



Danish envoy, climate minister discuss science diplomacy, cooperation



Punjab unveils Rs47bn Ramadan Nighban relief package



Muqam calls India's Republic Day a 'Black Day' for Kashmiris

Founded By:
(Late) Rehmat Khan

ABC CERTIFIED

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

Executive Group Editor
Arif Mehmood Khan



Tuesday 27 January 2026

Shaban 07, 1447

A.H VOI No: 06

Issue No. 03

Pages 4 Rs.20

Naqvi briefs PM Shehbaz on 'ICC matter', says final decision to come by Friday or Monday

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Monday said that he briefed Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on the "International Cricket Council (ICC) matter", saying that a "final decision will be taken either on Friday or next Monday".

According to a handout by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Naqvi had called on the premier in Islamabad earlier today.

"During the meeting, he briefed the prime minister on the recent situation regarding ICC T20 World Cup and the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB)," the handout said.

Subsequently, Naqvi, who is also the chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), stated that he had a "productive

meeting with PM Shehbaz.

"[I] briefed him on the ICC matter, and he directed that we resolve it while keeping all options on the table. It was agreed that the final decision will be taken either on Friday or next Monday," the post read.

The development comes as questions have been raised about Pakistan's participation in the tournament following the ICC's decision to replace Bangladesh with Scotland.

Bangladesh were replaced by Scotland on Saturday, which is scheduled to begin next month, following their refusal to tour India over safety concerns in the wake of soured political relations between the Asian neighbours.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

President Xi says India, China are 'friends, partners'

PEAK POINT



CHINA: China's President Xi Jinping said Beijing and New Delhi were "good neighbours, friends and partners" as he wished Indian President Droupadi Murmu congratulations on the South Asian nation's Republic Day, the official Xinhua news agency reported on Monday.

Xi said that over the past year, China-India relations have continued to improve and develop and are of "great significance for maintaining and promoting world peace and prosperity," according to Xinhua.

Xi said China has always believed that being "good neighbours, friends and partners" is the right choice for both China and India.

He referred to China and India as the "dragon and the elephant dancing together," Xinhua said.

Xi said he hoped that both sides would expand exchanges and cooperation and address each other's concerns to promote healthy and stable relations.

The nuclear-armed Asian neighbours share a 3,800 km border that is poorly demarcated and has been disputed since the 1950s.

Dar, Myanmar FM hold 'very productive' talks in Islamabad as Pakistan seeks to revitalise ties

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and his Burmese counterpart Than Swe held "very productive and comprehensive" discussions in Islamabad on Monday, as both Pakistan and Myanmar seek to revitalise ties.

FM Than Swe arrived in Islamabad on a four-day official visit on the night of January 24. The Foreign Office (FO) had said the visit "aims to strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries".

Addressing a joint press conference alongside Than Swe, Dar said, "Our discussions were very productive and



comprehensive." He highlighted that the Burmese FM's visit reflected the "importance that both countries attach to revitalising and strengthening Pakistan-Myanmar relationship".

Noting that their meeting went for over an hour, Dar said the discussions covered the "full spectrum of bilateral relations".

"We also exchanged

views on regional peace and security and agreed that all [...] issues should be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy," the deputy prime minister added.

He stressed that both countries had historic bonds, adding, "Building on this positive foundation, we agreed to work closely to expand cooperation in all party areas." Dar

Two militants killed as police repel attack on mobile van

PEAK POINT

BANNU: The district police on Monday thwarted an attack on a police mobile van by militants of "Fitna-al-Khawarij" within the limits of Domel Police Station. According to police, the Domel Police mobile van was on routine patrol near company road when militants, who were lying in ambush, opened indiscriminate fire on the police party. The police personnel responded with professionalism and bravery, leading to a fierce exchange of gunfire that lasted for approximately 20 minutes. As a result of the effective retaliatory action,

SBP holds policy rate at 10.5% despite expectations of further cut

PEAK POINT

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Monday kept its benchmark policy rate unchanged at 10.5% in its first monetary policy decision of the year, defying market expectations of another rate cut amid easing inflation and improving external indicators. Announcing the decision at a press conference in Karachi, SBP Governor Jameel Ahmed said the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) had decided to maintain the policy rate at its current level for the next two months to safeguard price stability.

Kashmiris observe India's Republic Day as 'Black Day' all over globe

PEAK POINT

MUZAFFARABAD: Kashmiris across Azad Kashmir and along the Line of Control mark India's Republic Day on Monday as a "Black Day," staging protests and rallies to draw global attention to their cause. According to local organisers, demonstrations will be held in the capital and in small and large towns across the region. The All Parties Hurriyat Conference and other groups are set to lead marches and public gatherings. Speakers at the events are expected to say the day is meant to send a clear message to the world that, in their view, India's policies in occupied Jammu and Kashmir go against democratic values and basic rights. Organisers also plan to highlight what they describe as decades of violence, loss of life, detentions

and damage to property in Media Service, Indian authorities imposed a



families have been affected by the conflict over the years.

By taking to the streets, the groups aim to keep the spotlight on Kashmir and urge the international community to step in and press for the implementation of United Nations resolutions related to the dispute.

According to Kashmir

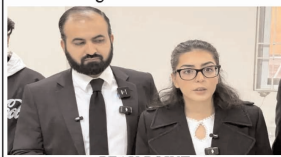
sweeping lockdown in the name of security across Jammu illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir ahead of India's Republic Day, marked by intensified searches, frisking, surveillance and the heavy deployment of armed forces, further disrupting normal life in the territory. The All Parties Hurriyat Conference

(APHC) has called for the observance of Black Day, which will be marked by a complete shutdown in occupied Jammu and Kashmir, along with anti-India demonstrations and rallies in Azad Kashmir, Pakistan and major world capitals.

A multi-layered security grid has been put in place across the occupied Valley, with large contingents of Indian police and central armed paramilitary forces deployed at sensitive locations, roads, markets and public spaces. Additional checkpoints have been erected, while residents and commuters are being subjected to repeated checking and frisking. Kashmir Inspector General of Police V. K. Birdi said that elaborate security arrangements have been finalised around Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar, where the main Republic Day function.

Lawyers stage protest outside IHC, observe strike after sentencing of Imaan and Hadi

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Lawyers staged a protest on Monday at the main gate of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) against the arrest and sentencing of lawyers Imaan Zainab Mazari-Hazir and her husband, Hadi Ali Chaththa, in the controversial social media posts case.

The protest was led by IHC Bar President Syed Wajid Ali Gilani.

Senior lawyer Babar Awan and a large number of advocates from the Islamabad Bar Council (IBC), High Court Bar and District Bar also participated in the protest. They carried banners reading "Justice for Lawyers" and raised slogans against the police.

Addressing the gathering, Awan said that "state and police terrorism".



SPORTS



Aqib Javed attributes Sri Lankan conditions behind Haris Rauf's non-selection



PEAK POINT LAHORE: PCB's Director High Performance, National Selector Aqib Javed has said that speedster Haris Rauf missed out on selection from the Sri Lanka bound 15-member T20 World Cup squad due to Sri Lankan pitch-conditions and not ability or form.

During a press conference to announce the 15-member squad at the media center of the Gaddafi Stadium here on Sunday, he said Haris Rauf has rendered excellent service to Pakistan in white-ball cricket over the years, adding that the nature of Sri Lankan conditions and pitches was taken into account, and these factors proved to be decisive in the selection.

To a query regarding Muhammad Rizwan's absence from the World Cup squad, the former fast-bowler said comparisons between ace-batter Babar Azam and wicket-keeper batter Mohammad Rizwan was unjustified, adding that team balance and strategy were preferred to individual comparisons in team selection.

Aqib Javed discussed in detail the thought process in the making of the Pakistan's 15-member squad for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 to be held jointly in India and Sri Lanka. Under the ICC's hybrid model, Pakistan will play all its matches in Sri Lanka. The national selector said modern T20 cricket requires a cohesive, and balanced batting unit.

On the question of preferring Babar Azam to Mohammad Rizwan, he clarified that choosing one player does not negate the other.

"Aqin said the selection committee has to look for combination which help improve the batting prowess of the team, adding that both captain and the head coach consider Babar Azam to be a very important player for the team.

"Selection of one player is not rejection of the other," he responded.

He further said the selection committee focuses on the strength of the entire team rather than individual names. "The selection committee takes into consideration which player can be more effective for the team in specific situations and conditions."

The role of wicketkeeping was also discussed on this occasion. White-ball head coach Mike Hesson was all praise for wicket-keeper batter Usman Khan for his recent performance and all-round abilities.

Skipper Salman Ali Agha backs Babar Azam ahead of T20 WC



PEAK POINT LAHORE: Pakistan's national T20 cricket team captain Salman Ali Agha has explained the reasoning behind including Babar Azam in the squad for the upcoming T20 World Cup. Speaking to the media after the squad announcement, Salman Ali Agha acknowledged that Babar Azam's recent record in the Big Bash League was not ideal. However, he stressed that Babar has consistently delivered strong performances for the national team, which justified his selection. The Pakistan captain also highlighted the advantage of playing matches in Sri Lanka, noting that it would benefit the team as they would not have to deal with extensive travel, unlike several other participating sides. Salman Ali Agha admitted that Pakistan's performances in recent tournaments have not been satisfactory and said the upcoming World Cup would be a challenging contest for the team. He further pointed out that high-scoring matches are unlikely in Sri Lankan conditions, adding that Pakistan will need to produce their best performance in every match to remain competitive in the tournament. 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.

Pakistan U19 begin Super Six preparations in Harare



PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD: Pakistan after qualifying for the Super Six stage of the ICC U19 Men's Cricket World Cup, took part in a training session at the Takashinga Cricket Club in Harare.

The players under the coaching staff led by head coach Shahid Anwar participated in scenario-based match practice, where batters and bowlers were assigned different targets to achieve, said a press release. The team will continue the training at the same venue on Monday before beginning their Super Six campaign on Tuesday. Pakistan will face New Zealand in their opening Super Six fixture on Tuesday, January 27, at the Harare Sports Club. Farhan Yousaf side will then take on India in their second and final Super Six match at the Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo on Sunday, February 1.

Pakistan finished second in Group 'C' after wins over Scotland (by six wickets) and Zimbabwe (by eight wickets), while they suffered a 37-run defeat against England. England topped the group by winning all three matches, while Zimbabwe finished third and also qualified for the Super Six stage.

Mansoor Amjad, current fielding coach and part of Pakistan U19 winning team in 2004 while talking to PCB Digital said, "Our fielding standards have been very encouraging. The number of catches taken, especially at crucial moments, reflects the hard work put in by the players. Alongside that, the players have saved valuable runs, which has made a significant difference for the team."

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan after qualifying for the Super Six stage of the ICC U19 Men's Cricket World Cup, took part in a training session at the Takashinga Cricket Club in Harare.

The players under the coaching staff led by head coach Shahid Anwar participated in scenario-based match practice, where batters and bowlers were assigned different targets to achieve, said a press release. The team will continue the training at the same venue on Monday before beginning their Super Six campaign on Tuesday. Pakistan will face New Zealand in their opening Super Six fixture on Tuesday, January 27, at the Harare Sports Club. Farhan Yousaf side will then take on India in their second and final Super Six match at the Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo on Sunday, February 1.

Pakistan finished second in Group 'C' after wins over Scotland (by six wickets) and Zimbabwe (by eight wickets), while they suffered a 37-run defeat against England. England topped the group by winning all three matches, while Zimbabwe finished third and also qualified for the Super Six stage.

Mansoor Amjad, current fielding coach and part of Pakistan U19 winning team in 2004 while talking to PCB Digital said, "Our fielding standards have been very encouraging. The number of catches taken, especially at crucial moments, reflects the hard work put in by the players. Alongside that, the players have saved valuable runs, which has made a significant difference for the team."



SARGODHA: Players undergo volleyball trials during the "Khetla Punjab Pind Games Trials" held at a sports gymnasium, organized by the Sports Department.

Islamabad Full Marathon concludes with Sher Khan, Salatant Sampina claiming top honors

PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD: Sher Khan clinched first place in the men's full marathon at the Islamabad Full Marathon held here on Sunday.

Israr Khattak finished second, while Sajjad Ahmed secured third position.

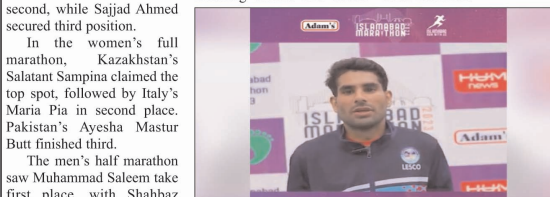
In the women's full marathon, Kazakhstan's Salatant Sampina claimed the top spot, followed by Italy's Maria Pia in second place. Pakistan's Ayesha Mastur Butt finished third.

The men's half marathon saw Muhammad Saleem take first place, with Shahbaz Mashif finishing second and Muhammad Irfan third.

In the women's half marathon, Pakistan's Sadia Maqbool won the race, while Elizabeth Heise of the United States claimed second position and Marta Shadilla of Spain finished third.

In the 10 kms men's race, Muhammad Riaz emerged victorious, followed by Atiqur Rahman in second place and Umar Zaman in third.

The women's 10 kms event was won by Mahnoor Afzal, with Ayesha Maryam finishing second and Tooba



The Islamabad Marathon featured five race categories, ensuring inclusivity for runners of all ages and skill levels 5km run, 10km run, Half Marathon (21.1 km), Full Marathon (42.2 km) and Kids' Fun Run.

The Marathon has grown into one of Pakistan's most prominent sporting events and is expected to attract over 6,000 participants, including male and female athletes from across Pakistan, Asia, Europe, North Africa, USA, Canada and other regions around the world.

Pakistani bowler Ayzaz ur Rehman won the Pak-China Friendship Ten Pin Bowling Championship

PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD: Pakistani bowler Ayzaz ur Rehman won the Pak-China Friendship Ten Pin Bowling Championship. In the final matches, Ayzaz ur Rehman secured first position with 217 points, while Afzal Akhtar finished second with 186 points and Daniyal Ejaz claimed third position with 172 points.

Haroon and Muhammad Hussain Chhatta secured fourth and fifth positions respectively. The opening ceremony of the championship was attended by Mustafa Hassan, Minister and Head of Mission of the Nigerian Embassy; Mr. Chen Peng, Counsellor at the Chinese Embassy; Shahid Islam, Deputy

Director General of the Pakistan Sports Board; Patron of the Pakistan Ten Pin Bowling Federation Muhammad Hassan Qureshi; Federation President Ejaz ur Rehman; General Secretary Colonel (R) Kamran Khalid Janjua; and Altif Hussain, President of the Pakistan Ten Pin Bowling Federation and Chairman of the Organizing Committee, Ejaz ur Rehman, presented the championship report. The Pak-China Friendship Ten Pin Bowling Championship began with a colorful opening ceremony in Islamabad, featuring performances by various artists and singers. The championship matches are being held at Laser City Bowling Club, Safa Gold Mall, F-7 Markaz, Islamabad. A total of 20 players each from Pakistan and China are participating in the event, while women's competitions are also underway.





Collaboration launched to promote cybersecurity research and capacity building

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) and the Pakistan National Cyber Emergency Response Team (PKCERT) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) today to formalize institutional collaboration in the field of cybersecurity. The MoU signing ceremony was attended by senior officials from both organizations, including Director General PKCERT, Mr. Haider Abbas.

Speaking at the ceremony, Ambassador Janhar Saleem, President of the Institute of Regional Studies, under-



scored that cybersecurity has emerged as a critical pillar of national security, affecting not only state institutions but also economic stability, governance, and societal resilience. He noted that the partnership reflects a shared understanding of the need for closer cooperation between

policy-oriented research institutions and technical organizations to effectively respond to evolving cyber threats. Ambassador Saleem highlighted IRS's commitment to advancing research, dialogue, and institutional partnerships to address emerging security challenges in cyberspace. In

his remarks, Mr. Haider Abbas, Director General PKCERT, stressed that there can be no national security without cybersecurity, noting that modern intelligence and threat landscapes have become increasingly sophisticated. He highlighted emerging cyber threats, including

cryptojacking, explaining that such attacks can operate even when devices appear inactive, silently exploiting system resources. He noted that PKCERT is actively responding to a wide range of evolving cyber threats through technical coordination and national-level incident

response. Mr. Abbas emphasized that the MoU represents a genuine and practical collaboration, stating that the partnership will focus on meaningful research initiatives while creating opportunities for university students to gain exposure to real-world cyber challenges and contribute to strengthening Pakistan's cyber ecosystem.

Under the MoU, both institutions will cooperate in areas including joint research, expert exchanges, training and capacity-building initiatives, internships, and cybersecurity awareness programs.

Parliament Flags irregularities in Pakistan Hockey elections, orders fresh scrutiny and oversight

NADEEM TANOLI

ISLAMABAD: Serious concerns over irregularities, lack of transparency, and possible misuse of authority in the election process of the Pakistan Hockey Federation dominated proceedings of a parliamentary committee, prompting lawmakers to question the credibility of club registrations, demand reopening of the election portal, and order strict scrutiny under government supervision. During a meeting of the Standing Committee on Inter Provincial Coordination at the National Assembly

Secretariat, members raised red flags over the election mechanism of the Pakistan Hockey Federation being conducted through the Pakistan Sports Board. The committee was informed that a joint scrutiny committee would be formed by the Sports Board and the Hockey Federation to examine club registrations, following revelations that no club from Islamabad qualified during the initial scrutiny phase. This disclosure triggered concerns over flawed registration criteria and exclusionary practices. Lawmakers questioned the ministry about

reported registration irregularities and the possibility of fake or non functional clubs influencing the electoral process. In response, officials assured the committee that no bogus clubs would be allowed and claimed that club-level championships had been initiated across districts to verify authenticity. The committee was told that around 1,100 clubs would undergo verification, and any grievances unresolved by the Hockey Federation within three days would be taken up directly by the Ministry of Inter Provincial

Coordination. Given the seriousness of the matter, the committee recommended reopening the Sports Board Election Commission's portal to ensure fair participation and transparency. Members also directed the ministry to submit a comprehensive report after completion of the scrutiny process, indicating that parliamentary oversight would continue until concerns were fully addressed. In another pointed intervention, the committee instructed the ministry to take action against individuals and groups allegedly conducting commercial activities on hockey grounds, terming it a

violation of the purpose of national sports facilities and a reflection of weak governance. To deepen scrutiny of sports governance and financial management, the committee constituted a sub committee under the mentorship of Dr. Mehreen Razzaq Bhutto, with Mr. Anjum Aqeel Khan and Mr. Khawaja Izzat Hassan as members. The sub committee has been tasked with reviewing the Pakistan Sports Board's performance over the last five financial years, including major achievements, development and non development fund-

ing, grants issued to beneficiary organizations, and unresolved audit objections along with reasons for their non-settlement. The developments signal growing parliamentary unease over the management of national sports bodies, particularly allegations of administrative lapses, financial opacity, and compromised electoral processes. Lawmakers stressed that credibility, transparency, and accountability must be restored to protect Pakistan's sports institutions from further decline.

Opinion & Editorial


Arif Mehmood Khan
Group Editor: 0333-5366814
Samra Athar Kakakhel
Resident Editor
Nadim Tanoli
Joint Editor: Mob-0301-777874
Email: editor.peakpoint@gmail.com
www.peakpoint.pk

A Natural Way to Fight High Blood Pressure : Exercise Plus Vitamin C



High blood pressure is often called the silent killer, and for good reason. It creeps into daily life quietly, without obvious symptoms, yet steadily damages the heart, brain, kidneys, and blood vessels. Millions of people wake up every day with hypertension, take their prescribed pills, and assume the problem is under control. But are we doing enough—or are we overlooking the simplest and most powerful tools already within our reach?

Modern medicine has undoubtedly saved lives, but the growing global dependence on drugs to manage hypertension has come at a cost. Long-term medication use can cause side effects, financial strain, and a false sense of security that discourages healthier lifestyles. In many low- and middle-income countries, including Pakistan, these challenges are even more pronounced. Against this backdrop, new scientific evidence offers a timely reminder: exercise and nutrition still matter profoundly.

A recent study has provided compelling evidence that combining regular aerobic exercise with vitamin C can significantly reduce high blood pressure while also repairing the internal damage caused by the disease. While the findings come from controlled laboratory research, their implications extend far beyond the lab. They speak directly to how we, as individuals and societies, should

rethink the way we fight hypertension.

What makes this research particularly important is not just its outcome, but its message. Exercise alone helped lower blood pressure. Vitamin C alone helped too. But together, they worked better than either approach on its own. This synergy is not accidental; it reflects how the human body is designed to heal best when multiple systems are supported at the same time.

Hypertension is not merely a numbers problem on a blood pressure monitor. It is a condition driven by inflammation, oxidative stress, hormonal imbalance, and damage to blood vessels and even the gut. The study showed that exercise and vitamin C together reduced stress hormones, lowered inflammation, improved cholesterol balance, and strengthened the intestinal lining an often-ignored player in heart health. This holistic improvement matters because treating hypertension without addressing its root causes is like fixing a leaking roof without repairing the foundation.

Regular aerobic exercise, even at low intensity, sends a powerful signal to the body. It relaxes blood vessels, improves blood flow, and reduces the overactivity of stress hormones that push blood pressure higher. It also combats obesity, a major driver of hypertension, and improves mental well-being. Yet despite overwhelming evidence, physical activity remains one of the most neglected prescriptions in modern healthcare. Doctors recommend it, but systems rarely support it, and patients are seldom guided on how to incorporate it realistically into daily life.

Vitamin C, on the other hand,

represents the nutritional side of the same equation. Found abundantly in fruits and vegetables, it is one of the body's most effective antioxidants. Oxidative stress essentially internal "rusting" plays a major role in hypertension by damaging blood vessels and reducing nitric oxide, a molecule crucial for vessel relaxation. Vitamin C helps neutralize this damage, restore balance, and protect tissues. Its role is simple, affordable, and accessible, yet it is often overshadowed by supplements promising far more than they deliver.

The combined effect of exercise and vitamin C sends a clear message: hypertension is not only a medical condition; it is a lifestyle condition. Pills may control symptoms, but lifestyle choices determine outcomes. This does not mean medication should be abandoned far from it. But it does mean that medication alone is not enough.

From a public health perspective, this research raises uncomfortable questions. Why do healthcare systems invest billions in treatment but so little in prevention? Why are cities designed for cars rather than walking? Why is fresh produce still more expensive than processed food in many communities? If we are serious about reducing the burden of hypertension, these questions can no longer be ignored.

There is also a personal responsibility angle that cannot be dismissed. It is easy to blame genetics, stress, or aging, but evidence increasingly shows that daily habits matter deeply. A brisk walk, consistency in movement, and a diet rich in fruits and vegetables may not sound revolutionary but their impact is. The

study reinforces what many health experts have long argued: small, sustained lifestyle changes can outperform complex medical interventions over time.

Critics may argue that laboratory findings cannot be directly applied to humans. That caution is valid. However, the biological mechanisms observed reduced inflammation, improved antioxidant defenses, lower stress hormones are the same mechanisms known to influence human hypertension. This research does not contradict existing medical advice; it strengthens it with deeper biological insight.

The real danger lies not in overinterpreting the findings, but in ignoring them. As hypertension rates climb year after year, continuing with a treatment-only mindset is both costly and ineffective. Exercise and nutrition are not "alternative" therapies they are foundational ones.

In the end, the lesson is simple but powerful. High blood pressure cannot be defeated by pills alone. It requires movement, balance, and respect for how the body functions as a whole. Exercise and vitamin C are not miracle cures, but together they form a practical, affordable, and scientifically supported strategy that deserves far more attention. Perhaps it is time we stop asking only "Which medicine should I take?" and start asking a better question: "What can I do every day to help my body heal itself?"

Reference to original article published in reputable science journal: <https://www.mdpi.com/2072-6643/18/1/153>
Author : Sheraz Ahmad (PHD Scholar- Department of Physiology, UVAS, Lahore)

Danish envoy, climate minister discuss science diplomacy, cooperation



PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: Danish Ambassador to Pakistan Maja Mortensen on Monday called on Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr Musadik Malik and discussed science diplomacy, climate cooperation and evolving global political challenges.

According to an official statement, the two sides held an in-depth exchange of views on the role of science diplomacy in the current international political landscape and the need for stronger collaboration on climate action.

Dr Malik underscored that countries of the Global South were bearing a disproportionate burden of climate change despite contributing far less to global emissions.

He pointed out that nearly 70 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions originate from just ten countries, which also receive around 85pc of global green financing.

The minister appreciated the Nordic countries' strong social welfare systems and progressive environmental policies, and said Pakistan was keen to learn from their experience.

He also briefed the ambassador on Pakistan's plan to establish a Green University aimed at promoting climate-focused research, as well as initiating joint research projects and student and faculty exchange programmes with leading international universities.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening bilateral cooperation, particularly in the areas of climate action and science diplomacy.

Gilani urges philanthropists to partner with govt to eradicate poverty

PEAK POINT
MILTAN: Senate Chairman Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani on Monday called upon philanthropists and civil society organisations to strengthen government efforts aimed at eradicating poverty, stressing that the state alone cannot overcome the challenge.

Addressing an event titled "PPAF's Community Infrastructure and Economic Empowerment Initiatives in Punjab," Gilani said meaningful progress in poverty alleviation required collective action and public-private partnership.

He urged civil society and philanthropists to actively support government initiatives for the welfare of the underprivileged segments of society. He lauded the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) and its 63 partner organisations for their significant contributions, including the provision of interest-free loans and investments in health and education sectors. Gilani also acknowledged the efforts of Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Syed Imran Ahmed Shah,

describing his role as crucial in mitigating poverty across the country.

Recalling his tenure as prime minister, Gilani said he had launched the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) to support the poor and vulnerable families. He highlighted that women were declared heads of households under the programme to empower them economically and socially.

The Senate chairman praised PPAF's teamwork and expressed satisfaction over its services nationwide. Referring to the displacement of around 2.5 million people during security operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa under a previous PPP government, he said the internally displaced persons were successfully rehabilitated within 90 days, calling it an unprecedented achievement.

Gilani said that during the global recession, his government focused on strengthening agriculture, the backbone of Pakistan's economy, which resulted in bumper crops and exports of wheat, sugar, rice and cotton.



Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani and CEO PPAF Nadir Gul Barech press the button to inaugurate the PPAF-SUPP Community Physical Infrastructure Scheme in Punjab during a ceremony held in Multan.

Islamabad Opens a New Chapter of Global Tourism

A two-day celebration uniting adventure, culture, family entertainment and economic vision, redefining Pakistan's tourism narrative

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: Islamabad is poised to emerge as a new focal point on the global tourism map as it hosts the Pakistan Tourism, Sports & Family Festival 2026, a landmark two-day event designed to project Pakistan's true, dynamic and welcoming identity to the world. The festival will bring together tourism promotion, adventure sports, cultural expression and family-focused entertainment in the heart of the capital and will be open to the general public. One of the festival's most striking features will be parading demonstrations descending from the Margalla Hills, complemented by visually captivating hot air balloon displays, transforming Islamabad's skyline into a symbol of adventure tourism. Alongside these attractions, a carefully curated mix of sports, culture and leisure activities positions the festival as a comprehensive showcase of Pakistan's untapped tourism potential. Special emphasis has been placed on religious tourism and medical tourism, with dedicated pro-



motion zones and information stalls highlighting Pakistan's capacity as a destination for faith-based travel and quality healthcare services. Provincial and Kalasha cultural performances will further reinforce the country's rich cultural diversity and heritage. Sports and public participation form a central pillar of the festival. A marathon and cycling events will be organized as part of the celebrations, each offering cash prizes of up to PKR 100,000, encouraging broad public engagement and promoting a healthy, active lifestyle. Adventure activities such as rock climbing will also add to the festival's dynamic character. Families remain at the core of the festival's vision. A fully developed Family Arena, interactive children's activities, a nationwide food festival showcasing regional cuisines, and arts, crafts, gems and jewellery exhibitions will offer a complete and immersive experience for visitors of all ages. Live painting and photography exhibitions will further enrich the cultural landscape. The festival carries strong international engagement, with ambassadors expected to participate. As part of a cultural diplomacy initiative, foreign diplomats will be taken on a guided sightseeing tour of Islamabad aboard a double-decker bus, offering them firsthand exposure to the capital's beauty, planning and heritage.

Punjab unveils Rs47bn Ramazan Nigebhan relief package

PEAK POINT
LAHORE: The Punjab government has finalised a massive Rs47 billion relief package for the holy month of Ramazan to provide financial and food assistance to millions of deserving families across the province.

Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif approved the "Ramazan Nigebhan Package," under which 4.2 million low-income families — benefiting nearly 10 million people — will receive Rs10,000 each to help meet essential needs during the holy month.

Chairing a high-level meeting on advance Ramazan arrangements and public relief, the chief minister said no mother, father, labourer or white-collar family in Punjab would be left alone during Ramazan. She stressed that the initiative was an act of worship,



not politics.

Under the package, the Punjab government will issue Ramazan Nigebhan Cards to deserving families. The cards will enable beneficiaries to withdraw cash through Bank of Punjab branchless banking agents, One Link ATMs and designated vendors, as well as purchase essential items. District administrations will distribute the cards through door-to-door visits. A total of 136 activation centres have been established across the province, while cards can also be activated at Bank of Punjab ATMs.

Naqvi inaugurates advanced real-time passport monitoring system 'Shukra'

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the Directorate General of Immigration and Passports on Monday, where he formally inaugurated Shukra, a state-of-the-art monitoring system designed to track passport applications, printing, and departmental performance in real time.

As part of the upgrade, a 24/7 Monitoring Room and a Call Centre have been made operational at the DG Immigration and Passports. On the minister's directives, the system for issuing Emergency Travel Documents has also been fully digitized.

Officials briefed Minister Naqvi in detail on the new Secure Hybrid Intelligence for



Knowledge-Based Response Analytics (Shukra) system.

Mohsin Naqvi praised the performance of the DG Immigration and Passports and his team for introducing a modern, technology-driven monitoring network. He said Pakistan's passport system has now been aligned with those of the world's leading countries.

"With this new system, real-time monitoring of passport applications and deliveries—both within Pakistan.

World must establish a Board of Peace for Kashmir now: Mushaal Mullick

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: Mushaal Hussein Mullick, wife of jailed Kashmiri leader Yasin Malik, strongly criticized India's celebration of Republic Day, declaring it a "Black Day" for the people of Kashmir, and appealed to the international community, U.S. President Donald Trump, and a proposed global "Board of Peace" to take urgent steps for Kashmir's inclusion on the global peace agenda and for her husband's release as a goodwill gesture.

She said that while India claims to be the world's largest democracy, Kashmir remains a land of prisons, chains, and



denied rights, where the Kashmiri people's democratic demand for freedom is crushed daily by Indian forces.

In an exclusive interview with APP, Mushaal Mullick said January 26 symbolized pain and injustice for Kashmiris rather than democracy. "Where democracy should exist, there are jails; where justice should prevail.