

DAILY MIRROR

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mirrorqta@gmail.com

Chief editor Syed Mumtaz Shah

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Pakistan achieves IMF-set tax targets for FY2024-25

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has successfully achieved the key tax targets set by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Friday.

Pakistan achieved a tax-to-GDP ratio of 10.8%, exceeding the target of 10.6pc for the ongoing fiscal year, which will pave the way for Islamabad to get second tranche of the loan programme.

Exclusively talking to ARY News, Finance Adviser Khurram Shehzad highlighted that

Pakistan's achievement represents the highest half-yearly tax-to-GDP ratio in the past four years.

During the first half of the fiscal year, tax collection reached 94% of the targeted Rs6009 billion, he added.

The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) officials confirmed that the IMF is satisfied with the progress, eliminating the immediate need for additional tax measures to meet

the annual targets. Between July and December, Rs5,624 billion were collected in taxes, marking a 26% increase compared to the previous year and a 35% rise in December alone.

Despite Rs385 billion shortfall in the half-yearly target, significant improvement was noted in tax revenues in Pakistan. The annual tax collection goal is Rs12,970 billion, and officials are confident of meeting this target without introducing a mini-budget.

To cover the shortfall, Rs7,346 billion is projected to be collected in the second half of the fiscal year, the FBR officials stated.

Additionally, Rs70 billion in tax refunds were processed during the first six months.

Breakdown of collections includes Rs2,827 billion from income tax, Rs617.3 billion from customs duties, Rs346.6 billion from federal excise duties, and Rs2,105 billion from sales tax during the July-December period.



Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz chairs the meeting of Apex Committee of National Action Plan, in Islamabad.

'Time to eradicate anti-state conspirators, their facilitators': PM

APP

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has stated that the time has come to eliminate the conspirators and their facilitators who are plotting against Pakistan.

Addressing a meeting of the National Action Plan (NAP) Apex Committee, the Prime Minister expressed his gratitude to the participants and emphasised the country's role in global diplomacy. During the meeting, Shehbaz Sharif noted that Pakistan had recently assumed a two-year term as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, which would provide the country an opportunity to play a significant role in international diplomacy.

He also highlighted the security challenges facing the nation, particularly the threats from hostile elements operating across the borders.

The premier referred to a recent attack from across the border, which was swiftly repelled by Pakistan's security forces.

He also pointed out the foreign support behind certain elements conspiring against Pakistan, especially in regions like Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

The prime minister reiterated that achieving national progress and prosperity was contingent on maintaining peace and order across Pakistan's four provinces, as well as in Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

He further stated that the time had come to completely eliminate the threat posed by extremist elements, referring to the ongoing issue of terrorism and sectarian violence.

The Prime Minister stressed the importance of a coordinated plan between the provinces, federal government, and defense institutions to strengthen national security.

He emphasised that the government would support any such initiative that aligned with Pakistan's national interests and contributed to the country's betterment.

Shahbaz Sharif also addressed the growing digital threat, particularly the online propaganda against Pakistan.

He condemned the misinformation campaigns being run on social media by external agents and enemies of the state. He noted that such campaigns, fueled by false narratives, were designed to undermine Pakistan's image and create doubt about the country's stability.

Syedaal Discusses Progress on Development Projects in Balochistan

APP

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Chairman Senate Syedaal Khan here on Friday held meetings with Members of the National Assembly, Senators and tribal leaders to discuss legislative matters, progress on development projects in Balochistan, and other key issues.

During a meeting with Shahadat Awan, Hidayat Ullah Khan, Manzoor Ahmed Kakar and others, the Deputy Chairman Senate highlighted the government's successful economic policies and said that the country's economy is on the right track.

Referring to the Urhaan Pakistan initiative, he described it as a testament to these policies and expressed confidence that it would fulfill Pakistan's vision for economic progress. "The Uraan Pakistan initiative is gaining public support and reflects our commitment to economic growth," he said, applauding Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif

and his team for their commendable efforts.

Syedaal Khan reiterated the government's priority of providing relief to the common man, stressing the importance of collective efforts to address national challenges.

He said that Pakistan's economic reforms have been well-received internationally and called for setting aside differences to ensure the country's forward momentum. "Dialogue and negotiations are the only way to resolve issues," he said, commending the nation's leadership for prioritizing communication and consensus-building on critical matters.

Addressing development in Balochistan, he praised the launch of new projects and underscored the importance of inclusivity in the province's growth. "Development in Balochistan can only be achieved with the participation of every citizen," he said, adding that the government is actively involving the public in the development process.

Fazl stresses dialogue, says its key to strengthening democracy

INP

ISLAMABAD: Maulana Fazlur Rehman, leader of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F), on Friday stressed that dialogue between political parties is crucial aspect of the democratic process, as avoiding talks or refusing negotiations harms democracy.

Maulana said that while speaking to Senator Irfan Siddiqui, spokesperson for the government negotiation committee and Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) leader, who visited him at his residence to inquire about his health.

Maulana Fazlur Rehman reiterated that mutual discussions and negotiations are the only way to address key national issues. He further emphasized the need for political harmony to ensure Pakistan's stability and unity across all sectors.

Senator Irfan Siddiqui updated Maulana Fazlur Rehman on the progress of negotiations with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). He also commended Rehman's role in amicably resolving the issue of religious seminaries' registration.

Teams working diligently to resolve cable issue: PTCL on internet disruption

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) on Friday said that due to an international submarine cable outage, its customers may experience slow browsing issues.

"Teams are working diligently to resolve the matter as soon as possible.

We sincerely apologise for any inconvenience caused during this time," the telecom company said in a brief statement.

Pakistan has been grappling with slow internet since last year, with the government consistently blaming submarine cable faults, while reports hint at possible

experimentation with a "firewall" by authorities.

The internet slowdown has been especially hard for freelancers, which are more than two million and contribute to the country's growth.

PTCL's statement came a day after the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) said that internet and broadband users may experience disruptions as submarine cable AAE-1 near Qatar developed a fault.

The PTA said that a fault has been reported in the submarine cable AAE-1 near Qatar — one of the seven international undersea cables connecting Pakistan for international internet traffic.

SIFC voices satisfaction over improving macro-economic indicators

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: The Apex Committee of the Special Investment Facilitation Council has expressed satisfaction over the improving macro-economic condition of the country.

The 11th meeting of the SIFC Apex committee was held in Islamabad today with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in the chair.

The Committee emphasized upon the importance of collective efforts for ensuring unhindered economic growth and passing on the dividends to the masses.

It was attended by Chief of the Army Staff, Federal Cabinet, Provincial Chief Ministers, the Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Chief Minister of

Gilgit-Baltistan and high-level government officials.

Secretary Apex Committee briefed the forum about strategic focus, initiatives and contributions of SIFC to support National Economic Transformation Plan 2024-2029 'Uraan Pakistan'.

During the session, the Committee approved the Action Plan for Optimization of SEZs to rejuvenate industrial landscape of Pakistan. The Committee also reviewed the proposal of National Minerals Harmonization Framework with due consent of all stake holders.

Forum was briefed on various initiatives

in the domain of Human Resource Development, enabling improvement of skills and global standard accreditation.

Step afoot to develop LG Dept on modern basis: Minister

APP

Quetta: Provincial Minister for Local Government (LG) Sardar Kohiyar Khan Domki on Friday said that practical measures were being taken to develop LG Department on modern basis for provision of facilities to people in the province.

He expressed these views while visiting the Chief Officer of Municipal Corporation Khuzdar.

Sardarzada Dinar Domki was also with him during visit. Chief Officer of Municipal Corporation Khuzdar and Dera Saleh Jamot gave a complete briefing to the provincial minister regarding the corporation.

The provincial minister expressed his

determination to further develop the local government department and bring projects and discussed various issues.

He also appreciated the performance of the Municipal Corporation Khuzdar. Meanwhile, Hafiz Hamidullah Mengal, President of Anjuman Tajran Khuzdar, met with Provincial Minister for Local Government and welcomed him on coming to Khuzdar and congratulated him on becoming the Chief of the Domki tribe.

Provincial Minister for Local Government while talking to Hafiz Hamidullah Mengal said that his representation is for the people only and he would try to fulfill their trust by using all his abilities to solve their problems and difficulties.



Maulana Fazlur Rehman, leader of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) while speaking to Senator Irfan Siddiqui, spokesperson for the government negotiation committee and Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) leader, who visited him at his residence to inquire about his health.

Romina emphasizes collaborative efforts to tackle climate vulnerabilities in Pakistan

APP

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam has emphasized the critical role of partnerships in achieving Pakistan's climate and development goals.

Speaking at the signing ceremony of a Letter of Understanding (LoU) with the Aga Khan Foundation, Pakistan (AKF-P) here Friday, she highlighted that such collaborations would significantly strengthen the government's efforts to promote inclusive, climate-resilient socio-economic development in the country.

"The LoU represents a major step towards addressing climate vulnerabilities and fostering sustainable livelihoods for communities most impacted by climate change," Romina stated.

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MoCC) and the Aga Khan Foundation, Pakistan (AKF-P), formalized their collaboration through the signing of the LoU, which aims to enhance livelihood security and promote sustainable socio-economic development in Pakistan's rural and coastal areas. This includes Sindh's coastal regions, as well as the rural areas of Gilgit-Baltistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Letter of Understanding was signed by secretary ministry

of climate change, Aisha Humera Moriani and CEO of AKF in Pakistan Akhtar Iqbal.

The event was attended by higher officials of the Ministry of Climate Change including Additional Secretary Zulfiqar Yunus, Additional Secretary Hammad Shamimi, Sr. Joint Secretary Muhammad Farooq and Joint Secretary, Khalida Bashir.

Addressing the event, Ms. Alam emphasized that Pakistan is facing significant climate-related challenges, particularly in its vulnerable coastal and mountainous regions. "These areas are grappling with extreme weather events, glacial melting, sea-level rise, agricultural vulnerabilities, and water scarcity, all of which threaten the livelihoods of communities," she noted.

Acknowledging the urgent need for action, Ms. Alam explained that the Ministry of Climate Change recognized the importance of targeted interventions to mitigate these impacts and support the socio-economic development of these regions. In response to these challenges, the Ministry has entered into this strategic partnership with the Aga Khan Foundation to enhance climate resilience and promote livelihood security in underserved rural areas, she said.

Addressing the event, Secretary Ministry of Climate Change, Aisha Humera Moriani said the Gilgit-Baltistan, the 'roof of the world,' is facing severe climate impacts, includ-

ing glacial lake outbursts, flash floods, and landslides, all of which threaten livelihoods and disrupt vital infrastructure.

"Meanwhile, the coastal areas of Sindh are grappling with sea intrusion, high salinity, groundwater contamination, and loss of livelihoods due to the declining agriculture and fishing sectors. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is impacted by frequent floods, droughts, and landslides, with deforestation and soil erosion exacerbating the situation," the Secretary added and said the Ministry recognizes that the impacts of climate change in these regions are water-related and demand immediate action.

Ms. Romina Alam said the partnership with Aga Khan Foundation will focus on implementing climate-smart solutions in agriculture, resource management, and infrastructure while fostering local involvement and sustainable practices. The Foundation and its sister organizations will play a pivotal role in enhancing community resilience through initiatives in clean energy, climate-smart agriculture, and environmental education.

"Through this collaboration, the Ministry of Climate Change and the Aga Khan Foundation aim to improve livelihoods, protect ecosystems, and promote sustainable socio-economic development in these vulnerable regions. The partnership will also work to advance climate-related initiatives, enhance research, build capacity, and mobilize joint resources", she added.

CM Bugti contacts Khaliq Hazara regarding incident

APP

Quetta: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti contacted former provincial minister Abdul Khaliq Hazara on Friday through the telephone and inquired about his well-being and discussed the incident with him.

Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti assured Abdul Khaliq Hazara that the police are investigating all aspects of the incident saying that you would be kept informed about the progress of the incident.

The Chief Minister expressed his prayers and best wishes for Abdul Khaliq Hazara's speedy recovery.

Hazara Democratic Party (HDP)'s Chairman and former provincial minister Abdul Khaliq Hazara thanked Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti and expressed satisfaction over the investigation into the incident.

Achakzai seeks remedy against 'stolen mandate'

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP) Chief Mahmood Khan Achakzai has demanded the restoration of the Constitution and remedy against the stolen general election mandate.

Speaking alongside Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen (MWM) leader Allama Raja Nasir Abbas during a media talk on Friday, Mahmood Khan Achakzai stressed the need for a roundtable conference involving all institutions to address the country's pressing issues.

He reiterated his demand for the restoration of the constitution and the return of the stolen mandate.

Speaking on the occasion, Allama Raja Nasir Abbas stated that former prime minister Imran Khan emphasised that the rule of law is essential for the country's progress.

"However, the nation is facing political, economic, and various other crises, with the current government's incompetence pushing the country further into turmoil," he held.

He criticised the leadership, saying the imposition of inept individuals led to the country's destruction. He also pointed out that Pakistan alienated neighbouring countries, first India and now Afghanistan, highlighting that former foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto and Finance Minister Ishaq Dar had not even visited Afghanistan, a crucial neighbour and brotherly nation.

The MWM chief further remarked that the issue in Kurram could have been resolved within a week, but its delay reflected the shared incompetence of the provincial government and institutions.

He also condemned the fascist actions of the PPP-led government in Karachi, where protesters were brutally suppressed.

20 names sent to JCP for additional judges' appointment to high courts

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: A total of 20 names have been sent to the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) for appointment of seven additional judges to the Islamabad High Court (IHC) and Balochistan High Court (BHC).

For additional judges appointment to the IHC, 19 names are sent to the JCP for four positions. The names of three District and Sessions judges—Raja Jawad Abbas Hassan, Azam Khan and Shahrul Arjumand— and Additional Sessions Judge Humayun Dilwar have been sent.

Advocate General Islamabad Ayaz Shaukat is also among the candidate recommended to the JCP. The names of Advocate Adnan Basharat, Advocate Syed Qamar Hussain Sabzwari, Advocate

Umar Aslam, Inam Amin Minhas, Muhammad Usman Ghani, Rashid Cheema, Advocate Adnan Haider, Sultan Mazhar Sher Khan, Kashif Ali Malik and Daniyal

Ijaz, Shahid Mahmood Khokhar, Babar Bilal, Muhammad Abdul Rafi, Chaudhry Hafiezullah Yaqoob have also been sent to the JCP.

The meeting for four additional judges appointment to Islamabad High Court will be held on January 17.

Meanwhile, 11 names have also been sent to JCP for appointment of three additional judges to the Balochistan High Court

Session Judges Jam Muhammad Gohar, Pazir Ahmed Baloch, Allah Dadroshan and Muhammad Daud Khan Nasir are recommended.

Senate body for tweaks in Access to Information Act

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: The Standing Committee of Senate on Information and Broadcasting has asked the relevant ministry to furnish a report on possible amendments in the Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act, 2017 with the consultation of the concerned authorities.

Presiding over the Senate Panel, Senator Ali Zafar passed the directives after all the members concluded comprehensive discussion on the public petition referred by the Chairman Senate regarding amendments in the Access to Information Act. At the outset of the meeting, Director General Operations Broadcast/Media, Muhammad Tahir briefed the committee about the overall functions, operations and the performance of the Pakistan Electronic Media Authority (PEMRA) since its inception.

The Committee was apprised that PEMRA under the Act had been mandated to facilitate and regulate electronic media. The Director General apprised the

Committee about the organizational structure of the Authority, composition of PEMRA Board and Council of Complaints.

Director General (Licensing-Broadcast) Wakeel Khan informed the committee about the issuance of licenses for broadcast and distribution services. The authority has so far issued 142 licenses for Satellite TV channels including 37 for news and current affairs. While 235 licenses for FM radio have been issued including 175 commercial and 60 non-commercial, he added.

Discussing another agenda item, regarding censor policy, Chairman Committee said freedom of expression is a national issue and it should not be limited to any person. He said every parliamentarian is entitled to be covered and every speech in Parliament deserves coverage and this issue has come up in the Senate several times. Secretary Ministry of Information and Broadcasting who is also MD PTV apprised the committee that this issue may be occurred due to technical glitch.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister Mir Sadiq Omrani viewing latest equipment after giving department for Aggregation.

Three arrested for illegally hunting Markhor in Pishin

INP

PISHIN: Three hunters were arrested for illegally killing Markhor in Bostan region of Pishin, Balochistan.

According to Deputy Commissioner, Zahid Khan, authorities in Bostan conducted an operation that led to the recovery of a Markhor, illegally hunted in the region.

Three individuals, identified as Izhar Khan, Masoor Khan, and Saddam Khan, have been arrested on charges of illegal hunting of Markhor. According to the DC, two of the arrested individuals are working for the Balochistan Constabulary and the Water and Sanitation Authority (WASA). The accused allegedly hunted the Markhor in the restricted area of Taktou. A case has been registered against the suspects under the Wildlife Act, with legal proceedings underway.

Earlier in 2021, an endangered Markhor was shot at and injured by a tourist in the scenic valley of Chitral.

Officials of the KP wildlife department relayed that the animal fell into a river near the Garam Chasma road after being hit by a bullet. It was rescued from the river after hectic efforts, they added. Taking to Twitter, KP MPA Faisal Amin Khan said a first information report (FIR) had been registered at the Chitral police station against the culprits.

Minister calls for review of relief provided to May 9 convicts

INP

LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari on Friday called for review of the relief provided to May 9 convicts by the military courts of appeal.

Addressing a press conference in Lahore, Azma Bokhari said that in case May 9 rioters again indulge in creating unrest in the country they deserve no concession.

She further warned that incidents like May 9 are likely to be happened again if rioters will get any relief.

Azma said that Chief Minister House of Kyber Pukhtunkhwa has become a shelter for May 9 accused.

Azma said that current provincial government of Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) brought down the inflation which is now hovering at 4.1 percent. She said that the Punjab government will distribute free solar systems among consumers using only 200 electricity units.

First phase of civil disobedience movement going on: Sheikh Waqas

INP

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) Central Information Secretary, Sheikh Waqas Akram stated that the first phase of the civil disobedience movement is ongoing and will continue.

According to reports, Sheikh Waqas highlighted the adverse effects of internet shutdowns, noting that millions of dollars in remittances have been halted due to the disruptions. He accused the government of violating the Constitution and the law, claiming that there is no peace and order. He clarified that negotiations with the government would not be linked to any court decisions. "We are not seeking deals with the government but demanding justice," Waqas said. Sheikh Waqas also reaffirmed that the release of the PTI founder, Imran Khan would only happen through the legal process.

DC reviews progress of ongoing polio drive in Chaghi

APP

Quetta: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Chaghi Atta- Al-Muneeb visited Gardi Jungle Camp on Friday where he met local elders and reviewed the progress of the ongoing polio campaign.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner held a meeting with local elders, in which the basic problems, facilities and security issues of the area were discussed in detail.

Local residents presented their

problems and demands, which the Deputy Commissioner listened to carefully and assured full cooperation in resolving them.

The DC reviewed the performance of the vaccination teams involved in the polio campaign and directed them to ensure that 100 percent of children are vaccinated against polio. He also urged the teams to create awareness among the public about the polio vaccine so that the campaign is successful.

He directed the relevant depart-

ments to take immediate steps for the betterment of the area and assured that the government would take all possible steps to resolve the problems of the people.

He said that the government is committed to the welfare of the people and the completion of development projects.

The local population appreciated this effort by Deputy Commissioner Atta Al-Muneeb and expressed hope that their problems would be resolved soon.

GYRJA's body elected after wing of election 2025

By Khawaja Farooq

GUJRANWALA: Gujranwala Young Reporter Journalist Association (GYRJA) Gujranwala 2025 elections were held, according to which President Rana Mujahid will be elected President, while Hussnain Miller, son of prominent journalist Mirza Tariq Miller of London, has been elected Secretary Information, while Senior Vice President Meesam



Waqar, Shafiq Sayal, Vice President Samiullah Mughal, General Secretary Ali Shair Majeed, Additional General Secretary Asif Butt, Joint Secretary Hamza Qamar, Information Secretary Hussnain Miller, Finance Secretary Umer Suhail Khokhar, Executive Member Benish Rajput, Chairman Executive Council Qaiser Amanat and Executive Member Faizan Ali are included.



QUETTA: People sitting around fire to warm themselves during cold weather in provincial capital.



Medical Entry Test Candidate, Irfan Lehri along with others addressing a press conference, at Quetta press club



South Africa hand Test debut to Maphaka as Pakistan look to square series

SPORTS DESK

CAPE TOWN: South Africa will give a debut to fire-brand 18-year-old fast bowler Kwena Maphaka as one of three changes to their side for the second and final Test against Pakistan starting at Newlands on Friday.

Opening batter Tony de Zorzi has been ruled out with a left thigh strain and will be replaced by all-rounder Wiaan Mulder, who will bat at number three with Ryan Rickelton moving to the opener position.

Spinner Keshav Maharaj has recovered from injury and replaces seamer Corbin Bosch after the latter starred on debut in the tense two-wicket win during last week's first Test in Pretoria.

Maphaka has only bowled 60.5 overs in first class cricket and was writing his school exams a few months ago. He takes the place of Dane Paterson, who took 5-61 in the first innings at Centurion Park.

"We want to go with an extra bit of pace, even though Paterson has been superb for us," South Africa captain Temba Bavuma told reporters on Thursday. "Whatever happens from a performance point of view, it will put him (Maphaka) in good stead. He will be looking forward to running in with Kagiso Rabada over the next few days.

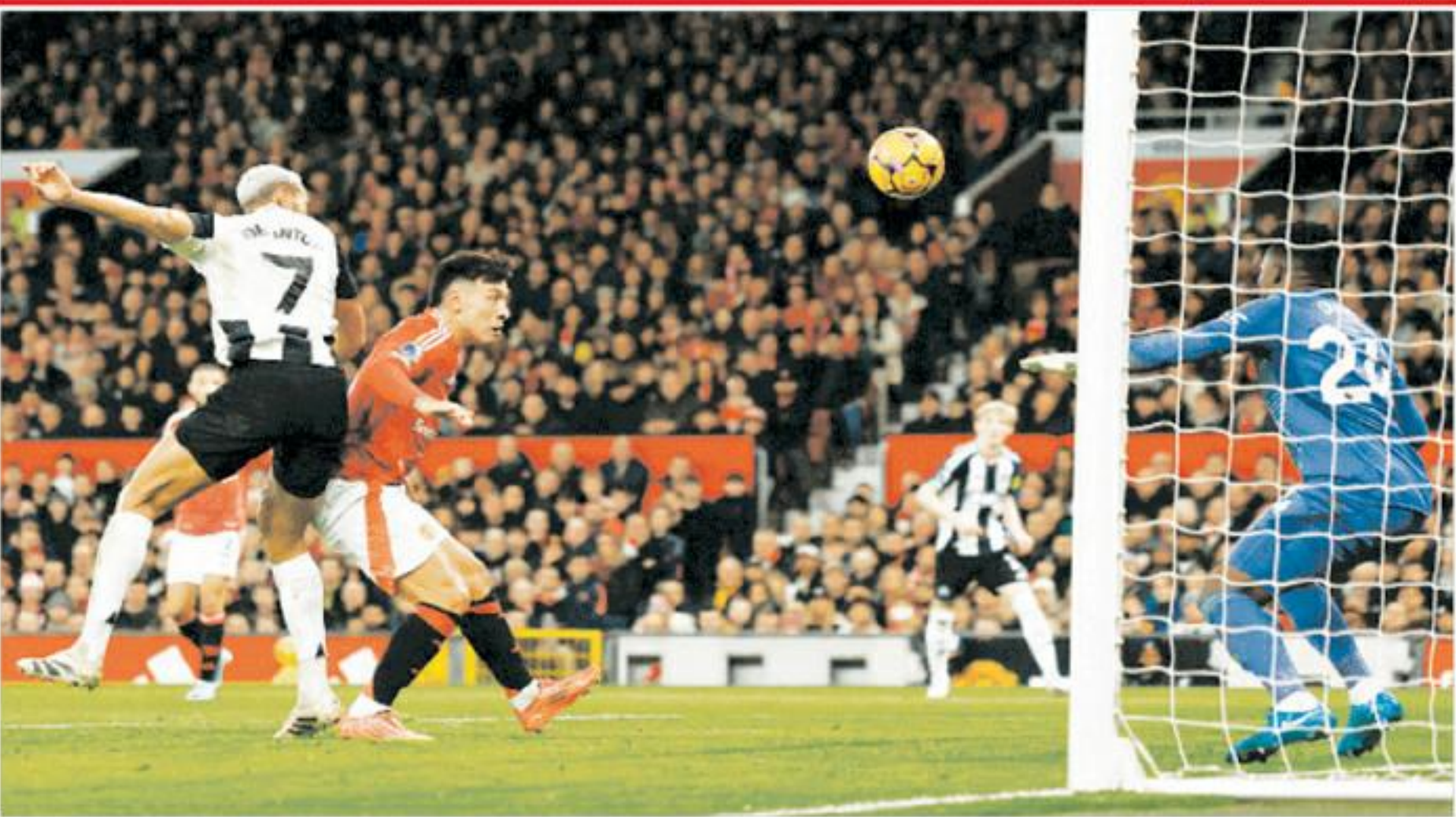
"You want to allow him to be as free as you can... and allow the exuberance of youth to come out. It is a case of bowl as quick as you can.

"He does not have a foundation (of playing) first class cricket, and this is certainly not a trial for him, we know what his talent is all about."

The previous test at Newlands against India 12 months ago was completed in 107 overs as the visitors won by seven wickets, the shortest game to have a winner in Test history.

The pitch then drew heavy criticism and Bavuma seemed reluctant to discuss it on the eve of the fixture with Pakistan.

"The wicket looks quite interesting. Hop-efully it does go the full five days, or at least offers the opportunity to," was all he said.



MANCHESTER: Newcastle United's Joelinton (L) scores past Manchester United goalkeeper Andre Onana during their Premier League match at Old Trafford.

Chelsea's title hopes rocked, United end miserable month with loss at home

SPORTS DESK

IPSWICH: Enzo Maresca admitted Chelsea should not think about challenging for the Premier League title after lowly Ipswich beat the Blues 2-0 at Portman Road on Monday while Newcastle United beat Manchester United 2-0 at Old Trafford, an ugly culmination of one of the most miserable months in the home side's recent memory.

Maresca's side were rocked by Liam Delap's early penalty and a second-half goal from former Chelsea winger Omari Hutchinson.

Chelsea's second successive defeat after their Boxing Day loss against Fulham left them without a win in their last three matches.

The west Londoners had emerged as surprise title contenders after an eight-match winning run in all competitions.

But Maresca had insisted throughout that spell that Chelsea's inexperienced squad do not have what it takes to win the title in his first season after arriving from Leicester City.

And the Italian's prediction looks spot on after a shock result in Suffolk that leaves Chelsea in fourth place, 10 points behind lead-

ers Liverpool, who have a game in hand.

"We focus game by game. We are not focused on title race or those things," Maresca said.

"It was a strange game. We had many chances but we could do many things better, defend better in some moments.

"Now we've finished the first part of the season, no one expected us to be where we are. It's a long race."

Ipswich climb within one point of safety after winning for the second time in their last four matches.

Kieran McKenna's side had renewed belief they can avoid relegation back to the Championship thanks to their first top-flight home win in 22 years.

"Special night for the club. First home win in the Premier League at Portman Road for 22 years and to do it against Chelsea was fantastic," McKenna said.

"Most of the supporters who have been here for 22 years, every moment here is a landmark for them. Winning the home game is another special little landmark. But I think the time of year,

the night game, the opponent make this a special night and I want everyone to enjoy it a lot."

Meanwhile, Alexander Isak and Joelinton scored one goal each for Newcastle to hand Manchester United their fifth loss in last six league games.

The result left United languishing on 14th in the standings with 19 points, their worst placing to end a calendar year since they were 15th in 1989. Newcastle are fifth on 32 points.

"One of the more difficult moments in the history of Manchester United," said manager Ruben Amorim, who called the team's position in the table embarrassing. "It's a very difficult moment, but we have to fight to win the next game."

Djokovic, Sabalenka into Brisbane quarters

SPORTS DESK

BRISBANE: Novak Djokovic and Aryna Sabalenka were in ominous form ahead of the Australian Open as both powered into the Brisbane International quarter-finals.

On a day when rising stars Mirra Andreeva and Giovanni Mpetshi Perriard underlined their potential, Djokovic cruised past fellow veteran Gael Monfils 6-3, 6-3 in 72 minutes.

In the women's draw, world number one Sabalenka — who is aiming to win the Australian Open for the third time in a row — beat Kazakhstan's Yulia Putintseva 7-6 (7-2), 6-4.

Third seed Daria Kasatkina fell to a 1-6, 6-2, 7-5 defeat against fellow Russian Polina Kudermetova while two-time Australian Open champion Victoria Azarenka also crashed out after the Belarusian was defeated 6-4, 6-4 by Marie Bouzkova of the Czech Republic.

Djokovic and Monfils played an entertaining match, but the 37-year-old Serb was always in control as he notched his 20th straight win over the Frenchman.

Former world number one Djokovic plays giant American Reilly Opelka in the last eight. Opelka got past Italy's Matteo Arnaldi 7-6(9), 7-6(4).

"We've been playing a long time, I've known Gael since I was 15 and he was 16," said Djokovic, who is pursuing a record 25th Grand Slam singles title when the Australian Open begins on Jan 12.

"I've had a good score against him over the years but we've had some incredible battles on different surfaces. Hopefully we can play some more before we both retire."

The 17-year-old Russian Andreeva demolished Linda Noskova 6-3, 6-0 in the women's draw while Mpetshi Perriard downed fourth-seeded American Frances Tiafoe 6-4, 7-6 (7-4) to reach the quarter-finals. The 19-year-old Jakub Mensik of the Czech Republic routed Serbia's Dusan Lajovic 6-3, 6-2.

A year after losing to the same player at the season-opening event, Andreeva displayed her improvement over 2024 with a 63-minute romp over the Czech Republic's Noskova.

The teenager next faces Tunisia's Ons Jabeur who, after overcoming a shoulder injury that ended her 2024 season early, also dug deep to defeat Armenia's Elna Avanesyan 6-4, 1-6, 6-4 and reach her first four quarter-final since the Berlin Open in June.



FRANCES Tiafoe of the US chases a lob during the Brisbane International round-of-16 match against Giovanni Mpetshi Perriard of France.

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Kurram peace deal

THE volatile situation in KP's Kurram tribal district appears to have been defused as the parties to this tribal-cum-sectarian conflict signed a 14-point peace deal on Wednesday. While the area has a decades-old history of conflict, the present round of bloodletting was sparked after a convoy was attacked last November, resulting in at least 40 fatalities. In the subsequent cycle of violence, at least 130 people were killed; in three particularly gruesome cases, the victims were beheaded.

As a result of the hostilities, Parachinar — Kurram's main town — was under de facto blockade, resulting in a critical humanitarian situation, with shortages of edibles and medicine reported. Particularly appalling were reports that a large number of babies died due to lack of treatment or medicine. Hopefully, with the signing of the latest accord, this cycle of bloodshed and suffering will come to an end, and Kurram's people can live in peace.

At face value, the peace accord appears to cover all the key factors fuelling violence in the region. The pact calls for a ban on the display of arms while bunkers will also be destroyed. Moreover, land disputes — amongst the main irritants behind tribal tension — will be resolved, while safe passage will be assured on thoroughfares. While such peace agreements have been signed — and broken — in the past, it is sincerely hoped that this time all involved, particularly the tribes of Kurram as well as state institutions, will go the extra mile to ensure that the pact does not fail.

Too many precious lives have been lost in this conflict, while routine life in Kurram has been paralysed for weeks. Furthermore, as this paper has observed in these columns, the sectarian dimension of Kurram's disputes has the potential to disrupt communal harmony in other parts of Pakistan. Sit-ins in solidarity with Kurram were held in other cities, particularly Karachi, and matters threatened to get out of hand when Shia demonstrators and the police came face to face at the main protest at Numais. When the banned ASWJ entered the fray and announced to hold sit-ins of its own, there were palpable fears of sectarian clashes. Luckily, efforts to give the matter an ugly sectarian colour were averted, but only by a hair.

Returning to Kurram, it is the state's responsibility to ensure that people of all sects can travel to and from the district without fear of violence. Moreover, militant and sectarian groups active in the area need to be neutralised, while effective conflict-resolution mechanisms need to be in place to deal with any emergent disputes. The past few months have been a nightmare for Kurram's people.

The state must ensure they do not have to live through such an ordeal again by making sure the peace pact is honoured in full.

By Nikhat Sattar

A 'good' life

A MAJORITY of people reading this phrase would interpret it as meaning riches, wealth, health, eating well, travelling and generally having a good time. One has a good life if one parties, has hosts of friends and a house or houses full of splendid valuables collected from over the world. Full of enjoyment, one's hours are spent in activities that relax the mind and excite the imagination. Success is often associated with such a life and is defined by money, family and friends, and if possible fame and connections with people in power.

Yet, such a life may not be good at all, from the perspective of Islam. If one is to lead a good life, one must possess faith and belief in all the tenets of Islam and live righteously.

The Quran asks Muslims to be righteous and "...- to believe in God and the Last Day, and the Angels, and the Book, and the Messengers; to spend of your substance, out of love for Him, for your kin, for orphans, for the needy, for the wayfarer, for those who ask, and for the ransom of slaves; to be steadfast in prayer, and practice regular charity; to fulfil the contracts which you have made; and to be firm and patient, in pain (or suffering) and adversity, and throughout all periods of panic. ... (2:177)".

The verse emphasises giving, to whoever needs it; helping others gain freedom; fulfilling promises, remaining optimistic throughout adversity and bearing pain and suffering with fortitude.

Believers or *momineen* are defined at several places as those who live with humility, modesty and chastity; avoid frivolous or vain behavior. In a good life, a Muslim will possess a deep sense of the afterlife and their actions in this world will be defined by what pleases God and the Prophet (PBUH) and that will earn them paradise. From intent to action; thought to deed, virtues to practice, a good life will be a chain of links between each, without contradiction.

For example, to live a good life, a Muslim will be hopeful and optimistic, giving up despair and always looking at a glass half-full; she will be generous and outpouring, not only with her wealth but also with herself, her time and effort to help others in need; honest and truthful, meeting commitments and keeping her word, fair and just in dealing with others even if it means she must give evidence against her kith and kin; in commercial dealings and sales, the material sold would be properly weighed and equal in measure to the price charged.

Believers or *'momineen'* are those who live with humility, modesty and chastity.

She would be patient, soft-spoken and respectful of others, including respecting differences of opinions and beliefs. She would not consume beyond her needs, whether it be food, water or other resources. Surah Taha, verse 81 says: "Eat and drink, but not in excess". Indeed, it is recommended by the Prophet that the stomach be filled one third with food, on third with water and one third left empty (Sunan Ibn Majah). Most importantly, the source of her consumption would be halal means, ie her income would be generated through ways that are halal and the manner in which this income is used would also be halal. As an example, the income would not be taken as a bribe or unfair means, and would not be used for lavish and luxurious activities.

The "good life" of the Muslim is the *Siratal Mustaqeem*, the straight path that leads to paradise. Should one deviate from it, but realises their error and revert to God, one is forgiven by His eternal mercy.

Compare the above with the kind of lives Muslims lead today and you will find that an almost opposite path is being taken. Viciousness, greed and corruption are normal, as are lies, false evidence and every possible kind of repression including religious, political, economic or social injustice.

The poor remain poor while the rich few get wealthier by dubious means. The wealthy are also powerful and are able to take control of resources. There is general anarchy and chaos with occasional protests that are quickly suppressed. Corruption abounds in every form and crime rates are high with low convictions.

The poor get caught, the rich get away. Society shows severe signs of depravity and lowering of morals and while some Muslim countries and populations are bombed, ravaged and destroyed, powerful Muslims refrain from action against the oppressors.

There are major contradictions: accumulation of resources on the one hand and starvation on the other; a breakdown of the legal system with criminals getting away with major crimes but overflowing jails with people against whom fake cases have been filed; men of Lilliputian intelligence and integrity are in positions of power, having perfect impunity to abuse it.

Today, the 'good' life of the Muslim is, in reality, a tortuous path that belies all that Islam stands for: social justice, morality and ethics and kindness and compassion.

By Aasim Sajjad Akhtar

The corporate grab

MANY amongst the Pakistani intelligentsia claim that colonialism is dead. They say we should take responsibility for problems that we have created rather than laying blame at the altar of our past masters. What they fail to acknowledge, however, is that our present masters reproduce structures of power that scarcely differ from their colonial predecessors.

The much-hyped corporate farming initiative is the latest example in this regard. Initially introduced into the policy lexicon by the Musharraf dictatorship two decades ago, the scheme has been revived to great fanfare by the military-backed PDM 2.0 regime. As one of the main pillars of the SIFC, corporate farming envisions the construction of new perennial irrigation canals that will then facilitate the establishment of oligopolies in the agricultural sector. The colonial lineages are clear for anyone who wishes to see them. The foundational imperative is to put millions of acres of 'wasteland' to productive use through mega water infrastructure. This is the same imaginary of development that undergirded the British Raj's social engineering over a century ago.

At the beginning of the 20th century, Punjab and northern Sindh were sparsely populated regions where agriculture was limited to riverine belts. Most indigenous communities were pastoralists with distinct social mores from the prototypical peasantry. The British considered these populations backward and declared their grazing lands as 'waste', thereby setting the stage for infrastructural and social transformation.

Corporate farming will add to ranks of the propertyless mass. The colonial state initiated a wave of canal and barrage-building, creating

what Imran Ali famously called a new 'hydraulic society', by drawing on the productive power of the Indus water system. Millions of people from east Punjab were migrated west to populate the so-called canal colonies. Indigenous peoples were relegated to the bottom rung of the social ladder, prohibited from owning new agricultural lands under the colonial property regime.

The Pakistani state carried on where the British Raj left off. The Tarbela and Mangla dams were constructed within the first two decades of 1947, laying the foundations for further social engineering. The World Bank and Asian Development Bank happily funded all postcolonial development projects, as they continue to do today.

But the fallouts of colonial developmentalism were never acknowledged. Caste divisions were deeply entrenched, with agriculturalists privileged over so-called 'non-agricultural' castes. Caste overlapped with class to give rise to a propertyless mass that was permanently depressed due to a patronage-based political order.

Caste and class divisions were at least challenged periodically by left-progressives. Ecological fallouts were not even recognised for decades.

Today we know that excessive damming and canal-building upstream has devastated the Indus delta and agricultural regions in lower Sindh.

Mega water infrastructure also gives rise to a host of other environmental crises, including waterlogging and excess salinity.

On the economic front, dams and canals cost a literal fortune, contributing significantly to our foreign debt burden.

And they need to be rehabilitated every few decades, providing further funding opportunities for the WB

and ADB while reinforcing the power of the irrigation bureaucracy. Corporate farming (read: the new great land grab) is the latest phase of the (post) colonial developmental regime. On the one hand it will condemn small farmers who cannot compete with big agribusiness firms. It will thus add to ranks of the propertyless mass in rural Pakistan, a number that is already beyond 30 million.

On the other hand, new water infrastructure — like the Cholistan Canal — will displace historical pastoralists and completely transform ecosystems in several regions. It will also seal the fate of already devastated ecologies in coastal Sindh. The Diamer-Bhasha dam has already set this new ecological disaster in motion.

As was the case under the Raj, asking critical questions about corporate farming in particular and mega water infrastructure in general means being declared anti-development. We are supposed to offer only salutes of approval to all fantastical establishment-backed schemes. It is taken for granted that handing over millions of acres of land to opaque 'private-public partnerships' is all in the so-called national interest.

In case anyone has forgotten, Pakistan enjoyed a bumper wheat crop a few months ago but small and medium-sized farmers could not market

their surplus because the hybrid regime approved the import of millions of tonnes of wheat. We are now being told that corporate farming will allow the country to not only meet its own needs but also flood export markets.

Colonial masters pillage people and ecosystems at will, turn light into day, and then tell us to close our eyes and applaud. Some things never change.

DAILY MIRROR

NA Body Reviews Delays Key Road Projects, Urges Timely Completion

By Zahid Ahmed Khan

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly Standing Committee on Communications convened at Parliament House here Friday for its 6th meeting to discuss key infrastructure projects and ongoing issues in the sector.

Chaired by MNA Mir Shabbir Ali Bijarani, the Committee reviewed the Ministry's responses to previous recommendations and expressed concerns over delays in critical road projects aimed at improving national connectivity and road safety.

The Committee approved the minutes of the previous two meetings. The Ministry's responses to earlier recommendations were reviewed, with a focus on several major infrastructure projects aimed at improving national connectivity and road safety. These projects included the Khairpur-Larkana Bridge, the Hyderabad-Karachi Road congestion, and the necessity for pedestrian bridges at Kathore and Maymar Mor.

The Committee also examined progress on important bypasses such as Loralai and Zhob, as well as other roads including the Nokundi-Maskhal Road, Chitral-Chakdara Road, and the Pindi Gap to Khushalgarh Package 1.

Additionally, discussions were held on the Lawari Tunnel N-45 North Pole approach road, roads connecting Chatral to Shandul and Kalkat, and the M-1 Indus River Service Area. The Committee stressed the importance of completing these projects on time to alleviate traffic congestion, enhance connectivity, and improve public safety.

The Ministry was directed to submit its budgetary proposal for the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) for the upcoming financial year 2025-26 by January 31, 2025.

The Committee urged the Ministry to focus on a smaller number of high-priority schemes to reduce the risk of financial losses, cost overruns, and delays caused by non-payment to contractors.

The next meeting will include a proposal for ongoing schemes, ranked in order of priority, and suggestions for streamlining the process.

The Committee recommended that tenders for new schemes should not be initiated unless the necessary funds are secured. This would prevent projects from facing financial setbacks due to the unavailability of resources.

Furthermore, the Committee urged strict enforcement of regulations against

overloaded vehicles on motorways, recommending that such vehicles be blacklisted for repeated violations.

The Ministry was asked to draft bylaws that could be presented to Parliament for approval. The Committee also advised the Ministry to collaborate with district police to enhance enforcement, as the Motorway Police is currently facing a 52% shortage in manpower.

The Member of the National Highway Authority (NHA) from Balochistan was instructed to present a detailed report on ongoing and proposed schemes in the province at the next meeting, including the reasons for any delays and plans for incorporating these projects into the PSDP for the upcoming financial year.

The meeting was attended by several Members of the National Assembly, including Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob Khan Nasar, Haji Jamal Shah Kakar, Akhtar Bibi,

Dr. Darshan, Syed Ayaz Ali Shah Sheerazi, Nazir Ahmed Bhugio, Syed Mustafa Kamal, Mehboob Shah, Abdul Latif, and Hameed Hussain. Senior officials from the Ministry of Communications and its affiliated departments were also present at the meeting.



Federal Minister for Interior, Mohsin Naqvi interacts with under-training officers during his visit to National Police Academy in Islamabad

Sara Sharif's father attacked in prison, throat slashed with tuna can lid

ONLINE

LONDON: Urfan Sharif, who was jailed last month for the murder of his 10-year-old daughter Sara Sharif, has been attacked in Britain's Belmarsh Prison.

Urfan Sharif was ambushed by two inmates in a cell at the prison armed with the jagged lid of a tuna tin on New Year's Day.

A Prison Service spokesperson said: "Police are investigating an assault on a prisoner at HMP Belmarsh on January 1. It would be inappropriate to comment further while they investigate."

The 43-year-old had suffered cuts to his neck and face and received medical treatment inside the prison. It is understood Urfan Sharif did not need to be taken to hospital.

A spokesman for the Metropolitan Police said officers are probing "an allegation that a prisoner was assaulted at Belmarsh", adding that "the 43-year-old suffered non-life-threatening injuries".

Sharif and Sara's stepmother, Beinash Batool, were jailed for life in December for years of horrific "torture" and "despicable" abuse that culminated in the 10-year-old's murder.

Amir Muqam criticizes at Imran Khan's 'self-centered' politics

APP

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Gilgit Baltistan and Kashmir Affairs and States and Frontier Regions, Engr Amir Muqam Friday strongly criticized PTI founder Imran Khan, stating that Khan prioritizes self-defense over the country's interests, questioning his commitment to the nation's well-being. In an exclusive interview with a private news channel, he urged the PTI to engage in dialogue with the government to address pressing economic issues and work towards the country's betterment, rather than pursuing self-centered politics. While responding to a query, Muqam clarified that the government's negotiation committee does not have the authority to decide on the release of PTI founder Imran Khan, adding, instead, the decision will be made by the courts, emphasizing the importance of upholding the rule of law and allowing the judicial process.

No chance for anarchy to reign again in country: Ahsan Iqbal

Planning minister acknowledges country's vast wealth of resources

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal said on Friday that no, there will be no room for anarchy to prevail again in the country.

Expressing his thoughts, Iqbal stated, "No country is richer than Pakistan, but anarchy, unrest, and political instability have let the country down."

"There is no margin to do the negative experiment in the country," said Iqbal.

The minister labelled the "Uraan Pakistan" initiative as the "game-changer" for the country.

Stressing the need for embracing the unity in the country, Iqbal said, "Everybody needs to get united to give the country's economy a new takeoff."

He acknowledged that the country had a vast wealth of resources.

Earlier on Thursday, expressing his thoughts on Samaa TV programme "Nadeem Malik Live," Iqbal said, "The government is looking to expand the fibre

optic cable. We will have to work to increase the internet speed."

Iqbal said, "Our power sector has become more digitised. Our big companies are earning more. So what do they have to move abroad?"

"We will have to facilitate to boost the exports. Now, there should be held only one long march in the country, which is the economic parade," said Iqbal.

He said, "Now, we have no room for error whatsoever."

"When the Vision 2025 has been started, it was sabotaged by the chaos back in 2018," Iqbal maintained. The planning minister said, "The worker is underway in the artificial intelligence (AI), mission learning, and other systems."

Iqbal stated, "The establishment, judiciary, and government feel the need to move forward by joining hands together."

"The politics can be staged on the basis of the performance. We will have to adopt the narrative of the performance," said Iqbal.

Negotiations will continue even if Imran Khan is sentenced on Jan 6: PTI

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: In a press conference on Friday, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Secretary Information Waqas Akram Sheikh said that the party's negotiation process will persist even if founder Imran Khan is sentenced on January 6.

Sheikh added that the call for the civil disobedience campaign originated from Khan. He underscored that the ongoing civil disobedience movement is contingent upon the demands raised during these negotiations.

Currently, the first phase of the movement is underway, targeting Pakistanis living abroad. According to Sheikh, these expatriates' families are being threatened, and the full impact of the movement will be assessed within the next three months.

The PTI spokesperson clarified that the civil disobedience movement is not aimed at the country, but rather at the "bogus" government and what he described as an "incompetent" prime

minister. He also acknowledged that PTI's leadership is aware of the hardships the movement might impose on the public.

Sheikh criticised the current government, asserting that those without a public mandate have been allowed to rule, leading to widespread human rights violations and the military trial of civilians.

He stressed that PTI is a political party, not an armed

group, and reaffirmed that the civil disobedience movement will continue without compromise as long as its demands remain unmet.

Addressing speculation, Sheikh denied any arrangement regarding the release of PTI workers from military courts, stressing that their release should not be misconstrued as a goodwill gesture.

In conclusion, he stated that Imran Khan should not face a sentence on January 6, but reiterated that the negotiation process would continue regardless of the court's decision.

CM Maryam secures \$700m Chinese investment

INP

ISLAMABAD: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's recent visit to China has yielded significant results, with Chengdu agreeing to invest \$700 million in the province.

A high-level Chinese delegation, including Chengdu ICT Hub General Coordinator Ms Scarlet and Huawei Deputy CEO Yu Ray, met the chief minister at Punjab House.

The agreement includes launching an e-taxi service, establishing a computing centre, and setting up data and cloud centres in Nawaz Sharif IT City.

Additionally, the delegation agreed to create Pakistan's first e-commerce platform and train youth for global online trading. Collective projects in Lahore will include smart traffic and sanitation systems.

Phase two will introduce an AI Industry Centre for youth training, while phase three will focus on industrial development.

Maryam Nawaz highlighted making Punjab a leading IT hub, with region's largest artificial intelligence centre under Chinese collaboration.

Pakistan, Iran navies hold joint Passage Exercise

INP

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Iran held joint naval drills, Passage Exercise, to enhance interoperability between the two navies and promote shared learning through coordinated activities.

The joint exercise was conducted when Pakistan Navy ships Rasadgar and Azmat, along with Pakistan Maritime Security Agency ship Dasht, visited Port Bandar Abbas, Iran.

The flotilla was led by Commander 14th Destroyer Squadron, Commodore Muhammad Umair.

The Mission Commander held meetings with naval leadership of Iran. Matters of mutual interest, Navy-to-Navy engagements, and cooperation in maritime security were discussed.

In December last, Pakistan Navy Ship Saif conducted Joint Patrol and Passage Exercise with Royal Navy of Oman Vessel, AL-Seeb and Spanish Navy Ship Santa Maria. The exercise was conducted during Focused Operation 'Karakoram Resolve' under Pakistan led Combined Task Force.

The exercises were aimed to develop synergy and mutual understanding between Navies operating in region while demonstrating interoperability to undertake Joint Operations.

Pakistan Maritime Security Agency ship Kashmir also took part in the focused operation.

Mohsin Naqvi vows to convert National Police Academy into int'l organization

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Interior Mohsin Naqvi on Friday morning visited National Police Academy (NPA) Islamabad and held a meeting with under-training officials and inquired about facilities being provided to them.

On the occasion Mohsin Naqvi personally visited officer's mess, academy and hostel of the under-training officials. He also checked quality of food being provided to officials.

Mohsin Naqvi directed to provide all necessary facilities to under-training officials in their rooms of hostel.

Mohsin Naqvi also summoned a comprehensive master plan for National Police Academy and directed to prepare new master plan through consultant of international repute.

He assured that funds release by National Police Foundation (NPF) amounting to Rs250 million will be transferred to National Police Academy soon.

Mohsin Naqvi said that National Police Academy will be operational as

an autonomous body. He directed relevant officials to complete reconstitution work of the academy during three months period.

He directed to take all necessary measures to convert National Police Academy into a university. He advised officials to crate ASPs courses according to latest standards.

He said that best officials as per stands of Pakistan Military Academy (PMA) Kakul will be deputed in National Police Academy. Mohsin Naqvi said that all necessary facilities and allowances will be provided to these officials.

He said that model police station and training laborites will be established in National Police Academy.

Later, the interior minister presided over a high-level meeting. He vowed to bring National Police Academy as per international standards and police officials from other countries will take admission in National Police Academy for training.

High officials of National Police Academy were also present during the meeting.



Punjab Chief Minister, Maryam Nawab Sharif exchanging views with a high level delegation from China during meeting held at Punjab House in Islamabad.

We will not tender apology: Ali Amin Gandapur

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Chief Minister (CM) KP Ali Amin Gandapur while demanding constitution of Judicial Commission (JC) on May 9 incident has said we will not tender apology.

"Talks between government and opposition are good omen. Terrorism will be eliminated from the country with the help of all others, he said this while talking to media men after meeting of apex committee of National Action Plan (NAP) here Friday.

Terminating the meeting vital he said all are agreed on eradicating terrorism.

During the meeting Prime Minister (PM) himself touched November 26, he said adding upon it I said our 58 persons were injured on that day. 13 are martyred and 45 are still missing.

Talking like this by PM is inappropriate

ate that bullet was not fired, he remarked. He should avoid talking this way. Ishaq Dar said we will talk about these matters in the meeting of negotiation committee meeting. Pakistan is priority. We should talk together on this matter. All national security institutions are working together. He indicated we have talked with reference to Afghanistan too. I proposed for jirga. Still efforts can be made.

Kurram agreement has been made in details. Terror activities have gone up ever since Imran government has gone.

Responsibility of border area is responsibility of army and federal government. Constitution of commission on May 9 is our demand. Releasing and forgiving punishment of 19 criminals is a good omen. We will not offer apology. Judicial commission be constituted on May 9 incident.

Talks hinge on Imran's release, commissions: Omar Ayub

Ayub also stated that the government must allow PTI representatives to meet Imran Khan

INP

ISLAMABAD: Opposition leader of the National Assembly and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Omar Ayub has emphasised the party's clear stance on key issues, including the release of founding chairman Imran Khan and other detainees, along with the establishment of two commissions.

Speaking to the media outside a district court, Ayub said PTI's position for negotiations revolves around the release of its leadership and investigations into the 9 May and 26 November incidents.

He added that the government must allow PTI representatives to meet Imran Khan, who he claimed is being held illegally.

"The government's failure to adhere to the law is fostering lawlessness, which will deter investment and harm the country," Ayub stated.

He also criticised the administration, citing shortages of food grains and persistent power outages during winter as indicators of mismanagement.

Earlier, the district sessions court extended Ayub's interim bail until 9

January in a case related to the 26 November protest at D-Chowk.

The extension was granted due to the absence of the investigating officer, who was on leave. Ayub appeared in court alongside his counsel, Babar Awan.

PTI presents two key demands in second round of talks

The second round of talks between the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and the government have kicked off, with the opposition party presenting two of its major demands: the formation of a judicial commission to investigate the events of May 9 and November 26, as well as the release of all political prisoners, including the party's founding chairman Imran Khan. A PTI delegation arrived at the Parliament House for talks, which included prominent party figures such as Omar Ayub, Raja Nasser Abbas, Asad Qaiser, Sahibzada Hamid Raza, and Salman Akram Raja. Express News reported. Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur also joined the delegation shortly after. The negotiation committee was chaired by Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq.



Deputy Chariman Senate Sayeedal Khan Nasar in a meeting with Senator Manzoor Ahmed Kakar and other are also present.