarfraz Bugti

made it clear that there is no room for terrorists, their facilitators and networks in Balochistan. "Until the establishment of lasting peace in the province, anti-terrorist operations will continue with full force and every conspiracy will be foiled with the cooperation of the people," he noted.

He said that the protection of the lives and property of the people of Balochistan is the first and unwavering responsibility of the government, on which no compromise to be made.

Additional Foreign Secre-

Meets Myanmar's FM PM underscores expanding bilateral cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, U Than Swe, who is on an official visit to Pakistan, paid a courtesy call on the Prime Minister Muhammad Shehzad Sharif on Tuesday.

Welcoming the visiting dignitary and reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening its longstanding relations with Myanmar, the prime minister underscored the importance of expanding cooperation in trade and economic engagement, education, culture, capacity-building, and people-to-



ISLAMABAD: Acting President Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani meeting with Pir of Lauri Sharif, Pir Muhammed Sadiq Qureshi in the Federal Capital.

Pakistan, Ghana agree to strengthen multi sectoral cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa-

Additional Foreign Secretary, while the Ghanaian side was headed by Ambassador Khadija Iddrisu, Chief Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During the consultations, two Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were signed, including one on Bilateral Political Consultations and the other between the Foreign Service Academy, Islamabad, and the Ghana Foreign Service Institute. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening bilateral relations.

The Pakistani delegation was led by Ambassador Hamid Asghar Khan, who

Balochistan women's commission takes global stage

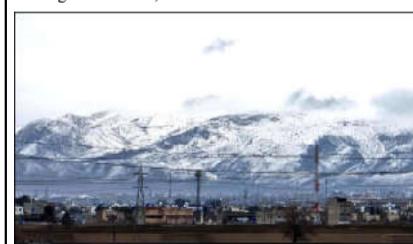
Kiran Baloch drives cross-border push for women and child rights

Independent Report

JAKARTA: Chairperson of the Balochistan Commission on the Status of Women (BCSW), Ms. Kiran Baloch, held a high-level meeting in Jakarta on January 19, 2026, with senior officials from Indonesia's Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection (MOWECP), the Coordinating Ministry of Human Development and Cultural Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UN

Women, and the Wahid Foundation.

The meeting served as a significant forum for in-depth discussions on key challenges and emerging priorities related to women's empowerment and child protection. Participants shared perspectives on policy frameworks, practical experiences and effective approaches aimed at promoting gender equality, protecting children's rights and strengthening social inclusion.



ISLAMABAD: A four member delegation of Transparency International headed by its Chair Mr. Francois Valerian held a meeting with Chairman NAB Lt Gen (R) Nazir Ahmed at NAB (HQ).

NA body directs Radio Pak to furnish detailed account of its nationwide properties

ISLAMABAD (INP): The

National Assembly Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting on Tuesday directed Radio Pakistan to furnish a detailed account of its nationwide properties, province-wise employee strength including Azad Jammu and Kashmir, pensioners, and the locations of upcoming FM stations.

Chaired by MNA Pulain Baloch, the committee further instructed that Radio Pakistan's land in Quetta be utilized for edu-

cational or health facilities instead of being converted into a park. DG Radio Saeed Ahmed Shaikh briefed members that the Balochistan Chief Minister had requested the land for a park, but assured compliance if the committee recommended otherwise.

Expressing concern over repeated bailout requests, the committee advised Radio Pakistan's management to prioritize income generation, stressing reliance on government grants is unsustainable.

ECP lifts suspension of five provincial legislators

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has reinstated the membership of five provincial assembly members from Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa after they submitted their statements of assets and liabilities for the fiscal year 2024-25. The legislators had been suspended on January 16 for failing to meet the December 31, 2025 deadline. According to an ECP notification, the restored members include Amir Hayat Hiraj (PP-207, Khanewal).

Noshki, and 19 percent from other districts. RDMC highlighted that employment and career advancement opportunities are being offered across operational, technical, and administrative roles, enabling local talent to assume leadership positions in the future.

To support this objective, specialized training programs have been launched in collaboration with technical institutions, equipping young people with modern skills. The company also underlined its commitment to gender inclusion, with women comprising 12 percent of the workforce.



QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta Division Shahzaib Khan Kakar presides over the meeting to review overall situation of anti-polio campaign.

Zero tolerance on lapses as Commissioner intensifies drive to wipe out polio

Independent Report

QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta Division Shahzaib Khan Kakar has underscored that the complete elimination of polio demands unwavering commitment, coordination and accountability from all concerned departments, making it clear that any form of negligence will be unacceptable.

Chairing a review meeting on the polio situation in the Quetta block, the commissioner examined progress and challenges related to the previous polio campaign, highlighting achievements,

going eradication efforts. The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Quetta Mehrullah Badini, the divisional focal person, members of the polio task force, relevant District Health Officers, while Deputy Commissioners of Chaman, Kila Abdullah and Pishin participated online.

During the briefing, Shahzaib Khan Kakar was presented with a comprehensive assessment of the previous polio campaign, highlighting achievements, going forward.

operational hurdles and sectors where performance fell short. He instructed officials to focus special attention on low-performing union councils and to introduce effective, targeted strategies to improve outcomes. Emphasizing transparency and efficiency, the commissioner called for further strengthening of the monitoring mechanism, recommending that specific monitors be assigned to individual union councils to enable continuous oversight.

According to family sources, his funeral prayers will be offered after Asr prayers at the 'H-11' cemetery in Islamabad, and friends, colleagues, and fans are expected to pay their respects.