



**Senate Chairman reaffirms commitment to expanding ties with Moldova**



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**Providing quality healthcare services to citizens govt's top priority: Minister**

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## CNS Admiral Naveed Ashraf undertakes official visit to Malaysia

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Reflecting Pakistan Navy's commitment to cooperative maritime security and naval diplomacy, Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) Admiral Naveed Ashraf undertook an official visit to Malaysia and called on the leadership of the Royal Malaysian Navy.

The visit commenced at Royal Malaysian Navy Headquarters, where Admiral Naveed Ashraf was received by the Chief of the Royal Malaysian Navy, Admiral Tan Sri (Dr.) Zulhelmy bin Ithnain, and was accorded a Guard of Honour, said a news release issued by Directorate General Public Relations (Pak Navy). The engagement focused on aligning strategic outlooks in an increasingly complex maritime environment. Both chiefs reviewed

avenues for enhanced operational collaboration, capacity building and coordinated responses to emerging maritime security challenges. Admiral Naveed Ashraf underscored Pakistan Navy's active role in sustaining regional stability through continuous Regional Maritime Security Patrols (RMSP) and its consistent participation in the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), reinforcing Pakistan's standing as a responsible maritime stakeholder, it further said. The CNS also visited Malaysia's National Hydrographic Centre (NHC), where he was briefed on its technical capabilities and contributions to maritime safety. Emphasizing hydrography as a foundation of effective naval operations.



KAULA LUMPUR: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf called on Chief of the Royal Malaysian Navy, Admiral Tan Sri (Dr) Zulhelmy bin Ithnain.

## Tharoor castigates India's policy towards Pakistan, stresses on talks to ease tension

PEAK POINT



NEW DELHI: Senior Indian politician Shashi Tharoor has said that India's policy of treating Pakistan as a permanent enemy has failed, arguing that lasting peace between the two nuclear-

armed neighbours is not possible without dialogue. Tharoor, a leader of the opposition Indian National Congress and a former United Nations diplomat, made the remarks in the context of long-standing tensions between India and Pakistan, which have remained largely frozen in recent years. In an article published in The Indian Express, he wrote that questions are increasingly being raised within India about the country's Pakistan-centric hostile policy, and that the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) narrative is facing internal challenges. He said that engaging in dialogue with Pakistan should not be seen as a defeat. Tharoor wrote that the BJP's hardline stance has been proven ineffective and that its confrontational politics are making the region less secure. He argued that the anti-Pakistan narrative has been used for political gains and stressed that peace is not possible without talks with Islamabad. According to the Indian Member of Parliament.

## Pakistan invited to first 'Board of Peace' meeting, likely to attend, say sources

PEAK POINT

WASHINGTON: Pakistan has been invited to the first proposed meeting of US President Donald Trump's "Board of Peace" (BoP) on Gaza, reported to be held in Washington on Feb 19, and is likely to attend, diplomatic sources told Dawn.

According to the sources, Islamabad received the invitation as part of the outreach to countries that have already joined the board, which was launched by Trump late last month. The meeting is expected to focus on giving formal shape to the board, including its structure, mandate and secretariat, the sources



said. "This will be a key meeting aimed at giving a shape and structure to the board," one diplomatic source said. Asked whether Pakistan could be approached to contribute troops to a proposed international stabilisation force for Gaza, the source said such discussions were premature. "That would come later. First, we have to

give shape to the board, form a structure, set up a secretariat and define its direction," he added.

Another source also said it was "still too early" for any discussion. A controversial initiative The White House has proposed holding the first BoP meeting at the US Institute of Peace in Washington as the board's headquarters.

Pakistan is among the 14 countries that signed the charter of the Board of Peace on January 22 on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in

Terrorists cannot demoralize nation, will be eliminated from roots: Tarar

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Saturday said that terrorists cannot demoralize the nation and that terrorism will be eradicated from its roots, while all facilitators will be brought to justice.

He expressed these views while addressing a press conference at Jamia Minhaj-ul-Hussain, where he strongly condemned the suicide bombing at an Imambargah in Islamabad's Tarlai area during Friday prayers.

## Govt takes action against online blasphemy, domestic violence

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar has said that the government has taken comprehensive measures to curb blasphemy-related content on social media, with coordinated efforts helping reduce incidents linked to the misuse of religious material online. Addressing a conference in Lahore on Sunday, the minister said the state is actively monitoring digital platforms and strengthening mechanisms to prevent the spread of offensive and provocative content. He added that the government is also moving forward with legislation aimed at preventing.

## China condemns Islamabad imambargah attack, says it supports Pakistan in safeguarding national security

PEAK POINT

BEIJING: China condemned on Sunday the deadly suicide bombing at an imambargah in Islamabad earlier this week, asserting that it "firmly supports" the Pakistani government in safeguarding national security and stability. "China is deeply shocked by the deadly explosion in Pakistan's capital Islamabad and the heavy casualties it has inflicted. China mourns for the lives lost, and our hearts go out to the injured and those who lost their loved ones." "China strongly condemns the attack, opposes any form of terrorism and firmly supports the Pakistani government in safeguarding national security and stability and protecting the safety of the people," a statement by the Chinese foreign ministry said. Separately, in a phone call with Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, his Turkish coun-



terpart Hakan Fidan conveyed "heartfelt condolences on behalf of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, himself, and the brotherly people of Türkiye" over the loss of life in the attack, the Foreign Office (FO) said. FM Dar "thanked the Turkish leadership for their solidarity and reaffirmed Pakistan's unshakable resolve to combat terrorism and protect its civilians."

according to the statement. "Both leaders also exchanged views on bilateral relations, matters of mutual interest, and key regional and international developments," the FO added. The attack took place inside the mosque at the Imambargah Qasri-Khadijatul Kubra, located in the Tarlai area of what is considered "rural Islamabad", off Lehrtar Road on Friday. It left over 30 people dead and

more 100 injured.

Police officials said the blast occurred after Friday prayers, adding that the attacker was stopped at the gate of the mosque, where he detonated his explosive payload.

Footage and photos from the blast site showed several bodies lying near the mosque's front gate, with people and debris also strewn across the red-carpeted prayer hall.

Dozens more wounded were lying in the garden outside the mosque as people called for help.

The brazen attack elicited an outpouring of grief from across the country, and prompted condemnations from most world capitals, as well as local political and religious groups. Authorities have pointed fingers at Afghanistan and India as the investigation.

## Iran insists on right to enrichment, ready for confidence-building

PEAK POINT

IRAN: Recognition of Iran's right to enrich uranium is key for nuclear talks with the United States to succeed, Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said on Sunday.

American and Iranian diplomats held indirect talks in Oman on Friday, aimed at reviving diplomacy amid a US naval buildup near Iran and Tehran's vows of a harsh response if attacked. "Zero enrichment can never be accepted by us."

Hence, we need to focus on discussions that accept enrichment inside Iran while building trust that enrichment is and will stay for peaceful purposes," Araqchi said.

Iran and the US held five rounds of nuclear talks last year, which stalled mainly due to disagreements over uranium enrichment inside Iran. In June, the US attacked Iranian nuclear facilities at the end of a 12-day Israeli bombing.





# SPORTS



## ICC, PCB officials meet in Lahore to discuss Pakistan's boycotted match with India on Feb 15



**PEAK POINT**

LAHORE: A meeting between the International Cricket Council (ICC) and Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) officials was held at Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium on Sunday to discuss Pakistan's boycotted T20 World Cup match with India on February 15.

Sources, however, say that the two sides will most likely announce the outcome of the meeting after receiving an endorsement from the Government of Pakistan.

ICC Deputy Chair Imran Khawaja landed in Lahore on Sunday to meet PCB Chairman

Mohsin Naqvi, while Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) President Aminul Islam also separately arrived in Lahore to partake in the meetings. Confirming Khawaja's arrival in a post on X, the PCB said the ICC official was greeted by Amir Mir, an adviser to the PCB chief, at the Lahore airport.

According to an earlier PCB press release, the BCB president will also meet with Naqvi. Islam was welcomed at the airport by the Pakistan Super League (PSL) CEO Salman Naseer — also an adviser to the PCB chairman — and other officials. The high-level visits come a day after the ICC

Men's T20 World Cup commenced. The 20-team tournament has been overshadowed by an acrimonious political build-up after Bangladesh, who refused to play in India citing security concerns, were replaced by Scotland.

Bangladesh remained firm on not taking part in the event after the International Cricket Council (ICC) rejected their request to move their matches to Sri Lanka.

After mulling its stance over the arising situation, Pakistan gave its cricket team the nod to participate in the World Cup, but said the Green Shirts would not play their match with arch-rivals India,

scheduled to be held in Colombo. In response to the development even before the official communication from the PCB, the ICC in a statement said the position of "selective participation is difficult to reconcile with the fundamental premise of a global sporting event where all qualified teams are expected to compete on equal terms per the event schedule".

It expressed the hope that the PCB will consider the significant and long-term implications for cricket in its own country as this likely to impact the global cricket ecosystem, which it is itself a member and beneficiary of.

## Rahmanullah Gurbaz pulls out of PSL 11, Peshawar Zalmi to rethink squad plans



**PEAK POINT**

DUBAI: Afghanistan's wicketkeeper-batter Rahmanullah Gurbaz has opted out of the 11th season of the Pakistan Super League, stepping away from the tournament due to personal reasons.

Gurbaz shared the update with fans through a video message on Instagram in Pashto, where he explained that prior commitments would prevent him from taking part in the league. He mentioned that following the World Cup, he intends to return home and dedicate time to charitable and foundation-related work in Afghanistan. He also expressed gratitude to supporters for their encouragement and understanding.

His decision comes shortly after Peshawar Zalmi had announced him as a direct inclusion in their squad ahead of the PSL 11 player draft, which is set to take place on February 11. The franchise revealed the signing on February 5, without releasing contract details.

Since debuting internationally in 2019, Gurbaz has become a regular feature in Afghanistan's cricket setup across all three formats. Beyond international cricket, he has gained experience in multiple global T20 leagues, including the Indian Premier League.

## England cling on to beat Nepal in last-ball T20 World Cup thriller



**PEAK POINT**

DUBAI: England cling on to beat Nepal by four runs in a last-ball thriller in Mumbai on Sunday and avoid one of the biggest upsets in the history of the T20 World Cup.

Chasing an imposing 185 to win, Nepal's Lokesh Bam (39 not out) needed a six off the final delivery of the match bowled by Sam Curran but could only club the ball to deep cover for a single.

It was an agonis-

ing end to a valiant run chase by the cricketers minnows, who put England's premier bowlers Jofra Archer and Adil Rashid to the sword. Jacob Bethell (55) and Harry Brook (53) scored quick fifties for England but it was a late cameo by

Will Jacks that took them to 184-7 in the Group C match, a total that proved just out of reach. Jacks smashed three spectacular sixes off the final over from Karan KC to finish 39 not out off 18 balls.

being roared on by most of the spectators in a three-quarters full Wankhede stadium.

They got off to a flying start in their chase, Kushal Bhurtel crunching 29 off 17 balls before Jacks had him caught and bowled.

Captain Rohit Paudel and Dipendra Singh Airee came together at 42-2 and brought up Nepal's 100 in the 12th over. Pace man Archer, who conceded 14 off his first over, was brought back and put the brakes on, conced-

ing just six runs from his next two overs.

But the Nepali batsmen took to Rashid at the other end, launching the leg-spinner for 19 off his third over with Airee hitting two sixes and a four.

He finished with 0-42 from three overs.

The blitz left Nepal needing 62 off the last six overs with eight wickets in hand.

Left-arm seamer Curran returned and immediately got the vital breakthrough, ending the 82-run partnership for the third wicket when Airee holed out to Tom Banton for 44.

The wicket slowed Nepal's charge and Paudel, on 39, then brought up Nepal's 100 in the 12th over. Pace man Archer, swept Liam Dawson midwicket to leave them 126-4 in the 16th over.

## Pakistan sweep Senegal 5-0 to clinch Davis Cup Group-II tie in style



## FG Polo claim 49th EcoStar Aibak Polo Cup 2026 trophy

**PEAK POINT**

LAHORE: FG Polo emerged as the champions of the 49th EcoStar Aibak Polo Cup 2026, defeating Diamond Points by 7½-4 in the main final at the historic Lahore Polo Club. The final was a showcase of elite athleticism, ending in a 7½-4 victory for FG Polo. The winners displayed exceptional synergy, led by a standout performance from Raja Mikayial Sami, who hammered home four crucial goals. Marcos Rivarola complemented the effort with a brilliant hat-trick. Adding to their score was a half-goal advantage carried over from their handicap.

Despite a spirited fight-back from Diamond Points, they remained unable to bridge the gap. Lao Abelenda was the primary aggressor for the runners-up, scoring three goals, while Mohammad Ali Malik added one. Earlier in the day, the subsidiary final provided its own share of drama as BN Polo edged out

SQ Seagold with a score of 8-6.

The event was graced by Ms. Natalie A. Baker, Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) at the US Embassy, who attended as the chief guest. Speaking at the ceremony, Ms. Baker expressed her delight, saying, "It is wonderful to be here at the Lahore

Committee members Mohammad Nasir and Raja Amir, Secretary Maj Amjad Ghafoor, and DWP EcoStar Marketing Head Shoaib Younas, Lahore Polo Club President Malik Azam Hayat Noon, club executive committee members, Secretary Maj Amjad Ghafoor, and polo enthusiasts.



Polo Club. Watching such high-quality polo amidst the vibrant Basant festivities and the beautiful Lahore weather has been a truly exhilarating experience."

The ceremony also acknowledged the tournament's top performers with premium rewards. Marcos Rivarola emerged as Most Valuable Player (MVP) and received a 65-inch QLED TV for his instrumental role in the victory. The top scorer award was claimed by Raja Mikayial Sami.

## Seifert powers New Zealand to their record T20 World Cup chase against Afghanistan





# 29,813 Workers from Balochistan sent sbroad as senate probes overseas employment and Rs.10.28 Billion welfare spending

NADEEM TANOLI

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development told the Senate during a question and answer session that nearly thirty thousand workers from Balochistan have gone abroad for employment over the past five years, while billions of rupees released under the Workers Welfare Fund show sharp provincial disparities in utilization. The briefing, delivered by Chaudhry Salik Hussain, placed detailed emigration figures, training outcomes, and welfare spending on record, prompting scrutiny over outcomes in Balochistan compared with other regions. According to the Ministry, a total of 29,813

emigrants from Balochistan proceeded overseas for employment. Saudi Arabia emerged as the largest destination with 12,770 workers, followed by the United Arab Emirates with 8,141, Qatar with 3,806, Oman with 3,225, and Bahrain with 632. Senators noted that Gulf markets continue to absorb the bulk of Balochistan's overseas workforce, underscoring dependence on a narrow set of destinations. On skills preparation, the House was informed that the Overseas Employment Corporation established a Korean Language Training Institute in Quetta in collaboration with Balochistan's technical education authority. Since the program's launch, 184 candidates from Balochistan have

received Korean language training to qualify for South Korea's Employment Permit System. The Ministry added that institutional agreements have been signed with NAVTTC, Punjab TEVTA, KP TEVTA, and Balochistan TEVTA to supply skilled workers against foreign demand, with future emphasis on government-to-government pathways, including programs for Japan. The Senate also reviewed policy changes at the Workers Welfare Fund, where a long-standing halt on new development projects was lifted, allowing the launch of long-term, sustainable schemes. New conditions require projects to prioritize industrial and mine workers, utilize available land and budgetary

space in education and health, and be completed within three years. Provincial Workers Welfare Boards are permitted to enter joint ventures with provincial governments, with WWF providing initial funding and provinces assuming recurring costs. Despite the policy shift, lawmakers focused on projects that remain deferred in Balochistan, including a 25-bedded hospital at Duki, girls' high schools at Duki and Harnai, a high school at Duki, Sibi, and Zhob. Members questioned the pace of execution given the stated emphasis on worker welfare in underdeveloped districts. Financial data presented to the House showed

that between 2018 and 2025, WWF released Rs. 10,285.892 million nationwide and utilized Rs. 9,824.087 million. The provincial breakdown revealed stark contrasts. Punjab received Rs. 2,575.137 million but utilized Rs. 3,326.549 million, with the excess covered from its own balance. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was released Rs. 2,264.966 million and utilized Rs. 2,157.259 million. Balochistan received Rs. 1,627.857 million but utilized only Rs. 522.347 million, a gap that drew pointed questions from senators. The Federal WWF (Islamabad) released and utilized Rs. 3,817.932 million in full. Specific schemes cited included a Workers Welfare

Complex (Phase-I) near the Sundar Industrial Estate in Punjab, residential flats in Peshawar and a school in Bannu in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and a Labour Complex on Japan Road, Zone-V, Islamabad, comprising 304 flats under the federal portfolio. Concluding the exchange, lawmakers emphasized that while overseas employment numbers from Balochistan are substantial, training outputs remain modest and welfare utilization lags far behind allocations. The Senate signaled continued oversight to ensure that emigration gains are matched by skills pipelines and that welfare funds translate into completed projects, particularly in Balochistan's mining and industrial districts.

# Pakistan's youth present national climate mandate to parliament in PPAF-led initiative

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's youth, empowered by the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF), are turning knowledge into action by presenting a national climate mandate to parliament.

Pakistan's youth are stepping off the sidelines and into the heart of climate decision-making.

Young climate leaders have formally submitted a

national youth climate mandate to parliamentarians, marking a pivotal moment for inclusive, accountable, and youth-driven governance.

The announcement comes at the culmination of a nationwide initiative funded by the PPAF, implemented by the Yar Muhammad Samejo Educational Society and Development Organization (YMSJESDO),



in collaboration with Abasyn University, and hosted at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA).

Addressing the audience at the National Conference on Youth Climate Policy and Governance, Nadir Gul Barech, CEO of PPAF, said, "Climate change is not just an environmental issue; it affects economic justice, social stability, and peace," stressing that youth must

move from the margins to the center of climate governance.

He added that with 64 percent of Pakistan's population under 30, youth leadership is critical for a country facing floods, droughts, heatwaves, and glacial melt. "PPAF is creating pathways for youth to move from climate diplomacy training to policy influence and local solutions," he said.

# Opinion & Editorial

Health: Rafiq Khan | Opinion: Arif Mehmood

DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD

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## On the right foot

PAKISTAN were coasting towards victory in their Twenty20 World Cup opener but then came the spectre of the all-too-familiar collapse. From 98-2 in their chase of 148 to win against the Netherlands, Salman Ali Agha's men slipped to 114-7. Questions had been raised about Pakistan's brittle middle order and they rang true in Colombo. Pakistan were staring at defeat, only for Faheem Ashraf to rescue them with a six-hitting blitz; ultimately seeing them over the line with three balls to spare. The first points are on the board but the victory will feel like a missed chance for Pakistan to give their net run rate a boost. Pakistan have already stated they will forfeit their fixture against India next week, and while back-channel talks continue between the Pakistan Cricket Board and the International Cricket Council, a quicker chase might have given them an advantage if it goes down to the net run rate to decide which teams advance from the group. Luckily, Pakistan have started off with a win which will boost confidence ahead of their next game against the US — which had defeated Pakistan at the last edition of the World Cup. It is a chance to avenge that hurt from two years ago but Pakistan need to address some lingering concerns.

## Exercise Sea Guard 2026

By: Ebraez

Pakistan Navy is conducting a national-level Exercise SEA GUARD 2026, in collaboration with key national stakeholders, from 2 to 9 February 2026 across the country's vital maritime zones, including Karachi, Ormara, Gwadar and adjoining coastal areas and at sea. The exercise is another significant milestone in Pakistan Navy's continuous efforts to enhance maritime security, inter-agency coordination and preparedness against both traditional and non-traditional threats in the maritime domain. Exercise SEA GUARD 2026 has been designed to evaluate and strengthen the cohesive capability of concerned organizations to safeguard Pakistan's maritime interests through a collaborative approach, bringing civil and military stakeholders together. All practical scenarios during the exercise are being centrally coordinated from the Joint Maritime Information and Coordination Centre (JMICC) of Pakistan Navy, located at Manora, Karachi. Exercise SEA GUARD 2026 is being conducted as a national-level maritime exercise, integrating a wide range of stakeholders responsible for maritime law enforcement, port security, disaster response, environmental protection and intelligence sharing. Alongside Pakistan Navy, the exercise is witnessing active partici-

pation from Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA), Pakistan Coast Guards, port authorities, law enforcement agencies, intelligence organizations and civil sector entities. The exercise aims to evaluate and refine inter-agency coordination mechanisms, particularly the timely sharing of maritime information and synchronized responses to emerging situations at sea. Scenarios have been crafted to mirror real-world challenges faced in Pakistan's maritime environment, ensuring that lessons learned remain directly applicable to operational realities. The central theme of Exercise SEA GUARD 2026 is maritime security, with emphasis being placed on countering threats such as illegal activities at sea, piracy, smuggling and potential terrorist threats against maritime infrastructure. Given Pakistan's reliance on secure Sea Lines of Communication (SLOCs) for trade and energy supplies, the exercise highlights the importance of constant vigilance and proactive maritime domain awareness. Recognizing the humanitarian dimension of maritime operations, Exercise SEA GUARD 2026 has included extensive Search and Rescue (SAR) scenarios. These involve simulated distress situations at sea, requiring rapid coordination among naval units, maritime law enforcement agencies

## Observability of moral principles

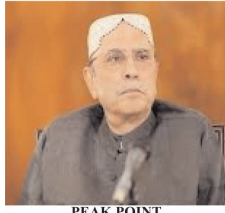
Farrukh Khan Pitafi

Those were easier times. Despite my relative lack of experience and the probationary phase of my job, I had no difficulty scheduling an interview. The year was 1999. The Kargil war had just concluded, and Islamabad and Washington were quite visibly drifting apart. The rumour had it that President Clinton was soon to visit South Asia. A precursor to that visit was the arrival of several American intellectuals and influencers to gauge the temperature. Professor Stephen P Cohen was one of them. I had just booked his interview.

When he arrived, and we sat down for the televised interview, a tug-of-war began. He wanted to convince this rookie of the growing chasm between the two countries. If I had a nickel every time I heard the sentence, "there are no permanent friends in the international system, only permanent interests", I would have been a wealthy man. Exhausted by this smooth operator's stalling, I blurted out the next question: "How relevant is morality in the international system?" He smiled. His reply was measured, but encouraging. He did not want to dismiss the notion outright. So, he offered two examples of the relevance of morality in long-term relationships: China-Pakistan friendship and the US-Israel relationship. The former does not need any qualification. I have never quite understood the latter beyond the lobbying chokehold that Israel has on America.

Experiences like these have helped shape my worldview. What was said and what was left unsaid all matter. In my humble opinion, assigning a set of policy choices to national interest is almost as naive as believing that morality has ever shaped the international order. These policy choices are defined by a government's outlook. They can be an individual's choice or the sum total of a cabinet's will, but in countries with regular government turnover, this is the deepest you can think of. Courtesy Tribune

## President thanks global community for solidarity, calls for collective resolve against terrorism



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari, Sunday, thanked the leaders and nations of the world for standing with Pakistan in this moment of grief, in the wake of terrorist bomb blast in a mosque in Islamabad.

"He said Pakistan is humbled by the strong and sincere outpouring of support and solidarity from world leaders, governments and international organisations," President Secretariat Media Wing, in a press release, quoted the president as saying.

He noted that the messages of

sympathy and solidarity had brought comfort to the people of Pakistan and strength to the families who mourn, adding these messages reaffirm that the fight against terrorism and the violent ideology that drives it, is a shared global responsibility and a common struggle for all.

The president said Pakistan had long maintained that terrorism cannot be confronted by a single country in isolation.

He observed that Pakistan's experience has shown that when terrorist groups were allowed space, facilitation or impunity beyond national borders, the consequences were borne by innocent civilians all over the world.

In this context, he underlined that certain neighbouring countries have, regrettably, become partners in crime by allowing terrorist elements to operate against Pakistan from their soil while some not only finance them directly but also provide them technical and military means.

He said this was a reality that shaped the regional developments in recent years.

"The president said Pakistan takes strong exception to the situation in Afghanistan where the Taliban regime has created conditions similar to or worse than pre-9/11, when terror organisations posed threats to global peace ending in the 9/11 tragedy," it was added.

He said Pakistan's eastern neighbour is assisting the Taliban regime and threatening not only Pakistan but the regional and global peace.

President Zardari said Pakistan remained deeply grateful for the compassion and support extended to the country in this difficult hour. He said the solidarity shown by the international community strengthened Pakistan's resolve to continue working with partners for peace, stability and a decisive end to terrorism in all its forms.

## Providing quality healthcare services to citizens govt's top priority: Minister

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Syed Imran Ahmad Shah visited Government Haji Abdul Qayyum District Headquarters Hospital, Sahiwal, where he reviewed medical facilities and inquired after patients in various wards.

During the visit, the minister interacted with patients and their attendants to understand issues related to treatment.

He directed the hospital administration to ensure the provision of all possible facilities for patients. CEO Health Dr. Syed Azhar Naqvi accompanied the minister. The Federal Minister stated that providing quality healthcare services to citizens is among the top priorities



of the current government. He noted that billions of rupees are being invested in the health sector to improve service delivery. Emphasizing professional responsibility, he stressed that doctors and medical staff must treat every patient with care, dignity, and provide quality treatment, while ensuring the availability of free medicines for all patients.

## Senate Chairman reaffirms commitment to expanding ties with Moldova

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, has reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to expanding cooperation with Moldova in trade, agriculture, defence, pharmaceuticals, healthcare, information technology, education and professional training.

Addressing a ceremony marking the appointment of Syed Kashif Ali as Honorary Consul of the Republic of Moldova in Pakistan in Dubai, Gilani congratulated him on his appointment and described the opening of the Honorary Consulate as a significant milestone in Pakistan-Moldova relations.

He said the development reflected a shared commitment to strengthening diplomatic, economic and institutional ties between the two countries.

Emphasising Pakistan's growing role in parliamentary diplomacy, Chairman Gilani highlighted the importance of parliaments in promoting dialogue, confidence-building

measures and long-term international cooperation.

He also underscored his leadership role in international diplomacy, particularly as the Founding Chairman of the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC).

He welcomed Cambodia's announcement to host the second ISC conference later this year, terming it a reflection of the forum's growing international recognition and Pakistan's vision for enhanced parliamentary cooperation worldwide.

The event, attended by distinguished diplomats and international representatives, showcased Chairman Gilani's stature as a strong advocate of global cooperation and dialogue. The ceremony highlighted Pakistan's commitment to strengthening relations with the Republic of Moldova and other countries, with the newly established Honorary Consulate serving as a bridge of friendship and cooperation between Pakistan and Moldova.

## Abbasi visits PIMS, Poly Clinic to inquire blast victims

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi Sunday visited the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) and Poly Clinic Hospital to inquire after the victims injured in a suicide bombing.

During the visit, the minister met the injured and prayed for their early and complete recovery.

He expressed solidarity with the affected families and assured them of the government's full support.

Hanif Abbasi also offered prayers for those martyred in the blast, asking Allah Almighty to elevate their ranks and grant them the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous.

The minister strongly condemned the terrorist attack and said that terrorism could never break the resolve of the nation. "Such cowardly acts cannot weaken our morale; rather, they further unite the nation," he said, adding that terrorists would never succeed in their nefarious designs. He emphasized that terrorists have no religion or nationality and that their actions.

## Minister stresses urgent need for functional infant feeding boards, robust accountability mechanisms

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: State Minister for Health, Dr. Mukhtar Bharath, has stated that breastfeeding is not merely a health issue but a strategic investment in Pakistan's bright future, robust economy, and the survival of the next generation. He emphasized that it is the most effective way to lay the foundation for a healthy society.

He expressed these views while addressing a high-level dialogue on "Strengthening the Legislative Framework for Nutrition and Early Childhood Development" at the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS).

The event, organized in collaboration with the Health Services Academy (HSA) and



UNICEF, was attended by members of the National Assembly and Senate, nutritionists, pediatricians, and officials from the Ministry of Health.

Dr. Shahzad Ali Khan, Vice Chancellor of the Health Services Academy\*, pointed out that despite the existence of laws, a lack of enforcement and support systems has kept them limited to paper. He stressed the urgent need for functional Infant Feeding Boards and robust accountability mechanisms.

## Final day of Basant in Lahore promises good kite-flying conditions

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Lahore celebrates the third and final day of Basant on Sunday, with good winds expected for kite flying in the afternoon.

Lahore remains on a public holiday as Basant enters its concluding hours. The festival, officially resumed after 25 years under government supervision, has already completed nearly 56 hours of the permitted 72-hour duration. Only about 16 hours remain for kite flying before the event concludes.

After nearly two decades, Basant returned to Lahore this week, cautiously and conditionally. It is a good feeling to have a spring festival back, even in a



limited form. Basant is tied to the culture, tradition, history and soul of Lahore, where it has long been celebrated.

According to the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), Lahore is experiencing mild and pleasant weather, with the current temperature at 12°C and a maximum of 25°C expected. Minimum temperature is recorded at 11°C.



DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Souvenir is being presented to Chairman Senate of Pakistan, H.E Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani at a prestigious ceremony marking the appointment of Syed Kashif Ali as Honorary consul of the Republic of Moldova in Pakistan.

## Governor KP lauds Pakistan Red Crescent's humanitarian services in disasters

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Sunday paid rich tribute to the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) for its invaluable and unforgettable services during natural disasters, emergencies, and situations of displacement, saying the organization has set a remarkable example of humanitarian service under the most challenging circumstances.

The Governor expressed these views while addressing a ceremony at the Pakistan Red Crescent Medical and Dental College,

Dina Nath Manga Mandi, during his visit to Lahore. On the occasion, he laid the foundation stone of a new 250-bed block for the hospital, terming it a significant addition to healthcare facilities in the area. Governor Kundi also visited the Pakistan Red Crescent Teaching Hospital Lahore, inquired after patients undergoing treatment, presented them with flowers, and conveyed his best wishes for their speedy recovery.

He appreciated the efforts of the medical and paramedical staff for their dedication and commitment to public service.

The Governor distributed



ration among deserving families under the Ramadan Package initiated by the Punjab Red Crescent, emphasizing that supporting vulnerable segments of society is a shared responsibility of the government and welfare organizations.

Praising the services of the Punjab Red Crescent, Governor Kundi thanked the organization's leadership for extending full support to the people displaced due to natural disasters in Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa.

He said that from first aid to the provision of medical facilities, the Red Crescent played a vital role in relief efforts. Expressing satisfaction over the facilities provided at the hospital and hostel, he announced that the hospital would soon be upgraded into a modern 500-bed medical center, benefiting thousands of residents of the area.

The Governor commended the performance of the hospital team, saying that doctors, teachers, and paramedical staff were serving humanity with exemplary spirit.

He proposed holding

quarterly meetings of provincial Red Crescent societies to share experiences and best practices, and urged the central headquarters to provide vehicles and other facilities to provincial units to enhance field operations.

He reaffirmed his commitment to continue cooperation with the Red Crescent in the future and to play every possible role in supporting the organization's humanitarian mission.

During the ceremony, Governor Kundi distributed certificates and shields among doctors and students who demonstrated outstanding performance.