



Ayaz felicitates CM Balochistan on assuming responsibility as Chief Bugti tribes



Naqvi, KP governor discuss security as centre vows full support against militancy



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PM Shehbaz meets UAE president in Rahim Yar Khan, pledges to 'elevate' bilateral ties

PEAK POINT
RAHIM YAR KHAN: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday reiterated his resolve to "elevate" the country's longstanding ties with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) into a strategic and mutually beneficial economic partnership as he met President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan in Rahim Yar Khan, a press release from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) stated. Al-Nahyan undertook his first official visit to Pakistan last Friday, where "substantive talks" took place, focused on further strengthening the long-standing fraternal relations between the two countries. According to the PMO's statement, PM Shehbaz, accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Information Minister Attaullah Tarar and

other officials, met the Emirati president at Sheikh Zayed Palace in Rahim Yar Khan. It added that the two leaders "carried forward discussions" from Al-Nahyan's December 26 visit. PM Shehbaz stressed the need for both sides to actively pursue an enhancement in bilateral trade "through a quantum jump which will bring it to the desired level", the statement added. The PM and the Emirati president also discussed ways to enhance cooperation in a wide range of sectors, such as IT, energy, minerals and defence cooperation. "While expressing his great admiration for the UAE's remarkable progress under His Highness's (Al-Nahyan) dynamic and visionary leadership, the prime minister thanked the UAE president for his patronage and commitment to foster stronger ties between the two countries," the statement read.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets President of UAE Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan in Rahim Yar Khan.

Field Marshal Asim Munir attends closing ceremony of Polo and Tent Pegging Championship

PEAK POINT
RAWALPINDI: The 50th Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) Polo and Tent Pegging Championship 2025 concluded with the closing ceremony at the Jinnah Polo Fields (JPF), Lahore, the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Tuesday.

Chief of Army Staff (COAS) and Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) Field Marshal Asim Munir graced the closing ceremony as the chief guest while interior minister and chief secretary Punjab along with large number of spectators were present at the occasion. Upon arrival, the Field Marshal was received by the Corps Commander Lahore and Chairman Pakistan Polo Federation. The championship reflects the Pakistan Army's rich traditions of sportsmanship, discipline, and excellence. Eight teams participated in the championship in which Peshawar Corps emerged victorious, while Gujranwala Corps secured the runners-up position. During the closing ceremony, the chief guest distributed prizes among the winning and participating players.

Dar, Saudi counterpart discuss 'current regional situation and recent developments': FO

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar exchanged views on "the current regional situation and recent developments" with his Saudi counterpart in a telephone call on Tuesday, according to the Foreign Office (FO).

Both nations have a multifaceted relationship rooted in strategic military cooperation, mutual economic interests, and shared Islamic heritage. These ties have encompassed economic assistance and energy supplies, with Riyadh being a significant source of financial aid and oil for Islamabad. Pakistan and Saudi Arabia also

signed a landmark mutual defence agree-



ment in September this year, which outlined that an attack on one party would be treated as an attack on both. In a post on social media, the FO said that Dar expressed satisfaction with the positive trajectory of bilateral relations between Islamabad and Riyadh during the exchange, while Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan "reaffirmed

his commitment to further strengthening and



enhancing bilateral ties". Dar also conveyed season's greetings and best wishes for the New Year, which were "warmly reciprocated" by Prince Faisal, the FO added. Earlier today, the Saudi-led coalition struck what it described as foreign military support to southern separatists at Yemen's Mukalla port. Last Saturday, Pakistan expressed its full sup-

port for Saudi Arabia's efforts to ensure peace and stability in Yemen.

"Pakistan expresses its full support for the diplomatic efforts being undertaken by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for ensuring peace and stability in the Republic of Yemen.

We also commend the efforts of the United Arab Emirates in this regard," a statement from the FO read.

In November, the military leadership of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia vowed to enhance bilateral defence cooperation and reaffirmed their resolve to further deepen ties between the two countries. "During the meeting, both sides discussed the evolving global.

Uzbekistan president to visit Pakistan in February 2026, confirms FM Bakhtiyor

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar today received a telephone call from Uzbekistan's Foreign Minister Bakhtiyor Saidov, during which the two leaders exchanged New Year greetings and discussed the future direction of bilateral ties. Foreign Minister Saidov conveyed season's greetings and best wishes for the New Year, which were warmly reciprocated by Senator Dar. The exchange reflected the cordial nature of relations.

End of an era as Bangladesh ex-PM Khaleda Zia dies

PEAK POINT
DHAKA: Bangladesh's three-time prime minister Khaleda Zia, who hoped to lead her nation one last time after elections next year, died on Tuesday aged 80. Zia, a dominant figure for decades in the South Asian country's turbulent power struggles, had vowed to run in elections next year, the first since a mass uprising toppled her arch-rival. Despite years of ill health and imprisonment, just last month Zia had promised to campaign in elections expected in February 2026, in which her Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) is widely seen as a frontrunner.

Arif Habib sees PIA privatisation creating more jobs in airline

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: Arif Habib — chairman of the investment firm that headed the consortium that won the auction for a controlling stake in Pakistan International Airlines Corporation Ltd (PIACL) — has said the privatisation of the national flag carrier would lead to an increase in employment in the airline as the new owners were looking to expand its business.

An Arif Habib group-led consortium had won the auction for the airline with a bid of Rs135 billion last week after a competitive process, marking the country's first major privatisation in nearly two decades. The investment firm's chairman spoke about the development on DawnNewsTV programme 'Doosra Rukh' — televised

on Monday night — where he was asked about PIA



employees' concerns, reservations and protests regarding their jobs against the backdrop of the airline's privatisation. In response, Habib said the "number of staff [in the airline] was reasonable", adding that the privatisation would in fact increase employment on the whole as an expansion was planned and, therefore, more team members would

be required. But, he continued, a



major issue would be that of "quality and performance". "And we have come to know that most of these people are very competent," he said, adding that Pakistanis were generally capable people. Moreover, Habib said PIA had an "excellent track record" and that at one time, it was the world's second-best airline. "These are the same people who

made it the second-best airline."

Similarly, he added, PIA had also played "a very important role" in the establishment of Emirates, Singapore and Malta airlines.

"This means Pakistanis have the skill, and if they are given confidence, a proper platform and support, then I think these people can run PIA well.

"We hope that they will play their role in bringing its (PIA's) past glory back," he added. A day after PIA's privatisation, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Privatisation Muhammad Ali had also told Reuters during an interview that the buyer must retain all employees for 12 months after the transaction, with contracts unchanged. Habib was also asked about Fauji Fertiliser Company during the interview.

Ex-DG ISI Faiz Hameed files appeal against military court sentence

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Former DG ISI Faiz Hameed has filed an appeal against the sentence handed down by a military court.

Confirming the development, lawyer Mian Ali Ashfaq, who represents retired Lieutenant General Faiz Hameed, said that an appeal against the military court's verdict was filed on December 27, though he declined to share further details. It may be recalled that a Federal Court Martial sentenced former DG ISI Faiz Hameed to 14 years' imprisonment for violating the Official Secrets Act, misuse of authority, and breaches of the Pakistan Army Act. DG ISPR Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, during a press conference on December 11, had shared details of the military court's verdict. He said that investigations against Faiz Hameed under the Army Act began on August 12, 2024, and after 15 months of inquiry, the sentence was awarded. Under Section 133-B of the Pakistan Army Act.





SPORTS



Rain washes out Pakistan-Zimbabwe U19 ODI after Pakistan post massive 354

Shaheen Shah Afridi to return home after knee injury cuts short BBL stint



PEAK POINT

PEAK POINT
LAHORE: The third match of the ICC Under-19 ODI tri-series between Pakistan and Zimbabwe was abandoned without a result after persistent rain halted play at the Harare Sports Club on Monday, denying spectators a potential high-scoring contest.

Zimbabwe were unable to resume their innings in pursuit of Pakistan's imposing total of 354 for 7, which had been built on commanding centuries from Sameer Minhas and Usman Khan. Continuous showers rendered the outfield unplayable, forcing officials to call off the match. Earlier,

after being put into bat, Pakistan laid a solid foundation through openers Ali Hassan Baloch and Sameer Minhas, who added 40 runs for the first wicket.

Baloch departed early for eight off 15 balls, falling to Kirby Madharamete, but that dismissal did little to slow Pakistan's momentum. Minhas was then joined by Usman Khan, and the duo produced a dominant 199-run partnership that completely seized control of the innings. Both batters displayed maturity and composure beyond their years, rotating the strike efficiently and punishing loose deliveries to push Pakistan

beyond the 300-run mark.

Minhas emerged as the top-scorer with a magnificent 142 off 106 balls, striking 17 fours and four sixes before being dismissed by Benny Zuze. Usman followed soon after, ending a polished knock of 121 off 112 deliveries, which included 12 fours and two sixes. Following the double blow, Huzaifa Ahsan provided late impetus with a fighting 54 off 53 balls, adding 83 runs alongside Usman earlier. However, Pakistan lost a cluster of wickets in the closing overs, including skipper Farhan Yousaf and Daniyal Ali Khan, as Zimbabwe fought back

briefly. For Zimbabwe, Kirby Madharamete was the pick of the bowlers, claiming 3 for 53, while Panashe Mazai and Dhruv Patel chipped in with two and one wicket respectively. Despite Pakistan's commanding batting display, rain ultimately had the final say, leaving both teams to share points in a frustrating end to an otherwise compelling contest.

PAKISTAN U19 354-7, 50 overs (Sameer Minhas 142, Usman Khan 121, Huzaifa Ahsan 54; Kirby Madharamete 3-53, Panashe Mazai 2-51) vs ZIMBABWE U19.

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan fast bowler Shaheen Shah Afridi has been forced to cut short his maiden Big Bash League stint after sustaining a knee injury while representing Brisbane Heat.

The left-arter suffered a cartilage injury while fielding during Heat's last-over victory against Adelaide Strikers at the Gabba on Saturday night.

Following consultations between Brisbane Heat and the Pakistan Cricket Board's medical staff, it was decided that Shaheen would return home for further treatment ahead of the upcoming ICC T20 World Cup, the club said in a statement on Tuesday.

A PCB spokesperson confirmed to Dawn that Shaheen will return to Pakistan on Wednesday, adding that the seriousness of the injury and the potential recovery timeline will be determined after meetings with the board's doctors upon his return. Shaheen expressed disappointment at leaving the tournament prematurely but thanked the franchise and its supporters for their hospitality. "I have enjoyed myself a lot playing for Brisbane and I am sad that I will not be able to finish the season with the team," Shaheen said in a statement released by the club.

England name Sri Lanka White-Ball Squads, announce provisional line-up for T20 World Cup 2026



PEAK POINT

DUBAI: England Men's selectors have announced the squads for next month's white-ball tour of Sri Lanka, February

along with a provisional squad for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, which will be co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka in the third Ashes Test in Adelaide earlier this month. The Sri Lanka tour will feature three One-Day Internationals and three T20 Internationals, with the England squad set to depart on January 18, 2026. Nottinghamshire fast bowler Josh Tongue has earned his maiden call-up to the T20 International squad. Sussex pacer Jofra Archer has been named in the provisional T20 World Cup squad but will not travel to Sri Lanka as he continues his rehabilitation under the supervision of the England medical team after suffering a left side strain during the third Ashes Test in Adelaide earlier this month. Durham seamer Brydon Carse has been included in the touring party, while Surrey all-rounder Will Jacks returns to both ODI and T20 squads after missing England's white-ball tour of New Zealand in October. Kent batter Zak Crawley also makes a comeback to the ODI side for the first time since December 2023, aiming to build on his eight appearances in the format. Harry Brook will lead England in both formats during the Sri Lanka tour, as the team continues preparations ahead of the T20 World Cup.

Rashid Naseem creates history with 25 world records in a single year



Massive foreign investment pledged to PFF for launch of Professional Football League

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) has taken a major step forward in its efforts to develop professional football league in the country, as several foreign investment companies prepare to engage with the federation in introductory meetings.

PFF President Syed Mohsen Gilani expressed optimism about the development, saying that the federation has already received introductory proposals from potential investors and will soon shortlist the most suitable companies to move forward, said a press release.

"This is the confidence demonstrated in the elected body of the PFF, which will elevate the standard of football in Pakistan through international investment."

The PFF president added, "These initial proposals reflect strong interest in sup-

porting the growth of professional football league in Pakistan. We are carefully evaluating each one to ensure they align with our vision and long-term strategy."

The federation plans to hold working sessions and

League and improving professional football infrastructure nationwide.

"This is an encouraging start. By bringing in responsible foreign and national investors, we aim to create a sustainable model for profes-



workshops with shortlisted investors, where detailed discussions will be conducted on operational modalities, strategic planning, and collaborative opportunities. Gilani emphasised that the engagement with international partners represents a pragmatic and forward-looking approach to enhancing the PFF Professional Football

sional football league in Pakistan, providing opportunities for players, clubs, corporate sector and fans alike," he added.

Mohsen Gilani has stressed that these steps mark the beginning of a structured process to initiate the international-standard professional football league in the country, with transparency.

IPC, BankIslami, Old Ravians and DPS post wins in 7th Cooperative Challenge Cup





FBR Chairman skips oversight as senate probes Steel Mills theft and rolls out massive EV subsidy plan

NADEEM TANOLI
ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Industries and Production on Monday sharply criticized the absence of the FBR Chairman, calling it a sign of "non-seriousness toward parliamentary oversight," while also raising alarm over a theft incident at Pakistan Steel Mills with no visible action despite an FIR, warning that continued inaction could encourage further irregularities. The meeting, chaired by Senator Khalida Ateeb, was attended by Senators Danesh

Kumar and Syed Masroor Ahsan, along with officials from the Ministry of Industries and Production and the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR). Senators questioned how meaningful oversight could take place when senior decision-makers failed to appear before the Committee. During the briefing, officials outlined the government's Electric Vehicle (EV) policy, informing the Committee that 17 licenses for three-wheelers and 77 licenses for two-wheelers have already been issued. The government has

set an ambitious target to shift 30 percent of vehicles to electric by 2030, with plans to distribute 2.2 million EVs through government subsidies over the next five years. Officials disclosed that imported electric vehicles will face taxes, whereas locally manufactured EVs will enjoy minimal or zero taxation. Additional duties have been imposed on imported EV parts that are now being produced locally, in a bid to protect domestic manufacturers. Provincial governments have been advised not to charge registration fees on EVs, to intro-

duce uniform number plates nationwide, and to levy lower toll charges for electric vehicles. Officials further informed that work is underway on a one-window operation in coordination with the Board of Investment to streamline approvals. Licenses of manufacturers who failed to export were cancelled, with authorities stressing that "no compromise" would be made on policy enforcement. Towards the end of the meeting, Senator Syed Masroor Ahsan drew attention to a recent theft at Pakistan Steel Mills, pointing

out that despite the registration of an FIR, no concrete action has followed, and the post of Director Finance remains vacant. Chairperson Senator Khalida Ateeb warned that failure to act decisively would embolden offenders and fuel further financial irregularities, directing concerned authorities to ensure accountability. The Committee indicated it would closely monitor both the implementation of the EV policy and the response to governance lapses at state-owned entities in upcoming sessions.

IIUI Job Fair 2025 strengthens academia-industry linkages and student employability

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) organized Job Fair 2025 at its New Campus, providing a comprehensive platform for graduating students to engage with industry, employers, startups, and research-oriented organizations.

The initiative aimed at translating academic learning into practical exposure aligned with contemporary market and industry requirements. The inaugural ceremony was addressed by Prof Dr Ahmed Saad Alahmed,

President IIUI, Islamabad who welcomed the guests and highlighted the university's commitment to academic excellence integrated with professional values.

He emphasized that the study period of every student carries responsibility and purpose, and confidence in applying knowledge to real-life situations is essential for professional success.

He appreciated the collective efforts of faculty members and organizing committees for strengthening academia-industry collaboration through such initiatives.



President IIUI noted that job fairs play a vital role in bridging the gap between theoretical learning and practical application, enabling students to develop problem-solving abilities, adaptability, and innovation-oriented skills required in the evolving era of science and technology.

Sardar Tahir Mahmood,

President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), congratulated the IIUI administration and faculties for organizing a meaningful and well-structured job fair.

He highlighted the importance of strong academia-industry linkages, describing youth as a key

driver of national development. He stated that platforms such as job fairs serve as an effective bridge between young talent and employers, while research-based innovation, product showcasing, and startup engagement contribute toward market-ready solutions.

He reaffirmed ICCI's continued support for universities in facilitating career development and industry collaboration.

The Job Fair was held simultaneously, with separate arrangements for male

and female students, at the Science, Technology and Business Space (STBS) and the Business Incubation Center (BIC), IIUI.

Representatives from various industries and organizations interacted with students, reviewed resumes, and discussed employment and internship prospects.

Faculty members from all eleven faculties of IIUI actively participated by establishing dedicated stalls showcasing final year projects, research products, startups, and career facilitation initiatives.

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Pipe dreams?

WHILE industries across Pakistan complain of adverse market conditions, the country's fledgling cannabis industry is getting a break. The authorities in KP have decided it is high time cannabis cultivation and processing licences were made more accessible to farmers and, in line with the recommendations of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Cannabis Regulatory Authority, licence fees for the relevant permits may be slashed to facilitate growers. This sudden regulatory warmth is part of a larger, rather optimistic initiative to 'facilitate investors' in the pot-growing business. Pakistan has, for quite a few years, toyed with the idea of entering the global cannabis and hemp markets, motivated perhaps by the considerable size of the markets for byproducts and industrial hemp, which is now being used in textiles, paper and construction. By some accounts, it aims to generate \$1.4bn from this crop within the next few years as output grows. Time will tell whether this is a realistic plan or just another pipe dream. It also appears that the authorities may be aiming to kill two birds with one stone. Cannabis grows naturally across much of northern Pakistan, where specialised — and highly illegal — strains have been a staple of local recreation for generations.

Reality and Philosophy of Electromagnetism

SANEELA SHAHZAD
So many phenomena, we experience in everyday life are such that they have no material existence. Gravity is one such phenomenon, which is a well-defined, mathematically formulated phenomenon, but which is a force not carried by any material or subatomic particle that we could call a 'graviton'. Without having a corporeal actuality, it is just the effect or pull we encounter as an intangible field around the planet.

The field arranges matter in it, but is in itself matterless. It propagates just as equally in a vacuum, which is space without matter. This challenges materialism and invites the metaphysical question: what is the "substance" of a field that is free of particles and exists independent of a medium? Electromagnetism (EM) is a similar phenomenon. EM waves create a field, the effects of which can be detected unchanged in vacuum and in the atmosphere. More so, the EM, studied under the lens of quantum electrodynamics, shows that EM waves also behave similarly to photons of light-waves, which have both wave-like and particle-like characteristics. This leads to the same ontological ambiguity we ask of light-waves: are they particles, or photons? Or are they waves, or just a probability distribution with no real matter on the other side of the equation?

Such questions force us out of the realm of physics, transcending us into metaphysics. They challenge the definitions of reality and identity.

When we are mathematically formulating phenomena such as EM, we are measuring the effects (field) produced by the moving electric charge in an electromagnet, on an EMF meter. And the fact that the nature of the 'effect' produced by this field is constant, reliable and numerically recordable is what makes it 'scientific'. But when we dig deeper, we find that its own reality is unknowable. We are observing 'real effects' of unreal origins - just like a prisoner in solitary confinement who receives a meal slid into his compound every day will never know what or who slid the meal in, but he knows/believes it is someone/something real.

The mathematical description of EM waves, using Maxwell/ Helmholtz equations, is a measurement of the effects. The effects are physically real, but the phenomenon that produced them and the mathematical constructs used for description are both abstract. The mathematical representation is abstract on two accounts. Firstly, it numericises phenomena without knowing to what extent the phenomenon would lend itself to numbers. Secondly, in doing so, the EM equations are set on several unrealistic assumptions,

like assuming perfect vacuums (zero charge); infinite monochromatic waves that assume infinite time; and spatial and temporal independence. These are ideal constructs, never perfectly realised in the world, yet they are considered scientific because they yield highly accurate predictions for how the field will behave in certain circumstances. Taking into account the large number of assumptions, one can also say that the equations would be an approximate guess of reality at best, but a guess with a lot of predictive power and accuracy. And the success of the induction process - enabling us to jump from one reality to the other, from an unknown something to its effect on the EMF meter, and then to mathematical abstraction - can indeed be thought of as 'miraculous'. Interestingly so, these equations, like other mathematical constructs, have other solutions yielding new unverifiable phenomena, which begs the question that sentences uttered in the language of mathematics have unique, reality-based meanings or they are idealisations that may yield any number of meanings, that may be corresponding to the real or the unreal.

Strangely, scientific realists, who believe that theories describe mind-independent reality and that theoretical entities (fields, charges) are real.

Courtesy Tribune

Free to soar

MOAZZAM HUSAIN

TWELVE years ago, I had written in these pages that PIA's (then) annual loss of Rs33 billion was more than the cost of a fully loaded Boeing 777. Since then, we have watched that 'B777-sized hole' in our national exchequer grow into a systemic abyss. For over a decade, the discourse remained stagnant: we could not muster the political courage to clean the balance sheet that would unhitch the airline. All this while our regional competitors built global empires on the back of our diaspora. Today, the jinx is finally broken. The Rs135bn bid by a private consortium for a 75 per cent stake in PIA is more than a standard divestment; it is a recapitalisation event that can potentially transform the airline's DNA. Unlike typical selling of state assets, this is a balance sheet restructuring exercise. Of the Rs135bn bid, Rs125bn is slated for direct injection into the airline's operations as fresh equity. This is the "one-time bailout ... against a sound business plan" that I had advocated for in my 2013 article in this paper. By carving out Rs654bn in legacy debt into a separate holding company last year, the government created a 'clean PIA' that would be attractive to investors. The new money can be invested where it matters most: fuel-efficient engines, aircraft interiors and technology stack. The government's decision to retain a 25pc stake represents a fundamental shift in the state's role. For decades, the government was the 'funder of last resort', writing cheques to cover deficit after deficit in a cycle of despair. Now, the state becomes a beneficiary of dividends and future increases in value with the increasing share price. If the consortium succeeds in expanding the active fleet from its current emaciated state to the 50-plus aircraft - required for regional dominance - the upside for the government is enormous. If PIA hits an industry-standard valuation multiple of 8 x (EV/EBITDA) in five years, then the government's 25pc stake could eventually be worth more than the original value of the entire airline today.

Courtesy Dawn

Azma Bokhari stages walkout from Punjab Assembly in solidarity with journalists over 'ill-treatment' during KP CM visit



PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari on Tuesday staged a walkout during a Punjab Assembly session in solidarity with journalists who have been boycotting the provincial legislature over alleged "ill-treatment" during Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi's visit to the assembly.

During his three-day visit to Lahore over the weekend, the KP chief minister had given an address at the Punjab Assembly to opposition

MPs last week. 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.

Speaking during the session today, Bokhari staged a walkout to show solidarity with journalists from the Punjab Assembly's press gallery, who she said were "beaten and pushed around" by people accompanying the KP CM.

During yesterday's assembly session, a statement by opposition member Col. (ret'd) Shoaib Amir about the press gallery, calling them "sellouts", also sparked outrage.

"The whole world witnessed the spectacle in the assembly on the arrival of the KP CM," she said, adding that preparations had been made for the chief minister's arrival.

However, she claimed that the KP CM "brought unauthorised persons with him, who claimed to be journal-

ists". She alleged that they beat up journalists from the press gallery and misbehaved with them.

"The footage is available in the assembly's records," she added.

She further said that rather than apologising, the opposition doubled down on their conduct.

"I was accused of planting journalists during the KP CM's visit," she said, questioning if it was wrong to ask the KP CM "how he was finding his Lahore visit".

"I was told that I had paid my employees to pose as journalists," she said, vowing that she intended to send a defamation notice.

"In solidarity with what happened with Punjab's journalists and with the members of the press gallery, I'm staging a walkout," the minister said.

On Monday, Punjab Assembly Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan had announced that an inquiry conducted into the chaos.

Ayaz felicitates CM Balochistan on assuming responsibility as Chief Bugti tribes

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Tuesday, extended warm congratulations to Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, on formally assuming responsibilities as the eighth Chief of the Bugti tribes.

The NA Speaker said that Mir Sarfraz Bugti's elevation as Chief of the Bugti tribes reflects the deep trust, confidence and respect reposed in him by the Bugti community.

He said that this honour is a recognition of Mir Sarfraz Bugti's political acumen, leadership qualities, and his consistent commitment to the socio-economic welfare and well-being of the people of Balochistan and Bugti Tribes.

Ayaz Sadiq said that as a se-



soned political leader and an elected Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Bugti is actively working for the development, education, and institutional strengthening in the province.

His vision for inclusive growth and political stability demonstrates mature statesmanship and a deep understanding of the challenges faced by the province of Balochistan.

Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq further said that Balochistan is also confronting the menace of Indian-sponsored Fitna-al-Khawarij.

India's 'new normal' collapses as Pakistan reinforces deterrence: ISA-IRS dialogue

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's strategic resolve and calibrated response have decisively reset the regional balance, senior security analysts, diplomats and scholars observed on Tuesday as the Information Service Academy (ISA), in collaboration with the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), hosted a high-level dialogue on "Indian Aggression and Pakistan's Strategic Response."

Speakers said South Asia was passing through a defining moment marked not by routine tension but by the failure of India's coercive strategy to impose a so-called "new normal" on Pakistan.

The event commenced with the national anthem, followed by national songs to pay tribute to the armed forces of Pakistan in recognition of their professionalism and sacrifices, particularly after the successful operation Bunyan-ul-Marsoos.

In her welcome remarks, Executive Director General of the Information Service Academy (ISA) Ms Imrana Wazir welcomed

the distinguished participants and underscored the importance of informed and objective discourse amid heightened tensions in South Asia. She highlighted Pakistan's strategic potential and emphasized the need for collective intellectual engagement to effectively address emerging regional and global challenges.

The dialogue featured a keynote address by former Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, General (R) Zubair Mehmood Hayat, who attended as the Guest of Honour.

He said South Asia was passing through a decisive phase marked by the collapse of India's attempt to impose a so-called "new normal" on Pakistan. He said India's strategy of coercion had failed across strategic, political, military and diplomatic domains, exposing serious flaws in its strategic thinking.

Pakistan's measured yet resolute response, he noted, had redrafted the military equation, imposed tangible costs and punctured myths surrounding escalation dominance, dealing a significant blow to India's credibility. He added that India had misread Pakistan.

Zardari urges restraint after reports of drone incident at President Putin's residence amid peace talks

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday expressed concern over reports of an attack on the residence of President Vladimir Putin, cautioning that such incidents risk undermining ongoing efforts aimed at a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

The President said that at a critical moment, when talks to end the war are at a sensitive stage, actions that escalate tensions are extremely counter-productive, a Presidency's news release said.

He urged both sides to exercise the highest degree of restraint and to direct their actions towards the success of dialogue and diplomacy.

President Zardari emphasised that peace remains the only viable path forward and that restraint and responsibility are essential to prevent further deterioration of the situation.

Naqvi, KP governor discuss security as centre vows full support against militancy

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi held a detailed meeting on Tuesday to review the province's security situation and ongoing counter-terrorism operations.

Governor Kundi briefed the interior minister on the challenges facing KP, particularly in its border regions, where security forces are engaged in operations against militant networks. He stressed that federal-level cooperation was crucial for restoring peace in the province.

Interior Minister Naqvi assured the governor of the federal government's complete support, declaring that estab-



lishing peace in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa remained a top national priority. He praised the sacrifices of KP's people in the fight against terrorism and vowed that no leniency would be shown to militants or their facilitators. Naqvi emphasized that joint efforts were underway to dismantle extremist elements, while Governor Kundi called for more coordinated and unified measures to counter the threat of terrorism.

Abbasi announces Rs100,000 reward for Railway Police constable's exemplary honesty

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi has announced a cash reward of Rs100,000 for Railway Police Constable Rao Sharif in recognition of his exemplary honesty and sense of duty.

The minister said that the reward amount would be paid from his personal funds as a gesture of appreciation for the constable's integrity, said a news release.

Praising Rao Sharif's conduct, Hanif Abbasi said that officers like him represent the true and positive image of Pakistan Railways. He emphasized that honesty and devotion to duty are



the real strength of state institutions, adding that such actions help build and reinforce public trust in government departments.

Constable Rao Sharif earned widespread appreciation after he returned a bag containing Rs3.8 million that he found on a train.

Demonstrating exceptional responsibility, he traced the rightful owner and handed over.



ISLAMABAD: A group photo of the panelists of dialogue "Indian Aggression and Pakistan's Strategic Response" with the Executive Director General, ISA.

PM Laptop Scheme is a visionary initiative to empower youth: Amir Muqam

PEAK POINT

SWAT: Federal Minister for Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Sifar Affairs and President of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Engineer Amir Muqam, stated that the Prime Minister Laptop Scheme is a historic and visionary initiative to empower youth, fully based on merit. He emphasized that women's education is a top priority for the government and that the new modern Women's Campus at University of Swat will play a key role in providing quality educational facilities to female students. He

expressed these views during his address at the University of Swat on Tuesday at the ceremony for the distribution of laptops under the Prime Minister Laptop Scheme and the formal inauguration of the new Women's Campus. Federal Minister Engineer Amir Muqam formally inaugurated the new campus. The project cost a total of 1.3 billion PKR, which was announced by former Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif. During the inauguration ceremony, Engineer Amir Muqam reiterated that women's education is a government priority and that the modern Women's Campus



will provide female students with high-quality educational facilities. He said the completion of this project is a practical demonstration of Nawaz Sharif's educational vision, aimed at promoting higher education opportu-

nities across the country. The federal minister noted that during Nawaz Sharif's visit to Swat in 2016, the Sawabi and Shangla university campuses were approved. He expressed his happiness at distributing laptops to stu-

dents in Swat for the second time. He mentioned that the project was initially started by former Punjab Chief Minister Mian Shahbaz Sharif and is now successfully continued by Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif. Unfortunately, the project was halted in 2018, but it was reinstated immediately after Shahbaz Sharif assumed office as Prime Minister. Engineer Amir Muqam said that so far, over 1 million students nationwide have been provided with laptops. He added that a laptop is not just a device but a vision connecting the younger generation with modern education,

research, and technology. He expressed hope that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government would also foster a competitive environment in such developmental and educational projects. The federal government is ready to contribute 50% to educational projects in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, laptops will continue to be provided to students based on merit, and opportunities for higher education and research abroad should be provided to teachers, as it is a necessity of the times. In his speech, Engineer Amir Muqam also mentioned the sacrifices made against terrorism in Swat and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.