

DAILY MIRROR

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Security Forces Kill Seven Khwarij In Two Separate Engagements: ISPR

APP

RAWALPINDI: Security Forces killed seven Khwarij in two separate engagements in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province on February 8 and 9.

"On night 8-9 February 2025, security Forces conducted an intelligence-based operation in the general area Maddi, Dera Ismail Khan District on the reported presence of khwarij. During the conduct of the operation, own troops effectively engaged the khwarij location, as a result of which, three khwarij including Kharji Rehmat were

sent to hell, while two khwarij got injured" said an ISPR news release.

Another intelligence-based operation was conducted in the general area of Mir Ali, North Waziristan District. In the ensuing fire exchange,

four Khwarij were effectively neutralised by the security forces, while three khwarij got injured.

Sanitization operations are being conducted to eliminate any other Kharji found in the area, as the security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country.



MARDAN: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman Addressing a gathering in Mardan

FM Dar says Netanyahu's remarks on displacing Palestinians 'irresponsible, provocative'

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Sunday — while strongly condemning Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's statement suggesting that the Palestinian people should establish a state in Saudi Arabia — said that the "remark is irresponsible, provocative and thoughtless". Israeli officials have suggested the establishment of a Palestinian state on Saudi territory.

Netanyahu appeared to be joking on Thursday when he responded to an interviewer on pro-Netanyahu Channel 14 who mistakenly said "Saudi state" instead of "Palestinian state", before correcting himself.

According to a statement issued by the Foreign Office today, FM Dar said, "Israeli remark is irresponsible, provocative and thoughtless, which is not only deeply offensive but also undermines and disregards the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and an independent state on their own historical and legitimate territory."

PM Shehbaz to embark on 2-day visit to UAE on Monday: FO

APP

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will embark on a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Monday at the invitation of President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to participate in the World Governments Summit (WGS) in Dubai.

A press release issued by the Foreign Office (FO) on Sunday said that this would be the premier's second visit to the UAE since assuming office in March 2024.

Last month, the United Arab Emirates expressed keen interest in collaboration with Pakistan in the minerals and agriculture sectors during a meeting between PM Shehbaz and UAE President Sheikh Al Nahyan in Rahim Yar Khan on Jan 5. "He will be accompanied by a high-level delegation including Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and other key members of the Cabinet," according to the press release by the FO. "During his visit, the prime minister will deliver a keynote address at the WGS,

highlighting Pakistan's vision for inclusive economic growth, digital transformation and governance reforms," it added.

Only Parliament or Supreme Court can repeal 26th amendment: Justice Mazhar

INP

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar has stated that the 26th amendment could only be repealed by a parliamentary decision or a Supreme Court ruling.

In a 20-page note issued in the bench powers case, Justice Mazhar agreed with the constitutional bench's decision.

He emphasized that only a constitutional bench has the authority to review the constitutionality of laws, and a regular bench cannot interpret constitutional matters.

Justice Mazhar supported the withdrawal of previous orders

issued by a two-member bench.

He further stated that the 26th amendment remains part of the constitution, and its provisions are clear and transparent. "We cannot turn a blind eye to this amendment. Yes, it has been challenged, and notices have been issued to the parties. A decision on whether to refer the case to a full court will be made on merit," he wrote.

Justice Mazhar reiterated that until the amendment is formally annulled, all legal matters must proceed under its framework. He also clarified that only a minimum of five-member constitutional bench has the authority for constitutional interpretation.

Another member seeks deferment of JCP meeting

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Another member of the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) has urged the chief justice of Pakistan (CJP) to defer the Commission's meeting called to consider the appointment of eight new judges to the Supreme Court.

Senator Ali Zafar on Sunday penned a letter to CJP Justice Yahya Afridi, a copy of which was also dispatched to all members of the JCP,

requesting for the deferment of the Commission's meeting until the decision in the 26th Constitutional Amendment case and resolution of the issue concerning appointment of judges in Islamabad High Court (IHC). A couple of days ago four

Supreme Court judges had written to Justice Yahya Afridi urging a delay in the appointment of new judges.

The letter, addressed to the chairman of the Judicial Commission, stressed the importance of forming a full court to address the issue of judicial appointments and the ongoing constitutional amendment case. It expressed concern over the potential complications arising from the upcoming judicial appointments and their impact on the ongoing constitutional amendment case.

The judges who signed the letter included Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Muneeb Akhtar, Justice Ayesha Malik, and Justice Athar Minallah.

Parliament lacks legitimacy, created through rigging: Fazlur Rehman

NEWS DESK

MARDAN: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman says the entire world, including the US, is plotting to eliminate seminaries.

Addressing a gathering in Mardan, the JUI-F chief stated that the current parliament had no legitimacy and was formed through rigging.

He alleged that a conspiracy to shut down bank accounts was underway under the guise of registration.

Referring to the Feb 8 elections last year, he called them massively rigged.

The JUI-F leader asserted that, for him,

the people are the real parliament. He mentioned that people have migrated from Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria, but Palestinians are the only nation that remained steadfast despite bombings in Gaza. He stated that over 50,000 people have been martyred, yet the people have not abandoned their struggle.

Fazlur Rehman vowed that as long as he has strength, no one can impose Qadianism. He warned that if enraged people take to the streets, it will shake the foundations of fake institutions.

He reaffirmed his commitment to "political jihad," vowing to remain on the battlefield and reach the corridors of power.

IMF's mission visits Pakistan to assess governance and corruption risks under the 2024 economic reform program

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: This Press Release aims to add clarity to reports circulating in the media regarding an International Monetary Fund's (IMF) mission visiting Pakistan for conducting a Governance and Corruption Diagnostic Assessment.

The International Monetary Fund has long provided advice and technical assistance that has helped to foster good governance, such as promoting public sector transparency and accountability. Traditionally the IMF's main focus has been on encouraging countries to correct macroeconomic imbalances, reduce inflation, and undertake key trade, exchange, and other market reforms needed to improve efficiency and support sustained economic growth. While these remain its main focus in all its member countries, however the IMF has found that a much broader range of institutional reforms is needed if countries are to establish and maintain private sector confidence and thereby lay the basis for sustained growth. IMF identified that promoting good governance in all its aspects, including ensuring the rule of law, improving the efficiency and accountability of the public sector, and tackling corruption are essential ele-

ments of a framework within which economies can prosper.

In 1997, the IMF adopted a policy on how to address economic governance, embodied in the Guidance Note "The Role of the IMF in Governance Issues". To further strengthen the implementation of this policy, the IMF adopted in 2018 a new Framework for Enhanced Engagement on Governance (Governance Policy) that aims to promote more systematic, effective, candid, and evenhanded engagement with member countries regarding governance vulnerabilities—including corruption—that are critical to macroeconomic performance. Under this policy and framework, IMF offers to undertake Governance and Corruption Diagnostic Assessment (GCDA) with member countries to analyze and recommend actions for addressing corruption vulnerabilities and strengthening integrity & governance in IMF member countries.

Following the analysis, GCDA prioritize and sequence recommendations for systematically addressing the vulnerabilities. Since 2018, twenty GCDA Reports were finalized and include Sri-Lanka, Mauritania, Cameroon, Zambia, and Benin. Ten Diagnostics are ongoing, and several are under consideration by IMF.



KARACHI: Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhail Inauguration to Solar Powered Systems for the Livelihood of Balochistan.

Finance minister expresses desire for robust ties with UK

> Two sides discuss "investment opportunities in Pakistan's energy, minerals, and infrastructure sectors"

ONLINE

LISBON: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has expressed his desire to make Pakistan-UK relations more sustainable.

The minister met with UK Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Middle East, Pakistan and Afghanistan, Hamish Faulkner, in Portuguese capital Lisbon. Matters of mutual interest including investment opportuni-

ties in Pakistan in energy, minerals, and infrastructure sectors were discussed during the meeting.

Aurangzeb said Pakistan and the United Kingdom have enjoyed close and cordial relations marked by mutual trust and engagement.

The role of people-to-people contacts through the Pakistani diaspora in fostering the bilateral relationship was also lauded in the meeting.

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The UK has remained the top export destination of Pakistani products during the first five months of the current fiscal year. According to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP),

Pakistan exported products worth \$935.018m to the country.

In 2024, Pakistan was the UK's 51st largest trade partner, while the UK is

Pakistan's third biggest trade partner after China and the United States and the third-largest source of remittance inflows, trailing Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

According to the central, workers' remittances also increased by 10.7 per cent last fiscal year to \$30.3bn, of which \$4.5bn stemmed from the UK, second only to Saudi Arabia.

According to the report, the finance minister engaged with the British Parliamentary Undersecretary of State for Middle East, Pakistan and Afghanistan Hamish Falconer in Portugal.

Furthermore, the two sides discussed "matters of mutual interest including investment opportunities in Pakistan in energy, minerals, and infrastructure sectors".

PM Shehbaz Sharif approves abolishing son quota in jobs

INP

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif approved abolishing the son quota for recruiting a family member of an employee who passed away while in service.

PM Shehbaz approved changes to the job policy under the Prime Minister's Assistance Package, the sources said, and added that the policy previously allowed a family member of a deceased government employee to be offered a government job.

The Prime Minister has now approved changes to this policy, effectively barring the children of deceased government employees from receiving government jobs.

This policy change is reportedly in line with a Supreme Court decision, following which the Establishment Division has issued directives to all ministries and divisions to implement the changes.

The sources confirmed that all other benefits and facilities available to civil servants under the Prime Minister's Assistance Package will remain unchanged.

The decision will not apply to the children of martyrs from law enforcement agencies or those who have sacrificed their lives in the fight against terrorism. Additionally, the decision will not affect the recruitment of heirs of civil servants who were hired before the change in policy.

President Zardari off to Lisbon to condole death of Prince Karim Agha Khan

APP

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Sunday left for Lisbon, Portugal to condole the death of Prince Karim Agha Khan.

The President will meet His Highness Prince Rahim Agha Khan to extend his condolences on the passing away of late Prince Karim Agha Khan IV.

According to the President House press wing statement, during the visit, President Asif Zardari will also meet President of Portugal Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa.

On Saturday, Ismaili Muslims said a last goodbye to their late spiritual leader, Aga Khan IV, at a private funeral ceremony in Lisbon attended by dignitaries and foreign leaders.

Prince Karim al-Husseini, 88, died on Tuesday. He was regarded as a direct descendant of the Prophet Mohammed and enjoyed near divine status as the 49th hereditary imam of the Ismaili Nizaris, a branch of Shia Islam.

Saturday's private ceremony at the Ismaili community centre in Lisbon was attended by more than 300 guests, including Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa and former Spanish king Juan Carlos I.

PML-N Leaders Rendered Lots of Sacrifices for Democracy: Attaullah Tarar

APP

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar said on Sunday that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and its workers had witnessed tough times in past.

Talking to the media here, he said that the PML-N workers had faced jails, court and police stations. He said that everyone was witness to the arrest of Mian Nawaz Sharif, Shehbaz Sharif and Hamza Shehbaz, adding that during hearings in courts, the PML-N leaders were kept away from media.

Sacrifices of party workers could not be forgotten, he said and added that the PML-N leaders had given a lot of sacrifices for democracy. Attaullah Tarar said that hardships, which PML-N President Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and his family had faced could not be described in words. He said that the desire would always remain alive that Mian Nawaz Sharif should have spent time with the late Kalsoom Nawaz, her wife, during her last moments.

He said, "We pay tribute to all our workers who have passed away."

The federal minister said that it was very sorrowful that Syed Hassan Asghar, affectionately known as 'Gudu Shah' had passed away. He said that it was government's top priority to solve problems of the party workers.

Internal rift deepens in MQM-P over organisational reshuffle

Anees Qaimkhani and Farooq Sattar were given key roles in MQM-P's Central Organising Committee

NEWS DESK

KARACHI: The Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) is facing internal turmoil following an organisational reshuffle that has sparked protests among party workers and highlighted divisions within the leadership.

The restructuring, announced on Saturday, placed senior figures including Anees Qaimkhani, Aminul Haq, and Dr Farooq Sattar in key positions within the Central Organising Committee.

However, the move was met with resistance from within the party ranks, as workers gathered at the Bahadurabad headquarters, demanding more transparency and consultation in leadership decisions.

During the demonstration, workers chanted in support of party Convener Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui while voicing opposition to former Karachi mayor Mustafa Kamal, who remains a divisive

figure within MQM-P.

The group also protested against Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori's assignment as the in-charge of the provincial parliamentary committee.

A video circulating on social media shows the two groups clashing.

Some members accused the leadership of sidelining key figures without prior discussion, while reports suggested that minor scuffles broke out between party workers and officials during the protest.

Adding to the tension, speculation emerged regarding Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori's role in the reshuffle, with unconfirmed reports suggesting slogans were raised against him.

Despite the growing dissent, MQM-P leaders sought to downplay the crisis. Farooq Sattar defended Siddiqui, rejecting any suggestion of a no-confidence vote against him.



QUETTA: Health worker administering polio drop to child during national anti-polio campaign.

Liaquat Baloch calls for restoration of public mandate

INP

HYDERABAD: Deputy Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami and Secretary General of the Milli Yakjehti Council, Liaquat Baloch, during his four-day visit to Sindh, condemned the February 8, 2024, elections, calling it the "worst" in the country's electoral history.

In his speeches at the annual ceremonies of religious schools and workers' conventions across Karachi, Jamshoro, Hyderabad, Panno Aqil, Bagarji, Rohri, and Sukkur, Baloch stated that the day marked the "darkest" period for democracy and elected institutions in Pakistan.

In talks with journalists and political committee officials, Baloch emphasized that political stability can only be achieved through impartial elections that honor the public mandate, in accordance with the constitution and democracy.

He criticized the elections as "fake," leading to the establishment of illegitimate governments that have exacerbated political, economic, and social crises.

According to Baloch, citizens continue to suffer from unemployment, corruption, and the misuse of power under these dishonest administrations.

Baloch further stated that holding new elections under the current circumstances would only worsen the crisis facing Pakistan's electoral system and democracy.

Pakistan regains its lost position in int'l community: Mashhood

By Maqsood Khalid

LAHORE: Chairman of the Prime Minister Youth Program Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan says Pakistan has regained its lost position in the international community.

Addressing a public gathering in Lahore, he highlighted the decline in inflation from forty percent to four percent crediting it to the PML-N Government's economic policies.

Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan said Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif is representing Muslims globally, strengthening Pakistan position on the international stage.



QUETTA: A donkey cart on the way loaded with heavy luggages.

Governor Kundi Underlines Collective Efforts For KP Uplift

APP

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi has underlined the need of collective efforts for the socio-economic development of the province.

He expressed these views during a marriage ceremony of renowned businessman Faizan Khan Kundi, held here on Sunday.

The event was also attended by Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam's parliamentary leader in the Provincial Assembly, Maulana Lutufur Rehman, former Federal Minister Maulana Asad Mehmood, renowned political and social figure Haji Nisar Khan Dabarrah, former MPA Mahmood Khan Bettani and others.

On this occasion, the governor discussed political situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the country as well. On this occasion, the Governor mingled with the people.

Speakers Urge Youth to Play Key Role in Ending Gender-based Violence

APP

QUETTA: Speakers at a workshop highlighted the vital role of youth in combating gender-based violence and enhance awareness to prevent the increasing prevalence of such violence in Balochistan.

The speakers highlighted the role of youth to eliminate the gender-based violence in the province while addressing the participants at a training workshop organized by youth leaders Samia Urooj, Saliha Fayaz and Aram Imtiaz at the NUML University's "Aaghaz" center, established with the support of UN Women. Saadia Ashfaq, Project Officer at the Taraqee Foundation said that it was

essential for all segments of society to leverage their influence to end violence against women. She noted that gender-based violence was steadily increasing, and to curb it, the government needed to not only enact new laws but also remove the obstacles hindering the implementation of existing laws.

Saadia Ashfaq also highlighted the child marriage as a significant issue, stressing that the draft law to prevent early marriage had been pending for years. She called for immediate legis-



Akhwat Foundation ray of light in darkness: Tessori

INP

KARACHI: Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori has said that the Akhwat Foundation and personalities like Dr. Amjad Saqib, are a ray of light in the darkness. No one has been able to do the work that Amjad Saqib was doing in 77 years. If wealthy people spend only 10 percent of their money on the needy, there will be no poor in the country.

Addressing a fundraising ceremony organized by Akhwat Foundation at the Governor House, he said Akhwat Foundation founder and chairman Dr. Amjad Saqib and Akhwat Foundation Karachi president Danish

Aman were also present in the occasion.

The Governor said that by providing Rs 300 billion, Dr. Amjad Saqib, has solved the problems of 3 crore people. However, the problems of 21 crore people are still unsolved. He said that despite the passage of 77 years for the purpose for which Pakistan was created, those problems have not been solved.

He said that behind every success there is a woman's hand, its practical form was seen in the form of providing the first loan of Rs 10,000 to a woman under the Akhwat Foundation.

The Sindh Governor said that in the past two and a half years, I have often heard that I am being removed.



QUETTA: People busy in buying warm cloth from a stall at Joint road Sunday Bazar.



New Zealand's Ravindra bloodied by ball to face in Lahore tri-nation series match

SPORTS DESK

New Zealand said Rachin Ravindra was recovering well after taking a ball full in the face during the opening match of a tri-nations series in Lahore.

The 25-year-old was fielding at deep square leg when he seemed to lose sight of the ball against the Gaddafi Stadium floodlights as he shaped to take a catch to dismiss Khushdil Shah in the 38th over of Pakistan's innings.

Blood poured from the head of a dazed Ravindra while the crowd looked on with concern. After being treated, he left the field holding a bandage tight to his bloodied forehead.

The team said Ravindra had suffered a cut to his face but was "otherwise well" and had passed his first Head Injury Assessment (HIA).

"He's been conscious the whole time, which is fantastic," his teammate Glenn Phillips told reporters at Gaddafi Stadium.

"Obviously it was a pretty terrifying moment, he lost the ball in the lights and unfortunately the ball won that situation this time. He's being monitored and I'm sure he'll be raring to go as soon as possible."

In a post on Instagram, an update by the Black Caps said Ravindra was unlikely to feature in tomorrow's match against South Africa after he "sustained a laceration to the forehead".

"The player passed the initial head injury assessment and the laceration, which required stitches, was addressed and treated at the ground," the statement read.

"He is otherwise well and will continue to be monitored under HIA protocols," it added.

Ravindra had scored 25 from 19 balls at the top of the order as New Zealand piled up 330-6 before his team went on to claim a 78-run win in yesterday's match.

Phillips was named Player of the Match after scoring his maiden one-day international century to drive New Zealand to victory.

His unbeaten 106 came from just 74 deliveries and helped the Black Caps to a bumper score of 330 for six in their 50 overs before they bundled out their hosts for 252.

"ODI cricket has been my favourite format growing up and it's always something I've been reaching for to get that century," said Phillips, who was playing his 37th one-day international. "It was a pretty surreal moment, I've been chasing it for a couple of years now, obviously batting at six doesn't mean your opportunities to score a hundred are always there."

"Thankfully today everything lined up nicely."

New Zealand take on South Africa on Monday at the same stadium in the tri-series warm-up for the upcoming Champions Trophy, which begins when the Black Caps take on tournament hosts Pakistan again in Karachi on February 19.



LONDON: Manchester City's Abdulkodir Khusanov (L) vies for the ball with Leyton Orient's Darren Pratley during their FA Cup fourth-round match at Brisbane Road

City survive Orient scare as Saints crash out

SPORTS DESK

LONDON: Kevin De Bruyne spared Manchester City's blushes as they came from behind to beat third tier Leyton Orient 2-1 in the FA Cup fourth round, while Southampton's miserable season hit a new low with an embarrassing exit against Burnley.

Pep Guardiola's troubled side were rocked when Jamie Donley's long-range effort came back off the bar and rebounded in off City goalkeeper Stefan Ortega to give Orient an early lead at Brisbane Road.

City finally drew level after 56 minutes when Uzbekistan defender Abdulkodir Khusanov deflected in Rico Lewis's shot for his first Manchester City goal since signing from Lens in the January transfer window.

Guardiola had to turn to his bench more than he would have liked just four days before a mammoth Champions League play-off round first leg against Real Madrid.

But the introduction of De Bruyne made the difference as the Belgian midfielder scored 11 minutes from time. "It was a typical FA Cup game, that is why this competition is unbelievable. For the fans, how the crowd support and we knew they are strong," Guardiola said. "It is my ninth season in England. I played many times against lower division teams. It was a tight game and we knew it for the situation that we have, but we reacted really well with great character."

Victory came at a cost for City, though, as new midfielder Nico Gonzalez hobbled off just 22 minutes into his debut after a 50 million (\$62 million) move from Porto.

Bottom of the Premier League and seemingly destined for relegation, Southampton got no respite in the FA Cup

as second tier Burnley won 1-0 at St Mary's.

Scott Parker's team went in front after 77 minutes when Marcus Edwards scored from close-range on his debut after signing on loan from Sporting Lisbon.

The last FA Cup tie at Goodison Park ended in disappointment for Everton, who are moving to a new stadium next season, as Bournemouth cruised to a 2-0 victory.

Andoni Iraola's side went ahead when Everton captain James Tarkowski fouled Antoine Semenyo in the area and the Bournemouth winger picked himself up to convert the 23rd minute penalty.

Dan Jebbison tapped in Bournemouth's second on the rebound after Marcus Tavernier's shot was parried by Jordan Pickford in the 42nd minute.

Rodrigo Muniz scored twice as Fulham won 2-1 at third tier Wigan Athletic.

Muniz bundled home Ryan Sessegnon's cross in the 23rd minute before Jonny Smith's curler hauled Wigan level after 50 minutes.

Fulham were back in front five minutes later when Muniz slotted home from Andreas Pereira's pass.

Ipswich Town, second bottom of the Premier League, swept to a 4-1 win against Frank Lampard's Coventry City.

George Hirst's second minute penalty was quickly cancelled by out Joel Latibeaudiere's eighth minute equaliser for the second tier hosts. But Jack Clarke restored Ipswich's lead in the 28th minute and struck again after 37 minutes before Jaden Philogene's 63rd minute effort sealed the rout. Millwall reached the fifth round for the first time since 2018-19 thanks to Femi Azeze's double in a 2-0 win at Championship leaders Leeds United.

Australia on brink of Sri Lanka Test series sweep

SPORTS DESK

GALLE: Australia are two wickets away from ending Sri Lanka's second innings in the second Test at Galle on Saturday, with the hosts reeling at 211-8 at stumps on day three.

With Sri Lanka leading by only 54 runs, Steve Smith's side will be eager to mop up the tail early Sunday and seal a 2-0 sweep.

Angelo Mathews was the linchpin of Sri Lanka's innings, holding things together as wickets tumbled at the other end.

But just 15 minutes before the close of play, he swept Nathan Lyon straight to square leg, where Beau Webster pocketed a sharp chance.

The 37-year-old warhorse had dug deep for a fighting half-century, but Sri Lanka needed a marathon knock, not his well-compiled 76.

Mathews finds himself in the crosshairs, with just one fifty in his last eight innings.

Ahead of this Test, the selectors had made it clear — unless he starts churning out big runs, his spot in the next cycle of the World Test Championship was not fixed.

His sixth-wicket partnership with Kusal Mendis worth 70 runs was a lifeline for Sri Lanka, preventing an innings implosion and ensuring the game stretched into a fourth day.

Prabath Jayasuriya said Sri Lanka were "not out of it yet".

"Kusal Mendis is still out there and he has been batting well — and if he can give us a decent lead, then we can put pressure on them," he said.

"It's not going to be easy batting in the fourth innings."

There was an unusual moment in the afternoon session when a delivery from Lyon drifted down the leg-side.

It clipped the helmet placed behind the wicket-keeper for a close-in fielder, and triggered an automatic five-run penalty for Sri Lanka, a rare bonus in a match where runs were hard to come by.

With the picturesque Galle Fort providing a natural grandstand, hundreds of Australian supporters perched themselves atop the historic ramparts to enjoy a commanding performance from their side. The fans celebrated as off-spinner Lyon became only the third Australian to claim 550 Test wickets, joining the exalted company of Shane Warne (708) and Glenn McGrath (563).



Sri Lankan batter Kusal Mendis plays a shot during the second Test against Australia at the Galle International Stadium.

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Race against time

SOME of the foremost authorities on environmental issues converged in Islamabad this past week to talk about the urgent nature of the climate crisis in Pakistan. Alongside these experts at DawnMedia's Breathe Pakistan conference, policymakers and jurists, too, laid out both the scale of the challenge and the action required to surmount it.

Pakistan faces what Supreme Court Justice Mansoor Ali Shah calls a "dual injustice" — bearing a disproportionate burden of climate impacts while lacking the structural capacity to respond. The conference's outcomes were sobering. Pakistan needs \$40-50bn annually until 2050 for climate adaptation, yet current flows amount to barely one-eighth of that.

The World Bank's climate chief, Valerie Hickey, highlighted that while 70pc of global climate finance goes to mitigation, Pakistan's pressing need is adaptation. More concerning still, less than 20pc of total climate finance reaches the Global South, where it is needed most.

Some bright spots emerged. Punjab has allocated Rs100bn for climate resilience and Rs10bn specifically for smog mitigation. KP's forests serve as a carbon sink, removing half of Pakistan's carbon emissions. The centre's Uraan Pakistan initiative promises to integrate climate resilience into energy and development planning. But these efforts, while laudable, are dwarfed by the scale of the challenge. The outcome of inaction is already visible. We lost 97 school days to climate disruptions in 2023-24.

The Indus, Pakistan's lifeline, is now the world's second-most plastic-polluted river. Air pollution alone causes 128,000 deaths annually, reducing life expectancy by 3.9 years and costing the economy billions. By 2050, nearly half of Pakistan's agricultural land could become unsuitable for farming.

The conference crystallised three imperatives. First, climate finance must be restructured. The finance minister's call for more predictable, flexible, and grant-based support reflects the frustration with current mechanisms. Second, regional cooperation is essential. Pakistan's initiative to engage with India on transboundary air pollution is a promising start. Third, domestic resource mobilisation must improve; we cannot wait for foreign help while our glaciers melt and crops fail. The path is clear, if daunting. We must streamline our climate governance, implement the Climate Change Act's delayed provisions, and create promised institutions like the climate change authority.

The private sector must be better incentivised to help find climate solutions.

The media also has a vital role. By shifting from disaster reporting to solutions-oriented journalism, it can engage the public and hold policymakers accountable. It must also break down the jargon that often hinders effective climate communication. The conference has shown the way. The question is whether the country can summon the political will — both local and international — and resources to follow it.

By M.R malik

Real heir

The companions are suspected of not coming to the column for several days, but when I look at the ideological workers standing at the heights of the capacity in politics, the false ego on my head falls down.

Today, we are trapped in a swamp of politics where there is still a lot of interest and greed, and the vicious faces of politics are changing their lyrics at this point, but the difficult path of ideology is also personal. Putting foot on interests, standing in the court of the people, it is a great demonstration that ideological workers standing in the political parties have always surrendered to the decision of the party leadership, providing oxygen to the political parties worthy. For half a century, I have been watching the ideological workers of the Pakistan Peoples Party, PML -N and now Pakistan Tehreek -e -Insaf (PTI) and I see the real heir in the form of ideological workers.

In the 2008 election, when the ideological workers of the PML -N were standing on the stage, the people of the respective constituencies did not return to the back of ideological workers at this time.

Putting into the swing of ideological workers, all the decisions of self -esteem in the hands of ideological workers, after the Demigerjit, the party leadership took all the confidence of these loyalists, the voters who polling on the request of the ideological workers of any party.

The booths arrived at the booths who responded to the voice of party workers, they had to be thrown, loyalists who changed their loyalties to get tickets in the parties left these ideological workers abandoned. Those who dealt with interests saw voters and workers that win. After the police stations were bid and during the period of these crowds, the ideological workers continued to

swell for revenge, and the chest of ideological workers continued to shatter their retaliation. The ideological workers who, in every legitimate and illegal decision of the leadership, have been calling the ticket distribution in every upcoming election, but the ideological workers standing on the stairs of ideology continued to tolerate this oppression of ignorance.

Pakistan Peoples Party, PML -N's parliamentary boards made it clear to ideological workers by making decisions and dislikes that your views and foils have no significance in our view, most of the ideological on the occasion of the distribution of tickets in places. The protests by the workers have seen that we or the voters no longer can tolerate the atrocities of any new ticket holders, we will no longer allow the voters or the public's right to be killed by self -determination, but in the malfunction. Who listens to the sound of the parrot The name of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto has been shining in the sky of politics till now, which was mainly due to the relief of ideological workers in the party to the extent and access to leadership, important and organizational decisions were with ideological workers, Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Mardam.

They knew they knew that the city of Wafa was standing at the brink of the wives, they made a historic decision by allotting party tickets to the workers like Fazal Hussain Rahi of Faisalabad. History has proved that these ideological workers have laid the foundations of large and historical meetings and shocked the rival political parties, these ideological workers built the party's organizational foundations with their blood.

At the voice of these workers, one of the relevant constituents knocked on every door of the constituency and came out with the message of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, we saw that From each con-



stituency, the caravan of Ishq came out, these ideological workers gave every sound barrier, the same slogan was heard in the lips of these ideological workers on the distribution of powers to the grass root level. Today, the leadership of Pakistan Peoples Party, PML -N and Pakistan Tehreek -e -Insaf have said that ideological workers are the real heirs of the parties. Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto's affiliation with these ideological workers was so emotional that no dictator of time could be killed in the hearts of the people, Mian Nawaz Sharif was the ideological workers who were in power with a heavy mandate. Abid Anwar Alvi lifted the grass root level and made the party a millionaire on the sky, but when the party's distribution phase came, Abid Anwar Alvi and Basharat Randhawa were not named in any list of PML -N, with workers. The same mistrust and ignorance of leadership has changed the love of the PML -N into hatred. He is blind trust and blind trust when breaks it does not take long for love to change in hatred. There is a view of the elderly and the elderly can never lie that the person who stumbles upsets the stumbling block, but the person who has fallen from the eyes can never rise.

By Muna Khan

Boys in the hood

LAST Thursday, as I waited for the traffic light to turn green so I could turn left onto Karachi's Seaview road, two boys, I'm guessing aged between 10 to 13, wearing skates, grabbed the back of my car, hoping for a ride. I refused; it was dangerous and irresponsible. First they appeared to get off, but as I began driving, there they were, skating as I drove. I slowed down and argued with them using my rear view mirror but they kept insisting they needed a ride. So I caved and drove slow, super slow.

My near seven-minute ride turned out to be maybe 11 minutes or so as I glanced at the rear view mirror, refusing to give in to their bangs on my trunk asking me to go faster. "Auntie race lagao na [rev it up]," one boy said.

We go at this speed or we don't go at all, I replied, the rearview mirror our way of communication.

The other boy slapped his forehead, ostensibly upset that they were stuck with me.

As I drove my two passengers, I could hear their laughter; they were talking to one another in a language I didn't understand. They waved to the performers along the Seaview road — the Spidermans, the robots, the stuffed animal I didn't quite recognise, the women thelawallahs. Some waved back, perplexed, probably by my slow speed. I like to think the boys were saying something like 'check us out' or 'how cool do we look?'

They were seemingly carefree, but were they skipping school or a day job? Meanwhile, the cars whizzing past would slow as they passed me,

as if to check if I knew I had two hangers-on at the end of my car.

The boys banged on my trunk for my attention and I saw they had made a heart shape with their hands. My heart melted. It was the sweetest moment. And an unforgettable one. These boys and I, each on our own joyride.

It had to come to an end as I had to return home — to errands, work, bill payments, complaints about no gas, life etc. "Auntie, we came from [I forget the neighbourhood they said] because we wanted to go see Do Darya," one boy told me, as I began to slow the car down further to let them disembark at the traffic light.

"We paid Rs600 to get these skates so we could come here. Can't you drop us there?" They were seemingly carefree, but were they skipping school or a day job when they rented their skates for Rs600 with the intent to make it to Do Darya? How often did they do this — hitch rides with strangers? Was someone out there looking for them? I couldn't drop them there but offered to drive them past the security check post. But as I pulled up to it, the officers took one look at me and my ride and shut us down. Not only did they shoo the boys, threatening them with the police standing a few feet away but the guard also scolded me for bringing them along. "You don't know who they are, who is behind them, they could cause you serious harm," he said. They're just kids, I replied as I turned to see they'd disappeared somewhere between the scolding I was receiving. I didn't get a chance to say goodbye. But my brain was now filled with all the doubts the guards had planted in my

head, starting with, of course, who are they, where are their parents, what were they doing out of school? Pakistan has the world's second-highest number of out-of-school children, with an estimated 22.8 million of them, aged five to 16 years, not attending school, according to Unicef. This figure represents 44pc of the total population in this age group. In Sindh, 52pc of the poorest children (58pc girls) are out of school. Despite an increase in its spending on education, Pakistan has not achieved the target of 4pc spending on education in the budget.

This and other depressing statistics out of Pakistan rarely make it to prime time talk shows. Imagine spending the same energy on the positive impacts of quality early education on children's survival that is devoted to whatever new thing Imran Khan said, did, or wrote. Children are especially susceptible to violence, exploitation, and abuse, but the media only covers these issues after a gruesome incident occurs. The usual suspects are brought on our screens — police, government and not-for-profit representatives, for example — who say more or less the same thing. All stakeholders in society are desensitised by the media. On the day I was due to submit this piece, I was on Seaview road headed towards the mall when I saw a convoy of SUVs and trucks, filled with teens, their bodies sticking out of windows and sunroofs; their drivers speeding down. No one appeared to intervene to disturb their route, reminding me, once again, of who this country is for.

DAILY MIRROR

Pakistan-Saudi Arabia to Further Strengthen Digital, Economic Partnership: Shaza Fatima

APP

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are expanding their digital and economic partnership, aiming to foster innovation and investment in key technology sectors said, State Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja at the LEAP 2025 technology event in Riyadh.

Under the theme "Into New Worlds," LEAP 2025 aims to expand business networking and investment opportunities in the tech sector.

Highlighting the deepening collaboration between the two nations, she highlighted Pakistan's commitment to leveraging technology for economic growth, said a news release received here on Sunday.

She said Pakistan's IT exports have surged by 28%, reaching \$1.86 billion, underscoring the sector's robust expansion.

She also described the Digital Nation Act 2025 as a transformative initiative set to reshape Pakistan's digital economy.

The minister revealed that Islamabad will soon host the Digital Foreign Direct Investment (DFDI) Forum, inviting global investors to explore Pakistan's expanding digital landscape.

She stressed that Pakistan seeks a strong tech partnership under Saudi Vision 2030, urging Saudi investors to explore opportunities in fintech, cybersecurity, and cloud computing.

"This is a golden opportunity for digital investment and technological collaboration between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia," she said, adding that Pakistan offers world-class digital services with lucrative investment prospects.

Highlighting Pakistan's largest-ever participation in LEAP 2025, the minister shared that over 100 tech companies and 1,000 participants from Pakistan are attending the event. "We are not just signing MoUs; we are securing real economic growth through strategic agreements," she asserted.

She acknowledged the Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO) as a key

partner in Pakistan's digital progress.

She also praised Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's leadership, stating that his vision is fostering a conducive environment for digital growth and foreign investments.

Shaza credited the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) for its pivotal role in enhancing Pakistan's investment landscape. She emphasized that SIFC's initiatives have improved the ease of doing business and attracted international investors.

The Pakistan-Saudi Business Forum at LEAP 2025 witnessed the participation of DCO Secretary General Deemah AlYahya, alongside top Saudi government and business officials, as well as a large number of Pakistani and Saudi delegates.

With Pakistan positioning itself as a key player in the global digital economy, the minister reaffirmed the country's commitment to fostering innovation, expanding its IT sector, and strengthening international partnerships.



Honorable Shaza Fatima Khawaja
Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecommunication
Government of Pakistan

RIYADH: Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecommunications Shaza Fatima Khawaja addressing the Pak-Saudi Forum.

Raja Pervez Ashraf, Sindh CM discuss political, economic situation

INP

KARACHI: Former Prime Minister (PM) and Senior Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader Raja Pervaiz Ashraf called on the Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah at Chief Minister House here Sunday.

According to a spokesman for the CM, they discussed political and economic situation of the country in the call-on.

They also discussed federal government's projects in the Sindh province.

The former PM gave assurance to the chief minister to raise problems of Sindh in the National Assembly.

Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah and former Prime Minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf also discussed strengthening the Party (PPP) in Punjab.

Govt negotiation committee practically inactive & ineffective: Senator Irfan Siddiqui

APP

ISLAMABAD: Senator Irfan Siddiqui, the Parliamentary Leader of Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) in the Senate and spokesperson for the government's negotiation committee, stated that the government negotiation committee has become practically inactive and ineffective.

In a statement posted on social media platform 'X' on Saturday, he said that whether formally dissolved or not, the government negotiation committee is now non-functional and ineffective.

Senator Siddiqui mentioned that PTI unilaterally withdrew from the negotiation process and has also rejected the Prime Minister's offer.

He added that PTI now intends to move towards violent protests on its home ground. He further stated that if PTI ever feels the need for negotiations again, the situation will be reconsidered.

This development highlights the ongoing political tensions and the challenges in fostering dialogue between the government and the opposition.

The statement underscores the current impasse and the potential for further political instability if negotiations remain stalled.

PTI's 'Trump card' has lost its influence: Rana Tanveer 'Govt has successfully steered country away from brink of default'

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain said on Sunday that the 'Trump card' of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had lost its influence.

Expressing his thoughts in Sharaqpur, the government had successfully steered the country away from the brink of default. "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the nation has been placed on the path to economic growth," Hussain declared.

He also highlighted the significant progress made in stabilising the country's economy, noting that international institutions were now acknowledging Pakistan's improving economic situation.

"Countries like Turkey and Indonesia

will send delegations to Pakistan this month," he said, adding that nations, including the United States, were confident in investing in Pakistan.

Hussain further remarked that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party's leadership had failed to deliver. "The PTI leadership continued to write letters to the International Monetary Fund, but their efforts were futile," he explained.

Hussain stated, "The politics of the PTI founder is based on anti-Pakistan and anti-state ideologies."

Looking forward, the federal minister expressed confidence

that Pakistan would continue on its path of progress. "Next year, Pakistan will be further along the road to development," he predicted.

Pakistan sends 23rd aid consignment to war-hit Palestine, Lebanon, Syria

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), in partnership with the Al-Khidmat Foundation, dispatched the 23rd relief consignment of 50 tons of humanitarian aid on Sunday to support war-torn individuals in Palestine, Lebanon, and Syria.

Under the prime minister's directives, a total of 1,803 tons of relief supplies have been delivered so far to assist affected communities in Palestine (1,320 tons), Lebanon (372 tons), and Syria (111 tons). The relief consignment contained items such as tinned meat, powdered milk, hygiene kits, clothing, blankets, tents, and sleeping bags. The aid was sent via a chartered flight from Jinnah International Airport in Karachi to Jordan.

The send-off ceremony at Jinnah International Airport in Karachi was attended by senior officials from the NDMA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), and Al-Khidmat Foundation.

An NDMA spokesperson stated that the Government of Pakistan remains committed to delivering relief supplies in

response to the needs of war-affected communities in Lebanon, Syria, and Palestine.

Over one million people in the Gaza Strip have received food assistance since the ceasefire between Israel and Hamas took effect nearly three weeks ago, UN aid coordination office OCHA said in an update the other day.

The temporary agreement to stop the fighting and release hostages brought an end to some 15 months of conflict and destruction in the Strip, following the brutal Hamas-led attacks on southern Israel of 7 October 2023.

The truce came into force on 19 January and OCHA said the surge in the daily entry of supplies into Gaza since then, along with improved access conditions, have allowed humanitarians to meaningfully expand the delivery of life-saving assistance and services across the enclave. Moreover, coordination with the Israeli authorities for humanitarian aid missions is mostly no longer required, except when entering buffer zones. "As a result, humanitarian partners are adjusting their response in accordance with population movements, including by expanding their operational presence.

Swabi rally was a public referendum against illegitimate govt: Barrister Saif

NEWS DESK

PESHAWAR: Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Adviser on Information, Barrister Dr. Saif, has declared the Swabi rally a public referendum against the 'so-called' elected government.

In a statement, Dr. Saif stated that the massive public turnout had confirmed the theft of the people's mandate, adding that the entire nation has made it clear that Pakistan belongs to PTI founder Imran Khan.

He accused the authorities of orchestrating a crackdown on PTI workers in Punjab for the past week, yet despite these tactics, the government failed to suppress the movement.

"The people are standing shoulder to shoulder with Imran Khan in the struggle for real freedom. With public support, this illegitimate government will be removed," Dr. Saif asserted.

Balochistan govt forms committee to probe high fluoride levels in drinking water

APP

QUETTA: The Balochistan government has formed a committee to probe the presence of high fluoride levels in drinking water. As per details, the Balochistan govt after taking notice of ARY News report has formed a special committee of Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department to investigate the issue.

According to the official statement, the committee, comprising expert teams, will conduct a comprehensive assessment of fluoride concentration in drinking water.

To ensure accuracy, random water samples will be collected for quality analysis, the statement added.

The expert committee has been directed to submit its findings within four weeks, according to the PHE Department. Meanwhile, Provincial Minister Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran has instructed authorities to follow standard scientific protocols for analyzing water quality. The committee will also work to identify sources of contamination, ensuring a detailed examination of potential pollution sources. "There will be zero tolerance for negligence in providing clean drinking water," affirmed Minister Khetran.

Role of Maritime Security Increased in Globalization Era: Khawaja Asif

APP

KARACHI: Defense Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Sunday said that the changes taking place at the global level have had an impact on all sectors. In this era of globalization, the role of maritime security has further increased.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony of the "Aman Dialogue" organized by the Pakistan Navy here, the Defense Minister said that along with natural resources, maritime trade is also of the great importance and collective actions to address these challenges was the need of the hour.

He said the era of globalization, rapidly evolving technologies, transition of world power structures and growing threats from Non-State actors had made it obligatory for us to sit together, discuss our challenges together and learn from each other and formulate strategies for the common good of our people.

He said evolving Maritime threats, especially after 9/11, where the threats pose to global common is to non-conventional domain, piracy, trans-national crime and cyber war faring coexist with the climate degradation and climate change impacts.

These challenges recognize no borders and respect no sovereignty, they

demand unified understanding and coordinated response, the Defence Minister added.

Welcoming the participants, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf said that there would be an opportunity to benefit from each other's experiences through the Aman Dialogue for the promotion of the maritime sector and the blue economy. Admiral Naveed Ashraf said the AMAN-Dialogue themed this year "Secure Seas-Prosperous Future" encapsulates our vision for the Indian Ocean region.

We envisioned these waters not an arena of confrontation but as a common avenue for the cooperation, Chief of the Naval Staff said, adding that we believe that the magnitude and diversity of evolving threats and challenges as such that no country wherewithal to tackle them alone. Hence collaborative Maritime security has become an imperative for ensuring robust Maritime security specially in regions like ours where within states for economic activity and multiple and diverse stakeholders, Admiral Naveed Ashraf said.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed also spoke on the occasion and said that 80 percent of trade is carried out through sea routes and promoting regional connectivity has become extremely important for economic development.



LISBON: Federal Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb meeting with British Parliamentary Undersecretary of State for Middle East, Pakistan and Afghanistan, Hamish Falconer.

Trump says he has spoken to Putin about ending war in Ukraine

By Khawaja Farooq

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump said that he has talked to Russian President Vladimir Putin on the phone to discuss an end to the war in Ukraine, the New York Post reported late.

In an interview aboard Air Force One on Friday, Trump said that he had "bitter not say," when asked how many times the two leaders have spoken.

"He (Putin) wants to see people stop dying," Trump told the New York Post.

Neither the Kremlin nor the White House immediately responded to Reuters' request for comment outside business hours.

In late January, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said that Putin is ready to hold a phone call with Trump and

Moscow is waiting for word from Washington that it is ready too.

On Friday, Trump said he would probably meet Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy next week to discuss the end of the war.

The war, which began with Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, will mark its third anniversary on February 24. Thousands of people, the vast majority of them Ukrainian, have been killed during the conflict.

Trump told the New York Post that he has "always had a good relationship with Putin" and that he has a concrete plan to end the war. But he did not disclose further details.

"I hope it's fast," Trump said. "Every day people are dying. This war is so bad in Ukraine. I want to end this damn thing."

PML-N's Azma Bukhari mocks PTI for low turnout at Swabi rally

She alleged that government employees were made to mark attendance at the event, yet turnout remained low

INP

LAHORE: Punjab's Information Minister Azma Bukhari has criticised the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for failing to attract a sizable crowd at its recent rally in Swabi, claiming that even with official resources, the party could not gather 5,000 people.

Bukhari said the people of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) had rejected PTI founder's politics of "unrest and chaos."

She alleged that government employees were made to mark attendance at the event, yet turnout remained low.

"Junaid Akbar has failed his first political test miserably, while Ali Amin Gandapur once again resorted to crudeness to please PTI's founder," she remarked.

She further claimed that Punjab's youth were benefitting from initiatives

such as electric bikes and scholarships, and that KP's young population deserved the same opportunities.

She announced that PML-N leader Maryam Nawaz would soon introduce scholarships for students in the province.

Bukhari added that after the failed uprisings of May 9 and November 26, the public

had grown weary of PTI's protest-driven politics, asserting that Pakistan was on a path to recovery under Shari's leadership.

On February 8, PTI staged a rally in Swabi, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, to observe "Black Day," marking one year since the general elections. The party alleges that its mandate during the elections was stolen.

The rally was also attended by Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur and other party leaders.



KARACHI: Former Prime Minister (PM) and Senior Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader Raja Pervaiz Ashraf called on the Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah at Chief Minister House