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## Pakistan ready to work with all nations for peace, sustainable development: President

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday highlighting the rapid changes facing the world, ranging from geopolitical shifts and hybrid threats to cybersecurity, reiterated that, amidst all such challenges, Pakistan stood ready to work with all nations to build understanding, peace and sustainable development.

The president, during the interactive session with the participants of the 6<sup>th</sup> International Workshop for Leadership and Stability 2026, felicitated them at the

conclusion of the workshop. The workshop was attended by around 100 participants, including 69 hailing from different 49 countries.

Calling the leadership and stability the pillars of nations and institutions, the president highlighted that the world was currently facing rapid changes, with geopolitical shifts, emerging security threats and the growing role of technology in governance.

"Security is no longer only about conventional conflicts. It includes

cybersecurity, hybrid threats and information challenges. At the same time, climate change, resource scarcity and disinformation cross borders, demanding collaborative solutions," the president emphasized in his address.

President Zardari urged the participants of the workshop to translate discussions into real-world solutions, choosing dialogue over division and cooperation over conflict.

He extended his grati-

sity (NDU) for organising this important forum and termed that such workshops bring together policymakers, diplomats, military officials, academics and private sector leaders.

President Zardari said that such forums offered a valuable space to discuss leadership and stability. "I hope these insights reach a broader audience across our institutions and society," he said.

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ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari addresses the participants of the 6th International Workshop for Leadership and Stability (IWLS) during an interactive session at Aiwan-e-Sadr.



ISLAMABAD: US Chargé d'Affaires Natalie Baker meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar.

## Air Chief Marshal Zaheer meets with Indonesia President Subianto

### Indonesia shows interest in PAF's training ecosystem

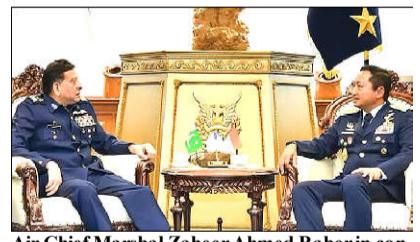
RAWALPINDI (APP): Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, NI (M), HJ, Chief of Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force, during his official visit to Indonesia, called on President Prabowo Subianto on Friday. During the meeting, the Air Chief underscored the shared values and longstanding brotherhood between Pakistan and Indonesia, said a press release issued here by Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR). President Prabowo expressed keen interest in leveraging PAF's state-of-the-art training ecosystem and aerospace development infrastructure to enhance Indonesia's defence capabilities.

Earlier, the Air Chief held separate high-level meetings with Defence Minister Lieutenant General (Retd) Sajid Sjamsuddin, Commander of the Indonesian National

Armed Forces and Indonesian Air Marshal. He was accorded Guard of Honour at all venues.

During the discussion with the Indonesian Air Chief, both sides discussed enhanced Air Force-to-Air Force cooperation, joint training from basic advanced levels, professional exchanges, and collaboration in emerging aerospace domains. The Indonesian Air Chief sought PAF's support in advancing operational and flying training, acknowledging PAF's rich combat experience. The Air Chief was conferred the Medal of Honour, the highest award of the Indonesian Air Force, in recognition of his role in strengthening bilateral air power cooperation.

The Air Chief also held a joint meeting with the Indonesian Defence Minister and Chief of Defence Forces, where a wide range of defence and security matters.



Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber in conversation with his Indonesian counterpart during his visit to Indonesia.

## Gwadar Airport, free zone to boost Balochistan trade access, Senate told

### Balochistan getting higher PSDP share; M-8 progress underway

ISLAMABAD (APP): The government on Friday informed the Senate that the New Gwadar International Airport, operational since Jan 20, 2025, along with the Gwadar Free Zone and improved highway connectivity, is expected to facilitate access for Balochistan's agricultural, mineral and fisheries sectors to national and international markets.

Responding during the Question Hour on behalf of Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry said the airport

and related infrastructure formed part of broader efforts to strengthen trade logistics and economic activity in the province.

He told the House that a fully developed Gwadar Free Zone, spread over approximately 2,281 acres at Gwadar Port, is operational and designed to support trade, re-export, warehousing, distribution and industrial activities.

The zone also offers opportunities for processing, packaging and value addition of agricultural, mineral and fisheries products originating from Balochistan.

Continued on page 2

The minister said investors in the free zone are being offered incentives including a 23-year tax holiday on federal, provincial and local taxes, lease options of up to 99 years, and exemption from import duties and sales tax on machinery and equipment.

One-window facilitation, ready warehouses, office space and industrial units, along with security infrastructure, have also been put in place.

Highlighting connectivity measures, he said

WASHINGTON (INP): The Trump administration's point man for South and Central Asia has told Congress that Pakistan remains an important US partner in the region, with Washington seeking to expand trade, economic cooperation and security ties with the country.

Assistant Secretary of State Paul Kapur addressing the House Foreign Affairs Committee's Subcommittee on South and Central Asia, underscored Pakistan's role in regional engagement and highlighted growing bilateral cooperation.

"Pakistan is another important partner in the region. We are working together with Pakistan to realise the potential of its critical mineral resources, combining US government seed financing with private sector know-how would benefit both of our countries," he told the subcommittee.

Continued on page 2

## Governor urges peace, highlights education as catalyst for advancement of Balochistan

### Independent Report

QUETTA: Emphasizing that societal growth and prosperity hinge on non-violence, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail called on Balochistan's citizens, particularly the youth, to embrace knowledge and skills as tools for progress and national development.

The Governor made these remarks while meeting with leaders of the Pakistan Muslim League (N)

Labour Wing, including Provincial President Mumtaz Masroori Bugti, General Secretary Khan Ulama-e-Islam Fazlur Rehman group (JUI-F), and Mir Zahoor Ahmed Maghi.

Highlighting the importance of higher education, Mandokhail praised Mir Chakar Khan Rind University as a vital institution for students from Sibi and across Balochistan, of national development.

Doctors said Haideri's condition is being closely monitored and that he is receiving treatment at the cardiac unit of the hospital.

Maulana Fazlur Rehman visited the hospital to inquire after Haideri's health. He was accompanied by Balochistan provincial ameer Maulana Abdul Wasey, Senator Kamran Murtaza, and several other senior leaders of the party, who expressed concern and prayed for his speedy recovery.

A seasoned politician, Haideri has served as Deputy Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan since March 12, 2015, and has held the post of central Secretary General of JUI-F since 1995. Born in June 1957 to Muhammad Azam Lehri in the Kalat district of Balochistan, Haideri received his early education in his native village before completing his religious studies.

Continued on page 2

## Pakistan remains important US partner in region, Congress told

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The Trump administration's point man for South and Central Asia has told Congress that Pakistan remains an important US partner in the region, with Washington seeking to expand trade, economic cooperation and security ties with the country.

ISLAMABAD (INP): Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri, the central Secretary General of Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam Fazlur Rehman group (JUI-F), was admitted to Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences late on Wednesday night after suffering a heart attack.

Doctors said Haideri's condition is being closely monitored and that he is receiving treatment at the cardiac unit of the hospital.

Maulana Fazlur Rehman visited the hospital to inquire after Haideri's health. He was accompanied by Balochistan provincial ameer Maulana Abdul Wasey, Senator Kamran Murtaza, and several other senior leaders of the party, who expressed concern and prayed for his speedy recovery.

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Continued on page 2

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The participants of the rally raised slogans of the Pak Army and civilian martyrs for the se-

Speaking on the occasion, Provincial Food Minister Haji Noor Muhammad Khan Dummari said that Pakistan is the common home of all of us, we would protect it with our blood, sweat and tears and together we could play the role of every frontline for the development and security of the country, we stand shoulder to shoulder with our army and other security forces.

He said that we paid great tribute to the sacrifices of the Pak Army and civilian martyrs for the se-

Continued on page 2



SANJAWI: Provincial Minister for Food Haji Noor Muhammad Dummari and Deputy Commissioner Abdul Quddus Achakzai addressing the Pakistan Zindabad Rally.

## Zimbabwe pulls off stunning win against Australia in T20 WC

### Sports Desk

COLOMBO: Zimbabwe defeated former world champions Australia by 23 runs in a T20 World Cup group match at R Premadasa International Cricket Stadium, in Sri Lanka's capital Colombo on Friday.

Australia, meanwhile, dropped Cooper Connolly and Xavier Bartlett, and added Tim David and Ben Dwarshuis.

Steve Smith is yet to join the team as he was called after captain Mitchell Marsh was ruled out due to a groin injury. Stand-in skipper Travis Head said that he will arrive tonight.

Several posts also revolved in Australia's collapse, with one reaction saying: "Zimbabwe, what win Australia all out #auvssz" and another declaring:

Marcus Stoinis and Cameron Green shared the

two wickets that fell.

In reply, Australia were bowled out for 146 runs in the last over of their innings. Matt Renshaw scored 65 runs while Maxwell made 31 runs. Muzarabani picked up four wickets for Zimbabwe.

Australia, meanwhile,

"What a win Zimbabwe embarrassment for Aussies #T20WorldCup".

On X, a journalist wrote: "Zimbabwe have created history by beating Australia", arguing the upset followed a confidence-hit run, losing to Pakistan and adding that Australia go quiet when "their batters fall like a pack of cards in Asia."

Some fans focused on Zimbabwe's resilience. "Zimbabwe proved that determination can shake even the strongest sides" read one post, while another simply said: "Excellent win Zimbabwe". A number of users framed the result as a statement win for the underdogs. "Zimbabwe defeating and winning over Australia" wrote one fan, adding: "#WorldCup2026 is so exciting".

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari chairs the first meeting of the Governing Body of Federal Ziauddin University, Islamabad, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## Governor urges peace..

Continued from page 1

facing themavenues for academic achievement and professional growth. During the meeting, Munir Ahmed Masroori Bugti updated the Governor on the university's educational standards, Vice Chancellor Dr. Mushtaq Ahmed's performance, and ongoing challenges faced by students.

Governor Mandokhai

stressed that both federal and provincial authorities are actively working to enhance educational quality and skill development across the province. He noted initiatives to equip students with modern facilities, as well as opportunities for education and employment abroad, allowing youth to gain exposure to advanced technologies and

international expertise. He urged Balochistan's talented youth to harness their abilities in service of the nation, asserting that knowledge and technical skills are critical for strengthening Pakistan. The Governor emphasized that peace and non-violence remain essential foundations for the province's overall development.

Replying to another query, he said Pakistan and the world have no choice but to cooperate as all are interwoven; facing cross-cutting issues.

President Zardari said the 18th Constitutional Amendment was meant to guide the nation to ensure its sustainable future and survival as it honored public sentiment and ownership of the decisions made by the masses pertaining to the national wealth.

"Pakistan believes that every country had its national interest. We do not encourage war and conflicts among nations rather promote repeated dialogue to resolve issues. Our region is volatile but I am hopeful that no conflict triggers in the region," he said.

Pakistan Peoples Party, he said believes in the vision of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto to inculcate the sense of leadership in women and empower them by granting their due rights.

He also paid homage to former prime minister Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto for her vision and struggle for democracy.

## Food Minister leads..

Continued from page 1

curity and development of the country and said that their eternal sacrifices are a source of pride for all of us and we all have together strengthened the hands of the Pak Army and the government.

He said that the cowardly attack on Quetta and other districts of Balochistan by Fita-ul-Khawarij in the past few days was thwarted by our army and other institutions by sacrificing their lives and fighting the terrorists bravely, which is appreciable.

He said that the entire nation is standing behind the Pakistan Army, the participation of thousands of

## Gwadar..

Continued from page 1

Gwadar Airport is linked with other districts through major highways including the M-8 Rato-dero-Gwadar motorway, the N-85 Hoshab-Surab highway and the N-10 Makran Coastal Highway connecting Gwadar with Karachi via Pasni and Ormara. The N-25 Karachhi-Quetta (Chaman) highway has also been upgraded with federal funding.

Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry said the federal government is responsible for ensuring road connectivity between Gwadar Port, the airport and other parts of Balochistan, while development of warehousing and storage facilities at the airport falls under the Defence Division (Aviation), the Civil Aviation Authority and the Pakistan Airports Authority. Responding to a supplementary question raised by Senator Danish Kumar regarding the Rato-dero road and Gwadar-related infrastructure, the minister said the matter primarily fell within the planning domain, adding that extensive details had already been shared in response to the main question. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry told the Senate on Friday.

INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MEQA QUETTA-SFU

INCHARGE SFU, NADRA KHANOZAI-SFU

INCHARGE SFU, NADRA DUREJI-SFU

INCHARGE SFU, NADRA JAFFARABAD-SFU

INCHARGE SFU, NADRA JAFFARABAD-SFU



ISLAMABAD: Staff Officer CM Balochistan Syed Ameen presenting bouquet to Senior Leader of JUI Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri on behalf of Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti.

TENDER NOTICE																												
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Tender Fee 1500 PKR and Bid Security 3% for each work																												
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S. No</th><th>TSE Number</th><th>Name of Work</th><th>Last Date and Time of Bid Submission</th><th>Tender Opening</th><th>Estimated Cost</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td><td>TSE-252602973703</td><td>DRILLING &amp; DEVELOPMENT OF BORE OF VARIOUS VILLAGES IN DISTRICT MUSA KHAJIL UNDER BDSI PHASE-II FOR THE YEAR 2025-26</td><td>04 March,2026 11:00 AM</td><td>12:00 PM</td><td>41,036,000</td></tr> <tr> <td>2</td><td>TSE-252602973643</td><td>DRILLING &amp; DEVELOPMENT OF BORE OF VARIOUS VILLAGES IN DISTRICT MUSA KHAJIL UNDER BDSI PHASE-II FOR THE YR 2025-26</td><td>04 March,2026 11:00 AM</td><td>12:00 PM</td><td>30,737,400</td></tr> <tr> <td>3</td><td>TSE-252602973573</td><td>DRILLING &amp; DEVELOPMENT OF BORE OF VARIOUS VILLAGES IN DISTRICT MUSA KHAJIL UNDER BDSI PHASE-II FOR THE YEAR 2025-26</td><td>04 March,2026 11:00 AM</td><td>12:00 PM</td><td>30,803,000</td></tr> </tbody> </table>					S. No	TSE Number	Name of Work	Last Date and Time of Bid Submission	Tender Opening	Estimated Cost	1	TSE-252602973703	DRILLING & DEVELOPMENT OF BORE OF VARIOUS VILLAGES IN DISTRICT MUSA KHAJIL UNDER BDSI PHASE-II FOR THE YEAR 2025-26	04 March,2026 11:00 AM	12:00 PM	41,036,000	2	TSE-252602973643	DRILLING & DEVELOPMENT OF BORE OF VARIOUS VILLAGES IN DISTRICT MUSA KHAJIL UNDER BDSI PHASE-II FOR THE YR 2025-26	04 March,2026 11:00 AM	12:00 PM	30,737,400	3	TSE-252602973573	DRILLING & DEVELOPMENT OF BORE OF VARIOUS VILLAGES IN DISTRICT MUSA KHAJIL UNDER BDSI PHASE-II FOR THE YEAR 2025-26	04 March,2026 11:00 AM	12:00 PM	30,803,000
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EXECUTIVE ENGINEER  
PHE DIVISION MUSA KHAJIL

PRQ No.3765/13-02-2026

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**S. No.** **Name of Works** **Estimated Cost** **Tender Fee** **Bid Security**

1 Renovation of GBPS Mengalai (BEMIS Code 15067) (Balochistan Special Development Initiative) BDSI Phase-II TSE-252602973223

2 Renovation of GBPS Ibrahim (BEMIS Code 1396) (Balochistan Special Development Initiative) BDSI Phase-II TSE-252602973303

3 Renovation of GGPS Norak (BEMIS Code 15067) (Balochistan Special Development Initiative) BDSI Phase-II TSE-252602973363

4 Renovation of GBMS Kili Aadamzai (BEMIS Code 1433) (Balochistan Special Development Initiative) BDSI Phase-II TSE-252602973223

5 Renovation of GBPS Shamshozi (BEMIS Code 15068) (Balochistan Special Development Initiative) BDSI Phase-II TSE-252602973413

6 Renovation of GBMS Habibzai (Daman Habibzai) (BEMIS Code 1440) (Balochistan Special Development Initiative) BDSI Phase-II TSE-252602973423

7 Renovation of GBHS Malik Faizullah Segi (BEMIS Code 1447) (Balochistan Special Development Initiative) BDSI Phase-II TSE-252602973453

8 Renovation of Govt. College Abdul Rehmanzai (Balochistan Special Development Initiative) BDSI Phase-II TSE-252602973473

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 Turn over of at least 4,000,000 PKR Amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at Call of 3% 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 on February 2026 during office hours on working days **Last Date of bid submission:** The Tenders must be submitted latest by 04 March, 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:** Jangal Pirzala Road Killa Abdullah Phone no: 0337992321 Email: [executivengbillsabu@gmail.com](mailto:executivengbillsabu@gmail.com)

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**S. No.** **Name of Works** **E/Cost**

1 REPAIR AND REHABILITATION DIGP KALAT 1,500,000 RANGE OFFICE AT KHUZDAR

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 Turn over of at least 4,000,000 PKR Amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at Call of 3% 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 on February 2026 during office hours on working days **Last Date of bid submission:** The Tenders must be submitted latest by 27 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:** Near DC office Khuzdar, Chakar Khan Road Phone no: 0337992321 Email: [executivengbillsabu@gmail.com](mailto:executivengbillsabu@gmail.com)

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**S. No.** **Name of Works** **E/Cost**

1 DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE KALAT RANGE AT KHUZDAR 1,500,000

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## Minister takes notice of absence of field officers, directs to ensure development projects monitoring

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Minister for Communications and Works (C&W) Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa on Friday took strict notice of absence of field officers, directs to ensure monitoring of development projects.

He also issued instructions to ensure effective monitoring of development projects and timely provision of public services at all costs.

The provincial minister said that reports received from the district administration have pointed out that several field officers are not regularly present at their places of deployment, due to which not only public problems are increasing but the pace of ongoing development

schemes is also being affected. He termed this situation unacceptable and made it clear that the absence of government officers would not be tolerated under any circumstances.

He directed the concerned authorities to set up an effective monitoring system to ensure the attendance of all field officers and to start a series of surprise inspections.

The Minister said that the timely completion of development projects is the top priority of the government and strict disciplinary action would be taken against any kind of negligence or negligence in this regard.

He further said that the provision of basic facilities to the people, construction

and repair of roads and timely completion of residential projects are the responsibility of the government.

If field officers do not discharge their responsibilities properly, the public will have to bear the direct loss, which is unacceptable in any case, he said.

The Minister directed all the concerned officers to ensure their attendance, regularly monitor the ongoing schemes and submit detailed progress reports within the stipulated time.

He also instructed the district administration to continuously review the performance at the field level and provide immediate information to the concerned authorities about any kind of shortcomings.

QUETTA: Deputy Commissioner Quetta Mehrullah Badini presides over the meeting to review progress on development works at Airport Road Quetta

## Gwadar Development Authority resolves water shortages, elevates daily supply to over 25mln gallons

### Independent Report

GWADAR: The Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) has successfully addressed the city's long-standing water crisis, implementing sustainable measures that have boosted daily water supply to over 25 million gallons. At a media briefing, Director General Moen-ur-Rehman Khan highlighted the significant improvements in Gwadar's water situation, despite severe shortages caused by consecutive years of low rainfall.

Over the past two years, the drying of Sood Dam and Ankrah Dam created acute scarcity. In August 2025, the provincial

government transferred water supply responsibilities from the Public Health Engineering Department to GDA, presenting an immediate challenge. GDA responded by launching both short-term emergency solutions and long-term infrastructure projects to stabilize water availability.

Chief Engineer Haji Syed Muhammad outlined a major 11 billion PKR federally funded water supply project, including roughly 150 km of main transmission lines, 150 km of distribution pipelines, four water tanks with a combined 10 million-gallon capacity, and 11 fully equipped pumping stations.

The tanker operations, previously prone to irregularities, were executed transparently at a cost of PKR 70 crore, with negotiated below-market rates for water delivery.

QUETTA: A delegation of Wapda Hydro Union (CBA) led by Haji Ramzan Achakzai meeting with Chief Executive Officer QESCO Engineer Yousef Khan.

## Quetta Metropolitan assets to be harnessed for public benefit, says Secretary Local Govt

### Independent Report

QUETTA: Secretary for Local Government and Rural Development, Abdul Rauf Baloch, has called for the strategic use of Quetta Metropolitan Corporation (QMC) properties to generate revenue that directly benefits citizens, emphasizing transparency and efficiency in management.

Chairing a detailed review meeting, Abdul Rauf Baloch examined the legal status, leases, rents, and overall revenue potential of QMC assets. The session was attended by Chief Metropolitan Officer Nazar Zehri, Additional Secretary Local Government and Rural Development Sanaullah Qureshi, Administration Officer Mohammad Shahid, Legal Officer Abdullah Advocate, and other senior officials from QMC and the Local Government Department.

Officials briefed the Secretary on the current condition of properties, operational challenges, and opportunities to boost revenue streams.

## Pishin DC urges transparent and lawful mining practices in Khanozai

### Independent Report

PISHIN: Deputy Commissioner Pishin, Mansoor Ahmed Qazi, convened a high-level meeting in Khanozai to evaluate ongoing mining operations and administrative oversight. Senior officials from the Mines & Minerals Department and other relevant authorities attended the session. The discussion centered on current mining activities, lease management, enforcement of regulations, environmental safeguards, and revenue collection. DC Qazi instructed that all mining operations must follow transparent, merit-based procedures.

According to press release issued here on Friday, the full-day simulation brought together students, youth leaders, academics, policy practitioners, and civil society representatives to enhance youth understanding of global climate negotiations and bridge the gap between climate policy and grassroots action.

The program commenced with an opening address by a representative of the Directorate of Youth Affairs, who emphasized the critical role of youth-led climate initiatives in fostering climate leadership, civic engagement, and policy awareness among Pakistan's youth.

A key highlight of the

narotics, including 2,845.24 grams of hashish, 2,443.756 grams of ice/crystal meth, 114 grams of heroin, 15,740 kilograms of opium, 60 grams of morphine, 1,245 grams of crystal, 1,132 bottles of liquor, and 564 beer cans.

In total, police apprehended 472 wanted fugitives and absconders, along with 673 additional suspects involved in various criminal activities. Authorities also recovered PKR 632,500 in cash, 35 tolas of gold, and removed illegal black window tints from 2,782 vehicles.

The crackdown is ongoing in Quetta and seven other provincial ranges, aiming to create a safe, peaceful, and crime-free environment while preventing criminals from evading justice across districts.

Targeted actions against drug trafficking resulted in the arrest of 230 suspects and the seizure of USTA MUHAMMAD: Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ramzan Palal being briefed by XEN Building Muhammad Yaseen about underconstruction District Complex.

The initiative aimed to build practical knowledge of the Conference of the Parties (COP) process, empower young people, and promote meaningful youth participation in climate governance at both provincial and national levels.

During the panel, Faizan Khan highlighted the importance of youth-led water governance and community-based conservation.

Wali Khilji, Director

EPA, discussed regulatory challenges, groundwater depletion, and the urgent need for stronger environmental enforcement alongside enhanced youth-government collaboration. Seema Naz (IDSP) emphasized

inclusive, community-driven approaches, underscoring women's participation and the integration of local knowledge in climate adaptation strategies.

Climate activist Zunaira Durrani focused on climate justice, youth advocacy, and amplifying marginalized voices through effective policy engagement.

Laraib Ehtasham (PMU-BESP) stressed the integration of environmental safeguards and social protection in development projects, highlighting youth involvement in sustainable and climate-resilient interventions.

## Khetran mediates land dispute, promotes harmony in Union Council Sadar

### Independent Report

BARKHAN: Provincial Minister for Public Health Engineering, Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran, successfully mediated a land dispute between the Syed and Zakwani communities in Union Council Sadar, highlighting the importance of peaceful and lawful conflict resolution.

During his visit, Minister Khetran inspected the contested land and engaged with both parties, including local elders and community representatives, carefully considering their perspectives. He emphasized that disputes should be

settled through legal channels, justice, and mutual respect to maintain lasting social cohesion and stability. After reviewing records, local customs, and relevant facts, the minister issued an immediate decision, which was accepted by both communities. The parties expressed appreciation for his timely and equitable intervention.

The Balochistan government reiterated its commitment to addressing public grievances effectively and fostering peace, aiming to create an environment conducive to stability and regional development.

QUETTA: Secretary Local Government and Rural Development Abdul Rauf Baloch presides over the meeting regarding properties of Metropolitan Corporation Quetta.

## Quetta Division launches aggressive campaign to eradicate opium cultivation

### Independent Report

QUETTA: Authorities in Quetta Division have intensified efforts to eliminate illegal opium cultivation, targeting over 70,000 acres of land currently used for poppy farming. The crackdown is a coordinated operation involving the district administration, police, Frontier Corps, and Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF).

Operations have so far led to the destruction of more than 150 tube wells and associated structures, confiscation of 1,316 solar panels and 300 water tanks, filing of multiple FIRs, and the addition of several individuals to the Fourth Schedule list.

Commissioner

Shahzaib Khan Kakar has ordered all agencies to accelerate eradication activities to ensure crops are destroyed ahead of the March-April harvest. He stressed strict legal measures against offenders and instructed the ANF to complete surveys and submit detailed reports promptly.

Officials noted that the eradication campaign is in its initial phase, with further operations planned following comprehensive crop identification.

The Commissioner emphasized that coordinated planning, vigilant monitoring, and timely enforcement are essential to fully eliminate narcotics cultivation across Quetta Division.

QUETTA: Assistant Commissioner Mach Liaqat Ali Jatoi visiting the Matric examination centre.

## Kiran Baloch calls for strong legal framework and action to empower women in Pakistan

### Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Kiran Baloch, Chairperson of the Balochistan Commission on the Status of Women and senior Pakistan Peoples Party leader, highlighted the urgent need for robust legislation and effective enforcement to address the challenges faced by women in Balochistan and across Pakistan.

Speaking at a consultative session organized by the National Commission on the Status of Women in Islamabad, Kiran Baloch emphasized the importance of ensuring women's active and meaningful participation in policy-making. The meeting brought together officials from government departments, civil society organizations, and experts

to discuss strategies for safeguarding women's rights, promoting gender equality, and advancing sustainable development goals. Kiran Baloch underscored that genuine empowerment requires providing women with access to education, healthcare, economic independence, and political opportunities. She stressed that women must be placed at the core of decision-making processes to achieve lasting societal impact.

Participants at the meeting pledged to enhance collaboration between state institutions, political leadership, and relevant organizations to implement practical measures aimed at strengthening gender equality and protecting women's rights throughout Pakistan.

QUETTA: Youth celebrate Basant Festival in Quetta by flying Kites.

## BoP agenda

Donald Trump's Board of Peace is due to meet in Washington next week, with Pakistan among other Muslim states scheduled to attend. As per the meeting's reported agenda, it will examine the Gaza situation while also discussing the BoP's mandate and structure.

However, unless concrete proposals to stop the continuing Israeli violence in the occupied territories and hold the Zionist state to account for the atrocities it has committed in Gaza emerge, the meeting may prove to be nothing more than a photo op. The situation in the West Bank is critical, while new evidence has emerged of barbaric methods used by Israel in the Strip during its bloodthirsty campaign. Tel Aviv must be made to answer for these crimes if the BoP is to be taken seriously.

Regarding the West Bank, the Israeli cabinet has recently passed new regulations that allow settlers to buy land in the occupied territory — a clear violation of international law. As the UN rights chief has put it, these moves will lead to "rendering a viable Palestinian state impossible". But that is what Tel Aviv appears determined to do.

Meanwhile, several Muslim states, including Pakistan, have also slammed "continued Israeli expansionist policies" in the West Bank. Separately, an Al Jazeera investigation has revealed that Israel used monstrous weapons in Gaza that may have left no trace of their victims. The internationally banned thermal and thermobaric weapons, many supplied by the US, were used to 'evaporate' nearly 3,000 Palestinians. These weapons generate unbearable temperatures, and usually no traces are found of the victims.

It is shocking that the Israelis — whose forefathers perished in Nazi gas chambers and ovens — are now using similarly horrific methods on innocent Palestinians. But perhaps such revelations should not shock, as the Zionists have a long history of committing war crimes.

In light of these facts, the Muslim bloc at the upcoming BoP meeting must take a firm stand. The illegal land grab in the West Bank must cease immediately. Moreover, Israel must be held accountable for using illegal weapons on Palestinian non-combatants. It should also be noted that nearly 600 Palestinians have been murdered by Israel in Gaza since last October's ceasefire. All these issues must be discussed at the BoP.

Instead of conjuring up strange fantasies of a 'Gaza Riviera', the board must focus on the immediate cessation of violence against the Palestinian people, commit to a clear roadmap for a viable Palestinian state, and hold Israel to account for its diabolical behaviour. But with Israel itself part of the BoP — and Mr Trump beholden to his powerful Zionist backers — it is difficult to see this happening. Unless firm steps are taken to confront these issues, the BoP will remain a pointless entity.

## Faisal Bari

When I look back on my years of education — K-12 to university — and across cultures, and think of the good or outstanding teachers I had — and I did have some — among the many traits of such teachers, the one I find seldom talked about is their sense of humour. Without exception, all the teachers I remember as having a positive impact on me and my learning had a keen sense of humour. They used it to varying degrees, and in different ways, but they were also discerning: they could enjoy a good joke, see the funny side of things, and use humour when needed. But, it was always to create a more conducive learning environment or to enhance learning and never to bring a student down. So, they could laugh with us, and did, but they never laughed at us.

I remember, with a lot of fondness, how one of our Urdu teachers had,

with one phrase, brought a classmate of ours out of his despondency when he was really down and out. A philosophy tutor was expounding on the limits of the possible. He was quite overweight, so he said that he could, of course, not outrun Ben Johnson (sprinter), but then he looked down, cussed his ample beer belly and said, "That does not mean I could not be a lot more fit than where I am right now." The class had a good laugh. And understood what he was explaining quite well.

Literature that looks at the characteristics of 'good and/or effective' teachers finds that students do identify a 'sense of humour' as one of the traits that good teachers usually possess. But this should not be surprising. Humour is as basic a part of the human experience as any other. Good teachers have many traits that define good and balanced human beings. Why would humour not show up as a trait in good teachers?

However, research on whether humour helps with teaching and learning is more mixed. Humour can improve the class environment, enhance trust, help students open up, make material and context more memorable, improve retention, facilitate class management and sometimes even manage or resolve a clash.

It can be a difficult tool to use as well. If teachers use it to make fun of students, put them down, laugh at them or others, or crack jokes in a way that makes students uncomfortable, it can turn students away from learning and may even make classrooms less effective.

Humour is difficult to define, though most of us do find something or the other humorous. Humour is difficult to use as a lot depends on how it is received by students. And student diversity, which is evident in all classrooms, means that the teacher has to be aware of a multiplicity of tastes and sensibilities.

Some literature does show that course-related humour might work most easily as students are already attuned to this area.

This is no different from the use of humour in other aspects of our lives. Humour can be important in office settings, workplaces and meetings too. But, again, it can be used well or poorly; it can enhance comfort or reduce it; it can improve productivity or destroy it.

In the early years, when children are young, situations often turn amusing. And teachers have to be quite adept at managing them effectively. Not using these situations constructively and adopting strictness all the time is not an optimal state. Nor is letting go of class discipline. The ideal engagement with students lies in the reflective and effective use of humour.

In later years, especially at the university level, the use of humour has to be a lot more deliberate and thoughtful. In

The use of humour is not subject-dependent. My good teachers specialised in different areas. In fact, one of the funniest teachers we had was a brilliant maths instructor. I have taught courses in philosophy, education, leadership, management, game theory and various sub-areas within economics. Classes, across all of these, have generated humorous situations or have afforded opportunities for the use of humour as a tool for enhancing learning and managing the class environment.

Prepared jokes or lines seldom work. They look too practised and come across as artificial. A genuine propensity for humour means recognising an opportunity — an opportune time and place — when humour can be used effectively. This is one reason why the use of humour as a technique and tool in teacher training is not often talked about. It is hard to train sensibility towards humour. But there is no

reason why it cannot be cultivated through concerted effort and self-reflective practice on the part of teachers. If a teacher has many insecurities, it will be hard for him or her to be a good instructor or to use humour. Personality does play a role in this.

Parents know the value of humour when they interact and work with their children. The situation is not too different for teachers when they are interacting with young people for teaching and learning. Humour is an important part of human life. It should definitely be part of teaching and learning, and of our classrooms and intellectual interactions as well.

But, as with other human capabilities, it can be used well or poorly — to build or to destroy.

A teacher, a builder for sure, has to be extra vigilant in how he or she employs humour, but there can be no good teaching without some humour in the classroom.

## Police reforms: missed opportunity

### Afzal Ali Shigri

In May 2018, when public confidence in the criminal justice system (CJS) was visibly eroding, nine retired and seven serving inspectors general of police, under the aegis of the Law and Justice Commission, came together to confront the question of why policing consistently failed to deliver justice. Months of intensive deliberation by the Police Reforms Committee resulted in the comprehensive report titled Police Reforms: Way Forward — a professional blueprint drafted by the highest ranks of the police service, with the active engagement of senior members of the judiciary. Yet it was ignored.

The central diagnosis of the report was stark but accurate. Flawed investigations are the primary cause of high acquittal rates in Pakistan, owing to poor evidence collection, weak forensic support, inadequate case preparation and interference in investigations. The result is not merely acquittal of the accused; it is systemic discrediting of the entire CJS. The police blame the prosecution, the prosecution questions the investigation,

the judiciary is accused of being lenient, and citizens lose faith in all three. The committee identified three structural weaknesses: politicisation of police command and transfers, weak accountability mechanisms and chronically deficient investigations due to lack of specialisation and resources. These observations were grounded in decades of operational experience and supported by professional analysis.

At the heart of the report was the drafting of a 'Model Police Law' to meet the demands of 21<sup>st</sup>-century policing, which sought to ensure that the police would be politically neutral, democratically controlled, administratively and operationally autonomous, effectively accountable and professionally specialised. It was an attempt to balance au-t-o-nomy with structured oversight through public sa-fety commissions and independent police complaints authorities. The report concluded that inde-pendence without accountability breeds imp-u-ni-ty and accountability without inde-pendence breeds subservience. Sustainable reform requires

human smuggling. Forensic laboratories were to be made operationally autonomous. Scientific and digital evidence was to be given primacy. Without structural separation, investigation officers remain overburdened with law-and-order assignments, VIP security and other duties. The report recognised that improving conviction rates requires institutional redesign.

The section dealing with terrorism noted the abysmally low success rate in the prosecution of terrorism offences and the inconsistent conviction statistics claimed by different provinces. It observed the misuse of anti-terror laws for ordinary crimes. Recommendations included specialised training for investigators and prosecutors, clearer statutory definitions, improved evidentiary standards and stronger coordination among agencies. Another component of the report, urban policing, recognised the need for differentiated policing in densely populated centres. The committee proposed urban police divisions that would serve populations of up to half a million, each with func-

tional wings for operations, investigation, traffic, security, internal accountability, community relations and IT. The burdened court system was also addressed, and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms under legal safeguards were suggested to resolve minor conflicts swiftly and affordably. Accountability mechanisms were treated with equal seriousness. The report acknowledged public grievances such as failure to register cases, harassment, abuse of power, defective investigations and other abuses, and proposed strengthening internal accountability branches while also operationalising independent external complaints authorities.

So why was such an in-depth report sidelined? The answer lies less in constitutional debate and more in political economy. Professional reform reduces discretionary political control over postings, transfers, investigations, and law-and-order deployment. In a system where influence over police machinery is a tool of patronage, autonomy is perceived as loss of control. Political parties routinely promise police reforms in their manifestos.

## Price of atheism

### Sadiq Karim Soofi

Perhaps the most significant implication of atheism — at least of the naturalist variety — is the foregoing of objective morality. If all that exists in the naturalist worldview is physical matter, then only that physical matter can be real. Moral values and beliefs are mere constructions of the human mind. To say that anything is merely a product of the mind's activity, with no independent existence beyond that, is to deny the objective reality of that thing. The atheist, therefore, cannot help but conclude that morality deals with subjective opinions, not objective facts.

This view, that moral frameworks are merely agreements between human beings and nothing more, is widely popular today. However, this subjective conception of morality poses a serious challenge to our ordinary use of moral language and our innate understanding of the nature of moral beliefs.

Let me explain. When we condemn the slaughter of innocent women and children in Gaza, we don't say: this is wrong because, and only insofar as, I believe it to be wrong. No. We seem to say much more than that. What we really mean to say is: this is wrong, period.

Something about our moral claims feels so true to us that we make a claim to its objective truth. In that moment, morality is not something we have constructed through our interaction with each other. When we make moral claims, we reach out to a realm of being that is independent of human minds and their agreement.

Look at it another way. Some moral claims are so obviously true that

frameworks, that can help adjudicate between them.

There is no open field of objective morality to which the Zionist may be invited and in which the atheist's claim may be grounded. If the atheist is coherent and honest, he will pay the price of his atheism and will forgo objective morality, which is easier said than done.

The religious man, on the other hand, is perfectly justified in making moral claims with the force of objective truth. He may continue saying to the genocidal Zionist: you are wrong, period!

In the religious picture, there is no chasm between 'is' and 'ought'. Everything that is necessary has associated oughts. These duties are determined by the Creator who bestows things with their ex-stence and maintains them in that state.

If nothing else, each created being stands in a moral relationship with its Creator, in whose mercy it is enveloped long before it becomes capable of doing anything to deserve it, for the act of creation is itself an act of mercy. Each existent being thus finds itself in a state of debt, which it can only repay in the currency of its own self.

Even the atoms, stones, and trees of the natural world are conscious beings preoccupied in glorifying their Lord. There is no such thing as inert matter devoid of import.

If the basis of our moral duties is determined from the moment of our inception, we don't get to construct moral frameworks on our own. A theistic worldview can justify our ordinary use of moral language and can explain our innate sense that morality deals with an objective realm of values.

## A new Bangladesh?

### Asim Sajjad Akhtar

Eighteen months on from the momentous mass protests which upended political life in Bangladesh, the long-awaited general election has finally come to pass, ushering in what many are celebrating as a new era of popular sovereignty. Beyond surface appearances, however, there is a distinct sense that old wine is being repackaged in new bottles.

The Jamaat-i-Islami and Bangladesh National Party (BNP) will be the two biggest parties in parliament. The latter's leader, Tarique Rahman, son of military dictator Gen Ziaur Rahman, is set to become prime minister, his mother, the late Khaleda Zia, was PM twice in the 1990s and early 2000s. The JI, meanwhile, has literally come back from the dead following the execution of its main leaders in the mid-2010s for their opposition to Bangladesh's independence movement.

The only genuinely 'new' actor in Bangladesh's latest chapter, the organic student leadership which spearheaded the movement to oust ex-PM Sheikh Hasina and her Awami League (AL) party, is represented to an extent by the recently formed National Citizen Party, which chose to ally with the JI in the lead-up to the poll.

Election day was notable for the fact that voters cast two separate ballots — one to elect members of parliament and the second as a referendum to introduce sweeping constitutional amendments. Bangladesh has held three referendums before this one — two were shambolic and designed to rubber-stamp military dictatorships. The present one has followed the banning of the AL under a dubious anti-terrorism law. It

remains to be seen whether Bangladesh's version of constitutional reform resembles the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> amendment abominations in this country.

Bangladesh is, like Pakistan, an extremely young country. At least half of its 120 million voters have never voted before. The student-led movement to depose the Hasina regime was a coming-of-age moment for many young people. The further exercise of their political agency through the vote is no small matter. Yet most of the voting public has been swayed by rhetoric around 'corruption', that age-old empty signifier. Neither the interim government nor the three main political parties that contested seemed interested in naming, let alone addressing, deeper structural challenges like the limits of the cheap labour-centric export-oriented capitalist growth model and the powers of military, civil and judicial bureaucracies.

On the other end of the subcontinent, the establishment and mainstream intelligentsia celebrated recent events in Bangladesh, gleefully watching the India-friendly AL's demise and the resuscitation of right-wing forces that have a much greater ideological synergy with the usual suspects here. It should be noted, for instance, that the BNP and JI fielded very few women candidates.

Pakistan's youth, who in August 2024 proved that revolutionary imaginaries can still motivate a collective politics of the people, will have their work cut out to hold the new elected government to account, both with regard to the economic needs of young working people and the preservation of democratic freedoms. Yet it is true that the current political climate in Bangladesh feels more open and hopeful than the gloom engulfing young people here.

This despondency is not just due to state authoritarianism or the complicity of the PML-N and PPP. The differences between the two countries, and the organised power of young people in particular, are explained in part by the fact that student unions are alive and well in Bangladesh. This foundational democratic institution has been conspicuous by its absence in this country for 42 years now, the ban enforced by Gen Ziaur Haq's dictatorial regime in February 1984 still being in force. We need such nurseries of democracy to seed organised political forces that can genuinely challenge power wielders and their lackeys.

## 1st-ever national parliamentary dialogue calls for coordinated action against terrorism

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Thursday concluded its first-ever National Parliamentary Dialogue on Enhancing Parliamentary Engagement and Institutional Capacities for Counter Terrorism (CT), Countering Terrorist Financing (CFT), and Countering Violent Extremism (CVE), with participants calling for sustained and coordinated action by federal and provincial governments and legislatures.

The two-day dialogue, held in Islamabad, culminated in the unanimous adoption of a comprehensive resolution aimed at strengthening parliamentary oversight, institutionalised inter-agency coordination, and long-term investment in legal and operational capacities to address evolving security challenges.

The landmark dialogue, jointly organised by the Sustainable Social Development Organization (SSDO) and the British High Commission, brought together parliamentarians, government officials, law enforcement representatives, academia and civil so-



Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presents awards at Asia-Pacific Shelter and Settlements Forum 2026 in Karachi.

## AJK cabinet cancels legislator's state subject being fake

MUZAFFARABAD (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Cabinet on Friday approved cancellation of state subject and domicile of a member Legislative Assembly elected on refugee seat from Multan after declared illegally issued to him through fake documents.

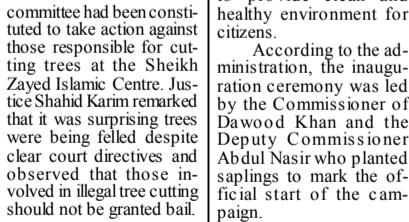
The cabinet meeting chaired by prime minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore also approved the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Service Tribunals (Amendment) Act, 2026, the revised budget for the Bag Development Authority for the fiscal year 2024-25, the estimated budget for 2025-26, and the allocation of state land (Khalsa Sarkar) for the establishment of Police Station Sharda.

## Smog case: LHC seeks tree policy report

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Friday directed authorities to submit a report on the formulation of a comprehensive tree policy.

The court also ordered the Advocate General Punjab to appear at the next hearing. Justice Shahid Karim heard petitions filed by Haroon Farooq and others regarding measures to curb environmental degradation.

During the proceedings, Member Judicial Water and Environmental Commission Syed Kamal Haider informed the court that a meeting had been held under the commission's supervision concerning tree protection. It was decided that any decision regarding tree cutting must be made in consultation with the



Activists of Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protest in Karachi over health concerns of PTI Founder Imran Khan.

citizens on a single platform to collectively assess emerging security challenges and propose actionable policy responses.

Delegates unanimously adopted a resolution calling for the establishment of dedicated parliamentary committees on Counter Terrorism (CT), Countering Terrorist Financing (CFT), and Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) marking a significant shift toward institutionalised democratic oversight and engagement.

Speakers at the inaugural session reaffirmed Pakistan's resolve to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, while underscoring the importance of democratic oversight, whole-of-government approach, and community engagement in consolidating hard-won security gains.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, addressing the opening session, emphasised the need for unity and collective responsibility.

"Terrorism remains a shared national challenge. Unity between federal and provincial governments is

not optional; it is essential," he stated. "Parliament must lead and engage the communities in our fight against terrorism."

National Coordinator of the National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA), Jawad Ahmed Dogar, noted that while Pakistan has developed a robust legal and operational framework, emerging and increasingly complex threats require closer inter-agency cooperation and enhanced institutional capacities. Representing the British High Commission, Alasdair Grant, Counsellor for Security and Justice, acknowledged Pakistan's significant progress in counterterrorism and countering terrorist financing efforts, and reaffirmed the United Kingdom's continued support. "The UK remains committed to strengthening Pakistan's counterterrorism framework through cooperation, capacity building, and institutional partnerships," he said.

SSDO Executive Director Syed Kausar Abbas highlighted the importance of bridging the gap between policy formulation and implementation.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi addressing Mediation Training Course ceremony at National Institute of Public Administration.

## CM Maryam inaugurates new ICU, hails 10,000 free heart surgeries for children

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Friday expressed gratitude over the successful provision of free heart surgeries to more than 10,000 children from across the country under the Chief Minister Children Heart Surgery Program.

She expressed these views during her visit to the Children's Hospital Lahore, where she inaugurated a newly established intensive care unit (ICU). The chief minister toured the facility, met children undergoing treatment, and conveyed affection and encouragement to young patients and their families.

Maryam Nawaz also attended a special ceremony at the hospital marking the completion of 10,000 sur-

geries. She sat among the children and interacted warmly with those who had undergone cardiac procedures.

Provincial Health Minister briefed the chief minister that a total of 10,331 surgeries have been completed so far under the initiative.

Vice Chancellor Prof.

Masood Sadiq informed participants that approximately 50,000 children are born with congenital heart disease in Pakistan each year, nearly half of whom require immediate surgical intervention.

To further strengthen pediatric cardiac care, the chief minister has increased the number of cardiac surgeons at the hospital to 12 and cardiac physicians to

34. Officials added that under the Chief Minister Transplant Card, 800 cochlear implant procedures and 200 bone marrow transplants for children have also been carried out free of cost.

According to official details, the highest number of free surgeries were performed on children from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (425), followed by Azad Jammu and Kashmir (250), federal areas (107), Gilgit-Baltistan (34), Balochistan (28), and Sindh (27), demonstrating the program's nationwide outreach.

A special documentary highlighting the achievements and impact of the Chief Minister Children Heart Surgery Program was also screened at the ceremony.

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## IRSA releases 92,200 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (INP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Friday released 92,200 cusecs of water from various river systems with inflow of 35,400 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in the River Indus at Tarbela Dam stood at 1486.07 feet which was 84.07 feet higher than the dead level of 1402.00 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam were recorded as 12,500 cusecs and 30,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1194.



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, addressing participants of the 124th National Management Course during the "Strategic Policy Dialogue" at the National School of Public Policy, Pakistan Administrative Staff College Lahore.

## Punjab issues security guidelines ahead of Ramadan

LAHORE (INP): The

Punjab Home Department has issued comprehensive security guidelines ahead of Ramadan, directing authorities to implement strict measures to maintain public safety and order.

Officials said security

exit points of cities, with

biometric verification sys-

tems also being used. Law

enforcement agencies will

enhance patrols, search op-

erations and checkpoint

monitoring around sensitive

locations.

Authorities have in-

structed installation of

CCTV cameras,

walkthrough gates and

search lights before

Ramadan begins. A three-

layer security system,

along with barriers and

razor wire, will be used at key

worship sites during peak

prayer times.

Security personnel

deployed on duty during

Iftar will be provided

special arrangements for meals.

Deployment of volunteers

and private security guards

will be done in consulta-

tion with local administra-

tion.

Additional security

personnel will be deployed

at mosques, madrassas and

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ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry chairs a high-level review meeting on the Sea-to-Steel initiative at Port Qasim.

## Commerce Minister calls for engineering-Led industrial transformation at NUTECH

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Wednesday emphasized the urgent need for aligning academia with industry and preparing Pakistan for the fast-evolving global technological landscape, while addressing a gathering at National University of Technology (NUTECH) as the Chief Guest.

The event was attended by senior faculty members, students, industry representatives and policymakers. Senator Nauman Wazir also addressed the audience and highlighted the importance of innovation-driven growth and policy consistency for sustainable industrial development, said a release issued here on Friday.

In his keynote address, Jam Kamal Khan underlined that the world is undergoing an unpre-

dicted technological transformation driven by artificial intelligence, data analytics, quantum computing, automation and digital platforms. He stated that nations that invest in engineering research and technical human capital are shaping the future global economy.

"Technology is no longer optional," the Minister said, adding that a single smartphone today empowers individuals with access to global knowledge. He observed that artificial intelligence tools are transforming decision-making, research, governance and business models, and Pakistan must position itself proactively within this emerging AI-driven ecosystem.

Drawing international comparisons, the Commerce Minister noted that

## Weekly inflation declines by 0.59pc

ISLAMABAD (APP): The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), decreased by 0.59 percent for the combined consumption group during the week ended on February 12, 2026, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday.

According to the PBS data, the SPI for the week under review was recorded at 331.81 points, down from 333.79 points last week. On a year-on-year basis, the SPI registered an increase of 4.26 percent.

The SPI for the lowest consumption group (up to Rs 17,732) decreased by 0.62 percent to 322.23 points from 324.23 points.

The SPI for consumption groups of Rs 17,733-22,888; Rs 22,889-29,517; Rs 29,518-44,175; and above Rs 44,175 declined by 0.62 percent, 0.59 percent, 0.62 percent and 0.58 percent, respectively.

During the week, out

of 51 items, prices of 15 (29.41 percent) items increased, 15 (29.41 percent) items decreased and 21 (41.18 percent) items remained stable.

Major commodities registering a week-on-week decrease included eggs (17.61%), tomatoes (12.02%), chicken (6.34%), onions (2.73%), potatoes (2.49%), salt powder (1.69%), LPG (1.57%), wheat flour (1.31%) and sugar (1.12%).

On the other hand, major commodities witnessing an increase included bananas (7.62%), garlic (4.35%), pulse mash (2.69%), chilies powder (1.68%), mutton (0.80%), beef (0.37%), mustard oil (0.34%), shirting (0.31%), vegetable ghee 1KG (0.08%), georgette (0.02%) and lawn printed (0.01%).

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## Bangladesh's BNP wins sweeping election majority, promises stability

### Monitoring Desk

DHAKA: The Bangladeshi Nationalist Party (BNP) won an overwhelming two-thirds majority on Friday in general elections, a result expected to bring stability after months of tumult following the ouster of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in a Gen Z-led uprising in 2024.

Latest counts in a vote seen as the South Asian nation's first truly competitive election in years gave the BNP and its allies at least 212 of the 299 seats up for grabs, domestic TV channels said.

The opposition Jamaat-i-Islami and its allies won 70 seats in the Jatiya Sangsads, or House of the Nation. The Election Commission put the BNP at 181 seats, the Jamaat-i-Islami at 61 and others at 7,

with full official results not expected before noon (11am PKT) on Friday.

The BNP, which returns to power after 20 years, thanked the people soon and called for special prayers on Friday for the nation and its people. "Despite winning... by a large margin of votes, no celebratory procession or rally shall be organised," the party said in a statement.

The National Citizen Party (NCP), led by youth activists who played a key role in toppling Hasina and was a part of the Jamaat alliance, won just five of the 30 seats it contested.

A clear outcome had been seen as key for stability in the Muslim-majority nation of 175 million after months of deadly anti-Hasina unrest disrupted everyday life and industries

such as garments, in the export of which Bangladesh is No.2 globally.

"A strong majority gives BNP the parliamentary strength to pass reforms efficiently and avoid legislative paralysis. That alone can create short-term political stability," Selim Raian, an economics professor at the University of Dhaka, told Reuters.

BNP leader Tarique Rahman is widely expected to be sworn in as prime minister. The son of the party's founder, former president Ziaur Rahman, he returned in December to the capital, Dhaka, from 18 years abroad.

In its manifesto, the BNP promised to prioritise job creation, protect low-income and marginal households and ensure fair prices to farmers.



France's President Emmanuel Macron on Friday said he wanted "mandatory electoral bans" for officials guilty of "antisemitic, racist, and discriminatory acts and remarks."

## Macron calls for stronger measures against antisemitism in France

### Monitoring Desk

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron called for intensified efforts to combat antisemitism in France, as recent government data showed hostility toward Jews has remained high despite a decline in recorded incidents last year.

France, which has the largest Jewish community in Europe, documented 1,320 antisemitic acts in 2025, accounting for 53 percent of all anti-religious incidents, according to a report released on Thursday by the Interior Ministry.

Even incidents fell percent year-on-year, they remained at "historically" levels for three consecutive years, the Ministry said. The increase followed the October 7, 2023, Hamas attack on Israel and subsequent conflict in Gaza.

"Schools, the justice

system, elected officials: everyone must be mobilized," Macron said at a ceremony commemorating 20 years since the death of Ilan Halimi, a 23-year-old man who died after being kidnapped and held captive for 24. A gang leader was sentenced in 2009 life in prison for his abduction, torture and murder.

Macron criticized what he called the "poison of online hatred" and urged the European Commission to hold big platforms accountable. "In the France of the Enlightenment, 'free speech' stops at antisemitism and racism," the French leader said. Antisemitic acts continue rising across Europe, Britain recorded 3,700 antisemitic incidents in 2025, a 4 percent increase and the second-worst year on record.

## Portuguese highway collapses amid storms, floods

### Monitoring Desk

LISBON/MADRID: A viaduct on a Portuguese motorway connecting Lisbon to Porto has partially collapsed, in the wake of storms and flash floods that have swept across the country. "The speed and force of the water... it's an absolutely abnormal situation," said Portuguese Infrastructure Minister Miguel Pinto Luz, who visited the site after the collapse on Wednesday. No injuries were reported, he said.

However, the minister noted it would take "weeks for this infrastructure to be operational again."

The section of motorway where the viaduct was located had been closed to traffic in both directions after the partial breach of a dike on Wednesday. The collapse occurred

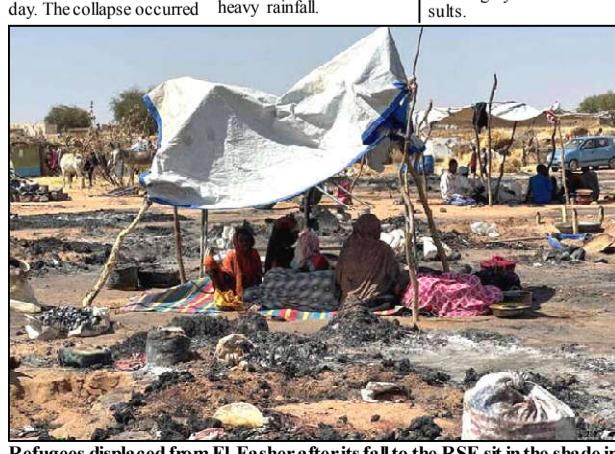
a few hours later.

About fifteen trucks loaded with riprap—stones and rubble meant to protect against erosion—were later brought in to reinforce the breach. The collapse comes after deadly storms have battered Portugal for the past two weeks, pummelling the country's infrastructure.

Also on Wednesday, a train derailed near the central city of Abrantes, after hitting debris that had fallen onto the tracks. No one was injured, but several railway lines remain suspended in Portugal. Following the passage of storms Kristin, Leonardo, and Marta—extra-tropical cyclones which dealt significant damage—Portugal is on alert again due to the risk of flash floods caused by heavy rainfall.

Earlier this week, the upper house of the Nigerian parliament adopted—after pressure and protests—an amendment allowing live publication of election results, after initially rejecting it.

Over the past decade, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has introduced technology designed to improve the integrity of election results.



Refugees displaced from El-Fasher after its fall to the RSF sit in the shade in Tawila camp.



Protesters hold signs outside the Royal Courts of Justice, after High Court judges ruled the British government's decision to designate pro-Palestinian group Palestine Action as a terrorist organisation unlawful, in London, Britain

## Sudan's RSF committed war crimes, possible crimes against humanity in El-Fasher: UN

### Monitoring Desk

NEW YORK: Sudan's Rapid Support Forces unleashed a "wave of intense violence... shocking in its scale and brutality" during their final offensive to capture the besieged city of El-Fasher last October, committing widespread atrocities that amount to war crimes and possible crimes against humanity, the UN Human Rights Office said in a report published on Friday.

The report, based on

interviews with more than 140 victims and witnesses from Sudan's Northern State and eastern Chad in late 2025, documented more than 6,000 killings in the first three days of the RSF assault that followed 18 months of siege.

The report said at least 4,400 people were killed in El-Fasher during those initial days, and more than 1,600 others were killed while they attempted to flee.

The actual death toll

during the week-long offen-

## Russia, Ukraine to hold talks in Geneva on February 17-18

### Monitoring Desk

KYIV (AFP/APP): Russia and Ukraine will hold US-brokered talks on February 17-18 in Geneva, both countries said Friday, announcing the next leg in fraught negotiations seeking to end the four-year war.

US President Donald Trump is pushing to end the conflict, unleashed when Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, but two previous rounds of US-mediated talks in Abu Dhabi have not yielded any signs of a breakthrough.

Both sides said publicly the discussions were productive, but Moscow and Kyiv remain far apart on the key issue of territory.

The United States, where firearms are readily available, has a long history of gun violence that kills thousands of people every year.

The shooting at South Carolina State University's Hugine Suites student residential complex was reported around 9:15 pm Thursday (0215 GMT Friday), the college said in a statement.

## Nigeria to hold presidential election on February 20 next year

### Monitoring Desk

ABUJA (AFP/APP): Nigeria on Friday said it will hold its presidential election on February 20 next year and announced a staggered timetable for legislative elections in Africa's most populous country.

Election commission chief Joash Ojo Amupitan made the announcement and called the upcoming election a "significant milestone in our democratic journey".

Elections to pick state governors will be held on March 6, 2027, he said.

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The president of the republic has accepted the principle of a ceasefire, the presidency of the DRC said

KINSHASA (AFP/APP): The Democratic Republic of Congo said Friday it had "accepted the principle of a ceasefire" involving a "strict and immediate" freezing of positions in the conflict in the east of the country.

It follows a proposal by mediator Angola for the Congolese government and the Rwanda-backed M23 armed group to respect a ceasefire starting from February 18.

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KINSHASA (AFP/APP): The Democratic Republic of Congo said Friday it had "accepted the principle of a ceasefire" involving a "strict and immediate" freezing of positions in the conflict in the east of the country.

The resource-rich eastern DRC has been mired in unabated violence for 30 years by scores of armed groups. The region, which borders Rwanda and Burundi, has been targeted by the M23 anti-government group since its resurgence in 2021. Since then, half a dozen ceasefires and truces have been signed and broken. Peace efforts led by Qatar and the United States have recently sought to end the crisis, leading to the signing of two separate accords.

PARIS (AFP/APP): Three people have died in weather-related accidents in France and Spain after a storm tore through the region, officials said Friday, ripping up trees and flooding roads and leaving many thousands without power.

High winds and hard rain forced cancellations of flights, trains and ferries on Thursday and brought chaos to roads in southern France, northern Spain and parts of Portugal.

Spanish officials said a woman died after the roof of an industrial warehouse collapsed on her, while French officials



Supporters of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) chant slogans as they celebrate news of Tarique Rahman's win in his constituency in the 13th general election near the party's Gulshan office in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

## DR Congo government accepts 'principle of a ceasefire': presidency

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## Second US aircraft carrier is being sent to the Middle East, AP source says

### Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: The world's largest aircraft carrier has been ordered to sail from the Caribbean Sea to the Middle East, a person familiar with the plans said Thursday, as US President Donald Trump considers whether to take possible military action against Iran.

The move by the USS Gerald R. Ford, first reported by The New York Times, will put two carriers and their accompanying warships over other parts of the world. Trump on Thursday warned Iran that failure to reach a deal over its nuclear program. The person spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss military movements.

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"I guess over the next month, something like that," Trump said in response to a question about his timeline for striking a deal with Iran on its nuclear program.

It marks a quick turn-

## At BoP meeting, Trump to announce Gaza funding plan, ISF troop deployment

### Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Wednesday, during his visit to Washington, that Israel has joined the board. Trump has stirred concerns that the Board of Peace might try to resolve other conflicts around the world and compete with the United Nations. The US officials said the meeting next week will focus solely on Gaza.

They said a central part of the meeting will be Trump's announcement of a multi-billion-dollar fund for Gaza, which will include monetary contributions from participating board members.

One official called the offer "generous" and said that the United States had not made any explicit requests for donations.

"People have come to us offering," the official said.

The president will make announcements via a press conference. The deployment of an International Stabilisation Force (ISF) is a key part of the next phase of Trump's Gaza plan, announced in September.

## Denmark, Greenland PMs to hold talks with Rubio in Munich

### Monitoring Desk

MUNICH (AFP/APP): Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen and her Greenlandic counterpart Jens-Frederik Nielsen will discuss Greenland with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Friday on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference, they said.

Since returning to the White House last year, US President Donald Trump has argued that Washington needs to control Greenland—an autonomous Danish territory—for American national security.

"There will be a relatively brief meeting with the (Greenlandic) prime minister, the (Danish) prime minister, and the American secretary of state, where I hope and believe they'll confirm that the process we've started is a good one and should continue," Danish Foreign Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen told Danish media as he arrived at the conference.

Frederiksen told Danish news agency Ritzau: "We have agreed to hold several meetings with American politicians, including the secretary of state, also (about) Greenland."

Last month, Trump backed down from his threats to seize Greenland after striking a "framework" deal with NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte to ensure greater US influence.

A US-Denmark-Greenland working group has been established to discuss Washington's security concerns in the Arctic but details have not been made public.

A first meeting has already taken place and a second one is due soon, Rasmussen said.

## AI's bitter rivalry heads to Washington

### Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON (AFP/APP): Anthropic's major donation to a political group that competes with an OpenAI-backed organization has highlighted a bitter rift over AI regulation—a key issue heading into the US midterm elections.

With the artificial intelligence industry rapidly advancing, Democrats and Republicans alike have found themselves squeezed between a powerful tech lobby flush with cash and a broadly wary public.

Leading the charge on the industry side is Leading the Future, a pro-AI super PAC backed by OpenAI's Greg Brockman, venture capitalist Ben Horowitz, and Palantir co-founder Nils Lonsdale, and AI search company Perplexity.

Brockman, OpenAI's longtime president, and his wife Anna are also among the largest recent donors to President Donald Trump's political coffers, to the tune of \$25 million last year.

Leading the Future raised \$125 million in the second half of 2025, according to official filings, and is co-led by Josh Vlasto—a former adviser to Fairshake, the crypto-aligned super PAC whose playbook Leading the Future is looking to repeat.

That playbook proved devastatingly effective in the 2024 election cycle, when Fairshake poured money into races against candidates skeptical of cryptocurrency. Now spooked by the prospect of a repeat in AI, Anthropic has entered the fray. On Thursday, the company gave \$20 million to a competing super PAC, Public First Action, which supports AI guardrails—effectively setting up a direct fight against Leading the Future.

## Pakistan calls for peaceful dispute resolution, respect for international law at UN parliamentary hearing

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan has called for greater respect for international law and renewed efforts toward the peaceful settlement of longstanding disputes in line with the UN Charter and relevant Security Council resolutions, Senate Chairman Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani said during the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Annual Hearing 2026 at the United Nations headquarters.

Delivering Pakistan's national statement at the inaugural session, Gilani emphasised the need for democratic, transparent and accountable decision-making to strengthen the credibility of the United Nations.

He said parliaments remained essential partners in ensuring national ownership of international commitments.

Highlighting the need for institutional reform, the Senate chairman remarked

that reforms should be inclusive, stressing the principle of "reform for all, privilege for none".

Gilani is leading a six-member high-level parliamentary delegation from Pakistan attending the two-day annual parliamentary hearing.

The delegation includes Senators Saleem Mandviwala, Farooq H. Naek, Muhammad Abdul Qadir, Syed Faisal Ali Subzwari, and National Assembly member Malik Muhammad Amir Dogar.

The Senate chairman underscored the continued importance of the United Nations as a cornerstone of multilateral cooperation, noting that its universal membership and Charter-based mandate remained central to promoting global peace and security.

Referring to multiple global challenges, including climate change, ongoing

conflicts and widening socio-economic inequalities, he said these overlapping crises were straining the UN's capacity to deliver effectively across its key mandates.

He observed that such pressures disproportionately affected developing countries, often reversing development gains.

Gilani stressed that no single country could address these systemic challenges alone and called for renewed trust in multilateral cooperation supported by predictable and sustainable financing for the UN system.

Recalling his role in last year's Inter-Parliamentary Speakers Conference, he reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to fostering closer coordination between the United Nations, the IPU and related parliamentary platforms to advance shared global objectives.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Interfaith Harmony Sardar Muhammad Yousuf inspects facilities at Old Haji Camp during his visit to review arrangements for participants of the Haji Training Programme.

## Hajj 2026 arrangements finalized, 2nd phase of training scheduled after Ramazan: Sardar Yousuf

KARACHI (APP): Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Sardar Muhammad Yousuf, Friday, said that arrangements for Hajj 2026 have been completed, with more than 179,000 pilgrims expected to travel to Saudi Arabia under government and private schemes.

The minister, while speaking to the media during a visit to the New Haji Camp, informed that Pakistan's total Hajj quota for 2026 stands at 179,210. Of these, 119,210 pilgrims will perform Hajj under the government scheme, while 60,000 will travel through private tour operators. Around 29,000 pilgrims will depart from Sindh province, he added.

According to Sardar Yousuf, the first phase of Hajj training was completed between 16 January and 2 February, with 24,000 pilgrims participating. The second phase, scheduled after Ramazan, will focus

on the practical performance of Hajj rituals, awareness of Saudi regulations and the importance of discipline during the pilgrimage.

All applications under the official Hajj scheme had been processed and the biometric verification of 29,000 pilgrims completed, he said, adding that arrangements for catering, accommodation and transport in Saudi Arabia had been finalized.

The minister framed the ministry's approach in moral terms, telling reporters that "worship leads to heaven, while service leads to Allah," and said the ministry was guided by this principle in facilitating pilgrims. He also credited the Saudi-led "Road to Mecca" initiative with streamlining immigration procedures for Pakistani pilgrims departing from Karachi and Islamabad, allowing them to proceed directly to their accommodation upon arrival.



Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON, Engineer Amir Muqam, distributes laptops at Shaheed Benazir Women University in Peshawar.

## CDWP, approve portfolio of development projects worth Rs160.2 billion in meeting

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Central Development Working Party (CDWP) considered and approved a portfolio of development projects worth Rs160.2 billion at a meeting chaired by Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Prof Ahsan Iqbal in Islamabad.

The forum reviewed proposals relating to the health, physical planning, housing, transport, and communications sectors, approving two projects with a cumulative cost of Rs8.5bn and recommending four major projects amounting to Rs151.7bn for consideration by the Executive Committee of the National

Economic Council (ECNEC), said a release is issued here on Friday.

Presiding over the

meeting, Prof Ahsan Iqbal underscored the importance of aligning development interventions with national priorities, stating that public investment must deliver measurable improvements in human development, urban services and connectivity, particularly in regions affected by climate-induced shocks. He said that the government remained committed to ensuring that federally supported and provincially implemented projects were designed for long-term sustainability and tangible socio-economic impact.



QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta Division Shahzaib Khan Kakar presides over the meeting regarding collection of Agricultural Income Tax.

He praised his political insight, reasoned approach, and strong connection with the people, saying these contributions would always be remembered.

Calling his death a major loss to the country's political landscape, the Senate Chairman said Qadri's absence would be felt for years.

He offered heartfelt condolences to the family, relatives, and supporters, praying for the departed soul's peace and for strength for the family to bear the loss.

"I stand with the grieving family in this hour of sorrow, and the entire nation shares in their grief," he added.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senate Chairman Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Friday expressed deep sorrow over the passing of senior politician and former Punjab Assembly member Zaeem Qadri.

In his condolence message, Gilani described Qadri as a principled and dynamic leader who consistently raised public issues.

He praised his political insight, reasoned approach, and strong connection with the people, saying these contributions would always be remembered.

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JAMSHORI: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal distributes shields among participating students at the IMCS Tech Expo 2026 Final Year Projects Exhibition & Job Fair held at University of Sindh.

## Pakistan, Russia discuss launch of direct Moscow-Islamabad flight

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan on Friday held separate high-level meetings with the transport ministers of Russia and Iran, focusing on enhancing transport, logistics, and bilateral connectivity among Pakistan, Iran, and Russia.

The meetings took place on the sidelines of the 2nd OIC Transport Ministers' Conference in Istanbul, where the State Secretary and Deputy Minister of Transport of the Russian Federation, Dmitry Stanislavovich Zverev, and Iran's Minister for Roads and Infrastructure, Ms. Farzaneh Sadegh, met with Abdul Aleem Khan, said a press release.

During talks with the Russian deputy minister, both sides agreed that expanding direct land and air connectivity between Pakistan and Russia would significantly enhance regional trade and economic activity. They emphasized initiating practical steps, including the launch of direct Moscow-Islamabad flights, without delay. During the meeting, Russian Deputy Minister Dmitry Stanislavovich Zverev formally invited Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan to participate in the International Transport and Logistics Forum, scheduled to be held from April 1-3, 2026, in the historic Russian city of Saint Petersburg. Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan underscored the need for concrete measures to enhance cooperation in the transport sector, stating that Pakistan is keen to collaborate with Russia in the development of road networks and logistics corridors. The two sides also expressed a firm commitment to resolving visa and related issues faced by Pakistani freight truck drivers. In addition, detailed discussions were held on expanding banking channels and removing financial bottlenecks between the two countries. Abdul Aleem Khan stated that Pakistan has a strong interest in establishing land corridors through China and other countries, enabling effective connectivity with Russia via Central Asian States.

## Nation must win 'Battle of Economy' after military success against India, Ahsan

HYDERABAD (APP): The Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal has said after the magnificent victory of the Pakistani forces in the "Battle of Truth" against India, the nation should now triumph in the "Battle of Economy" as well.

He expressed these views while addressing the academics and students at University of Sindh and Shah-e-Allah Buksht Soomro (SABS) University of Art, Design and Heritage, in Jamshoro district on Friday.

He underscored that wars could only be won successfully when a country's economy was strong. He recalled that last year the enemy attacked Pakistan at night, but the country's response was so swift and strong that not only India but the entire world was astonished. Iqbal emphasized that a strong defense required a strong economy, adding that while the armed forces emerged victorious in the "Battle of Truth", it was now the nation's turn to succeed in the "Battle of Economy".

Ambreen Jan assumes charge as chairperson PEMRA

ISLAMABAD (APP): Former Federal Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Ambreen Jan assumed the charge as chairperson of Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) on Friday.

Ms. Ambreen Jan has assumed the charge as Chairperson PEMRA, the authority said in a post on X.

"At the occasion, she resolved to strengthen role of the Authority for development of media industry in Pakistan," it added.

## PM lauds UAE's unwavering support for Pakistan

LAHORE (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday held a telephone conversation with His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE and Ruler of Abu Dhabi.

During their warm and cordial conversation, the two leaders fondly recalled their recent meetings in Islamabad and Rahim Yar Khan last month, during the UAE President's first official visit to Pakistan.

The friendly and cooperative relationship between Pakistan and the UAE is well-established, with leaders from both nations frequently visiting each other's countries.

In addition to the recent exchanges, last month, President Asif Ali Zardari made a four-day official visit to the UAE, where he met with President Zayed Al Nahyan. The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to peace and stability, discussing key regional and international developments.

The two leaders also held a meeting with Russian Deputy Minister Transport Dmitry Stanislavovich Zverev held meeting with Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan at Istanbul in OIC Transport Ministers Conference.

## No negligence in medical care of PTI founder; matter should not be politicised: Tariq Fazal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhary said on Friday that claims of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder suffering from an eye problem were baseless.

Speaking to the media outside Parliament House, he said the PTI founder formally raised concerns about his eye condition on January 16. Two days before that, the jail's eye specialist had already conducted an examination.

## PNS Khaibar visits Aksaz during maiden voyage, holds drills with Turkish Navy

RAWALPINDI (APP): The newly commissioned, state-of-the-art Pakistan Navy Ship (PNS) Khaibar, during its maiden voyage from Turkey to Pakistan, visited Aksaz Naval Base, Turkey, and participated in exercise TURGUTREIS-XIII and joint patrols with ships of the Turkish Navy.

During the stay at Aksaz, the Commanding Officer of PNS Khaibar called on the Turkish Southern Sea Area Commander, said a press release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR).

During the meeting, discussions focused on enhancing bilateral naval cooperation.

Following the port visit, PNS Khaibar participated in the PNS-TN bilateral exercise TURGUTREIS-XIII with Turkish Naval Forces ship TCG HEYBELIADA and a T-72 SH-70 helicopter. The exercise featured a variety of sea evolutions to rehearse joint maritime operations and enhance interoperability.

## At least 13 killed as oil tanker collides with bus on M-9 Motorway near Karachi

HYDERABAD: At least 13 people, including four children, were killed when a passenger van collided with an oil tanker at the M-9 Motorway near Karachi, according to the police.

Malir Senior Superintendent of Police Syed Abdul Khalig Pirzada confirmed the death toll.

A statement from the Sindh Home Minister Ziaul Hassan Lanjra said the force was fully engaged in extensive rescue and safety measures.

"The police are cooperating in rescue activities while maintaining their presence on site, securing the area, and keeping the traffic situation under control. Coordination and monitoring with relevant agencies are ongoing."

Sindh Inspector General of Police Javed Alam Odho took immediate notice of the accident while ordering officials to reach the incident site to secure it.

The injured have been transported to hospitals.

Heavy police presence from the local area is at the accident site, the situation is under control.

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## No durable peace in region without Kashmir solution: Amir Muqam

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs Engineer Amir Muqam has said that the world has recognized that lasting stability in the region is not possible without a peaceful solution to the Kashmir dispute.

He said he will continue to raise his voice for the Kashmiris' rights at every forum until the Kashmir dispute is resolved in accordance with the UN resolutions and aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

Shahzad Sharif prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured and directed that they be provided with medical assistance.

The premier expressed his condolences to the families of the deceased.

Shahzad Sharif said that Pakistan stands with the Kashmiri people and will always stand with them, adding that the entire nation is proud of the performance of the Pakistani forces.

He said he will continue to raise his voice for the Kashmiris' rights at every forum until the Kashmir dispute is resolved in accordance with the UN resolutions and aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

Shahzad Sharif directed that transparency and speed should be brought in the process of collecting agricultural income tax. Those with unregistered agricultural income should be identified and registered immediately.

He said that an awareness campaign should be launched in all districts so that farmers could be provided with information related to tax laws saying that the concerned departments should ensure action by making mutual communication effective.

He further said that effective collection of agricultural income tax would increase provincial revenue and resources could be available for development projects. The participants of the meeting said that all resources would be utilized to achieve the set goals.

## Commissioner for accelerating procedures of collection agricultural income tax

QUETTA (APP): Commissioner Quetta Division Shahzad Khan Kakar on Friday chaired a meeting regarding collection of Agricultural Income Tax.

He said that the meeting reviewed the steps taken to make the collection of agricultural income tax effective, the registration procedure and the progress related to legal proceedings.

While giving a briefing, the officials said that the registration process of agricultural income earners and landowners is being expedited so that the tax net could be widened and revenue increased.

The Commissioner directed that transparency and speed should be brought in the process of collecting agricultural income tax. Those with unregistered agricultural income should be identified and registered immediately.

He said that an awareness campaign should be launched in all districts so that farmers could be provided with information related to tax laws saying that the concerned departments should ensure action by making mutual communication effective.

He further said that effective collection of agricultural income tax would increase provincial revenue and resources could be available for development projects. The participants of the meeting said that all resources would be utilized to achieve the set goals.

Shahzad Khan Kakar presides over the meeting regarding collection of Agricultural Income Tax.

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