



KP govt harps on baseless narrative on Tirrah migration: Atta Tarar



Pakistan to observe Kashmir Solidarity Day on Feb 5 with full zeal: Amir Muqam



Pakistan, Australia discuss cooperation in mining, gemstones

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PM meets Myanmar's foreign minister, underscores expanding bilateral cooperation

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, U Than Swe, who is on an official visit to Pakistan, paid a courtesy call on the Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday.

Welcoming the visiting dignitary and reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening its longstanding relations with Myanmar, the prime minister underscored the importance of expanding cooperation in trade and economic engagement, education, culture, capacity-building, and people-to-people exchanges, a Prime Minister's Office news release said.

PM meets Myanmar's foreign minister,

underscores expanding bilateral cooperation

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif particularly appreciated Myanmar's cooperation in combating trafficking and its support for Pakistan's engagement with ASEAN.

The Myanmar Foreign Minister thanked the Prime Minister for the warm welcome accorded to him and his delegation. He conveyed the greetings and good wishes from Myanmar's leadership and expressed Myanmar's desire to expand its ties with Pakistan in areas of mutual interest.

The Myanmar side also thanked the prime minister for Pakistan's timely support to Myanmar, following the catastrophic earthquake on March 28, 2025.



ISLAMABAD: The Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, H.E U Than Swe called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Sindh cabinet approves Rs10 million compensation for each Gul Plaza victim

PEAK POINT



KARACHI: The Sindh cabinet expressed sorrow over the Gul Plaza tragedy and approved a comprehensive compensation and relief package for the victims, while forming a sub-committee to review the inquiry report into the incident, on Tuesday. The sub-committee, headed by Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah, includes provincial ministers Sharjeel Inam Memon, Nasir Hussain Shah, Saeed Ghani and Ziaul-Hassan Lanjar. The committee will examine the findings of an inquiry committee led by the Karachi commissioner. After examining the Gul Plaza tragedy inquiry report the committee will decide on further action. Murad Ali Shah said that affected traders will be given Rs 500,000 for a period of two months. He added that alternative shops will also be provided to them within two months. The families of those who lost their loved ones in the incident will be given Rs 10 million each. The cabinet also approved the provision of interest-free loans of Rs100 million to each affected shopkeeper to help them restart their businesses. The Sindh government will bear the interest cost on the loans.

'No Army operation underway in Tirah Valley': Khawaja Asif dismisses displacement crisis claims

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has said that displacement in the Tirah Valley is a routine matter and accused the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government of attempting to shift blame onto the military.

Addressing a press conference in the federal capital alongside Federal Minister Atta Tarar and Ikhtiar Wali Khan, Khawaja Asif said a notification was issued by the provincial government following consultations with a jirga.

He stated that the provincial government has allocated Rs4 bil-

lion for those affected by displacement, but the region is a normal occurrence. He further



alleged that the interests of the provincial government are linked with the TTP. Criticising the provincial government's performance, Khawaja Asif said there are no hospitals, schools, or police stations in the area, and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government is placing the entire blame for its failures on the military.

DPM/FM Dar, Chinese Amb exchange views on regional, global developments

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister / Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Ambassador of China to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong, Tuesday, discussed bilateral issues of mutual interest and exchanged views on evolving regional and international developments. During a meeting at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the DPM/FM underscored importance of sustaining momentum of high-level exchanges and further strengthening. Pak-China bilateral cooperation, the Foreign Office.

WB urges tax reforms, environmental measures to boost Pakistan's revenue

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The World Bank has released a report on development in South Asia, emphasizing the need to improve Pakistan's tax system and expand the tax base. The report also suggests discouraging pollution as a way to increase revenue. According to the World Bank, groundwater levels in South Asia are rapidly declining, and Pakistan is among the world's most water-scarce countries. Poor irrigation systems and inefficient agricultural practices are leading to significant water wastage.

PTI says Imran suffering from ailment that could permanently damage his eyesight if not treated promptly

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The PTI on Tuesday again raised concerns about the health of incarcerated party founder Imran Khan, saying it had learned through credible reports that the ex-premier was suffering from an ailment that could cause permanent damage to his eyesight if not treated promptly. In a statement released on the social media platform X, the party demanded that Imran be allowed an "unrestricted meeting" with his family and associates. It also demanded that he be allowed medical treatment at a hospital of his own choice.

The statement said the party had learnt through credible media reports that Imran had been diagnosed with central retinal vein occlusion in his right eye,

"resulting in a dangerous blockage in the retinal the jail, while the attending specialist doctor has clearly



stated that such treatment is not possible in jail and that it requires an operation theatre and specialized medical facilities," the party said, adding that this "reckless attitude" put Imran's vision and his overall health in grave danger. It said that Imran was last granted access to his personal physician in October 2024, who had not been allowed to examine him since then, despite

order issued by the Islamabad High Court.

"This is a blatant violation of court orders and a gross breach of fundamental human rights. Moreover, a petition regarding Imran Khan's regular medical check-ups has been pending since August 2025, which is being deliberately ignored. The government's conduct clearly demonstrates that, in its obsession with political vendetta, it is willing to gamble with the life and health of a prisoner," the party said.

It demanded that Imran be immediately allowed an unrestricted meeting with his family and close associates so that the "public may be reassured about his condition". "We also demand that he be allowed without delay to Shaukat Khanum Hospital.

Trump says Iran wants talks as US aircraft carrier deploys

PEAK POINT



WASHINGTON: A US naval strike force led by an aircraft carrier was in Middle Eastern waters on Tuesday as Iran vowed to hit back against any strike and President Donald Trump said he believed the Islamic republic still wanted talks. Washington has not ruled out new military intervention against Tehran over its crackdown on protests, which saw over 3,000 killed within days, according to Iranian media. A strike group led by the USS Abraham Lincoln has now arrived in Middle Eastern waters, US Central Command said, without revealing its precise location. Since Iran earlier this month launched the crackdown on protests accompanied by a blanket internet blackout, Trump has given mixed signals on intervention.



SPORTS



Players reject fraud claims, Pakistan Cricket Board seeks clarity



PEAK POINT
LAHORE: Several current and former Pakistan cricketers fell victim to a multi-million-rupee investment fraud allegedly linked to a businessman associated with Pakistan Super League (PSL) sponsorship circles, sparking intense debate across sports and media platforms. However, players and officials are now clarifying the situation, insisting that there is no confirmed case of fraud at this stage and that the matter remains an active investment dispute rather than a proven scam.

Reports initially claimed that top stars, including Babar Azam,

Shaheen Shah Afridi, Mohammad Rizwan, former captain Inzamam-ul-Haq, Salman Ali Agha and others, had lost hundreds of millions after investing in a high-yield scheme that later stopped payments and allegedly disappeared. Some even linked the individual to PSL franchise sponsorships, raising questions about how deeply the situation was connected to cricket's commercial ecosystem.

However, those narratives appear premature. Several affected players issued joint clarification, saying that they had indeed made formal investments in the company, but have not experienced

definitive fraud. They confirmed that the company remains in regular contact and has assured them that all outstanding payments and profits will be settled by March 2026. Players acknowledged that two of the company's cheques did bounce, but they maintained that this alone does not qualify as fraud.

The investors, who include both current internationals and notable former players, emphasised that the decision to invest was voluntary, and that early profitable returns encouraged further commitment. They also underlined that no formal complaints

have yet been filed with law enforcement or the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).

Amid swirling speculation, PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi personally contacted the cricketers to understand the situation and offer support. According to sources close to the development, the players informed him that there is currently no serious issue, and reassured him that the investment company's owner, said to be based in Dubai, is in active communication with them. The players also pledged to report any further developments directly to the PCB.

PSL 11 player auction: Gold, Silver and Emerging categories finalised



LAHORE: The Pakistan Super League has finalised player categories for the PSL 11 auction, with renewals confirmed across the Gold, Silver and Emerging tiers as preparations for the next season move forward.

According to official details, a total of 33 local players have been placed in the Gold category for either retention or auction, while 16 domestic players have been listed under the Silver category.

In the Emerging category, 14 players have been marked for possible retention or release ahead of the auction process.

The Silver category features several players from across franchises. Multan Sultans' Yasir Khan, Aamer Barki, Mohammad Junaid, Humayun Altaf, Ali Imran and Ubaid Shah have all been placed in the Silver tier. Lahore Qalandars are represented by Mohammad Akhlaq, Mohammad Naeem and Azib, while Islamabad United's Mohammad Faiz and Hanan Shah are also included in the same category. Further additions to the Silver category include Peshawar Zalmi's Arif Yaqoob and Mehran Mumtaz, Karachi Kings' Mirza Mamoon, and Quetta Gladiators' Ali Majid, completing the list of 16 players placed in this tier.

Scotland hand surprise T20 World Cup entry as Bangladesh withdraws amid tensions



PEAK POINT
DUBAI: Scotland has been granted a last-minute place in the T20 World Cup, stepping in for Bangladesh after recent tensions disrupted the latter's participation, triggering mixed reactions across the cricketing world.

Cricket Scotland Chief Executive

Trudy Lindeled said one wants to be part of the opportunity of a World Cup," she said. Lindeled comes under difficult circumstances and acknowledged that expressed solidarity with Bangladesh. "This is far from an ideal situation. We're working day and night to prepare for our opening match on February 7, but our thoughts are with the Bangladesh team. These are extraordinary circumstances for us,

and we fully understand the disappointment felt by Bangladeshi players," she noted.

Despite divided public opinion over Scotland's sudden inclusion, Lindeled stressed that the invitation was official and could not be declined.

Scotland had earlier missed out on qualification after losses to Italy and Jersey in the European Regional Final last July. However, following escalating tensions between India and Bangladesh, Scotland has now been drafted into the tournament as Bangladesh's replacement, an unexpected twist just weeks before the global showdown.

Shadab optimistic about Pakistan's T20 World Cup readiness



Anger as branch of ICE to help with security at Winter Olympics

PEAK POINT
MILANO CORTINA: Reports had been circulating for days that the agency embroiled in an often brutal immigration crackdown in the United States could be involved in US security measures for the February 6-22 Games in northern Italy.

In a statement overnight to AFP, ICE said: "At the Olympics, ICE's Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) is supporting the US Department of State's Diplomatic Security Service and host nation to vet and mitigate risks from transnational criminal organisations.

"All security operations remain under Italian authority." It's not known whether the HSI has in the past been involved in the Olympics, or whether this is a first.

According to the ICE website, the HSI investigates global threats, investi-

gating the illegal movement of people, goods, money, contraband, weapons and sensitive technology into, out of, and through the United States. ICE made clear its operations in Italy were separate from the

State Department's Diplomatic Security Service. Yet the outrage over ICE immigration operations in the United States is shared among many in Italy, following the deaths of two civilians during an immi-



gration crackdown, which is being carried out by the Enforcement and Removal Operations department. "Obviously, ICE does not conduct immigration enforcement operations in foreign countries," it said.

The protection of US citizens during Olympic Games overseas is led by the



FAISALABAD: Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Kanwal Ameen (T.I), GCWUF, plays the shot to inaugurate the Annual Sports Festival at the Sports Ground of Government College Women University Faisalabad (GCWUF).



Speakers eulogize Ahmed Salim's intellectual resistance, call for digitization of his archives

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Sustainable Development Policy Institute commemorated the 81st birth anniversary of renowned scholar, poet and archivist late Ahmed Salim, who had devoted his life to literary writings, archives, democratic values and intellectual resistance. In his keynote address, former Senator Farhatullah Babar said Ahmed Salim is a national asset, who authored over 150 books and generously shared knowledge. He

recalled Salim's association with the Communist Party, his detentions, and his role in reviewing the Pakistan People's Party's 2018 manifesto from a human rights and sustainable development perspective. Mr Babar said Salim's work on Partition highlighted inter-communal solidarity often missing from official narratives and called for revisiting the history of progressive movements in Pakistan. He appreciated SDPI's initiative to digitize



Salim's archives for public access. SDPI Executive Director Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri said Ahmed Salim shared a close association with SDPI, which had established a dedicated Ahmed Salim

Research Room at the Institute in his honour. He said Ahmed Salim consistently advocated sustainable development, freedom of expression, access to information, social liberty and freedom of thought. Ahmed

Salim's major contribution included the establishment of South Asian Research and Resource Centre, Dr Suleri said, adding that SDPI had resolved to digitize his vast archives to make them accessible to future generations. A special documentary, Khali Kursi (Empty Chair), was also screened as a tribute.

Poet and literary critic Munir Fiaz described Ahmed Salim as a personality of great depth and multiple dimensions. He said Salim's Punjabi

poetry reflected a rebellious and revolutionary spirit, marked by command over surrealistic techniques, while his poetry challenged the conventional structure of Punjabi literary expression through a distinct diction and form. Dr Manzoor Veesrio of the National Institute of Pakistan Studies recalled Salim as a regular participant in the Indus Cultural Festival and a humble, saintly individual with a multidimensional personality as a writer.

Missing child case, katcha crime, and gun licensing rock senate committee

NADEEM TANOLI

ISLAMABAD: Serious failures in law enforcement, unresolved cases of child disappearance, ransom related crime, and the revelation that tens of thousands of arms licenses were issued to non tax filers dominated a tense meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Interior and Narcotics Control, where lawmakers sharply questioned the performance and accountability of police and federal institutions and demanded urgent corrective action. The committee took up the long unresolved case of a missing minor from Sindh and the related death of another child, drawing strong criticism over the lack of results despite years of investigation. The Inspector General of Sindh Police admitted that the girl

remains untraced, even after the formation of joint investigation teams, interrogation of more than a thousand suspects, extensive forensic testing, and nationwide awareness campaigns. It was disclosed that investigators suspect the child may have been sold by an organised criminal network operating across provinces, exposing serious gaps in child protection and inter provincial law enforcement coordination. Committee members expressed frustration that, despite rewards, federal involvement, and years of investigation, no closure has been achieved, and directed the police to submit mandatory progress reports, warning that a fresh investigation team may be constituted if delays persist. Lawmakers also challenged police handling of

kidnapping for ransom cases, particularly incidents originating from riverine Katcha areas. In one case involving residents of Islamabad abducted in Sindh, police confirmed that a large ransom was paid and later recovered, local facilitators were arrested, yet the case was eventually cancelled. Committee members questioned how repeated serious crimes continue to originate from Katcha regions, calling for accountability and even large-scale operations involving armed forces. The police acknowledged operational failures in the area, citing difficult terrain and limited permanent presence, while assuring the committee that measures such as drone surveillance and access restrictions were now in place. Another major controver-

sy emerged over arms licensing, after officials disclosed that more than 32,000 arms licenses had been issued to individuals who were not tax filers. Terming this a grave failure of governance and a public safety risk, the committee ordered the immediate suspension of licenses issued to non taxpayers, directed that no new licenses be issued without proof of tax compliance, and demanded a clear implementation timeline. The chairman stressed that firearm ownership cannot be detached from financial accountability and state oversight. Concerns were also raised over the performance of federal investigative bodies, after it was revealed that a large volume of public complaints, including cases involving parliamentarians, remain

unresolved. The committee expressed alarm over the low resolution rate and demanded province wise data on registered, resolved, and pending cases, questioning whether understaffing alone could justify the scale of backlog. Beyond law enforcement, the committee examined controversial governance gaps in the capital, deferring multiple agenda items linked to the Capital Development Authority due to the repeated absence of its chairman. Members expressed serious concern over unchecked encroachments, unregistered housing societies, violations of green belts, and lack of transparency in urban planning, directing that detailed briefings be presented without further delay. On the legislative front,

the committee deferred discussion on proposed laws governing the Islamabad Metro Bus Service, honour killing prevention, and food safety, citing the need for broader stakeholder input and technical review. However, members strongly criticized informal justice mechanisms such as jirgas and alternative dispute councils, warning that parallel systems continue to enable violence and undermine the rule of law. The committee also reviewed proposals to regulate tinted vehicle glasses, linking enforcement to surveillance systems while cautioning against premature penalties without a clear policy framework. Members emphasized that public safety, women's security, and transparency must guide any final decision.

Opinion & Editorial

Starring roles

ARIFA NOOR

THE young chief minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sohail Afridi, is attracting considerable attention, since he has been catapulted into this position.

Much of it has been because of the criticism directed at him by those at the centre, in Islamabad and beyond. It turned him from an unknown face into an equal of sorts, thanks to the very people who targeted him. But, along with this, his own decisions to reach out to the people have also got him attention.

Since his ascension to the post of chief minister, he has travelled to Lahore and Karachi in a bid to mobilise people. And while he did not prove very successful in Lahore, in Karachi and Hyderabad he drew impressive crowds for someone whose name was barely known to people outside the party a few months ago. In Lahore, while the people were few, he still managed to create enough of a spectacle thanks to the antics of the government there. Before that, in Islamabad, he made surprise visits to markets to mingle with those out and about.

In some ways, his outreach to the people is striking in this environment in which few are making the effort to do politics. The parties in power are far too busy roaming in byzantine corridors, enjoying their plush surroundings, and few of those

outside in the cold are relevant enough to matter. And while PTI continues to tread around, eternally confused, Afridi has ignored the noise around him and walked his own path.

For instance, soon after he became chief minister, he spent some time in Islamabad, meeting groups of journalists, from anchors to bureau chiefs to reporters. And while little of his interactions were reported on mainstream media, what he said dominated YouTube channels and casual conversations in the capital. His point of view and that of the KP government soon became familiar to hacks in Islamabad. It was quite an effective communication strategy.

For a young politician and a relatively unknown one, Afridi has a way with people.

This was then followed by the trips to other provincial capitals to kick-start what he and his colleagues call a 'street movement'.

In some ways, his approach also contrasts with the approach of his predecessor, a more traditional politician, who too addressed jalsas and rallies till the Nov 26 event in Islamabad. However, for Ali Amin Gandapur, the rallies never appeared to be more than a sideshow as, from all accounts, he thought Imran Khan's release would be a result of negotiations he was carrying out away from the limelight.

Afridi, on the other hand, is focusing on the people; it

could be argued that he doesn't have the contacts to try and carry out negotiations. Be that as it may, it is still obvious that for a young politician and a relatively unknown one, he has a way with people. The ability to go out in the crowds and get them enthused is something that hasn't been practised by many outside of the few leaders right at the top. Other than party heads, most politicians tend to stick to their constituency and rarely look beyond. But it also has to be said that Afridi can do this because of circumstances peculiar to the PTI.

The party's main leader, Imran Khan, is behind bars. Few of its senior politicians are still around and free; and beyond them, there is no clear hierarchy within the party. In addition, the family is also not in a position to lead the party publicly, because of Khan's own assertions that his relatives will not get involved in the PTI, even if they are now always followed. This means the chief minister of KP (the only province where the party is in power) becomes a first among equals. Gandapur also enjoyed this legitimacy and so does Afridi now.

And this gives him an edge. It allows him to lead interactions with the press and the public. Even though he is always surrounded by his young Turks while at a rally, or during an interaction in a room, he is the chief minister, and few forget this.

Courtesy Dawn

Imam Ali and the courage to be just

Syed Jalal Hussain

THERE are lives that gather reverence, and others that carry consequence. The life of Imam Ali (AS) bore both, as a lifetime unfolded, cultivating spirituality and wisdom in the face of power. From the beginning, his presence unsettled hierarchies. Faith entered his life as a choice. Justice entered as responsibility. To commemorate the wiladat of Imam Ali is to remember a man who stood at the heart of faith and carried its full gravity.

He lived beside revelation and watched a civilisation take shape. He carried the sword, the law, and the burden of leadership. His life unfolded as a sustained moral trial, where clarity demanded endurance and authority demanded humility. Justice, as he lived it, carried cost.

From his earliest years, Imam Ali stood where truth demanded courage. As a young man, he slept in the Prophet's (PBUH) bed on the night of the Hijrah, fully aware that assassins waited outside. That moment set the rhythm of his life. Justice appeared first as loyalty. Power came later. Presence preceded authority.

When power eventually came to him, it arrived amid fracture and unrest. His caliphate began in a time of deep division, when political expediency beckoned from every direction. Imam Ali chose repair through principle. He treated the public treasury as a trust rather than a prize. Wealth taken unjustly returned to its rightful place. Privileges granted through favouritism were revoked. Supporters who gathered in hope of advantage drifted away when justice demanded sacrifice. He remained anchored. Authority, in his vision, carried weight only when guided by conscience and humility. Perhaps nowhere is Imam Ali's vision clearer than in his letter to Malik al Ashtar, written upon appointing him governor of Egypt. He urges mercy over arrogance and reminds the ruler that people stand as equals in creation or brothers in faith.

Courtesy Tribune

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Overstayed welcome

IT is about time the three gentlemen took their leave. The five-year terms of the chief election commissioner and the two members of the Election Commission of Pakistan representing Sindh and Balochistan expired on Jan 26 last year, yet the trio continue to serve well beyond their constitutionally mandated terms. This indefinite extension in their tenures, secured through a controversial constitutional amendment, has served no tangible national good. It has, instead, become a symptom of the deep, institutional rot in Pakistani democracy. However, with the recent appointment of a new opposition leader in the National Assembly, who is not only a stalwart of Pakistani politics but could also prove a much more reasonable counterpart for this government, there is an opportunity to start the process afresh. It could prove a test case for a fresh start between the government and the opposition. It is most unfortunate that no substantive progress has been made in filling these important constitutional posts in the year since a reshuffle became due. While the Constitution envisaged fresh appointments within 45 days of a vacancy arising, this government, perhaps anticipating difficulties dealing with a PTI loyalist as opposition leader, had introduced a provision in the 26th Amendment allowing incumbents to continue in office till their successors were appointed.

In meeting with UAE minister, President Zardari lauds country's vision of tolerance



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday lauded the United Arab Emirates' (UAE) vision of tolerance, saying the Gulf country had positioned itself as a "leading global example of harmony among diverse communities". The president, who is currently undertaking a four-day official visit to the Gulf country, made the remarks during a meeting with UAE Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence Sheikh Nahyan bin

Mubarak Al Nahyan in Abu Dhabi, according to a statement by the President's Secretariat.

In a meeting with UAE minister Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, President Zardari paid tribute to the visionary leadership of UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, said the statement.

"The meeting underscored the importance of promoting dialogue, inclusivity, and peaceful coexistence," the handout said.

It said the president paid tribute to

the visionary leadership of the Emirati president and "lauded the UAE's national vision of tolerance and human fraternity, noting that it has positioned the country as a leading global example of harmony among diverse communities".

"He appreciated the UAE's success in fostering unity and mutual respect among over 200 nationalities as a compelling model of social cohesion," it added.

President Zardari noted that "these values strongly resonate with Pakistan's own commitment to inter-faith harmony, social inclusion, and respect for cultural and religious diversity, as enshrined in its Constitution and societal traditions".

First Lady Bibi Aseefa Bhutto-Zardari, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, and Pakistan's Ambassador to the UAE were also present on the occasion, according to the statement.

KP govt harps on baseless narrative on Tirrah migration: Atta Tarar

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Tuesday said the migration of tribes from District Khyber during the winter is a historical norm, rejecting the "baseless narrative" peddled by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government spokesperson.

Addressing a press conference alongside Defense Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif and the Prime Minister's Coordinator for Information, Iktiar Wali, the minister emphasized that the Afridi and Aka Khel tribes have a unique lifestyle, migrating from Tirah in winter and returning in summer. Tarar noted that history bears witness to this seasonal migration, citing Edward A. Murphy's 1899 book, The Khyber, which references an official gazetteer from 1880. He

pointed out that this historical record explicitly documents the tribes' habitual winter migration, describing it as an established reality recognized in international literature.

Responding to questions about the timing of the current movement, the minister explained that while winter traditionally began in October, climate change has significantly shifted seasonal cycles. He remarked that snowfall, which historically occurred in November, is now delayed until late January.

Pakistan, Australia discuss cooperation in mining, gemstones

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Australia on Tuesday discussed avenues for enhanced bilateral cooperation in the mining and gemstone sectors. During a meeting with Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan Timothy Kane, Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik welcomed the strong interest shown by Australian companies in Pakistan's mining sector and highlighted the country's vast untapped mineral potential, particularly in the Tethyan Belt. The minister proposed the possibility of an inter-governmental agreement between Pakistan and Australia to promote structured and long-term cooperation in the mining sector. The minister also underscored the government's efforts to develop and formalise the gemstones sector, stressing its potential for value addition, export growth and employment generation.

The Australian high commissioner said Australian companies were already actively involved in the Reko Diq project, while additional firms had shown keen interest in joining the venture.

He added that Australian companies would be encouraged to participate in the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum, expressing hope for a strong Australian presence at the event.

Highlighting the growing global importance of copper and gold for the energy transition, the high commissioner said that Pakistan's mining sector had attracted significant international attention.

He expressed optimism about collaboration in the gemstones sector through knowledge-sharing, training and technical assistance. The federal minister appreciated Australia's willingness to support Pakistan in efforts to formalise the minerals sector, terming such cooperation timely and reassuring.

He also recalled his recent visit to Australia for the International Mining and Resources Conference, where discussions were held with leading and junior Australian mining companies on investment and cooperation opportunities. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening Pakistan-Australia cooperation in the mining.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik held a meeting with the Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan, H.E Mr Timothy Kane.

Parliamentarians perform umrah and Hajj on their own expenses during Rabi-ul-Awwal

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Spokesperson National Assembly Secretariat has clarified that reports published in Print and Electronic media regarding parliamentary delegations performing Umrah or Hajj at government expense are baseless. The Spokesperson has further stated that no such facility is available, nor can any facility be provided, for Members of the National Assembly to perform Hajj or Umrah at government expense.

The Spokesperson further explained that under a resolution passed by the National Assembly in November 2016, a parliamentary delegation visits Roza-e-Rasool (رضی اللہ عنہ) on 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal each year on their own expense. In light of the said resolution, all members of the delegation bear their own expenses, and no financial burden is placed on the national exchequer. Under the approved Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), the Ministry of Religious Affairs provides only administrative facilitation and does not incur.

Pakistan to observe Kashmir Solidarity Day on Feb 5 with full zeal: Amir Muqam

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and Safran, Engineer Amir Muqam, said on Tuesday that Kashmir Solidarity Day will be observed on February 5 with full enthusiasm, reaffirming Pakistan's support for the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination.

Chairing an inter-ministerial and inter-provincial coordination meeting at the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Council, the minister said thousands of Kashmiris have been martyred, many remain imprisoned in Indian jails, and thousands of children have been orphaned due to the ongoing conflict. He said the nation would mark the day by renewing its

commitment to support the Kashmiri people's just struggle in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.

The minister added that under Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the government continues to highlight the Kashmir issue at all international forums, including the UN General Assembly.

Amir Muqam urged all political parties and people from all walks of life to participate in the events on February 5.

TCL deepens Partnership with Arsenal, announces Bukayo Saka as Brand Ambassador

PEAK POINT



LAHORE: TCL, a global leader in consumer electronics and the world's No. 1 Mini LED and ultra-large TV brand, proudly announces Arsenal's Bukayo Saka as its Brand Ambassador. It marks a significant milestone in strengthening the brand's global partnership with Arsenal Football Club, where TCL serves as the Official Global Consumer Electronics Partner. TCL has recently teamed up with Arsenal and Bukayo Saka with the launch of 'Inspire Greatness, together', a new campaign that celebrates how football brings people together through moments on and off the pitch. It reflects the belief that

greatness is not defined only by the game itself, but by the collective emotions, connections, and everyday rituals that unite supporters around the world. TCL's philosophy as a global technology brand—built on discipline, long-term commitment, and meaningful connection—sits at the heart of this campaign and mirrors the professional qualities of Saka and Arsenal Football Club.

National Essay Writing Competition 2025 concludes with Prize distribution ceremony: "Pakistan-Türkiye Relations: A Timeless Bond"

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye, in collaboration with the National Book Foundation (NBF) of Pakistan and the Yunus Emre Turkish Cultural Center, successfully organized the Prize Distribution Ceremony of the National Essay Writing Competition 2025, aimed at university students across Pakistan. The ceremony was attended by Her Excellency Wajihah Qamar, Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training, H.E. Dr. Irfan Neziroglu,



Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to Pakistan, Dr. Kamran Jahangir, Managing Director of the National Book Foundation, senior officials, representatives of academic and cultural institutions, teachers, parents, and students. Speaking on the

occasion, Ambassador Dr. Irfan Neziroglu highlighted that the essay competition was initiated for two key reasons: to celebrate and honor the centuries-old fraternal bond between Türkiye and Pakistan, and to commemorate the sacrifice of two

Turkish engineers, Cenk Yakin and Ufuk Arslan, who were martyred during a relief mission in Balakot following the devastating 2005 earthquake. The Ambassador recalled that during the historic visit of H.E. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to

Islamabad last year, both countries agreed to establish a "Shura of Fraternity" to strengthen cooperation in social, cultural, and academic fields. He stated that this competition stands as a practical example of that vision

in action. Ambassador Neziroglu paid tribute to the shared heroes and historical figures of both nations, including Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Allama Muhammad Iqbal, the Ali Brothers of the Khilafat Movement, and Abdurrahman Peshawari, emphasizing the importance of transferring this shared legacy to future generations through education and awareness. He congratulated all participating students and prize winners for their dedication, creativity, and commitment.