

DAILY MIRROR

mirrorqta@gmail.com

Chief editor Syed Mumtaz Shah

Saturday, February, 15, 2025

Shaban, 16, 1446

Explosion in Harnai kills 11 labourers, multiple injured

The explosion, caused by a bomb planted on the road, occurred near a vehicle transporting coal miners

NEWS DESK

HARNAI: At least 11 labourers were killed and seven others injured in an explosion in the Shahrag area of Balochistan's Harnai on Friday, according to police.

The explosion, caused by a bomb planted on the road, occurred near a vehicle transporting coal miners. The condition of the injured labourers is reported to be critical.

Deputy Commissioner Harnai confirmed that eleven workers were killed, and seven others were wounded in the blast. Most of the victims were from Swat and Shangla districts.

Law enforcement agencies quickly cordoned off the site and began collecting evidence.

The Balochistan government condemned the attack, with provincial spokesperson Shahid Rand stating that an investigation had been launched.

He confirmed that evidence was being gathered, and initial findings suggested the explosive material had been placed beside the road.

Federal Minister for Interior, Mohsin Naqvi, also condemned the bombing, expressing deep sorrow over the deaths of the workers.

Last week, another fatal accident in a coal mine in Darra Adam Khel claimed the lives of two workers from Shangla. Both victims, Rehman Ali and Sarbali Khan, hailed from the Dherai and Puran areas of Shangla district.



ISLAMABAD: UN Resident Coordinator in Pakistan, Mohamed Yahya call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

PM emphasises need to further strengthen collaboration with UN in climate change, development

APP

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday emphasised the need to further strengthen collaboration with the United Nations in the areas of sustainable development and climate change.

He reaffirmed Pakistan's strong political commitment to advancing the objective of combating climate change in close collaboration and partnership with the international community and the UN. The prime minister was talking to UN Resident Coordinator in Pakistan, Mohamed Yahya, who paid a courtesy call on him.

During the meeting, the prime minister appreciated the important work being carried out by the UN Country Team in Pakistan.

He conveyed his warm regards for UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, while fondly recalling his strong leadership in galvanising global support for Pakistan during the 2022

floods. The prime minister underscored that climate financing remained a crucial component of addressing the impacts of climate change, and expressed the hope that the developed nations would fulfill their commitments in that regard.

He said that Pakistan would continue working closely with the UN on important issues in the areas of climate change, including for the implementation of various projects. The prime minister also emphasized the need for addressing the financing gap to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as for increasing the voice and representation of developing countries in the international financial institutions through reform of the global financial architecture. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Minister for EAD Ahad Khan Cheema, Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal, SAPM Syed Tariq Fatemi, PM's Coordinator for Climate Change Ms Romina Khursheed Alam and senior government officials also attended the meeting.

Six newly appointed Supreme Court judges take oath

Justice Aurangzeb takes oath as acting judge of the SC, while Justice Sarfraz Dogar sworn in as acting CJ of IHC

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: The six newly appointed Supreme Court judges on Friday were administered oath by Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Yahya Afridi at a ceremony in Islamabad.

The judges' appointment was marred by controversy when the meeting of the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) on Feb 10 when four members walked out, fervent opposition by the opposition PTI, and protests by the lawyer's fraternity.

The meeting of the JCP was held despite the refusal of two Supreme Court judges—Justice Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Munib Akhtar — as well as two PTI members — Barrister Ali Zafar and Barrister Gohar Ali

Khan — who asked the chief justice to postpone the meeting amid reservations regarding the 26th Constitutional Amendment.

The lawyers' fraternity held protests outside the Supreme Court building as they held placards and raised slogans against the 26th Amendment. However, the commission, by a majority of its total membership, nominated the six judges and acting chief justices of the high courts.

The newly sworn-in judges are Justices Muhammad Hashim Khan Kakar, Muhammad Shafi Siddiqui, Salahuddin Panhwar, Shakeel Ahmad, Aamer Farooq, and Ishtiaq Ibrahim.

Meanwhile, Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb took oath as Acting Judge of the SC.

'Why fear references, when am innocent:' Justice Mansoor Ali Shah

INP

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court of Pakistan's senior puisne judge Justice Mansoor Ali Shah has remarked that since 'he has done nothing wrong, why should he fear references filed against him.'

The comments came during an informal conversation with journalists after the oath-taking ceremony of seven newly appointed judges to the Supreme Court.

Justice Shah emphasised his faith, stating "Allah is the protector," while responding to a question regarding rumours of references against him.

In the candid exchange, Justice Shah also mentioned that those questioning the work of judges should consider the case records, which are available on the Supreme Court's website. He added that his work and the court's decisions were public record, highlighting the effi-

ciency in handling cases.

"There's no personal animosity or conflict with anyone," Justice Shah stated. "If the elephant in the room isn't seen, what can we say?" He also emphasised the cordial relationships with other judges, stating they often met and shared tea together.

Earlier today, Chief Justice of Pakistan Yahya Afridi administered the oath of office to six newly appointed judges of the Supreme Court during a formal ceremony.

The oath-taking ceremony saw the swearing-in of Justice Aamer Farooq, Justice Shafi Siddiqui, Justice Hashim Kakar, Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim, Justice Salahuddin, Justice Shakeel Ahmad, and ad hoc judge Justice Gul Hassan. The event was attended by Supreme Court judges, the Attorney General, senior lawyers, journalists, judicial staff, as well as office-bearers of the Supreme Court Bar Association and the Pakistan Bar Council.

Senate passes resolution recognizing right of political parties

APP

ISLAMABAD: The Senate today passed a resolution recognizing the right of the political parties to hold peaceful political rallies and gatherings across the country as enshrined in the Constitution.

Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Azam Nazeer Tarar moved the resolution.

The house asked all provincial governments to abide by constitutional rights and allow peaceful political gatherings and rallies.

The Senate today passed three bills.

These include "The Prevention of Trafficking in Persons (Amendment) Bill, 2025".

"The Prevention of Smuggling of Migrants (Amendment) Bill, 2025" and "The Emigration (Amendment) Bill, 2025".

Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar laid the copy of the "Money Bill the Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2025 before the house.



QUETTA: Paramedical staff busy in giving treatment to injured persons at civil hospital. A tragic bomb blast near a vehicle in Shahrag, Harnai has left 10 coal mine workers dead and 6 others injured, according to Levies officials.

Sarfraz Bugti Strongly Condemns Shahrag Explosion, Pledges Tough Action Against Perpetrators

APP

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, has strongly condemned the explosion of vehicle-carrying coal miners in the Shahrag coal field area in Harnai district, expressing deep sorrow over the killing of nine people and wounding of others in the incident.

He expressed heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the families of the deceased workers, assuring them that the Balochistan government stands with the bereaved families and will not leave them alone in this difficult time. The Chief Minister also prayed for the swift recovery of the workers injured in the explosion, instructing the authorities concerned to provide the best medical treatment to the injured.

He ordered an immediate and comprehensive probe of the incident and emphasized that a rigorous operation would continue against elements seeking to disrupt the peace of Balochistan.

Mir Sarfraz Bugti underscored that the government is taking every possible measure to eradicate the menace of terrorism from the province.

He said that terrorists who target innocent civilians do not deserve any sympathy, and the Balochistan government will leave no stone unturned in bringing them to justice. The Chief Minister made it clear that security forces and law enforcement agencies are fully active to ensure law and order in the province, and the fight against terrorists will continue with unwavering resolve.



Islamabad : Hon'ble Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi, Chief Justice of Pakistan administering the oath of offices to Mr. Justice Muhammad Hashim Khan Kakar, Chief Justice, High Court of Balochistan, Mr. Justice Muhammad Shafi Siddiqui, Chief Justice High Court of Sindh, Mr. Justice Salahuddin Panhwar, Senior Puisne Judge, High Court of Sindh, Mr. Justice Shakeel Ahmad, Judge, Peshawar High Court, Mr. Justice Aamer Farooq, Chief Justice, Islamabad High Court and Mr. Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim, Chief Justice, Peshawar High Court as Judges of the Supreme Court of Pakistan at the Supreme Court.

FO rejects 'one-sided and misleading' joint statement by India and US

FO criticises statement for failing to address India's non-compliance with United Nations Security Council resolutions

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Foreign Office (FO) on Friday dismissed the joint statement issued by India and the United States as "one-sided, misleading, and contrary to diplomatic norms."

The statement, released following a meeting between US President Donald Trump and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the White House, accused Pakistan of involvement in the 2008 Mumbai attacks and alleged that the country of "supported extremism."

At a weekly press briefing, FO spokesperson Shafiq Ali Khan responded to the allegations, stating, "We consider the Pakistan-specific reference in the Indo-US joint statement of Feb 13 as one-sided, misleading and contrary to diplomatic norms." He expressed surprise that the reference was included, given Pakistan's extensive counter-terrorism cooperation with the US.

Khan further pointed out that such references could not conceal India's role in fostering terrorism, subversion, and extrajudicial killings in the region.

"These attempts cannot divert international attention from India being a safe haven for perpetrators of hate crimes against Muslims and other minorities," he said.

The spokesperson also criticised the statement for failing to address India's non-compliance with United Nations Security Council resolutions, which Khan argued is a key source of regional instability. He added that the statement overlooked the "grim human rights situation" in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Regrettably, this is tantamount to abdication of international responsibility," he said, stressing that the international community acknowledges Pakistan's efforts and sacrifices in fighting terrorism.

As a nation severely impacted by terrorism, Pakistan remains committed to regional and global efforts to promote peace and stability, Khan affirmed. "We will continue to contribute to the fight against terrorism and remain dedicated to eliminating this scourge," he added.

The FO spokesperson also raised concerns about the United States' increasing military sales to India. He warned that the transfer of military technology to India would worsen the military imbalance in South Asia, undermining regional stability. "Such steps are unhelpful in achieving durable peace in South Asia," he said, urging international partners to adopt a more objective and comprehensive view of the region's security situation.

Trump announces US approval for extradition of Mumbai attack suspect

Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump confirmed on Thursday that the US had approved the extradition of a suspect in the 2008 Mumbai terrorist attacks, which resulted in the deaths of 166 people. Speaking alongside Indian Prime Minister Modi at the White House, Trump stated, "I am pleased to announce that my administration has approved the extradition of one of the plotters and one of the very evil people of the world, having to do with the horrific 2008 Mumbai terrorist attack."

Trump did not name the individual at the time, but the joint statement later identified him as Tahawwur Rana, a Pakistani-origin

Chicago businessman and Canadian citizen. Rana, who had previously been sentenced to US federal prison for providing support to the Pakistan-based militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba, is expected to face justice in India for his involvement in the attacks.

The joint statement also called on Pakistan to "bring to justice those accused of extremist attacks against India and prevent its territory from being used for extremism." Pakistan has consistently denied accusations of supporting extremism.

The US Supreme Court recently rejected Rana's appeal against his extradition, and he is now set to be handed over to Indian authorities.

Irfan Siddiqui Credits PML-N for Pakistan's Resilience Amidst Instability

APP

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-N Senator Irfan Siddiqui Friday praised the party's leadership for its unmatched performance, ensuring Pakistan's progress despite PTI's attempts to create political instability.

In an exclusive conversation with a private news channel, Irfan Siddiqui credited his party's leadership for Pakistan's remarkable resilience in the face of instability, noting that all state institutions continue to function effectively, ensuring the country's progress remains uninterrupted.

Siddiqui further highlighted that PML-N's endeavours have successfully attracted foreign investment, resulting in a surge of dignitaries visiting Pakistan and creating new investment opportunities.

Responding to a query, Irfan Siddiqui lashed out that although corruption allegations have long surrounded many politicians, the PTI's genuine corrupt activities are only now being exposed, with the Farah Gogi land scandal being a prime illustration.

To another question Irfan Siddiqui stated that there is no existence of Al-Qadir Trust, adding that all the tall claims and lies of PTI are being exposed.

Responding to a question about the opposition alliance, Irfan Siddiqui said that any party that truly loves Pakistan will refuse to support PTI and mature politics will not consider an alliance.

Erdogan gifts Turkish electric vehicles to President Zardari, PM Shehbaz

APP

ISLAMABAD: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has gifted Turkish electric vehicles Togg to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday.

While thanking the president for the thoughtful gesture, the prime minister lauded the strides made by the Turkish automotive industry and looked forward to collaboration amongst Pakistani and Turkish automotive companies in future.

Later, the Prime Minister and First Lady Aseefa Bhutto Zardari also drove their respective electric cars along with President Erdogan.

Pakistan, IFC discuss reforms amid push for \$20bn private sector investment

INP

ISLAMABAD: In what analysts see as a step toward unlocking the World Bank's \$20 billion private sector investment, an International Finance Corporation (IFC) delegation met Finance Division officials on Thursday to discuss policies to spur industry-driven growth, particularly via export-led expansion.

The visit follows a first-of-its-kind agreement with the World Bank for a plan to focus \$20 billion in lending to the nation over the coming decade on development issues like the impact of climate change as well as boosting private-sector growth.

This commitment of IFC is over and above the \$20 billion committed by the WB through IDA (concessional finance window) and IBRD. Taking the cumulative investment of the WB group to \$40 billion over the next decade.

"IFC is committed to working closely with Pakistan and providing support in key areas such as green energy, data centres, agricultural supply chain improvements, the telecom sector, and digitisation," Makhtar Diop, Managing Director & Executive Vice President of the IFC said in a high-level meeting at the Finance Division.

During the meeting with Finance Minister Mohammad Aurangzeb and his team, Diop,

leading the delegation of top IFC officials, commended Pakistan's Country Partnership Framework (CPF) with the World Bank, calling it a global best practice.

The IFC top executive was accompanied by Hela Cheikh Rouhou, Regional Vice President (MCT Region), Khawaja Aftab Ahmed, Regional Director (Middle East, Pakistan, and Afghanistan), Najy Benhassine, Country Director (World Bank Pakistan), and Zeeshan Sheikh, Country Manager (IFC Pakistan & Afghanistan).

Reko Diq Mining Company Reaffirms Commitment to Local Employment, Procurement

APP

QUETTA: Reko Diq Mining Company reaffirmed its commitment to ensure employment to local youth, as reported that 78 percent of the current workforce of the company is from Balochistan, with over 50 percent of those employees hailing from the Chagai district.

The RDMC has rejected the news circulating on local social media about the employees and contractors of Reko Diq Mining Company (RDMC), and clarified the facts and set the record straight, said a news release.

"The false claims being spread are misleading and do not reflect the reality of Reko Diq's operations," it added. "Additionally, RDMC is actively working to nurture local talent by providing essential skills and training to ensure that the communities in and around the Reko Diq project are well-equipped to secure employment—not only with RDMC and its contractors, but also in the broader workforce in the province and the country."

During the peak construction phase of

the project, it is estimated that up to 7,500 individuals will be engaged. Upon entering production, the project will generate approximately 4,000 long-term jobs for the local community.

In partnership with the Hunar Foundation, RDMC is training hundreds of young Baloch men and women from the Nokkundi area in certified skills such as IT, pipefitting, office assistance, electrical work, carpentry, and masonry.

"Graduates have been successfully matched with job opportunities at our contractors and RDMC. Since 2023, the International Graduate Program (IGP) has sponsored young Baloch graduates, including those from the Chagai District, to gain work experience at Barrick's operations abroad, with the expectation that they will return to Reko Diq equipped with necessary skills to fill senior and managerial roles in the future.

Due to the lack of a broad industrial sector in Chagai and Balochistan, the local skills base will not always be sufficient to staff every role at what will be one of the largest and most technologically advanced copper-and-gold mines in the world.



QUETTA: PPP Balochistan leader Shamsh Hamza Zai addressing a press conference.

Photo exhibition 'Beautiful Japan' showcases ambassador's captivating lens

APP

ISLAMABAD: A mesmerizing photo exhibition titled 'Beautiful Japan — Through the Eyes of an Ambassador' opened on Friday at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA), offering a stunning visual journey through the many facets of Japanese life.

Photo exhibition 'Beautiful Japan' showcases ambassador's captivating lens

The exhibition, capturing the essence of Japan's culture, landscapes, people, and technological marvels, is the work of former Ambassador of Pakistan to Japan, Farukh Amil. The diplomat-turned-photographer meticulously documented his time in Japan, forging deep connections between the two nations through his lens.

His work has also been recognized internationally, earning him the prestigious Grand Prix in Japan's Ambassador's Photo Exhibition competition.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Hassan Nasir Jamy, Secretary of the National Heritage & Culture Division, alongside Japan's Ambassador to Pakistan, Akamatsu Shuichi. Also in attendance were PNCA Director General Ayoub Jamal and other distinguished guests.

Elements Involved for Disturbing Peace in Baluchistan to be Dealt With Iron Hand: Minister

APP

SOHBATPUR: Provincial Minister for Communication and Works, Mir Saleem Ahmed Kahn on Friday said that elements involved in creating a law and order situation in Baluchistan would be dealt with iron hand.

He stated this in a statement condemning the blast in Shahrag area of Hamrai district and expressed deep sorrow over the loss of precious lives.

He directed the concerned authority to provide the best medical facilities to the injured persons in the blast.

The minister said that the security forces were capable of dealing with

any untoward situation in the country, adding the government would take every step to eliminate terrorism from the province.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi Strongly Condemns Blast in Balochistan's Shahreg Area

APP

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has strongly condemned the blast near a laborers' vehicle in the Shahreg area of Balochistan. He expressed deep sorrow over the loss of eleven lives.

He extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for the swift recovery of the injured laborers.

He emphasized that those responsible for targeting innocent people are not deserving of any leniency.

He reassured that he stands in solidarity with the grieving families and shared their pain and sorrow during this difficult time.

Imran Khan is begging for NRO: Malik Ahmad

NEWS DESK

LAHORE: Punjab Assembly Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan said that PTI founder Imran Khan is begging for NRO through his letters to army chief.

Talking to media in Punjab Assembly on Friday, he said that army chief had stated that he wouldn't even read the letter.

"The letter is the continuity of PTI's desperate attempts to default the country," Malik Ahmad Khan said.

This party wants political instability and chaos in the country through its policies.

"Now, Omar Ayub is writing a letter to IMF. What is the agenda of PTI," asked the Punjab Assembly speaker.

Malik Ahmad said that he is really surprised due to the policies of PTI founder and his team.

Earlier, PTI founder Imran Khan had claimed that he penned a letter to Chief of Army Staff Gen Asim Munir to "revise the policies".

Speaking to media outside Adiala

Jail, Imran Khan's lawyer, Faisal Chaudhry, had stated that the PTI founder sent a six-point letter to the army chief as former prime minister and party leader.

Faisal Chaudhry stated that Imran Khan requested the army chief to revise the policies.

The letter also includes content on the country's fraudulent elections, the 26th Constitutional Amendment, PECA law, state terrorism against PTI, the constitutional responsibilities of intelligence agencies, and the national economic situation.

Toll Tax on unfinished sections of Mirpurkhas-Khokhrapar Highway to be waived: Aleem Khan

APP

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan on Friday assured the Senate that toll tax would not be collected on the incomplete section from Rajarasti to Umerkot of the Mirpurkhas-Khokhrapar Highway.

Responding to a Calling Attention Notice raised by Senator Poonjo, the minister emphasized that charging a toll on an unfinished road was unjustified. "If any toll is being collected within the incomplete section, I will ensure its immediate removal," he stated.

Aleem Khan clarified that the 154-kilometre highway falls under the jurisdiction of the National Highway Authority (NHA) and has faced multiple delays due to legal disputes. "The project was originally scheduled for completion in 2021, but a 17-kilometre section remained entangled in legal challenges, causing significant interruptions," he added, expressing hope that the issue would be resolved within three months.

Presiding over the session, Senator Sherry Rehman referred the matter to the relevant committee and set a three-month deadline for its resolution.



Consul General of Iran, Mehdi Shayqi along with Malik Abdul Wali Kakar, Former Governor Balochistan and others cutting cake to mark 46th anniversary of Victory of Islamic Revolution in Iran, in Quetta.



Secretary Local Government, Rauf Baloch is giving a briefing to Hamza Zahri, Adviser on Local Government and Urban Development at Provincial Secretariat in Quetta.



Pakistan has a good chance of defending CT title: Sarfaraz Ahmed

SPORTS DESK

Former Skipper Sarfaraz Ahmed believes Pakistan has a really good chance of defending the Champions Trophy title as the green-shirts have a strong team. Pakistani cuisine recipes

"Pakistan have a really good chance of defending that title and I think they have a strong team. Some of the boys from 2017 are still there and we're talking about some of the best — especially Babar Azam.

He is a different Babar to the one that played in 2017, a more mature player and a dominant player in the game. His batting will be so important for Pakistan and so will Fakhar Zaman's," he said as quoted by ICC.

Ahmed said Shaheen Shah Afridi and Haris Rauf are brilliant bowlers and are playing well. The captain, Mohammad Rizwan, is also a wicketkeeper-batter, which worked pretty well for me back in 2017. There will be pressure. Pakistan being at home, being the defending champions, there will be high expectations, but the fans will get behind them.

Pakistani cuisine recipes

If I had to pick four semi-finalists, I'd probably go for Pakistan, India, Australia and Afghanistan at this stage, but I would not rule anyone out, he said.

He said when Pakistan will play New Zealand in Karachi next week, it will mark the first senior ICC event held in our homeland since 1996 and to say we are bursting with excitement would be an understatement.

Ahmed said of the pool matches, everyone will be talking about Pakistan's match against India, and the game will be huge.

Whenever we meet, it is a special occasion and there is so much hype and pressure around it. But as players, you need to stay calm, try and block that noise out and just play with the same intensity as you would play Australia or any other team, he said.

He said in 2017, we played India in our first match and were soundly beaten by 124 runs. It was my first game as captain and we were poor in all areas. Afterwards, we had a great team meeting, and some of our senior guys — Shoaib Malik, Mohammad Hafeez — all said their piece. You need those types of characters around you.

Our head coach, Mickey Arthur, and I were so confident we would do well. We had come through a really tricky series against the West Indies, which was key for 2019 World Cup qualification, and were the bottom-ranked side in the tournament.



Pakistan's captain Mohammad Rizwan is clean bowled by New Zealand's Will O'Rourke during the Tri-Nation series final ODI cricket match between Pakistan and New Zealand at the National Stadium in Karachi.

New Zealand bowlers restrict Pakistan to 242 in tri-series final

SPORTS DESK

Pakistan managed to set a 243-run target after New Zealand bowlers kept hosts under pressure from the beginning in the final match of the Tri-Nation Series being played at National Bank Stadium, Karachi, on Friday.

Opting to bat first, Pakistan managed to accumulate 242 before getting bowled out in 49.3 overs despite an anchoring fourth-wicket partnership between skipper Mohammad Rizwan and all-rounder Salman Ali Agha.

The home side got off to a shaky start to their innings as their in-form opener Fakhar Zaman fell victim to Will O'Rourke in the fourth over with just 16 runs on the board.

Following the early hiccup, Saud Shakeel and Babar Azam put together a brief 30-run partnership until both perished in quick succession, bringing the total down to 54/3 in 11.5 overs.

Saud made a scratchy 14-ball eight, while Babar scored 29 off 34 deliveries with the help of five boundaries including a six.

Pakistan's in-form batters Agha and Rizwan then tried to launch the recovery by adding 88 runs to the total.

The crucial stand culminated with Rizwan's dismissal in the 32nd over, while Agha followed suit five overs later, resulting in Pakistan slipping to 161/5.

Rizwan remained the top-scorer for the home side

with a cautious 46 off 76 deliveries, laced with four fours and a six, while Agha made a 65-ball 45 with the help of one four and a six.

Middle-order batter Tayyab Tahir knitted a one-sided partnership with Khushdil Shah before both perished in the span of eight deliveries.

Tayyab smashed five boundaries including a six on his way to a 33-ball 38.

All-rounder Faheem Ashraf and tailender Naseem Shah then added valuable runs at the backend with brisk cameos.

The duo also shared an important 39-run partnership for the ninth wicket, which concluded with Ashraf's dismissal on the first delivery of the final over.

Ashraf made 22 off 21 deliveries with the help of two boundaries, while Naseem made 19.

Will O'Rourke was the standout bowler for New Zealand, taking four wickets for 43 runs in 9.3 overs, while Michael Bracewell and Mitchell Santner bagged two each.

Pakistan XI: Fakhar Zaman, Babar Azam, Saud Shakeel, Mohammad

Rizwan (wk/c), Salman Ali Agha, Tayyab Tahir, Faheem Ashraf, Khushdil Shah, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Naseem Shah, Abrar Ahmed

New Zealand XI: Will Young, Devon Conway, Kane Williamson, Daryl Mitchell, Tom Latham (wk), Glenn Phillips, Michael Bracewell, Mitchell Santner (c), Nathan Smith, Jacob Duffy, Will O'Rourke

Pakistan's Dubai consulate team wins Diplomatic Cricket Championship

SPORTS DESK

The cricket team of Pakistan's Consulate General in Dubai won the 9th Diplomatic Cup (Cricket Championship 2025), defeating Bangladesh in the final contest.

The Pakistani team maintained an unbeaten record throughout the tournament that featured teams from eight diplomatic missions, including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, the United Kingdom and the United States, according to a press release received.

Pakistan successfully chased a target of 113 runs set by Bangladesh in just 12 overs, in the 15-over final match of the tournament. The event took place at the Skyline University College's cricket grounds in Sharjah, UAE.

Captain of the Pakistani team, Rahim Ullah Khan, Deputy Consul General and Head of Chancery, credited the team's success to the hard work and dedication of all its members. He expressed pride in the team's performance and highlighted the importance of sports in fostering teamwork.

Earlier in the tournament, Pakistan secured a place in the final by defeating

the United States in the semifinal, while Bangladesh overcame the United Kingdom's team in the other semifinal match.

Consul General Hussain Muhammad congratulated the team on their remarkable achievement. He emphasized the significance

of sports activities in promoting positive development, maintaining good health and strengthening bonds among representatives from diverse communities.

He added that such events provided an excellent platform for enhancing mutual understanding and cooperation among diplomatic missions.



BAHAWALPUR: A view of the pickup truck roaring on the track during 20th International Cholistan Desert Jeep Rally of Pakistan.

CORRIGENDUM

This office Request for Proposal Vide No. CB/160-64 Dated: 04-02-2025 for the work of **Consultancy Services for Detailed Design & Supervision for the Rehabilitation of Phelawagh Weir**, vide TSE No. 242502639584 published in daily leading Newspapers under PRQ No.3168/04-02-2025. Necessary amendments have been made in Basic Eligibility, and same has been uploaded on B-PPRA. Moreover, the date of submission of document has been changed to 20-02-2025. The other terms and conditions will remain same.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION DIVISION DERA BUGTI

PRQ No.3283/14-02-2025

www.dpr.gov.pk @dpr_gov dpr.gov @dpr.balochistan

Member APNS

Daily Mirror

Chief editor Syed Mumtaz Shah

Printed and Published By Syed Kamran Mumtaz
For MEM Publications (Pvt) Ltd, 4-A Model Town Hali Road Quetta Cantt.
Phone, No. 081-2829164, Fax No. 081-2835934

Dangerous times

SPEAKING the truth should never be a death sentence. The most recent figures published by the Committee to Protect Journalists highlight that last year was the deadliest year for reporters and media workers ever since the committee started keeping track of journalist killings about 30 years ago. The CPJ notes that at least 124 journalists were killed in 18 countries in 2024, “reflecting surging levels of international conflict, political unrest and criminality worldwide”.

Given its disregard for international law and human rights — as well as its routine engagement in war crimes — it is unsurprising that the Israeli military was the worst offender, by a significant margin. A total of 85 journalists were killed in the Israel-Gaza conflict in 2024, all at the hands of the Israeli military. Of the total, 82 were Palestinians, while three were of other nationalities. Alarming, Pakistan ranked at number two, along with Sudan, for the most journalist fatalities.

“Today is the most dangerous time to be a journalist in CPJ’s history,” CPJ CEO Jodie Ginsberg was quoted as saying. It is possibly also the most difficult professionally.

The rise of social media has greatly democratised information creation and sharing. Inadvertently, it has also magnified all the dangers of mass communication that responsible media outlets spent decades building processes and policies to avoid. With disinformation spreading and public discourse growing increasingly polarised, demagogues worldwide have attacked mainstream media, seeking to erode its credibility.

‘Influencers’ have used their clout and platforms to sow distrust against media workers, gradually diminishing public empathy for journalists’ struggles and plight. This much is evident in the apparent lack of concern for journalists’ life and liberty amid a rapid rise in reported fatalities.

“The rise in journalist killings is part of a broader trend of muzzling the media globally. This is an issue that should worry us all — because censorship prevents us from addressing corruption and criminality, and from holding the powerful to account,” the CPJ chief notes.

This trend is especially evident in Pakistan, where the media has been under siege for many years amid an ongoing sociopolitical crisis. Attempts to control it have become considerably more brazen with time, and the industry is now being targeted with lawfare as well as outright violence by both state and non-state actors. Pakistan accounted for six journalist killings in 2024, of which three were deliberately murdered, according to the CPJ.

By Aasim Sajjad Akhtar

Education meltdown

THE self-proclaimed experts would have you believe that the present hybrid regime has overseen a turnaround in the country’s dire economic situation. They tell us that inflation is down to single digits (hardly any relief for the working masses); default has been averted (via numerous short-run debt rollovers); and tax revenues have increased (largely reinforcing an already regressive system).

While they pontificate about these ‘successes’, they avoid mention of the innumerable crises on the horizon. Among them is the absolutely diabolical state of our public universities. Put simply, they are on the verge of going bust, and the only concrete public policy of note is to let it all just happen while preaching the virtues of a ‘new’ corporate management style. Public universities exist to ensure that no one is denied the opportunity to acquire higher education because they cannot afford to pay for it. Young people admitted that the best public universities are in principle guaranteed a reasonable quality of education, and good employment prospects after graduation.

Today, these basic precepts have been completely superseded. The majority of public universities now enrol at least as many ‘self-financing’ students than those who qualify for highly subsidised education.

These self-financing students pay semester fees as high as Rs150,000. Fewer and fewer of them get access to university-run hostels, and those that do suffer from internet blackouts, low-quality food, and pathetic supplies of water, gas and other basic amenities.

Our public universities are on the verge of going bust.

Meanwhile, the quality of education in our public universities has plummeted, particularly since the Higher Education Commission introduced financial incentives to encourage faculty publications. Plagiarism is endemic, and in many departments the majority of courses are taught by visiting rather than permanent faculty. Finally, it is no longer true that a degree from even the best public university represents a good chance of landing a permanent job and social mobility more generally. Thousands of graduates compete with one another for every single government job that is advertised. Private sector employers prefer private university graduates. Students who have acquired research degrees are resorting to daily wage/online work.

As far as university teachers go, one would have to be living under a rock to be unaware that more and more faculty are regularly on the roads — some striking — to get their salaries paid on time. Visiting faculty members sometimes go for a year or more without pay. In Sindh, a large number of faculty are currently protesting the outlandish plan to institutionalise a new university management structure in which career bureaucrats become vice chancellors and academic and quality considerations become irrelevant.

This is just a symptom of a larger and more insidious policy shift. The state has in effect reneged on its responsibility to provide quality, affordable education.

Funding for public universities has declined markedly over the past few years as successive regimes have acceded to the neoliberalisation of higher education.

It was reported a few months ago that international lending agencies are, in

fact, instructing the government to pull the plug on funding higher education entirely. Which means taking in more fee-paying students, phasing out permanent employees, and even treating university land as prime real estate to be leased or sold to the highest bidder.

This is the same mantra that we have been sold ad nauseam about any and all public institutions for decades now — either privatise them entirely, or corporatise them so that the mythical investor/donor gets to do as they please while the fundamental premises of public service go straight out the window.

The short-term implications are playing out in front of our eyes with the everyday functioning of the public university more and more strained with each passing day. Even more remarkable are the longer-term implications. The median age of our population is 23. We are fed tales daily about syncing ourselves with the knowledge economy.

But while education rapidly metamorphoses into a profit-loss enterprise, most young people, including those who are acquiring degrees from a rapidly expanding private university circuit, are being sold empty dreams. There is no plan to generate employment, let alone quality education. The only apparent plan is to (quasi) privatise higher education and let the meltdown play out.

In a sense this is just a microcosm of the country at large. Spew out big fancy words under the garb of public policy, beg for money from the usual suspects, and then allow our gracious donors to lean on our own (largely disinterested and often incompetent) bureaucrats — including the khakis — to sell our kids down the river.

By Afzal Ali Shigri

GB’s lost hope

IN 2019, a landmark judgement by the Supreme Court rekindled hopes of accession to Pakistan among the residents of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB). The region’s status as part of the disputed Kashmir territory had long obstructed this aspiration. The same year also saw the revocation of Article 370 in occupied Kashmir by India, which transformed Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories, sparking controversy.

Despite demands by locals for accession, Pakistan has tarried in integrating GB. In 2015, the PML-N government established a committee under Sartaj Aziz to examine the region’s status. It largely endorsed the residents’ demands for integration and constitutional rights. However, the government later issued the contentious Gilgit-Baltistan Order, 2018, presenting it as a move towards greater empowerment. This order reversed key provisions of the more favourable 2009 Gilgit-Baltistan Empowerment and Self-Governance Order that had been introduced by the PPP government.

When the PTI came to power, it reneged on its commitment to address the issue, deflecting local political pressure by creating the miasma of progress towards provincial status for GB. However, it maintained the undemocratic 2018 order rooted in colonialist regulations. It also scuttled a bill proposed by the Balochistan Awami Party for granting GB provincial status.

Amid these developments, civil society challenged the situation in the Supreme Court, where, after extended deliberations, a significant judgement was delivered. A seven-member bench, led by the chief justice, summarised its findings thus:

Despite demands by locals for accession, Pakistan has tarried in integrating GB. “We now turn to a question of importance, which is crucial for the success of the project of creating a framework of governance for GB of a constitutional nature. Any framework of such a nature

necessarily implies, and indeed it could be said demands, a degree of continuity in the manner provided in the Proposed Order... . Otherwise, what good is it? Of what value are the fundamental rights enshrined in such a framework, and how independent can a judiciary created thereby be, if the structure is impermanent, and even ephemeral? This is all the more so where the framework is put in place in exercise of executive authority, by means of an Order promulgated by the President. Such an Order can be put in place ... with a stroke of the pen, but likewise instantly cast into oblivion.

“Indeed, the manner in which the 2009 Order was replaced by the 2018 Order is a telling illustration of the point now under consideration. During the course of the hearing of these petitions, and in light of the submissions by various learned counsel and the observations of the Court, the Federal Government constituted a committee ... to review the entire matter, and place before the Court a draft of a fresh Order for the governance of GB. This was duly done, and the draft ... examined by the Court... . In our view, that draft, as modified in the manner hereinafter stated, does provide a suitable framework in the hue of constitutional nature for the governance of GB. The Federal Government stands committed to promulgating the same ... in substitution of the 2018 Order.”

The following speaking orders were then issued.

I. “The Proposed Order ... shall be forthwith promulgated by the President on the advice of the Federal Government, and in any case within a fortnight hereof;

II. “No amendment shall be made to the Order as so promulgated except in terms of the procedure provided in Article 124 of the same, nor shall it be repealed or substituted, without the instrument amending, repealing or substituting (as the case may be) the same being placed before this Court by the Federation through an application that will be treated as a petition under Article 184(3) of the Constitution. Nothing in this judge-

ment shall be construed to limit the jurisdiction conferred on this Court by the Proposed Order itself; and

III. If the Order promulgated is repealed or substituted by an Act of Parliament the validity thereof, if challenged, shall be examined on the touchstone of the Constitution.”

Despite this, the PML-N government, and later the PTI government ignored the court’s directives. Citing a petition from a private individual as an excuse, the PTI government delayed implementing the judgement. Rather than upholding its verdict, the Supreme Court scheduled hearings and considered unverified claims that the public wanted parliamentary approval for the legislation, embracing this weak rationale for postponement.

With local assembly elections approaching, political parties have renewed calls for GB’s provisional provincial status and issued a press statement collectively. However, residents remain cautious. The current order of 2018 has four key flaws: The order grants the prime minister unbridled authority devoid of accountability. It reduces the council with local representation for federal subjects to a consultative, powerless entity. The appointment process for superior courts lacks transparency and relies on government discretion, without an institutional framework for merit-based selection. The 2018 order retains the power to amend the entire governance structure arbitrarily.

Given the need for democratic and accountable governance in GB, the quest for a provisional province warrants immediate attention. To rectify its earlier missteps, the PML-N must implement the judicial verdict and issue the 2019 legal framework draft as directed by the court. Such a move would address the breaches of the draconian 2018 order, issued against the Sartaj Aziz Committee’s recommendations. The least the people can expect from the prime minister is respect for the apex court.

DAILY MIRROR

ECC approves key economic measures, NDB membership and financial allocations

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: According to the press release from Ministry of Finance, A meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet was held under the chairmanship of the Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb. The meeting was attended by Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, Minister for Power Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari, Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Ali Parvez Malik, Federal Secretaries, and senior officers from relevant ministries and divisions.

The ECC approved a proposal from the Ministry of Commerce regarding the inclusion of PCT/HS codes for newly notified mandatory items of the Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) in the Import Policy Order (IPO), 2022. The decision incorporates specific PVC and polymer-based products into the mandatory regulatory framework, ensuring compliance with Pakistan Standards.

The ECC also approved Pakistan's membership in the New Development Bank (NDB), established by BRICS member countries. The committee endorsed the purchase of 5,882 capital shares in the NDB, amounting to USD 582 million, with USD 116 million as paid-in capital.

The ECC also deliberated on the transfer of shares of DISCOs in the name of the President of Pakistan as proposed by the Ministry of Energy (Power Division). The Committee approved the transfer with the observation that the approval is subject to confirmation that the transfer will have no financial implications.

The ECC also approved the incorporation of an International Joint Trading Company in Singapore by Pakistan State Oil (PSO) and the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR). The Committee instructed the Ministry of Petroleum to ensure due diligence regarding specific investment approvals, particularly equity injections, as well as timeline for operationalization of the company.

To ensure financial support for key initiatives, the ECC approved the following Technical Supplementary Grants (TSGs):

1. Rs. 19.15 billion under the Finance Division for 133 PSDP schemes of the defunct Pakistan Public Works Department (Pak-PWD). The funds will now be transferred to respective ministries, divisions, and provincial governments.
2. Rs. 5.36 billion for the Ministry of Housing and Works to execute development schemes under the SDGs Achievement Programme (SAP), with Rs. 4.25 billion allocated for Sindh and Rs. 1.11 billion for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
3. Rs. 1.914 billion (USD 6.836 million) in favor of NADRA for the FATA TDP-ERP (KP-CCDSP) Project, ensuring the transition of 43 Citizen Facilitation Centers (CFCs) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The allocation has been surrendered by the Economic Affairs Division and recorded under the Interior Division with no additional financial burden on the government.
4. Rs. 500 million for the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination (NHSR&C) for the procurement of life-saving medicines and vaccines.
5. Rs. 84 million for the President's Secretariat (Public) to replace outdated official transport, allowing for the procurement of two Hino Coaster minibuses and three Toyota Hiace vans as part of a phased replacement plan.
6. TSG for the Digital Economy Enhancement Project (DEEP) - Component II under the Board of Investment (BoI) to facilitate the establishment of the Pakistan Business Portal (PBP), aimed at streamlining regulations, eliminating redundant laws, and providing a comprehensive digital platform for businesses.



SUI: CM Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti addressing a Signing of Memorandum of Agreement SUI Gas.

Govt has no plan to impose new taxes: NA told

APP

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information Technology Shaza Fatima Khawaja has expressed the confidence that new telecom entities will enter Pakistan.

Responding to the queries of members during question hour in the National Assembly on Friday, she said Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has started issuing virtual network licenses.

She told the house that spectrum auction will take place by mid of this year.

Parliamentary Secretary on Finance Saad Waseem Sheikh said the government has no plan to impose more taxes, emphasizing efforts are afoot to meet the revenue collection target of this year.

Parliamentary Secretary for Planning and Development Wajihah Qamar told the house that 1st phase of seventh Agriculture Census has been completed. She said the census will help take informed decisions to uplift the agriculture sector.

Parliamentary Secretary for Education Farah Naz Akbar told the house that Cambridge Education System will be introduced in four public sector schools of Islamabad from April this year. She said this is a pilot project and at a later stage it will be introduced in other public sector schools.

The House will now meet again on Monday at 5:00 pm.

Islamabad spring festival to showcase Pakistan's rich culture: Mohsin Naqvi

INP

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Friday announced a three-day spring festival in Islamabad.

"The residents of Islamabad can enjoy a spring festival from Feb 25 to 27. There will be food stalls, and display of parade by Rangers and Islamabad police," he said during his visit to Police Lines.

He also witnessed rehearsal of 'torch parade' of the Islamabad police.

He said army bands would perform and there would be spectacular fireworks. Besides, there would be performance of camel platoon of Rangers, dance performances and tent-pegging.

IMF delegation meeting with CJP against sovereignty, dignity of judiciary: PTI Senator Ali Zafar

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Senator Ali Zafar of PTI has termed the IMF delegation meeting with Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) contrary to the sovereignty and dignity of the judiciary.

He said this while speaking in Senate here Friday.

The people have lost their trust on the incumbent government and judiciary due to implementation of PECA act and appointment of judges in Islamabad High Court (IHC). Dignity of Pakistan is very important for all of us, he said adding parliament and judiciary too are very important for us. If any county or institution keeps eye on sovereignty or dignity of both of them, it is not acceptable to us.

He observed government obtained loan from IMF unhelpfully but it has not happened so far that any institution be permitted to ask CJP how is your system.

But agreement was made with IMF that it can ask from CJP about judiciary only for sake of acquiring loan.

Can any of our institution ask about the justice system of any other country, CJP discharged this obligation at the request of government.

He indicated IMF has to meet judicial

commission and election commission too and this has become precedent which will have to be practiced by coming governments as well.

He stated IMF has not gone to meet judicial commission but it has gone to meet CJP. Government has censored media. Now name of PTI founder cannot be mentioned. His picture cannot be run on TV. Only social media platform was left where people could express their opinion. But government handed over social media to PECA act under the pretext of fake news.

It means if some one criticizes government and it is not liked by government then both who have criticized and expressed opinion can be sent to jail.

Government first legislates and then talks of holding negotiations with stake holders. Government first thrashes and then it talks. The issue of seniority of judges in Islamabad has come to open. In February 2025, judges were transferred from other provinces to Islamabad through a notification. 5 judges from Islamabad objected over it because their seniority is affected this way. Later a roster was issued and the judge who was at No 13 in seniority list was placed at No 1 in seniority list.

Balochistan Govt Spokesperson Condemns Terrorist Attack in Shahrag Area, Orders Investigation

APP

QUETTA: Spokesperson of the Balochistan government Shahid Rind on Friday said that the Balochistan government has strongly condemned the deadly blast near the roadside in the Takri area of Shahrag Tehsil, called it a cowardly act.

The spokesperson of the Balochistan government, Shahid Rind expressed deep sorrow and heartfelt condolence over the martyrdom and the injured of coal miners in the tragic incident.

According to the spokesperson, on the instructions of Balochistan Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, an immediate and transparent investigation into the incident has been ordered. All concerned agencies have been directed to quickly uncover the motives behind the attack and identify those responsible.

The spokesperson emphasized that the elements involved in the attack would not be forgiven under any circumstances, and strict action would be taken against them.

He further informed that the workers injured in the blast were swiftly transported to Shahrag Hospital, where they are receiving the best possible medical treatment.

Doctors and medical staff have been instructed to provide the injured with comprehensive care and all necessary medical assistance.

Shahid Rind assured that the government will not allow any terrorist elements to disrupt the peace of the province.

He added that the Balochistan government is taking all possible measures to ensure the protection of the public's lives and property, and the fight against anti-peace elements will continue relentlessly.



QUETTA: Members of Balochistan union of journalist hold protest against Prevention of Electronic Crimes (PECA) Amendment Bill, 2024.

Those who taught me discipline mentally ill: Marwat

INP

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Member of National Assembly (MNA) Sher Afzal Marwat claimed that those who had taught him discipline were mentally ill, adding that he was now "free from the prison of discipline." He expressed this in statement.

He further asserted that PTI founder Imran Khan was not always informed properly and that his ears were filled with false information.

Marwat specifically addressed the issue of slogans raised during the Swabi rally, stating that he was not to blame. "I went to the Swabi rally as a guest actor and am not at fault for the slogans raised there," he explained, adding that similar slogans had been raised at previous rallies as well.

Marwat also dismissed the accusations leveled against him by certain PTI leaders, claiming that some individuals within the party had been conspiring for a long time to have him removed. He insisted that if the slogans at the rally were in his favor, it was his right as a party member.

PTA starts issuing virtual network licenses: Shaza

INP

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information Technology Shaza Fatima Khawaja has expressed the confidence that new telecom entities will enter Pakistan.

Responding to the queries of members during question hour in the National Assembly on Friday, she said Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has started issuing virtual network licenses.

She told the house that spectrum auction will take place by mid of this year.

Parliamentary Secretary on Finance Saad Waseem Sheikh said the government has no plan to impose more taxes, emphasizing efforts are afoot to meet the revenue collection target of this year. Parliamentary Secretary for Planning and Development Wajihah Qamar told the house that 1st phase of seventh Agriculture Census has been completed. She said the census will help take informed decisions to uplift the agriculture sector.

Parliamentary Secretary for Education Farah Naz Akbar told the house that Cambridge Education System will be introduced in four public sector schools of Islamabad from April this year. She said this is a pilot project and at a later stage it will be introduced in other public sector schools.

PTI hatching conspiracies to destabilize national economy: Kayani

APP

ISLAMABAD: Convener of the National Parliamentary Taskforce for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Bilal Azhar Kayani on Friday said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was hatching conspiracies against national interest and submission of dossier to International Monetary Fund (IMF) was another conspiracy to destabilize the country's economy.

Talking to media, he said that PTI did not want to resolve public issues through dialogue rather than creating noise in parliament, adding that the Parliament was best forum to tackle the matter amicably. He informed that the Speaker National Assembly had given ample opportunity to PTI's members to speak in the assembly to discuss public issues instead of politicking on non-issues.

This political party was doing reprehensible and dirty politics for political motives and had no interest to resolve the issues to promote healthy politics in the country, he added.

Kayani urged PTI to discuss only public interest issues in the Parliament, adding that today's PTI leadership's news conference was based on lies as its leaders only talk about the prisoners in Adiala Jail.

He stressed that PTI had criticized and attacked the National Assembly in the past and now they were receiving salaries from same institution. "PTI had attacked institutions for its political gain and advantages."

He said that the PTI founder deliberately tried to bankrupt the country and incited the workers and supporters for violence.

He said that due to the present government's prudent policies, the country was moving on the path of right direction.

Kayani reiterated that submission of PTI dossier to IMF was another attempt to damage the national economy.

Responding to a question, he emphasized that PTI members had even shown non-serious attitude during the negotiations with the Government parliamentary committee.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, in a meeting with Makhtar Diop, Managing Director & Executive Vice President of the International Finance Corporation (IFC), at the Finance Division...

Amir Muqam briefs Malaysian delegation on HR situation in IIOJK

APP

ISLAMABAD: A Malaysian delegation led by President Malaysian Consultative Council of Islamic Organization, Haji Mohammad Azmi Hamid called on Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit Baltistan Engineer Amir Muqam in Islamabad today (Friday).

During the meeting, Engineer Amir Muqam highlighted the importance Pakistan attaches to its brotherly relations with Malaysia.

He also briefed the delegation in detail on the deteriorating human rights and humanitarian situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister informed the Malaysian

delegation that United Nations Security Council resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir affirm the right of the Kashmiri people to decide their future through a fair and impartial plebiscite. However, India has refused to grant this right to the people of IIOJK.

In his remarks, the President Malaysian Consultative Council of Islamic Organization expressed concern over the human rights and humanitarian situation in IIOJK.

He affirmed support for the rights of the Kashmiris and a just and lasting solution of the Kashmir dispute.

He said scholarships and other opportunities would be provided to Azad Jammu Kashmir youth.

India behind smuggling, IED incidents along LoC: AJK interior minister

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Interior Minister Waqar Ahmad Noor has accused India of smuggling weapons and drugs across the Line of Control (LoC) and orchestrating sabotage activities in the region using improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

Addressing a press conference in Muzaffarabad, Noor stated that India's military and intelligence agencies were involved in destabilising the region through subversive activities, Express News reported.

He revealed that since 2016, there have been 54 incidents of IEDs being planted along the LoC, with an increasing number of such activities in recent years.

Noor provided specific details of Indian IEDs being discovered and detonated in multiple locations, including Chakothi, Nezapir, Chirikot, Rakh Chakri, and Deva.

The number of these incidents has risen in areas such as Battal and Kot Kotera, resulting in civilian casualties.

"India's long-standing sabotage activities along the LoC have intensified, with IEDs, weapons, and drugs being smuggled through sectors like Bagh,

Battal, and Deva," said Noor.

According to the minister, four Indian IEDs were recovered between February 4 and 6 in the Battal sector and Rawalakot. He also mentioned that Indian forces violated the ceasefire on February 12 in Deva and Bagsar sectors.

The minister also accused India of using military channels to smuggle drugs and weapons across the border, with weapon supplies reaching Indian border units through double agents.

According to Noor, the Indian army eliminates these agents by falsely presenting them as Pakistanis and conducting fake encounters.

He added that Pakistan has provided evidence of India's subversive activities to the United Nations.

Noor emphasized that India's unprovoked firing on innocent civilians and its destabilising activities along the LoC have a long history, and India should not forget that Pakistan has the full capacity to respond forcefully. He warned that India's malicious activities could pose a threat to regional security.

Security sources also reported that two Pakistani soldiers were wounded during ceasefire violations by Indian forces at Bagsar and Deva sectors on February 12.