



**President expresses deep grief over loss of lives in gas cylinder blast**



**Government seems content with state of economy**



**Punjab CM orders swift completion of major healthcare projects**

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## PM Shehbaz vows to transform Pakistan into regional IT hub

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday said that efforts are being made to transform Pakistan into a regional hub for Information Technology. He was speaking during a meeting with the parents of late IT expert Arfa Karim Randhawa, Samina Amjad and Amjad Karim Randhawa, along with Chief Executive of the Arfa Karim Foundation Tabinda Islam in Lahore. The prime minister said that youth is being encouraged to acquire IT education and training, while entrepreneurship in the IT sector is also being actively promoted. He said that providing Pakistani youth with international-standard education and training in the IT sector

is among the government's top priorities. The prime minister further said that the federal government is distributing laptops among high-performing students to support their academic pursuits.

### PM thanks overseas Pakistanis for record remittances in Dec 2025

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif expressed gratitude to overseas Pakistanis for sending record remittances in December 2025, surpassing figures from the previous year. In a statement on Sunday, the prime minister said that patriotic Pakistanis living abroad remitted 3.6 billion dollars in December 2025.



LAHORE: Mrs Samina Amjad Randhawa, Amjad Karim Randhawa, parents of late Arfa Karim Randhawa, and Tabinda Islam, CEO Arfa Karim Foundation called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

## Confronting protests, Iran vows to strike back if US attacks

PEAK POINT



TEHRAN: Iranian Parliament Speaker Baqer Qalibaf on Sunday threatened to retaliate against Israel and US strikes on Iran, delivering the warning to Washington as Israeli sources said Israel was on high alert for the possibility of any US intervention. With Iran's clerical establishment facing the biggest anti-government protests since 2022, US President Donald Trump has repeatedly threatened to intervene in recent days, warning Iranian leaders against using force against demonstrators. On Saturday, Trump said the US stood "ready to help." Qalibaf, speaking in parliament on Sunday, warned the United States against "a miscalculation." "Let us be clear: in the case of an attack on Iran, the occupied territories (Israel) as well as all US bases and ships will be our legitimate target," said Qalibaf, a former commander in Iran's Revolutionary Guards. Three Israeli sources, who were present for Israeli security consultations over the weekend, said Israel was on a high alert footing, but did not elaborate on what that meant. An Israeli government spokesperson declined.

## DPM/FM Dar terms Israel's illegal recognition of Somaliland region as direct assault, flagrant violation of int'l law

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Sunday, expressing Pakistan's unwavering support for the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Somalia, said the illegal and unlawful recognition by Israel of the Somaliland region, was "a direct assault on Somalia's internationally recognized borders, which constitutes a flagrant violation of international law." In a statement at the Extraordinary Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) held in Jeddah, Kingdom of



Saudi Arabia, the deputy prime minister/foreign minister strongly condemned the Israel's announcement and the subsequent unwarranted and highly provocative visit of its foreign minister to Somaliland. "Pakistan also voiced its firm support for Somalia and condemned Israel's actions during the UN Security Council's briefing on the issue. The principle of state sovereignty and territorial integrity constitutes a peremptory norm of international law from which no deviation or derogation is permitted," he stressed. The DPM/FM maintained that the internationally recognized borders of Somalia were sacrosanct and inviolable, and the Somaliland region remained an integral,

## PM expresses grief over Islamabad cylinder accident, orders probe

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has expressed deep sorrow over the loss of precious lives in a cylinder accident in Islamabad and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured. The Prime Minister on Sunday directed the Federal Minister for Health, Secretary Health, and the administration of Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) to remain on high alert and ensure that all possible medical assistance was provided to the injured. He further instructed that the best medical facilities.

## BYC acting as 'soft face' of Fitna-al-Hindustan, official evidence reveals

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) is operating as an apparent "soft face" for armed separatist groups, particularly Fitna-al-Hindustan, law enforcement agencies revealed. According to officials, this assessment is not speculative but has been part of official records since 2025 and is now backed by concrete evidence. Authorities unveiled that the BYC has been facilitating extremist networks under the guise of human rights advocacy. Following the Jaffar Express incident in March 2025,

## Newlyweds among eight killed in gas leakage explosion in Islamabad

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: At least eight people were killed, including newlyweds, and 12 injured in a gas cylinder explosion in Islamabad's G-7/2 sector during wedding event, on Sunday. The blast occurred while guests were present at the house, according to Additional Deputy Commissioner General Sahibzada Yousaf. He said the explosion caused extensive damage to four neighbouring houses and that all people trapped under the rubble had been recovered. Rescue teams pulled 20 people from the debris. Of them, eight later died, while others were severely injured and shifted to hospital. The injured were taken to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), where an



emergency was declared to ensure immediate medical treatment. Rescue teams evacuated a total of 15 people from the affected homes. Deputy Commissioner Yousaf said the rescue operation had been completed and no one remained trapped under the rubble. He added that sniffer dogs and modern equipment were used during the search operation to ensure all victims were recovered. Islamabad Police said Deputy Inspector General

Development Authority (CDA), had taken his wedding procession to Gujrat a day earlier. The baraat returned late at night at around 1:30 am.

Due to the wedding celebrations and cold weather, a gas heater remained switched on inside the house until late night. However, gas supply was suspended due to load shedding, causing the heater to shut down. When gas supply was restored later, gas leakage accumulated inside the house because of narrow streets, poor ventilation, and confined living spaces. Early in the morning, when women of the household woke up to prepare breakfast, a matchstick was lit, triggering a powerful explosion. As a result of the blast, the groom Sherry, the bride,

## Police use shelling, detain PTI activists ahead of Karachi rally



PEAK POINT

KARACHI: Police detained more than 30 Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers on Sunday after clashes erupted near Numaish Chowranghi ahead of the party's scheduled public gathering at Bagh-e-Jinnah. According to police officials, the clashes broke out when PTI workers allegedly stopped a police vehicle and pelted it with stones near Bagh-e-Jinnah. Footage circulating on social media showed protesters damaging the vehicle, while a policeman was reportedly assaulted during the incident. Police used shelling to disperse the protesters gathered at Numaish Chowranghi. Disturbances were also reported near the VIP gate of Mazar-e-Quaid.



# SPORTS



## Sialkot owner eyes PSL crown, top players from Pakistan and Australia



PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Emphasising that merit will be the top priority in team selection, the owner of Pakistan Super League's newly-inducted Sialkot team Hamza Majeed on Saturday said that his franchise will look to pick top players from Pakistan, and then Australia.

"There will be no 'Parchi' system in our team, the decisions will be taken on merit and our first priority will be to pick the best players from the current Pakistan team and then to give preference to Australian players. [Moreover] Australian coaches have the best talent, and if we cannot get any best coach from Pakistan we will search for the best one from

Australia," Hamza, the owner of OZ Group, said during his first media conference after purchasing the Sialkot team at the office of the Sports Journalists Association Lahore at the National Hockey Stadium.

Hamza, who owns a business in Australia, purchased the Sialkot franchise for a whopping Rs1.85 billion at a glitzy PSL teams auction in Islamabad on Thursday.

Responding to a query regarding his team's target in their maiden appearance in the forthcoming PSL 11 starting in late March, Hamza sounded categorical.

"We have joined the PSL to win it, and we are making a comprehensive plan to [achieve] this target."

Answering a question whether he

had any concerns about making profit after buying the franchise at an expensive price, Hamza said, "Put profit and loss aside, overall the [PSL] auction presented a positive image of Pakistan across international market and among the country's diaspora." After the addition of two new teams — Hyderabad and Sialkot — the total number of participating teams in the PSL has reached eight, expanding the level of profit to manifold against Rs5 billion earned reportedly, by all six franchises in 2023.

The Hyderabad team was bought by SKF, a United States-based franchise for Rs1.75 billion.

Interestingly, there is a great difference between Sialkot and Hyderabad prices and that of Quetta

Gladiators, which is PSL's lowest cost franchise retained by its owner for just Rs360 million.

However, all the eight franchises will have equal share from the 95 per cent of the total income to be received by them from the central pool of income at the end of the event. The remaining five per cent will go into the PCB account. The entire amount to be received from the eight franchisees, which is estimated to be Rs6.5 billion, will also go into PCB's account.

On whether his Sialkot team will miss their home venue — Jinnah Stadium — like Quetta and Peshawar Zalmi teams during the PSL games, Hamza said the revival of Jinnah Stadium would be the priority of both the PCB and his franchise.

## Sri Lanka beat Pakistan by 14 runs to level T20 series



PEAK POINT

DAMBULLA: Sri Lanka defeated Pakistan by 14 runs in the third and final T20 match to level the series 1-1.

Chasing a target of 161 runs, Pakistan could manage 146 runs for the loss of eight wickets in the allotted 12 overs.

Captain Salman Ali Agha was the top scorer for Pakistan with 45 runs. For Pakistan, Muhammad Nawaz scored 28, Khawaja Nafe made 26, Sahibzada Farhan added 9, while Saim Ayub and Shadab Khan scored 6 runs each. Earlier, in the third and final match of the Pakistan-Sri Lanka T20 series, Pakistan captain Salman Ali Agha won the toss and elected to bowl first against the hosts. Batting first, Sri Lanka posted 160 runs for the loss of six wickets in their allotted 12 overs. Dasun Shanaka was the top scorer with 34 runs, followed by Kusal Mendis with 30, Dhananjaya de Silva with 22, Charith Asalanka with 21, and Kamil Mishara with 20 runs. Originally scheduled for 6:00 PM (Pakistan time), the toss was delayed to 8:30 PM due to rain, and the game was reduced to 12 overs per side.

Earlier in the series, Pakistan had won the first T20 by six wickets, while the second match was abandoned due to rain.

## Pakistan Cricket Board decides to auction Multan Sultans franchise



PEAK POINT

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has decided to auction the Pakistan Super League (PSL) franchise Multan Sultans, following strong investor interest shown in recent franchise sales. According to sources, the PCB had

earlier announced expectations. The Multan Sultans on its own during PSL 11. However, in a new development, the board has now opted to put the franchise up for sale through an open bidding process. Sources said the decision was taken after the auction of two new PSL teams exceeded the PCB's

strong prices fetched by the new franchisees encouraged the board to move forward with the sale of Multan Sultans as well. PCB believes this is the most suitable time to auction the franchise, given the growing interest from local and foreign investors. The PSL 11 players' draft is expected to take place on January 30.

be offered through open bidding, and an official advertisement is expected to be issued soon. A formal announcement will be made after reviewing all legal aspects. Officials are optimistic that Multan Sultans will attract a competitive price, especially after the record-breaking sale of two new franchises and increased interest from international investors.

PCB recently sold two new PSL teams, expanding PSL 11 to eight teams, with Hyderabad and Sialkot joining the league. The PSL 11 players' draft is expected to take place on January 30.

## Pakistan women's cricket team intensifies training in Karachi



## Barjees bags National U-21 Snooker Championship title

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Islamabad's Barjees Khan emerged as the new national U-21 snooker champion after defeating Punjab's M Farhan in a gripping final of the National U-21 Snooker Championship, organised by the Pakistan Billiards and Snooker Association (PBSA) at the Jahangir Khan Sports Complex, Karachi. In the final, Barjees showcased nerves of steel and secured a narrow 4-3 victory, with scores of 62-45, 66-32, 65-36 and 68-25, while Farhan responded strongly with frames of 65-40, 69-50 and 63-10, keeping the contest alive until the very end. Earlier in the semifinals, M Farhan defeated Jahanzaib Jahangir by a 4-2 margin, while Barjees overcame Shahzaib Rafique by the same scoreline. The championship's prize distribution ceremony was graced by PBSA President Abdul

Qadir Memon as the chief guest. Also present on the occasion were former PBSA President Alamgir Shaikh, PBSA Honorary Secretary Naveed Kapadia, and Directors of Jahangir Khan Sports Complex, Aqeel Suria



and Umar Jahangir Khan. Speaking at the ceremony, PBSA Honorary Secretary Naveed Kapadia praised the overall standard of play, highlighting the championship as a reflection of Pakistan's growing strength in youth snooker. He noted that the final between Barjees and Farhan was a perfect example of com-

## Egyptian teenage sensations Orfi, Zakaria clinch Karachi Open squash titles



PEAK POINT

# Religious ministry organizes second training session for Hajj 2026 pilgrims

**PEAK POINT**  
ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony organized the second phase of the training session for Hajj 2026 pilgrims at the Haji Camp, Islamabad. According to the ministry's spokesperson, the primary objective of this program was to provide comprehensive awareness regarding the various stages of the pilgrimage, necessary precautionary measures, and the obligatory acts (Faraz and Wajibat) of Hajj and Umrah.

During the session, Deputy Director of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, Umar Butt, briefed the participants on administrative matters, departure procedures, and accommodation in Makkah and Madinah.

Master Trainer Tanveer Asghar provided technical training on the methods of performing Hajj and Umrah, highlighting the religious obligations.

The event was attended by Director of Haji Complex Islamabad, Qazi Sami-Ul-Rehman, Deputy Director Hakim Khan Khattak, and other senior officials.

Pilgrims were advised to improve their physical fitness by walking 2 to 3 kilometers daily. Essential travel documents including the original passport, CNIC, flight ticket, visa copies, and vaccination cards (for Meningitis, Flu, and Polio) must be kept ready. A strict warning was issued against carrying prohibited items such as narcotics, Naswar, cigarettes, and unverified medicines.



The Ministry has made the Pak Hajj App mandatory for all pilgrims to access flight schedules, accommodation details, and group information.

Furthermore, the procedure for remote biometric verification via the "Saudi Visa Bio" app was explained in detail.

For those arriving directly in Madinah, the stay will range from 3 to 8 days before proceeding to Makkah.

In Makkah, approximately 250 buildings have been arranged for accommodation, with a 24-hour free shuttle bus service available to transport pilgrims to the Haram Sharif. The session covered the pillars of Umrah (Ihram, Niyat, Tawaf, Sa'i, and Halq/Qasr) and the three Faraz (obligatory acts) of Hajj: Ihram, Wuquf-e-Arafat, and Tawaf-e-Ziyarat. The Wajibat (essential acts) such as the stay at Muzdalifah, Ramy al-Jamarat (stoning the devil), Qurban (sacrifice), and Tawaf-e-Wida were also explained. Due to expected extreme weather, pilgrims were instructed to use umbrellas, spray bottles, and ORS to prevent heatstroke. In case of emergencies, they were advised to contact the Saudi helpline 937 for medical assistance and 911 for security matters. The Ministry of Religious Affairs urged the pilgrims to maintain discipline, patience, and compassion throughout the sacred journey. The session concluded with a detailed Q&A segment, where officials and trainers addressed specific concerns regarding administrative and travel arrangements, ensuring the pilgrims are fully prepared for their journey.

## Stakeholders' meeting of team justice for FMGs held; detailed discussion on issues faced by FMGs

**PEAK POINT**  
ISLAMABAD: An important meeting of all stakeholders of Team Justice for Foreign Medical Graduates (FMGs) was held, attended by Chief Coordinator Dr. Rafay Sher, President Dr. Rafiqat Gujjar, and Patron-in-Chief Dr. Zeeshan Noor Malik. The meeting involved a detailed discussion on the challenges faced by students pursuing medical education abroad and foreign medical graduates.

During the meeting, three major concerns raised by parents and students were highlighted. These included the demand to increase the number of PRMP or NRE examinations from two to at least three in order to avoid unnecessary delays in career progression. The second key issue was the display of marks for future examination attempts, while the third concern was the closure of internship opportunities for FMGs, which has particularly affected Chinese medical graduates and created uncertainty among students and graduates. All stakeholders unanimously decided to engage effectively with the relevant authorities to resolve these issues. While appreciating the efforts of the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) to maintain healthcare standards, the meeting emphasized that reform initiatives should not come at the cost of graduates' opportunities or clarity regarding students' futures. The current leadership of PMDC was acknowledged for its seriousness and urged to consider these matters with empathy. In addition, the meeting discussed the upcoming protest planned by graduates and medical students on January 15, 2026. Participants announced their support for the protest and stressed that it should remain peaceful and focused solely on demanding better facilitation from the authorities. At the conclusion of the meeting, Dr. Rafay Sher, Dr. Zeeshan Noor Malik, and Dr. Rafiqat Gujjar expressed hope for positive changes in existing policies, enabling foreign medical graduates to integrate effectively into the healthcare system and serve the country.

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# Opinion & Editorial

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**DAILY PEAK POINT**  
ISLAMABAD

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## Suffocating existence

**A** NEW report by the UN strips away whatever little ambiguity remained around Israel's conduct in occupied West Bank. For the first time, a UN rights chief has explicitly described Israel's system of rule as resembling apartheid — a serious designation, but one that Palestinians have endured for decades. The report speaks of a "systematic asphyxiation" of Palestinian rights, an apt phrase for a reality in which daily life is suffocated by discriminatory laws and practices. From access to water and education to healthcare and livelihoods, Palestinians in the West Bank exist under a system designed to privilege Israeli settlers while dehumanising the indigenous community. Two people living on the same land are governed by two entirely different legal systems: civil law for settlers, military law for Palestinians. The result is predictable. Land confiscation, home demolitions, detention, trials in military courts, and escalating settler violence often carried out with the support of Israeli security forces. That this situation has now been labelled "apartheid" by the UN is significant, but hardly revelatory. Independent experts, human rights groups and Palestinians themselves have long warned that segregation and domination are not accidental byproducts of occupation but its very purpose.

## It's too political

**MUNA KHAN**  
**I**'M surprised the lords ruling my algorithm did not alert me about Jan Komasa's film Anniversary, or that it didn't receive the media attention it deserved. I read up on it and found that the distributor Lionsgate may have buried the political thriller in November fearing a backlash from Trump supporters. It had a limited release and was low profile. "It's hard to market a political film today," one of the producers told The Wrap. "People are afraid of them."

Anniversary is about an American family that is hounded following the rise of an authoritarian government. The twist — a book by their daughter-in-law ignited the fire that ultimately saw the rise of this regime and the destruction of everything it pretended to stand for. We watch the family come undone over a five-year period. Diane Lane plays Ellen, a professor at a prestigious university whose former student Liz publishes The Change, a book claiming to unite a divided people by putting people in the centre. Liz wrote about a single-party rule but Ellen understood what she was advocating — authoritarian rule.

The Change gets picked up by a right-wing party that uses it as a manifesto to rise to power and Liz begins work at a think tank that champions The Change as a way of life. Things worsen when Liz marries Ellen's son, Josh, who rises in the ranks of that

think tank, going against everything his progressive family stands for. His sister, a comedian, is hounded by Change supporters and goes into hiding; all kinds of pressure tactics are used on her parents and siblings to try to find her. They resist all the draconian measures this regime puts out and suffer — job losses, social ostracism, fear of violence.

The premise of movies like Anniversary is not far-fetched. The Changers want to restore order, go back to a time where "they" were right. This sounds all too familiar a story for us in the subcontinent. It is what has been said here time and again when "democratic" governments are kicked out. A harkening to Hindutva rule is what got Narendra Modi's star to rise. In Sri Lanka, Mahinda Rajapaksa claimed his actions were in the name of protecting Sinhala identity. Shaikh Hasina used the 1971 events to consolidate her power. "You are either with us or against us" has become a way to govern, threaten, harass, disappear, jail, hurt and hurt badly. And just like authoritarians have allies in the form of the media across the region, we see think tanks manufacturing consent for the Change regime in the film. The American flag is redesigned in Anniversary with the stars placed in the centre to reflect a more unified nation, when nothing could be further from the truth. We're all too familiar here with the way symbols

have been used to further a narrative, "strengthen" an identity, redefine what it means to be Indian, Bangladeshi, etc.

State surveillance in Anniversary has a familiar ring. Census takers enter Ellen's home threatening to use one daughter's photos at a protest unless the couple endorses the regime. Ellen capitulates to save one child. It is not dissimilar to midnight knocks across South Asia, our families disappeared, our journalists killed, dissidents exiled. Art imitates life after Ellen's rejection of Liz's thesis as "dangerous" led to Liz destroying that family. Many authoritarian figures' stories begin with feeling rejected, unaccepted, ridiculed or feeling like a failure. Many then become driven by revenge, as is the case with dynastic politics in our part of the world where personal grievance drives a justification to control. What happens to those who attempt to oppose or challenge the Changers? They meet the same fate as the thousands who disappear in Balochistan, or Bangladesh, or the Kashmiris in India. The wealthy can always leave, as can dual nationals. Many die trying to escape treacherous borders. Those who have nowhere to go and try to resist find themselves isolated. Everyone is a potential whistleblower. With no one to resist the Changers, the regime's authoritarian tactics increase.

Courtesy Dawn

## A new iron curtain?

**AMNA HASHMI**  
**O**ver decades, IR scholarship saw outer space as a kind of sanctuary, a global commons ruled by the high-minded, but vague, ideals of the 1967 Outer Space Treaty. Today, a new kind of "Iron Curtain" is being drawn, only this time, it isn't made of concrete, but of millions of shards of spinning metal. This is the Kessler Syndrome, which describes a situation in which the density of objects in low Earth orbit (LEO) becomes so high due to space pollution that collisions between these objects cascade. This phenomenon exponentially increases the amount of space debris over time. Orbital debris is a passive weapon, unlike the nuclear weapons that need active intent in order to employ them. A state which is not technologically advanced to play the orbital dominance game can potentially have a strategic use of the Tragedy of the Commons. A weaker actor can easily counter the High-Tech Advantage of a superpower by developing a debris field. Assuming a military and economic engine of a superpower is tied to GPS and satellite communication, then a locked sky, caused by a Kessler cascade, is the final asymmetric equaliser.

Russia used a direct-ascent anti-satellite (ASAT) missile in November 2021, shooting down its own defunct Cosmos 1408 satellite by doing so. The resulting explosion generated over 1,500 pieces of trackable debris, which forced astronauts on the International Space Station to take cover.

Through this, Russia indicated that it was capable of generating a localised Kessler cascade at any time by deliberately putting a debris cloud into a highly populated orbital plane; a deterrence by denial strategy. Due to the emergence of non-state actors, in the case of SpaceX Starlink, we are now seeing the digital enclosure of the celestial commons, with tens of thousands of satellites planned to be launched into orbit in addition to the already more than 5,000 satellites orbiting.

Courtesy Tribune

## Government seems content with state of economy



PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaulah Tarar has said Pakistan's economy is maintaining a steady trajectory towards stability and growth.

Talking to media here Saturday along with Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, the information minister said international financial institutions are acknowledging country's economic stabilisation.

Tarar said the country's key economic indicators continue to improve, foreign exchange reserves are rising and the policy rate is gradually coming down.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi told media on the occasion that enforcing the law is the government's responsibility and this obligation will be fulfilled. Those who take up arms against the state will face a clear response, he said, adding: "When the time comes, we will enforce the law;

if someone takes up arms against the state, it is clear how to handle it." He made it clear that any attempt to challenge the writ of the state would be addressed according to the law. He stressed that maintaining peace and security remains the top priority of the Interior Ministry.

To a query, Naqvi said that holding negotiations are the responsibility of those who were assigned that role. He clarified that his job is different from those tasked with negotiations. "Those whose job it is, will negotiate; my responsibility is law enforcement," he said.

Referring to protests call including those by the PTI, he said the authorities have ample experience in dealing with such situations. "We have dealt with them many times before, and if such a situation arises again, it will be handled in the same way," he said.

The interior minister, while addressing concerns over security of religious scholars said, "Our scholars are safe and will remain safe."

## Islam survives through trials, not comforts: Fazl

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman said on Sunday that the survival of Islam does not lie in comfort and ease but in facing trials with patience and faith.

Addressing a gathering in Lahore, Maulana Fazlur Rehman said that the real duty of today's generation is to keep alive the mission and vision of their elders. "Everyone who comes into this world has to leave one day. No one stays forever," he said, adding that at the end of the day, intentions matter more than actions.

He said every human being is responsible for his own deeds and that the acceptance of any effort depends on one's intention. "Islam is a religion of balance. If moderation is ignored, things fall apart and society moves towards



extremes," he remarked. The JUI-F chief said that the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was both a teacher and a guide, and that education and moral training are central to prophethood. He said religious seminars focus on teaching respect and discipline, values that help people stay on the straight path.

Maulana Fazlur Rehman expressed concern that today's youth are being disconnected from their elders and historical roots. "Young people are being pushed to cut ties.

## Pak Army earned honour for Pakistan: Aleem Khan

PEAK POINT

KAMOKE: Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan on Sunday said that Pakistan had earned honour and global respect due to the courageous leadership of the Pakistan Armed Forces under the Army Chief, Field Marshal Syed Hafiz Asim Munir. Addressing a party workers' convention here as chief guest, he said Allah Almighty had bestowed honour upon Pakistan as its brave Armed Forces humbled the enemy and demonstrated exceptional professional strength. "Today no one dares to look at Pakistan with ill intent," he remarked, said a press release. He said it has never happened before that seven enemy aircrafts were shot down while not a single one of ours was lost. Our brave falcons downed four Indian Rafale jets; today even their manufacturer company claiming that it was not their fault rather than the Indian pilots did not know how to fly. Abdul Aleem Khan said that during the May 2025 confrontation, China, Azerbaijan, and Türkiye stood with us like brothers. When the Army Chief is courageous, the soldier standing behind him also becomes brave and fights

fearlessly. He added that it is a matter of pride for Pakistan that other countries are purchasing our aircrafts. Today the enemy's head has bowed and Alhamdulillah we are holding high forum with pride. Abdul Aleem Khan expressed concern that fingers are pointed at those soldiers because of whom we sleep peacefully. He said we cannot allow accusations against the Pakistan Army for whom widows sacrificed their husbands and parents gave their beloved sons. He urged the youth to rise and through their mobile phones, give a befitting response to negative campaigns spreading chaos and insecurity. He said politics should be done but those who abuse the Pakistan Army should have their tongues pulled back. Reiterating the Istehkam Pakistan Party's proposal for the creation of new provinces, Abdul Aleem Khan said that the Party has launched a movement for this mission. We want immediate and sustainable solutions to the problems of people in far-flung areas. We will not change the names of provinces; new provinces should be created in Punjab as North, South, West, and East Punjab.



Federal Minister & President Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party Abdul Aleem Khan addressing workers Convention at Kamuki, Gujranwala.

## President expresses deep grief over loss of lives in gas cylinder blast

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari, Sunday, expressed deep sorrow and concern over the gas cylinder explosion in Islamabad.

The president conveyed his heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the families of those who lost their lives in the explosion and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured, President Secretariat Media Wing said in a press release.

Terming the incident as tragic and extremely distressing, he said that entire nation stood in solidarity with the bereaved families in their hour of grief.

He directed the relevant authorities to ensure strict enforcement of safety regulations related to the manufacture, quality, and use of gas cylinders.

The president also instructed the provincial governments and the Islamabad administration to launch public awareness campaigns regarding the safe use of gas cylinders. "Saving precious human lives is the foremost responsibility.

## Punjab CM orders swift completion of major healthcare projects

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has directed the relevant authorities to ensure the swift completion and operationalisation of key healthcare projects across the province, setting strict deadlines for their inauguration. On Sunday, the chief minister ordered that the Nawaz Sharif Institute of Cancer Treatment and Research and the Jinnah Institute of Cardiology, Lahore, be made operational within the current month. She also fixed timelines for the early completion of the Nawaz Sharif Institutes of Cardiology in Jinnah and Sargodha, along with other ongoing hospital projects. According to officials, construction work on the basement and ground floor of the Nawaz Sharif Institute



of Cancer Treatment and Research has been completed. Essential facilities, including patient waiting areas, a mosque, and residential accommodations for doctors, have also been finalised. Pakistan's first Nawaz Sharif Institute of Cancer Treatment and Research is scheduled to become operational later this month. The recruitment process for doctors and professional staff has commenced, with interviews underway for 219 positions. The chief minister also approved the re-advertisement of the post.

## Pakistan to achieve 60 percent renewables in power mix by 2030: Romina

PEAK POINT

ABU DHABI: Romina Khurshid Alam MNA, Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, delivering Pakistan's national statement to the 16th International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) Assembly detailed the country's swift, people-driven shift to renewables.

Pakistan has emerged as one of the world's fastest-growing solar markets, with 12 GW of off-grid and over 6 GW of net-metered solar capacity by the end of 2025. Last fiscal year, renewables accounted for a historic 53% of total electricity generation. Direct action against energy poverty is being taken through



initiatives like the Punjab Solar Panel Scheme 2026, which provides free or subsidized systems to low-income households. Ms. Alam reaffirmed Pakistan's target of achieving 60% renewables in the power mix by 2030. She highlighted how distributed solar kits have restored power and livelihoods in flood-affected communities, offering a replicable model for climate-resilient recovery.

## Pakistan Navy ships visit Oman port, officials discuss maritime affairs

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy Flotilla comprising of PNS RAH NAWAR, PNS MADADGAR and Pakistan Maritime Security Agency ship PMSS KASHMIR visited Port Sultan Qaboos, Muscat, Oman, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Sunday. Upon arrival at the port, the ships were warmly welcomed by Omani authorities. During the visit, the mission commander along with the commanding officers held meetings with naval leadership of Oman. The mission commander



called on Acting Operations and Plans, Commander of Royal Navy Commander Maritime Security Centre, Commander Said Bin Sultan Naval Base and Commandant Sultan Qaboos Naval Academy.

During these interactions, matters of mutual interest, Navy-to-Navy engagements, and cooperation in maritime security were discussed. RNO Officers and Midshipmen also visited onboard ships and discussed topics of mutual maritime interest with PN officers. Pakistan Navy Ships were opened for visitors; wherein, large number of Pakistani community and students from Pakistan School, Muscat, visited onboard. Following the port call,

Pakistan Navy and Pakistan Maritime Security Agency ships conducted a Passage Exercise with Royal Oman Navy ship KHASAB. "The exercise at sea aimed to enhance interoperability between the two navies and promote shared learning through bilateral conduct of naval exercises," the military's media wing said. The ISPR said Pakistan and Oman are maritime neighbours and frequent visits of dignitaries, port calls by ships and joint exercises are a regular feature.