



**Ahsan reviews Rs1 trillion power, hydel portfolio; seeks three-year completion plan**



**Talal calls social media exploitation of minor as 'Social Terrorism'**



**India's Dulhasti Stage-II project on Chenab River illegal: Sherry**

Founded By:  
(Late) Rehmat Khan

ABC CERTIFIED

Email: editor.peakpoint@gmail.com  
Website: www.peakpoint.pk

Executive Group Editor  
Arif Mehmood Khan



Tuesday 30 December 2025 Rajab Al-Murjab 09, 1447 A.H VOI No: 05 Issue No. 344 Pages 4 Rs.20

## Pakistan achieves key diplomatic milestones as Shehbaz, Dar make 71 foreign trips in 2025

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The year 2025 emerged as a significant one for Pakistan in terms of international diplomacy, with the country receiving increased attention on the global stage. During this year, President Asif Ali Zardari undertook five foreign visits, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif made 28 trips, and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar completed 43 visits abroad. Pakistan gained significant diplomatic prominence, particularly in the Middle East peace process, with numerous countries showing interest in enhancing their diplomatic and business ties with Pakistan. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's Visits: On May 26, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif visited Iran, Türkiye, and Azerbaijan, accompanied by

Field Marshal Asim Munir. These visits were aimed at thanking these nations for their support during the military tensions between Pakistan and India. Pakistan-Saudi Defence Agreement: September 17 marked a major event with the signing of a historic defense agreement between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. Prime Minister Sharif received an honor guard upon arrival, including a salute and a guard of honor, symbolizing the strong bilateral relations. White House Meeting: In September 2025, Prime Minister Sharif, along with the army chief, attended the United Nations General Assembly in New York. On September 26, they met with US President Donald Trump, a follow-up to President Trump's invitation to Field Marshal



LARKANA: President Asif Ali Zardari offering fatha and laying flowers at the grave of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in Garhi Khuda Bakhsh.

## Appeal filed against ex-spy master Faiz Hameed's conviction by military court: lawyer

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Former chief of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) Faiz Hameed's lawyer confirmed to Dawn on Monday that an appeal had been filed against the ex-spy master's sen-

tencing by a military court.

"Yes, we have appealed his sentencing," Hameed's lawyer, Mian Ali Ashfaq, told Dawn but did not share any details about the appeal. Hameed was sentenced to 14 years rigorous imprisonment by a military court on December 11 after being convicted on four counts related to violating secrecy laws, engaging in political activities, misuse of authority and causing harm to others.

He had a 40-day window following his conviction and sentencing to appeal against the Field General Court Martial (FGCM) decision, according to Section 133B of the Pakistan Army Act. The appeal is first reviewed by a Court of Appeals, led by a major general or higher, as designated by the army chief. The chief then holds the authority to confirm, revise, or overturn the sentence. Historically, the military's appellate process has stretched over several years.

## Karachi-Dhaka flights likely from January, says Pakistan's high commissioner

PEAK POINT

DHAKA: Pakistan's High Commissioner to Bangladesh Imran Haider expressed hope on Monday that direct flights between Karachi and Dhaka will start in January, during a meeting with the Chief Advisor Professor Muhammad Yunus.

Relations between Pakistan and Bangladesh remained shaky during Sheikh Hasina's rule. However, following the popular revolt against her government and her subsequent exile, relations between the two countries improved markedly, with Professor Muhammad Yunus leading the interim administration in Dhaka.

"During the meeting,



both sides discussed ways to expand cooperation in trade, investment, and aviation, as well as scaling up cultural, educational, and medical exchanges to further strengthen bilateral relations between the two South Asian nations," said a statement shared on X by Bangladesh's interim leader. Haider, during the meeting, also noted that bilateral trade has recorded a 20 per cent

growth compared to last year, with business communities from both countries actively exploring new investment opportunities.

The high commissioner further highlighted a "significant increase" in cultural exchanges, adding that "Bangladeshi students have shown strong interest in higher education opportunities in Pakistan, particularly in medical sciences, nan-

otechnology, and artificial intelligence".

"Pakistan has witnessed a rise in patients travelling to its leading hospitals for liver and kidney transplants," said Islamabad's envoy.

According to the statement, the high commissioner also stated that Pakistan was ready to offer "training and academic opportunities in transplantation-related medical fields".

The statement added that Bangladesh's interim leader welcomed the "growing interactions between the two countries" and emphasised the "importance of increased visits, as well as cultural, educational, and people-to-people exchanges among SAARC member states."

## President Asif Ali Zardari visits Bhutto family's shrine

PEAK POINT

LARKANA: President Asif Ali Zardari Monday visited the Bhutto family's shrine at Garhi Khuda Bakhsh.

He laid wreaths at the shrines of the Bhutto family and offered Fatha.

The President laid wreaths at the shrines of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Begum Nusrat Bhutto, Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto and others and prayed for their eternal peace.

## China launches war games around Taiwan as island vows to defend democracy

PEAK POINT

CHINA: China's military moved army, naval, air force and artillery units around Taiwan on Monday for its "Justice Mission 2025" drills, as the island vowed to defend democracy and mobilised troops to rehearse repelling a potential Chinese attack. The Eastern Theatre Command announced the drills will involve live-fire exercises on Tuesday, in a statement containing a graphic demarcating five zones surrounding the island that will be under sea and air space restrictions for 10 hours from 8am (5am PKT). This marks China's sixth.

## 'We are not a threat to anyone': Afghan minister welcomes statements of Dar and religious scholars

PEAK POINT

KABUL: Afghanistan Interior Minister Khalifa Sirajuddin Haqqani has welcomed the recent statements by Pakistani religious scholars and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar regarding efforts to reduce tensions between Kabul and Islamabad.

According to Afghan television channel Tolo News, while addressing a ceremony held in recognition of the performance of the Kabul municipality and other institutions, Haqqani said that he appreciates such statements that help resolve issues between the two neighbouring countries.

He stated that Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar made positive remarks regarding

Afghanistan, adding that they welcome goodwill and stability," and that Afghan people are neither a threat to anyone nor have any such intentions.



and brotherly statements from anyone.

Haqqani also mentioned statements of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman and Mufti Taqi Usmani in favour of Afghanistan and thanked them.

He emphasized that the "Islamic Emirate is committed to regional security

and stability," and that Afghan people are neither a threat to anyone nor have any such intentions.

He added that when there is peace and security within their own country, they also wish to share a message of brotherhood and peace with the world.

"They want to address concerns both domestically and internationally and reassure everyone that the

Afghan people harbour no threats or ill intentions toward anyone," the Afghan minister continued.

Interior Minister Haqqani also appealed to other countries to play a role in the reconstruction of Afghanistan and urged Afghan citizens to support the Islamic Emirate in this process.

Foreign Minister Dar, during a press conference in Islamabad the other day, had said that Pakistan holds goodwill toward Afghanistan and does not want Afghan soil to be used against it. He also welcomed the statement issued by a recent gathering of scholars in Kabul, which emphasized that Afghan territory should not be used against any other country.

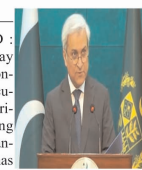
## Pakistan voices concern over minority rights in India after Christmas vandalism

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday expressed serious concern over the persecution of religious minorities in India, citing recent incidents of vandalism during Christmas and violence against Muslims.

Responding to media queries, the spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Tahir Andrabi said the developments had raised alarm about the safety and rights of vulnerable communities in India. In a statement issued by the Foreign Office, he referred to reports of attacks on minority places and state actions that, according to Pakistan, have contributed to fear and alienation among Muslims.

"The persecution of minorities in India is a matter of deep concern," the Foreign Office spokesperson said. He pointed to incidents of vandalism during Christmas and alleged state-sponsored campaigns targeting Muslims, including the demolition of homes.





# SPORTS



## Mohsin Naqvi names Wasim Akram PSL 11 brand ambassador ahead of historic expansion



**PEAK POINT** LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi has named legendary former captain and fast-bowling icon Wasim Akram as the brand ambassador for the 11th edition of the Pakistan Super League (PSL), marking a major step in strengthening the league's global profile ahead of a historic expansion phase. The announcement was made during a media briefing in Lahore, where Naqvi outlined key developments surrounding PSL 11. Calling Akram's appointment a strategic move, the PCB chief said the presence of one of Pakistan's most celebrated cricketers would further enhance the league's credibility, reach and commercial value. "Nothing strengthens the PSL brand more than Wasim Akram," Naqvi said. "He will officially assume the role of brand ambassador from January 1 and will also play an active role in overseeing the franchise auction process, which will feature an international auctioneer."

Wasim Akram has remained since its early years and previously served as President of Karachi Kings. He played a pivotal advisory role in the franchise's historic title-winning campaign in 2020, guiding the side through a difficult period following the passing of head coach Dean Jones. Alongside Akram's appointment, the PCB confirmed significant progress on the league's expansion. The PSL is set to add two new franchises, taking the number of teams to eight for the first time. According to the board, 12 bids were received from prospective owners representing five continents. After a rigorous three-day technical evaluation, 10 bidders successfully met the required criteria. "These short-listed bidders will now move to the financial bidding stage," a PCB statement said. The auction is scheduled for January 8 at the Jinnah Convention Centre in Islamabad, where bidders will be able to choose franchise names from six shortlisted cities: Hyderabad, Muzaffarabad, Sialkot, Faisalabad, Gilgit and Rawalpindi. Naqvi also hinted that PSL 11 could begin earlier than initially planned, possibly on March 23. He further praised former pacer Aaqib Javed for his role in revitalising age-group and Shaheens cricket, reiterating the PCB's long-term focus on youth development.

## Cricketer Imad Wasim says he's filed for divorce, wife Sannia Ashfaq accuses him of mistreatment, abandonment



**PEAK POINT** ISLAMABAD: Cricketer Imad Wasim and his now-estranged wife Sannia Ashfaq publicly announced that they have filed for divorce on Sunday evening in separate posts. The former ODI captain shared the news to Instagram first, followed by Ashfaq's post two hours later. While the all-rounder attributed the separation to long-standing, unresolved conflicts, Ashfaq's statement painted a far more painful picture — one that mentioned the involvement of a "third party" whose desire to marry Wasim she described as the final blow to an already fragile marriage. "My home has been broken, and my children have been left without their father. I am a mother of three, including a five-month-old infant who has yet to be held by his father," she wrote in a post that quickly drew public attention. Describing her attempts to hold the marriage together, Ashfaq said, "Like many marriages, ours had difficulties, yet it continued to exist. I remained committed as a wife and mother and made sincere efforts to preserve our family. What ultimately ended this marriage was the involvement of a third party."

## 18th Korean Ambassador's National Taekwondo Championships concludes in Rawalpindi



**PEAK POINT** ISLAMABAD: The 18th Korean Ambassador's National Junior & Cadet Taekwondo Championships concluded in Rawalpindi on December 28 at the Shahbaz Sharif Sports Complex. The three-day event, co-hosted by the Pakistan Taekwondo Federation (PTF) and the Embassy of the Republic of Korea, saw participation from 530 athletes across the country. Pakistan Army Sports Directorate, District Sports Department Rawalpindi, and Kingdom Valley and Cheezius. In his address at the Opening Ceremony, Chargé d'affaires of the Republic of Korea Park Jaelark highlighted the values of self-control, respect, and discipline. He appreciated the PTF's efforts in promoting Taekwondo in Pakistan and expressed hope for continued cooperation between Korea and Pakistan. President of PTF Women Wing Saba Shamim reaffirmed the federation's commitment to providing a platform for young athletes to showcase their talent. She thanked the Embassy of Korea for its support in developing Taekwondo in Pakistan. The championships concluded with athletes from various regions participating in the event.



LAHORE: A view of the toss between captains of IPC and Sardar Group for Match of the 7th Edition of the Corporate Challenge Cup here on Monday.

## Shadab Khan returns as Pakistan name new-look T20I squad for Sri Lanka

**PEAK POINT** LAHORE: Pakistan have signalled a strategic reset in their T20 roadmap with the recall of all-rounder Shadab Khan and the inclusion of uncapped wicketkeeper-batter Khawaja Nafay in a new-look 15-member squad for the upcoming three-match T20I series against Sri Lanka next month. The series, to be played in Dambulla, Sri Lanka, is being viewed as a key step in refining combinations ahead of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup. Salman Ali Agha will continue to lead the side, underlining the selectors' confidence in his leadership during a transitional phase. The series will be Pakistan's final overseas assignment before attention turns fully towards World Cup preparations, with all matches scheduled at the Rangiri Dambulla International Cricket Stadium on January 7, 9 and 11. The return of Shadab

Khan is the most significant development. The 27-year-old last played international cricket in June before undergoing surgery to address a persistent shoulder issue. After completing a structured rehabilitation programme at the National Cricket Academy, Shadab has made a competitive return through Australia's Big Bash League, convincing selectors that he is ready to resume international duties. His experience, especially in spin-friendly Sri Lankan conditions, is expected to add balance to Pakistan's T20 setup. Uncapped Khawaja Nafay has earned his maiden call-up after consistent performances in domestic and development

## ICC rates Melbourne Cricket Ground pitch 'unsatisfactory' after two-day Test



**PAKISTAN SQUAD FOR SRI LANKA SERIES**

- SALMAN ALI AGHA (C)
- ABDUL SHADAB
- ABDUL AHMAD
- FAHEEM ASHRAF
- FAKHR ZAMAN
- KHAWAJA NAFAY (WK)
- MOHAMMAD NAWAZ
- MOHAMMAD SALMAN MIRZA
- MOHAMMAD WALID JAR
- NASEEM SHAH
- SAHIBZADA FARHAN (WK)
- SHAN AYUB
- SHADAB KHAN
- USMAN KHAN (WK)
- USMAN TARIQ

cricket. The 23-year-old right-hander, who has featured for Pakistan Shaheens and in franchise leagues, brings top-order flexibility and a healthy T20 strike rate.



# Civil service bottleneck exposed: senate flags FPSC delays, age barriers and outdated Laws

**NADEEM TANOLI**  
ISLAMABAD: The Senate Committee on Delegated Legislation has sharply criticized the two year long federal recruitment process, warning that excessive delays, rigid age limits, and outdated rules are systematically blocking educated youth especially from remote areas like Balochistan from entering the civil service, while also exposing serious gaps in the preservation and digitization of Pakistan's national archives. The Committee met under the chairpersonship of Senator Naseema Ehsan, with Senator Bushra Anjum Butt and Senator Rubina Qaim Khani in attendance, to examine rules governing

CSS and General Recruitment Examinations, along with regulations under the National Archives Act, 1993 and the Archival Material (Preservation and Export Control) Act, 1975. During the meeting, members expressed strong concern that recruitment through the Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC) currently takes a minimum of two years, causing uncertainty for candidates and discouraging potential applicants. The Secretary FPSC informed the Committee that reforms are underway to cut the process to one year through the introduction of computer-based testing (CBT) and a shift to MCQs-based examinations instead of traditional subjective

papers. The Chairperson directed FPSC to fast-track these reforms and ensure tangible timelines. A heated discussion followed on age relaxation and the number of CSS attempts. While the Committee reiterated its recommendation to increase both, the Secretary Establishment and FPSC opposed the move, citing service length constraints and concerns over inducting older candidates. Senator Naseema Ehsan rejected this rationale, stressing that delayed education in underdeveloped regions leaves many capable candidates unfairly excluded. She emphasized that age relaxation would help level the playing field for youth from marginalized areas. The

Establishment Division suggested expanding CSS preparatory programs at the Civil Services Academy (CSA) as an alternative. The Committee also noted an increase in women joining the civil service but raised concerns over retention. Senators called for women-friendly policies, including posting female officers at stations where their spouses are serving, to support family stability and career continuity. On syllabus reforms, FPSC informed the Committee that the CSS syllabus is under review and new subjects are being considered. The Committee unanimously reaffirmed its stance on revisiting age and attempt limits. It was also clarified that mid-career

induction into the Pakistan Administrative Service (PAS) is currently restricted to Provincial Management Service (PMS) officers through FPSC exams. The Chairperson further flagged anomalies in FPSC rules, including the separate listing of Buddhists from minorities and the continued use of the term "scheduled castes," directing FPSC to present a detailed clarification in the next meeting and urging a broader review of outdated terminology and laws. Turning to national heritage, the Committee scrutinized draft National Archives (Research and Reference) Rules, 2025, questioning whether international best practices are being followed. Senator

Naseema Ehsan highlighted weak coordination between federal and provincial archives and warned that ancient documents from sites such as Mehrgarh and Neri Kalat (Kech) risk neglect. She also pointed to the absence of a clear digitization framework, directing authorities to present a comprehensive briefing in the next session on preservation, digitization plans, and protection of archaeological records. The Committee concluded that without urgent reforms, Pakistan risks losing both talent in public service recruitment and irreplaceable historical records, and directed concerned ministries to return with concrete action plans in the next meeting.

## 2025: A Year Closing in Turmoil, Uncertainty, and Unsettled Conscience



**Pakeeza shahzadi Adv**  
High court & PhD scholar

As 2025 draws to a close, the world finds itself standing at an uneasy crossroads, marked less by resolution and more by fragmentation, anxiety, and a pervasive sense of disorder. If any single phrase could encapsulate the global mood of this year, it would be strategic uncertainty amid systemic crises. From geopolitics to economics, from climate governance to democratic legitimacy, the year has exposed deep structural fissures in the international order while offering few convincing remedies. At the geopolitical level, 2025 will be remembered as a year when the post-Cold War illusion of stability finally gave way to a multipolar reality defined by confrontation rather than cooperation. The wars in Ukraine and Gaza not only persisted but

reshaped international alignments, exposing the limits of diplomacy, the paralysis of multilateral institutions, and the selective application of international law. The United Nations, conceived as the custodian of global peace, appeared increasingly constrained by veto politics and power asymmetries. The erosion of the jus ad bellum framework and the routine disregard for International Humanitarian Law have made civilian suffering an accepted by-product of geopolitical competition. The rules-based international order, long championed by Western powers, has itself come under scrutiny. Selective enforcement of human rights norms, inconsistent accountability for war crimes, and the politicization of international justice mechanisms have weakened normative legitimacy. Critics from the Global South increasingly argue that International Law has become less a universal moral code and more an instrument of strategic convenience. This legitimacy deficit is perhaps one of the most dangerous develop-

ments of our time, as it undermines compliance and fuels cynicism toward global governance. Economically, 2025 has been no less turbulent. The world continues to grapple with the aftershocks of inflation, debt distress, and supply chain fragility. Developing countries, already burdened by structural inequalities, have borne the brunt of rising energy prices, shrinking fiscal space, and climate-related disasters. The global financial architecture, largely unchanged since Bretton Woods, has proven inadequate to respond to contemporary crises. Calls for debt restructuring, climate financing, and a more equitable global tax regime have grown louder, yet meaningful reform remains elusive. At the domestic level, democratic regression has emerged as a defining feature of the year. From Europe to South Asia, from Africa to the Americas, democratic institutions have faced pressure from populism, authoritarian resurgence, and the weaponization of disinformation. Electoral processes, once symbols of popular

sovereignty, are increasingly contested, manipulated, or delegitimized. The rise of what scholars termed "electoral authoritarianism" reflects a deeper crisis of constitutionalism, where the form of democracy survives but its substance has eroded. Technological acceleration has further complicated this turbulent landscape. Artificial Intelligence, while offering unprecedented efficiency, has raised serious concerns regarding surveillance, employment displacement, and algorithmic governance. The absence of a comprehensive international regulatory framework has allowed technology to outpace law, creating ethical vacuums. The weaponization of information through deepfakes, digital propaganda, and cyber warfare has blurred the line between truth and manipulation, further destabilizing public trust. Climate change, perhaps the most existential crisis of all, remained inadequately addressed in 2025. Despite lofty commitments at global climate summits, actual implementation lagged rhetoric. Extreme weather

events, food insecurity, and climate-induced migration underscored the inadequacy of incrementalism. The failure to operationalize climate justice, particularly for vulnerable nations least responsible for emissions, stands as a moral indictment of global leadership. Yet, amid this turbulence, 2025 has also revealed important undercurrents of resistance and resilience. Civil society movements, youth activism, and transnational advocacy networks have continued to challenge injustice, demand accountability, and reimagine governance. Courts in several jurisdictions have shown renewed willingness to uphold constitutionalism, environmental rights, and human dignity. These developments suggest that while institutions may falter, normative consciousness has not entirely collapsed. What, then, does 2025 ultimately signify? It is not merely a year of crises but a year of reckoning. The convergence of geopolitical rivalry, democratic backsliding, economic inequality, and ecological peril has exposed

the unsustainability of existing global arrangements. The choice confronting the international community is stark: either retreat further into nationalism and zero-sum politics or undertake the difficult task of rebuilding cooperative multilateralism grounded in equity, legality, and shared responsibility. History teaches that periods of uncertainty often precede structural transformation. Whether 2025 becomes a prelude to renewal or a prologue to deeper instability will depend on political will, ethical leadership, and the courage to reform entrenched systems. The world does not suffer from a lack of resources or ideas; it suffers from a deficit of collective resolve. As the year closes, the message is unambiguous: the status quo is no longer sustainable. The turbulence of 2025 must serve as a warning, not a norm. The future will judge this moment not by the crises endured, but by whether humanity had the wisdom to learn from them.

## Blood Money or Bought Justice? How Pakistan's Diyat Law Shields the Rich and Betrays the Poor



**Anna Mumtaz Khan**  
Lawyer, lecturer law, Ph.D. law scholar

Pakistan's law of diyat, codified in Sections 299-338 of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC), 1860 (as amended by the Qisas and Diyat Ordinance, 1990), offers blood money as an alternative to qisas (retaliation) in murder cases, drawing directly from Quranic principles in Surah Al-Baqarah 2:178-179 to promote mercy, reconciliation, and life preservation. Diyat is fixed at no less than the value of 30,630 grams of silver Rs. 8,103,955 for the financial year 2024-2025 as notified by the Federal Government on October 02, 2024 via S.R.O. embodying haq al-ibad (rights of humans or private rights), where heirs exercise free choice in waiver, forgiveness, or compounding via bad'i-sulh. Yet, its privatization has enabled rampant misuse through undue influence by wealthy perpetrators, undermining justice and public trust,

prompting urgent calls for targeted state intervention that safeguards voluntariness without bypassing heirs' Islamic entitlements. Patterns of Misuse Undue influence flourishes amid Pakistan's stark economic disparities, where poor victims' families face coercion backed by political clout or jirgas. The 2011 Raymond Davis CIA contractor killings highlighted state complicity: Davis killed two men in Lahore and paid \$2.34 million diyat (far exceeding statutory value), securing coerced consents amid disappearances and isolation of dissenters, freeing him via blood money. The infamous 2012 Shahzeb Khan case exemplifies this: Shahrukh Jatoi, son of an influential MP, allegedly orchestrated threats, isolation, and pressure on the grieving family, securing a public 'forgiveness' statement in 2014 despite initial qisas demands and terrorism charges; public outrage later led to a death sentence upheld by the Supreme Court. Qisas and diyat laws have become a powerful means for offenders to commit 'honour' killings and go scot-free, as these provisions incorporated into PPC Sections 299-338 fol-

lowing the Federation of Pakistan v Gul Hassan case allow heirs (wali) to waive qisas (Section 309) or compound via bad'i-sulh (Section 310), even when heirs are perpetrators, as in the Samia Sarwar case where her brother compounded the murder by her parents. Courts routinely uphold such waivers sans scrutiny, as in minor heirs' cases (PPC Section 336), where impoverished guardians accept bad'i-sulh under duress from local powerbrokers, or Section 313 granting paternal figures (often complicit) qisas rights over insane/minor wali, fostering elite impunity; Section 338F's vague Islamic guidance exacerbates bias, as in Ghulam Yasin v The State, where 'ghairat' killings received concessions despite ahadith prohibitions. Hadith explicitly prohibit extrajudicial honour killings, with the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) stating: "Whoever kills a Mu'ahid (non-Muslim under protection) shall not smell the fragrance of Paradise though its fragrance can be smelt at a distance of forty years" (Sahih Bukhari), extending to Muslims and emphasizing due process. Another hadith warns: "The blood of a Muslim who bears

testimony that there is no god but Allah... is not lawful except in three cases," none permitting honour-based vigilantism (Sahih Muslim). Human Rights Watch reports dozens of annual honour killings similarly "forgiven". Haq Allah and Haq al-ibad Framework Classical Islamic jurisprudence (usul al-fiqh) strictly delineates haq Allah (divine/public rights, e.g., hudud like zina or theft, non-waivable by individuals) from haq al-ibad (private/human rights, e.g., qisas/diyat for culpable homicide), granting heirs termed 'wali-ddam' Quranic authority (Al-Baqarah 2:178) for the "brother of the slain" to remit for harmony. Free will (ikhtiyar) is sacrosanct; coerced waivers are void per Prophetic Sunnah (e.g., Hadith in Bukhari voiding forced oaths) and fiqh consensus. The state safeguards haq Allah by maintaining public order (aman), intervening solely to verify genuine consent, not usurp private prerogative, aligning with maqasid al-shariah's objectives. State Role in Ensuring Free Will The government must not bypass heirs but proactively

assume responsibility where undue influence taints consent, rigorously verifying proceedings' integrity per PPC Section 309-310. Courts should mandate independent probes via appointed state amicus curiae, victim affidavits, witness testimonies, financial audits, and even polygraphs for waivers showing power imbalances (e.g., wealth gaps over 10x, threats, jirga involvement). Absent coercion proof, diyat/qisas waiver stands; proven influence invokes strict liability, reclassifying as state-prosecuted ta'zir (discretionary punishment) up to death/life imprisonment under PPC Section 302(c), mirroring terrorism overrides (Anti-Terrorism Act 1997). Istihsan for Strict Liability Reforms Istihsan (juristic equity/preference), endorsed by Hanafi scholars like Abu Hanifa, enables Shariah-compliant reforms by favoring public welfare over strict qiyas (analogy), averting mafsada (societal harm) like elite impunity without altering qisas/diyat fundamentals. Legislation could deem undue-influence murders strict liability offences steered by haq Allah proxy when free will fails mirroring hudud's non-waivable prose-

cution (PPC Sections 5-14 Hood Ordinance), yet revocable by verified heir consent post-probe. Provincial governments gain post-compromise intervention powers (PPC Section 338) for ta'zir if duress surfaces, upholding maqasid al-shariah (life, justice) and Sunnah's anti-coercion ethos. Balancing Mercy and Deterrence These measures preserve diyat's merciful essence without eroding deterrence. Section 311 PPC ("fasad-fil-arz" or outrage to society) sets precedent: courts impose ta'zir (death/life/14 years) post-waiver for public-corruption offences like honour killings, as amended in 2016 and applied in cases evoking societal outrage. By institutionalizing uncoerced choice via probes, victim funds, and judicial training, Pakistan fulfills Quran's "reasonable demand" (Al-Baqarah 2:178), dismantling two-tier justice. Legislative clarity e.g., Diyat (Amendment) Bill remains key for uniform enforcement. (The Author is a Lawyer, Lecturer Law and a Ph.D. law scholar)

## Speaker says law enforcement agencies to probe chaos during KP CM's visit to Punjab Assembly



PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Punjab Assembly Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan on Monday announced that an inquiry conducted into the chaos that marred the arrival of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi to the provincial legislature's building over the weekend would be sent to the law enforcement agencies. During his three-day visit to Lahore over the weekend, the KP chief minister had given an address at the Punjab Assembly to opposition MPAs on Friday. However, the visit was marred by altercations between members of

his entourage and security officials, while heated exchanges between PTI leaders and journalists were also witnessed. Addressing the incident at a press conference in Lahore today, Khan said that the report on the unrest was being sent to the law enforcement agencies, which would conduct an independent investigation into the incident.

He said that he had informed the KP chief minister that a special permit was required to enter the assembly premises, and that in the absence of any other documentation, "at least" an ID card number would be necessary verification for anyone wishing to enter.

"This is a Red Zone with an extensive security parameter," he said. "You cannot ignore it under any circumstances."

He added that Afridi had agreed and provided a list of those accompanying him from the National and KP assemblies, which had been facilitat-

ed. However, the protocols had not been followed, he regretted.

He also accused Afridi of bringing unidentified individuals into the Assembly premises.

"Unauthorised entry is not permissible ... work progresses according to the rules. Every little thing ... Every individual has to be permitted to be allowed to enter the [assembly] premises," he stressed. Criticising the opposition, the speaker said raising objections to pieces of legislation was their democratic right but resorting to siege, arson and chaos reflected their incompetence and intent to create instability in the country. "If you lack tolerance, then shut down the business of democracy," he remarked, adding that assembly sessions cost billions of rupees and disruptions wasted public funds.

He further said that PTI workers were not barred from visiting the Punjab Assembly but hooliganism and violence would not be tolerated.

## India's Dulhasti Stage-II project on Chenab River illegal: Sherry

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Vice President Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Sherry Rehman has strongly condemned India's approval of the Dulhasti Stage-II hydropower project on the Chenab River, terming it a "clear and grave violation" of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT).

In a statement issued on Monday, Senator Sherry Rehman said that India's move to construct a controversial hydropower project in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) directly undermines Pakistan's internationally recognised water rights.

She stressed that any unilateral action on rivers allocated to Pakistan under the Indus Waters Treaty is unacceptable and poses serious risks to regional stability.



Sherry Rehman warned that the unilateral suspension or violation of the Indus Waters Treaty runs contrary to international law, global norms and the spirit of regional peace.

"The Indus Waters Treaty is not subject to the discretion of any one country; it is an internationally guaranteed agreement," she said. She further cautioned that the construction of new Indian projects on the Chenab River could have severe consequences for Pakistan's water security, agriculture and environmental sustainability.

## Chairman Senate urges youth to uphold Jinnah's vision at his birth anniversary event

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani on Monday called upon the youth to embrace the ideals of unity, discipline, constitutionalism, and rule of law envisioned by Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, stating that the future strength of Pakistan rests with its younger generation.

He was addressing the Quaid Aur Bachay ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr in connection with the 149th birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation, where students from different schools paid tribute to Quaid-e-Azam through national songs, recitations, and lively performances. Addressing students as the chief guest, the chairman Senate said that the annual tradition of Quaid Aur Bachay reflects Pakistan's collective resolve to keep alive the vision, principles, and moral values of Quaid-e-Azam. He described Jinnah as a statesman whose leadership reshaped history through integrity, constitutional struggle, and unwavering commitment to justice.

Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani highlighted that Quaid-e-Azam firmly believed in democratic

and constitutional methods and transformed the All-India Muslim League into a mass political movement that culminated in the historic Lahore Resolution of 1940. He noted that Pakistan's creation was achieved not through agitation but through reasoned dialogue, legal acumen, and moral authority.

Recalling Quaid's historic address of 11 August 1947, the chairman Senate said that Jinnah envisioned Pakistan as a modern democratic state based on equality, religious freedom, and rule of law, where all citizens enjoyed equal rights regardless of faith or creed. He stressed that Quaid's emphasis on eliminating corruption, nepotism, and injustice remains highly relevant today.

The chairman Senate also paid tribute to Quaid-e-Azam's tireless efforts during Pakistan's formative years, stating that despite poor health, he worked relentlessly to establish national institutions, rehabilitate refugees, and secure Pakistan's place in the international community. He urged public office holders to place national interest above personal gains and institutions.

## NDMA urges provinces, regions to stay vigilant against potential risks

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Monday urged provincial and regional disaster management bodies to remain vigilant and issue timely alerts as an approaching westerly wave is forecast to affect parts of the country in the coming days.

According to forecasts, the weather system will enter western Pakistan on the night of December 29, intensify on December 30, and grip most upper and central regions by December 31, persisting in northern areas until January 2, 2026.

Under its influence, heavy snowfall may cause road closures and slippery conditions in Naran, Kaghan, Dir, Swat, Kohistan, Mansehra, Abbottabad, Shangla, Astore, Hunza, Skardu, Murree, Galliyat, Neelum Valley, Bagh, Poonch and Haveli from December 30 to January 2.

Landslides and avalanches are also likely in hilly areas of upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan.

## Talal calls social media exploitation of minor as 'Social Terrorism'

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry Monday condemned the exploitation of a minor girl through social media, calling it 'social terrorism, urging platforms to implement strict guidelines, highlighting the need for youth education on social media safety and warning that neighboring countries like India and Afghanistan are involved in such malicious activities. While speaking exclusively to a local news channel, the state minister revealed that terrorist networks were plotting to turn the minor girl into a suicide bomber. He stressed the urgent need for strict regulations, awareness campaigns by parents and educational institutions and protective measures to shield vulnerable youth from becoming victims.



Chaudhry further warned that neighboring countries like India and Afghanistan were deliberately targeting underage children and using social media as a powerful tool to radicalize and manipulate young minds. He stressed the urgent need for strict regulations, awareness campaigns by parents and educational institutions and protective measures to shield vulnerable youth from becoming victims.

## Ahsan reviews Rs1trillion power, hydel portfolio; seeks three-year completion plan

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Monday chaired a review-meeting to assess the progress of critical Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) projects within the Power and Water Resources Divisions.

During the meeting, the Joint Chief Economist (Ops.) highlighted a massive financial throw-forward exceeding Rs 1 trillion, contrasted against a total allocation of Rs 122 billion earmarked in the PSDP 2025-26, a news release said.

The minister took serious



note of the low fund utilization, which currently stands at only 10% for Power Division projects and 6% for hydel power projects under the Water Resources Division. Ahsan Iqbal stressed that these sectors are the heavy consumers of the development budget and directed officials to expedite progress on critical projects.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani delivering the keynote address at an event held at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## M-Tag deadline in 2 days: 1,379 vehicles registered in one day

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: With only two days left before enforcement begins, Islamabad authorities have moved closer to blocking the entry of vehicles without M-Tags from July 1. Officials said that the public response has increased, with 1,379 vehicles fitted with M-Tags in the last 24 hours, pushing the total number of registered vehicles to over 98,000 across the capital. According to the district administration, the M-Tag system will become active at all main entry points of Islamabad after two days. Once the system is switched on, vehicles without M-Tags will not be

allowed to enter the city. The move is part of efforts to regulate traffic flow and improve monitoring at city entrances. In this regard, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon said M-Tag readers will be activated at all designated entry points on the set date. He confirmed that having an M-Tag on vehicles will be mandatory for entry into the federal capital. He added that preparations are complete and no extension is under consideration.

Due to the growing number of people visiting M-Tag centers, the administration has deployed additional staff to manage the rush.



Officials said extra counters and personnel have been assigned to speed up the process and reduce waiting time for citizens. The administration

reported that the response from vehicle owners has increased steadily over the past few days. Data shows that more than 98,000 vehicles in Islamabad have already been fitted with M-Tags. Authorities expect this number to rise further as the deadline approaches.

Deputy Commissioner Irfan Memon urged citizens to complete the process without delay. He said vehicle owners should get M-Tags installed immediately to avoid inconvenience once the system becomes active. He warned that vehicles without M-Tags will face restrictions at city entry points after the deadline.

Officials also advised citizens to visit authorized M-Tag centers only and ensure their vehicle details are correctly registered. They said the process remains open and is being monitored to handle the increasing public turnout.

The district administration has appealed to the public to cooperate with enforcement teams and follow the instructions issued for smooth implementation. Authorities believe early compliance will help prevent traffic congestion and delays at entry points once the M-Tag readers are fully operational.