



International Literacy Day celebrated

International Literacy Day was commemorated at the University of Peshawar through a provincial-level ceremony highlighting collective efforts to promote literacy, expand access to education, and address the challenge of out-of-school children (OOSC).

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Gay, Brook put England in command

Emilio Gay and Harry Brook struck half-centuries as England recovered from an early setback to take a 23-run lead over Pakistan at stumps on the opening day of the third Test at Edgbaston on Wednesday.

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The Province

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Quote!



With faith, discipline and selfless devotion to duty, there is nothing worthwhile that you cannot achieve. — Muhammad Ali Jinnah



News DIGEST

Eight-nation FMs welcomes UK ban on goods from illegal Israeli settlements

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Ministers of Pakistan, Türkiye, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates on Wednesday welcomed the decision of the United Kingdom to ban imports of goods from illegal Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT).

In a joint statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the ministers also welcomed the UK's decision to introduce restrictions on services linked to such settlements, expressing hope that the move would encourage the international community to take similar measures in accordance with international law.

They called for accountability of settlement organizations and individuals engaged in illegal settlement activities and urged the international community to build on these steps by adopting concrete measures to end activities supporting or sustaining illegal Israeli settlements in the OPT.

The ministers also welcomed a joint statement on the two-State solution issued by the foreign ministers of Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Iceland, Ireland, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

They noted that the countries had confirmed their intention to introduce national and/or support European restrictions on trade in goods with settlements that are illegal under international law, or actively consider such measures in accordance with their respective national procedures.

The eight ministers said the announced measures were in line with international law and relevant United Nations resolutions, including UN Security Council Resolution 2334 (2016), as well as the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) of July 19, 2024.

They recalled the obligation of all states not to recognize as legal the situation arising from Israel's unlawful occupation and not to render aid or assistance in maintaining the situation created by the occupation.

In this regard, they reiterated their call for Israel to rescind all measures related to settlement activities and other steps aimed at altering the geographic and demographic character of the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

The ministers underscored that Gaza was an integral part of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and called for the full and immediate implementation of US President Donald Trump's Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on Access to Finance for Agriculture, Housing and SMEs sector in Islamabad on Wednesday. — PHOTO: PID

Security forces neutralise 11 India-sponsored terrorists

Eight militants killed in Kharan while three eliminated during Washuk operation, says military's media wing

STAFF REPORTER

RAWALPINDI: Security forces have eliminated at least 11 India-sponsored militants in separate intelligence-based operations in Kharan and Washuk districts of Balochistan, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Wednesday.

The operations were conducted on September 6 and 7 following reports of the presence of terrorists belonging to the Indian proxy, Fitna al-Hindustan, the military's media wing added.

On September 6, terrorists attempted to establish a roadblock in Kharan and disrupt local traffic, the statement said,

adding that security forces promptly intercepted and engaged the terrorists, killing eight of them.

In a separate operation in Washuk district on September 7, security forces targeted a reported terrorist hideout.

"Own troops effectively busted the hide-out and, following an intense exchange of fire, killed three more terrorists," the military said.

The security forces also recovered 2.9 tonnes of explosives being used to prepare improvised explosive devices (IEDs), it added.

Sanitisation operations were under way to eliminate any other India-sponsored terrorists who may be present in the area,

the ISPR said.

The military said the ongoing counter-terrorism campaign under the "Azam-e-Istehkam" initiative, approved by the Federal Apex Committee on the National Action Plan, would continue at full pace.

The campaign aims to wipe out the menace of foreign-sponsored-and-supported terrorism from the country.

Pakistan witnessed a surge in terror activities, particularly in its KP and Balochistan provinces, since 2021, when the Afghan Taliban came into power.

According to a report by the Centre for Research and Security Studies (CRSS), the two provinces remained the country's

main hotspots for violence during the second quarter of 2026, with KP emerging as the worst-affected region.

The report stated that KP and Balochistan together accounted for nearly 96% of all violence-related fatalities recorded during the quarter. Of the total deaths, more than 61% (475) were reported in KP, while Balochistan accounted for 34% (265).

KP also recorded the highest number of violent incidents, with 151 cases, representing 57% of the nationwide total. Balochistan followed with 94 incidents, or 35%, underscoring the concentration of militant activity in the two provinces.

Debate 'collapsed system' issue in parliament: Bilawal

"It cannot be the case that the fate of the country is decided by a handful of businessmen," says PPP chief

LONDON: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has challenged Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi to take his criticism of Pakistan's political and governance "collapsed" system to parliament, saying the country's fate cannot be decided by "a handful of businessmen" at business forums. Bilawal said Naqvi had every right to express his views, but if he believed that the system had failed, then the issue must be debated in the National Assembly to establish why it had failed and what could be done to fix it. "It cannot be the case that the fate of the country is decided by a handful of businessmen," the PPP chairman said, insisting that questions about the weaknesses and failures of Pakistan's system belonged to elected representatives.

Bilawal also took a pointed swipe at Naqvi over his absence from the lower house, saying: "Mr Mohsin Naqvi does not come to the National Assembly very often, so instead of business forums, he should come to parliament."

The PPP chairman said he was personally prepared to debate the issue with any federal minister or government representative on the floor of parliament.

Bilawal said problems, faults and weaknesses within Pakistan's political system were neither new nor something that could be addressed through slogans. There should be an open debate on the causes behind the system's failures and the solutions required to address them, he added. Responding to a question whether Naqvi was speaking for someone else through his recent statements, Bilawal said: "Mr Mohsin Naqvi is speaking for himself, and I speak for myself."

On the intensifying debate over the creation of new provinces, Bilawal said the PPP's position had not emerged overnight and had remained consistent for a considerable period. He cited Gilgit-Baltistan, Punjab and Sindh to argue that the views of the people should be reflected through their elected representatives and provincial assemblies.

KP own-source revenue reaches record Rs150.84b: Shafi Jan

KP government committed to making Khyber Pakhtunkhwa financially self-reliant: Information Minister

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Information and Science & Information Technology Shafi Jan has said that the provincial government's own-source revenue has reached a record Rs150.84 billion, marking the first time in the province's history that this level has been achieved. The own-source revenue target for the current financial year has been set at Rs182 billion.

In a his Statement Shafi Jan said the significant growth in own-source revenue reflected the provincial government's effective financial management strategy, improved revenue collection and more efficient utilization of available resources. He appreciated the performance of the Finance Department, Excise Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority, Information Department and other rel-

evant departments for their commendable contribution to strengthening the province's own-source revenue base.

The Information Minister said the provincial government, in line with the vision of founding chairman Imran Khan, was taking practical measures to enhance revenue generated through indigenous resources. "Under the leadership of Chief Minister Sohail Afridi, we are firmly committed to making Khyber Pakhtunkhwa financially self-reliant.

He said that Increasing revenue, reducing unnecessary expenditures and strengthening financial discipline remain key priorities of the government.

He emphasized that containing expenditures and increasing own-source revenue are central pillars of the government's financial management strategy. Alongside improving revenue performance, the government was also ensur-

ing transparency, accountability and the efficient utilization of public resources.

Shafi Jan said that strengthening own-source revenue was a crucial step towards greater fiscal autonomy and long-term financial sustainability. A stronger revenue base would enable the provincial government to create greater fiscal space for development, public welfare and the provision of essential services to citizens.

He said the government's objective was not simply to increase revenue, but to establish a sustainable, transparent and efficient financial management system.

The Information Minister congratulated Secretary Information Matiullah Khan and his team on the Information Department's outstanding performance in enhancing own-source revenue. He said the department's improved revenue performance was the result of effective administrative measures, focused management and consistent efforts of entire Information Department.

Shafi Jan reiterated that financial discipline, transparency and optimal utilization of public resources are among the government's key priorities.

Chief Minister reviews public complaints and grievance redressal mechanism

STAFF REPORTER

Peshawar: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Sohail Afridi chaired a meeting on the Chief Minister's Complaint Cell to review complaints received from January to August 2026, progress on their resolution, and relief provided to citizens.

The meeting was informed that the Chief Minister's Complaint Cell received a total of 3,551 complaints through various channels during the eight-month period from January to August 2026. According to the briefing, 499 complaints were resolved at the Chief Minister's Secretariat at the point of receipt, or complainants were provided with the necessary guid-

ance. A further 498 complaints were found to be non-actionable due to jurisdictional limitations or legal complexities. The meeting was further informed that 2,610 complaints were referred to the relevant provincial departments for necessary action. Of these, 988 complaints have resulted in relief, 11 in partial relief, while action on 781 complaints remains underway. Another 774 complaints were found to be non-actionable as they did not meet the requisite merit or eligibility criteria.

The meeting was informed that land disputes and education-related matters constituted major categories of complaints received through the mechanism. The briefing further noted that 1,090 complaints were received manually,

1,047 through WhatsApp, 687 via email, 343 through phone calls, 273 through Facebook, and 111 through X.

Speaking at the meeting, Chief Minister Muhammad Sohail Afridi said that the performance of the provincial government would not be judged by the number of meetings held or presentations made, but by the testimony and satisfaction of the people. He said that effective grievance redressal and meaningful public participation in governance are central to Imran Khan's vision, adding that the provincial government was advancing this vision through practical measures and institutional mechanisms.

The Chief Minister said that the future of the provincial government and the bu-



reaucracy was directly linked to public satisfaction. He added that timely resolution of citizens' issues and effective redressal of complaints would serve as key measures of government performance. He directed that citizens should be made aware of the relief provided through the Complaint Cell so that more people could

benefit from the facility and access the available grievance redressal mechanism. The meeting also reviewed the Peshawar Nursing College incident.

Taking serious notice of the incident, the Chief Minister said that no one would be allowed to take the law into their own hands. He made it clear that

the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police would not be allowed to become like the Punjab Police, adding that all those involved in the Nursing College incident would be dealt with strictly in accordance with the law. The Chief Minister said that the students of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are our children, adding that the provincial government would take every possible measure to protect their rights and serve their interests.

Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, while briefing the Chief Minister, said that a comprehensive public awareness campaign would be launched to inform citizens about the grievance redressal mechanisms available across the province.

Jamrud TESCO takes action against Civil Hospital

IMRAN AFRIDI

JAMRUD According to details, TESCO Jamrud Sub-Division has directed Civil Hospital Jamrud to immediately remove the transformer installed by itself and adopt the official policy, over violation of rules.

According to TESCO officials, no individual or institution can install a transformer on their own. It is mandatory to follow TESCO rules and policy for this purpose.

Officials of TESCO Jamrud Sub-Division told the media that before installing a new transformer anywhere, a formal application has to be submitted to the TESCO office. After that, test reports and other required documents are completed. Similarly, based on the requirement, TESCO installs the transformer from its own store according to the required KV, and a formal demand report along with fees as per policy must be deposited in the bank.

Bajaur Court acquits several PTI leaders in May 9 Cases

OUR CORRESPONDENT

BAJAUR: A court in Bajaur district has acquitted several local leaders and workers of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in cases related to the May 9 incidents. According to the court's decision, PTI Bajaur's senior leaders, including Sub-Division Nawagai Nazim Ali, Dr. Khalil-ur-Rehman, former candidate from Sub-Division Khar, Luqman Khan, Shaheed Rehan Zaib Khan, Member Khan, Nasir Khan Nasir, Nasruddin Khan and Abdul Haq Yar, along with several other party workers, were acquitted in Case No. 64 and Case No. 79.

According to the PTI leaders, the cases and FIRs had remained under trial for nearly three years. Following the verdict, the leaders welcomed the court's decision, termed it a victory for justice, and expressed their gratitude to the court and the relevant legal forum.

Hashish, Heroin recovered, four accused held in Anti-Narcotics Operations

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR: The Excise, Taxation and Narcotics Control Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has carried out fresh operations against narcotics in Peshawar, recovering a large quantity of drugs and arresting the accused involved.

Under the provincial government's zero-tolerance policy against narcotics and on the directives of Provincial Minister for Excise, Taxation & Narcotics Control Syed Fakhar Jehan, the Excise Intelligence and Excise Police Peshawar continued their crackdown against drug suppliers. During various operations, a total of 5,800 grams of narcotics were recovered and four accused were arrested.

According to details received from the Excise Department, Excise Intelligence Squad B-I conducted an operation at a joint check post and recovered 1,200 grams of hashish during the search of vehicle number CAG-868. The accused, Danish Safteen Malik son of Muhammad Safteen Malik, was arrested on the spot. A case has been registered against him at Excise Police Station Peshawar for further investigation and legal proceedings.



In another operation, Excise Intelligence Squad B-I conducted a raid at H Gol Chowk and recovered 1,000 grams of heroin and 1,200 grams of hashish. Two accused persons, Jalat Khan son of Shehzada and Fazal Hadi son of Salam Bar Khan, were arrested during the operation. A case has been registered against them at Excise Police Station Peshawar and further legal action has been initiated.

Similarly, Excise Police Station Peshawar, acting on a tip-off, foiled an attempt to smuggle narcotics under the guise of a school bag at H Gol Chowk. During the search, 2,400 grams of hashish were recovered and accused Kameen Khan son of Adam Khan was arrested on the spot. A case has been registered against the accused at Excise Police Station Peshawar for further legal proceedings.

Open Court held in Malakand

STAFF REPORTER

MALAKAND: An open court was held at the District Social Welfare Office Malakand under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Adviser for Social Welfare, Zakat & Ushr and Women Empowerment, Malak Liaqat Ali Khan, to address the issues faced by persons with disabilities. During the open court, Malak Liaqat Ali Khan handed over the keys of two vehicles to the Social Welfare Department Malakand for schools catering to persons with disabilities. He also announced the establishment of a Child Protection Center in Malakand during the current month. On the occasion, an elderly citizen was immediately provided Rs. 50,000 in cash for medical treatment. Additional Secretary Social Welfare Department Umar Rehman, Deputy Commissioner Malakand Muhammad Fayyaz Khan Sherpao, District Social Welfare Officer Sabir Khan, and a large number of persons with disabilities attended the open court. Persons with disabilities, senior citizens, visually impaired persons, widows and orphans presented their issues, including matters related to the Social Welfare and Zakat Departments.

JI warns of protest over CRBC water shortage



DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Jamaat-e-Islami Dera Ghazi Khan leader Azizullah Khan Qaisrani has warned that a sit-in would be staged at the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa-Punjab border and the road blocked if the full water share is not supplied to the Chashma Right Bank Canal (CRBC). Addressing a press conference, Qaisrani said the CRBC is vital to the economy and agriculture of Dera Ismail Khan and Taunsa. He claimed that water shortages

had caused billions of rupees in losses to farmers and affected hundreds of thousands of acres of agricultural land. He said Taunsa requires around 1,800 cusecs of water but is currently receiving only about 100 cusecs. He alleged that CRBC officials were involved in mismanagement and water theft and demanded action against those responsible, along with compensation for affected farmers. Qaisrani gave the government one week to meet their demands, warning that otherwise a sit-in would be held at the KP-Punjab border and traffic would be blocked. Jamaat-e-Islami Dera district chief Manzoor Masood Khattak said the CRBC was the backbone of the local economy and demanded that the canal's full water entitlement of 4,800 cusecs be ensured so farmers could irrigate their fields and avoid further financial losses.

Shehryar Afridi pushes development drive in Darra Adam Khel



OUR CORRESPONDENT

DARRA ADAM KHEL: Former Interior Minister and Lawmaker Shehryar Khan Afridi reviewed ongoing development projects in the Tribal Sub Division Darra Adam Khel and inaugurated a solarisation project at a Government Degree College, calling for timely completion of schemes aimed at improving education and infrastructure.

Afridi, accompanied by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Provincial Leader Haji Abid-ur-Rehman and other party leaders, inaugurated the solar power project at Government Degree College Darra Adam Khel in the presence of the college administration, teachers and officials.

He later inspected a 16-km Road Project from Gulshanabad to Abbas Chowk in Darra Adam Khel, being built at an estimated cost of Rs500 Million. Officials briefed him on construction

progress and other aspects of the project in detail.

Afridi reviewed different sections of the road and sought updates on construction standards and progress, stressing the need for its completion within the stipulated timeframe.

On World Literacy Day, Afridi also visited the Government High School Sheraki, where he reviewed academic and administrative matters and met teachers and students. School officials briefed him on the institution's needs and problems.

"Quality education is the foundation of a brighter future for our youth," Afridi said, stressing the importance of basic facilities, including reliable electricity, in creating a better learning environment. He praised the teachers for their services and urged students to focus on their studies and contribute to the country's development.

Shaukat Ali assumes charge as Commissioner, Right to Public Services Commission KP

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR: Mr. Shaukat Ali Yusufzai, a retired PMS Grade-20 officer, has assumed charge as Commissioner, Right to Public Services (RTS) Commission, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He has extensive administrative experience, having served as Commissioner Mardan, Commissioner Bannu, Commissioner Hazara and Commissioner Malakand. He is basically from Swat and has held various important administrative positions during his distinguished career.

Upon assuming charge, the new Commissioner visited the RTS Commission headquarter and met with the Chief Commissioner and officers of the Commission. He was briefed on the mandate, functioning, ongoing initiatives and public awareness activities of the Commission.

Later on, he chaired meeting with the RTS staff, wherein he stated that timely, transparent and citizen-centric delivery of public services is fundamental to good governance.



Seerat conference, Qur'an recitation, Naat competitions conclude at KMU

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR: The Seerat-un-Nabi (PBUH) Conference and the "Noor-e-Qiraat and Nida-e-Mustafa (PBUH) Competitions," organized by the Islamic Society of Khyber Medical University (KMU), Peshawar, concluded successfully. A large number of faculty members, administrative staff, and male and female students participated in the event.

The competitions aimed to promote awareness among young people about the life, exemplary character, and teachings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). More than 200 students from various KMU-affiliated institutions participated enthusiastically in Qur'an recitation, Naat, and Seerat-based speech competitions. The organizing team included students and Lecturer Hammad, President of the Islamic Society at the Institute of Nursing Sciences (INS), KMU.

The chief guest, KMU Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Rubina Nazli, distributed certificates and prizes among the students who secured prominent positions in the competitions.

Addressing the ceremony, Director Institute of Nursing Sciences Dr. Najma



Naz said that Seerat-e-Tayyaba should not be studied merely as a historical account but as a practical and living source of guidance for addressing contemporary challenges. She said the blessed life of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) is the most comprehensive practical example of the teachings of the Holy Qur'an and a manifestation of mercy for all humanity. It teaches determination, perseverance, hope, and reliance on Allah Almighty.

Dr. Najma Naz added that amid growing uncertainty, despair, and a crisis of values, guidance from Seerat-un-Nabi (PBUH) is more important than ever. The strong participation of students reflected the younger generation's deep attachment to the Seerat-e-Tayyaba.

Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Rubina Nazli said that, like the Holy Qur'an, the Seerat-un-Nabi (PBUH) has been preserved and transmitted across generations and will remain a source of guidance for humanity.

She appreciated Dr. Najma Naz and her team and suggested making such programs a permanent part of KMU's annual academic calendar.

She emphasized that love for the Holy Prophet (PBUH) should be reflected not only in speeches and slogans, but also in character, conduct, and service to humanity. She urged educational institutions to incorporate Seerat-e-Tayyaba into students' character building and leadership development.

International Literacy Day celebrated in Peshawar

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR: International Literacy Day was commemorated at the University of Peshawar through a provincial-level ceremony highlighting collective efforts to promote literacy, expand access to education, and address the challenge of out-of-school children (OOSC).

The ceremony was graced by Honourable Minister for Elementary & Secondary Education Mr. Arshad Ayub Khan as Chief Guest. Mr. Qaisar Alam, Managing Director ESEF KP; Mr. Tashfeen Haider, Special Secretary, Elementary & Secondary Education Department KP; Mr. Jaffar Mansoor Abbasi, Director Education; Mr. Anwar Iqbal, Director Operations NCHD KP; representatives of UNHCR, DOSTI, Khwendo Kor, Handicap International and other partner organizations, along with education officials, teachers, students and media representatives, attended the event.

Addressing the gathering, the Honourable Minister emphasized that education and literacy are fundamental to social development, economic prosperity, empowerment and a peaceful society.



He reaffirmed the Government's commitment to improving literacy, addressing out-of-school children and ensuring equitable access to quality and inclusive education. He stressed that achieving these goals requires sustained commitment, innovation and strong collaboration among all stakeholders.

Director Education Mr. Jaffar Mansoor Abbasi highlighted key measures

being undertaken by the Education Department to improve education quality and expand learning opportunities across the province. The vision of a "Literate and Prosperous Khyber Pakhtunkhwa" was also presented, followed by a panel discussion on "Literate Khyber Pakhtunkhwa," focusing on challenges, opportunities and collaborative strategies.

A major highlight was the launch of the Provincial Each One Teach One (EOTO) Policy and the Out-of-School Children Survey Scorecard at District Peshawar, aimed at strengthening community participation in literacy and evidence-based identification and enrolment of out-of-school children.

Certificates were awarded to personnel who contributed to the OOSC survey, while shields were presented to distinguished partner organizations and stakeholders in recognition of their support for literacy and education initiatives. NCHD also organized a dedicated stall showcasing its literacy and education initiatives and achievements. Director Operations NCHD KP Mr. Anwar Iqbal received a shield from the Honourable Minister for Elementary & Secondary Education in recognition of NCHD's contribution and support to literacy and education initiatives.

The ceremony concluded with a visit to exhibition stalls showcasing the interventions, achievements and educational initiatives of government departments and partner organizations across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

DC Hikmatullah holds public Jirga in Daraban



TP REPORT

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: A public jirga was held in Tehsil Daraban under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Dera Hikmatullah to hear the problems and demands of local residents.

District Police Officer Ziauddin Ahmed, administrative officers and representatives of various departments attended the jirga, along with local elders, elected representatives and a large number of citizens.

Residents highlighted key issues and

presented their demands to the district administration. Deputy Commissioner Hikmatullah listened to the complaints and sought briefings from relevant departments regarding their resolution.

He directed officials to take immediate and effective measures to address public grievances and ensure progress within the stipulated timeframe.

DPO Ziauddin Ahmed assured participants that all possible measures would be taken to protect the lives and property of citizens and maintain law and order in the area.



RAWALPINDI: Activists of Jamaat-e-Islami stage a sit-in against soaring inflation, high electricity tariffs, and heavy petroleum levies at Murree road. —PHOTO: ONLINE

One-Man Commission reviews minority rights implementation in KP

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR: A high-level meeting of the One-Man Commission, constituted in light of the directives of the Supreme Court of Pakistan to ensure the provision of rights to the minority community, was held here on Wednesday under the chairmanship of Dr. Muhammad Shoaib Suddle.

Addressing the meeting, Chairman Dr. Shoaib Suddle lauded the performance of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government in ensuring the provision of constitutional and legal rights to the minority community, stating that the province had made considerable progress in implementing

the directives of the superior judiciary in this regard, which was commendable. The meeting, held at the Civil Secretariat Peshawar, was attended by representatives of the minority community, administrative secretaries, and police officials from across the province.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Suddle directed that in cases where candidates meeting the requisite qualifications and criteria were not available under the minority employment quota, additional options should be explored to ensure timely recruitment against vacant posts. He further called for the establishment of a capacity-building academy for minor-

HMC hosts training session on reducing stigma against Transgenders with HIV



STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR: Hayatabad Medical Complex (HMC) hosted an interactive training session for its healthcare facility staff aimed at reducing stigma and discrimination against transgender persons living with HIV (PLHIV) and promoting inclusive healthcare practices.

The session was conducted by Arsiba Rafique, instructor from Blue Veins, who engaged HMC healthcare personnel in an interactive lecture covering respectful, equitable, and stigma-free service delivery for transgender patients.

The training forms part of a broader initiative that uses capacity building, peer-led support, community engagement, and policy advocacy to improve healthcare access and outcomes for transgender PLHIV in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, with the goal of enhancing their overall well-being

Three killed as vehicle plunges into Dir ravine

SYED ZAHID JAN

UPPER DIR :Three person were died of the same family and a child was critically injured when a Fielder car fell into a river in Sundrol area of Upper Dir on Tuesday.

According to Rescue 1122 and local Police, the ill-fated vehicle was on its way from Dir to Bain Darra, Barawal when the driver lost control at Sundrol and the car plunged hundreds of feet down into the river.

Rescue 1122 teams and local volunteers rushed to the spot soon after receiving information and launched a rescue operation. The bodies and the injured were retrieved from the deep gorge and shifted to hospital.

Police sources confirmed that the deceased belong to one family. They were



identified as Abdus Salam son of Abdul Hakeem, his wife Bakhtora Bibi, and his daughter Alina Bibi, all residents of Bain Darra, Barawal.

The injured child, Naeemullah son of Abdus Salam, was shifted to DHQ Hospital Timergara in critical condition where he underwent head surgery. Doctors said he is now out of danger.

ity youth to empower them and enable them to benefit from available employment opportunities.

Briefing the Commission on the implementation of the five percent employment quota for the minority community in light of Supreme Court directives, officials informed the meeting that a total of 3,380 posts had been earmarked for the minority community across the province, of which 1,282 had been filled by eligible candidates while 2,106 remained vacant. Chairman Dr. Suddle remarked that further facilitation should be extended to minority candidates for filling the vacant posts.

Regarding implementation of the two

Quran completion ceremony held at Madrasa Gulshan Abu Zar Ghafari

PROVINCE REPORT

VILLAGE MINA: A spiritual and dignified ceremony marking the completion of Quran recitation and distribution of prizes was held at Madrasa Gulshan Abu Zar Ghafari, attended by religious scholars, elders, students, parents and local residents.

The programme was organized under the supervision of Maulana Irfanullah Naqshbandi, Khateeb of the central mosque and programme coordinator. The ceremony began with recitation from the Holy Quran, followed by Naat and religious addresses by scholars.

The speakers highlighted the importance of Quranic education, recitation, practical implementation and moral training. Students were encouraged to develop good character, discipline, sincerity and respect alongside religious knowledge.

Prizes were distributed among students who secured prominent positions in their studies. Religious scholars and guests appreciated the students' hard work and the madrasa's efforts toward their religious and moral development.

News BRIEFS

Rents soar in Peshawar, where will the common man go? Akbar Sethi

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR: Provincial President of the Pakistan Hinduwan Tehreek, Muhammad Akbar Sethi, has expressed deep concern over the acute shortage of rental housing and the continued sharp increase in rents in Peshawar, saying that soaring rents have made life extremely difficult for ordinary citizens. He demanded that the government immediately conduct a comprehensive survey of the city, maintain a legal record of landlords and tenants, and formulate a clear official mechanism for determining house rents. In his statement, Muhammad Akbar Sethi said that the influx of people from tribal and southern districts had significantly increased the population burden on Peshawar. However, despite the return of Afghan citizens, rents have continued to rise instead of declining, placing local residents under severe financial pressure. He said that monthly rent for a house measuring merely one marla in Peshawar is being charged between Rs20,000 and Rs25,000. "How can an ordinary citizen earning Rs30,000 a month run a household amid the current inflation? Should he pay the house rent, utility bills, buy groceries, or pay his children's school fees?" he questioned.

Wafaqi Mohtasib secures Rs1,498,146/- pension arrears for Nowshera Woman

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR: The Wafaqi Mohtasib of Pakistan, Regional Office Peshawar, has secured substantial relief for a resident of District Nowshera by resolving her long-pending pension-related grievance against the Controller of Military Accounts (Pension), Lahore.

Mst. Safia Farooq, a resident of District Nowshera, lodged a complaint with the Wafaqi Mohtasib against the Controller of Military Accounts (Pension), Lahore, stating that despite completion of all required codal formalities, her monthly pension had neither been correctly revised nor had the commuted portion of her pension been issued.

Taking prompt cognizance of the matter, the Wafaqi Mohtasib of Pakistan, Regional Office Peshawar, intervened in the case. As a result of the swift intervention and dedicated investigation personally conducted by Mr. Muhammad Qasim Jan, Regional Head, Peshawar, the grievance was resolved during the hearing.

Consequently, the CMA corrected the monthly pension of the complainant to Rs. 72,238/- and issued pension arrears amounting to Rs. 1,498,146/- in her favour.

The substantial relief provided to the complainant reflects the commitment of the Wafaqi Mohtasib institution towards ensuring that pensioners and senior citizens receive their legitimate dues without unnecessary delay, procedural hurdles or financial burden.

Expressing her gratitude, Mst. Safia Farooq thanked the Honourable Wafaqi Mohtasib of Pakistan, Mr. Naveed Kamran Baloch, and Regional Head Peshawar Mr. Muhammad Qasim Jan for providing speedy, transparent and cost-free administrative justice. She particularly appreciated the fact that she was able to obtain relief without the need to engage a lawyer.

Speaking on the occasion, Regional Head Mr. Muhammad Qasim Jan stated that the Wafaqi Mohtasib institution is firmly committed to protecting the rights of senior citizens and pensioners by ensuring transparent, timely, speedy and people-friendly redressal of complaints.

Pakhtunkhwa, was completed. Chairman Dr. Suddle directed the concerned authorities to extend full cooperation in facilitating the registration process.

The Commission meeting also decided to constitute a committee, to be headed by the Chairman of the One-Man Commission himself, to formulate clear policy guidelines regarding the posting and transfer of minority community members serving in educational and other institutions.

Other important agenda items pertaining to the rights of the minority community were also discussed during the meeting.



The participants also praised the religious, educational and reformative services of Maulana Irfanullah Naqshbandi and said that such institutions play an important role in the positive development and training of the younger generation.

The ceremony concluded with a special prayer for the madrasa, teachers, stu-

KP Irrigation Minister chairs important meeting on compensation for flood affectees of Buner

Cases of genuine flood victims who have been left out of government assistance and compensation should be addressed on a priority basis: Riaz Khan

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Irrigation Riaz Khan chaired an important meeting regarding cases of flood-affected people of Buner district who have been left out of or are facing delays in receiving compensation and financial assistance being provided by the KP government.

The meeting reviewed in detail the overall status of compensation payments to flood affectees of Buner, including completed and pending cases, victims who have been left out of compensation, the



verification process, and cases delayed due to various reasons.

Director General Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Arifullah, along with administrative officers of district Buner, attended the meeting.

The relevant authorities briefed the provincial minister in detail on the current status of compensation cases, progress made so far, reasons behind pending cases, verification procedures, and measures being taken to resolve the cases at the earliest.

Provincial Minister Riaz Khan directed the concerned officers to immediately identify genuine flood victims who have been left out of compensation and ensure that their cases are processed on a priority basis. He further directed that all necessary steps be taken to ensure payment of the compensation fixed by the

KP government reaches every deserving affected person.

He said that the KP government's objective is to provide timely relief and assistance to people affected by floods. He emphasized that transparency, merit and strict compliance with rules and regulations must be ensured throughout the process.

Wealth of Karak and Accounting of Royalty

A.WASEEM KHATTAK



The oil and gas reserves hidden beneath the soil of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Karak district have been playing a crucial role in meeting the country's energy needs for years. However, a clear account has never surfaced regarding how much of a share the local people receive from the wealth of a district that provides Pakistan with resources worth billions of rupees. The company operating in Karak's Gurguri Banda daud shsh tehsil has one exploratory and nine developmental wells in the Makori Gas Field, with a total of twelve active wells in the area. On average, 16.19 million cubic feet of gas, 183 barrels of condensate, and 125 tons of LPG are extracted daily from this field. Under the supervision of MOL Company, an additional 16,000 barrels of oil and 300 million cubic feet of gas are obtained daily from Makori, Manzalai, Tal Block, and other fields. Nashpa Oil Field, considered OGDCL's best nationwide, produces 20,575 barrels of oil and 65 to 76 million cubic feet of gas daily. Each of its four gas wells has a pressure of 390 PSI, an excellent rate by global standards. In the Togh Bala area of the district, the situation is even more remarkable; 7,000 barrels of oil and 2,500 cubic feet of gas are extracted daily, marking the highest production from any single well in the entire country. Last year, Pakistan Oilfields also made a new discovery in the Tal Block, estimating an output of approximately 22 million cubic feet of gas and 2,112 barrels of crude oil per day. At the provincial level, 40 percent of the country's crude oil—roughly 30,000 barrels per day—is sourced from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Karak is a prominent hub of this production. Converting the value of these figures into Pakistani currency makes the picture even clearer. The Makori Oil and Gas Field alone generates a daily net income of 300 million rupees, while the fields under MOL Company generate a daily income of 600 million rupees.

Out of this income, 50 percent of the royalty is transferred to the province. The province then returns only 10 percent of this royalty to Karak district, and even that amount is not spent properly on the district. In simple terms, the share Karak receives back from the royalty of its own land amounts to a mere five percent of the total income. Over the past twenty years, billions of rupees have gone into the government treasury, and the province's annual budget is largely funded by this very income from Karak. Even Khushal Khan Khattak University has been funded for years by this royalty money. Despite this, Karak itself has suffered from electricity load-shedding and severe gas crises, prompting repeated protests from the local population. Furthermore, the royalties, funds, and the latest annual budget allocated exclusively for Karak have never been officially published anywhere.

The statistics that are available mostly stem from individual reports or statements by local representatives rather than any consolidated official record. The provincial government recently admitted the need to create a formal mechanism to bring transparency to the use of royalty funds. This means the very institution distributing the money acknowledges that the accounting is not transparent. The situation is best summarized by a local elected representative from Gurguri, who noted that while the federal and provincial governments receive royalties from the oil and gas extracted from Karak, their own district continues to become more impoverished. This disparity is visible in both the statistics and the ground realities. A region's development is not measured solely by how many barrels of oil or gas are extracted from it; true development is measured by how much of that income is spent on children's education, medical treatment, and basic amenities for families. Until a complete and transparent record of royalty and development funds is presented to the public, the people of Karak will continue to ask: where exactly does the wealth extracted from their district go? The land of Karak has given much to Pakistan, yet received deprivation and injustice in return. At the very least, there must now be an accounting for the past.

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ASHRAF ALI



If militants cross a provincial boundary, the answer should be better intelligence, policing, border management and coordination—not the political demonisation of an entire province

Does Pakistan want to tell the world that terrorism is fundamentally a conflict between its own provinces?

Maryam Nawaz's recent assertion that Punjab faces a greater security threat from neighbouring provinces than from neighbouring countries is not merely an unfortunate political statement; it raises a much more serious question about the national security narrative being presented to Pakistan and the world. For years, Pakistan has consistently maintained before the international community that terrorism is not simply an internal Pakistani phenomenon. Pakistan has repeatedly accused militant organisations of receiving support, financing, training or facilitation from external actors, while also pointing to cross-border sanctuaries and hostile intelligence networks. Whatever the international debate surrounding these claims, they constitute an important part of Pakistan's diplomatic and security narrative.

Against this backdrop, publicly suggesting that the principal threat to Pakistan's largest province comes not from neighbouring countries but from Pakistan's own neighbouring provinces is politically reckless.

Who benefits when Pakistan begins blaming Pakistan?

If a political leader tells the world that Punjab is more threatened by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan or other Pakistani provinces than by neighbouring countries, the obvious question arises: what happens to Pakistan's international narrative about external sponsorship of terrorism?

Does Pakistan want to tell the world that terrorism is fundamentally a conflict between its own provinces?

If so, then Pakistan is voluntarily weakening its own diplomatic position.

India, in particular, has long been the subject of serious accusations by Pakistan regarding alleged support for hostile activities against Pakistan. Pakistan has also accused India of using proxies and militant networks to destabilise the country. Similarly, Pakistan has repeatedly raised concerns about militant activity originating from or facilitated through Afghanistan. Recent security incidents along the Afghanistan border demonstrate that cross-border militancy remains a major security concern. Therefore, reducing the security debate to "the real threat comes from neighbouring provinces" is not simply an attack on provincial harmony; it risks undermining the broader national security narrative.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is not the enemy

There is an even greater irony in the statement. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is not some foreign territory standing outside Pakistan. Its people are Pakistani citizens. Its police officers, soldiers, Levies personnel and civilians have paid an extraordinary price in the fight against terrorism.

To portray an entire province as a source from which terrorism "enters" Punjab is an extraordinarily dangerous political simplification. Terrorists do not carry provincial identity cards. Militancy does not belong to Pashtuns, Punjabis, Sindhis or Baloch. Terrorism is the enemy of every Pakistani.

If militants cross a provincial boundary, the answer should be better intelligence, policing, border management and coordination—not the political demonisation of an entire province. The people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have lived with terrorism at a scale that many parts of the country have fortunately not experienced. Turning their suffering into a political accusation against the province is therefore not only unfair; it is profoundly insensitive.

And what about India?

Perhaps the most damaging implication of such rhetoric is the impression it can create internationally: that India is no longer regarded as a meaningful security threat by Pakistan. That is a remarkably consequential message. Pakistan has spent years arguing internationally that India represents a serious strategic and security challenge, including allegations of involvement in destabilising activities inside Pakistan. If a senior provincial leader now publicly suggests that the threat from neighbouring provinces is greater than the threat from neighbouring countries, international observers are naturally entitled to ask:

Was Pakistan wrong all along?
Were its diplomatic complaints exaggerated?
Were its security assessments politically manufactured?
Why should the international community take Pakistan's future alle-

gations seriously if its own political leadership publicly contradicts the country's established security narrative?

This is precisely why statements on national security cannot be treated like ordinary political slogans.

Political rivalry must not become national fragmentation

There is nothing wrong with acknowledging that terrorism can exploit provincial boundaries. But there is everything wrong with converting a counterterrorism problem into a provincial blame game.

Pakistan does not need Punjab versus Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. It does not need Balochistan versus Punjab. It does not need Sindh versus Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

And it certainly does not need political leaders teaching Pakistanis to look at fellow citizens as an internal enemy. The constitutional federation of Pakistan is stronger when its provinces cooperate and weaker when politicians portray one province as a threat to another. If terrorists exploit a provincial border, the border should be secured—not the province demonised.

A dangerous gift to Pakistan's adversaries

The most troubling aspect of such statements is that Pakistan's adversaries do not even have to manufacture propaganda when Pakistani politicians themselves provide them with material. One side of Pakistan's diplomatic argument says that the country faces externally sponsored terrorism and cross-border militancy.

Then a senior political leader publicly says the greater threat comes from Pakistan's own provinces.

Which version will an international journalist quote?

Which version will an Indian diplomat highlight?

Which version will Pakistan's opponents use at international forums?

The answer is obvious.

When political rhetoric contradicts national security policy, the damage does not stop at political boundaries—it travels across international borders.

The mature response is unity, not provincial chauvinism

Maryam Nawaz is entitled to protect Punjab. Every chief minister is responsible for the security of his or her province. But protecting Punjab cannot mean politically distancing Punjab from the rest of Pakistan.

Punjab's security is inseparable from the security of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Sindh. Pakistan's security is indivisible. The appropriate response to terrorism is therefore not: "The terrorists are coming from that province." It should be:

"Pakistan will defeat terrorism wherever it originates, whoever sponsors it and whichever province it targets." That is the language of a national leader.

Provincial blame is the language of political division.

The question Maryam Nawaz must answer

If neighbouring provinces are a greater threat to Punjab than neighbouring countries, then the people of Pakistan deserve a serious explanation:

Has Pakistan changed its assessment of external threats?

Has India ceased to be considered a security threat?

Has Pakistan withdrawn its allegations regarding externally supported terrorism? If not, why publicly create an impression that neighbouring provinces pose the greater danger? These are not petty political questions.

They concern Pakistan's national security narrative. Pakistan's enemies should not be handed diplomatic ammunition by Pakistan's own political leadership. Maryam Nawaz may have intended to speak about Punjab's internal security challenges. But national leaders are judged not merely by what they intend to say; they are judged by what their words communicate to the country and to the world. And this statement communicated something deeply dangerous: Instead of seeing Pakistan as one nation confronting terrorism, it encouraged the perception of Pakistan as provinces confronting one another. That is not national security. That is political irresponsibility. Pakistan does not need politicians who teach its provinces to fear one another. Pakistan needs leadership capable of identifying the real threats, defending the national narrative and standing united against terrorism—whether its perpetrators are domestic militants or external actors allegedly supporting them.

Field Marshal Underscores Youth's Responsibility

ABDUL BASIT ALVI



The digital age has placed a major responsibility on youth, making Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir's call for active, thoughtful engagement against social media propaganda particularly important. During his meeting with Harvard Business School students, where regional and global affairs, Pakistan's security situation, and efforts for peace, stability, and prosperity were discussed, he stressed education, skills, entrepreneurship, and fact-based analysis as essential defenses against misinformation. Youth must move beyond passive consumption of online content and develop critical thinking, intellectual honesty, source verification, and skepticism, especially as fabricated stories can trigger real-world protests, declining institutional trust weakens reliance on credible sources, and algorithmic echo chambers reinforce biases and create conflicting versions of reality. Even those who consider themselves resistant to propaganda can be influenced by unverifiable tweets, viral WhatsApp messages, and anonymous accounts, making misinformation and declining trust serious threats to social cohesion. Education and skills can therefore strengthen analytical thinking, while entrepreneurship can empower youth to create economic opportunities and prosperity, reducing the conditions that allow divisive narratives to flourish. Pakistani youth have already shown their potential through support for national unity and the armed forces during challenges, volunteer work, community development, and contributions to the technology sector, leading government and military leadership to call them Pakistan's greatest asset and urge them to lead the "battle for progress." Yet experts

stress that laws and crackdowns alone are insufficient: trust must be rebuilt through meaningful engagement with youth, attention to their concerns, and formal digital-literacy education that teaches them to verify sources, identify bias, question narratives, and distinguish credible information from manipulation. Initiatives such as ISPR's Summer Internship program further engage thousands of students in national and information-security discussions. Fact-based thinking also builds psychological resilience by helping young people remain calm, avoid toxic debates, resist provocations, and focus on constructive nation-building rather than anger and division.

The youth's role extends beyond resisting propaganda to actively shaping a positive national narrative through videos, articles, podcasts, and social-media content highlighting Pakistan's culture, history, achievements, and positive developments, thereby countering malicious narratives spread by domestic and foreign elements seeking to exploit internal divisions and create despair. They also have a responsibility to hold leaders accountable through informed, respectful dialogue rather than mob behavior or online harassment, demanding transparency and good governance while participating in political debates through evidence instead of emotion—an especially important form of democratic maturity in a political environment often marked by sensationalism and personal attacks. The challenge is global, affecting societies from the United States and India to Europe through misinformation, polarization, and algorithmic manipulation, but Pakistan's strategic location, diverse population, and complex security environment make its youth particularly important because instability can affect regional trade, security, and relations with India, China, Afghanistan, and Iran. Thus, Pakistani youth have responsibilities not only to their own country but also to regional peace and stability, while the Field Marshal's discussion with international students underscored that combating propaganda and defending truth are shared global responsibilities requiring greater understanding across national and cultural boundaries. In everyday life, this responsibility means pausing before sharing sensational claims, checking sources, and constructively cor-



The people of AJK are demanding that government take tangible and visible steps to stop the growing culture of hate, division and violent protests

recting misinformation among peers; collectively, such small habits can build a resilient society. Youth can also use their digital skills and entrepreneurial abilities to create apps that flag dubious content, develop systems that promote reliable information, and launch awareness campaigns for older generations vulnerable to fake news and online scams. In this way, Munir's emphasis on education, skilling, entrepreneurship, and fact-based analysis presents youth not merely as consumers of technology and information, but as critical thinkers, responsible citizens, innovators, creators, and potential leaders capable of shaping a more truthful, stable, peaceful, and prosperous digital and national environment.

It is also essential to acknowledge the role of families and educational institutions in supporting the youth in this endeavor; for the responsibility does not lie solely with the young people themselves; parents, teachers, and community leaders must create an environment that encourages questioning, critical thinking, and open dialogue, and where young people feel safe to express their doubts and seek clarification without fear of ridicule or punishment. The Field Marshal's call for fact-based thinking is, in essence, a call for a cultural shift, a move away from blind acceptance of authority towards a more reasoned and evidence-based approach to all aspects of life, and this cultural shift cannot happen overnight, nor can it be achieved by any single institution alone. It requires sustained effort, patience, and a collective commitment to the values of truth, justice, and intellectual integrity, values that have always been at the heart of Pakistan's ideological foundation but which have sometimes been overshadowed by the noise and chaos of modern politics and media. The youth, with their energy, idealism, and fluency in digital media, are the natural leaders of this cultural transformation, and they are already making significant strides, as seen in the numerous student-led initiatives that promote interfaith harmony, environmental sustainability, and social justice across the country.

These initiatives demonstrate that the youth are not merely reacting to propaganda but are proactively building a better future, one that is based on the principles of inclusivity, tolerance, and mutual respect, and they are doing so in the face of considerable obstacles, including economic

hardship, limited resources, and sometimes societal resistance to change. Nevertheless, their resilience and determination are inspiring, and they serve as a powerful rebuttal to those who would paint Pakistan as a nation of despair or extremism, for the reality is that the country is brimming with talented, ambitious, and conscientious young people who are eager to contribute to its development and to defend its honor against all forms of attack. The recent meeting between Field Marshal Munir and the Harvard students was a testament to this potential, as it showcased Pakistan's willingness to engage with the global community on equal footing, to share its perspectives, and to learn from others, all while maintaining a firm commitment to its own national interests and values. The Field Marshal's message, therefore, was not one of fear or alarmism but of empowerment and hope, a recognition that the youth hold the key to Pakistan's future and that they are more than capable of fulfilling their responsibilities if they are given the right guidance and support.

The responsibility of the youth in the current digital age is indeed huge, and it encompasses the defense of truth, the promotion of peace, the pursuit of prosperity, and the building of a strong, united, and enlightened society, and the guidance provided by Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir serves as a valuable roadmap for this journey. The youth of Pakistan have already shown their maturity, sensibility, and readiness to follow this path, and their active work against false propaganda is a clear indication that they are not waiting for someone else to solve the problems; they are taking charge themselves, with courage, intelligence, and a deep sense of patriotism. As they continue to develop their skills, expand their knowledge, and embrace fact-based thinking, they will not only counter the negative influences of social media but will also become the architects of a new Pakistan, one that is peaceful, secure, and prosperous, and one that stands as a beacon of hope and progress in a troubled world. The journey is long and the challenges are many, but with the youth leading the way and with the wise counsel of leaders like Field Marshal Munir, there is every reason to believe that success is not only possible but inevitable, and that the future of Pakistan is in the safest of hands, the hands of its own young, determined, and principled citizens.

Pakistan, ADB reaffirm commitment to timely finalization of ML-1 project design

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Senator Ahad Cheema held a meeting with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) delegation to review progress on the Main Line-1 (ML-1) railway project, with particular focus on timely finalization of the project design and subsequent preparatory requirements.

The ADB informed the meeting that its technical team and Project Consultants are actively working on the project and that every effort is being made to finalize the ML-1 project design within October.

The ADB side further stated that, once the project design is finalized, it would make every effort, in close coordination with the Government, to move forward with procurement and other subsequent stages in a timely manner, said a release issued here on Wednesday.

Senator Ahad Cheema appreciated the progress being made by ADB and its technical teams and emphasized the importance of maintaining close coordination among all stakeholders to facilitate timely completion of the ongoing work.

The Minister said Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif attaches high priority to the ML-1 project and is keen to see it move towards implementation at the earliest possible stage.

New, Zealand envoy calls on finance minister

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb held a meeting with High Commissioner-designate of New Zealand to Pakistan, H.E. David Pine, as both sides reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral economic relations, trade, investment and business-to-business cooperation.

David Pine called on the Finance Minister accompanied by Ms. Avanthi Kalansooriya, Policy and Public Affairs Adviser at the New Zealand High Commission, and Mr. Moin M. Fudda, Honorary Consul General of New Zealand for Pakistan, said a release issued here on Wednesday.

During the meeting, Mr. Pine congratulated Senator Aurangzeb on Pakistan's successful return to international capital markets through its recent Eurobond issuance. He also appreciated the progress achieved by Pakistan towards macroeconomic stability and economic reforms.

The New Zealand envoy briefed the Finance Minister on his country's approach to enhancing engagement with Pakistan and the broader South Asian region, with particular emphasis on identifying practical avenues for stronger economic cooperation.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb meeting with High Commissioner-designate of New Zealand to Pakistan, H.E. David Pine at the Finance Division on Wednesday to discuss bilateral trade, investment and economic cooperation. — PHOTO: PID

Chairman FBR holds meeting with FPCCI delegation in Karachi

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman, Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Rashid Mahmood Langrial met with a delegation of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) in Karachi today as part of his monthly visit to the city. The delegation was led by Saqib Fayyaz Magoon, and included senior office bearers and business leaders, while the Chairman was accompanied by Member Inland Revenue (Operations), Member Customs (Operations) and senior officers of FBR. The meeting was held as a follow-up to the earlier meeting to review the progress made on various matters discussed in the previous meeting, said a release issued here on Wednesday. The FPCCI delegation warmly appreciated the Chairman's initiative of making monthly visits to Karachi, describing it as a positive and welcome step that reflects the government's commitment to sustained, direct engagement with the business community. The delegation remarked that such regular interaction had significantly improved communication between FBR and the trade bodies, allowing issues to be raised and addressed in a timely manner. The FPCCI delegation showered appreciation of the Chairman's monthly engagement initiative.

Training session on mandatory fortification of edible oil held for oil millers

Fortification with vitamins A and D vital for healthier society; stakeholders urged to play their role

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR: A one-day training session on the mandatory fortification of edible oil with vitamins A and D and its importance was held for owners and representatives of edible oil mills at the Committee Room of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety and Halal Food Authority here.

The training session was organized in collaboration with Nutrition International and focused on edible oil quality, quality assurance, quality control, food safety protocols and the mandatory fortification of edible oil with vitamins A and D.

The session was chaired by Director General KP Food Safety and Halal Food Authority Kashif Iqbal Jilani. Director Operations Halal Food Authority Muhammad Yousaf Khan, Provincial Manager Nutrition International Imtiaz Ali Shah, Associate Professor University of Agriculture Peshawar Dr Yasir Durrani, representatives of edible oil mills and other relevant experts attended the session.

Speaking on the occasion, Imtiaz Ali Shah gave a detailed presentation on the prevailing situation of malnutrition in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He also highlighted various initiatives and programs being undertaken by Nutrition International to address malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies in the province.

Dr Yasir Durrani, Associate Professor at the University of Agriculture Peshawar, briefed the participants on the importance of mandatory edible oil fortification, its nutritional benefits and its potential positive impact on public health.

He explained that adding essential vitamins to edible oil in appropriate quantities could help address nutritional deficiencies, particularly deficiencies of vitamins A and D. He also emphasized the importance of maintaining prescribed



standards, appropriate fortification levels, effective quality control and adherence to food safety principles throughout the process.

The participants were also given detailed information about quality assurance, quality control and food safety protocols for edible oil mills, with the objective of ensuring the availability of safe, quality and nutritious edible oil in the market.

During the interactive session, representatives of the oil industry put forward various suggestions and recommendations for making the fortification process

more effective. They also highlighted practical issues faced by the industry and proposed measures for improving coordination between industry stakeholders and regulatory authorities.

Addressing the session, DG Kashif Iqbal Jilani said that ensuring the provision of safe, quality and healthy food was a shared responsibility of the government, relevant institutions, industry and all other stakeholders.

He said edible oil was an important component of the daily diet, therefore, ensuring its safety, quality and nutritional value was essential for public health.

United Property Dealers extend support to Haji Ghulam Ali's panel

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR : Former Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali has intensified his election campaign for the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry elections. In this connection, he visited Aqaf Plaza on Dalazak Road, where he met office-bearers of the United Property Dealers Association and members of the business community. During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on the Chamber elections and the problems faced by the business community.

During the meeting, office-bearers of the United Property Dealers Association formally announced their full support for Haji Ghulam Ali's panel in the Sarhad Chamber elections. Association Chairman Haji Abdul Latif Butt, President Shahpur Salam, General Secretary Nazeeb Jan, Usman, and other office-bearers and traders were also present on the occasion.

The trader leaders welcomed Haji

Ghulam Ali and said that the property dealers' community would stand shoulder to shoulder with him in the Sarhad Chamber elections and would play a full role in ensuring the success of his panel by a heavy majority.

Former KP Governor Haji Ghulam Ali said that traders and the business community were the backbone of the national economy. However, he said, the business community was currently facing serious difficulties due to prevailing economic conditions. He said their objective was not to limit the Chamber of Commerce to merely an office, but to transform it into a genuine and effective voice for traders, particularly those associated with the property sector.

Haji Ghulam Ali said that after winning the Sarhad Chamber elections, issues faced by property dealers, including taxation, registration, and other administrative difficulties, would be taken up with the government on a priority basis.

Kalash: A Paradise Nestled at the Foot of Snow Covered Mountains

ZAHEER HAIDER JAFRI



Pakistan is a land of extraordinary natural beauty. From the deep blue waters of the Arabian Sea to the majestic mountains of the north, nature has blessed the country with landscapes that can compete with the most beautiful destinations in the world. Among these remarkable places, the Kalash Valley occupies a unique position. Nestled among snow-covered mountains, green slopes, flowing streams and dense forests, Kalash is not merely a tourist destination; it is a living example of nature, culture and human life existing together in remarkable harmony.

Located in the Chitral region of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Kalash valleys include Bumburet, Rumbur and Birir. Surrounded by towering mountains, these valleys offer breathtaking views in almost every season. The changing colours of nature give Kalash a different identity throughout the

year. In spring, the valley becomes green and colourful; summer brings pleasant weather and fresh mountain air; autumn creates a beautiful combination of golden colours; while winter covers the mountains and surrounding landscape with snow, transforming the area into a scene that looks like a painting created by nature itself.

The beauty of Kalash is not limited to its mountains. Its forests, streams, traditional houses and peaceful surroundings create an atmosphere of tranquillity. For visitors coming from crowded cities, the experience can be refreshing and unforgettable. The sound of flowing water, the cool mountain breeze and the sight of snow-covered peaks create a natural environment where one can temporarily forget the pressures and noise of modern urban life.

However, Kalash has something more valuable than its natural beauty: its distinctive cultural heritage. The Kalash community is known for its unique language, traditional clothing, music, dances, festivals and social traditions. Their cultural identity has developed over generations and remains one of the most distinctive examples of cultural diversity in Pakistan.

The traditional festivals of the Kalash community attract visitors from different parts of Pakistan and abroad. During these occasions, traditional music, colourful

clothing, dances and community gatherings create a lively cultural atmosphere. These festivals are not merely entertainment for tourists; they are an important means through which the community preserves and transfers its traditions from one generation to another.

The cultural importance of Kalash reminds us of the extraordinary diversity within Pakistan. The country is home to different languages, traditions, ethnic communities and ways of life. Instead of seeing this diversity as a division, it should be regarded as a national strength. Kalash is one of the colours in the larger cultural mosaic of Pakistan, and its heritage deserves protection and responsible promotion.

The valley also has enormous potential for tourism. In an age when travellers increasingly seek natural landscapes and authentic cultural experiences, Kalash possesses both qualities. Pakistan can benefit economically and internationally by promoting destinations such as Kalash. Improved roads, communication facilities, accommodation, healthcare, sanitation and tourist information services can make the area more accessible while improving the quality of life of local communities.

Yet tourism development must be carefully planned. The increasing number of visitors can put pressure on fragile mountain ecosystems. Plastic waste, un-

planned construction, deforestation and irresponsible tourist activities can gradually damage the natural environment. If the very landscape that attracts tourists is destroyed, tourism itself will eventually suffer.

Climate change is another serious challenge for mountain regions. Changes in temperature and rainfall patterns, floods, landslides and pressure on water resources can affect both local communities and the surrounding ecosystem. Therefore, any future development strategy for Kalash must include environmental protection and climate resilience as central priorities.

Sustainable tourism offers a practical way forward. Development should not simply focus on building more hotels and increasing tourist numbers. It should also protect forests, water resources and biodiversity. Proper waste management, environmentally friendly construction, controlled tourism and public awareness can help maintain the natural character of the valley.

Local communities should be at the centre of this process. Tourism can provide employment opportunities for local people through guiding services, hospitality, transportation, handicrafts and cultural activities. Local products and traditional crafts can also be promoted in national and international markets. When local

residents benefit directly from tourism, they are more likely to become active partners in protecting their natural and cultural heritage.

Tourists also have an important responsibility. A visitor should remember that Kalash is not simply a place for photographs; it is the home of a living community and a sensitive natural ecosystem. Visitors should respect local customs, avoid littering, protect the environment and behave responsibly. Respectful tourism can create a positive relationship between visitors and local residents.

Kalash can also play an important role in presenting a positive image of Pakistan to the international community. The country's global image is often shaped by political and economic stories, while its natural beauty and cultural richness receive comparatively less attention. The peaceful valleys of Chitral and the distinctive culture of Kalash provide an opportunity to tell another story about Pakistan—a story of beauty, diversity, hospitality and cultural heritage.

The real challenge is therefore not simply to bring more tourists to Kalash but to ensure that tourism does not destroy what makes the valley special. Roads and facilities are necessary, but development should respect the mountains, forests, water resources and traditional way of life. Modern facilities and cultural preservation

must go hand in hand.

Kalash is, without doubt, a paradise nestled at the foot of snow covered mountains. Its breathtaking landscapes represent the beauty of Pakistan, while its people and traditions represent the country's cultural diversity. Its mountains teach us humility, its rivers symbolize continuity, and its culture reminds us of the importance of preserving identity in a rapidly changing world.

Pakistan must recognize Kalash as both a tourism asset and a national heritage. If developed responsibly, it can become an internationally recognized destination while continuing to preserve its natural environment and cultural character.

The future of Kalash should not be measured merely by the number of tourists who visit it. Its success should be measured by whether its mountains remain beautiful, its forests remain protected, its rivers remain clean, its culture remains respected and its people benefit from sustainable development.

Kalash is a gift of nature and a treasure of Pakistan. It deserves to be explored with admiration, developed with wisdom and protected with responsibility. If we succeed in achieving this balance, generations to come will continue to stand beneath its snow covered mountains and discover the timeless beauty of this extraordinary paradise.

Third Test

Gay, Brook put England in command against Pakistan

Visitors bowled out for just 133; in reply, hosts make 156-4 at stumps on day one

EDGBASTON: Emilio Gay and Harry Brook struck half-centuries as England recovered from an early setback to take a 23-run lead over Pakistan at stumps on the opening day of the third Test at Edgbaston on Wednesday.

In reply to Pakistan's 133, England made a shaky start to their innings as Mohammad Ali struck in the fourth over, removing Ben Duckett for 11 after he was caught by Babar Azam in the slip cordon with the score on 12.

The hosts suffered another setback just 13 balls later when Mohammad Abbas trapped Jordan Cox lbw for four, reducing England to 24-2.

Opener Emilio Gay and captain Joe Root then added 15 runs for the third wicket before debutant Razaullah dismissed Root lbw for eight early in the final session.

Harry Brook then joined Gay, and the pair rebuilt England's innings with a vital 104-run stand for the fourth wicket, frustrating Pakistan's bowlers and taking the hosts into the lead.

Razaullah finally broke the partnership late in the day by dismissing Gay for a composed 60 off 114 balls, including nine fours, leaving England on 143-4.

Brook and Lawrence safely negotiated the remaining overs, adding an



unbeaten 13 runs for the fifth wicket to ensure England finished the day in a commanding position. Razaullah was Pakistan's standout bowler with 2-42, while Mohammad Abbas and Mohammad Ali claimed one wicket each.

After being asked to bat first earlier in the day, Pakistan suffered an early setback in the third over when Ollie Robinson struck, trapping returning opener Saim Ayub lbw for a 10-ball duck.

Jofra Archer then removed Pakistan's other opener, Azan Awais, who was dismissed for nine off 20 deliveries, including two boundaries, leaving the hosts reeling at 14-2 after 5.5 overs.

The wickets continued to tumble as Robinson struck again to dismiss Abdullah Shafique for three off 16 balls. Archer followed in the very next over by removing former captain Shan Masood for five off seven deliveries, reducing

Pakistan to 28-4.

Pakistan lost half their side in the 15th over when Josh Tongue bowled captain Babar Azam for seven off 18 balls. Babar managed just one boundary during his brief stay at the crease as Pakistan slumped to 48-5.

Debutant wicketkeeper-batter Ghazi Ghorri opened his Test account with a boundary off Tongue. However, his innings was short-lived as the England pacer dismissed him for four off five deliveries to claim his second wicket of the innings.

Another debutant, Imran Randhawa, also endured a brief stay at the crease as Tongue claimed his third wicket by dismissing him, leaving Pakistan in deep trouble at 84-7 after 20.4 overs.

Razaullah scored 11 before being dismissed by Robinson shortly after lunch, leaving Pakistan at 101-8. Saud Shakeel continued to lead the resistance with a brisk 43 off 47 deliveries, but he too fell with the score on 107.

The last-wicket pair of Mohammad Abbas and Mohammad Ali added 26 runs before Archer dismissed Abbas to bowl Pakistan out for 133.

For England, Tongue starred with four wickets, while Archer and Robinson claimed three wickets apiece.

Shayan Afridi shines at National Tennis Championship



SPORTS REPORTER

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Shayan Afridi produced an impressive performance at the 1st Meinhardt Grade A+ National Ranking Tennis Championship in Islamabad, winning the Boys' U-14 singles title.

Shayan defeated Muhammad Muaz 6-4, 6-2 in the final to clinch the national ranking title. He also impressed in the Boys' U-18 singles event, defeating tournament top seed M. Yahya in the quarter-final before losing in the semi-final.

The week-long championship was held at the PTF Tennis Complex, Islamabad, with players from across the country participating. Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF) President Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi attended the event as chief guest.

Shaheen Afridi likely to play in President's Trophy Grade-I

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's ODI captain and fast bowler Shaheen Shah Afridi is expected to take part in this year's President's Trophy Grade-I, sources told on Wednesday. According to the insiders, Shaheen, who was left out of the Pakistan squad for their away series against West Indies and England, respectively, will be returning to first-class cricket since his breakout 2017 season of the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy.

The 26-year-old, who has now represented Pakistan in 34 Tests since making his debut the following year after his most recent first-class appearance, will turn up for his boyhood department, Khan Research Laboratories (KRL), in the President's Trophy Grade-I, slated to commence on September 12. KRL, which finished fourth in the previous edition of the departmental first-class tournament, will start their campaign this year against Ghani Glass, with their first-round fixture scheduled to be played in Peshawar from September 12 to 15.

The Pakistan ODI captain, who recently led Pakistan Gold to the title victory at the inaugural National Champions Cup by defeating Shadab Khan's Pakistan Greens in the final, will also represent KRL in the President's Cup. The departmental List-A domestic tournament, which was originally scheduled to be played in August, was pushed back to December following a request from the national selection committee and the white-ball team management.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police defeat Sindh Police to clinch All Pakistan Inter Provincial Police hockey title

SABAHAT SARWAR

KARACHI: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police emerged champions of the All Pakistan Inter-Provincial Police Hockey Tournament 2026, defeating hosts Sindh Police 3-1 in the final. The tournament was organized by the Sindh Police Sports Board in collaboration with the Karachi Hockey Association. Sindh Police finished as runner-up while Punjab Police secured third position. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police delivered an impressive performance in the final, overcoming Sindh Police by three goals to one to lift the championship trophy.

Inspector General of Police Sindh Javed Alam Odho was the chief guest at the

closing ceremony, where trophies and medals were distributed among the winning team and outstanding players. The ceremony was attended by DIG Traffic Pir Muhammad Shah, Olympian Hanif Khan, Waseem Feroze and Iftikhar Syed, Karachi Hockey Association President Imtiaz Ali Shah, former Pakistan Hockey Federation secretary Haider Hussain as well as police officials, players and a large number of spectators.

Congratulating the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police team on their victory, the IGP Sindh also commended the Sindh Police team and the organizers for successfully staging the tournament. He said that the revival of a hockey tournament among police teams after 2013



was a welcome development, adding that Sindh Police would work to restore and strengthen its longstanding sporting traditions. "The promotion of sports is an

effective means of guiding the younger generation towards healthy and positive activities," he said.

The IGP expressed concern over declin-

ing physical activity among young people due to the increasing use of mobile phones and sedentary lifestyles. He urged the youth to take up sports observing that a healthy body provides the foundation for a healthy mind. He said sporting activities also played an important role in keeping young people away from drugs, crime and other social evils.

Announcing further initiatives, IGP Odho said Sindh Police would organize tournaments every month while a football tournament among various police forces would also be held in the coming days. He added professional coaches were being engaged to further strengthen Sindh Police sports teams with the aim of enabling talented police athletes to represent

the force at national-level competitions in football, hockey, cricket, boxing and other sports.

The IGP said the scope of sporting competitions would gradually be extended beyond Karachi to other cities and districts of Sindh including the Katcha areas. Acknowledging the shortage of sporting grounds, he said efforts would be made to revive and develop playgrounds to provide greater opportunities for sports activities.

He also appreciated the efforts of Sindh Police Sports Board Chairman DIG Pir Muhammad Shah for promoting sports within the police force and congratulated all members of the Sports Board on the successful tournament.

AFC Enhances Development Programme Flexibility

PROVINCE REPORT

KUALA LUMPUR: The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Development Committee has approved comprehensive revisions to the AFC Enhance Programme Regulations during its fourth meeting, held virtually under the chairmanship of Yasser H. Almisehal.

The revisions aim to provide greater flexibility and tailor-made support to AFC Member Associations (MAs) and Regional Associations (RAs). The Committee approved changes allowing Beneficiary Regional Associations to transfer the existing USD 90,000 Corner allocation to Backroom, subject to applicable conditions and the overall funding cap.

The Committee also approved greater flexibility regarding unclaimed funds and unutilised balances, allowing them to be carried forward for eligible activities in the following year, subject to regulations and AFC approval. Minimum coaching qualification requirements under the Advantage programme were also updated in line



with the AFC Competitions Operations Manual 2026.

The Committee authorised waivers for six MAs facing governance transitions and approved Enhance Programme applications from four additional MAs.

It also reviewed the impact of the 2026 Enhance Programme, under which USD 2.12 million was distributed to 14 MAs through Kick-Off, Pass and Volley. Another USD 2.07 million was allocated to 14 MAs under Advantage,

while more than USD 1 million was distributed across all five RAs.

Twenty stadium projects have also been approved under the 2025-2028 Enhance Programme, with USD 2.51 million already disbursed.

The Committee further reviewed progress under the AFC League Development Programme and AFC Equal Pitch Programme and welcomed the expansion of educational courses offered through the AFC Academic Centre of Excellence.

Gulbahar College players shine in Basketball

PROVINCE REPORT

PESHAWAR: Basketball players from Government City Girls College Gulbahar and various clubs in Peshawar have achieved another milestone by representing Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in a national-level tournament in Lahore.

Two Peshawar teams, comprising four players each, are participating in the five-day event being held from September 7 to 11, with around 30 clubs from across Pakistan taking part.

Najma Naz Qazi, Sports Director of Government City Girls College Gulbahar and Vice President Women Wing of the KP Basketball Association, said the Peshawar club team has won both its matches, boosting the players' confidence.

She said 18 top-performing players will be shortlisted for a training camp, while three teams will later be formed to represent Pakistan in Girls 3x3 Basketball competitions under FIBA Asia.

Najma Naz Qazi said the college is pro-



viding students with opportunities to excel in sports alongside academics, with

its players achieving success in several national and inter-district competitions.

Six Titans Reshaping Indonesia's Living Earth, Human Destiny, and Global Climate

BY FIZZA QAISAR



Since time immemorial, the Earth has breathed its deadliest fire along the volatile contours of the Pacific Ring of Fire, with Indonesia standing as its central, pulsating heart. Home to over one hundred and twenty active volcanoes, this archipelagic realm exists in a state of perpetual, uneasy dialogue with the subterranean forces beneath its soil. When these subterranean giants awaken, they do not merely fracture the physical landscape;

they rewrite human destinies, obliterate fragile economic lifelines, and release environmental ripples that alter the very climate we depend upon. Among these fiery peaks, six formidable titans, Mount Merapi, Mount Semeru, Mount Sinabung, Anak Krakatau, Mount Ruang, and Mount Marapi, stand as solemn monuments to nature's untamed power and the profound vulnerability of human civilization.

The immediate human cost of these volcanic events is devastating and far-reaching. Crowned as the most relentless sentinel of Central Java, Mount Merapi, the legendary Mountain of Fire, soars nearly three thousand meters above a densely populated corridor. Its catastrophic fury reached a tragic zenith in 2010, when a series of violent pyroclastic explosions forced more than three hundred and fifty thousand souls to flee their ancestral homes and tragically claimed over three hundred lives. Beyond direct casualties, such

eruptions permanently uproot entire communities. In the highlands of North Sumatra, Mount Sinabung shattered a four-hundred-year slumber in 2010, unleashing a decade of relentless activity that permanently displaced over thirty thousand villagers. Today, the abandoned settlements surrounding Sinabung stand as silent ghost towns, stark reminders of how volcanic hazards strip families of their livelihoods, historical heritage, and mental well-being, leaving generations trapped in prolonged economic displacement.

Beyond the immediate loss of life, the structural and financial damages inflicted by these eruptions ripple through national and regional economies for years. When East Java's Mount Semeru unleashed a torrential surge of superheated rock and ash in late 2021, it did not merely claim fifty lives; it buried thousands of acres of vital agricultural land under a suffocating grey mantle and destroyed critical transport

infrastructure. Volcanic ash clouds, composed of pulverized rock and glass, wreak havoc on power grids, contaminate freshwater reservoirs, and collapse agricultural yields by smothering crops. Moreover, explosive eruptions like that of Mount Ruang in early 2024 demonstrate the vulnerability of global trade networks. Ruang's high-altitude ash plumes grounded international flights across several nations, incurring millions of dollars in aviation losses and crippling regional commerce in a matter of hours.

Adding a dangerous new dimension to these geologic threats is the escalating reality of global climate change, which acts as a force multiplier for volcanic hazards. While climate change does not trigger deep tectonic plate movement, rising global temperatures and shifting weather patterns directly amplifying the secondary disasters following an eruption. Indonesia's increasingly intense monsoon seasons, driven by

climate destabilization, regularly turn volcanic deposits into lethal, fast-moving mudslides known as lahars. When heavy, unprecedented rainfall meets the vast volumes of loose ash sitting on the slopes of peaks like Merapi and Semeru, it creates torrential rivers of wet concrete that sweep away downstream bridges, farmland, and homes long after the initial eruption has ceased. Furthermore, rapid climate-induced sea-level changes and thermal expansion place tremendous pressure on coastal and island volcanoes like Anak Krakatau, whose massive sector collapse in 2018 triggered a deadly tsunami in the Sunda Strait, making maritime volcanic slopes increasingly unstable.

Conversely, these massive volcanic outbursts exert their own powerful feedback loop on the global climate system. When explosive eruptions thrust millions of tons of sulfur dioxide gas high into the stratosphere, the gas

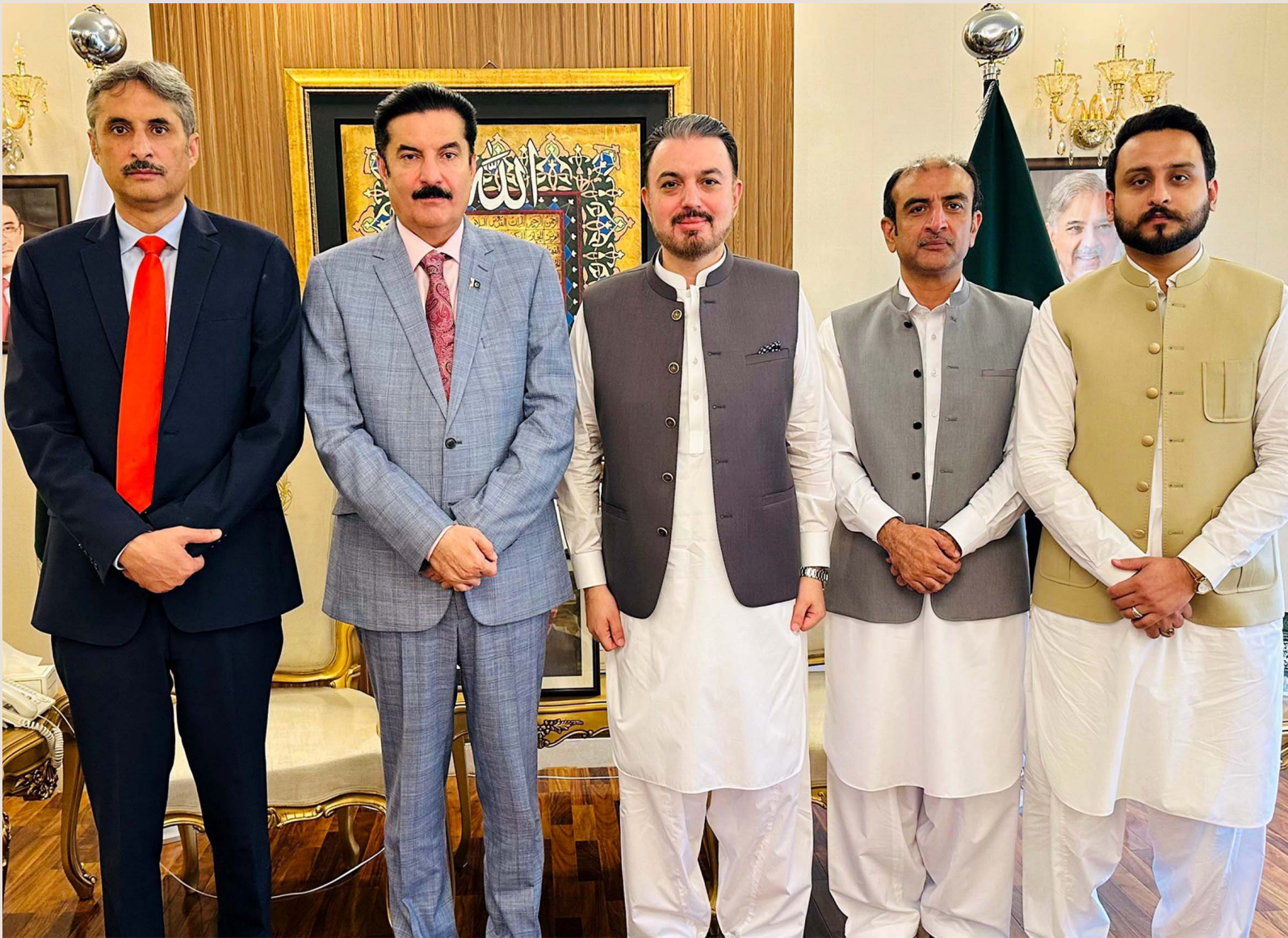
reacts with water vapor to form aerosol veils that reflect incoming sunlight back into space. While minor eruptions cause short-term regional weather shifts, historically massive events have produced global cooling phenomena, temporarily masking or unpredictably altering weather patterns across the globe. As tectonic forces continue their ceaseless motion deep beneath the Indonesian archipelago, these six living mountains, and the atmospheric and climate realities surrounding them, stand as an undeniable truth that humanity remains inextricably linked to the raw, elemental balance of a dynamic, evolving planet.

"In documenting the legacy of these six titans, we are forced to confront our own fragility. These mountains do not merely threaten life; they demand our respect, challenging us to build a future where human intelligence and environmental stewardship can peacefully coexist alongside the Earth's untamed heart."



Jennifer got her Instagram handle verified in hours

ISLAMABAD: Jennifer Lawrence finally joined the Instagram family and got the account verified within hours. On September 9, Jennifer Lawrence joined Instagram with the handle @jlaw after spending more than a decade without a social media presence. She couldn't use her own name for the account, since another user had already claimed @jenniferlawrence years earlier; that account's bio reads, "I'm not famous, but I do have a famous name." Lawrence addressed the mix-up with characteristic humour in her own bio, writing simply, "jennifer lawrence was taken." Despite not having posted anything to her grid yet, she'd already amassed well over 170,000 followers within hours of the account going live, with that number continuing to climb. Lawrence has long been candid about her aversion to social media. Speaking to BBC Radio 1 back in 2014, she said flatly, "I will never get Twitter. I'm not very good on the phone or technology. I cannot really keep up with emails, so the idea of Twitter is so unthinkable to me... It's like this weird enigma that people talk about. It's fine. I respect that." She briefly had an official Facebook page run by her team, which has since been shut down. In a 2018 interview with InStyle, she described herself as more of a silent observer than a participant online: "I'm on it. But I'm a voyeur: I watch, I don't speak". She's also acknowledged maintaining a secret, anonymous presence on TikTok, telling Fandango she gets into arguments in comment sections there, joking that her incognito persona "started" with conversations about the Real Housewives franchise before intensifying once she began weighing in on the British royal family.



ISLAMABAD: Group photo of Chairman Saif Group Jahangir Saifullah Khan after meeting with Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi. — PHOTO: TP

Kundi stresses quality housing, healthcare, sports facilities

Governor appreciated the efforts of the Saif Group in developing the housing project

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Wednesday underscored the need for providing quality residential facilities to citizens and stressed that hospitals and sports grounds should be integral parts of housing projects.

He expressed these views during a meeting with Chairman of Saif Group Jahangir Saifullah Khan, who called on him and briefed him on the ongoing housing project in Dera Ismail Khan.

PPP Parliamentary Leader in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Ahmad Kundi, Saif Group Senior Manager Danish Iftikhar and Pakistan Red Crescent Society Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Governor KP honours nurse who saved newborn in PIMS nursery fire



ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Wednesday honoured nurse Razia Noreen with a cash award of Rs100,000 and a special shield in recognition of her bravery in saving a newborn during the fire incident at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) nursery. At a ceremony held here, minority leader Samuel Pyare and PIMS Deputy Chief Nursing Officer Shazia were also present. Speaking on the occasion, the Governor said compassion for humanity was the hallmark of the nursing profession and praised Razia Noreen's courage and dedication. He said the entire Pakistani nation paid tribute to the nurse for her exemplary role and selfless service, adding that her act of bravery reflected the highest traditions of the medical profession. Governor Kundi also appreciated the services of healthcare professionals, saying their commitment to saving human lives deserved recognition and respect. — STAFF REPORTER

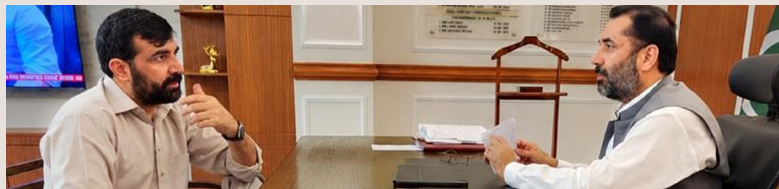
Secretary Abid Khan Marwat were also present during the meeting.

The Governor said modern housing schemes should ensure the availability of healthcare and recreational facilities alongside residential units to improve the quality of life of the people.

Jahangir Saifullah Khan informed the Governor that the project already included a hospital and sports grounds and assured him that work on these components would be further expedited.

Governor Kundi appreciated the efforts of the Saif Group in developing the housing project and emphasized the importance of timely completion of facilities for the benefit of local residents.

Minister for timely completion of Rustam–Ambela Road



STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister Excise, Taxation and Narcotics Control, Syed Fakhar Jehan, on Wednesday, held a meeting with Additional Chief Secretary Planning & Development Department Islam Zeb Khan at his office.

During the meeting, the provincial minister held detailed discussions regarding funds and other financial matters related to the communication infrastructure development project of the Rustam–Ambela Main Road.

Speaking on the occasion, Provincial Minister Syed Fakhar Jehan stated that the Rustam–Ambela Road is of immense

importance for the people of the area. He added that completion of this project would not only provide improved transportation facilities to local residents but would also contribute to the promotion of trade, economic activities and social development in the region.

The provincial minister urged the Additional Chief Secretary to complete the necessary process for placing the project before the Provincial Development Working Party (PDWP) for approval at the earliest, ensuring timely provision of funds and commencement of practical work. He emphasized that the completion of this project would directly benefit the people of Buner, Mardan, and surrounding areas.

Transport department restructuring plan to enhance public service delivery: SACM reviews proposed model

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR: A comprehensive review of the proposed restructuring plan of the Transport Department's subordinate attached wings was held on Wednesday under the chairmanship of Special Assistant to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Transport & Mass Transit, Samiullah Khan.

The meeting was attended by Secretary Transport & Mass Transit Muhammad Zubair, Secretary Provincial Transport Authority Naveed Akbar, Additional Secretary Transport and other senior officials of the department.

During the meeting, detailed discussions

were held on the proposed restructuring model aimed at bringing the various formations and functions of the Transport Department, including the Directorate of Transport, Provincial Transport Authority (PTA) and Regional Transport Authorities (RTAs), under a unified and strengthened organizational structure of the Provincial Transport Authority.

The meeting was informed that the proposed restructuring initiative is designed to establish an integrated mechanism for the delivery of professional services and public facilities currently being managed through different wings of the department.

The new model will help improve insti-

tutional efficiency, strengthen coordination and ensure transport services are aligned with contemporary requirements.

Officials briefed the Special Assistant that the implementation of the proposed model will introduce a unified regulatory framework and bring greater consistency in professional affairs of the transport sector. It will also improve accountability, enhance operational efficiency, accelerate decision-making processes and strengthen enforcement mechanisms.

Under the proposed restructuring framework, in district-level, functions of the department will be consolidated and strengthened through an integrated sys-



tem, enabling citizens to access transport-related services and resolve their issues through a single platform.

Speaking on the occasion, Special Assistant Samiullah Khan termed the proposed restructuring model a significant

step towards the professional development of the Transport Department and modernization of the transport sector. He also shared his recommendations for further improvement of the proposed framework.

He directed the concerned authorities to further refine the initial draft, conduct a comprehensive review of all necessary aspects, and proceed with placing the proposal before the relevant forums for approval and further implementation.

Spot ON

Six outlaws held in Paharpur crackdown

OUR CORRESPONDENT

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: The district police have arrested six suspects in separate cases of attempted murder, theft and other crimes and recovered weapons, ammunition and stolen goods in the limits of Paharpur police station on Wednesday.

According to police spokesman, three suspects including Muhammad Hasnain, Muhammad Saeed and Obaidullah, were arrested in an attempted murder case while a 30-bore pistol was also recovered from them.

Two proclaimed offenders namely Muhammad Zahid and Fazlur Rehman, were also arrested.

Hawala-hundi operator arrested from Chowk Yadgar

PESHAWAR: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Composite Circle Peshawar on Wednesday arrested an operator allegedly involved in the illegal hawala-hundi business and recovered Rs18.4 million in Pakistani currency from his possession.

According to the FIA, the action was carried out at Chowk Yadgar here. A mobile phone and important documents linked to the illegal hawala-hundi business were also recovered from the suspect.

The recovered cash and other evidence have been taken into custody for further investigation.— APP

Man arrested for assaulting and killing 9-year-old girl in Swat

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR: In a despicable incident in Madyan area of Upper Swat, a nine-year-old girl was allegedly sexually assaulted before being shot dead.

According to police on Wednesday, the suspect who shot and killed the girl was arrested by Madyan police along with the murder weapon.

Police said an investigation is underway to determine the exact circumstances and motive behind the incident. Further facts are expected to emerge as the investigation progresses.

ASI among two freed, four militants killed in Kurram operation

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR: Police and security forces have conducted an operation against militants and kidnappers in Taralai area of Central Kurram, rescuing two abductees, including an Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI) of police, besides killing four militants.

According to police on Wednesday, the operation was launched on the basis of intelligence reports. During the operation, kidnapped Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Muhammad Khan was safely recovered.

Awn Chaudhry visits WWD Secretariat

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Mr. Awn Muhammad Chaudhry, visited the Workers Welfare Fund Secretariat in Islamabad on Wednesday. Secretary Workers Welfare Fund, Mr. Zulfiqar Ahmed, along with senior officers, warmly received the Minister of State upon his arrival.

During the visit, the Minister of State was given a detailed briefing on the administrative affairs of the Workers Welfare Fund, ongoing welfare projects, and various welfare facilities being provided to industrial workers and their families.

Mr. Muhammad Awn Chaudhry congratulated Secretary Workers Welfare Fund, Mr. Zulfiqar Ahmed, and his entire team on collecting record revenue in the history of the country and appreciated the overall performance of the institution.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister of State said that, as a result of the present government's worker-friendly policies and the special efforts of Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Mr. Chaudhry Salik Hussain, the Workers Welfare Fund is actively engaged in providing maximum possible welfare facilities to industrial workers and their families.