

# DAILY MIRROR

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## Pakistan committed to combating poverty, climate issues: FinMin at Davos

The finance minister also discussed Pakistan's 10-year partnership programme with the World Bank

ONLINE

DAVOS: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb emphasised Pakistan's commitment to sustainable development during a high-level discussion at the World Economic Forum (WEF) on global debt challenges faced by developing economies.

Aurangzeb highlighted efforts to reduce government expenditures and debt servicing, noting the debt-to-GDP ratio had dropped from 78% to 67%. "Pakistan aims to address rising population, poverty, and environmental issues while pursuing sustainable economic growth," he said.

The minister discussed Pakistan's 10-year partnership programme with the World Bank and shared plans to promote business-

to-business engagement under the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

"Chinese companies will be encouraged to relocate production units to Pakistan, potentially making it a hub for exports," he added.

On the sidelines of the WEF meeting, Aurangzeb met with Anita Zaidi, President of Gender Equality at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Discussions focused on collaborative efforts to improve nutrition, health, and polio eradication in Pakistan. The minister reiterated the government's dedication to advancing these initiatives through a strengthened partnership with the foundation.



BHIMBER: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif addressing on lays foundation stone of Daanish School System ceremony in Bhimber city of Azad Jammu Kashmir.

## Pakistan remains steadfast in support of Kashmiris' right to self-determination: PM

ONLINE

BHIMBER: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering support for occupied Kashmir and its people until the achievement of their inalienable right to self-determination, as enshrined in United Nations Security Council resolutions.

"As long as the people of Kashmir do not get their right to self-determination according to the United Nations resolutions, we will continue our political, moral, and diplomatic support," the premier said during the groundbreaking ceremony of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir's first Daanish School Center of Science and Technology Center of Excellence in Bhimber on Wednesday.

The event was also attended by Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaulah Tarar, Prime Minister's Advisor for Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah, Chairman Prime Minister Youth Program Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, ministers and members of Azad Kashmir Legislative Assembly, and the leadership of the Hurriyat Conference.

He also condemned India's ongoing atrocities in the illegally occupied territory, reiterating that the sacrifices of Kashmiris would not go in vain. "Chief of Army Staff, General Asim Munir, is committed to supporting our Kashmiri brothers," added the premier.

Referring to the establishment of a Daanish School in AJK, he said that the project was the brainchild of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif and was initially aimed at providing quality education to the talented and intelligent children of the less developed areas of Punjab whose parents were unable to bear their education expenses.

"Thousands of students are now serving different key departments after completing their studies from Daanish Schools," he added. The prime minister further said the talented orphans and poor children were enrolled in Daanish Schools which would bring an educational revolution in the country. Shehbaz also said the students get free books, meals and boarding facilities. Similarly, he said the school buildings would be separate for girls and boys.

## Govt, opposition negotiating committee meeting summoned on Jan 28

INP

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq summoned the meeting of negotiating committee to hold talks between the government and opposition on January 28.

It will be in-camera meeting that will be presided by NA speaker.

The government is likely to respond to the demands of opposition in written form.

It merits mention here that PTI leader Barrister Gohar said that the next meeting wouldn't be held if the government doesn't respond to the demands of PTI.

Earlier, PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar had given 7-day ultimatum to the government to form judicial commission on May 9 incidents.

"We'll not hold the fourth meeting with the government negotiating team if there is no judicial commission in next seven days," said the PTI chairman.

Gohar said that PTI is adamant on its earlier demands.

He said that PTI really wants to continue negotiations with the government.

## Bench powers case has nothing to do with 26th constitutional amendment: Justice Mansoor Ali Shah

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Justice Mansoor Ali Shah has remarked that the case related to the bench's jurisdiction has nothing to do with 26th constitutional amendment.

"If some one starts scaring on their own then it is a separate matter, he gave these remarks while presiding over two members bench during a contempt of court hearing on Wednesday regarding the non-scheduling of a case on the powers of benches.

SC appointed Khawaja Haris, Ahsan Bhoon new amicus curiae.

Amicus curiae proposed to constitute full court.

Justice Mansoor Ali Shah inquired can we issue order for full court while hearing contempt of court case.

Munir A Malik said committee

decision has been presented as defence. The court can order for full court on committee powers. First case was fixed in this bench erroneously. If it was mistake even then judicial order has been issued on this. Now judicial order can be changed by second judicial order.

The matter is now linked to independence of judiciary. The matter can be resolved once for all through full court.

Attorney General (AG) said court has very limited jurisdiction powers in contempt of court case.

Written reply should be filed first by the one to whom show cause notice has been issued. There is objection over appointment of amicus curiae. The two lawyers who have been appointed amicus curiae are counsels of the petitioners in petition against 26th constitutional amendment.

## Opposition's civil disobedience plans won't succeed: Khawaja Asif

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has said the government has a planned strategy to counter any civil disobedience movement by the opposition.

Speaking to the media in Islamabad, he clarified that Barrister Gohar, not the government, proposed ending the negotiations.

He added while the opposition made claim about judicial commission and civil disobedience, the government remained unshak-

ing. Khawaja Asif highlighted that the opposition's past attempts, including civil disobedience and attacks, had failed to achieve their objectives.

He urged them to outline their expectations from the judicial commission and included past events like the '35 punctures' claims, sit-ins, and the May 9 incidents.

The minister lamented opposition-aligned social media personalities for spreading false rumors, emphasizing that the government was focused on addressing public issues rather than political distractions.

## IGP Balochistan Highlights Role of Police at 101st Passing-Out Parade in Quetta

NEWS DESK

Quetta: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Balochistan, Moazzam Jah Ansari, addressed the passing-out parade of the 101st batch in Quetta, encouraging new recruits to serve with integrity and uphold the highest standards of professionalism.

In his speech, IGP Ansari praised the rigorous training provided to the recruits and urged them to carry out their duties with honesty and dedication. He stated, "Your ethical conduct will elevate the reputation of the Balochistan Police."

The IGP also emphasized the growing responsibilities of the police force in light of current challenges. He remarked, "The role of the police has become increasingly vital, and our personnel face significant risks in their line of duty."

Paying tribute to the sacrifices of the force, he added, "Many brave officers and personnel of the Balochistan Police have laid down their lives in the fight against crime and terrorism."

He urged the recruits to actively combat terrorism, kidnappings, and other criminal activities, reaffirming their critical role in maintaining law and order across the province. Acknowledging the contributions of women in the force, IGP Ansari expressed pride in the growing female representation. "The inclusion of over 1,000 women in Balochistan Police reflects the increasing public trust in the institution," he said.

The passing-out parade marked a significant milestone for the new batch as they prepared to join the ranks of the police force and contribute to the safety and security of Balochistan.

## Balochistan govt, GHA settle down matters, announce to end strike

INP

QUETTA: The Balochistan government and Grand Health Alliance (GHA) has settled down the matters and announced the culmination of strike.

After holding successful negotiations between the Balochistan government and the Grand Health Alliance, the medical services have been restored and announced the end of the strike.

According to Balochistan government spokesperson Shahid Rind, all matters have been resolved amicably, and the Grand Health Alliance has been given assurances to avoid any future strikes and protests.

He said that officials from the Pakistan Medical Association played a mediatory role in the negotiations between the Grand Health Alliance and the government.

It was made clear that the decision of the Balochistan High Court would be fully implemented, and all orders of the High Court would be followed.

He added that Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti and Provincial Health Minister

Bakht Muhammad Kakar are committed to provide quality healthcare services to the general public.

The spokesperson mentioned that the ongoing reforms in the health department are for the greater public interest and will be continuously maintained.

The government clarified that public hospitals will be transformed into model health care centers for public service.

The resources of the health department are a trust of the poor people, and their proper utilization will be ensured.



DAVOS: Federal Minister of Finance, Muhammad Aurangzeb invited as a speaker at a panel discussion on debt sustainability by the World Economic Forum. The session was titled: "Back into the black: How to ease the debt structure?"

# 190m pounds scam mega corruption case in history of Pakistan: Tarar

INP

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaulah Tarar said on Wednesday that the 190 million pounds scam was a mega corruption case in the history of Pakistan.

In a televised media talk, he said that during Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf rule, Shahzad Akbar who headed the then Asset Recovery Unit had shown £190 million handed over by the National Crime Agency of the United Kingdom as confiscated money.

He said that a note was put up to the then Prime Minister regarding 190 million pounds recovery.

But in gross violation of law, he added, the amount was transferred to the Supreme Court account and used for payment of the fine imposed on the tycoon by the apex court.

The international media also headlined the 190 million pound case verdict as punishment for corruption as there was solid evidence of graft, misuse of power and authority.

He said the then-ruling couple took two hundred kanals of land as a bribe, Al-Qadir Trust was formed, and 5-carat rings were taken from the tycoon whose fine was paid through 190 million pounds.

In sheer violation of rules, a sealed envelope was brought to the cabinet meeting and its approval was taken without even sharing details of the content, despite some member's objections.

The Supreme Court had termed the case as a classic example of robbing Peter to pay as the money was taken from one hand and given to another in case of daylight robbery.

The government of Pakistan's money was misused and billions of rupees of public money was practically handed over to the person who was found guilty of money laundering in the UK.

He said the National Accountability Bureau had been investigating many cases of corruption and land grabbing against Malik Riaz and his son Ali Riaz.

He said the NAB has made it clear that whatever money

will be spent on the Dubai project will fall under the category of money laundering.

He remarked that the 190 million pounds case was an open and shut case as undeniable evidence against Malik Riaz and his son was on record.

Malik Riaz has been declared an absconder as he was not ready to face cases registered against him, he maintained.

The British government cancelled the visas of Malik Riaz and his son as a punishment when it was proven that money that was seized from him was the property of the government of Pakistan.

He wondered how the PTI social media platforms were linking this matter with Seerat.

He requested them to keep religion out of politics and such corruption cases.

They should face cases of corruption and bribery in the courts and should not try to hide their heinous crimes behind religion, he added.

## Naqvi, US lawmakers agree to promote bilateral relations

INP

WASHINGTON DC: Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi and US lawmakers have agreed to promote bilateral relations between the two countries.

Naqvi, who is in the US on an official visit, held meetings with Democratic Congressman Thomas Richard Suozzi and Republican Congress member Jack Bergman, who are also members of the Pakistani Caucus in Washington.

During the meetings, the officials discussed matters of mutual interest, including Pakistan-US relations, as well as other important issues, including the situation in Afghanistan.

Minister Naqvi invited Congressman Thomas Suozzi and Congressman Jack Bergman to visit Pakistan, saying their visit would help strengthen bilateral ties.

The interior minister told the American lawmakers that the US is a key economic and defence partner of Pakistan, adding the South Asian country valued American cooperation in its social sectors. He emphasised that Pakistan attached special importance to its bilateral relations with the US.

Naqvi added that Pakistan sought further collaboration in all areas with the US.

Congressman Thomas Suozzi expressed his commitment to further strengthening relations with Pakistan and confirmed that he would visit Pakistan soon.

The meeting also decided to hold the Pakistani Caucus Conference in Washington DC on April 30.

Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, Rizwan Saeed Sheikh, was also present during the meeting.

## Pakistan's first polio case of 2025 reported in KP's DI Khan

INP

ISLAMABAD: The National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC) on Wednesday said that the country's first polio case of the year was reported in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Dera Ismail Khan district.

Pakistan is one of the last two countries in the world, alongside Afghanistan, where polio remains endemic. Despite global efforts to eradicate the virus, challenges such as security issues, vaccine hesitancy, and misinformation have slowed progress.

A press release issued today from the NEOC said the Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio Eradication at Islamabad's National Institutes of Health (NIH) confirmed the first wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) case of 2025.

"The onset of the case was on January 7," the press release said, adding that DI Khan reported 11 polio cases in 2024.

"Last year, a total of 73 cases were reported. Of these, 27 were from Balochistan, 22 from KP, 22 from Sindh, and one each from Punjab and Islamabad," it added.

The NEOC said polio was a paralyzing disease that had no cure, adding that multiple doses of the oral polio vaccine and completion of the routine vaccination schedule for all children under the age of five were essential to provide children with high immunity against the terrible disease.

It added that the year's first polio vaccination campaign was scheduled from February 3-9 nationwide.

## Federal govt employees stage sit in to press their demands for withdrawing pension reforms, increase in salaries

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Government employees has staged sit-in at cabinet block chowk constitution avenue in support of their demands.

The employees in large number reached in front of cabinet block while voicing protest.

Police stopped the protest rally from going outside parliament house. All the avenues leading to parliament house were shut with erecting barbed wires.

The employees wanted to take rally to parliament house after holding protest outside ministry of finance.

Rehman Bajwa chief organizer of All Government Employees Grand Alliance (AGEGA)

demanding in charter of demand that divergences in the salaries of federal government employees be abolished. Upgradation along with perks of all federal government employees be made on the pattern of provincial government employees.

### Balochistan Information Commission to Ensure Public access to Information Aims to Promote Transparency

APP

QUETTA: Commissioners of the Balochistan Information Commission, Abdul Shakoor Khan and Shania Khan reiterated their commitment to promote transparency and accountability, with a focus on ensuring public access to information as they meet.

The commission is marking a significant step forward in promoting transparency and accountability in the province.

The Balochistan government has implemented the Right to Information Act 2021 to ensure easy access to information to the masses.

The RTI act aims at empowering the masses and giving them the power to obtain information about government departments in Balochistan.

They participated in a meeting organized by the Association for Integration and Development (AID), which focused on the topic "The Effectiveness and Challenges of the Right to Information Commission."

During the meeting, AID's Executive

Director, Adil Jahangir, provided a detailed briefing to the participants about the Right to Information (RTI) law and its implementation.

Addressing the gathering, Commissioner Abdul Shakoor Khan said that the RTI law in Balochistan is an important tool for government transparency and accountability for citizens.

He mentioned that this law enables citizens to participate in government affairs and access necessary information.

Commissioner Shania Khan, in her speech, emphasized that the Primary goal of the Information Commission is to ensure the provision of constitutional rights to citizens.

She elaborated on the Commission's efforts and ongoing public awareness programs. Participants were informed that the Balochistan Right to Information Act 2021 gives citizens the right to request information from any government department, as long as the information does not pertain to national security or public interest concerns.



QUETTA: A view of 101th police parade held at Police Training center.

### Maryam Nawaz A Role Model For Other CMs: Azma Bokhari

APP

LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari has said that Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz is a role model for other provincial chief ministers, and an era of development, prosperity, and peace is returning to Punjab.

Initiatives like the Kisan Card, electric bikes, scholarships, and the "Dhee Rani Program" are progressing successfully in the province.

Maryam Nawaz has launched a network of public welfare projects extending from Central Punjab to Southern Punjab, she said and added that new roads are being constructed across the province, and electric buses have also been introduced in Punjab.

She highlighted that landmark initiatives like the "Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar" scheme and the provision of free cancer medicines are hallmarks of Maryam Nawaz's leadership.

Moreover, her "Khushal Punjab" and "Suthra Punjab" projects are advancing effectively, she added. Azma Bokhari criticized the previous government, saying that for four years, Punjab's resources were mercilessly exploited by Gogi, Pinky, and the captain's regime.

However, Maryam Nawaz is now addressing the injustices done to the people of Punjab during those years, she added.

### New Gwadar airport represents yet another chapter of Pak-China friendship, trade & tourism

INP

BEIJING: Pakistan's Ambassador to China, Khalil Hashmi said that the new Gwadar International Airport represents yet another chapter of Pak-China friendship, trade, tourism, and regional prosper.

"A historic moment indeed as the first commercial flight lands at Gwadar International Airport. This milestone is a testament to Pakistan's growing connectivity; it marks completion of another CPEC infrastructure project and represents yet another chapter of Pak-China friendship, trade, tourism, and regional prosperity," he commented on social media platform X.

The New Gwadar International

Airport, funded and built by China as a grant, officially commenced operations on January 20. The first flight, PIA503 operated by Pakistan International Airlines, arrived at the newly inaugurated airport from Karachi.

The airport is a 4F-grade state-of-the-art facility built to handle the largest civil aircraft. Its 3,658-meter-long, 75-meter-wide runway, with a specialized foundation, sets a benchmark in engineering standards.

The new airport is located in a coastal area and faces a harsh salt spray environment that may potentially cause corrosion. According to a Chinese construction technician, the construction team took anti-corrosion measures in many aspects,

such as the foundations, steel structures and decoration, with the aim of ensuring the durability of the terminal building. The manager of the new airport told Chinese media that the facility will greatly improve Pakistan's air connectivity with other countries and provide easy access for international cargo and tourists. The airport will also be equipped with a refrigerated cargo storage system to facilitate exports of local seafood and further integrate Gwadar's economy into the global market. Addressing previous connectivity challenges, the airport will enable modern airlines to serve Gwadar, enhancing regional economic growth and positioning Gwadar as a transshipment hub linked to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

### More than dozen profiteers fined on violation of price list in Kohlu

APP

Quetta: Local administration on Wednesday took strict action against profiteers and encroachments and fines imposed on shopkeepers on violation of price control and standard items in Kohlu. More than a dozen shopkeepers were fined on violation of price control and non quality of edible items in conduction operation against them in different markets and centers in the city. On this occasion, Risaldar Major Sher Muhammad Marri said that the purpose of removing encroachments is to reduce the difficulties of daily life of the citizens, due to which immediate action is being taken on public complaints so that relief could be provided to the citizens. He said that the aim of this action is to save the public from inflation and illegal encroachments. He warned the shopkeepers and citizens to ensure compliance with the law and follow the control price list, otherwise strict action would be taken against them those involved in violation of price control list.

### OEC will export medical professionals to Saudi Arabia

INP

ISLAMABAD: Overseas Employment Corporation (OEC) an attached department of Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (OP&HRD) would export the medical professionals to Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. An official source told APP here on Wednesday, he said that in this regard OEC collecting the data of job seekers who are interested in working in KSA. He said that only female nursing staff with the relevant qualifications and experience candidates would be eligible to apply against the job. Bachelor of Science in Nursing BSN (4 years) or (Post RN), Master's Degree in Nursing or equivalent from an accredited institution or SCFHS Diploma in area of speciality-essential, current licensure as a professional registered nurse - essential, Registration with Saudi Commission for Health Specialties-essential.

### Commissioner Kalat reviews test interviews of teachers held in SBK

APP

Quetta: Commissioner Kalat Division Muhammad Naeem Khan Bazai on Wednesday chaired a meeting to review the complaints of candidates of Kalat Division regarding the test interviews held in SBK and the appointment of teachers on contract basis in the Education Department.

These complaints were received by the Grievance Redressal Cell from Commissioner Kalat Division Muhammad Naeem Khan Bazai.

The Commissioner Kalat Division said

that the merit and suitability of the candidate would be taken into account in the Department and recommendations would be made to the Education Department for redressal of valid complaints. He said that no negligence would be tolerated regarding the Education Department and merit would be ensured under the disabled quota and minority quota.

He further said that compliance with the merit policy of Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Khan Bugti would be ensured in all cases.



Vendor sells toys to earn his livelihood for support his family, at a roadside stall located on Zarghoon road in Quetta



ISLAMABAD : All Government Employers Grand Alliance (ALEGA) Pakistan is protesting in front of Q Block Pak Secretariat in favor of their demands.



### BCCI says will follow rules amid reports of ICC warning on refusal to print 'Pakistan' on team kits

SPORTS DESK

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Wednesday affirmed its compliance with all uniform-related rules amid reports of the International Cricket Council (ICC) warning the board against its alleged refusal to have 'Pakistan' printed on its team's Champions Trophy kits as part of the tournament logo.

The Champions Trophy will be held in Pakistan from Feb 19 to March 9.

"BCCI will follow every uniform-related ICC rule during Champions Trophy," Devajit Saikia, the Indian cricket board's secretary, was quoted as saying by Indian news agency Press Trust of India.

Earlier today, state broadcaster PTV reported that according to Indian media outlet NDTV, the BCCI was sent a "firm message" from the ICC regarding the alleged hesitation to print Pakistan on its kits.

"It is the responsibility of every team to add the tournament logo to their jerseys. All teams are obligated to comply with this rule," NDTV reported an ICC official as saying.

PTV reported that the ICC rejected the Indian board's contention that it was not keen to have Pakistan written on its team kit as part of its host nation regulation.

"The Indian board has, in fact, been asked by ICC that the Indian team is obligated to have 'Pakistan' written on the kit as the nation is the original host for the tournament," PTV said.

India, due to political strains with Pakistan, has not played any bilateral cricket with Pakistan since 2012-13 when a Misbahul Haq-led squad toured India for a white-ball series.

While no Indian team has toured Pakistan after the 2008 Asia Cup, Pakistan teams in the meantime have been travelling to India for different ICC events.

To accommodate India in the eight-nation Champions Trophy, a two-way hybrid model has been adopted recently by the ICC with the consent of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and BCCI to hold all the Champions Trophy matches involving India in Dubai.

Under the same model, the Green Shirts will also not travel to India for any future ICC event in which India will hold Pakistan's matches at a neutral venue.

Last week, questions arose about whether the Indian side or their captain Rohit Sharma will come to Pakistan to attend the Champions Trophy opening ceremony event.

On Monday, the PCB allayed fears about the readiness of the venues for this year's Champions Trophy as it welcomed media for a tour of stadiums in Lahore and Karachi.



CHELSEA'S Marc Cucurella (R) celebrates after scoring against Wolverhampton Wanderers during the Premier League match at Stamford Bridge.

### Chelsea beat Wolves to return to Premier League top four

SPORTS DESK

LONDON: Chelsea overcame a howler from goalkeeper Robert Sanchez to beat relegation-threatened Wolverhampton Wanderers 3-1 on Monday, ending a five-game winless run to climb back into the Premier League's top four.

Enzo Maresca's team were just two points behind leaders Liverpool in mid-December, raising hopes of an unlikely title challenge before losing their way.

Now they are back on track to qualify for next season's Champions League after second-half goals from Marc Cucurella and Noni Madueke spared Sanchez's blushes.

The Spanish goalkeeper had dropped the ball moments before half-time, allowing Matt Doherty to cancel out Tosin Adarabioyo's opener.

Maresca said Chelsea had dominated the first 40 minutes before problems that have haunted them in recent weeks returned.

"We lost a little bit of confidence, we conceded a goal and we started to struggle a little bit and then the second half I think we started quite well and then after the second and third goals the game was in control," he told Sky Sports.

He added: "In the past five games we didn't win but I said many times that the performance was there. We created many chances, we didn't score and tonight finally we scored three goals."

Chelsea's top-scorer Cole Palmer, a doubt before the game, was fit to start as Maresca made five changes from last week's draw against Bournemouth including bringing in centre-back Trevoh Chalobah, recalled from his loan spell at Crystal Palace.

The home side dominated possession in the early stages and Palmer had a couple of early efforts, curling one wide and forcing Jose Sa into a diving save.

The home side were rewarded for their dominance midway through the first half when Adarabioyo fired home for his first Premier League goal for the club.

The defender controlled the ball well after it was deflected into his path from Reece James's shot from the edge of the box.

A number of Chelsea players were in offside positions in a crowded penalty area and the flag was raised but the on-field decision was overturned after a VAR check.

Wolves, anaemic in attack for most of the first half, came back into the game as half-time approached, scoring with their first shot on target thanks to Sanchez's error.

The visitors won a corner and the goalkeeper dropped the inswinging delivery from Matheus Cunha under intense pressure when he could have punched clear, with Doherty poking home.

The home side started the second half brightly and were back in front on the hour mark when Cucurella hooked home on the stretch after Madueke's cross was flicked on by Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall. Five minutes later Chelsea had a two-goal cushion when Madueke scored his fourth goal of the season against Wolves, heading home Chalobah's goal-bound effort.

Sanchez palmed a Cunha shot behind with 10 minutes to go but Chelsea were largely comfortable despite the occasional minor scare and leapfrogged Newcastle and Manchester City, whom they face next. Former Leicester boss Maresca, in his first season in charge at Stamford Bridge, stubbornly insisted his team were not in the title race even when they were flying high.

### Djokovic beats Alcaraz in Melbourne blockbuster as Sabalenka survives in the Australian Open

SPORTS DESK

MELBOURNE: A vintage Novak Djokovic tamed Carlos Alcaraz in a late-night blockbuster to set up an Australian Open semi-final with Alexander Zverev as two-time women's defending champion Aryna Sabalenka fought on.

The 37-year-old Djokovic rolled back the years at the scene of his greatest achievements on Rod Laver Arena in Melbourne with a 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 triumph sealed close to 1:00 am.

The Serb surged into the semi-finals and a date with world number two Zverev to edge closer to an 11th Melbourne crown and all-time record 25th Slam title.

"I just wish that this match today was the final," said Djokovic, who had to have his thigh heavily strapped and appeared to be labouring at the end of the first set. "Just one of the most epic matches I have played on this court, any court really."

With former rival Andy Murray now in his coaching corner, Djokovic was at his imperious and defiant best, cupping his ear to the crowd after winning big points.

Djokovic was at the centre of a row on Monday after he demanded an apology — and got one — from a local TV presenter for what he called "insulting and offensive comments".

Spain's world number three Alcaraz will have to wait another year to get a kangaroo tattoo. He had vowed to get one if he won the Australian Open for the first time.

The 21-year-old four-time major champion has still never been beyond the Melbourne Park last eight.

He felt he should have rammed home the advantage when Djokovic was struggling with his movement.

"Yeah, I saw that he had issues just moving a little bit. I had to push him a little bit more to the limit. I didn't do it," Alcaraz said. "After that, he started to feel better and played such a great level. That was my biggest mistake today."

"Obviously when Novak is at this level, it's difficult. I had my chances. It was a really close match. I think most of the crucial points, it went to his side. When Novak is playing at this level, it's really difficult to find the way."



Pakistan Cricket Team Players are warming up and improve their cricketing techniques during the net practice match for the upcoming two ICC World Test Championship Tests against the West Indies, at Multan Cricket Stadium.

Member APNS

## Daily Mirror

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## Errant ECP

**T**HE ECP has once again earned a detailed reprimand from the Supreme Court, this time over its decision to de-seat an independent lawmaker whom the ruling PML-N had 'claimed' as one of their own.

Finding that the ECP does not have jurisdiction to conclusively determine whether an affidavit stating that the lawmaker in question had joined the PML-N was genuine or not, the SC had set aside the commission's decision to de-seat the lawmaker in question for not voting in line with the PML-N's directives on the 26th Amendment.

Furthermore, the court also made note of substantial evidence suggesting that the lawmaker had declared his allegiance to the Sunni Ittehad Council both in the form of a written and signed declaration to the ECP and publicly. Not only that, but the PML-N's party head had also failed to provide a single instance that demonstrated that the lawmaker had been a member of their parliamentary party.

That the ECP chose to adopt the ruling party's stance despite it being "contrary to the weight of the material on record" has prompted a separate note from Justice Ayesha Malik, who has questioned why the commission continues to exceed its bounds by repeatedly taking cover behind its status as a constitutional body.

Recalling that "the primary duty of the ECP is to ensure free, fair and transparent elections", Justice Malik has reminded it that "on a constitutional plane, the ECP is not the master rather the forum or organ that must perform the task which lies at the heart of the constitutional democracy." Underlining that the ECP is "duty bound to ensure that those elected by the people remain in government", the honourable justice notes that it is a solemn observance of this duty that maintains the integrity of the elections and later gives legitimacy to the government.

"It is unfortunate that despite clear pronouncements by this Court, the ECP conducts itself in a manner that is not in line with its constitutional duty rather aligned with the notion that they have the constitutional power to disregard other constitutional institutions and the basic right of the vote," Justice Malik regrets in her conclusion.

It is not the first time the commission has acted thus. Indeed, time and again, it has behaved as if it has no obligation to uphold the standards of freedom, fairness and transparency that have been prescribed to it along with the duties delegated by the Constitution.

The results of its institutional contemptuousness have been plain for all to see: a government that struggles daily to establish its legitimacy,

pervasive and persistent political instability, and increasing disillusionment among the public regarding the Pakistani state's capacity to fulfil its existential needs. That it still refuses to correct course is ominous indeed.

By Sheikh Abdul Razzaq

## A Step Towards Development: Balochistan CM Mir Sarfraz Bugti to Represent the Province at the World Economic Forum

**B**alochistan, renowned for its natural resources, strategic location, and rich cultural heritage, is stepping onto the global stage to highlight its developmental priorities and economic potential. Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, is set to represent the province at the 53rd World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland—a significant milestone not just for Balochistan but for Pakistan as a whole.

On January 23, Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti will attend the "Pakistan Pavilion, Balochistan Breakfast" as the guest of honor. The event, hosted by the Pathfinder Group, will be attended by representatives from over 120 countries. Key speakers include Zarrar Sehgal, Chairman of the Pathfinder Group; Adam Weinstein, Research Fellow at the Quincy Institute; Dr. Huma Baqai; and former Prime Minister of Pakistan, Senator Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar. Together, they will discuss Balochistan's development, investment opportunities, and the region's promising future.

In his address, CM Bugti will shed light on ongoing development projects in Balochistan, the progress made under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and the opportunities available for international investors. His speech will send a clear message to global economic

leaders: Balochistan is on the path to progress and offers significant opportunities for investment.

Balochistan's developmental strategy includes transformative projects such as the Gwadar Port, the development of mineral resources, and investment in the energy sector. These initiatives hold immense importance not only for the region but also for the global economy. Infrastructure development under CPEC and efforts to make Gwadar a trade hub have positioned Balochistan as an attractive destination for international investors.

The World Economic Forum offers a crucial platform to highlight Balochistan's developmental priorities and attract global investment. CM Bugti's participation will reinforce the message that Balochistan is a region advancing toward growth, peace, and prosperity.

Promoting international partnerships is vital for Balochistan's progress. The province's developmental plans aim to improve living standards, create economic opportunities, and foster long-term growth. The Davos 2025 forum marks a historic opportunity to advance these objectives and showcase Balochistan as a region ready to collaborate with the world.

This event will serve as a milestone in informing global investors about the untapped opportunities in



Balochistan and elevating the region's development strategy to a new level.

CM Bugti's efforts are a testament to the government's commitment to improving

the lives of the people of Balochistan and taking the province to new heights of progress.

The Chief Minister's participation in Davos 2025 will send a resounding message that

Balochistan is prepared to engage with the world and is firmly on the path to development. This forum has the potential to not only spotlight Balochistan's priorities but also to pave the way for a brighter future for the entire region, putting it firmly on the global map as a hub of growth and opportunity.

By Naeem Sadiq

## Elaborate narcissism

**A** 13-MONTH-OLD girl from KP's Tank district became Pakistan's 69th victim of polio in 2024. The numerous full-page advertisements and a commemorative 'polio free' postal stamp showing a photo of Aseefa Bhutto-Zardari, issued in 2009, could not eradicate polio in Pakistan. A disease for which the only reliable remedy is clean drinking water cannot be cured by newspaper ads or postal stamps of family members — all at the taxpayers' expense.

On Jan 7, 2025, the Punjab chief minister launched a project, naming the 150 existing basic health units (BHUs) across the province as 'Maryam Nawaz Health Clinics' (MNHCS). No one questioned the legal or ethical basis for her seeking personal publicity by adding her name to government institutions — to which she had contributed not a single penny of her own.

Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan, renowned for his pivotal role in Pakistan's nuclear programme, had a similar penchant. He loved to see his name on government buildings and institutes. He was most agreeable to the naming of Khan Research Laboratories (KRL), Dr A.Q. Khan Institute of Computer Sciences and Information Technology, A.Q. Khan Institute of Technology Mianwali, Dr A.Q. Khan Institute of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering (KIBGE) Karachi besides scores of schools, stadiums, and roads that were named after him.

Having never attended medical school, Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi managed to get the Government Institute of Cardiology in Multan

named after himself. Not to be left behind, Mian Nawaz Sharif (no colleague of Steve Jobs), managed to get a Rs100 billion government project named 'Nawaz Sharif IT City'. Likewise, despite no contribution to the advancement of dentistry, a dental college in Larkana was named 'Bibi Aseefa Dental College'. Bilawal Medical College for Boys (BMC) at Jamshoro, Bakhtawar Cadet College Nawabshah, Nawaz Sharif Interchange in Lahore and Afza Altaf bridge in Karachi are just a few drops in this ocean of accelerating narcissism that makes political leaders seek personal glory at taxpayers' expense.

Political leaders seek personal glory at taxpayers' expense.

Be it a road, hospital, school, bridge or distribution of laptops or health cards, government-funded projects are distastefully accompanied by elaborate and extravagant media campaigns and opening ceremonies. Millions are spent on billboards, TV and newspaper advertisements displaying politicians' photos (often those of the entire family) and taking credit for initiatives funded entirely by taxpayers or international donors. They are showcased as their own personal achievements, creating a perception of personal charity rather than state-funded initiatives. In developed countries, placing personal photographs in government advertisements or giving one's own or a family member's name to a government project is considered illegal and an undesirable act of self-glorification. What is their legal and ethical standing in Pakistan? The Supreme Court of Pakistan, while hearing a civil peti-

tion (No. 4734 of 2018) wrote in its judgment dated Nov 22, 2022, that, "Paid servants of the State, constitutional office holders and politicians in government must not use their positions for personal, partisan or pecuniary gain. If someone names a public/government place or property after themselves or affixes their own name or image on a public/government document, it is self-glorification, and if this is done by others, it would constitute flattery, nepotism or corruption. Pakistan is not a kingdom, principality or fiefdom in which the people are to be beholden to their rulers." The judgment went on to further state that, "To name public/government properties and anything planned, developed or managed from public/government funds or to project oneself by getting one's photograph affixed on the documents, violates the Constitution, undermines Pakistan's Islamic moorings, is without lawful authority, and, if one may add, is also in bad taste."

Misuse of taxpayers' money for self-publicity diverts funds from critical public services, exacerbating issues like poverty, illiteracy, and poor healthcare. Furthermore, it erodes public trust in government institutions, fostering cynicism and disengagement among citizens. A progressive Pakistan calls for leaders who do not blur the line between public service and self-promotion by leveraging state resources to boost their political image. Perhaps a beginning could be made by civil society in Pakistan to form a citizens' commission for independent oversight and highlighting of incidents where personal or party glorification is sought at the taxpayers' expense.

# DAILY MIRROR

## PM for transparency in student selection for China's agricultural training

APP

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has directed that transparency and merit should be the top priority in the selection of students being sent for agricultural training in China.

Chairing a meeting in Islamabad, he instructed to form a committee to resolve complaints of students who do not meet the selection criteria during the scrutiny of applications through the portal.

Shehbaz Sharif said the government will bear all expenses for the modern agricultural training of Pakistani students in China, and that the first batch of students will soon depart for China. He mentioned that ten percent special quota has been reserved for students from Balochistan for this agricultural

training opportunity.

The Prime Minister said China is Pakistan's longstanding friend and its development in the agricultural sector is unparalleled.

He expressed gratitude to the Chinese leadership and universities for providing Pakistani students the opportunity to receive modern agricultural training in their country.

The Prime Minister was informed that students from the agricultural sector had submitted their applications through the portal in a transparent manner. Out of 1,287 applications, 711 students met the established criteria for training. These students also include candidates from Balochistan and Gilgit-Baltistan.

The meeting was informed that these students will be sent to China in two

batches.

The first batch of 300 students will receive training in areas such as irrigation improvement,

livestock disease diagnosis and monitoring, livestock breeding and modern genetics, and the

preparation and processing of modern seeds. The first batch of students will depart for China in March.

The second batch of 400 students will be sent to China in the middle of this year.

They will receive training in the use of modern machinery in agriculture, rapid crop growth, the use of modern technology in agriculture including artificial intelligence, and fruit and vegetable processing.



WASHINGTON: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi met with US Congressmen Thomas Richard Suozzi and Jack Bergman in Washington.

### Barrister Saif urges Nawaz Sharif to stop monitoring military from Raiwind

INP

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Adviser for Information, Barrister Dr Saif, has urged Nawaz Sharif to stop monitoring the military from Raiwind.

In his statement, Barrister Saif alleged that Nawaz Sharif has aligned PML-N ministers against the Army Chief, putting Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif under "friendly fire."

He highlighted that the military and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are currently sacrificing lives in the fight against terrorism, while government ministers were attempting to undermine military leadership.

The PTI leader further questioned why government ministers issued statements and clarifications if Shehbaz Sharif already knew the details of the meeting.

He criticised the government for focusing on the Army Chief's meetings instead of addressing inflation and combating terrorism.

### ATC To Hear Arguments On Dropping Terrorism Charges Against PTI Leaders

APP

ISLAMABAD: The Anti-Terrorism Court of Islamabad will hear arguments on January 27 regarding a plea to remove terrorism charges in a case involving Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders and workers accused of protest-related offenses.

Judge Tahir Abbas Sipra of the Anti-Terrorism Court has set January 27 for arguments on a petition seeking the removal of terrorism-related sections from a case registered against PTI leadership and workers. The case includes charges of arson, vandalism, and encirclement during protests. On today's hearing, arguments could not proceed on the application filed by PTI leader Faisal Javed Khan, who requested the removal of terrorism provisions and a transfer of the case to a sessions court. During the proceedings, an application for exemption from attendance was submitted by Faisal Javed Khan, while co-accused Wasiq Qayyum.

### PTI leaders oppose Digital Nation Pakistan Bill over civil rights concerns

Opposition leader Omar Ayub warned that the bill could target those advocating for constitutional supremacy

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders have strongly criticised the Digital Nation Pakistan Bill, claiming it undermines constitutional rights and sets a dangerous precedent for surveillance and control.

Speaking to the media, opposition leader Omar Ayub warned that the bill could target those advocating for constitutional supremacy.

Ayub highlighted the PTI's protests against the bill in parliament, asserting that the government has failed to address key opposition concerns.

The Digital Nation Pakistan Bill includes provisions granting authorities extensive access to citizens' data.

Ayub alleged that the government is using the bill to suppress dissent and curtail freedoms under the guise of regulation.

"This is an attack on the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution," he said.

### BUJ's Journalist Panel leaders visits APP regarding election campaign

APP

Quetta: In connection with the election campaign of Balochistan Union of Journalists (BUJ), the leaders of the Journalist Panel (JP) visited the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) Quetta Bureau on Wednesday.

The panel was led by Quetta Press Club President Abdul Khaliq Rind, former PFUJ President Shahzad Zulfiqar, former BUJ President Ayub Tareen, Balochistan Union of Journalists candidate for president Khalil Ahmed, General Secretary candidate Abdul Ghani Kakar and others.

The leadership of the Journalist Panel appealed to the APP colleagues to vote enthusiastically on February 29 and said that this time the colleagues of Balochistan Union of Journalists should give the vote on the basis of performance.

Ex. BUJ' President Ayub Tareen said that the panel whose performance is in front of everyone and would make the Journalist Panel successful.

Barrister Gohar, another PTI leader, condemned the hasty legislative process, pointing out that several laws were passed in under 10 minutes during a mere 88 parliamentary sessions in the past year. "This is the shortest law-making timeframe in history," he claimed.

PTI leaders also voiced concerns over alleged judicial pressures and mistreatment of detained party workers.

"The government promised to arrange a meeting with PTI's founder but has yet to fulfil its commitment," Ayub said.

He also reiterated the party's demand for the formation of an impartial commission to oversee critical matters.

Aamir Dogar noted that 700 protesters were recently transferred under inhumane conditions, with 500 detainees packed into vans designed for far fewer.

He demanded adherence to jail protocols for over 3,000 PTI supporters currently in custody.

Former minister Ali Muhammad Khan accused the judiciary of delivering politically motivated verdicts.

### DC expresses resentment on delaying of SBK posts, directs to complete them soon

APP

Quetta: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Quetta Lieutenant (ret) Saad Bin Asad on Wednesday expressed his anger on delaying of SBK posts and directed that all the stages of the posts of SBK should be completed as soon as possible. During this time, any negligence or laziness will be intolerable, he said while chairing a meeting regarding the posts of SBK. The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Muhammad Anwar Kakar, District Education Officer Naseer Ali Shah and District Finance Officer Khalid Khan Mandokhail.

In the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner Quetta was given a detailed briefing about the posts, its tests, problems in it and technical errors in the lists.

The Deputy Commissioner Quetta expressed his resentment and gave direction that all the stages of the posts of SBK should be completed as soon as possible.

At the end of the meeting, he also directed that all the work should be completed within a week and a report should be submitted.

### 190-m-pound case has not affected Imran Khan: Sheikh Rashid

INP

ISLAMABAD: Awami Muslim League chief Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said on Wednesday the verdict in the 190-million-pound case had no impact on the health of Imran Khan.

Speaking to media outside the Supreme Court, Sheikh Rashid emphasised that he would not lie about the 190-million-pound case. He quoted Imran Khan, saying, "Decisions are made in the heavens," and reiterated that negotiations hold no significance without the formation of a judicial commission.

He further added that he had no direct contact with anyone and that judicial commission approval was essential for any talks to move forward. Commenting on the overseas Pakistanis' voting rights case, Rashid mentioned that lawyer Sardar Razik appeared for the petition. However, their turn in court was delayed again, with the judges deciding to hear the case after two weeks. Rashid underscored the importance of granting voting rights to overseas Pakistanis.

### Ahsan Iqbal lauds services of Chinese workers for completing CPEC Phase-I projects

INP

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday acknowledged the services of Chinese workers, technicians and engineers for successfully completing CPEC Phase-I projects in collaboration with the Pakistani workforce.

"The successful completion of the CPEC Phase-I projects, located in parts of the country, is a symbol of the everlasting friendship between Pakistan and China, which is reaching new heights with each passing day," he said while addressing an event held in connection with the festivities of the Chinese Spring Festival at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA).

He expressed confidence that as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) entered its second phase, there would be even more increased cooperation and coordination between the two countries, benefiting not only the people of Pakistan but the entire region.

Under the second phase of CPEC, the minister highlighted that special focus would be given to multidimensional fields including the agriculture sector by adopting technological advancements, the establishment of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and cooperation in the information technology area, which

would help Pakistan increase its exports.

Ahsan Iqbal mentioned that it was the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to benefit from the expertise of information technology experts from across the world, especially China, and to equip the Pakistani youth with all IT-related skills, enabling them to meet the needs of the contemporary world.

Commenting on collaboration in the mining sector, the minister said that there would be increased cooperation and investment on a business-to-business basis by the private sector.

He noted that work on two mega projects Karakoram Highway Phase-II and Pakistan Railways' Main Line-I (ML-I) would begin in the current year, 2025, expanding and deepening the existing cooperation between the two brotherly countries. Ahsan Iqbal vowed that Pakistan would ensure all possible facilities and foolproof safety arrangements for Chinese nationals staying in Pakistan. Giving a loud and clear message to those who wished to harm the friendship between Pakistan and China, he said they would fail in their nefarious designs, as the ties between the two countries were based on mutual, unshakable trust.

He likened the more than seven-decade-long Pakistan-China friendship to a bouquet that spread colors and is bound to grow stronger in the future.



Quetta: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Balochistan, Moazzam Jah Ansari, addressed the passing-out parade of the 101st batch in Quetta.

### Pakistan ready to share counter-terrorism expertise with African partners: Munir

APP

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan stands ready to share its counter-terrorism expertise with African partners and assist in establishing institutional structures and capacity building for sustainable peace.

This was stated by Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Munir Akram while speaking at the United Nations Security Council High-Level Open Debate on "Counter Terrorism in Africa."

Ambassador Munir Akram said that the global terrorism landscape has evolved dramatically with the terrorism epicenter having shifted from the Middle East to the Central Sahel region of sub-Saharan Africa.

He said terrorist groups are operating with increasing impunity in ungoverned spaces, including in the Sahel, the Horn of Africa, Cabo Delgado and with Burkina Faso and Mali among the three most affected countries.

He said that Daesh is decimated in Syria and Iraq, but its franchises have emerged in Afghanistan and the Sahel.

Ambassador Munir Akram emphasized Pakistan's longstanding commitment to countering terrorism and said that Pakistan has been at the forefront of the fight against global terrorism for the past four decades.

He urged a review of UN sanction regimes to ensure they address African nations' challenges without hindering development.

### Govt pursuing proactive approach for export of skilled manpower, NA told

By Zahid Ahmed Khan

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly was informed today (Wednesday) a proactive approach is being pursued by the government to sign more agreements with countries in the European Union for export of skilled manpower.

Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resources Development Chaudhary Salik Hussain told the house that about 1.3 million people went abroad for employment over the last three years.

He said we are focusing on the skill development of the youth.

Parliamentary Secretary Dr Darshan told the house that a sewerage treatment plant has been proposed in the Federal Capital to collect and treat wastewater before it enters Rawal Lake. He said the unplanned development along the banks of Korang River is contributing to the pollution of Rawal Dam. He said wetlands have been constructed to reduce contamination. He said that before the water is supplied to Rawalpindi, it undergoes treatment at the water filtration plant being managed by Small Dam Organization under the Irrigation Department.

The House today passed "The Biological and Toxin Weapons

Convention (Implementation) Bill, 2024.

Besides, "The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2025", "The Prevention of Electronic Crimes (Amendment) Bill, 2025" and "The Digital Nation Pakistan Bill, 2024" were introduced in the House.

The Chair referred the bills to the Standing Committees concerned.

Furthermore, the Federal Board of Intermediate and

Secondary Education (Amendment) Ordinance, 2024 (No. IX of 2024) was laid before the National Assembly.

Meanwhile, Parliamentary Secretary for National Health Service Nelson Azeem, said Polio cases are on the decline due to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's special focus to completely eradicate this virus from the country.

He said this while responding to a calling attention notice in the National Assembly today.

He said several awareness campaigns and anti-polio drives were launched last year. He added that no polio case has been reported so far since the inception of the current year.

Responding to another calling attention notice, Parliamentary Secretary for Energy Division Aamir Talal Khan said seventy percent of total 2,100 feeders of K-Electric are loadshedding free.



QUETTA: Milli Yakjehti Council Secretary General Liquat Baloch along with MPA Mulana Hidayat ur Rehman addressing a press conference.