



**President expresses deep grief over tragic road accident in Khairpur**



**Gilani meets IPU president, secretary general**



**600 MHz spectrum auction next month, to improve internet capacity: Shaza Fatima**

Founded By:  
(Late) Rehmat Khan

ABC CERTIFIED

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

Executive Group Editor  
Arif Mehmoood Khan



Monday 16 February 2026

Shaban 27, 1447 A.H

VOI No: 06

Issue No. 20

Pages 4 Rs. 20

## CDF Munir discusses 'global and regional security dynamics' with US's Rubio in Germany

PEAK POINT

GERMANY: Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) and Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) Field Marshal Asim Munir has discussed "global and regional security dynamics" with United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Sunday. CDF Munir undertook a visit to Germany from February 12 (Thursday) to 14 (Saturday) to attend meetings on the sidelines of the 62nd Munich Security Conference, according to the military's media affairs wing. In a press release, ISPR said the army chief met with Rubio and "discussed matters of mutual interest, including global and regional security dynamics and counterterrorism cooperation". During his visit, Field

Marshal Munir interacted with a number of dignitaries. These included Germany's Interior Minister Alexander Dobrindt, Foreign Policy & Security Policy Adviser to Federal Chancellor of Germany Günter Saunter, and Chief of Defence Carsten Breuer. "The meetings focused on contemporary security issues, bilateral defence cooperation and the need for promoting global peace and security through bilateral and multilateral dialogue," ISPR noted.

CDF Munir also held a "productive engagement" with Brazilian Armed Forces Chief of the Joint Staff Admiral Renato Rodrigues de Aguiar Freire, the statement added. The two discussed bilateral military cooperation.



CDF and COAS Field Marshal Asim Munir meets US Secretary of State Marco Rubio in Germany.

## Israeli airstrikes kill 9 in Gaza, including tent camp, Palestinian officials say

PEAK POINT



CAIRO/JERUSALEM: At least nine Palestinians were killed in Israeli airstrikes in the northern and southern Gaza Strip on Sunday, Palestinian civil defence and health officials said, in what

Israel's military called a response to Hamas ceasefire violations. Medics said an Israeli airstrike on a tent encampment housing displaced families killed at least four people, while health officials said another strike killed five in Khan Younis in the south. "In recent hours, the IDF has begun striking in response to Hamas's blatant violation of the ceasefire agreement yesterday in the Beit Hanoun area," an Israeli military official said, adding that "terrorists emerged from a tunnel east of the yellow line". The official called Sunday's strikes "precise" and in line with international law, and said the Palestinian militant group had committed more than six violations of an October ceasefire, including deploying east of the "Yellow Line" agreed under the ceasefire to demarcate Israeli- and Hamas-controlled areas. "Crossing the yellow line in the vicinity of IDF troops.

## TTAP sit-in at Parliament House over Imran's health concerns enters 3rd day

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The sit-in by the main opposition alliance Tehreek-i-Taha fuz-i-Ayin-i-Pakistan (TTAP) at Parliament House over concerns regarding PTI founder Imran Khan's health entered its third day on Sunday.

After the Supreme Court (SC) was informed on February 12 that Imran's right eye had only 15 per cent vision remaining, the TTAP announced it would stage a sit-in until the ex-premier was shifted to a hospital of his personal doctors' choice.

Although government figures on Saturday had hinted that Imran — currently incarcerated at



Rawalpindi's Adiala Faisal Javed, among others, sitting at board be changed as including doctors of our choice will give a message that the government has gone on the back foot. "[Therefore,] we decided to show flexibility and gave names of a few more doctors, and there was an understanding that we will not reveal their names in the media," the TTAP leader said. He added: "However, today we have been getting messages that first we should call off the sit-in and then Imran Khan will be shifted to the hospital and a medical board will be announced. How can we call off the sit-in without implementation of our demands?" he asked.

Shehbaz, Modi likely to be invited to Bangladeshi PM-elect's oath taking

PEAK POINT

DHAKA: According to Bangladeshi media, the swearing-in ceremony of the new government will invite heads of governments from South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) member states, including Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. The Dhaka Tribune reported that Tarique Rahman will take oath as prime minister on February 17, with the ceremony being organised by the caretaker government.

PM departs for Austria to boost bilateral, trade ties

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has departed for Vienna, the capital of Austria, on a two-day official visit at the invitation of Austrian Chancellor Christian Stocker. The Pakistani delegation includes Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaulah Tarar, and Special Assistant Tariq Fatemi. During the visit, Prime Minister Shehbaz will hold bilateral and delegation-level meetings with Chancellor Christian Stocker at the Federal

Chancellery. As per a statement issued by National Highways & Motorway Police (NHMP), "11 people have died so far, while another eight remain injured in a collision between a bus and a trailer on the National Highway near Tando Masti". The bus was heading from Bahawalpur to Karachi. In an earlier statement, the motorway police said the accident occurred due to "negligence and recklessness on the bus driver's part".

## 11 killed, 8 injured in bus-trailer collision on National Highway in Khairpur: motorway police

PEAK POINT

KARACHI: At least 11 people were killed and eight were injured after a bus collided with a trailer on the National Highway near Tando Masti in Sindh's Khairpur district on Sunday, motorway police said.

ately reached the site of the incident," the statement said, adding that the bodies and injured were rushed to nearby hospitals. The NHMP inspector general (IG) has taken notice of the incident and sought a report on it, the statement said.

"The motorway police are continuing to restore traffic and clear the road," the NHMP said.

It added that an emergency control room had

also been established, which can be contacted at



0719310878 and 0243640800.

President Asif Ali Zardari expressed sorrow at the incident and prayed for the deceased, state broadcaster PTV reported.

The president directed the Sindh government to provide the injured with "the best of facilities," adding that he was in contact with Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah.

"Every possible effort should be made to prevent

such tragic incidents," the president was quoted as saying. He called for a "coordinated strategy" to ensure implementation of traffic rules on national highways.

CM Murad and Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori also offered condolences to the families of the deceased. CM Sindh directed officials to ensure strict implementation of traffic laws, according to a statement issued via his spokesperson. The accident comes a few days after 13 people were killed in a traffic accident involving an oil tanker and a passenger bus on the M9 Motorway near Karachi. In September 2025, at least seven members of a single family, including three women and two children, were killed when a truck crashed into their car on a national highway near Moro.

Iran open to nuclear deal compromises if US discusses lifting sanctions, minister tells BBC

PEAK POINT

IRAN: Iran is ready to consider compromises to reach a nuclear deal with the United States if Washington is willing to discuss lifting sanctions, Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Majid Takht-Ravanchi told the BBC in an interview published on Sunday. Iran has said it is prepared to discuss curbs on its nuclear programme in return for the lifting of sanctions, but has repeatedly ruled out linking the issue to other questions, including missiles. Takht-Ravanchi confirmed that a second round of nuclear talks would take place on Tuesday in Geneva, after Tehran and Washington resumed discussions in Oman earlier this month.

"[Initial talks went] more or less in a positive direction, but it is too early to judge," Takht-Ravanchi told the BBC. A US delegation, including envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, will meet with the Iranians on Tuesday morning, a source had told Reuters on Friday, with Omani representatives mediating the US-Iran contacts. Iran's atomic chief.





# SPORTS



## India beat Pakistan by 61 runs in T20 World Cup clash



PEAK POINT

COLOMBO: India defeated Pakistan by 61 runs in the crucial ICC T20 World Cup clash at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on Sunday.

Pakistan won the toss and elected to bowl first. India set 176-run target for Pakistan. Ishan Kishan made 74 runs while Indian captain Suryakumar Yadav scored 32 runs. India set 176-run target for Pakistan. Earlier, Pakistan captain Salman Ali Agha made an early breakthrough, striking in the opening over to dismiss Abhishek Sharma for a duck. However, Kishan counterattacked with a

flurry of boundaries to steady the innings and shift the momentum back in India's favour.

The wicketkeeper-batter anchored India's recovery with a fluent 77 off 40 deliveries, smashing 10 fours and three sixes before eventually falling to Ayub's spin. Saim Ayub took three wickets for just conceding 25 runs in four overs while Usman Tariq, Salman Agha and Shaheen Afridi took one wicket each.

In reply, Pakistan were bowled out for 114 runs in the 18th over.

Openers Sahibzada Farhan and Saim Ayub, along with captain Kishan counterattacked with a Salman Agha, were dismissed

cheaply, with Jasprit Bumrah claiming two of the early wickets. Babar Azam also departed after scoring 5 runs. Usman Khan made 44 runs while Shadab Khan got out after scoring 14 runs.

There was no change in the Pakistan lineup from the previous fixture.

On Saturday, Pakistan captain Salman Ali Agha had mentioned during a press conference that the team has a plan in place if the match is affected by rain.

"We are ready; we just need to play good cricket. We are well adapted to the conditions here and are aware of the nature of the

pitch. We can't control the rain, but if the overs are reduced due to rain, we have a plan for that as well," the skipper added.

Salman described spinner Usman Tariq as a "trump card."

"All players are equal. You people have made Usman Tariq what he is; for us, he is a trump card." He added that there has been ongoing discussion about Usman's bowling action. "Usman has been cleared twice. I don't know why there is still talk about his action. But none of this affects us. You can't stop anyone from expressing their opinion — every one has that right."

## T20 WC: No handshake between skippers during Pakistan-India clash



PEAK POINT

COLOMBO: The Indian captain once again refrained from shaking hands with the Pakistani skipper at the toss during the ICC T20 World Cup clash in Colombo.

Indian frustration over the downing of six aircraft remains unresolved, and the decision not to shake hands during the high-voltage Pakistan-India clash was made by the Indian team management.

Observers expressed regret over the development, saying that the absence of a handshake undermines the spirit of the game.

Speaking at a pre-match press conference a day before the encounter, the Indian captain responded to a question about the handshake by saying, "Wait 24 hours for the handshake. We are here to play good cricket, and we will play good cricket."

It is worth recalling that during the Asia Cup, the traditional rivals faced each other three times, and on each occasion the Indian captain did not shake hands.

The team also left for the dressing room immediately after the match.

Former Indian cricketer and commentator Sanjay Manjrekar termed the reported decision by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) not to shake hands with Pakistani players as "foolish."

## Sri Lanka Cricket honours PCB chief for 'contributions toward promotion of sport'



PEAK POINT

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) hosted a special ceremony to honour Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi, paying tribute to his significant contributions toward the promotion of the sport, the PCB said in a statement on

Sunday, and Sujeewa Godaliyadda. The Pakistani delegation featured Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis Chaudhry Salik Hussain, PCB COO Sumair Ahmad, and PSL CEO Salman Naseer. Both boards reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral cooperation to further develop the

game. Expressing his gratitude for the warm hospitality, Naqvi remarked that cricket, as a "gentleman's game," remains a vital tool for fostering love and closer ties between nations. In a separate engagement in Colombo, PCB Chairman Naqvi met with the players and management of the Pakistan national cricket team.

The chairman lauded the team's passion and resolve, offering his full support and best wishes for their upcoming performances. The meeting was attended by Captain Salman Agha, Head Coach Mike Hesson, and Team Manager Naveed Akram Cheema, alongside the complete coaching staff.



RAWALPINDI: Players in action during Rawalpindi Women's National Junior Squash Championship organized by the Rawalpindi division Squash Association at the PAF Mujahid Khan Squash Academy.

## West Indies beat Nepal to become first team into T20 World Cup Super Eights

PEAK POINT

MUMBAI: The West Indies became the first team to qualify for the Super Eights phase of the T20 World Cup when they cruised to victory against Nepal by nine wickets on Sunday.

After restricting Nepal to 133-8 in their 20 overs, captain Shai Hope's 61 not out helped his team romp to 134-1 in 15.2 overs in the Group C clash at Mumbai's Wankhede stadium.

Hope reached his fifty off 38 balls and scored three sixes and five fours in all.

He put on an unbroken 91 with Shimron Hetmyer to reach the 134 target with 28 balls to spare.

Hetmyer was 46 not out at the end from 32 balls, with two sixes and four fours.

After Haope won the toss and chose to field, Matthew Forde bowled a magnificent spell of 1-10 from his four overs and removed Nepal

captain Rohit Paudel for five. Nepal were in all sorts of trouble at 22-3 at the end of the six-over power play, then

Singh Airee's 58 that pushed Nepal past the 100 mark as he shared in a partnership of 54 for the seventh wicket with



23-4 and 46-5 in the 11th over as Jason Holder also got among the wickets.

It was only Dipendra Sompal Kami, who was there at the end on 26 not out. Holder took 4-27 from his four overs.



NAWABSHAH: A view of event during fifth day of the Divisional U-25 Sports Festival here on Sunday.



# Pak-Turk Maarif holds nationwide MAGIS exam

## PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pak-Turk Maarif International Schools & Colleges, operating under the umbrella of the Türkiye Maarif Vakfı in Pakistan, successfully conducted the Maarif Admissions & Scholarship (MAGIS) Examination on Sunday across major regions of the country.

The examination was held at 42 centers in 24 cities, including Lahore, Islamabad, Karachi, AJK Muzaffarabad, Khairpur, Hyderabad, Jamshoro, Multan, Peshawar, and Quetta, said a press release.

More than 6,500 candidates from Grades 4 to 9 participated in the exam, reflecting continued trust and confidence among students and parents in the Turkish Maarif Foundation's educational initiatives. The strong turnout further underscores Pak-Turk Maarif's growing reputation as a provider of high-quality, merit-based education in Pakistan.

Special focus was placed on the Muzaffarabad region, where Pak-Turk Maarif International plans to establish a new campus. From early morning, students and parents gathered at examina-



tion centers, with over 1,400 candidates appearing from the region alone—signaling strong interest and anticipation for the institution's upcoming educational offering in Kashmir.

The assessment was conducted through a centralized digital system to ensure

transparency, fairness, and objectivity. Following the announcement of results, shortlisted candidates will proceed to the interview stage, where academic aptitude, communication skills, motivation, and developmental potential will be evaluated.

Through MAGIS, students can secure full and partial scholarships, tuition fee concessions, and access to Turkish language education. Selected candidates will also receive guidance for higher education in Türkiye, along with career counseling, internship opportunities, and professional development support.

Administrative teams, educators, invigilators, and volunteers ensured smooth operations at all centers, providing assistance and guidance to students and families throughout the process.

Currently operating 26

campuses in 10 cities and serving more than 13,000 students nationwide, Pak-Turk Maarif International Schools & Colleges continues to distinguish itself within Pakistan's private education sector through international standards, modern infrastructure, and a strong commitment to academic excellence.

The results of the MAGIS Examination will be announced on February 25 via the official registration portal, [emaarif.com.pk](http://emaarif.com.pk). Successful candidates will then proceed to the next stage of the selection process.

## Corruption scandal erupts at APP as FIA registers FIRs over fake appointments and Multi-Million rupee embezzlement

### NADEEM TANOLI

ISLAMABAD: A major financial scandal has surfaced at the Associated Press of Pakistan Corporation (APPC), after the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting confirmed in the National Assembly that serious irregularities were detected following an audit by the Auditor General of Pakistan (AGP). The disclosure was made during the Questions and Answers session, where lawmakers were informed that an internal Fact Finding Committee had

validated allegations of corruption, fake hiring, and financial mismanagement at the state run news agency. According to the AGP report, APPC was involved in irregular appointments, backdated payments, and the hiring of overaged individuals in violation of established procedures. The internal inquiry further uncovered the existence of 20 fake appointments, raising questions about administrative oversight and payroll controls. The investigation also confirmed illegal withdrawals from the Provident

Fund (PF) and Employees Related Expenses (ERE) accounts, indicating systemic manipulation of financial records. The case has been formally referred to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), which has registered multiple First Information Reports (FIRs). FIR No. 26/2025 pertains to the alleged embezzlement of over Rs. 154 million, reportedly carried out by key accounts personnel who manipulated salary credit sheets to divert funds. In a separate case, the FIA registered FIR No.

16/2024 regarding the illegal award of a Rs. 113 million contract to M/s Arttek System. The contract, described as being for a so-called "Pre-Fabricated Studios" project, has been characterized as fraudulent. The combined financial exposure in the two cases exceeds Rs. 267 million, excluding additional losses related to fake appointments and irregular disbursements. Responding to criticism, the Minister for Information and Broadcasting defended recent hiring decisions at

APPC, stating that certain appointments were necessary to prevent technical disruption of equipment valued at over Rs. 1 billion. The Minister maintained that these recruitments were made within budgetary limits and were aimed at safeguarding critical infrastructure rather than bypassing due process. The revelations have triggered fresh concerns about governance and internal controls within APPC, particularly regarding payroll systems, procurement processes, and financial oversight mecha-

nisms. The confirmation of fake appointments and large scale financial manipulation within a state run media institution has intensified calls in Parliament for stricter audit enforcement, transparent recruitment procedures, and accountability for those responsible. With multiple FIRs now registered and investigations underway, the APPC scandal is poised to become a major test case for anti-corruption enforcement within public sector media institutions.

# Opinion & Editorial

## "Importance of shria law"

Amina Abdul sattar

When Hazrat Adam (A.S) came into the world, he had no awareness about anything. He did not know what life was or how to live it. Allah educated him about everything necessary for human life. Allah gave him a clear roadmap that guided him about essential life skills—what is needed for survival, how to find comfort, what to eat, and what to avoid. Adam and Hawwa (A.S) learned all of these matters through divine commandments. Even when we are born, certain principles already apply to our lives. All these guidelines come from the Qur'an and Hadith, which are the primary sources of Sharia. Sharia is a flawless guide for humanity. It is not only a lifestyle but also a comprehensive code that teaches us how to behave at every stage of life. In the first revelation of the Qur'an, Allah instructed us to seek knowledge because learning is as important as food. To survive successfully, both food and knowledge are essential. Before Islam, there were no proper rules for living. Our Prophet (S.A.W) came and illuminated the world with knowledge. Before the enforcement of Sharia, there was no peace. People lived in darkness and ignorance. The strong used to oppress the weak. Women were treated like property, and slaves had no rights. But Islam introduced a new standard of living. It granted women rights like inheritance, khula, and haq mahr. Women had no dignity or rights. Some were buried alive at birth. Widows were not allowed

to remarry and were forced to die with their husbands. Our Prophet (S.A.W) showed kindness and compassion through his treatment of his daughters, wives, and relatives. All these examples highlight the beauty of Sharia. Sharia is essential for us like oxygen—it is the foundation of our system. Justice is a core element of our religion. Today the world has countless constitutions, and many principles originally came from Sharia. The concepts of fairness, equality, and balance were introduced by Islamic law. Islam does not allow superiority based on race, gender, or social class. After 1400 years, non-Muslims are still studying these values and shaping their laws based on equality. Marriage is also an important part of Islamic teachings, and half of one's faith lies in it. Islam does not only emphasize worship; it also provides comfort and emotional support. Husband and wife are garments for each other, providing peace and companionship. Parents must care for their children, and children must respect their parents. Kindness within a family brings reward in this world and the Hereafter. Islam encourages goodness not only towards relatives but also towards all human beings. A smile is considered a form of charity, and truthfulness is the heart of Islam. Charity is a major part of our religion. According to Islamic law, zakat is compulsory for wealthy people. Though zakat becomes obligatory after one year, Islam has introduced many other forms of helping others. If a person eats comfortably while their neighbor sleeps hungry, they are sin-

ful. Charity is not restricted to Muslims; helping non-Muslims in difficulty is also part of ethical conduct. The concept of cleanliness also originates from Sharia. Those who maintain purity protect half of their faith. Personal hygiene and pure food are an essential part of Islam, and today the whole world recognizes their benefits. Fasting and prayer are the main pillars of Islam. Allah repeatedly mentions them in the Qur'an. These worships teach us discipline. Today doctors recommend diet and physical activity, but Islam taught this discipline centuries ago. Many modern institutions such as the army, courts, police, and legal punishments have roots in Islamic principles. The Qur'an is a complete book of motivation. It teaches us not to lose hope and to accept reality with patience. Many verses guide us to trust Allah during hardships. The Qur'an teaches us emotional control and anger management, which is crucial for mental peace. Our Prophet (S.A.W) was not only a spiritual leader but also a lawyer, doctor, scientist, psychologist, humanist, and motivational speaker. Today people spend huge amounts of money studying things that Islam has already taught. People travel today for education and employment, but this is not new. Muslim ancestors travelled widely across the world. Even Hajj, the fifth pillar of Islam, involves travel and brings spiritual relief. Today scientists highlight the importance of planting trees and warn against deforestation. The world now accepts the value of trees, which was already the culture of the

Muslim golden era. People sometimes ask why Muslim countries following Sharia are not successful. The truth is that they do not apply Sharia completely. Pakistan is an Islamic country, but scholars are divided, so true Sharia is not practiced perfectly. Afghanistan claims to implement Islamic law fully, but many of their actions do not reflect the real essence of Sharia. Sadly, no Islamic country today is practicing Sharia perfectly. History proves that Muslims reached their golden age when they truly followed Islamic principles. They were honest, brave, and simple—qualities that are the essence of Islam. When Muslims left these values, their decline began. Today, we need to understand the wisdom behind Sharia. The first revelation instructed us to read, because without knowledge we cannot understand our religion. Sharia guides every aspect of our life—from day to night and from family matters to dealing with strangers. It not only gives rules but also ensures our well-being. Our festivals also promote generosity. On Eid-ul-Adha we distribute meat, and on Eid-ul-Fitr we share sweets. Islam is a religion of peace and teaches harmony. Sharia law is not just a system of punishments; it is a set of laws that protect human beings and guide them toward their rights. It brings fairness to uneven situations and gives hope even to barren lands. Now it is time to act according to Sharia laws. If we do not start living according to the Qur'an and Hadith, then God forbid, our name may be spoiled in this world. Even now, we are already facing the first major consequences. "Hold firmly to the path of Allah"

Arif Mehmood Khan  
**Group Editor: 0333-5366814**

Samra Athar Kakakhel  
 Resident Editor  
 Nadim Tanoli  
 Joint Editor: Mob-0301-777874  
 Email: [editor.peakpoint@gmail.com](mailto:editor.peakpoint@gmail.com)  
[www.peakpoint.pk](http://www.peakpoint.pk)

## Crimes of greed

An insidious mode of dispossession by influential criminals has redrawn the limits of power and control in Karachi. For years, political and institutional connivance has spawned lethal land grabbers in the country's largest city. As the construction sector expanded with the ascent of the middle class, powerful players smelt blood. A recent investigative story in this paper has pulled the wraps off this multi-tiered, ruinous land grab racket that usurps public and state property for residential and commercial purposes. It exposes how practically every zone in the metropolis is controlled by front men, each one of whom manages "receipts from each area under his control". Meanwhile, instead of applying zoning regulations, protecting government acreage and green belts, the authorities are found to be hand in glove with the plunderers. The police collude by using force to dislodge people from their land. This exploitation starkly reflects the helplessness of smallholders who lack access to the centres of power. Finalised with fake NOCs, without paper trails, these deals are shrouded in secrecy. Their beneficiaries, ranging from minions to masters, are known but unproven as criminals. According to the report, "in deh Bund Murad... [g]overnment land worth billions of rupees in various na class... was illegally transferred to private individuals..."

## CM Maryam wants 'grooming' of Punjab Police to deal with citizens respectfully



PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on Sunday issued directions to the Punjab Police to ensure "grooming" of their personnel as part of police reforms, warning them against violating the "dignity of common people".

In a high-level televised meeting, the chief minister directed Punjab Inspector General (IG) Abdul Kareem to "groom" the police staff, citing complaints of "intimidating behaviour" exhibited by Punjab Police.

"Teach them how to talk to people, and groom them mentally as well," CM Maryam stressed, warning that the police officials would "not be permitted to interact with people if they refuse to address them as sir or sahib".

"Police staff that patrol or interact with the public should directly teach them the appropriate body language," she directed.

The chief minister noted that police in Punjab often addressed people in public spaces with "oye", rather than speaking to them respectfully.

"Do not violate the dignity of the public," CM Maryam stressed.

She further underscored the "need for accountability and unlearning harmful attitudes".

"Do not deny your wrongdoing," she said, but "take accountability and work towards rectifying the error".

"We are here to serve people, not threaten and intimidate them," she

remarked, adding that the monthly evaluations would be conducted for each police officer.

"Whoever is coming to us should be treated in a dignified manner," she emphasised, issuing strict directions to register complaints immediately when they are reported and to wear body cameras while on duty.

On February 12, in a meeting at the Central Police Officer, newly-appointed IG Kareem reviewed the implementation of reform measures in Punjab Police under the "Fast, Fearless, Transparent Justice" initiative.

During the meeting, it was decided that all Punjab Police and traffic personnel will be provided with body cameras in phases within the next two months.

The Punjab IG said that "panic buttons" were being installed outside police stations so that citizens could immediately lodge complaints in case of any misconduct or lack of hearing.

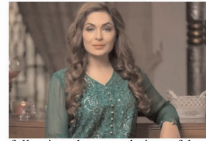
## Meera embarks on transformational new phase in career with federal ministry: M.Suleman Butt

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani film star Meera is entering a pivotal new chapter in her career following recognition from the Federal Ministry of National Heritage and Culture and the completion of her psychologically intense role in the upcoming film "Psycho", said Producer Muhammad Suleman Butt here on Sunday.

Talking to APP, he said that during a recent meeting, Federal Minister Aurangzeb Khan Khichi appreciated Meera's longstanding contributions to Pakistani cinema and assured support for her potential appointment as a Goodwill Ambassador, acknowledging her efforts in promoting local films on international platforms.

Industry insiders are also closely watching Meera after reports surfaced that she underwent psychological observation



following the completion of her role in Psycho. Sources described the character as requiring deep emotional and mental immersion, leaving a lasting effect on the actress. This performance has sparked discussions across media and film circles regarding both the intensity of her role and the scale of the project.

Observers in entertainment and brand sectors viewed this as a turning point in Meera's professional journey.

With encouragement from the Ministry of Culture, the prospect of a goodwill ambassador role.

## Gilani meets IPU president, secretary general

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani met President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Dr Tulia Ackson in New York and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to parliamentary democracy, multilateralism, and global cooperation through active engagement with the IPU.

At the meeting, he conveyed warm greetings and appreciated the IPU's role as the global forum of parliaments, said a news release received here on Sunday.

He said Pakistan considers the IPU an important platform for dialogue, rule of law, inclusive governance, and parliamentary cooperation. Gilani highlighted Pakistan's active participation in IPU assemblies and committees. He referred to his participation in the 150th IPU Assembly held in Tashkent in April 2025, where Pakistan contributed to discussions on peace, security, sustainable development, climate action, and multilateral cooperation. He also mentioned the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC) held in Islamabad in November 2025, which

ended with the adoption of the Islamabad Communiqué. He said the conference strengthened parliamentary diplomacy and linked peace and development.

The chairman said the Senate of Pakistan plays a key role in inclusive legislation, minority protection, provincial representation, and oversight.

He said that Pakistan adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through a unanimous parliamentary resolution in 2016 and expressed interest in closer cooperation with the IPU on SDG-related legislation and oversight. On climate change, he said Pakistan remains among the most vulnerable countries, recalling the devastating floods of 2022. He called for cooperation with the IPU on climate legislation and disaster preparedness. Gilani also appreciated the IPU's work on gender equality and highlighted Pakistan's reserved seats for women in parliament and measures for women's protection. He referred to the Benazir Income Support Programme as a major social protection initiative.

## President expresses deep grief over tragic road accident in Khairpur

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari, Sunday, expressed his deep sorrow and grief over the tragic accident that occurred on the national highway in Khairpur, Sindh.

The president prayed for the elevation of the ranks of the deceased and for grant of patience and strength to the bereaved families, President Secretariat Media Wing.

## Pakistan to host Kyrgyz Cultural Days as part of expansive heritage diplomacy push

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is preparing to welcome a vibrant celebration of Central Asian culture as Kyrgyz Cultural Days are set to unfold in the capital during the last week of March 2026.

Planned on the directives of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, the one-to-two-day festival will showcase the rich tapestry of Kyrgyz heritage through handicrafts, traditional cuisine, costumes, art and photography exhibitions, film screenings, and music and dance performances as Pakistan arranges full hospitality for the visiting delegation from Kyrgyzstan.

The cultural exchange marks just one element of an ambitious vision outlined by Federal



Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Muhammad Aurangzeb Khan Khichi, in an exclusive interview with APP.

Speaking about Pakistan's evolving cultural diplomacy, the minister detailed a comprehensive agenda that spans from international partnerships to heritage preservation and institutional reform, painting a picture of a nation ready to leverage its ancient civilizational legacy on the global stage. Beyond the Kyrgyz celebrations.



NEW YORK: Chairman Senate Yousuf Raza Gilani in a meeting with President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Dr Tulia Ackson during the 2026 IPU Parliamentary hearing at UN HQ.

## Journalist Community condemns firing at residence of colleague

BY: OUR CORRESPONDENT

BANNU: Unidentified individuals opened fire at the residence of senior journalist and former president of the Bannu Press Club, Ihsan Khattak, causing concern among the journalistic community. According to Ihsan Khattak, who is affiliated with a private television channel, unidentified armed men fired at the main gate of his house late last night. Fortunately, no casualties were reported. He stated that for several weeks, suspicious motorcyclists had been following him to and from the press club and during his reporting assignments. The affected journalist had already submitted an application to the

police station concerned. He maintained that he has no personal enmity or dispute with anyone. Following the incident, the police registered a case and initiated an investigation. The Bannu Press Club strongly condemned the incident and demanded an immediate and transparent investigation to bring those responsible to justice and to ensure effective protection for journalists. During an emergency meeting chaired by President Peer Niaz Ali Shah, Ihsan Khattak briefed participants on the details of the incident. Journalists expressed full solidarity and support for him. Participants stated that journalists play a vital role in reforming society and that no force

can deter them from fulfilling their professional responsibilities. SHO Allah Nawaz Khan stated that journalists raise the voice of the public and serve as a bridge between the people and the government. He assured that the police would provide full cooperation and protection to journalists. He further confirmed that a case has been registered regarding the attack on Ihsan Khattak and that legal action is being taken against those involved. Journalistic organizations and civil society members have urged the government, law enforcement agencies, and relevant authorities to ensure the safety of journalists so that they can perform their duties without fear.

## 600 MHz spectrum auction next month, to improve internet capacity: Shaza Fatima

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Federal Minister for IT & Telecom Shaza Fatima Khawaja said on Saturday the government is taking rapid steps to promote the digital economy and investment in the technology sector.

She said that next month, the 600 MHz spectrum will be auctioned, which will significantly increase mobile internet capacity and provide citizens with fast, high-quality, and reliable internet. She added that this would reduce connectivity issues for citizens and boost digital ser-

vices, e-commerce, e-governance, and other online facilities.

She was addressing the Indus AI Week Conference here at Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI).

Along with LCCI President Faheem-ur Rehman Saigol, she also inaugurated Lahore Chamber's online membership portal, and said, LCCI has become the first chamber in the country to offer online services. She explained that through this portal, new and existing businesses can easily



obtain membership, access information, and increase business collaboration.

Shaza Fatima emphasized that using technology would make business processes easier, transparent and faster,

helping strengthen the national economy.

Federal IT & Telecom Minister highlighted the "Smartphone for All" policy and said the government is taking steps to make smart-

phones accessible to citizens so everyone can benefit from modern technology. She said one million people will be reskilled and upskilled in AI so youth, women, and professionals can meet digital market needs. She added that revolutionary steps are also being taken in education so students and professionals can gain skills for the future.

She said, the government wants digital platforms and AI to be used safely, transparently, and responsibly. Steps are being taken for cybersecurity, data protection, and strong governance

so businesses and users can trust technology. She said, global-standard laws and regulations are being introduced to attract investors and boost IT and AI sector investment in Pakistan.

Shaza Fatima emphasized that youth, women, and people with disabilities should also participate in the digital economy, expanding economic opportunities and social inclusion.

The government, she said, is focusing on improving digital infrastructure, fiberization, digital payments.