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# QUETTA VOICE

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## Pakistan invited to first 'Board of Peace' meeting, likely to attend, say sources

### NEWS DESK:

Pakistan has been invited to the first proposed meeting of US President Donald Trump's "Board of Peace" (BoP) on Gaza, reported to be held in Washington on Feb 19, and is likely to attend, diplomatic sources told Dawn.

According to the sources, Islamabad received the invitation as part of the outreach to countries that have already joined the board, which was launched by Trump late last month. The meeting is expected to focus on giving formal shape to the board, including its structure, mandate and secretariat, the sources said.

"This will be a key meeting aimed at giving a shape and structure to the board," one diplomatic source said. Asked whether Pakistan could be approached to contribute troops to a proposed international stabilisation force for Gaza, the source said such discussions were premature.

"That would come later. First, we have to give shape to the board, form a structure, set up a secretariat and define its direction," he added.

Another source also said it was "still too early" for any discussion on troop contributions. Pakistan is among the 14 countries that signed the charter of the Board of Peace on January 22 on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos, becoming a founding member of the body.

The board was initially proposed in September 2025 and formally established last month. Under its charter, the US government serves as its official depository. President Trump has designated the Donald J. Trump Institute of Peace in Washington as the board's headquarters.

A controversial initiative The White House has proposed holding the first BoP meeting at the US Institute of Peace in Washington, according to an Axios report citing a US official and diplomats from four participating countries. The plans, which include a fundraising component for Gaza's reconstruction, remain at an early stage and could still change.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is scheduled to meet President Trump at the White House on Feb 18, a day before the planned board meeting.

Trump, who will chair the body, has said the Board of Peace will aim to resolve global conflicts — a claim that has alarmed many experts, who fear the initiative could undermine the United Nations and existing multilateral mechanisms.

While several Middle East-

ern allies of Washington have joined the board, many of the US's traditional Western allies have so far stayed away, reflecting unease over both its structure and mandate.

For Pakistan, participation in the meeting reflects a cautious but deliberate diplomatic choice. As a long-standing supporter of Palestinian rights, Islamabad has sought to remain engaged in international discussions on Gaza, while avoiding initiatives that could legitimise external control over the Palestinian territory.

A UN Security Council resolution adopted in mid-November authorised the board, along with cooperating states, to establish an international stabilisation force in Gaza following a ceasefire that began in October under a Trump-backed plan accepted by Israel and Hamas.

However, the ceasefire has remained fragile, with repeated

violations. Since October, more than 550 Palestinians and four Israeli soldiers have been killed. Israel's assaults on Gaza since October 2023 have killed more than 71,000 Palestinians, displaced the entire population and triggered a severe humanitarian crisis. Multiple rights organisations, scholars and a UN inquiry have said the campaign amounts to genocide — an allegation Israel denies.

Under Trump's Gaza plan unveiled late last year, the Board of Peace was originally intended to supervise Gaza's temporary governance before being expanded to address global conflicts.

Rights experts and scholars have criticised the concept, arguing that a US-led board overseeing the affairs of a foreign territory resembles a colonial structure. The absence of Palestinian representation on the board has further deepened these concerns.

## ATC rejects plea for Imran's treatment by personal doctors

### NEWS DESK:

An Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) in Rawalpindi on Saturday dismissed an application filed by PTI founder and former prime minister Imran Khan, seeking permission for a medical check-up by his personal doctors at Adiala jail.

After hearing arguments from both sides, the court declined to grant access to Mr Khan's private physicians inside the jail.

Appearing for the PTI founder, counsel Faisal Malik argued that as a former prime minister, his client deserved the same medical facilities previously extended to other ex-premiers, citing Nawaz Sharif as precedent. He contended that Mr Khan was an undertrial prisoner and had the legal right to be examined by doctors of his choice. The lawyer also claimed that Adiala jail lacked adequate facilities for specialised eye treatment.

Referring to Pakistan Prison Rules, Mr Malik said Rule 795 required that a prisoner's family be informed before any medical treatment. He questioned why Mr Khan had been taken to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) late at night, stating that he had not been taken out of jail for three years. Denial of access to personal doctors, he argued, amounted to discriminatory treatment. Special Prosecutor Zaheer Shah opposed the plea, arguing that Mr Khan was on bail in the GHQ attack case related to the May 9 events and convicted in other cases, and therefore could not be treated as an undertrial prisoner whose custody could be regulated by a criminal court. He further maintained that the ATC lacked jurisdiction to issue directions regarding jail administration or medical arrangements. Under prison rules, he said, medical care was the responsibility of government-appointed doctors, with no provision for private physicians.

After hearing both sides, the court dismissed the application. Separately, Mr Khan's sister Aseem Khanum alleged on X that medical reports promised by the Supreme Court had not been provided to the family, urging the chief justice to take contempt action. Meanwhile, a PIMS medical report confirmed that Mr Khan was diagnosed with right central retinal vein occlusion and received hospital-based treatment, which was completed smoothly. Jail authorities informed the court that Mr Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi were receiving medical care strictly under jail rules.

## Balochistan Government Imposes Section 144, Warns Against Protests: Shahid Rind



### NEWS DESK:

QUETTA: The Government of Balochistan has enforced Section 144 across the province to maintain law and order, banning illegal strikes, protests, public gatherings, and road blockades. This was

stated by Adviser to the Chief Minister Balochistan, Shahid Rind. Quetta Business Director He said that in line with Balochistan High Court directives, no highways or roads can be blocked under any circumstances. Law-enforcement agencies have been instructed to take strict action against

those disrupting traffic in the name of protest.

According to Rind, anyone violating Section 144 will be arrested, emphasizing that the law applies equally to all. Police have received clear orders to ensure public order and security through impartial enforcement.

## Life Disrupted Across Balochistan as Strike, Roadblocks Paralyze Quetta

Sardar Muhammad Khondai, Ayub Bhutto, News Desk:

Normal life came to a standstill across Quetta and several parts of Balochistan on Sunday as a shutter-down and wheel-jam strike was observed amid heavy police deployment, arrests, and widespread road closures.

Major markets, shops, and commercial centers in Quetta remained completely closed, while traffic on key arteries and highways was suspended due to blockades set up by protesters. Public transport was off the roads, leaving commuters stranded and daily life severely disrupted.

The strike was called by the Pakistan Constitution Protection Movement, also known as Tehreek-e-Tahaffuz-e-Ain Pakistan (TTAP), in protest against what it described as the alleged rigging in the February 8, 2024 general elections. Supporters of various component parties of the movement staged demonstra-



tions at multiple locations, blocking highways and main roads leading into and out of Quetta. Police were deployed at sensitive points across the provincial capital and other districts to maintain law and order. Several protesters were reportedly arrested during clashes with law enforcement agencies, further escalating tensions.

The ongoing protests have disrupted business activities, educational institutions, and essential services, adding to public inconvenience.

Authorities have urged protesters to remain peaceful while warning against any attempts to disturb public order.

## QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

### How Long Will Quetta Pay the Price for SSGC and Federal Negligence?

**Editorial:** Quetta is once again at the mercy of a winter crisis that has become all too familiar: low gas pressure, unannounced load shedding, and complete administrative silence. Every year, citizens are told to "bear with the situation" as temperatures fall and heaters, stoves, and geysers turn useless. Yet the authorities responsible — Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) and the federal energy managers — continue to operate without accountability.

**A City Freezing While Authorities Look Away**

The people of Balochistan are right to ask: Why must Quetta suffer the same crisis every winter while no structural reform is introduced? Why are consumers forced to pay heavy bills for a service that barely exists? And why do officials in Karachi and Islamabad continue to treat Balochistan's gas issues as a seasonal inconvenience rather than a governance failure?

Despite the Balochistan being an energy-producing region, its residents struggle every winter for the very resource extracted from their own soil. This contradiction reflects a deep-rooted policy imbalance in the federation,

where Balochistan remains last on the priority list — not because of a shortage of resources, but because of a shortage of political will.

SSGC's Repeated Excuses and Decades of Mismanagement

The SSGC's performance adds another layer of frustration. Each year, the company offers the same explanations — "excessive demand," "pipeline pressure issues," "technical challenges."

Yet no one explains why these problems remain unresolved despite decades of complaints.

Why have there been no significant infrastructure upgrades? Why has the company failed to introduce a clear winter management plan for Quetta? Why is communication with consumers absent?

The unannounced nature of the load shedding exposes a complete disregard for public convenience. When outages are not planned or announced, families cannot plan meals, heating, or even basic daily routines. Hospitals and clinics struggle to maintain warm environments for patients. Small businesses suffer. And in a city where temperatures can drop below freezing, such negligence is not

just inconvenient — it is dangerous.

**Federal Government's Weak Oversight and Balochistan's Low Priority**

The federal government cannot escape responsibility either. Energy management is a national issue, and the pattern of winter mismanagement in Balochistan reflects weak oversight, poor planning, and an unfair allocation of resources. The silence of policymakers during these crises sends a clear message: Quetta's suffering is not a priority.

What Quetta needs is not another round of hollow statements. It needs a transparent winter gas plan, proper infrastructure investment, honest communication with the public, and real accountability for SSGC. Most importantly, it needs the federal government to finally treat Balochistan as an equal stakeholder in national resource management.

The people of Quetta have endured enough. Their patience should not be mistaken for acceptance. Without decisive action, this recurring winter crisis will continue to expose not only the inefficiencies of SSGC but also the federal government's unwillingness to address long-standing injustices.

It is noteworthy that almost 30 districts of Balochistan have been badly hit by the current climate emergency. People who were already drowning in man-made disasters of inflation, poverty,

political crisis are currently drowning in a natural disaster. Nushki, Khuzdar, Lasbela, Bolan and Jhal Magsi received much of the inflictions of flash floods.

People were left stranded to flow with the waves as seen in footages, circulating on social media. Unfortunately, disturbing pictures of dead bodies of children covered with mud, families who were sitting helplessly on debris of their houses and sinking valuables of the people couldn't awaken the government from its stupor. Even more gloomily, the enraging waves of floods engulfing lives and property, converting everything into dust & debris and wreaking havoc all

## The Looming threat of Climate Crisis in Pakistan



**Sardar Mengal:**

Climate change is unleashing its worst effects in the form of heavy rainfalls and disastrous floods. Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change has already waved multiple red flags about dire consequences of climate change in Pakistan. The authorities should have been on their toes in response to the contours of the crisis but we witnessed everything otherwise.

Balochistan Vulnerable to Climate Crisis

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political crisis are currently drowning in a natural disaster. Nushki, Khuzdar, Lasbela, Bolan and Jhal Magsi received much of the inflictions of flash floods.

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around, couldn't merit breaking news on national media.

Prior disregard and later delayed response have multiplied inflictions of the catastrophe.

Loss of land communication has further isolated the stricken areas making true estimation of destruction more exhausting.

Timely decision and act can reduce the effect of Climate Change.

To stop ballooning problems into crisis; rescue, relief and rehabilitation operations should be carried out on full scale as the current pace is insufficient to meet the requirement. NDMA and PDMA need to reach out to the peripheral areas that are out of the

radar.

It's high time for the provincial and federal coalition government to pay special attention to those whose lives are at the stake. Political parties need to rise above the traditional politics and launch concerted efforts to help out the calamity stricken at the earliest. Social welfare organisations should come forward to heal the lesions of suffering humans. On national media, there should be special discourse and discussion on settlement and rehabilitation of the affected people.

In addition to ensuring: re-building of eroded infrastructure, compensation for losses, clean water, adequate supply of food, there should be numerical

measures in pipeline to overcome the post-flood outcomes such as increased risk of infectious diseases. The flood-stricken area can become a breeding ground for many health-related problems. Supplying preventive medicines and upholding precautionary measures can halt the onslaught of infectious diseases.

The state machinery in its all forms should come into play to navigate a safe passage out of this hurricane of climate emergency enveloping us now.

The author is a final year MBBS student at King Edward Medical University Lahore, Pakistan. He can be reached on twitter via @SardarMengal11.

## IRC reaches to 29,000 out of school girls in Balochistan

**By Shakoor Khan:** International Rescue Committee (IRC) under its Teach & Educate Adolescent Girls with Community Help (TEACH) project, reached out to 29,000 out-of-school girls of 5 districts of Balochistan including Pishin, Killa Abdullah, Nushki, Khuzdar and Chagai.

"IRC is striving hard to promote girl's education in Balochistan besides imparting vocational trainings on financial literacy and trades to make them financially independent," said Shareef Mengal, Head of IRC Balochistan during a policy dialogue titled "Improving future of girl's education in Balochistan held in collaboration with UK aid at local hotel here."

Balochistan Education Minister Naseebullah Mari was the chief guest while representatives from the Education ministry, Directorate of Special Education,

Literacy, Non-Formal Education & Human Rights Department, Balochistan Assessment and Examination Commission, Balochistan Textbook Board, Policy Planning Implementation Provincial Institute of Teachers Education, Education Support Programme, Global Partnership of Education, German Agency for International Cooperation, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund Society for Community Strengthening and Promotion of Education, Balochistan, Institute for Development Studies and Practices, Japan International Cooperation Agency also attended the event.

The event hosted conversations with multiple stakeholders including education experts and government functionaries on the barriers faced by girls in the province in pursuing their education and possible solutions to combat those barriers.

### Salient feature of the project IRC

While highlighting the salient feature of the project IRC chief in Balochistan Shareef Mengal said under the 'Girls Learn' stream of the project, 22,000 girls received classes on Package A, B and C of non-formal curriculum, of them 4000 enrolled in mainstream formal schooling system.

Under 'Girls Earn'

stream of the project, 7000 girls completed Package A of the non-formal curriculum, out of these 7000 girls, 5000 received training on financial literacy and business development planning. 2400 girls received training on 8 vocational trades and toolkits and 250 girls received financial grants to start a business.

Naseebullah Mari, Education Minister Balochistan, on the occasion urged that 'We must do our part to remove the barriers faced by girls in the region so that every girl can pursue her education and become a valuable member of society'.

'The Government is making all out efforts to combat the low literacy rate which has affected

girls from all ethnic groups, and socioeconomic backgrounds,' he said. 'We are committed to assist and contribute to building economically prosperous, and educated and vocational training opportunities, saying he is very grateful for the on-ground initiative of community-based schools in Balochistan.'

Abdul Rauf Baloch — Secretary Secondary Education on the occasion appreciated the contributions of IRC for girls' education in Balochistan.

He shared that education is a complex subject which cannot be discussed without WASH, health and other facilities.

This makes it a responsibility of all relevant departments and stakeholders who should play their role effectively.

Zain Ul Abedin Khan, Deputy Director Programs, IRC, in his remarks said that 'We as a society need to commit to prioritize and focus on Girls' Education through adequate resources. Girls' education in Balochistan is one of the biggest challenges faced by the country and to deal with it we must work with innovative methods like Non-Formal Education.'

He further added

that, 'Over the years, we have realized that if girls are unable to reach school, all stakeholders need to fill the gap and provide access to life-long learning opportunities like productive skills and life-skills within communities.'

### Girl's education is correlated with lower rates of poverty

The panel discussions established an opportunity for the policy makers and practitioners to understand that girl's education is correlated with lower rates of poverty and improved health outcomes. While stimulating dialogue, the stakeholders pledged to work together to eradicate the barriers to girls' education by providing gender inclusive facilities and quality of education.

The event was a culmination of three sessions where the first was hosted to discuss the barriers faced by girls in pursuing their education. The panelists of the first session classified the barriers into three categories: Cultural, Economic and Service Delivery. The panelists recommended Accelerated Learning Programs (ALPs) as a viable option while integrated with skill-based trainings and digitalizing education.

### Initiatives to combat the barriers to education

Anam — client of TEACH project from Pishin shared that joining TEACH ALP center, she can read books and newspapers. Simra from the same district shared that her parents don't allow travelling long distances to attend school but after opening of ALP center at doorstep, she was able to join the classroom for first time in her life. Haleema from Nushki district shared that her mother is the only breadwinner of home and works at households of others to earn income. Haleema shared that she is the only child of her family who can read, thanks to joining ALP center.

The second session was focused on sustainable initiatives to combat the barriers with the help of Non-Formal Education in bridging the gap between primary and secondary schooling.

Chairperson of the session, Mr. Abdul Khaliq — Chief Planning Officer Policy, Planning, and Implementation Unit welcomed the participants and emphasized the importance of solutions to these barriers.

Mr. Ashraf Gichki — Director Literacy and Non-Formal Education shared contribution of NFE department toward provision of second chance of education to out-of-school children.

### Personal struggles in overcoming the barriers to education

The third and final session gave the TEACH clients an opportunity to express their personalized struggles in overcoming the barriers to education.

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## Iran says right to enrich uranium is key to success of US nuclear talks

**NEWS DESK:** Recognition of Iran's right to enrich uranium is key for nuclear talks with the US to succeed, Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said on Sunday.

American and Iranian diplomats held indirect talks in Oman on Friday, aimed at reviving diplomacy amid a US naval buildup near Iran and Tehran's vows of a harsh response if attacked.

"Zero enrichment can never be accepted by us. Hence, we need to focus on discussions that accept enrichment inside Iran while building trust that enrichment is and will stay for peaceful purposes," Araqchi said.

Iran and the US held five rounds of nuclear talks last year, which stalled mainly due to disagreements over uranium enrichment inside Iran. In June, the US attacked



Iranian nuclear facilities at the end of a 12-day Israeli bombing campaign.

Tehran has since said it has halted enrichment activity, which the US views

as a possible pathway to nuclear bombs. Iran says its nuclear programme is solely

for peaceful purposes. A diplomat in the region briefed by Iran told Reuters on Friday

that Tehran was open to discussing the "level and purity" of enrichment as well as other

arrangements, as long as it was allowed to enrich uranium on its soil and would be

granted sanctions relief in addition to military de-escalation.

"Iran's insistence on enrichment is not merely technical or economic (...). It is rooted in a desire for independence and dignity," Araqchi said. "No one has the right to tell the Iranian nation what it should or should not have."

The minister also said that Iran's missile programme, which the US would like to include in negotiations, had never been part of the agenda. President Masoud Pezeshkian said in a post on Sunday that talks with the US were a "step forward" and that Tehran wanted its rights under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to be respected.

The date and venue of the next round of talks will be determined in consultation with Oman and might not be Muscat, Araqchi said.

## US pressing Ukraine and Russia to end war by June

**NEWS DESK:** The United States wants Ukraine and Russia to end their nearly four-year war by June, and has offered to host talks between the two sides in Florida next week, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said.

US-led efforts to end Europe's deadliest conflict since World War II have stepped up a gear in recent weeks, but Moscow and Kyiv remain at odds over the key issue of territory.

Russia, which occupies around 20 per cent of its neighbour, is pushing for full control of Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region as part of any deal and has threatened to take it by force if talks fail. But Ukraine says ceding ground will embolden Moscow and has signalled it will not sign an agreement that fails to deter Russia from invading again.

"The United States has proposed for the first time that the two negotiating teams — Ukraine and Russia — meet in the United States, probably in Miami, in a week's time," Zelenskyy told reporters in comments made public on Saturday. "They say that they want to do everything by June," he added.

The US has mediated two rounds of negotiation between the two sides in Abu Dhabi since January, brokering a major prisoner exchange but failing to reach a breakthrough on territory. Both Moscow and Kyiv say talks have been difficult.

"Free economic zone," Zelenskyy has repeatedly expressed frustration that his country is being asked to make disproportionate compromises compared to

ing again.

But Russia has rejected this, and Washington has pushed for Kyiv to convert the land it currently controls in the Donetsk region into a "free economic zone" where neither side has military control.

"Even if we come to the creation of a free economic zone, we will need fair and reliable rules," Zelenskyy said. "The two sides have also failed to reach a 'common understanding' on the issue of control over the Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, Zelenskyy said.

Russian forces seized the plant, the largest in Europe, at the start of the conflict and have held onto it since. Ukraine will not tolerate Russia and the United States making deals

about Ukraine behind its back, Zelenskyy added.

Russia's grip Throughout the negotiating progress Russia has launched waves of deadly strikes on Ukraine that have cut heating and power to millions during freezing temperatures.

Russian attacks forced Ukraine's three operating nuclear power plants to throttle their generation capacity, "creating a direct risk of a nuclear incident," Foreign Minister Andriy Sybiza said.

The UN's atomic energy watchdog issued a statement calling for "restraint". Russia, which denies targeting civilians, accused Ukraine on Friday of orchestrating the shooting of a top military intelligence general in Moscow, leaving him wounded. Kyiv has yet to comment.

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for peaceful purposes. A diplomat in the region briefed by Iran told Reuters on Friday

that Tehran was open to discussing the "level and purity" of enrichment as well as other

arrangements, as long as it was allowed to enrich uranium on its soil and would be

## Indian refiners avoid Russian oil in push for US trade deal: sources

**NEWS DESK:** Indian refiners are avoiding Russian oil purchases for delivery in April and are expected to stay away from such trades for longer, refining and trade sources said, a move that could help New Delhi seal a trade pact with Washington.

The US and India moved closer to a trade pact on Friday, announcing a framework for a deal they hope to conclude by March that would lower tariffs and deepen economic cooperation.

Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum, and Reliance Industries are not accepting offers from traders for Russian oil loading in March and April, said a trader who approached the refiners.

These refiners, however, had already scheduled some deliveries of Russian oil in March, refining sources said. Most other refiners have stopped buying Russian crude.

Trump says India "committed" to halting purchases

The three refiners and the oil ministry did

not respond to requests for comment. The trade minister on Saturday referred questions about Russian oil to the foreign ministry.

"Diversifying our energy sourcing in keeping with objective market conditions and the evolving international dynamics is at the core of our strategy" to ensure energy security for the world's most-populous nation.

Although a US-India statement on the trade framework did not mention Russian oil, President Donald Trump rescinded his 25 per cent tariffs on Indian goods, imposed over

Russian oil purchases, because, he said, New Delhi had "committed to stop directly or indirectly" importing Russian oil.

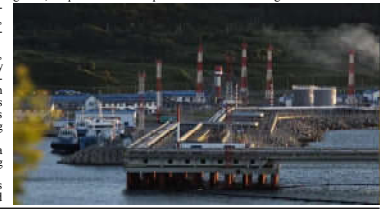
New Delhi has not announced plans to halt Russian oil imports. India became the top buyer of discounted Russian seaboard crude after Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, spurring a backlash from Western nations that had targeted Russia's energy sector with sanctions aimed at curtailing Moscow's revenue and making it harder to fund the war.

India's Russian oil imports a fraction of

2025 levels

One regular Indian buyer is Russia-backed private refiner Nayara, which relies solely on Russian oil for its 400,000-barrel-per-day refinery. Sources said Nayara may be allowed to keep buying Russian oil because other crude sellers pulled back after the European Union sanctioned the refiner in July. Nayara also does not plan to import Russian crude in April due to a month-long refinery maintenance shutdown, a source familiar with its operations said.

Nayara did not respond to an email seeking comment.



## Gunmen kill three people and abduct Catholic priest in northern Nigeria

**NEWS DESK:** Gunmen killed three people and abducted a Catholic priest and several others during an early morning attack on the clergyman's residence in northern Nigeria's Kaduna state, church and police sources said on Sunday.

Saturday's assault in Kauru district highlights persistent insecurity in the region, and came days after security services rescued all 166 worshippers abducted in attacks by gunmen on two

churches elsewhere in Kaduna.

Such attacks have drawn the attention of US President Donald Trump, who has accused Nigeria's government of failing to protect Christians, a charge Abuja denies.

US forces struck what they described as terrorist targets in northwestern Nigeria on December 25. The Catholic Diocese of Kafanchan named the kidnapped clergyman as Nathaniel Asuwaye, parish priest

of Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Karku, and said 10 other people were abducted.

Three residents were killed during the attack, which began at about 3:20am (7:20 PKT), the diocese said in a statement.

A Kaduna police spokesperson confirmed the incident, but said five people had been abducted in total and that the three people killed were members of the security forces.

"Security agents

exchanged gunfire with the bandits, killed some of them, and unfortunately, two soldiers and a police officer lost their lives," he said.

Rights group Amnesty International said in a statement on Sunday that Nigeria's security crisis was "increasingly getting out of hand". It accused the government of "gross incompetence" and failure to protect civilians as gunmen kill, abduct and terrorise rural communities across several northern states.

A presidency spokesperson could not immediately be reached for comment.

Pope Leo, during his weekly address to the faithful in St. Peter's Square, expressed solidarity with the victims of recent attacks in Nigeria.

"I hope that the competent authorities will continue to act with determination to ensure the security and protection of every citizen's life," Leo said.



## China condemns Islamabad imambargah attack, says it supports Pakistan in safeguarding national security

**NEWS DESK:** China condemned on Sunday the deadly suicide bombing at an imambargah in Islamabad earlier this week, asserting that it "firmly supports" the Pakistani government in safeguarding national security and stability.

China is deeply shocked by the deadly explosion in Pakistan's capital Islamabad and the heavy casualties it has inflicted. China mourns for the lives lost, and our hearts go out to the injured and those who lost their loved ones.

"China strongly condemns the attack, opposes any form of terrorism and firmly supports the Pakistani government in safeguarding national security and stability and protecting the safety of the people," a statement by the Chinese foreign ministry said.

Turkiye FM offers condolences over loss of life.

Separately, in a phone call with Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, his Turkish counterpart Hakan Fidan conveyed "heartfelt condolences on behalf of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, himself, and the brotherly people of Türkiye" over the loss of life in the attack, the Foreign Office (FO) said.

FM Dar "thanked the Turkish leadership for their solidarity and reaffirmed Pakistan's un-

shaken resolve to combat terrorism and protect its civilians," according to the statement.

Both leaders also exchanged views on bilateral relations, matters of mutual interest, and key regional and international developments," the FO added.

The attack took place inside the mosque at the Imambargah Qasr-i-Khadijatul Kubra, located in the Tarlai area of what is considered "rural Islamabad", off Lehtar Road on Friday. It left over 30 people dead and more 100 injured.

Police officials said the blast occurred after Friday prayers, adding that the attacker was stopped at the gate of the mosque, where he detonated his explosive payload.

Footage and photos from the blast site showed several bodies lying near the mosque's front gate, with people

and debris also strewn across the red-carpeted prayer hall.

Dozens more wounded were lying in the garden outside the mosque as people called for help.

The brazen attack elicited an outpouring of grief from across the country, and prompted condemnations from most world capitals, as well as local political and religious groups.

Authorities have pointed fingers at Afghanistan and India as the investigation into the incident continues.

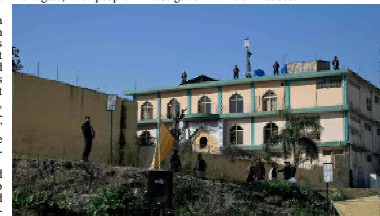
Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said yesterday that four facilitators behind the suicide bombing, including the mastermind, had been arrested, saying the suspects were detained in overnight raids in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He said multiple agencies launched an investigation immediately after the blast and carried out operations overnight. "I want to praise our agencies and the Counter-Terrorism Department in KP that all the people who were linked to the blast, including the masterminds, were arrested before 3am," he added.

After the blast, raids were conducted in Peshawar and Nowshera and the facilitators and the mastermind were arrested.

Naqvi claimed that the mastermind was an Afghan national, affiliated with the militant Islamic State (IS) group. "The terrorist involved in the incident got training in Afghanistan. How he was trained, his travel history tells everything," Naqvi said.

A KP police assistant sub-inspector was martyred during the overnight raids, while several personnel were injured, the minister added.



## Large-scale anti-encroachment drive continues in DI Khan

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (INP): As part of an ongoing large-scale anti-encroachment drive, the district administration carried out an opera-

tion in Mohalla Hafiz Jamal Sahib and Mohalla Juma Shah on the directives of the Deputy Commissioner Dera Ismail Khan.

The operation was conducted by the Revenue Department in coordination with the Tehsil Municipal Administration (TMA), during which en-

croachments on government land and within the road right of way were identified and marked.

During the action, the concerned occu-

pants were instructed to remove the illegal encroachments voluntarily within the specified timeframe, failing which legal proceedings would be initiated

by the district administration under relevant laws. The district administration has urged citizens to extend full cooperation in the ongoing campaign,

emphasizing that the drive aims to ensure smooth traffic flow, improve public convenience, and enhance civic infrastructure. Officials stated that

the large-scale anti-encroachment drive will continue across the district to restore public spaces and uphold urban management standards.



DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: A Souvenir is being Presented to Chairman Senate of Pakistan H.E. Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani at a Prestigious Ceremony Marking the appointment of Syed Kashif Ali As Honorary Consul of the Republic of Moldova in Pakistan.

## Sindh Education Foundation organizes STEAM event

N A W A B S H A H (INP): Sindh Education Foundation (SEF), Government of Sindh, successfully organized a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) event at PSP School Junior Branch, Shahjehan Road, Benazirabad.

The event was inaugurated by Chairman District Council Shaheed Benazirabad Ali Akbar Jamali and SEF Regional Head Imam Baksh Arisar. The objective of this educational and scientific event was to promote modern scientific trends, creative thinking, research, and practical skills among students.

Various stalls were set up during the event where students showcased models, scientific experiments, innovative projects, and educational exhibits related to science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics.

Students not only explained the usefulness of their models but also highlighted modern scientific principles and their practical applications, clearly reflecting their intellectual maturity and creative abilities.

The event was attended by senior educationists, Razi Khan Jamali, President District Bar Nawabshah

Ali Raza Channa, President Press Club Muhammad Anwar Sheikh, District Coordinator Munir Ali Memon, school administration, teachers, education experts, parents, and other distinguished personalities from different walks of life. On this occasion, Member Sindh Assembly Ghulam Qadir Chando, Chairman District Council Ali Akbar Jamali, Regional Head Imam Baksh Arisar, and other guests reviewed the students' performance and highly appreciated their creativity and talent.

Chairman District Council Ali Akbar Jamali, Regional Head Imam Baksh Arisar, and other guests reviewed the students' performance and highly appreciated their creativity and talent.

Addressing the gathering, MPA Ghulam Qadir Chando, Chairman District Council Ali Akbar Jamali, SEF Regional Head Imam Baksh Arisar, and other guests reviewed the students' performance and highly appreciated their creativity and talent.

The event was attended by senior educationists, Razi Khan Jamali, President District Bar Nawabshah

## Pakistan, Malaysia mull joint strategies to counter maritime security threats

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan and Malaysia have agreed to enhance future-oriented cooperation between their navies, focusing on maritime security, operational collaboration, and capacity building.

According to an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Naved Ashraf paid an official visit to Malaysia, where he held meetings with the leadership of the Royal Malaysian Navy. Upon his arrival at the Royal Malaysian Navy Headquarters, Admiral Naved Ashraf was presented with a guard of honour.

During the meetings, both sides discussed regional maritime security, operational cooperation, and initiatives aimed at strengthening naval

capabilities. Admiral Naved Ashraf highlighted Pakistan Navy's contributions to regional stability, including its role in Regional Maritime Security Patrols and participation in the Combined Maritime Forces. As part of the visit, the Naval Chief also toured Malaysia's National Hydrographic Centre, where discussions were held on training collaboration and data-sharing mechanisms.

Both navies agreed to pursue enhanced, future-focused cooperation to address evolving maritime challenges. ISPR stated that the visit would further strengthen bilateral naval relations, with both sides exchanging views on joint strategies to effectively counter maritime security threats in the region.

## Mastermind of India funded suicide bombing at Islamabad imambargah in custody: Naqvi

ISLAMABAD (INP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has confirmed that the mastermind of the Islamabad suicide blast, associated with the banned Daesh, is in the custody of Pakistan along with the attacker's facilitators.

Addressing a presser in Islamabad, he said that the mastermind and the facilitators of the deadly attack were arrested in raids conducted in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Peshawar and Nowshera immediately after the blast.

His comments came in the wake of Friday's deadly attack at an Islamabad imambargah during prayers, which left at least 33 people martyred and dozens injured.

"I am telling you again with clarity that their (terrorist outfits) entire funding is being provided by India. All targets being provided to them by India," Naqvi

said during his presser. He added that the KP Counter Terrorism Department has arrested all individuals linked to the attack, adding that the CTD and other agencies worked together as a team during the operations.

During the raids, he said that a KP policeman was martyred and a few others were injured. "We have evidence of how the attacker was trained and how he was brought here. The planning and training were carried out in Afghanistan," the interior minister said.

Naqvi said that India was funding terrorist networks, including Daesh, adding that payments to each militant have increased from \$500 to \$1,500.

India has tripled its terror budget after facing a defeat in May," he said. However, Naqvi vowed to stop terrorism even "if terrorists increase their budget tenfold."



QUETTA: Group photo of Provincial President Pakistan Paramedical Staff Association Sahfa Mengal and Vice-President Naim Muhammad with Civil Hospital staff after they released from prison.

## Taliban regime created conditions worse than pre-9/11 in Afghanistan: President Zardari

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Asif Ali Zardari strongly condemned the situation in Afghanistan, stating that the Taliban regime has created conditions similar to or worse than those before 9/11, when terrorist organisations posed threats to global peace, culminating in the 9/11 tragedy.

The statement comes after a suicide attack at a mosque in the Tarlai Kalan area of Islamabad on Friday, which killed at least 33 worshippers and injured dozens

more. Pakistan's Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi confirmed that security forces have arrested all individuals involved, including an alleged Afghan national linked to the banned terrorist group Islamic State (ISIS).

In a statement, President Zardari thanked world leaders, governments, and international organisations for their support and solidarity with Pakistan in this moment of grief. He said the messages of sympathy have pro-

vided comfort to the people of Pakistan and strength to the families of the victims. He said these messages reaffirm that the fight against terrorism and the violent ideology that drives it, is a shared global responsibility and a common struggle for all.

The President said Pakistan has long maintained that terrorism cannot be confronted by a single country in isolation. He observed that Pakistan's experience has shown that when

terrorist groups are allowed space, facilitation or impunity beyond national borders, the consequences are borne by innocent civilians all over the world.

The President also underlined that certain neighbouring countries have, regrettably, become partners in crime by allowing terrorist elements to operate against Pakistan from their soil, providing direct financing, technical, and military support, which has impacted regional stability.

## Chinese architectural firm opens office in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): A delegation from the Shenzhen University Institute of Architectural Design & Research Limited (SUIADR) inaugurated here its new office.

The launch of the Islamabad office follows a strategic collaboration agreement signed between SUIADR and Habib Rafiq Engineering (Pvt.) Ltd (HREL Group).

The agreement was initially formalized in December 2025, according to a Gwadar Pro's report.

With the establishment of its Islamabad office, SUIADR will provide on-ground support for architectural and urban development projects in Pakistan, introducing innovative design practices and internationally recognized standards.

The initiative further reinforces the Pakistan-China cooperation

in infrastructure development, urban innovation and sustainable growth.

The inauguration was led by Nianzhong Li, Deputy President of SUIADR. The delegation included Zhenyuan Yang and Quan Cheng, both Deputy Chief Architects, Xinyu Wan, Lead Architect of the Design Studio, and Tao Sun, Project Consultant and Chief Executive Officer of Sunchang Construction & Engineering Consulting Co., Ltd.

The ceremony was attended by Muhammad Aslam Malik, Chief Operating Officer of the HRL Group; Khalid Taimur Akram, Advisor to the Chairman of HRL; and Imran Zahid, Chief Executive Officer of Capital Smart Motors, underscoring the importance of the collaboration in strengthening design excellence and knowledge exchange between Pakistan and China.

## Punjab Governor visits blast site, condoles mosque Imam

RAWALPINDI (INP): Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan on Sunday visited the Imambargah Khadija-tul-Kubra in Trilal Kalan, where a suicide blast took place a couple of days ago, resulting in the martyrdom and injury of several worshippers.

Upon arrival at the site, the Governor was briefed in detail about the entire incident by the Imam of the Imambargah, Raja Basharat Hussain Imami, who explained the nature of the blast and the situation following the attack. The Governor offered prayers for the martyrs and inquired about the well-being of the injured.

Speaking to the media, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that terrorists carried blasts in mosques have no connection with the religion of Islam. He condemned the

blast in the strongest terms and reaffirmed that terrorists would be brought to justice. "Those who target Muslims bowing down to Allah Almighty in places of worship, will be made an example and brought to justice", he said adding that issuing condemnation statements of a suicide attack on an Imambargah can never be enough. He reminded that the country's valour security forces were already engaged in eradicating the terror network from the country. "The officers and soldiers of the Pakistan armed forces have rendered immortal sacrifices in the war against terrorism", he said. The governor highlighted that those acting upon Indian sponsorship would be punished hard. "Indian-sponsored terrorists and their facilitators will be taken to their logical end", said the Punjab governor.



ARLIA, KSA: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aamir, holding a meeting today with the Managing Director of the World Bank Group, Ms. Anna Hjerpe, on the sidelines of the Annual ARLC conference for Emerging Market Economies, discussing progress under the Country Partnership Framework and key development priorities for Pakistan.

## Rain, snowfall forecast across Pakistan as cold wave returns

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has forecast rain and snowfall across various parts of the country from Sunday until February 10.

According to PMD over the next three days, rain and snowfall are expected in different areas of Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Azad Kashmir. On February 9 and 10, several districts of Punjab, including the hilly areas of Murree, may also experience snowfall.

Balochistan: Rain along with snowfall is expected in Quetta, Ziarat, Chaman, Pishin, Qilla Abdullah, Qilla Saifullah, Chaghi,

Noushki, Harnai, Zhob, Kalat, Mastung, Barkhan, Sibi, Loralai, Khuzdar, Keoh, Gwadar, Panjgur, and Awaran on 08th and 09th February.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Rain with strong winds and thunderstorms is expected in Chitral, Dir, Swat, Kalam, Shangla, Kohistan, Buner, Battagram, Mardan, Chaman, Abbottabad, Haripur, Mardan, Peshawar, Swabi, Charsadda, Kohat, Kurram, Bannu, Bajaur, Mohmand, Khyber, Orakzai, Dera Ismail Khan and Waziristan on 09th and 10th February. Hailstorm is likely at isolated places during the period.

Punjab: Rain is expected at isolated

places in Murree, Galiyat, Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Attock, Chakwal, Jhelum, Sardogha, Mianwali, Bhakkar, Layyah, Dera Ghazi Khan, Khushab, Jhang, Noorpurthal, Gujrat, Hafizabad, Mandi Bahauddin, Sialkot and Narawal from 09th to 10th February while partly cloudy weather in Lahore during the period.

Hailstorm is likely at isolated places during the period. Gusty winds/windstorm is likely in southern districts. Gilgit Baltistan and Kashmir: Rain with snowfall is expected in Diamir, Astore, Ghizer, Skardu, Hunza, Gilgit,

Guanche, Shigar), Kashmir (Neelum valley, Muzaffarabad, Poonch, Hattian, Bagh, Haveli, Sudhanoti, Kotli, Bhimber, Mirpur on 09th and 10th February. Hailstorm is likely at isolated places in Kashmir during the period.

Partly cloudy to cloudy weather is expected over most districts of the province with light rain with gusty winds may occur in Coastal Areas on 08th and 09th February.

Authorities warned that in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Azad Kashmir, slippery roads could affect traffic flow, urging motorists to drive cautiously.



## Rain and Snowfall Expected from Sunday Across Balochistan



**NEWS DESK:** Rain and hailstorm are likely in Quetta and various parts of Balochistan as a new weather system is expected to affect the province from Sunday to Wednesday, according to the Meteorological Department.

The Met Office said light rainfall is expected in Khuzdar, Chagai, Washuk, Surab, Noshki and Mastung, while Quetta, Panygur, Loralai, Qila Saifullah, Qila Abdullah and Zhob may also receive light rain.

In some areas, including Khuzdar, Kalat and Kharan, rain may be accompanied by hailstorms. The department further warned that light snowfall is likely over mountainous regions of Chaman, Noshki, Qila Abdullah, Qila Saifullah and Ziarat.

## Two People Shot Dead by Unidentified Motorcyclists in Sibi Balochistan

**News Desk:** Two young men were shot dead by unidentified motorcyclists on Allahabad Road in Sibi on Friday, triggering panic in the area. According to police, the assailants opened fire and fled the scene immediately after the attack. Law enforcement officials rushed to the spot, cordoned off the area, and initiated an investigation into the incident. The bodies of the victims were shifted to a hospital for identification and completion of legal formalities. Police said further investigation is underway to trace the attackers and determine the motive behind the shooting.



## Bugti Calls BPSC Chairman's Appointment a Step Toward Merit

**NEWS DESK:** Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, has said that the appointment of Justice (ret'd) Mehta Kohli as Chairman of the Balochistan Public Service Commission is a significant step toward ensuring merit in the province.

Expressing his views on social media platform X, the chief minister stated that there is not a single person across Balochistan who can question Justice (ret'd) Mehta Kohli's character or integrity.

He emphasized that the provincial government is not merely making claims but is taking concrete steps



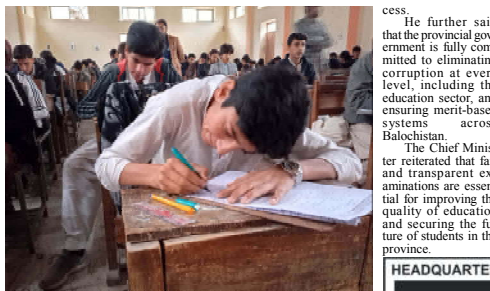
to establish good governance and enforce merit in public institutions.

## Matric Board Examinations to Begin from February 10 Across Balochistan: Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti

**QUETTA:** Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, has announced that matriculation board examinations will commence across the province from February 10.

The Chief Minister made it clear that no leniency will be shown against cheating during the examinations. He stated that strict implementation of the decisions taken to prevent cheating will be ensured at all costs.

Mir Sarfraz Bugti emphasized that to completely eradicate cheating, the police, deputy commission-



ers, and the education department will jointly work together to maintain transparency and discipline throughout the examination process.

He further said that the provincial government is fully committed to eliminating corruption at every level, including the education sector, and ensuring merit-based systems across Balochistan.

The Chief Minister reiterated that fair and transparent examinations are essential for improving the quality of education and securing the future of students in the province.

## Mehta Kailash Nath Kohli Reappointed as BPSC Chairman for Another Term



**Syed Ali Shah:**

**QUETTA:** The Government of Balochistan has reappointed Mehta Kailash Nath Kohli as the Chairman of the Balochistan Public Service Commission (BPSC).

The decision has been taken under the Balochistan Public Service Commission Act, 1989, read with Balochistan Ordinance No. 1 of 2026, after receiving approval from the competent authority. The notification confirms that the appointment has come into effect immediately.

The Balochistan Public Service Commission is responsible for conducting examinations and overseeing merit-based recruitment for provincial government departments.

The continuation of Mr. Kohli in the top position is expected to provide institutional stability and ensure the ongoing reform process within the commission remains uninterrupted.

Sources in the administration say that maintaining leadership continuity at BPSC is considered crucial at a time when public sector recruitment is under close scrutiny and demands for transparency, efficiency, and fairness are growing across the province.

The reappointment notification was issued by the Services and General Administration Department (S&GAD) and will be published in the next issue of the Balochistan Gazette.

## DC Chaman Reviews Progress of Anti-Polio Campaign on Sixth Day

**CHAMAN:** An evening review meeting of the ongoing anti-polio campaign in the district was held on the sixth day under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Chaman, Habib Ahmed Banglur.

The meeting was attended by District Health Officer Chaman, Dr. Naveed Badini, Deputy District Health Officer Dr. Abdul Rasheed, and other polio officers. Addressing the meeting, DC Chaman emphasized that all teams must continue to perform their duties with hard work, dedication, honesty, and professional competence until the complete eradication of polio is achieved.

He stated that every field and task comes with challenges and difficulties; however, committed, hardworking, and professional officers and staff are capable of achieving their targets efficiently and smoothly. During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner was



given a detailed briefing on the progress of the anti-polio campaign and administrative matters. He said that all available resources are being utilized to ensure the success of the polio campaign.

**CORRIGENDUM**

Only Electronic Bid Will Be Submitted, No Physical Bid Required

With reference to the advertisement published in the National and Local Newspapers vide PRO No. 3209/13-01-2026 on dated 13 Jan. 2026 having TSE No. 2526/19378/11, the following amendments are hereby made:

**Changed Area.**

1. Data sheet.
2. Case schedule.
3. Date of submission of tenders: 17th Feb 2026 11:15pm
4. Cancellation of tenders: 17th Feb 2026 12:15pm

Note: The other terms and conditions of the tender shall remain same.

Director General Health Services  
BALOCHISTAN, QUETTA.

PRO No. 3648/06-02-2026

## HEADQUARTERS FRONTIER CORPS BALOCHISTAN (SOUTH) TURBAT JOB OPPORTUNITY

Applications are invited for appointment against 8x Specialists on contract basis for period upto 2 x years for FC Hospital Turbat. After enrollment in Frontier Corps Balochistan South, doctors will be given lucrative pay package, rebate on air tickets, free treatment at Frontier Corps Hospital Turbat (self & family), free accommodation and transport facilities in FC (S) AGR.

Name and number of the posts	Basic Pay Scale	Qualification/ Experience	Age	
			Min	Max
8 x Specialist Male/ Female (Will work at Frontier Corps (South) Hospital Turbat).	17-18	1. MBBS Qualification recognized by Pakistan Medical Commission 2. MCPS/FCPS 3. Registered with Pakistan Medical Commission.	30-Yrs	40-Yrs
1. Anaesthetist				
2. Neurosurgeon				
3. Vascular Surgeon				
4. Thoracic Surgeon				
5. Rehab Specialist				
6. Eye Specialist				
7. ENT Specialist Psychiatrist				

### TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Candidates from all over Pakistan can apply. However, those having domicile of district of Balochistan will be preferred.
2. Attested copies of educational qualification certificates (Matric, FSc, MBBS, FCPS/ MCPS along with transcript) experience certificate, two latest passport size photographs, domicile certificate and CNIC must be attached with application.
3. Application must be addressed to Headquarters Frontier Corps Balochistan (South) Turbat and reach in the office of undersigned before 20 Feb 2026.
4. Applications and necessary documents should be forward on following addresses:- ADMS, rear camp Frontier Corps Balochistan (South) Malir Cantt, near check post No. 4 Karachi. Soft copy of documents should be forwarded on following email addresses:- [admsfcblns@gmail.com](mailto:admsfcblns@gmail.com).
5. The employees of government / Semi government / autonomous bodies should apply through their respective department with No objection Certificate.
6. The candidates are advised to bring their original certificate / documents at the time of interview.
7. Only Short listed candidates will be called for interview.
8. No TA/ DA shall be allowed for interview.

Assistant Director Medical Services  
For Inspector General Frontier Corps Balochistan (South) Turbat  
(Headquarters Frontier Corps Balochistan (South) Turbat)

## Bangladesh keen on buying rolling stocks

**NEWS DESK:** Bangladesh has expressed keen interest in procuring freight wagons and passenger coaches after Pakistan offered the rolling stock at prices cheaper than those in other countries.

A two-member delegation, headed by a senior Bangladeshi official, has also visited the Pakistan Railways (PR) carriage factory in Islamabad and the Mughalpur Workshop in Lahore to receive a briefing from the railway authorities and to witness the rolling stock manufacturing process, Dawn has learnt.

According to the Lahore-based PR authorities, Mr Farhad Islam, Bangladesh's Secretary for International Organisations and Consular Affairs and Designate D-8 Commissioner and Mohammad Iqbal Hussain Khan, High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Pakistan, visited the Mughalpur workshop on Friday.

Muhammad Nasir Khalili, Chief Mechanical Engineer (Carriage and Wagons), briefed the delegation on the overall functioning, technical capabilities, and ongoing projects of the PR's workshops. A short documentary highlighting the workshops' operational and working strengths was also



shown to the guests.

Pakistan Railways offers attractive prices to seal export deal

Mr Khalili stated that Pakistan and Bangladesh are brotherly countries sharing a common history, culture, and heritage, and that there exists immense potential for cooperation between the two nations, particularly in the

locomotive maintenance, rehabilitation, and manufacturing.

The diplomats termed their visit informative, productive, and encouraging, and expressed their bonds of friendship

and cooperation between Pakistan and Bangladesh," said Mr Islam. On the other hand, Railways Minister Hanif Abbasi has expressed his resolve to

advance railway-to-railway cooperation between the two countries, emphasising that such collaboration can yield substantial benefits. PR is currently supplying coaches and wagons to four countries with broad-gauge rail networks — Sri Lanka, Nepal, Chile and Argentina. "It reflects that we have achieved modern, indigenous manufacturing capability for coaches and wagons," the minister said in a statement. In the next phase, according to Mr Khalili, the railway experts from Bangladesh will also visit Pakistan for a detailed technical evaluation. In the 1980s, Pakistan Railways exported rolling stock to Bangladesh while it provided freight wagons to Sri Lanka in 1999 and 2000 and 2009.

In the current regional context, Pakistan is emerging as a suitable and cost-effective alternative to other international suppliers for Bangladesh.

Bangladesh was dealing with India regarding the provision of wagons and coaches. But now Dhaka has shown its interest in us for this purpose," Mr Khalili told Dawn when contacted. He said the delegation also visited the Islamabad carriage factory a few days ago.

## Seed approval process streamlined to cut delays

**NEWS DESK:** The Ministry of National Food Security and Research has simplified and accelerated its pest risk analysis, seed evaluation and approval process, aiming to ensure the timely availability of quality seeds, while maintaining strict regulatory controls.

According to official documents available with Wealth Pakistan, the National Seed Development and Regulatory Authority and the Federal Seed Certification and Registration Department have revised the composition of the Variety Evaluation Committee (VEC) and established a dedicated Variety Evaluation Committee Secretariat to speed up approvals. Moreover, authorities are also digitising the committee's operations to improve transparency and minimise delays in the evaluation process.

The documents state that the timeline for completing a pest risk analysis for any commodity largely depends on how quickly exporting countries provide complete technical information. The risk assessment

process examines pest biology, ecology, host range and mitigation measures applied in the country of origin, while also taking into account potential economic and environmental impacts. According to the documents, plant and material imports are regulated within one to two working days, provided all documentation is complete, and inspections confirm the goods are pest-free, in line with Rules 45 and 46 of PQR 2019. Imports of plant material for research purposes are regulated under Rule 3 of PQR 2019. Imports must hold a post-entry quarantine facility for sowing or growing the material, and comply with minimum conditions set to prevent pest introduction.

Imports are permitted for commercial and research purposes, with commercial shipments requiring a pest risk analysis under Rule 10 of PQR 2019.

The analysis is a scientific process designed to prevent the introduction of regulated quarantine pests and to limit the spread of regulated non-quarantine pests. The documents show that completion of a pest risk analysis can take several months and, in some cases, up to one or two years, depending on the crop, commodity and exporting country.

Once market access is granted, consignments are released within one to two working days, provided all documentation is complete, and inspections confirm the goods are pest-free, in line with Rules 45 and 46 of PQR 2019. Imports of plant material for research purposes are regulated under Rule 3 of PQR 2019. Imports must hold a post-entry quarantine facility for sowing or growing the material, and comply with minimum conditions set to prevent pest introduction.

The objections were raised during a marathon public hearing convened by the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) to seek feedback on its proposed Prosomers Regulations 2025, which aim to significantly reduce incentives for net-metering solar consumers. Although Nepra itself proposed the draft regulations, their defence was largely mounted by the Power Division and its utilities, including distribution companies and K-Electric.

Participants at the hearing included think tanks, politicians, chambers of commerce, solar installers, service providers, industrialists and

## Prosumers slam Nepra's bid to curb incentives

**NEWS DESK:** The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) and the Power Division faced sharp criticism on Friday from a wide range of stakeholders over proposed changes to net-metering regulations, as critics accused authorities of ganging up against rapid solar energy adoption and pushing the country towards an "inefficient, unreliable and unaffordable" power system.

The objections were raised during a marathon public hearing convened by the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) to seek feedback on its proposed Prosomers Regulations 2025, which aim to significantly reduce incentives for net-metering solar consumers. Although Nepra itself proposed the draft regulations, their defence was largely mounted by the Power Division and its utilities, including distribution companies and K-Electric.

Participants at the hearing included think tanks, politicians, chambers of commerce, solar installers, service providers, industrialists and

domestic consumers, many of whom argued that the proposed changes would undermine Pakistan's clean energy transition.

The draft regulations envisage drastic revisions to the existing framework; however, stakeholders were barred from presenting alternative proposals. Nepra's former member (law) Amina Ahmed, who assumed charge as member finance and technical for the next three years on Friday, directed commentators to confine their remarks strictly to the draft regulations and refrain from suggesting alternatives.

Critics warn proposed solar rules

threaten clean energy drive and consumer rights. The regulator also declined a request from Pakistan Peoples Party leader Nadeem Afzal Chan for a live telecast of the public hearing on television or social media platforms to allow broader public participation, even if limited to pre-registered speakers.

Several chambers of commerce and industry demanded that hearings on an issue of such national importance should not be confined to a single session in Islamabad and called for similar consultations in all four provincial capitals. Nepra did not respond to these demands.

Several interveners complained that, despite the regulator seeking only feedback, distribution companies had already stopped accepting new solar applications and were discouraging online registrations through various means. They also alleged that some Discos had stopped accounting for electricity supplied by existing prosumers and were charging them at full rates.

Nepra Chairman Waseem Mukhtar and Member (Development) Masood Anwar declared such unilateral actions illegal and assured participants they would not be allowed to continue.

They said the Power Division should have acted in line with assurances previously given by the power minister, adding that the regulator would ensure reversal of these measures and take strict action against those responsible. The chairman sought a detailed report from Discos.

While the Power Division and its entities were given about 1.5 hours to explain the proposed changes, other commentators were limited to three minutes each. The hearing lasted more than three hours.

The Power Division informed the forum that existing registered prosumers would be shifted from net-metering to net-billing, with export units credited for only one month instead of the current three. All other contractual terms would remain unchanged until the expiry of their seven-year agreements.

Under the proposed rules, new prosumers would be offered five-year contracts, with export units purchased at Rs11 per unit, compared to around Rs26 per unit under existing arrangements.



## Equities end turbulent week on flattish note amid security jitters

**NEWS DESK:** The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) wrapped up a shortened trading week, owing to Kashmir Day national holiday, on a subdued note as the absence of positive triggers, coupled with mounting security and economic concerns, kept investors on the sidelines. Sentiment took a hit on Friday after Barrick Gold indicated it would review its Reko Diq copper-gold project following a recent escalation in security incidents in Balochistan.

The situation was further aggravated by a bomb blast found Friday prayers in Islamabad, which heightened anxiety over the country's internal security environment and weighed on risk appetite.

As a result, the benchmark KSE-100 index closed the week almost unchanged, shedding 45 points, or 0.02pc, to settle at 184,130. According to Arif Habib Ltd (AHL), the index remained in positive territory for most of the week but lost momentum towards the end due to unfavourable domestic and international developments.

Topline Securities Ltd noted that the market lacked meaningful triggers, resulting in a largely flat performance compared to the previous week.

Investors stay cautious

As Barrick reviews Reko Diq project, mutual funds emerged as net buyers, purchasing equities worth \$22.7 million, while local companies added \$5m. In contrast, individuals, banks and foreign corporates were net sellers, collectively offloading shares valued at \$31.9m. Macroeconomic indicators released during the week presented a mixed picture.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for January edged up to 5.80pc year-on-year, compared to 5.61pc in December 2025, indicating a mild uptick in inflationary pressures. Meanwhile, the trade

deficit stood at \$2.73bn, marking a 7pc decline from the same month last year and a sharp 29pc reduction compared to December 2025. Exports recorded a strong rebound, rising 35pc month-on-month to a record \$3.06bn.

Petroleum offtake posted healthy growth, with sales increasing 12pc month-on-month to 1.52m tonnes in January. Analysts attributed the rise to lower petrol and

high-speed diesel prices, a recovery in automobile sales and support from the government's Green Tractor Scheme. In contrast, fertiliser sales remained subdued, reflecting weaker demand following the front-loaded

Rabi season. On the currency front, the rupee remained broadly stable, appreciating marginally by 0.02pc week-on-week to close at Rs279.71 against the US dollar. The State Bank of Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves rose by \$56m to \$16.15bn. Sector-wise performance was mixed. Cement stocks outperformed after January offtake touched a five-year high of 4.54m tonnes.

**NEWS DESK:** The government has proposed imposing a monthly fixed charge of between Rs200 and Rs675 on more than 28.5 million residential electricity consumers to raise around Rs125 billion and fund a relief package of Rs4.04 per unit for industrial users.

The revised Schedule of Tariff (SoT) was submitted to the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) on Friday evening and was immediately put on notice for a customary public hearing on the first available date after the weekend for immediate implementation within the current month.

"This is just a procedural formality. The charge on almost all residential consumers (barring lifeline users) permanently using less than 100 units per month) was approved by the federal cabinet on Feb 4.

## 'Relief' for industry as government shifts burden to domestic bills

The change in SOT comes in less than three weeks after the government had notified the base national average tariff on Jan 12 for application with effect from Jan 1, denying a benefit to consumers of about 62 paise per unit reduction determined by the regulator. The new fixed charge would generate about Rs106bn in tariff, besides about Rs19bn in sales tax, to slash cross-subsidy by industrial consumers with a fixed charge of Rs275 without affecting federal budget subsidy targets committed to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Under the decision, a Rs200 per month fixed amount would be

charged to about 9.9m consumers using less than 100 units and Rs300 on more than 6.1m users consuming less than 200 units per month in the protected category. They must maintain their consumption within these limits to qualify their average unit price at Rs10.54 and Rs13 for a continuous six months, respectively.

For non-protected consumers who exceed the 100-unit threshold even once in six months, a fixed charge of Rs275 would apply to about 5.7m users, whose per unit rate would rise to around Rs22.44, excluding taxes.

The second slab of 200 units would attract a Rs300 per unit fixed charge and would affect around 2.24m consumers. The fixed monthly charge would increase to Rs350 for 2.9m consumers using 201-300 units, while around one million people consuming 301-400 units would pay Rs400 per month.

Around 400,000 consumers using 401-500 units would be charged Rs500 and all above 501 units per month would swallow a bitter pill of Rs675. About 0.41m consumers fall in this category.

The power division said the fixed charge emanated primarily from fixed costs of the power system amid changing consumer behaviour.





## England cling on to beat Nepal in last-ball T20 World Cup thriller

**NEWS DESK:** England clung on to beat Nepal by four runs in a last-ball thriller in Mumbai on Sunday and avoid one of the biggest upsets in the history of the T20 World Cup.

Chasing an imposing 185 to win, Nepal's Lokesh Bam (39 not out) needed a six off the final delivery of the match bowled by Sam Curran but could only club the ball to deep cover for a single.

It was an agonising end to a valiant run chase by the cricketers minnows, who put England's premier bowlers Jofra Archer and Adil Rashid to the sword. Jacob Bethell (55) and Harry Brook (53) scored quick fifties for England but it was a late cameo by Will Jacks that took them to 184-7 in the Group C match, a total that proved just out of reach. Jacks smashed three spectacular sixes off the final over from Karan KC to finish 39 not out off 18 balls.

Nepal fell just short at 180-6, despite being roared on by most of the



spectators in a three-quarters full Wankhede stadium. They got off to a fly-

ing start in their chase, Kushal Bhurtel crunching 29 off 17 balls before Jacks had him caught

and bowled. Captain Rohit Paudel and Dipendra Singh Airee came to-

gether at 42-2 and brought up Nepal's 100 in the 12th over. Pace man Archer,

who conceded 14 off his first over, was brought back and put the brakes on, conceding just six

runs from his next two overs. But the Nepali batsmen took to Rashid at

the other end, launching the leg-spinner for 19 off his third over with Airee hitting two sixes and a four.

He finished with 0-42 from three overs. The blitz left Nepal needing 62 off the last six overs with eight wickets in hand.

Left-arm seamer Curran returned and immediately got the vital breakthrough, ending the 82-run partnership for the third wicket when Airee holed out to Tom Banton for 44.

The wicket slowed Nepal's charge and Paudel, on 39, then swept Liam Dawson to Phil Salt at deep midwicket to leave them 126-4 in the 16th over.

Archer came back for a final over and proved expensive again, being thrashed for three sixes and 22 runs by Lokesh to leave Nepal 24 off 12 balls for an unlikely win.

Dawson was the pick of England's bowlers with 2-21 while Archer had 1-42 from his four as England just held on.

### ICC, PCB officials meet in Lahore to discuss

#### Pakistan's boycotted match with India on Feb 15

**NEWS DESK:** Meeting between the International Cricket Council (ICC) and Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) officials is underway in Lahore on Sunday to discuss Pakistan's boycotted T20 World Cup match with India on February 15.

Sources, however, say that the two sides will most likely announce the outcome of the meeting after receiving an endorsement from the Government of Pakistan.

ICC Deputy Chair Imran Khawaja landed in Lahore on Sunday to meet PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi, while Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) President Aminul Islam also separately arrived in Lahore to partake in the meetings.

Confirming Khawaja's arrival in a post on X, the PCB said the ICC official was greeted by Amir Mir, an

adviser to the PCB chief, at the Lahore airport.

According to an earlier PCB press release, the BCB president will also meet with Naqvi. Islam was welcomed at the airport by Pakistan Super League (PSL) CEO Salman Nasser — also an adviser to the PCB chairman — and other officials.

The high-level visit came a day after the ICC Men's T20 World Cup commenced. The 20-team tournament has been overshadowed by an acrimonious political build-up after Bangladesh, who refused to play in India citing security concerns, were replaced by Scotland.

Bangladesh remained firm on not taking part in the event after the International Cricket Council (ICC) rejected their request to move their matches to Sri Lanka.

After mulling its stance over the arising situation, Pakistan gave its cricket team the nod to participate in the World Cup, but said the Green Shirts would not play their match with arch-rivals India, scheduled to be held in Colombo.

In response to the development even before the official communication from the PCB, the ICC in a statement said the position of "selective participation is difficult to reconcile with the fundamental premise of a global sporting event where all qualified teams are expected to compete on equal terms per the event schedule."

It expressed the hope that the PCB will consider the significant and long-term implications for cricket in its own country as this is likely to impact the global cricket ecosystem, which is itself a mem-

ber and beneficiary of.

"The ICC's priority remains the successful delivery of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup with confidence and self-belief boosted by their World Test Championship triumph last year.

Runners-up in 2024, South Africa begin their campaign in the 20-team tournament against Canada at the world's biggest cricket stadium in Ahmedabad on Monday.

The Proteas in June 2025 beat Australia in the World Test Championship final to win their first major International Cricket Council trophy and

shrug off their "chokers" tag. Pace bowler Kagiso Rabada had recently spoken about the change in public perception about South Africa's presence in global tournaments and Markram said he thinks the same.

"I think KG is a lot more involved in social media. I'm pretty useless on my phone," Markram told reporters.

But it does feel that way -- the belief, confidence, monkey off the back and all those things play a role in the language and behaviour within the camp.

The government of Pakistan wanted to show solidarity with Bangladesh. Therefore, as a protest, the national team was restricted from playing its match with India scheduled for February 15," the source added.

Any clash between arch-rivals India and Pakistan is one of the most lucrative in cricket, worth millions of dollars in broadcast, sponsorship and advertising revenue.

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## 2 cops injured in separate attacks in KP's Bannu: police

**NEWS DESK:** Two cops were injured in two separate attacks targeting the police in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Bannu district on Saturday night, police sources told Dawn on Sunday.

In the first incident, armed assailants opened fire at the Khonia Khel police check post in Bannu's Wazir

sub-division, prompting the police to retaliate, the sources said, adding that the attack was carried out by terrorists.

Cop Noor Muhammad was injured in the exchange of fire, they said.

Details regarding the losses inflicted on the terrorists could not be immediately confirmed.

A search operation was launched in the area, and security has been further tightened, according to the sources.

In the other incident, which occurred on Bannu's Khan Road, Mirakhel police came under attack while they were transporting the body of a murdered person to the hospital, sources said.

Armed assailants opened fire on police, as a result of which one policeman, Azmat,

was injured, they added.

A total of six assailants were involved in the attack, riding three motorcycles, as per the police's initial report.

The assailants fled the site of the incident after the attack.

Saturday night's incidents came just around 10 days after a militant attack on a police vehicle in Bannu's Domel area was repulsed.

Earlier on January 8, three cops were injured when a police vehicle transporting prisoners to Hangu had come under attack in Bannu.

## Three Killed in Armed Attack Near Harnabo Dam in Khuzdar

**From Our Correspondent:**

**KHUZDAR:** Three people were shot dead by unknown armed assailants near Harnabo Dam in the Nall area of Khuzdar district on Friday, police said.

According to police officials, the victims — all residents of Wadh town — had gone to the nearby dam for a picnic when they were attacked. The deceased were identified as Abdul Saboor, son of Mola Bakhsh, Dr Abdul Rashid, son of Chaur Khan, and Munwar Lal, son of Chhato Mal.

Khuzdar Police Control confirmed that unidentified gunmen opened fire on the group at the dam site, killing all three on the spot before fleeing the area. The motive behind the attack could not be immediately ascertained.

Following the incident, police rushed to the scene, took custody of the bodies, and shifted them to a nearby



hospital for medico-legal procedures. After completion of formalities, the bodies were handed over to the vic-

tim's families. Police have launched an investigation into the incident and are collecting evi-

dence to trace those responsible. No arrests had been reported till the filing of this report.

The incident has sparked concern among local residents, highlighting ongoing security challenges in parts of the district.

## Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) strike sees mixed response across K-P amid Feb 8 protest call

**NEWS DESK:** Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Sunday observed a province-wide wheel-jam and shutter-down strike across Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, including the capital Peshawar, to protest alleged rigging in the February 8, 2024, general elections. The strike produced a mixture of large-scale mobilisation in some urban centres and limited disruption in others, with business activity continuing in many areas.

In the provincial capital, PTI workers staged protests and enforced stoppages on several major roads and highways. Public transport services were suspended in parts of the city, although the government-run Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service remained operational. In some areas, PTI workers also reported to be functional in various areas.

Despite the strike call, commercial activity continued in several parts of Peshawar. Shops remained open in some markets, while food outlets and essential commodity stores operated in selected localities.



The Food Street at Fawara Chowk in Peshawar Cantonment was reported to be fully active, and most shops along University Road also remained open.

PTI Deputy Information Secretary Ikram Khattana said the party was observing a complete strike in all districts of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and organising district-level protest rallies.

In Peshawar, a foot march was scheduled from Hashnagri to Chowk Yagdar, with participation from district leadership, party workers and members of the trader community. The march was to be led by

PTI K-P President Junaid Akbar, who, along with other senior leaders, was expected to address workers upon reaching Chowk Yagdar.

Similar protest demonstrations were planned across the province, to be led by PTI MNAs and MPAs in their respective constituencies.

The strike's effect was uneven outside the capital. In Swabi, all markets, shopping centres and commercial hubs remained open despite the shutter-down call, and traffic flowed normally throughout the district. Lower Dir likewise reported business centres

operating as usual and public transport services running on schedule.

In Charsadda, shops and markets across the district remained open with no notable traffic disruption. PTI announced a protest demonstration at Farooq-e-Azam Chowk at 3:00pm. Authorities in Charsadda confirmed a police deployment of roughly 4,200 personnel to maintain law and order.

The provincial action took place against a wider national backdrop in which PTI and allied opposition parties reaffirmed their resolve

to press ahead with countryside protests and strikes, describing February 8 as both a "Black Day" and a "Day of Mourning".

The administration moved to tighten security, imposed Section 144 in parts of Islamabad and launched measures intended to curb mobilisation. At the same time, several opposition figures condemned a recent deadly blast in Islamabad and urged peaceful demonstrations and restraint.

As tensions simmer in K-P, the administration in neighboring Punjab has moved to block any potential spillover of the protests. The Deputy Commissioner of Rawalpindi, Dr Hassan Waqar Cheema, has imposed Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure across the district for 15 days, effective from February 7 to February 21, 2026. An official notification issued by the Office of the Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi on February 7, 2026, imposing Section 144 across the district for 15 days to prohibit all rallies, protests, and gatherings of five or more people.

## Naval chief discusses coordinated responses to maritime security challenges with Malaysian navy leadership

**NEWS DESK:** Pakistan's naval chief, Admiral Zulfikar Khan, held discussions with the Malaysian Navy's chief, Admiral Tan Sri Zulkhelmy bin Ithain, during an official visit to the southeast Asian country. The military's media wing said on Sunday, "Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf paid an official visit to Malaysia and called on the leadership of the Royal Malaysian Navy. He was received at Royal Malaysian Navy Headquarters by Admiral

Tan Sri Zulkhelmy bin Ithain, chief of the Royal Malaysian Navy, and was accorded a Guard of Honour," a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations said. It added that Admiral Ashraf's discussions during the visit focused on "aligning strategic perspectives and enhancing operational cooperation, capacity building, and coordinated responses to maritime security challenges." "Admiral Naveed Ashraf highlighted Pakistan Navy's contributions to regional stability through Regional

Maritime Security Partnerships (RMSPP) and participation in the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF)," the statement said. During the visit, the naval chief "also visited Malaysia's National Hydrographic Centre, emphasising strengthened cooperation with Pakistan's National Hydrographic Office in training, data exchange, and professional collaboration." "The visit reaffirmed the enduring Pakistan-Malaysia naval partnership and commitment to future-oriented maritime cooperation," the statement said.

## Patient care at outsourced hospitals in KP suffers due to payment delay

**NEWS DESK:** Patient care at 13 outsourced government hospitals continues to suffer as the private organisations running these facilities haven't received due payments since July last year due to the ongoing upgradation work at the accountant general office.

Officials told Dawn that the health department had released Rs413 million to the hospitals outsourced to private organisations under the public-private partnership initiative but the amount had yet to reach the recipients, causing services at the hospitals to decline.

They said the department had been contracting out underperforming hospitals to private organisations through the Health Foundation (HF) to improve patient care.

The officials said the HF had so far outsourced 19 hospitals for which the government issued a budget on

a quarterly basis subject to verification of their performance by the committees comprising officials of health department, district administration and HF. Health Foundation chief says "technical issues" caused problem; payments are also next to zero," he noted.

They, however, said 13 of the hospitals had been awaiting the July-Sept payments, to the financial hardship of employees. The officials also said another installment for the Oct-Dec period was overdue but the organisations were anxiously awaiting payment for which the money had already been released. Last month, the district health officer (DHO) of Upper Kohistan wrote a letter to the HF, demanding the termination of the contract awarded to the National Integrated Development Foundation to run the district headquarters hospital in Dassa.

The DHO insisted that the organisation had totally failed to provide services to the people due to staff strikes. "There are only two consultants but according to agreement, their number should be 11. Besides, the indoor admissions are also next to zero," he noted.

The HF's managing director later sought an explanation from NIDF, which rejected the DHO's assertions and insisted that though its dues hadn't been cleared, it had been paying salaries to the employees. It also said that the hospital had seven consultants and that for the first time in Kohistan's history, 437 major and 925 minor surgeries in orthopaedic, general surgery, gynaecology and ENT cases had been carried out. The NIDF claimed that all those payments and activities had been verified by the health department's Independent Monitoring Unit.



## Water supply to be suspended in many Karachi areas due to pipeline repair

**NEWS DESK:** The city is expected to face a daily water shortage of around 200 million gallons for at least four days as the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KWSC) begins repair work on a leaking 84-inch diameter main water line on Monday.

The leak was detected in the Phase-I main water line in Block 19 of Gulshan-i-Iqbal. It prompted the utility to initiate urgent repair and maintenance work. The 96-hour operation will begin at 12 noon on Monday.

The Phase-I main pipeline project, particularly the University Road section near Block 19, is part of the high-priority K-4 water augmentation initiative aimed at improving supply reliability.

A KWSC spokesman said the repair work was being carried out to stabilise and strengthen the city's water supply system ahead of Ramadan. He said the decision was taken to ensure a smooth water supply during the holy month, adding that specialised teams would oversee the process to



minimise disruption. KWSC says leakages in 84-inch main in Gulshan to be plugged in four days.

Areas likely to be affected by the water shortage include Landhi, Korangi, Malir, Shah Faisal, Gulshan, Jinnah, Chanesar, Saddar, Lyari and Clifton.

The spokesman said water supply from the Dhabaji Pumping Station would be temporarily reduced, while supply from other pumping stations would remain unaffected. This, he

said, would ensure that residents continue to receive a significant portion of their daily water requirements.

He said the city normally receives around 650 million gallons of water per day and, despite the temporary reduction, it would still receive about 450 million gallons daily.

The spokesman said the utility was making efforts to complete the repair work as quickly as possible to minimise inconvenience to residents. He added that the

Landhi and Sherpao hydrants would also remain temporarily closed during the repair period.

While the repair work is expected to be completed within 60 hours, the deadline has been extended to 96 hours in case additional repairs are required.

The KWSC advised residents in the affected areas to store water in advance and use it judiciously during the repair period. Meanwhile, sources in the water utility told Dawn that the 84-inch diameter

main line had developed leaks at seven to eight locations. They said a major leak was identified near the KE Power House in Block 19, Gulshan-i-Iqbal, with another leak about 200 feet away. Additional leaks were also found in underground sections of the main line in areas where encroachments had been made above it.

The sources said repair work would be carried out inside the 84-inch diameter main line at the encroached locations.