



Gilani lauds Italy's role in Multan heritage revival



Govt aims to strengthen economy through exports: Qaiser Sheikh



SME cluster showcase to help transform Pakistan's economy: SAPM

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Pakistan army conducts swift relief operations in Tirah Valley

PEAK POINT

PESHAWAR: The Pakistan Army has carried out swift and effective relief operations in Tirah Valley, which has been severely affected by heavy snowfall over the past several days.

Due to continuous and intense snowfall, normal life in the area has been badly disrupted. The Pakistan Army has been conducting uninterrupted relief activities to assist the local population and help restore daily life in the region.

As part of the ongoing operation, several vehicles trapped in snow have been safely recovered and moved to secure locations.

Despite harsh weather conditions and

communication challenges, officers and personnel of the Pakistan Army and Frontier Corps (FC) are personally supervising relief efforts on the ground.

Affected families in Tirah Valley are being provided with essential supplies, including food items, blankets, and emergency medical assistance. The timely and professional response by the security forces has also helped restore key ground communication links in the area.

Local residents have appreciated the efforts of the security forces, acknowledging their dedication and commitment while carrying out relief work under extreme weather conditions.



Families leaving Tirah Valley register themselves with authorities at the Sandana Centre in Upper Bara.

Rescue operation continues for ninth day in Gul Plaza, more human remains recovered



PEAK POINT

KARACHI: The rescue operation at Gul Plaza continued for the ninth consecutive day as search teams recovered more human remains from the debris of the collapsed building.

Rescue 1122 and Urban Search and Rescue teams are actively engaged in clearing the rubble and searching for missing persons. According to rescue officials, human remains were recovered from the third floor of the damaged structure and have been shifted to Civil Hospital Karachi for DNA testing to confirm identities.

So far, authorities have confirmed the deaths of at least 71 people in the incident. Rescue sources say the operation is still ongoing, and there are fears that more bodies may be found as debris removal continues.

Despite the passage of several days since the incident, rescue teams remain on-site, working to remove rubble and locate any remaining victims.

Pakistan Navy rescues Sri Lankan crew 1,500km off Gwadar

PEAK POINT

KARACHI: The Pakistan Navy successfully conducted a medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) of a Sri Lankan crew member from the Indonesian-flagged merchant vessel MV Grey Palm, approximately 1,500 kilometres off the coast of Gwadar.

The operation was carried out following a request from the Sri Lankan Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC).

Upon receiving the distress call, Pakistan Navy dispatched its ships PNS Tabuk and PNS Moawin to the open seas for the emergency operation.

The naval vessels reached the location and safely evacuated the ail-



ing Sri Lankan crew member.

The patient was transferred to PNS Tabuk and provided with immediate medical care.

The operation highlighted the Navy's ability to deliver prompt and professional medical

assistance in high seas, even far from the country's shores.

In an official statement, the Pakistan Navy noted that it activated coordinated maritime protocols and executed the rescue with professional expertise. Sri Lankan authorities and

the patient's family expressed gratitude for the timely intervention and assistance.

The operation reiterates Pakistan Navy's enduring commitment to safeguarding life at sea, regardless of nationality, and fulfilling its international responsibilities.

Khawaja Asif decries 'failure' to implement local govt system

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: The democratic governments in Pakistan could not effectively implement local government system; holding local government elections is an important element of the 18th Amendment, said Defence Minister Khawaja Asif. Speaking at ThinkFest 2026, Khawaja Asif has said democratic governments have failed to effectively implement the local government system. Powers were not transferred to the provinces under the 18th Amendment. The important part of the 18th Amendment.

DPM/FM Dar, Qatari Minister discuss global, regional developments

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister / Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Sunday, spoke on the phone with Dr. Mohammed bin Abdulaziz Al-Khulaifi, Qatar Minister of State.

"They discussed bilateral cooperation, key issues of mutual interest, and ongoing global and regional developments," the Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release.

PUC raises concern over social divisions under Shariah in Afghanistan

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi on Sunday expressed grave concern over reports suggesting that such practices were being divided into different social categories under the name of Shariah, warning that such practices are contrary to the teachings of Islam, the Holy Quran and the Sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him). The Pakistan Ulema Council said that any attempt to divide society into so-called 'free' and 'enslaved' classes in the name of Islam has no basis in Quranic injunctions or Prophetic traditions



and is completely alien to Islamic teachings," said a press release here.

The Council stressed that such classifications resemble pre-Islamic and non-Islamic social systems in which people were divided on the basis of birth, ethnicity or social status. It said Islam, following the advent of the Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him), categorically abolished all forms of slavery and social hierarchy perma-

nently. Referring to the situation in Afghanistan, the Pakistan Ulema Council urged the Afghan Taliban authorities—who describe themselves as an Islamic and Shariah-based government—to immediately clarify their position before the international community. The Council also cautioned against reviving customs associated with the era of ignorance (Jahiliyyah) under the banner of Islam.

"Islam put an end to all such practices of Jahiliyyah in which human beings were enslaved, women were deprived of their rights and societies were divided into rigid classes," the statement said, recalling the Prophet's historic declaration that no Arab holds superiority over a non-Arab, no white over black and no black over white, except on the basis of piety and righteousness. The Council warned that the reported approach undermines Islamic principles of equality and justice and amounts to a violation of human dignity. Such practices, it said, cannot be termed Shariah-compliant and instead reflect a form of 'modern-day ignorance'.

Security Forces kill three Indian-sponsored terrorists in IBO in Panjgur

PEAK POINT

RAWALPINDI: Security forces killed three Indian-sponsored terrorists during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Panjgur district of Balochistan.

The operation was conducted on the reported presence of terrorists belonging to the Indian proxy group, Fitna al Hindustan.

"During the conduct of operation, own forces effectively engaged the terrorists' location, and after an intense fire exchange, three Indian sponsored terrorists were sent to hell (including local area terrorist Commander Feroq alias Soro, terrorist Adeel & terrorist Waseem)," said a news release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR).

Weapons, ammunition and explosives were also recovered from the terrorists, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities in the area.

"Sanitization operations are being conducted to eliminate any other Indian sponsored terrorist found in the area. Relentless Counter Terrorism campaign under vision 'Azim e Istehkam' (as approved by Federal Apex Committee on National Action Plan) by Security Forces and Law Enforcement Agencies of Pakistan will continue.





SPORTS



Pakistan's 15-member squad for T20 World Cup named

Infantino set for imminent Pakistan visit to boost football revival

PAKISTAN SQUAD
FOR ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP 2026

SALMAN ALI AGHA
(CAPTAIN)

ABDUL AHMED, BABAR AZAM, FAHEEM ASHRAF, FAKHAR ZAMAN, KUNWALA MOHAMMAD NOFIQ, MOHAMMAD NAWAZ, MOHAMMAD SALMAN MIRZA, MUZEEN SHAIKH, SAHIBZADA FARHAN IQBAL, SAJID AKBAR, SHAHEEN AFRIDI, SHANAYDAN AFRIDI, USMAN KHAN, USMAN KHAN

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Salman Ali Agha will lead Pakistan in the T20 World Cup as the country's cricket board (PCB) announced 15-member squad here on Sunday.

PCB Selection committee director Aqib Javed, announced the team along with head coach Mike Hesson and skipper Salman Ali Agha.

The squad includes Babar Azam, Fakhar Zaman, Mohammad Nawaz, Abrar Ahmed, Naseem Shah, Salman Mirza, Shaheen Afridi, Shadab Khan, Sahibzada Farhan, Faheem Ashraf, Khwaja Nafees, Usman Tariq, Saim Ayub, and Usman Khan.

Aqib said that the players were selected considering the conditions and pitches in Sri Lanka.

About the inclusion of Babar Azam, he said the experienced player has an important role in the team to play.

Head coach Hesson said that Usman Khan's performance has been excellent since returning to the team. The wicketkeeper's role is at number six in the batting order. Sahibzada Farhan is also available for wicket-keeping, but they will not put extra pressure on him, as he is an important member of the T20 team.

Skipper Salman Agha said that they will need to play good cricket to achieve victory. He noted that their performance in the last three tournaments had not been good.

The World Cup has always been a challenging event, and the team cannot afford to relax. They are enthusiastic and fully prepared for the world event, adding that high-scoring matches are not common in Sri Lankan conditions.

Pakistan will begin World Cup campaign against the Netherlands on February 7. The T20 World Cup will be held from February 7 to March 8 in India and Sri Lanka.

The preparations will start with a three-match T20 series against Australia, which will reach Lahore on January 28. The matches will be held at Gaddafi Stadium on January 29, 31, and February 1.



PEAK POINT

LAHORE: FIFA President Gianni Infantino has confirmed plans to visit Pakistan in the near future, a move widely seen as a significant boost for the country's football revival and a strong endorsement of recent reforms within the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF). Speaking in an interview with a local digital television platform on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum's annual meeting in Davos, Infantino said the visit had already been promised to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, underlining FIFA's renewed engagement with Pakistan at the highest level. "I will be coming to Pakistan very soon," Infantino said, describing the country as one with "immense footballing potential" and a passionate fan base that deserves a stronger presence on the continental and global stage.

The FIFA president praised the newly elected leadership of the PFF, commending its efforts to stabilise the sport after years of administrative turmoil. He singled out the federation's president for doing "a fantastic job" and expressed confidence that Pakistan football was moving in the right direction. "Pakistan is a great football country," Infantino said.

PCB announces player auctions for upcoming Pakistan Super league on Feb 11



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has announced that the player auction for the eleventh edition of Pakistan Super League (PSL) will be held on February 11, according to a press release issued on Sunday.

It was announced by the PCB that the upcoming season of

the country's premier franchise league would adopt an auction model, replacing the previous draft system.

As per the release, the cricket board conducted a detailed workshop today (Sunday) regarding the upcoming HBL PSL player auction at the Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore, presided by chairman Mohsin Naqvi, and attended by representatives

from all eight franchises, PSL officials, and members of Pakistan's T20 World Cup squad.

During the workshop, the management shared a detailed presentation on the mechanics of the retention and the auction process and consulted with all the participants, the PCB said. "It was agreed that the HBL PSL Player Cup squad."

Auction will take place on Wednesday, 11 February."

The PCB further revealed the base prices of the players, saying that "auction price and minimum incremental bids for the players were to be in Pakistani Rupees".

The base price of the top bracket was set at Rs42 million, Rs22m, Rs11m and Rs6m.

The cricket board said the minimum incremental bid for each base price would follow as:

Rs250,000 for bid amounts under Rs11m
Rs500,000 for bid amounts under Rs22m
Rs1 million for bid amounts under Rs42m
Rs15 million for bid amounts above Rs42m.



PCB Selection committee director Aqib Javed, announced the team along with head coach Mike Hesson and skipper Salman Ali Agha.

Bangladesh absence from T20 World Cup a sad moment for the game: ICC

PEAK POINT

DUBAI: The absence of Bangladesh from next month's T20 World Cup is a sad moment for the game and should serve as a call for stakeholders to work towards uniting the sport, not dividing it, the International Cricketers' Association said on Sunday.

Bangladesh were replaced by Scotland in the 20-team showpiece on Saturday following their refusal to tour India over safety concerns in the wake of soured political relations between the Asian neighbours. The governing International Cricket Council (ICC) rejected Bangladesh's request to move their matches to tournament co-host Sri Lanka, saying it was not feasible to change the schedule so close to the February 7 start of the tournament.

"The withdrawal of Bangladesh from the T20

World Cup, and resulting absence of a valued cricketing nation from cricket's pinnacle international T20 event, is a sad moment for our sport, the Bangladesh players and fans, and one that requires deep reflection."

The events underline the current tension in South Asian cricket. India's fraught relations with Pakistan prompted the ICC to broker an arrangement allowing them to play at a neutral venue when their neighbour hosts a global tournament.

Following India's refusal to travel to Pakistan for the Champions Trophy in 2025, a "hybrid model" was decided upon whereby India played all its matches in Dubai, chosen as a neutral venue.

The events underline the current tension in South Asian cricket. India's fraught relations with Pakistan prompted the ICC to broker an arrangement allowing them to play at a neutral venue when their neighbour hosts a global tournament.

Following India's refusal to travel to Pakistan for the Champions Trophy in 2025, a "hybrid model" was decided upon whereby India played all its matches in Dubai, chosen as a neutral venue.



HARARE: Coach Sarfaraz deliver tips to ICC Under 19 players.



CG OIC-COMSTECH emphasizes expansion of Pakistan-China cooperation in traditional medicine

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: Coordinator General OIC-COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary has emphasized the expansion of Pakistan-China cooperation in Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) and broader scientific collaboration. He was addressing the closing ceremony of the Pakistan TCM Practitioners Training Program. He termed the completion of the first phase of the training as a historic milestone for Pakistan-China scientific and healthcare cooperation. He congratulated Pakistani doctors on the successful completion of the six-month intensive training program conducted at the prestigious Hunan

University of Chinese Medicine and Huaihua University of Medicine. Dr. Choudhary highly appreciated the outstanding hospitality, mentorship, and academic support extended by the Chinese universities, stating that the training has laid a strong foundation for introducing age-old Chinese healing practices in Pakistan, the world's fifth most populous country. He described the initiative as a major step towards integrating TCM into Pakistan's healthcare system. Paying special tribute to Prof. Dr. Xinmin Liu, WHO Expert and COMSTECH Coordinator for China, Dr. Choudhary called him a key ambassador of Pakistan-China cooperation in traditional medicine, neurophar-



macology, and biomedical sciences, whose exceptional services have been recognized at the highest level by the President of Pakistan. He also expressed deep gratitude to Sindh Minister for Health and Population Welfare, Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho, for supporting the launch of the first phase of the program. Dr. Choudhary acknowledged the vital role of the National Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine (NATCM) for its generous support, including assistance in establishing the Sino-Pakistan Centre. The Coordinator General OIC-COMSTECH further appreciated the support of the Chinese Embassy in

Islamabad, the Pakistan Embassy in China, and the International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS) in overcoming challenges during the program's launch and implementation. Highlighting future plans, Dr. Choudhary announced several major upcoming initiatives, including the second phase of training for Pakistani doctors, establishment of the Zhejiang-Pakistan Joint Laboratory at Ningbo, organization of the China-OIC Youth Summit on Human Nutrition and Traditional Medicine in April 2026 in Islamabad, establishment of the COMSTECH-China Center of Excellence for Clinical Trials, and the launch of a Space Medicine Program.

He emphasized that these initiatives reflect the shared commitment of Pakistan and China to translate their deep-rooted friendship into meaningful scientific collaboration, benefiting both countries as well as the 57 member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). Concluding his remarks, Dr. Choudhary, on behalf of OIC-COMSTECH and the Sino-Pakistan TCM Centre at ICCBS, thanked all partners and participants for making the program a success. He specially acknowledged Prof. Cao Liang, Prof. Raza Muhammad Raza Shah Sindh Government and others for their excellent cooperation and contributions.

Surprise visit: IGP Rizvi reviews security at G-14 checkpoint

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi pays surprise visit to the G-14 checkpoint and reviewed security and checking arrangements while meeting Islamabad Police officers and personnel performing their official duties in the field. A police spokesperson told APP on Sunday that the

IGP Rizvi appreciated the performance of police officers and personnel, encouraged them, and issued important directives to further improve service delivery and public facilitation. Senior police officers were also present on the occasion. Surprise visit: IGP Rizvi reviews security at G-14 checkpoint. IGP Rizvi personally monitored checking procedures at the checkpoint, inter-



acted directly with citizens, listened to their concerns and issued immediate instructions for the resolution of

public complaints. During the visit, the IGP also joined police personnel on the road and personally participated in vehicle checking to assess operational effectiveness and discipline. IGP Rizvi directed senior officers to ensure professionalism, strict discipline and polite behaviour towards citizens while performing their duties, stressing that public cooperation and trust are key to effective policing.

He reaffirmed that ICT Police will not allow any disruption of law and order in the federal capital and will utilize all available resources to protect the lives and property of citizens as well as public and private assets. "I am proud of all of you for ensuring the safety and security of the citizens of Islamabad through your tireless efforts and bravery," the IGP Rizvi said.

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How Media shapes social behavior and community Life



Iman Jamil
Walking through university campuses, classrooms, and public spaces, one notices a paradox of modern life: people are surrounded by others, yet deeply absorbed in their screens. As an M-Phil scholar at the University of the Punjab, with an academic foundation from NUML, I have studied how media shapes social behavior and community life. What is increasingly evident is that digital expansion, while

advancing society technologically, is quietly weakening the human connections that hold communities together. This growing gap between online engagement and offline interaction raises an urgent question about the kind of society we are becoming. A Society Online, A Community Offline The rapid expansion of digital technologies has reshaped social life in profound ways. While online platforms have enhanced access to information and communication, they have also altered how communities interact, often weakening the social fabric that sustains collective life. Digital convenience has reduced the need for physical interaction. Everyday activities—from shopping to professional collaboration—now occur largely

online. As efficiency increases, shared social spaces shrink. This transition raises an important concern: can a society remain cohesive when community engagement is increasingly mediated through screens? Research indicates a rise in loneliness and social disengagement despite heightened online activity. Virtual interactions, while frequent, often lack the emotional depth and mutual responsibility that define community life. In this context, social isolation is no longer a personal issue alone but a structural outcome of changing communication patterns. In Pakistan, where extended families and neighborhood networks traditionally provided social support, this transformation is particularly significant. As digital prac-

tices replace communal routines, vulnerable groups—especially the elderly and youth—risk social marginalization. Technology itself is not the adversary. Its role in education, governance, and development is undeniable. However, public discourse must shift toward balance. Policymakers, educators, and media institutions should encourage digital use that complements, rather than substitutes, human interaction. Sustainable progress depends not only on connectivity, but on cohesion. A society may thrive online, but without deliberate investment in offline relationships, community life risks gradual erosion. **Iman Jamil University of the Punjab Lahore Media and Development communication**

American 'armada'

ALTHOUGH it seemed that US President Donald Trump had reconsidered his plans to stage an attack on Iran last week, an American military build-up in the region points to the fact that the danger of a conflagration has yet to pass. Mr Trump has said that an "armada" of American ships is headed to the Gulf "just in case", while adding that he did not want to "see anything happen" vis-à-vis Iran. There are also reports that the US has deployed more fighter jets to its bases in some regional states, while the Turkish foreign minister has said that Israel is "looking for an opportunity" to strike Iran. Senior Iranian officials, on the other hand, have indicated they will hit back hard if attacked. The Trumpian threats could well be mere sabre-rattling designed to bring Tehran to the table on America's terms. However, the problem with such brinkmanship is that it can very quickly spiral out of control, and have devastating real-world consequences. It is also a fact that the US, Israel and many of their Western allies keep shifting the goalposts where Iran is concerned. At times they claim to be acting out of sympathy for the Iranian people and the alleged mistreatment they suffer at the hands of their rulers. But this sympathy is nowhere to be seen when the US and Israel hold missiles at Iran, killing innocent civilians.

Staying relevant

MUHAMMAD AMIR RANA
PAKISTAN has officially joined the Trump-led Board of Peace (BoP), aimed at ending the conflict in Gaza. This decision reflects Pakistan's usual realpolitik approach to the Middle East. However, in Pakistan, realpolitik is often seen as a national weakness. Since the Kuwait invasion, the US invasion of Iraq, the deployment of forces in Yemen, and most recently, attempts to stop the Israel-Palestine conflict, Pakistan has chosen a pragmatic foreign policy. These decisions are justified by geo-economic needs and the desire to stay relevant in the West and Middle East.

The key question is: if Pakistan had a strong economy and stable political and social systems, would it make the same choices? This question is significant because, in such instances, the establishment often makes decisions that contradict prevailing public sentiments, sentiments shaped by opinion-makers and religious clergy who promote a moral narrative anchored in a narrow worldview. In contrast, the establishment tends to adopt a more grounded, interest-based approach. Pragmatism exacts a price. Those who advocate a moral-politics narrative continue to delegitimise political and military decision-makers, widening the gap

between public opinion and state policy. It is worth examining whether a stronger economy and greater political stability would compel Pakistan's leadership to weigh public sentiment more heavily, or whether strategic interests would still dominate policy choices. If Pakistan had a strong economy and stable systems, would it make the same choices? Most countries that have joined Trump's BoP so far tend to have weak democratic credentials and are predominantly Muslim states that do not prioritise public opinion in foreign policy; their ruling elites often hold worldviews distinct from those of their populations. In contrast,

democracies with some degree of pluralism, such as Indonesia or Turkey, may consider public sentiment more directly, yet ultimately align their decisions with international norms and their political and strategic interests. Pakistan's hybrid political system behaves at times like a quasi-monarchy, with critical foreign policy decisions taken outside a broad parliamentary consensus. This dynamic harms the credibility of ruling elites and enables the clergy to reinforce the narrative that the country's leadership is a "puppet of Western imperialism", asserting that under a truly Islamic system, the decisions would be different. **Courtesy Dawn**

Gilani lauds Italy's role in Multan heritage revival



PEAK POINT

MULTAN: Chairman Senate Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani hosted a dinner in honour of Italian Ambassador to Pakistan Marilina Armellini, at Gilani House, on Saturday.

Prior to the dinner, a meeting was held between the Chairman Senate and the Italian delegation, during which bilateral relations, economic cooperation, social ties and the preservation of historical heritage were discussed in detail.

The Italian delegation included

Ambassador Marilina Armellini, Mr Domenico Polloni and First Secretary Mr Augusto Palmieri.

Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani appreciated Italy's support for the restoration of Multan's historical status and said Italian assistance played a key role in the rehabilitation of several historic gates of the city, which reflect its ancient civilization and cultural identity. He added that the historical links between Multan and Rome further strengthen Pakistan-Italy relations.

Ambassador Marilina Armellini

stated that Italy intends to recruit workforce from Pakistan and plans to issue around 10,000 visas in the next phase. She also announced that an Italian visa centre will soon be established in Multan to facilitate workers through NOC issuance and other related services, benefiting people of South Punjab.

Later, a dinner was hosted by the Chairman Senate, which was attended by MNA Syed Abdul Qadir Gillani, MPA Syed Ali Haider Gillani, Makhdoom Syed Abu-ul-Hassan Gillani, Sajida Nashin of Darbar Hazrat Musa Pak Shaheed, President Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Bakhtawar Tanvir, former MPA Ahmed Mujtaba Gillani, industrialist Chaudhry Zulfiqar Anjum, Khawaja Anis and other notable figures.

Participants stressed the need to further strengthen bilateral ties, promote cultural heritage protection, enhance economic cooperation and expand workforce exchange between Pakistan and Italy.

Aleem Khan commends NHA for ensuring smooth traffic flow amidst intense snowfall

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications, Abdul Aleem Khan, has praised the National Highway Authority (NHA) teams for their exceptional performance in keeping national highways and motorways operational despite severe snowfall and challenging weather conditions. The Minister stated that the dedication shown by NHA staff in ensuring uninterrupted connectivity is truly commendable, said a press release. In a special statement, Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan paid tribute to the field staff working in the most difficult terrains of Murree, Chitral, Balochistan, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Azad Jammu & Kashmir. "Our hardworking workers and field staff are the true assets of our organization, ensuring road restoration through their tireless efforts," the



Minister remarked. He added that timely interventions, including continuous salt sprinkling and the strategic deployment of heavy machinery on the Murree Expressway and other key arteries, played a vital role in preventing accidents and maintaining safety. Looking ahead, Abdul Aleem Khan has issued strict directives to the NHA to remain fully prepared and on high alert for the upcoming spell of snowfall expected across the country.

He emphasized that providing uninterrupted access to highways and ensuring the convenience.

Govt aims to strengthen economy through exports: Qaiser Sheikh

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Board of Investment Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh said on Saturday that government is taking all possible measures to strengthen country's economy through increasing exports volume, as millions of people are employed in this sector.

He was talking to media after attending a symposium held on the sidelines of 'Made in Pakistan Cluster Showcase Expo' organized by policies of Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) here at Expo Center.

He added that thanks to the leadership, vision and dynamic policies of Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, the SMEDA has been reactivated and restructured, as a result of which micro enterprises have also been included in the stream of national development.

Federal Minister said that SMEDA has now reached a point where it can play a key

role in stabilizing the country's economy by bringing significant exports in the next one to two years with a modest handholding.

This progress of SMEDA, he remarked, is the result of collective efforts, in which the new CEO of the institution, his team and the Board of Directors played a prominent role. He also appreciated the services of the board members and said that the institution is moving forward rapidly under their guidance. While mentioning the handicrafts, surgical instruments, wood and iron products from different parts of the country at the exhibition, Federal Minister said that these items are a practical manifestation of Pakistan's export potential. He said, the SME sector accounts for 60 to 70 percent of the national economy and millions of people are employed in this sector. He said that export-led growth is the only effective way for Pakistan's sustainable economic development, on which the government is paying full attention.

Governor KP, Sindh MPA Lal Chand discuss minority rights

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Sindh Member of Provincial Assembly Lal Chand called on Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi, matters of mutual interest and the overall political situation of the country were discussed.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Faisal Karim Kundi highlighted the historic and effective role of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) in the protection and promotion of minority rights.

He said that the PPP has always taken practical steps to ensure constitutional rights for religious minorities, integrate them into the national mainstream, and address their issues.

The Governor said that from Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto to Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto and Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the leadership of the Pakistan Peoples Party has consistently promoted a policy of equality, respect, and tolerance for minorities. He reaffirmed the party's commitment to continue playing a proactive role in safeguarding minority rights.

SME cluster showcase to help transform Pakistan's economy: SAPM

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Industries & Production Haroon Akhtar Khan inaugurated Pakistan's first national SME cluster exhibition, "Made in Pakistan - SME Cluster Showcase Expo 2026" here at Expo Center on Saturday.

The three-day Expo, being organized by Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) under the supervision of Ministry of Industries & Production (MoIP), features cluster-based pavilions and exhibitor stalls, and a platform for B2B (business to business), B2G (business to government) and B2I (business to industry) matchmaking, policy dia-



logues, technical sessions and an SME Awards ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, SAPM Haroon Akhtar Khan said the inaugural "Made in Pakistan - SME Cluster Showcase Expo 2026" is envisioned as Pakistan's flagship national platform to showcase the strength, diversity and export readiness of SME clusters from across the country.

He noted that the Expo would prove to be a shift toward cluster-based and data-driven SME development in line.

Bilal Kayani reaffirms commitment to ensure regulatory framework in all sectors

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The government is committed to ensure regulatory framework in all sectors of the national economy in order to enhance revenue base for achieving sustainable and long term economic growth, and social prosperity in the country. This was stated by the Minister of State for Finance and Railways, and Head of the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit Bilal Azhar Kayani, while addressing a policy discussion titled "Track and Trace Compliance in the Tobacco Industry. The event was organized by the Institute for Public Opinion Research (IPOR) to present findings from its nationwide



study, said a press release issued by IPOR here on Saturday. The event brought together policymakers, researchers, and regulatory authorities to deliberate on the study's findings and their implications for tax revenue, market regulation, and public health.

The minister emphasized that stronger enforcement, enhanced regulatory measures, and institutional collaboration.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Qaiser Shaikh, talking to the media persons during his visit to the Flood relief Medical Camp in Chinioot.

Delegation of Women Members of Balochistan Assembly visits Türkiye to strengthen bilateral ties

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: A high-level delegation comprising women members of the Balochistan Assembly undertook an official visit to Türkiye with the aim of further strengthening parliamentary, diplomatic, economic, and people-to-people relations between Pakistan and Türkiye.

The delegation was led by Ms. Farah Azeem Shah, MPA, a leader of the Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) and President of the BAP Women Wing, said a press release received here

on Sunday.

Delegation of Women Members of Balochistan Assembly visits Türkiye to strengthen bilateral ties

Other members of the delegation included Ms. Salma Kakar, MPA (ANP), Ms. Hadiya Nawaz, MPA (PML-N), and Ms. Kulsoom, MPA (National Party).

During the visit, the delegation held several important meetings with Türkiye's senior political leadership and parliamentary representatives. The discussions focused on bilateral cooperation, youth development,



education, investment, and the promotion of positive narratives.

The delegation met with the leadership of Türkiye's ruling Justice and Development Party (AK Party), led by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan,

where issues relating to Pakistan-Türkiye brotherly relations, parliamentary cooperation, and regional development were discussed.

On this occasion, the delegation also met Senator Dr. Mustafa Kaya, Vice President of the Saadet Party

and a member of the NATO Group of the Turkish Grand National Assembly. During the meeting, Farah Azeem Shah highlighted the strategic importance, natural resources, and development potential of Balochistan, stating that initiatives such as the Balochistan Sustainable Development Initiative (BSDI) are rapidly transforming the province's development landscape.

She invited Türkiye to invest in Balochistan in the sectors of mines and minerals, infrastructure, youth skills development, and edu-

cation, and also requested the provision of scholarships for Pakistani, particularly Baloch students in Turkish universities.

The Turkish leadership warmly welcomed the delegation and stated that through Farah Azeem Shah's leadership, they had the opportunity to see the true and positive face of Balochistan. Turkish leaders expressed their desire to visit Balochistan, saying that Baloch culture is a valuable asset of Pakistan, and that a province represented by such capable.