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PM directs for preparing comprehensive strategy to boost agri exports

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed authorities to formulate a comprehensive five-year strategy to boost agricultural exports. He emphasized that reforming the agriculture sector and educating farmers on international standards were top priorities of the government. The prime minister was chairing a meeting of a Working Group comprising private sector experts. The working group was established to align the agriculture sector with the international requirements and to increase the country's agriculture exports. "The federal government, within its own jurisdiction, is undertaking reforms in the agriculture sector and, in collaboration with

provincial governments, is taking measures to promote agricultural development," the prime minister said adding that the government was taking measures to increase the per acre yield of the crops by providing farmers with standard seeds, fertilizers and pesticides timely and at affordable prices. PM Shehbaz Sharif pointed out that the government was also taking policy level steps aimed at processing of the agriculture produce to make them export-ready goods. Recently, he said the 1000 Pakistani students had been sent to China at government expenses to train them on the modern agriculture technology. Pakistan has great potential in the agriculture sector, the prime minister said adding that within available resources.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of working group on Agriculture reforms.

'Dangerous precedent': Pakistan warns UNSC against unilateral action in Venezuela

PEAK POINT
NEW YORK: Pakistan on Monday expressed profound concern over the rapidly evolving situation in Venezuela, warning the United Nations Security Council that unilateral military action undermines international law and risks triggering long-term instability with unpredictable consequences. Addressing an emergency meeting of the 15-member Security Council, Pakistan's Acting Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Usman Jaidoo, said the use of force without authorisation contravenes the core principles of the UN Charter, including respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in internal affairs. The meeting was convened following a US military operation launched over the weekend in Caracas, during which American special forces captured Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, in a night-time raid. The operation took place on Saturday and was followed by President Donald Trump's announcement that Washington would temporarily govern the oil-rich South American nation until a transition was put in place.

Afghans involved in major terror attacks inside Pakistan, says DG ISPR

PEAK POINT
RAWALPINDI: Pakistani military spokesman has said that Afghan militants were involved in major terrorist incidents in the country during 2025, as he described the past year as a "landmark and consequential year" in the country's fight against terrorism. Addressing a detailed press conference on Tuesday, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director General Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry said the sole purpose of the briefing was to present a comprehensive overview of counterterrorism measures taken over the previous year, stressing that terrorism remained the biggest threat faced by the Pakistani state. Action Plan (NAP). He said the fight against terrorism had been ongoing for more than two decades and involved the entire nation, but last year stood out due to the scale and consistency of operations. According to official data shared during the briefing, law enforcement agencies carried out 75,175 intelligence-based operations across the country in 2025, averaging 206 operations per day. Of these, 14,658 operations were conducted in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 58,778 in Balochistan and 1,739 in other parts of Pakistan. Despite this operational intensity, 5,397 terrorist incidents were reported nationwide during the year. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa accounted for 3,811 incidents, or 71 per cent, while Balochistan reported 1,557 incidents, with 29 incidents recorded elsewhere. The DG ISPR said 2,597 terrorists were killed during counterterrorism operations in 2025, including 1,800 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 784 in Balochistan and 10 in other areas. During the same period, 1,235 law enforcement personnel and civilians were martyred.



Li-Gen Chaudhry said 2025 marked a turning point for four key reasons, including unprecedented intensity in counterterrorism operations, nationwide clarity on the nature of terrorism, international acknowledgement of Pakistan's stance that Afghanistan had become a base for terrorist activity, and the reinvigoration of the National

Venezuela's Machado says she hasn't spoken to Trump since October

PEAK POINT
WASHINGTON: Venezuelan opposition leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner Maria Corina Machado said on Monday she hasn't spoken to US President Donald Trump since October 2025. "Actually, I spoke with President Trump on October 10, the same day the (Nobel Peace) Prize was announced, (but) not since then," Machado said on Fox News' "Hannity" program. She was awarded the prize for her fight against what the Norwegian Nobel Committee.

Pakistan asks UAE for \$3 billion deposit rollover

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has formally requested the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to roll over a \$3 billion loan before its maturity. According to sources in the Ministry of Finance, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif sent a letter to UAE leadership requesting the rollover of the loan, which is due for repayment in two instalments — \$2 billion this month and \$1 billion in July. The \$3 billion loan was deposited with the State Bank of Pakistan in 2021, with \$1 billion due in the second week of January and another \$1 billion installment due in the third week of January.

Bangladesh air chief meets PAF counterpart to boost defence ties



PEAK POINT
RAWALPINDI: A high-level defence delegation headed by Air Chief Marshal Hasan Mahmood Khan, Chief of the Air Staff, Bangladesh Air Force, met Air Chief Marshal Zaher Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force, at Air Headquarters on Tuesday. According to Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), discussions centred on enhancing operational cooperation and institutional synergy, with particular focus on training, capacity building, and collaboration in aerospace development. The visiting Air Chief was accorded a Guard of Honour. Air Chief Marshal Zaher Ahmed Baber Sidhu briefed him on PAF's recent advancements and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to supporting Bangladesh Air Force through a comprehensive training framework from basic to advanced flying and specialized courses across PAF institutions. He also assured fast-tracked delivery of Super Mushshak trainer aircraft, along with a complete training and long-term support ecosystem. The Bangladeshi Air Chief praised PAF's combat record and expressed interest in benefiting from its operational expertise, seeking assistance in maintenance support for Bangladesh Air Force's aging fleet and integration of air defence radar systems to enhance air surveillance. Detailed discussions were also held on potential procurement of JF-17 Thunder aircraft.

The delegation visited key PAF facilities, including the National ISPR & Integrated Air Operations Centre, PAF Cyber Command, and the National Aerospace Science & Technology Park, observing capabilities in ISPR, cyber, space, electronic warfare, and unmanned systems. The visit underscored the strong historical ties between Pakistan and Bangladesh and reflected a shared resolve to deepen defence cooperation and expand a long-term strategic partnership.

Ex-nazim injured in IED blast outside his office in Bannu



PEAK POINT
BANNU: The former nazim of Bannu district's Domel tehsil, Fida Muhammad Khan Wazir, was injured in a bomb blast outside his office on Tuesday. Asif Hassan, the Bannu police spokesperson, confirmed the incident to Dawn, saying that a pre-installed improvised explosive device (IED) was detonated at the office gate in the Domel Bazaar area. Soon after it was reported, a heavy contingent rushed to the scene, cordoned off the area and formally initiated an investigation. Police and local sources said the explosion occurred outside the main gate of the former nazim's office in Domel Bazaar. At the time of the blast, Wazir was present in his vehicle and sustained minor injuries, they said.



SPORTS



Pakistan U19 clinch tri-nation series title with dominant win over Zimbabwe



PEAK POINT

HARARE: Pakistan Under-19 capped a dominant campaign by defeating hosts Zimbabwe by nine wickets to win the U19 ODI Tri-nation Series in Harare on Tuesday.

The final, played at the Old Hararians, saw Pakistan chase down a modest target with ease, underlining their strong preparations ahead of the ICC Men's U19 World Cup.

After winning the toss, Pakistan opted to field, a decision that paid immediate dividends as Zimbabwe were bowled out for 158 in 44.4 overs. The hosts struggled

to build partnerships, with seven batters failing to reach double figures. Michael Blignaut top-scored for Zimbabwe with a fighting 60, while Tetenda Chemugoro remained unbeaten on 28. Benny Zuzze contributed 16 and Leroy Chivora added 15, but the innings never gathered momentum.

Pakistan's bowling attack shared the spoils effectively. Umar Zaib led the charge with four wickets, maintaining pressure through disciplined spells. Abdul Subhan claimed two wickets, while Mohammad Sayyam, Daniyal Ali Khan and Ahmed Hussain picked up one apiece to

keep Zimbabwe in check. In response, Pakistan produced a commanding batting display, reaching the target in just 16.2 overs for the loss of one wicket. Sameer Minhas was the standout performer, smashing a superb 114 to a rapid knock that featured 17 fours and five sixes. Mohammad Shayan provided solid support with 38 runs, ensuring there were no late hiccups in the chase.

The title win capped an impressive run for Pakistan, who finished the group stage at the top of the standings with six points from four matches. Both of their league fixtures against Zimbabwe

were washed out after the first innings, while Zimbabwe progressed to the final with five points. Afghanistan ended the tournament in third place with one point.

The 50-over tri-series, featuring Pakistan, Zimbabwe and Afghanistan, was organised as a preparatory event for the ICC Men's U19 World Cup, set to be held in Zimbabwe and Namibia from 15 January to 6 February. Pakistan entered the tournament fresh from their ACC Men's U19 Asia Cup triumph in Dubai, where they defeated India by 191 runs in the final last month.

Abubakar/Nael stun Aisam and Muzammil in national ranking Tennis



PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Rising tennis talents Abubakar Talha and Nael Qureshi stunned the top-seeded duo of Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi and Muzammil Murtaza in the men's doubles semifinals of the 11th Begum Kulsum Sattulah Khan National Ranking Tennis Championships 2025 at the PTF Tennis Complex, Islamabad. In a thrilling semifinal, Abubakar and Nael displayed remarkable composure and skill to outplay the experienced pair 6-4, 6-7, 10-8 in a super tie-break finish. In the second semifinal, Yousaf Khalil and Barker Ullah booked their place in the final after defeating M Shoaib and Hamza Roman in the super tie-break, 7-5, 6-4, 10-6. In the men's singles quarterfinals, Yousaf Khalil dominated Barkatullah 6-0, 7-6(5). M Shoaib advanced with a solid 6-3, 6-2 win over Ahmad Nael, while Muzammil Murtaza overcame Abubakar Talha in a three-set encounter, winning 6-4, 5-7, 6-4. Aqeel Khan also progressed after defeating Nadir Mirza 6-4, 6-4. In the ladies' singles semifinals, Mahin Aftab Qureshi defeated Anna Ali Qayum 6-2, 6-3, while Soha Ali secured her final berth with a convincing 7-5, 6-2 win over Sheeza Sajid. In the boys' U18 quarterfinals, Ahtesham Humayun edged past Zohaib Afzal Malik 7-6(1), 6-3, Hamza Roman cruised past Muhammad Yahya 6-1, 6-0, Hassan Usmani defeated Haziq Aasim 6-4, 5-7, 6-3.

Pakistan and Bahrain FA ink MoU to strengthen football ties



PEAK POINT

LAHORE: The Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) and the Bahrain Football Association (BFA) have signed a comprehensive Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at enhancing technical, administrative, presence of BFA women's football and futsal development.

The strategic partnership establishes a clear roadmap for collaboration between the two federations across a wide range of football-related areas. A key focus of the agreement is the technical development of national teams and age-group squads, with provisions for organizing joint training camps, friendly matches and talent development initiatives to help prepare teams for regional and international competitions. In addition, the MoU places strong emphasis on refereeing development, as well as the improvement of administrative and technical standards. This will be achieved through the organization of training courses, capacity-building programs and specialised workshops, ensuring alignment with international best practices. The agreement also includes the exchange of legal and regulatory expertise related to the governance and internal operations of football federations. A notable feature of the partnership is its commitment to the growth and promotion of women's football. Both federations agreed to collaborate on integrated development programs aimed at increasing participation, improving technical standards and strengthening professionalism within the women's game. The MoU also outlines targeted efforts to support the development of futsal recognizing its growing importance and potential as a complementary discipline within the football ecosystem.

Pakistan's women cricketer Omaima Sohail ties the knot in Karachi



Head, Smith centuries put Australia in charge of final Ashes Test

PEAK POINT

SYDNEY: Run-machine Travis Head hit a swashbuckling 163 and Steve Smith a composed unbeaten 129 as Australia built a 134-run lead over England to seize control on day three of the fifth and final Ashes Test on Tuesday.

It was destructive opener Head's third ton of the series, to go with the phenomenal match-winning 123 he made in Perth and 170 at Adelaide. Smith was equally impressive, with his first hundred of the series driving the hosts to 518-7 by stumps at a packed Sydney Cricket Ground in reply to England's 384. Beau Webster was alongside him on 42 at the close. Australia lead the series 3-1 and have already retained the Ashes, with England desperate for another morale-boosting win after victory at the previous Test in Melbourne. "Nice batting wicket out there. Nice to start

my innings on the back of a great innings from Travis Head," Smith told Fox Sports. "When you're out there with him they forget about you and I was able to get into my work. Worked out well

shot to end a magnificent knock. Skipper Smith treated Bethell with contempt, launching him for a big six on his way to a 37th Test hundred. It was Smith's 13th Ashes



today." Head brought up three figures off just 105 balls and seemed destined to score 200. But he came undone in the third over after lunch by the part-time spin of Jacob Bethell, who was bowling for the first time in the series. In his second over, Bethell trapped the 32-year-old lbw attempting a sweep

century to move past England legend Jack Hobbs. Only Donald Bradman with 19 has more. Usman Khawaja, in his 88th and last Test after announcing his retirement, fell lbw to Brydon Carse for 17 while Alex Carey made 16 before Josh Tongue enticed an edge.

MP, DP, FG/Din victorious in 6th Allama Iqbal Polo Cup





Sky High Fares, grounded regions: Senate blasts PIA over Chitral and Quetta crisis

NADEEM TANOLI
ISLAMABAD: A Senate session laid bare how inflated airfares, suspended regional flights, and years of mismanagement have turned air travel into a punishment for citizens, with lawmakers warning that essential routes are being sacrificed to market logic while entire regions remain effectively cut off from the rest of the country. The Senate Standing Committee on Defence, chaired by Muhammad Talha Mahmood, took up a point of public importance referred by the House after outrage over exorbitant airfares to Quetta and the complete suspension of Pakistan International Airlines flights to Chitral. Senators described the situation as a governance failure that disproportionately hurts people living in remote and strategically sensitive areas. The committee

voiced grave concern that PIA flights to and from Chitral have been suspended, leaving the mountainous region without reliable air connectivity. Officials told lawmakers that the route was halted due to an acute shortage of aircraft, revealing that only two ATR planes are currently operational. Senators warned that treating Chitral as a commercially unavailable route ignores its strategic importance and punishes citizens for failures beyond their control. The Defence Secretary informed the committee that following PIA's privatization and financial injection, priority is being given to repairing grounded aircraft, including ATRs, to restore services on neglected routes. He assured senators that formal recommendations are being conveyed to the privatization consortium to revive Chitral flights, while proposals are also under con-

sideration to link fixed-wing operations with chartered helicopter services. Lawmakers pushed back strongly, with the chairman urging immediate action and recommending at least one to two weekly flights, stressing that some routes exist for national cohesion, not profit margins. While welcoming PIA's privatization, the chairman made it clear that the state's repeated bailouts had drained public resources without fixing structural rot. He said governments are not meant to run airlines and expressed hope that professional management would finally rescue the national carrier from decline and restore its credibility. Senators cautioned, however, that privatization would mean little if public interest routes continue to be abandoned. The committee then turned its attention to inflated airfares for Quetta, a matter

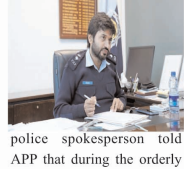
that sparked visible anger among members. Senators said residents of Balochistan are being forced to pay excessive fares due to limited flight options, effectively turning air travel into a luxury for an already marginalized population. Officials explained that fares are dictated by supply and demand, but this argument drew sharp criticism from the committee. Rejecting market excuses, senators demanded a fare capping mechanism to prevent exploitation. The Defence Secretary assured the committee that steps would be taken to design controls on fare inflation, while the chairman directed that airline agreements be amended to include protective clauses for Quetta-bound passengers, making it clear that affordability is a governance obligation, not a commercial choice. Beyond fares and flights, lawmakers

also flagged failures in airport management. The committee highlighted flaws in the airport protocol system, congestion issues, and poor restroom facilities, urging immediate upgrades. Authorities informed senators that airport services at major hubs are being outsourced to improve standards, a move the committee said must translate into real, visible improvements for travelers. The committee further directed that the validity of airport passes be extended from one year to two years, calling the current system unnecessarily restrictive and inconvenient. Senators emphasized that small administrative reforms can significantly reduce hardship for frequent travelers and aviation staff. In addition to public matters, the committee received in camera briefings on border security along the

Pakistan Afghanistan frontier and on the defence cooperation agreement with Saudi Arabia, which members appreciated as a strategic achievement. However, senators also urged stronger political ownership of defence oversight, calling on the Federal Minister for Defence to attend committee meetings more regularly. The session ended with a clear message: privatization alone will not fix aviation failures unless connectivity, affordability, and regional equity are treated as national priorities. For lawmakers, the real test now lies in whether promises on Chitral flights and Quetta fares translate into relief on the ground—or remain trapped in committee rooms while citizens continue to pay the price.

AIG Operations Shoaib resolves officers' administrative issues during orderly room

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: Additional Inspector General (AIG) Operations Muhammad Shoaib Masood on Tuesday held an orderly room to review professional and welfare-related matters of police officers and personnel. A



police spokesperson told APP that during the orderly

room, police officers presented their personal and service-related issues, including requests concerning postings, transfers, promotions and other administrative matters. AIG Operations Shoaib resolves officers' administrative issues during orderly

room. The spokesperson said that AIG Operations Shoaib Masood listened to the problems attentively and issued appropriate and timely directions on various applications in accordance with rules and merit. He emphasized that resolving genuine issues of

police officers and personnel is essential for improving their morale and professional efficiency, adding that welfare of the force remains a priority. The AIG Shoaib further directed the concerned branches to ensure prompt follow-up on the orders

issued during the orderly room and submit compliance reports within the stipulated timeframe. He reiterated that maintaining discipline, transparency and merit-based decisions would continue to guide all administrative affairs of Islamabad Police.

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Done with politics

ARIFA NOOR
THE new year is a mere few days old but 2026 already promises to be more exhausting than its predecessor. The mortals among us — and who have friends to party with — had barely recovered from New Year's Eve when the US's Nobel Peace Prize aspirant invaded a country and kidnapped its president. Hardly new stuff for those who remember Iraq, or Panama, or ... the list can be rather long. But it was a wee bit surprising, coming from a president who can't stop listing the number of wars he has stopped. What stopped journo in their tracks was the president's failure to invoke either the fruits of democracy or the freedoms of brown oppressed people, especially women. There were no such helpful diversions. The oil will help the US, it was proclaimed. Now where does that leave the likes of us who want to shake their heads in despair and explain the limitations of nation-building exercises? The world and its craziness is forcing commentators out of a job faster than one can say AI. How does one make sense of an authoritarian interlude in which no dollars are flowing in? After all, we are trained to analyse the power flowing down the barrel of a gun that has dollar signs painted on it. However, without the dollars, it seems a bit uncertain and unstable (and it has been for quite a few years now), but it is hard

to figure out how long it will last. The 10-year pendulum surely doesn't cut it anymore. But what ready analysis can replace this? No one knows. It seems as if all the political soap opera plot twists have been done, and talked about, to death. So the state is hardening and it rules with an iron glove. Yet it has not been able to tame the people entirely. The anger may not be expressed as loudly as it once was, but no one can ignore the simmering. As a result, the PTI is still a force and so is Imran Khan. On top of this, he refuses to go into exile. What a pain he is because if he left for foreign climes, it would be so easy to believe the khatam shud predictions of some of the commentariat. In other words, the nail-biting contest threatens to continue in 2026 and those of us in the business of analysis have little left to say. Truly, there are just so many times one can predict doom and gloom and ask everyone to talk for the greater good. Because frankly, our leadership just isn't as honest as the chap in the US; our lot claims to worry about the people here and it's a story that no one buys now and yet they continue to tell it. They know that no one buys it; we know that they know that we know they don't care and yet the drama continues. And now no one is listening. It seems as if all the political soap opera plot twists have been done and talked about to death. Take

another example. The predictions about the democratic DNA in Nawaz Sharif or Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari coming to the fore are now also becoming less common. It's been months since anyone has spoken of Sharif senior's desire to see Imran Khan free and nearly years since anyone has spoken of the tensions between father Zardari and son Bhutto-Zardari and the latter struggling to break free. No one is now expecting the true democrats to say "enough" and hiding their disappointment analysts speak of the choices in Pakistan being limited to authoritarianism and fascism. No different is all the 'sane' talk about talks. It's about as promising as the MoUs Pakistan signs each time a foreign leader meets a government official or the promises about the economy taking off. No one can even be bothered to argue about it. And neither does anyone think 2026 will bring any change, so great is the 'paralysis'. Though I have learnt that one can call it jamood on the talk show. Even the soothsayers or najoomis who were called to talk shows while the rest of us were making New Year plans had nothing new to offer. They seem to sound no different from the political soothsayers who tell us of the greatness that awaits the country in 2026. The king is in his counting house and the prime minister is having bread and honey. Courtesy Dawn

On the principle of caring

MUHAMMAD HAMID ZAMAN
THE events in Venezuela this past weekend have brought a flurry of emotions and reactions. Depending upon the source of the newsfeed, one may be seeing scenes of jubilation among the diaspora that had suffered tremendously under various previous regimes in Venezuela, or those protesting yet another international intervention, or analysts on TV making endless predictions about the near and distant future, or law experts discussing legal aspects, domestic or international. Some have been saying 'I told you so' when it came to the relevance of the UN. Others are concerned about what might happen to markets and their savings or portfolios. Zooming out presents yet another series of divergent opinions — some governments in the region are disturbed and concerned, others are cheering. And then there is a large group of countries — including many in our part of the world — that are completely silent. There can be many reasons for that — perhaps it is pragmatic politics, or perhaps many simply do not care. And it is this question of who we should care for, and care beyond calculation, politics, or strategy is that I want to focus on. Many of us choose to care for some groups, based on family ties, friendship, religion, ethnicity or other political or personal material interests. There is a line in our minds on who we care for and who is beyond that line. On the other side of our lines, it is ad hoc, random and transient. At a societal level, some version of patriotism suggests that care and concern are for fellow citizens. That is, we should deeply care about people in our country. But we know that within a nation state, under conditions that are often all too common, sub-categories of people are treated unequally based on ethnicity, sect or other factors. Some citizens are more equal than others — or worse, some are denied citizenship (and hence are less worthy of our concern and love) even if they have lived amongst us for generations. Courtesy Tribune

Rivers held hostage

INDIA'S claim that it has placed the Indus Waters Treaty "in abeyance" is not just provocative, it is legally meaningless. As Pakistan's Indus Waters Commissioner has noted, international law does not recognise such a concept. Treaties are either in force, suspended by mutual consent, lawfully terminated, or breached. What New Delhi has tried to invent is a legal grey zone that does not exist. The IWT, brokered by the World Bank in 1960, is designed to ensure that water disputes between Pakistan and India are insulated from political crises. It endured the 1965 and 1971 wars, the Kargil conflict, and decades of hostility because its drafters recognised that water could not be held hostage to politics. That principle is written into the treaty itself, which lays out clear, binding procedures for resolving disputes. India's April 2025 move followed the deadly Pahalgam attack in occupied Kashmir, which New Delhi blamed on Pakistan without producing publicly verifiable evidence. Using that incident to justify suspending cooperation under a water treaty crosses a dangerous line. Global response has not favoured India's position. In June, the Permanent Court of Arbitration made clear that India has no legal authority to unilaterally hold the IWT in abeyance.

Wheat sowing targets met; perishable food, sugar prices decline: NPMC informed



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal chaired a meeting of the National Price Monitoring Committee (NPMC) to review inflation trends, availability of essential commodities and measures to ensure price stability and strengthen food security, particularly ahead of Ramazan, the holy fast-

ing month.

The meeting was attended by Chief Economist Dr Imtiaz Ahmad, Chief Statistician of the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), and representatives from the Ministry of National Food Security and Research, the ICT administration, provincial governments and the State Bank of Pakistan, a news release said.

The PBS presented a detailed overview of inflation trends, noting

that headline inflation increased from 4.1 per cent in December 2024 to 5.6pc in December 2025. Major contributors to year-on-year inflation were higher gas charges, rising gold prices, and increases in the prices of wheat, milk and chicken. In contrast, prices of several key commodities, including potatoes, tomatoes, onions, tea, pulses, electricity and stationery, showed a declining trend. PBS also presented data from the Decision Support System on Inflation (DSSI), indicating improvements in the price stability of essential food items.

Comparative analysis of 2024 and 2025 showed that prices of kitchen staples such as onions and potatoes remained lower in the current cycle.

Wheat flour (20kg bag) prices increased from around Rs1,800 to Rs2,146 in the last one year. While some items such as pulse moong showed minor fluctuations.

PM offered talks multiple times, PTI founder unwilling to negotiate: Rana Sanaullah

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister Rana Sanaullah said on Tuesday that the PTI founder and his wife must strictly abide by court decisions, stressing that no individual is above the law.

Speaking to the media, Rana Sanaullah said that the IHC had clearly defined the procedure for meetings with the PTI founder. He added that during the most recent meeting, the PTI founder and his wife were present together, and there should be no doubts regarding the government's intentions in this matter.

He stated that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had repeatedly offered dialogue to PTI, including from the floor of the National Assembly on two occasions, followed by another invitation during a cabinet meeting. According



to Rana Sanaullah, despite these offers, PTI leaders claim they lack the authority to engage in negotiations. Rana Sanaullah said the prime minister makes such offers only after consulting the establishment and party leadership. He criticised PTI's stance, saying that whenever the party announces a protest movement, it accuses the government of proposing talks to avoid pressure. He remarked that PTI was free to proceed with its planned "wheel-jam" protest in February if it wished. He further said that PTI has again demanded.

Timely completion of 104 family suites project imperative: Ayaz Sadiq

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Tuesday underscored that the timely completion of the 104 additional family suites project is imperative to resolve the acute accommodation issues faced by Members of Parliament, warning that no further delay or negligence would be tolerated.

The Speaker made these remarks during his visit to the Parliament Lodges, where he reviewed the progress of the under-construction project aimed at providing additional residential facilities to parliamentarians.

Minister of State for Interior, Senator Talal Chaudhry, accompanied the Speaker during the visit. The Speaker was briefed in detail on the project's progress by Senator Talal Chaudhry, who informed him that construction work has entered its final stages.

The 104 additional family suites project, originally launched in 2011, had remained stalled for several years.

It was revived after a prolonged delay due

to the special efforts and personal intervention of Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq.

Emphasizing the significance of the project, the Speaker said that its early completion is among his top priorities, as Members of Parliament are currently facing serious residential difficulties.

He directed the Capital Development Authority (CDA) to expedite the pace of work while ensuring the highest construction standards and maintaining strict oversight to complete the project within the stipulated timeframe.

Reiterating his stance, Ayaz Sadiq said that the early completion of the project is unavoidable and instructed the CDA to remain under continuous monitoring to ensure quality, transparency and efficiency.

Talal Chaudhry assured the Speaker that all available resources would be utilized to ensure the swift and timely completion of the project. He also appreciated the Speaker's keen personal interest in reviving and closely supervising the construction.

Minister inaugurates Telemedicine Centre at BHU Gokina

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD:

Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and

Coordination Syed Mustafa Kamal on Tuesday termed the telemedicine system a "silent revolution" in the health sector, saying it serves as an effective alternative to the conventional primary healthcare system.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony of the first healthcare center established under the banner of Sehat Kahani with the cooperation of the Ministry of Health, he said that the telemedicine system has been launched at federal Basic Health Units (BHUs).

Mustafa Kamal said that today marks a major milestone for telemedicine, as the project has formally been launched in Gokina village, Islamabad. The minister said that "Sehat Kahani" will provide digital healthcare facilities and help reduce the burden on hospitals. He noted that both public and private hospitals are overcrowded, resembling political rallies, due to the absence of an effective primary and secondary.

Naqvi visits Shanghai Urban Planning HQ, calls city a model for rapid development

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Federal Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control, Mohsin Naqvi, visited the Shanghai Urban Planning Headquarters where he was briefed in detail on the city's master planning, development strategies, and modern urban facilities.

Minister Naqvi was received by Madam Chen, Head of the Shanghai Urban Planning Department, who welcomed the delegation and led them through an extensive presentation. The minister was briefed on Shanghai's rapid development model, integrated municipal systems, and the advanced facilities that support one of the world's fastest-growing megacities.



Through videos, architectural models, and interactive displays, the delegation was shown the evolution of Shanghai's infrastructure and its long-term master plan. Minister Naqvi also viewed the model of Shanghai's state-of-the-art stadium equipped with cutting-edge amenities.

Expressing deep interest in Shanghai's modern, data-integrated urban management system, Minister Naqvi praised the city's use of technology to streamline operations.

Wajiha Qamar, UAE Ambassador discuss cooperation in education and TVET

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training Wajiha Qamar met Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to Pakistan Salem Alzaabi at Embassy.

During the meeting, both sides discussed strengthening bilateral cooperation in the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector, vocational skills development, higher education, and human capital exchange.

The Minister of State highlighted Pakistan's focus on aligning vocational training with international standards to enhance



employability of youth and meet global labour market demands. She underscored the importance of collaboration in joint certification programmes, faculty and student exchange, and capacity building initiatives.

Discussions also covered cooperation between Pakistan's higher education institutions and the Higher Education Commission.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, inspecting the construction work of the New Parliament Lodges project.

NHA & FWO to prepare joint report on motorways in 15 days : Aleem Khan

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan on Tuesday directed the National Highway Authority (NHA) and the Frontier Works Organization (FWO) to prepare a joint report within 15 days for improving the Motorway database and addressing pending issues, particularly the up-gradation of rest areas so that sustainable solutions to the problems being faced on Motorways can be ensured.

He expressed these views while talking to senior officers during his visit to the Lahore-Islamabad

Motorway (M-2). Federal Minister carried out a detailed inspection of various rest areas including Sukhiki, Sial, Bhera and reviewed the facilities available on M-2 Lahore Islamabad Motorway including tuck shops, mosques, washrooms, and overall infrastructure, said a press release.

Taking notice of deterioration and poor conditions, Abdul Aleem Khan issued instructions to the concerned authorities for immediate and effective remedial measures. He emphasized that data should be collected based on daily traffic volume to ensure that necessary actions are taken in line with actual



requirements. He made it clear that the expansion, renovation, and modernization of rest areas on M-2 in accordance with contemporary standards is essential.

Aleem Khan stressed that the layout of shops at

Motorway rest areas should be uniform and that the availability of food items at officially notified prices must be ensured. He also directed the NHA to formulate a regular and sustainable plan specifically for Motorway rest

areas.

NHA & FWO to prepare joint report on motorways in 15 days : Aleem Khan

During his visit, the minister sought briefings from NHA & FWO officers and the Motorway Police on vari-

ous administrative and service-related matters. At different locations, citizens and travelers met and interacted with Abdul Aleem Khan, expressing gratitude for the steps taken to improve travel facilities. At the Bhera Rest Area, an overseas Pakistani also called on Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan and stated that transport infrastructure in Pakistan is gradually improving. Citizens appreciated the recent improvements in the communications sector and thanked the Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan for his initiatives.