



**BALOCHISTAN**  
Provincial Minister Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran...  
Page No 5



**INTERNATIONAL**  
Iran arrests at least four reform front politicians  
Page No 3



**NATIONAL**  
FM Dar underscores importance of expanding ...  
Page No 8



**SPORT**  
Malin keeps USA golden in Olympic figure skating team...  
Page No 7

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# QUETTA VOICE

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**CM Balochistan with Children of Martyred Police Officer in Quetta**

## Terrorism Probe Sees Breakthrough: CM Bugti

**News Desk:**

Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Sunday said that investigations into recent terrorist incidents in the province have reached a decisive stage, assuring that all terrorists involved and their facilitators will be brought to justice without exception.

The Chief Minister made these remarks while visiting the homes of police officers and personnel who were martyred

in the deadly terrorist attacks in Quetta on January 31.

During the visit, he met the bereaved families, expressed heartfelt condolences, offered Fataha, and assured them of the government's support.

Speaking to the families, Mir Sarfraz Bugti said the children of martyrs are not just the responsibility of one household but the collective responsibility of the entire nation.

He reaffirmed that the Government of Balochistan would never abandon the families of those who laid down their lives in the line of duty.

Under the existing compensation policy, he announced immediate financial assistance for the families along with two government jobs—one in the police Department and another in any other government department.

He directed the Additional Chief Secretary Home to issue all appointment orders within one week.

The Chief Minister also announced that the government

would bear all educational expenses of the martyrs' children.

He said that Rs55 million is being provided to the families of police martyrs for house construction and other essential needs, with further support to be arranged if required.

Mir Sarfraz Bugti said his forces are attempting to destabilize Pakistan and Balochistan through terrorism, but such conspiracies will fail. "Every drop of innocent blood shed on this soil will be accounted for," he said, adding that investigations are being conducted in a professional manner, with teams working round the clock.

He reaffirmed the government's resolve to eliminate terrorism and ensure that enemies of peace and the state are taken to their logical end.

**NA, Senate sessions ring with condemnation of horrific Islamabad blast**

**NEWS DESK:**

Routine business was suspended in parliament on Monday as both the National Assembly (NA) and Senate held prayers for those killed in a suicide attack at a mosque in the capital's Tarlai area, with lawmakers moved to take up the incident for debate.

At least 33 people were killed and around 169 others injured when a suicide bomber struck inside a mosque in Tarlai during Friday prayers last week. The blast occurred as worshippers gathered for Jumma prayers and was accompanied by explosions and gunfire.

The attack was the deadliest in Islamabad in more than a decade and the deadliest nationwide since the Peshawar mosque bombing in January 2023.

Today's NA session began under Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq. The session, which was the day's agenda, was tabled by the federal minister for parliamentary affairs and approved by the lawmakers. Maulana Abdul Ghafour Haideri led a prayer for the victims.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Tariq Fazal, who presided over the NA session, took place at an imambargah in Tarlai, where an assailant opened fire on security guards, entered the mosque area and detonated explosives.

He said 33 worshippers had been killed and more than 150 people were injured.

He added that most of those killed were young people, saying the presence of educational institutions in the area meant more students were among the congregation.

Chaudhry said a cousin of killed and his uncle injured.

Told lawmakers the attacker had been identified as "Yasir Khan", and said authorities had been informed that another terrorist linked to the incident was a suicide attacker.

He said the Counter-Terrorism Department in Nowshera had arrested four suspected terrorists.

Chaudhry said the attacker received training in Afghanistan, and claimed trained suicide attackers in Afghanistan and was behind the operation.

He said intelligence agencies had foiled similar plots in the past and that places of worship had security procedures, but added that guards were unable to stop the attacker.

**Punjab CM lauds authorities on organising 'safe Basant'**

**News Desk:**

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Monday praised authorities for organising a "safe Basant" festival over the weekend in Lahore.

In television remarks, she expressed gratitude to various authorities for their arrangements and work during the three-day festival.

She said: "It was a success. I wish to praise all 15 departments of the Punjab government for arranging a safe Basant with a whole-of-government approach," she said. She made the speech on behalf of Punjab Inspector General Basitul Karim, Lahore Capital City Police Officer Bilal Karyana, Lahore Deputy Inspector General Operations Faisal Kamran and their teams.

Maryam also expressed happiness that citizens followed standard operating procedures and installed "safety rods" on their bikes, aimed at preventing motorcycleists from suffering injuries from the site of the accident. "It was a positive change for lots of people, where people saw that citizens in Lahore were abiding by the law and following safety protocols," she added.

## Cancer Cases Surge 100% in Balochistan as Patients Struggle for Treatment

**Staff Reporter:**

QUETTA: Cancer cases across Balochistan have doubled over the past year, exposing serious gaps in the province's healthcare system and leaving thousands of patients with limited access to treatment.

According to Health Department sources, nearly 10,000 cancer patients were registered at CENAR Cancer Hospital in Quetta in 2024.

In the following year, the number rose sharply to around 22,000 cases, marking a worrying 100 percent increase.

Medical officials say the most common reported cancers in Balochistan include breast cancer, colon and intestinal cancers, and blood-related cancers. Doctors are particularly concerned that 70 to 80 percent of patients arrive at hospitals in the final stages of the disease, when treatment options are limited and survival chances drop significantly.

Despite the rising burden,



CENAR remains the only fully functional cancer hospital in the province. A dedicated cancer hospital built several years ago within the premises of Sheikh Zayed Hospital, Quetta, is still

not operational.

As a result, patients from remote and underserved districts are forced to travel long distances and endure long waiting periods for care.

Health experts emphasize that early detection, routine medical screening, healthier lifestyles, balanced diets, and a clean environment are essential to reducing cancer-related

deaths. The sharp rise in cancer cases has renewed calls for urgent government action to expand oncology services and improve early diagnosis across Balochistan.

## QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Call for Pink Bus  
Expansion of Pink Bus  
Service in Quetta

**Editorial:** The Balochistan government's recent approval of the Pink Bus Service in Quetta is a landmark step toward providing women with safe, reliable, and dignified public transport.

Left: Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti and ex-pm Dr. Faisal Ahmed Khan, Chief of Public-Private Partnership, this initiative marks a first in Balochistan and follows the successful model implemented in Sindh.

Launching this women-only service with three buses is a promising start, but Quetta's growing demand calls for a larger fleet.

To effectively address the transportation challenges women face, the government should ex-

pand this service to include at least a dozen pink buses.

A more extensive fleet would significantly enhance women's mobility, providing not only a safe travel option but also empowering access to education, employment, and healthcare facilities.

Female commuters often encounter issues like overcrowding, harassment, and long wait times.

A larger pink bus fleet would offer users timely, comfortable, and safe transportation, reducing the daily struggles they face on public transport.

Let's call on the Balochistan government to enhance its public transportation by committing to a dozen buses meeting the demand for decent and secure transportation for women in Quetta.

## Malnutrition in Balochistan

Amber Munir

Malnutrition in Balochistan shared in Quetta Voice on Wednesday, April 14, 2021, page 04. The article highlights the role of essential nutrients in human development along with a brief introduction of malnutrition, characterization of malnutrition, procedure of taking measurements of SAM and MAM screening, classifications, community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM), infant and young child feeding (IYCF), etc.

Background: Survey of National Nutrition National Nutrition Survey (2001-2002) The National Nutrition Survey conducted in 2001-2002 assessed the nutritional levels and health status of children and children in Pakistan. Data was collected through a questionnaire consisting of four modules including a household questionnaire, biochemical test, and a dietary questionnaire, and a dietary form. Additional biochemical samples including serum retinol, serum ferritin, and zinc, were collected from mothers and children under-5. Urine samples were collected from mothers and children ages 6-12 years for iodine deficiency. The survey included 10,656 households from the primary sampling units.

National Nutrition Survey (2011) The NNS 2011 covered all provinces: Gilgit-Baltistan and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). This included 1,591 villages and 30,000 households, with a 49% urban and 51% rural distribution.

National Nutrition Survey (2018): The 2018 Pakistan National Nutrition Survey (NNS 2018) is the largest national nutrition survey carried out in Pakistan. It is designed to provide policymakers, program managers, and researchers with a unique set of nutrition-related data including environmental, anthropometric, and biochemical indicators.

Malnutrition status in Balochistan



is the most under-developed of Pakistan's provinces, with a high proportion of children under five years of age who are stunted (52%) and 16 percent underweight (49%). Moreover, the prevalence of anemia among children in this age group is 57%

and nearly 49% among women of childbearing age. Numerous factors are thought to contribute to child undernutrition, including socio-economic status, including sub-optimal infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices; frequent child infections (especially diarrhoea, diseases, and respiratory infections); nutritional deficiencies and/or illness and death; absence/inadequacy of micronutrient supplementation; and household food insecurity and gender inequality.

A survey conducted by the National Nutrition Cell revealed that 49% of women in Balochistan were suffering from malnutrition.

Moreover, the ratio of maternal anemia was 49% anemia among children below five years was 57% and iodine deficiency among women was 20%.

Balochistan Nutrition Program for Mother and Children (BNPMC) in response to the challenging nutrition situation in the province, the Department of Health (DoH) launched the Nutrition Program for Mothers and Children (BNPMC) in 2016. They implemented nutrition activities among the rural and urban populations of seven selected districts. The total population of these districts is 1,654,613, of which estimated target populations include 132,369 pregnant and lactating mothers, 1,000,000 children under five, and 1,522,234 State holders and adults. The DoH People's Primary Healthcare Initiative (providing health services at Basic Health Units in the districts), and local NGOs also support the project.

The total cost of the above project was 1,492.62 million PKR (US\$14.21 million) of which 80% were provided by the World Bank and 20% by the government and BNPMC of Balochistan. A major part of the funding

(41%) was allocated to strengthen institutional arrangements which include staffing, technical assistance for capacity building, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, addressing malnutrition among children and PLW (37%), and addressing micronutrient malnutrition (13%).

**Future Plans**  
The aforesaid program ended in December 2019 and was limited to seven districts; whereas the malnutrition situation continues to exist in 22 districts of Balochistan.

Therefore, the Government of Balochistan has assigned DoH and PPNI to extend nutrition intervention in 22 districts for which project proposals are ready; implementation is expected from July 2021.

The author is a program officer in PPNI

## South-West Asia and the War Against Narcotics: Where Does Pakistan Stand?

**By Dr. B. Sultan:** Lady Macbeth once remarked that "a little water clears us of this deed" after the assassination of the King. Yet, with time, she remained haunted, obsessively rubbing her hands in an attempt to clean the imbedded stains of blood. The persistence of narcotics production and trade in South-West Asia resembles this unending struggle—a dark reality that cannot be easily washed away.

Afghanistan has long been recognized as the world's largest producer of opium, with its roots tracing back to the early 1900s. Over the decades, the repercussions of this industry spilled into neighboring Pakistan and Iran. In the late 2000s, Taliban leader Mullah Omar imposed a strict ban on poppy cultivation through threats, forced eradication, and severe punishments. However, as revealed by the UNODC Opium Survey 2007, the ban primarily targeted cultivation while the trade continued. After the fall of the Taliban, opium again became a major source of funding for logistics, weapons, and militia payments.

In 2022, the Taliban leadership once again announced a ban on poppy cultivation, with Hibalullah Akhundzada officially declaring significant reductions. Some



Western reports supported by satellite imagery showed a declining poppy fields in southern Afghanistan. However, this raises critical questions: Can Afghanistan realistically abandon such a critical economic resource while facing sanctions? And what consequences does

this shift have for Pakistan? While certain analysts claim that Pakistan has become a new hub for narcotics, such narratives ignore key realities. The issue is not a simple matter of "shifting sands" but a complex regional security challenge. The porous border between

Pakistan and Afghanistan, coupled with cross-border networks of drug traffickers, means temporary shifts in cultivation are often strategic rather than permanent. Moreover, Afghanistan's pivot towards methamphetamine production—highlighted by satellite

evidence of expanded ephedra processing hubs—reflects largely strategic rather than genuine eradication. In Pakistan, however, the situation is markedly different. Since 2001, the country has largely maintained its "poppy-free" status, despite sporadic

spillovers from Afghanistan. Following the Taliban's 2022 ban on some illicit crops, conditions did improve in border areas, particularly within Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Yet, these were swiftly addressed through Pakistan's Poppy and Elimination Campaign (PEC-2025). This multi-agency effort, led by the Army (ANF) and provincial administrations, successfully destroyed thousands of acres of illegal poppy fields. Over 250 FIRs were registered, dozens of arrests made, and awareness campaigns

were launched across educational institutions. Importantly, independent surveys after March 2025 confirmed the effectiveness of these eradication drives.

Pakistan's determination to combat narcotics remains under-reported internationally, overshadowed by outdated or selective portrayals.

The fact remains: Pakistan continues to fight this menace not only for its own stability but also for global security.

What is urgently needed is greater recognition of these efforts by the international community and enhanced cooperation from agencies such as the UNODC.

As South-West Asia remains at the heart of global narcotics trade routes, Pakistan's role is both frontline and decisive. Balochistan, in particular, holds the potential to transform from a vulnerable transit zone into a hub of opportunity, stability, and resilience. Just as Lady Macbeth's imagined guilt could not be washed away with water, the global community cannot absolve itself of responsibility by ignoring Pakistan's sacrifices and achievements in this ongoing struggle. The fight against narcotics requires collective recognition, support, and action—not selective narratives.

## New Zealand's Christchurch mosque killer appeals conviction

**NEWS DESK:** A white supremacist who shot and killed 51 worshippers at two New Zealand mosques in 2019 launched an appeal Monday seeking to overturn his life sentence.

Brenton Tarrant, an Australian former gym instructor, admitted carrying out New Zealand's deadliest modern-day mass shooting before being sentenced to life in jail in August 2020.

Now, the convicted killer argues that his "torturous and inhumane" detention conditions during his months in jail made it impossible for him to make rational decisions when he pleaded guilty, according to a court synopsis of the case.

Tarrant is being held in a special unit for prisoners of extreme risk at Auckland Prison, seldom interacting with inmates or other people. "I did not have the mind frame or mental health required to make fully informed decisions at that time," Tarrant told the court, according to the New Zealand Herald.

Tarrant said his



state of mind was such that he had considered trying to implicate President Donald Trump in the crime. Life without parole? "What I said at

the time is 'perhaps I could go out and say there was a second shooter on the roof, perhaps I could say it was Donald J Trump'."

said, according to national broadcaster RNZ. If the Court of Appeal in Wellington upholds Tarrant's conviction, it would hold a

separate hearing later in the year to consider an appeal against his sentence. His penalty of life imprisonment without parole was the stiffest in New Zealand history.

Armed with an arsenal of semi-automatic weapons, Tarrant attacked worshippers at two mosques in Christchurch on March 15, 2019. He published an online manifesto before the attacks and then livestreamed the killings for 17 minutes.

His victims were all Muslim and included children, women and the elderly. Not prepared? There are heavy restrictions on who can be in court during a hearing, and an appeal hearing with only counsel, media and court officials allowed.

Families and friends of those killed or wounded in the attacks have been able to watch proceedings in Christchurch remotely by video with a one-hour delay. Members of the public are also able to watch a hearing by video link with a one-hour delay at a separate courtroom in Wellington.

Aya Al-Umari, whose brother Hussein was killed by Tarrant inside the Linwood mosque, told Christchurch's The Press newspaper she had thought "this is the end of it" when Tarrant was sentenced. "I didn't know that you are allowed to do this six years later. I was not prepared to do this," she said.

## Thousands rally across Australia against Israeli president's visit

**NEWS DESK:** Thousands gathered across Australia on Monday to protest the arrival of Israeli President Isaac Herzog, who is on a multi-city trip aimed at expressing solidarity with Australia's Jewish community following the Bondi Beach shooting.

Herzog is visiting Australia this week following an invitation from Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese in the aftermath of the December 14 shooting at a Hanukkah attack at Sydney's Bondi Beach that killed 15.

The protests have attracted the ire of many people in Australia, who say Herzog is complicit in the genocide in Gaza. Pro-Palestine groups have organised protest

in cities and towns across the country Monday.

In Sydney, thousands gathered in a square in the city's central business district, listening to speeches and shouting pro-Palestine slogans.

"The Bondi massacre was terrible but from our Australian leadership there's been no acknowledgement of the Palestinian people and the Gaza crisis," said Jason Elliott, a 30-year-old protester from Sydney.

"Herzog has dodged all the questions about the occupation and this visit is about Australia and Israeli relations, but he is complicit."

There was a heavy police presence with a helicopter circling over-

head and officers patrolling on horseback.

About 3,000 police personnel will be deployed across Sydney during Herzog's visit.

Chief Executive Alex Rycchin said Herzog's visit is "a reminder of a painful memory."

There are Jews who oppose the visit, as the Jewish Council of Australia released an open letter on Monday calling on over 1,000 Jewish Australian academics and community leaders, urging Albanese to rescind Herzog's invitation.

Police deploy special officers.

Authorities in Sydney have declared Herzog's visit a major event and have been authorised to use rarely authorised powers during the visit, including the ability to separate and move crowds, restrict their entry to certain areas, direct people to leave and search vehicles.

The Palestine Action Group organising the protest failed in a legal challenge in a Sydney court on Monday to prevent restrictions placed on the expected demonstration. "We're hoping we won't have to use any powers, because we've been liaising very closely with the police," said Peter McKenna, New South Wales Police Assistant Commissioner Peter McKenna told Nine News on Monday. "Overall, it is one of the best-organised events to keep safe. We'll be there in significant numbers just to make sure that the community is safe."



## Iran arrests at least four reform front politicians

**NEWS DESK:** The Islamic Iran Nation's Union Party sought the release of secretary-general Azar Mansouri, the Shariati party, and on Monday, after her arrest along with other members of the Reform Front, an umbrella body of Iranian reformists and moderates.

The latest campaign of mass arrests and intimidation has led to the arrests of thousands as authorities seek to deter further

protests after last month's bloodiest unrest since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

On Sunday, state media said senior figures from Iran's Reform Front were arrested, among them Ebrahim Asgharzadeh, Mohsen Amintorzi and Azar Mansouri, who acts as the front's head.

"We basically don't know what caused these arrests, because the reform front has not yet

report to the prosecutor's office in Tehran's Evin prison since the 1979 Islamic Revolution."

Iran's Reform Front spokesman, Javaid Eman, was also arrested, Mansouri's lawyer, Hojjat Kermani, said on Monday, adding that it was unclear what charges faced those arrested.

Lai, founder of the feisty shuttered Apple Daily newspaper, was first arrested in August 2020 and was convicted last year.

Lai's sentence of 20 years was within the harshest penalty "band" of 10 years to life imprisonment for offences of a "grave nature" and is the most severe punishment meted out yet.

The three national security judges said Lai's sentence was enhanced by the fact that he had "deliberately and driving force behind 'persistent' foreign collusion conspiracies."

They cited prosecution evidence that the Apple Daily newspaper sought sanctions, blockades and other hostile acts from the US and other countries while involving a web of individuals, including Apple Daily staff, activists and

protesters.

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## Congress starts campaign for restoration of Kashmiri people's political rights

JAMMU (INP): The Congress Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir chapter has launched a new campaign titled "Hai Ghar Dastak, Ghar Ghar Dastak" to mobilise public opinion for the

immediate restoration of full statehood and to highlight the deepening socio-economic and democratic crisis in the territory.

According to Kash-

mir Ghar Media Service, the campaign was formally launched from Jammu with the objective of reaching out to people at the grassroots level and exposing what the party described as the failure of the present governance framework imposed after the illegal

reivation of occupied Jammu and Kashmir's special status.

Addressing the gathering, Congress JOK President Hameed Karra said the Congress has taken upon itself the responsibility of standing shoulder to shoulder with the people of Jammu and Kashmir in their long-standing struggle for democratic rights.

He said the continued denial of statehood has led to excessive centralisation of authority, erosion of accountability, weakening of democratic institutions and growing alienation among the people. "Statehood is not a concession or charity, it is a constitutional right of the people," he said.

Karra said, adding that repeated assurances given by Modi govt on restoration of statehood must be honoured without further delay. Karra warned that continued postponement of these promises has deepened mistrust and uncertainty. "The people have waited patiently. Any further delay will only widen the democratic deficit and further erode faith in constitutional governance," he said.

## Perpetual arrest warrants issued for Ali Amin Gandapur, Omar Ayub

News reported,

A two-judge bench comprising Chief Justice of Pakistan Yahya Afzal and Justice Shahid Bilal.

Hassan heard 13 peti-

tions related to Imran Khan and his wife,

Bushra Bibi.

During the hearing, the bench dis-

missed the petition for

a meeting with Imran Khan, filed by senior

PTI leader Latif

Khosha. The SC ob-

served that such an

order could not be

passed without first

issuing notice to the

government.

Chief Justice

Afzal noted that the

matter pertained to an

order dated August 24,

2023, and observed

that the case was no

longer maintainable.

The apex court also took up the

government's petitions

challenging the acqui-

tal of Imran Khan and

former foreign minister

Shah Mahmood

Qureshi in the cipher

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the formation of a

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## Kamindu heroics steer Sri Lanka past Ireland in T20 World Cup

**NEWS DESK:** Sri Lanka's 11th-hour call to draft in Kamindu Mendis proved a masterstroke as the all-rounder delivered a match-turning cameo to set up a 20-run win over Ireland in their T20 World Cup opener at Colombo's R. Premadasa Stadium on Sunday.

Kamindu's blistering 44 off 19 balls with four fours and two sixes gave Sri Lanka the late thrust they badly needed to post 163.

The spin trio of Mahesh Theekshana, Wanindu Hasaranga and Dunieth Wellalage then ran through the Irish middle order, sharing seven wickets to seal a comprehensive win.

"I just wanted to score a few boundaries and put a partnership with Kusal Mendis," said Kamindu. "Kusal was outstanding and he deserves a lot of credit. We wanted someone to bat through the innings.

"They played well during the run chase until the 15th over. We had to keep our calm and



we knew they had to take runs and we bowled well towards the end." Hasaranga claimed three wickets to take his World Cup tally to 40, second

only to Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hasan, who has 50. There were anxious moments when the leg-spinner, who has a history with hamstring

injuries, limped off after his second over. Though he returned to complete his quota, he moved gingerly, raising questions over his fitness for the

rest of the campaign.

Sri Lanka's innings had been stuck in first gear until Kamindu came in with the scorecard reading 80

for four in the 14th over, boundaries having dried up against Ireland's spinners. The left-hander broke a 57-ball boundary drought with a cheeky

reverse sweep and then went into overdrive, plundering 21 runs in the 17th over to wrestle back the momentum. With Kusal Mendis playing

the sheet anchor role in an unbeaten half-century, Sri Lanka found a competitive total from what had looked like a below-par start.

Ireland were marooned by left-arm spinner George Dockrell, who returned a miserly spell of 1-17.

A 99-run stand between Ireland's Tymal and Harry Tector for the third wicket kept Ireland in the hunt.

From a promising 105 for two, Ireland lost their way and folded for 143, 19.5 overs, with Mathew Pillay cleaning up with two wickets in the final over.

"They got 15 runs too many," said Ireland captain Paul Sterling.

"We are on the field and we have plenty of work to do before the next game. We were confident with plenty of wickets in hand, but Sri Lanka held their nerve and it was a challenge for us. It wasn't coming onto the bat as much as we expected. Spin, I believe, is going to play a big role in this tournament."

### Malinin keeps USA golden in Olympic figure skating team event

**NEWS DESK:** US star Iliya Malinin saw off a resurgent Japan with a pulsating routine to keep the Olympic team figure skating gold in American hands on Sunday.

Malinin came top in the men's free skating final in Milan with Japan taking silver and host nation Italy claiming an emotional bronze after three days of competition. The 21-year-old, in his first Olympics, went into the individual event with one gold medal already in his pocket.

"We came here to do one job and we achieved it," said Malinin.

"I came in and said

I'm the deciding factor. I just need to go out there and test the ice again to see how it feels and prepare myself for the individual event."

"I know it was going to be a tie-breaker, and I went exactly the way I wanted for that."

"I've come down to the conclusion the support, the passion from my whole team."

The United States finished with 69 points, with Japan scoring 68 and Italy third, falling for the first time in the team event with 60.

Going into the final round, the Japanese and the Americans had been neck and neck, but Japan were ahead having won

more routines. The title came down to Malinin, a two-time world champion who has been unbeat in competition in over two years.

"I was so much more nervous watching Iliya than skating myself," said veteran pairs skater Danny O'Shea, who is competing in his last Olympics. Malinin had finished second behind Japan's Yuma Kagiyama in Saturday's men's short programme.

Kagiyama, the Beijing Olympic individual silver medallist, did not compete in the free skate with Olympic newcomers. The Japanese team, representing Japan instead of

Djokovic amazed.

But Malinin hit five quadruple jumps and although the "Quad God" did not deliver the first ever quadruple in Olympic competition, he had promised, he had the crowd roaring.

Watched by tennis great Novak Djokovic, Malinin scored 100.03 to push Sato into second place with 194.86.

"It was so unreal,"

Malinin said.

"I've heard from everyone that after I landed my backflip, they were standing there, hands on his head, and I was like, 'Oh, my God. That's incredible.' That's a once in a lifetime moment seeing a famous tennis player watching my performance."



### Man City fight back to end Anfield hoodoo and reel in Arsenal

**NEWS DESK:** Erling Haaland's stoppage-time penalty earned Manchester City a draw with 2-1 at Liverpool on Sunday to reduce Arsenal's lead at the top of the Premier League back to six points.

City were heading for defeat at Anfield with six minutes to go before Bernardo Silva cancelled out Dominik Szoboszlai's stunning free-kick to spark an incredulous reaction.

Haaland put City in front from the spot before the visitors had another goal ruled out and Szoboszlai was sent off in the 90th minute after a VAR review.

Victory was City's first away to Liverpool in front of a crowd since 2003 and reappeals some pressure to Arsenal's quest for a first title in 22 years.

"I feel the whole team knew before the game, if we lost it then the title race was probably over," said Silva. "We felt like we needed to win."

Defeat delivered another blow to Liverpool's hopes of

Champions League football next season.

The daunting championship deficit had confidence from the Norwegian showed with the best chance of the first half since the opening two minutes.

These two clubs have combined to win the last eight Premier League titles and showed the flaws which have opened the door for Arsenal to potentially end their long wait to be crowned champions of England once again.

Haaland has scored

just once from open play in his last 13 appearances.

The daunting championship deficit had confidence from the City's season and the visitors again faded in the second period until a late flurry saved their title challenge.

In the second half we pressed really high and played good football," said Liverpool boss Anfield.

"We have im-

proved so much, but we need to improve the results."

Marc Ghekiere was relentlessly booted after his proposed move to Liverpool from Crystal Palace broke down on transfer deadline day in September.

City took advantage to swoop in last month when they lost two key centre-backs to injury.

Ghekiere was fortunate to score a goal in a yellow card when he dragged down Mo Salah just outside the box in a decision that infuriated Slot.

But it was City who were left limping at the award of the free-kick which led to the opener when Ryan Gravenberch went down under minimal contact.

Zinchenko scored the only goal with an outrageous free-kick when Arsenal visited Anfield in August and produced another stunning strike which clipped the inside of the post before finding the net.

However, the Hungarian went from hero to villain when City levelled six minutes from time.



### Stunning strikes mark end of National Challenge Cup group stage

**NEWS DESK:** A series of spectacular goals provided the highlights as the group stage of the National Challenge Cup concluded on Sunday, with Mansoms, Pakistan Air Force and SA Gardens securing places in the quarter-finals.

The standout moments came from Wapda's Ali Razza, who struck an acrobatic overhead kick, and Pakistan Air Force's Mohammad Rafay, whose first-time volley from a corner drew applause.

In Group 'A', Mansoms held Paki-

stan Navy to a goalless draw at the KPT Stadium to finish top of the group.

Navy, needing a win to qualify, dominated possession and forced a goal from keeper Usman Ali into two early saves but failed to convert their chances.

Mansoms defended resolutely in the second half to deny Navy the breakthrough.

Both teams will face Group 'B' runners-up Khan Research Laboratories in the quarter-finals.

Wapda topped Group 'B' with a commanding 5-0 win over

Hazara Coal at the KMC Stadium.

Ali Razza scored a hat-trick, netting twice inside the opening six minutes before producing a stunning overhead kick from corner.

Mohammad Adel added a third just before the interval. Ahmed Faheem struck after the restart, and Ali completed his treble in the 53rd minute.

Wapda will meet Pakistan Air Force in the last eight.

Pakistan Army finished top of Group 'C' after defeating International Supply Company at the KPT Stadium.

Rafay opened the scor-

ing in the 13th minute with a well-taken volley. Army missed a chance to double their lead when Afzaal's penalty was saved by Akhtar Ali, but Subhan Khan scored the win with a breakaway goal in the 61st minute.

Army now face Nims.

In Group 'D', 10-man SA Gardens edged Nims 1-0 at the KMC Stadium to claim top spot. Despite Ali Khan Nims' early dismissal, Shahzad Nawaz headed home the winner in the 23rd minute.

SA Gardens will take on International Supply Company in the quarter-finals.

### Pakistan's Alpine Club seeks to boost mountaineering tourism

**NEWS DESK:** Pakistan's towering mountain ranges, including some of the world's highest peaks such as K2, are drawing increasing interest from foreign climbers, according to Major General (R) Irfan Arshad Khan, President of the Alpine Club of Pakistan.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with Express Tribune at the club's Secretariat in the Pakistan Sports Complex, Khan described mountaineering as a "thriving sport" in which Pakistan climbers have consistently excelled, earning international honors for the country.

The mountains of Pakistan are a gift from Allah to our nation," he said, emphasizing that the future of mountaineering in Pakistan is "extremely bright" with vast potential.

"Together with the government, we aim to promote mountaineering and adventure sports."

An outline plan to improve modern infrastructure, train personnel, and strengthen rescue systems for domestic and international climbers.

Agreements are in progress with countries including France and Italy to enhance collaboration in mountaineering.

Foreign tourism is expected to rise further with online visa facilities and improved security measures.

A comprehensive plan, developed in consultation with government institutions, aims to attract more international climbers while boosting Pakistan's economy.

He noted that Pakistani climbers are being made available for the participation of female climbers, alongside grassroots initiatives to raise awareness about mountaineering.

"Pakistan is a safe country, and the northern areas offer world-class facilities for climbers and tourists alike," he said.



Specialized training



## Around a million children missed during year's first nationwide polio campaign; 53,000 refusals reported

NEWS DESK: Around a million children were missed and 53,000 refusals were reported during the year's first nationwide polio campaign.

The largest share of refusals (30,000) was reported from Pakistan's largest city, Karachi. The campaign concluded on February 5 in most cities, while campaign run till February 8 in Sindh.

During the campaign, polio drops were administered to more than 44.3 million children, marking a significant milestone. Pakistan's increased efforts to eradicate polio are paying off.

While the data shows that the polio programme achieved overall household coverage of 98%, with 2pc children missed, the number of missed children is still huge and worrisome, given Pakistan's population.

Overall, 0.95 million children were reported as missed during the campaign. A large proportion of these (0.67m) were missed because children were not available at home at the time of vaccination.

During the campaign, 2.5 million children were vaccinated, largely covering a substantial share of children recorded as not being available at home.

Over 33,000 children were reported as left-overs due to security constraints, community boycotts, and snow-bound areas, "an official said.

## Western weather system to bring drizzle to Karachi

NEWS DESK: A western weather system is affecting the western parts of the country and is moving towards the northern regions from today, according to the Meteorological Department's Early Warning Centre on Sunday.

Under its influence, light rain or drizzle is expected in the coastal areas of the province. In Karachi, partly cloudy conditions with chances of drizzle are forecast for today.

On Tuesday, the city is likely to experience cloudy weather, with misty conditions in the morning hours.

Over the next two days, Karachi's minimum temperature is ex-

pected to range around 17°C, while the maximum may reach up to 30°C.

Northeasterly (sea) winds are likely to blow in the city.

In the eastern parts of the province, dry weather is expected to remain cold, with skies partly to completely cloudy. Rain and snowfall over the mountainous areas of Quetta, Ziarat, Pishin, Chaman, Oilla Abdullah and Oilla Safullah.

Rain is also expected in Zhob, Mastung, Kalat, Turbat, Chaghi, Gwadar and Kharan.

Regarding temperatures, the Met Office said the minimum temperature in Quetta was recorded at 0°C, while Kalat recorded -1°C.

In Ziarat, the minimum temperature was also recorded at -1°C, while Zhob recorded 4°C.

Sibi recorded a minimum temperature of 12°C and Turbat 16°C, while Nokkundi recorded 9°C and Chaman 6°C.

In coastal areas of Balochistan, Gwadar recorded a minimum temperature of 13°C and Jiwani 15°C.

## CM Murad says fire services to be placed under one institution

NEWS DESK: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Shah has said that improving the fire brigade system was among the government's top priorities. Addressing the 21st Annual Executive Meeting, he said the system was previously divided among multiple authorities and would now be brought under one unified command.

At present, various agencies including the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation, Rescue-1122, Karachi Port Trust have their own fire-fighting systems.

The CM said China had offered cooperation to help improve the fire brigade system, including training to ensure rapid response to fire incidents.

He said the Sindh government, in collaboration with the Karachi Chamber of Commerce

and Industry (KCCI), was working to sort out the issues affected by the Gul Plaza fire and was trying to help rehabilitate the damaged shops to compensate for the losses as much as possible.

Moreover, Sindh Governor Kamran Tasseri on Sunday stressed the urgent need to improve safety measures to prevent fires in crowded streets, markets and shopping centres, highlighting public safety concerns following the recent Gul Plaza tragedy.

The event and termed its continuity a major achievement.

He said that Sunday marked the final day of the expo, which witnessed participation from millions of citizens over the past few days.

Meanwhile, Sindh Governor Kamran Tasseri on Sunday stressed the urgent need to improve safety measures to prevent fires in crowded streets, markets and shopping centres, highlighting public safety concerns following the recent Gul Plaza tragedy.

Citing statements by Finance Minister Bezelal Smotrich and Defence Minister Israel Katz, Israeli news sites Ynet and Haaretz reported that the measures included scrapping decades-old regulations that prevent Jewish private citizens buying land in the West Bank. The statement is issued on Monday by the

## BBI Vice Chairman Meets UAE Consul General to Boost Investment Cooperation

Mir Salam Jozzai:

Vice Chairman of the Balochistan Board of Investment (BBI), Bilal Khan Kakar, held a detailed meeting with the Consul General of the United Arab Emirates in Karachi, Dr. Bahheet Alti Al Remeithi, to discuss strengthening bilateral cooperation and investment opportunities.

During the meeting, both sides exchanged views on several key areas of mutual interest, including the organization of proposed investment conferences in Karachi and Abu Dhabi to attract investors and promote economic collaboration.

Progress was also reviewed on a major project aimed at cultivating Rhodes grass over more than 100 kilometers in arid areas of Balochistan to support the livestock sector.

The meeting further covered the de-



cussed enhancing cooperation in halal meat exports and expanding collaboration in the livestock industry.

The meeting further covered the de-

velopment of a used oil recycling plant in Hub, Balochistan, facilitation of company registration in the UAE for Pakistani businesses, joint ven-

tures in shrimp farm- ing projects, and other potential investment initiatives.

Both sides agreed to move forward with practical steps to

implement the discussed projects and deepen economic and investment ties between Balochistan and the United Arab Emirates.

## FM Dar underscores importance of expanding trade, economic ties with the EU

NEWS DESK: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mian Riaz Dar on Monday chaired a high-level inter-ministerial meeting to review measures aimed at strengthening Pakistan's economic and trade cooperation with the European Union (EU).

Pakistan Polio Programme Head Arwanul Haq, while speaking to Dawn, said the development was that Pakistan reported fewer cases - 31 in 2025 compared with 74 in 2024.

"Moreover, in terms of polio virus, Punjab is negative, Sindh and Balochistan is also negative. We just need to focus on more on critical areas, namely Sindh and Balochistan," he said.

Prime Minister's Focal Person on Polio, Ayesha Raza Farooq, told Dawn that the post-campaign independent assessment was underway.

"It will take a week before results are compiled and the programme will share them with all the stakeholders," she said.

Dar highlighted that Pakistan has completed four biennial GSP-Plus reviews and reaffirmed its commitment to the Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP-Plus) framework.

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Under the en-

to fully meeting its obligations under the scheme in order to expand mutually beneficial trade opportunities with the EU.

It is also noted that the blue route remains a key economic benefit for Pakistan, particularly under the GSP-Plus framework.

GSP-Plus is a trade initiative by the EU that allows developing countries to export goods to the region with reduced or zero tariffs, making their products more competitive in European markets.

Under the en-

hanced GSP-Plus scheme, countries that implement international conventions on human rights, labour rights, environmental protection, and good governance receive additional benefits, including duty-free access for most exports.

The GSP-Plus status has especially benefited Pakistan's key export sectors in textiles, leather goods, and surgical instruments, which contribute significantly to the country's foreign exchange earnings.

The meeting was attended by Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Tariq Bajwa, Secretary Foreign Affairs Ambassador Annsa Baloch, and the secretaries of commerce, interior, overseas Pakistanis and human rights.

Pakistan's am-

bassador to the EU and senior officials from relevant federal and provincial departments were also present.

At the meeting with the EU's Ambassador to Pakistan, Raimundas Karolis, in Jan, 2026, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to working closely with the EU on initiatives to enhance trade, particularly under the GSP-Plus framework.

The country was granted the GSP-Plus status by the EU in 2014, resulting in a 108 per cent increase in Pakistan's textile exports to the EU due to concessional tariffs.

In October 2023, the European Parliament unanimously voted to extend the GSP-Plus status for another four years until 2027 for developing countries, including Pakistan.

## 8 Muslim nations, including Pakistan, warn against 'expansionist Israeli policies' in occupied West Bank



Eight Muslim countries, including Pakistan, in a joint statement on Monday, warned against the "continued expansionist Israeli policies" in the occupied West Bank.

In the statement, the foreign minister of Pakistan — along with those of Egypt, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Indonesia, Saudi Arabia and Qatar — "condemned the illegal Israeli decisions and measures aimed at imposing unlawful Israeli sovereign control over settlement activity and enforcing a new legal and administrative reality in the occupied West Bank, thereby accelerating attempts at its illegal annexation and the displacement of the Palestinian people."

The statement comes a day after Israel's security cabinet approved a series of steps to expand its control over the occupied West Bank to include areas where settlers have been living for years, including the occupied West Bank, which fuel West Bank and conflict in the region," the statement said. The ministers expressed their "condemnation" of Israel's actions, which they maintained "constitute a blatant violation of international law, undermine the two-state solution and violate the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to realise their independent and sovereign state."

"Such actions also undermine the ongoing efforts for peace and stability in the region," the statement said.

The ministers also held that "these illegal measures in the occupied West Bank are null and void and constitute violations of international law."

The ministers, in their statement, called on the international community to "fulfil its legal and moral responsibilities and敦促 Israel to halt its dangerous escalation in the occupied West Bank and the inciting statements of its officials."

"They stressed that the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and statehood," the ministers said. They further urged the international community to "work towards a just and comprehensive peace that guarantees security and stability in the region."

It should be mentioned that the same eight nations had also backed US President Donald Trump's administration on a plan last year on a plan to end Israel's genocide and invasion in Gaza.

In a statement issued on Monday, the eight nations had condemned the repeated violations of the ceasefire in Gaza by Israel, asserting that these actions risked undermining the ongoing efforts to restore stability at a time when regional and international partners were working collectively to advance the second phase of Trump's plan.