



## Ahsan chairs preparatory meeting for Indonesian President's upcoming visit to Pakistan



## Naqvi bids farewell to US Ambassador Donald Blome

# CM Ali Amin Gandapur inaugurates newly-built Institute of Health Sciences at University of Peshawar

### TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, inaugurated the newly established Institute of Health Sciences under the University of Peshawar. The institute is currently offering BS degree programs in seven disci-

ment's vision for making public sector universities sustainable and ensuring their financial stability. He congratulated the university administration for the rapid establishment of the institute and expressed hope that it would achieve its intended objectives as well.

The Chief Minister



plines: Medical Laboratory Technology, Radiology, Cardiology, Dental Technology, Surgical Technology, Optometry, and Emergency Services. The academic programs of the institute will be expanded in the future to include BS Nursing and other health technologies.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony of the institute held on Thursday, the Chief Minister remarked that the establishment of the Institute of Health Sciences is undoubtedly a unique initiative, reflecting the govern-

ment's vision for making public sector universities sustainable and ensuring their financial stability. He emphasized that the institute would help addressing the shortage of trained healthcare professionals in the health sector, stating "On one hand, it will play a crucial role in meeting the university's financial needs, and on the other, it will contribute to improving the healthcare system by preparing skilled health professionals."

The Chief Minister stressed the importance of strengthening institutions, stating, "When institutions become self-sustainable, the province will automatically

become self-reliant." He highlighted that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is the first and only province in the country to establish a Debt Management Fund, into which 30 billion rupees have already been transferred. Furthermore, he said that reforms and measures in various sectors have resulted in a 45% increase in the province's revenue.

Ali Amin Khan Gandapur reiterated the government's commitment to providing better treatment in hospitals and quality education in schools. He explained that while constructing new buildings takes time, the provincial government has started utilizing existing facilities for educational purposes.

He added, "We are working to introduce market-oriented courses in other universities so that instead of standing in job queues, our youth can acquire skills for self-employment. We are investing in people to turn our youth into valuable assets. The country is not short on talent; it simply needs to be utilized effectively", said and added that integrated measures are being taken to achieve the financial self-reliance of the province, in line with the vision of the founding chairman PTI.

## Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Govt launches Pakistan's first Online Medicine Ordering Portal

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has launched Pakistan's first Online Medicine Ordering Portal in the health department as a significant step towards improving service delivery, ensuring accountability, and promoting transparency in the health sector. Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur formally inaugurated the portal on Thursday in a ceremony held at the Chief Minister's House Peshawar. The event was attended by Speaker of the Provincial Assembly Babar Saleem Swati, Deputy Speaker Suraiya Bibi, provincial cabinet members Major (Retd.) Muhammad Sajjad and Aftab Alam Afridi, MNA Sher Afzal Marwat, members of the provincial assembly, and officials from the health department.



Through this advanced portal, District Health Officers (DHOs) and Medical Superintendents (MS) across the province will be able to place medicine orders online.

The portal features a pre-fed list of approved medicines, and orders will be automatically generated based on this list. The officer placing the order will only need to enter the budget, while the system will handle the rest of the process automatically.

The system is designed with pre-fed medicine requirements based on the geographic profile of each district. All orders will align strictly with the MCC list. Any deviation from the list will be flagged by the system. Medicine orders will be generated online with QR codes, making them easily traceable. Additionally, a comprehensive record of all stock availability will be maintained through an online dashboard.

This system aims to prevent corruption in the procurement of medicines, save time and resources, and ensure transparency. On this occasion, the Chief Minister also launched fuel cards for EPI vaccinators. This initiative will permanently resolve the fuel-related challenges faced by vaccinators, resulting in improved routine immunization services.

While addressing the ceremony, Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur said that the provincial government has been striving since day first to provide the best possible services to the public, with health and education being its top priorities.

"We are working out of the box to streamline the system. We are simplifying complex routine business and introducing necessary amendments to existing rules and regulations for this purpose," he remarked.

## Silence of local and international HRs orgs on D-chowk incident is inexplicable: Barrister Saif

### TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: Advisor to the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Information and Public Relations, Barrister Dr. Saif, has said that the silence of national and international human rights organizations on D chowk incident is inexplicable.

Barrister Dr. Saif further stated that the Muslim League (N) has consistently followed the tradition of devouring innocent lives, as evident from the Model Town incident where pregnant women were directly fired upon. This, he said, is a part of the Muslim League's (N) record.

The Advisor emphasized that the Muslim League (N) has made it a habit to swallow innocent lives and prolong their rule. On November 26, the fake government crossed all limits of brutality in their hatred for Imran Khan, but they must not forget that every drop of the innocent workers' blood will be accounted for, and the D-Chowk incident will prove to be a precursor to true freedom.

Barrister Dr. Saif added that the fake federal government cannot eliminate Imran Khan from the hearts of the people through their dirty tactics. Imran Khan has become an integral part of the people's hearts,

and his release has become the people's obsession. The Advisor predicted that Imran Khan will soon be among the people after

his release. He said that the illegitimate federal government, formed with the support of Form 47, will

soon meet its demise. The political elite have irreparably damaged the reputation of democracy for the sake of their chairs.

## Meeting discussed matters related to framing of rules under Hindu Marriage Act

PESHAWAR: The National Lobbying Delegation for Minority Rights met with the Advisor to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Information Barrister Dr Saif, to discuss the matters related to framing of rules under the Hindu Marriage Act.

The meeting brought together representatives from across Pakistan. Ex provincial Minister for Minority Affairs Wazir Zada and focal person for the delegation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haroon Sarab Diyal was joined by Sheezan William from Balochistan, Pushpa Kumari from Sindh, Romana Bashir from Islamabad, and Habkook Gill and Kalyan Singh from Punjab. Together, they highlighted the growing challenges faced by the Hindu community due to the absence of rules under the relevant act.

During the session, the delegation emphasized the urgent need to frame rules under the Hindu Marriage Act. They highlighted how the absence of these rules has left Hindu citizens without a proper legal framework for registering marriages, causing significant challenges for the community.

Barrister Saif assured the delegation of his full support highlighting that the draft rules under the relevant Act have already been prepared. "This is a matter of justice and equality," he stated, pledging to advocate for presenting the proposed rules in the meeting of the provincial cabinet in the coming days.

The National Lobbying Delegation for Minority Rights expressed optimism following the meeting. "This is a step forward in ensuring that Hindu citizens can exercise their rights with dignity and legal protection," said Haroon Sarab Diyal. "We are extremely thankful to the provincial Advisor on Information for his commitment and positive response in advocating for the rights of minority communities," he added.



## CTD, police eliminate three dangerous terrorists in Lakki Marwat

### BY:APP

PESHAWAR: In a joint intelligence-based operation conducted by the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) and police in Lakki Marwat, three dangerous terrorists were killed, CTD informed on Thursday.

According to the CTD spokesperson, the operation took place within the jurisdiction of Gumbela Police Station near Malang Adda on Tajori Road Canal.

During the operation, there was an exchange of gunfire between the law enforcers and the terrorists that lasted for approximately half an hour. After the firing ceased, a search operation was launched and three of the terrorists were found dead, while their accomplices managed to escape. The police personnel remained unharmed during the exchange of fire.

The killed terrorists were wanted in cases of attacks on security forces, facilitation, reconnaissance, and targeted killings. They were associated with the banned TTP Tipu Gul group.

The dead terrorists were later identified as Shafiq Nawaz, Gard Muhammad Mujahid alias Jahadiyar, and Fida-ur-Rehman alias Anas alias Gul.

Weapons, ammunition, mobile phones, and night vision guns were recovered from the possession of the dead terrorists. The CTD Bannu has registered a case under the Anti-Terrorism Act and initiated an investigation.

## Tarar appreciates Gandapur on learning correct way of protest

### BY:APP

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Thursday appreciated Chief Minister of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur on understanding about the correct way to hold a protest in the country.

"Ali Amin Gandapur has finally learnt the right way to protest," said the minister while sarcastically responding to the statement made by the CM KP today in a gathering regarding his newfound approach for holding a protest.



The minister, in a news

statement, said the whole nation knew the usual tactics of chaos, violence and arson opted by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) during their protests.

"It is commendable that for the first time in ten months, the Chief Minister has chosen the correct manner of protest," he added.

He said it would have been quite better if he had protested peacefully with sounds like 'oooo oooo' on November 26 and May 9 instead of resorting to aggression and arson.

Protests, in the civilized society, are held in a peaceful manner without disrupting the normal life, he remarked.

## Govt saved Rs 1.1 trillion through talks with IPPs: Awais Leghari

### BY:APP

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Power Division Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari on Thursday said that the government has saved Rs 1.1 trillion through negotiations with Independent Power Producers (IPPs).

Addressing at the concluding ceremony of 4th International Hydropower Conference jointly organized by Energy Updates with collaboration of Private Power Infrastructure Board (PPIB), WAPDA and other stakeholders, the minister said that the government and IPPs mutually renewed the contracts in the interest of Pakistan.

He said that people could

not longer afford to pay the electricity bills and the government was going to revamp the entire power sector. "We are also restructuring National Transmission and Despatch Company (NTDC)," he added.



Elaborating, the government reforms in power sector, he said that there has been a significant reduction in the losses of distribution companies. From July to November 2023, these losses amounted to Rs 23 billion, which decreased to Rs 170 billion during the

same period in 2024, he said.

He said out of total 10 Board of Directors (BoDs) of Power Distribution Companies (DISCOs), eight have been completely revamped and not a single induction was made on political basis.

He said that the government was reviewing various taxes included in electricity bills to provide maximum relief to the consumers. Terming uniform tariff for the entire country as major challenge, he said transfer the burden of one company to another is unfair, he said.

He said a competitive electricity market will be launched in March, where market forces would determine power tariff, and the government would play only a facilitating role.



# NEWS CITY



## Govt is taking concrete steps to meet the quality food needs: Faisal Hakeem

## Commissioner holds revenue 'Darbar' to address land disputes, other issues

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOHAT: Commissioner Kohat Division Syed Motasim Billah Shah has under the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Program "Awami Agenda" held a Revenue Darbar at Service Delivery Center (SDC) Kohat on Thursday, which besides the Deputy Commissioner Abdul Akram Chitrali, Deputy Director SDC, Assistant Commissioner, Additional Assistant Commissioners and Tehsilidar Kohat, was also attended by the Media Persons, Revenue Staff and general public in large number. Commissioner Kohat said that the purpose of holding Revenue Darbar is

to solve the land disputes and other related issues of the people on the spot. He further said that 21 complaints received in the pre-

while establishment of a permanent Record Room is also in the pipeline. Motasim Billah Shah said, presently 12

offering Prayers has also been arranged, he said.

He added, there is a program to impart computer and modern system training to the Patwaris to ensure better service delivery to the people.

On this occasion, the people openly put their problems before the Commissioner Kohat, among which issues like Intiqalaat, correctness of records and illegal occupations were at the top.

Commissioner Kohat listened to all the problems seriously and solved most of the problems on the spot while necessary directions were given to the authorities concerned to resolve the complicated problems at the earliest.



vious Revenue Darbar have been resolved. Similarly, beside setting-up Special Counters for Special Persons, Overseas Pakistanis and Women, a Temporary Record Room has also been arranged

Computer Operators are working in the Service Delivery Center while the government has been requested for 16 more Computer Operators vacancies. A special place for

## FTO Peshawar registered 583 complaints in one year: Sardar Khawaja

TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: During a press conference in Peshawar, Regional Advisor to the Federal Tax Ombudsman, Sardar Ali Khawaja, while highlighting performance and achievements of his office during the previous year, stated that 583 complaints were received during the last one year, with most of them pertaining to income tax, sales tax, federal excise duties, and customs duties.



He further mentioned that more than 500 complaints have been successfully resolved, and in the remaining cases relevant field formations of the FBR have been asked to dispose of claims of the affected tax payers within 15 days.

Sardar Ali Khawaja explained that complaints against all the wings of Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) can now be filed both online and via telephone.

These complaints can be submitted through the Federal Tax Ombudsman's website, email, or the mobile app "FTO" portal. After an investigation, complainants are also offered the facility of online hearings. Every complaint is investigated within 30 days, whereafter the FBR is asked to implement recommendations of the FTO within 45 days.

It was stated that due to hectic awareness campaign throughout the country, a colossal number of 13500 complaints were received on central level, out of which 12914 complaints were resolved in favour of the aggrieved tax payers.

## Koto Hydropower Project in Lower Dir district to start electricity generation in current year

TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: The construction of Koto hydropower project in Lower Dir district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has entered in the final stage. After the successful completion of the project current year, the production of 40.8 megawatts of cheap electricity will start, which will bring an annual income of more than Rs. 1.7 billion to the province and new employment opportunities will be created in the province. Timely completion of the Koto HPP will lead to the prosperity of the people of the province and the economy will get stability.

Special Assistant Energy to the Chief Minister of KP Tariq Mehmood Sadozai expressed these views on an emergency visit to the Koto hydro and project site. He had carefully

examined the various parts of the project while reviewing the pace of work.

In this context, the Project



Director Sultan Rum, briefed about the project and informed that due to security reasons, several workers of the team of Chinese engineers working on the project had left work and went back, while during

the Covid-19 emergency, for the project bringing in the machinery also proved difficult due to which the project was slightly delayed.

On this occasion, the Special Assistant expressed satisfaction over the project-working pace and warned the field staff that the speed of work on the project must be increased so that the people can benefit from the benefits of the project soon with the timely completion of the remaining work.

A new era will begin, which will provide the province with an annual income of billions of rupees as well as new employment opportunities he added. Later on, Special Assistant Tariq Sadozai also inspected Malakand III Hydro Power House where Resident Engineer Fawad Khan briefed him.

## Winter packages distributed among orphans, destitute children

OUR CORRESPONDENT

SWAT: Muslim Hands has started distributing winter packages among orphans, destitute children and the poor in Swat.



Packages were distributed among hundreds of people at Muslim Hands School Kanju. Muslim Hands Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Regional Director Rahimullah Khan, Deputy Director Irshad Khan and others distributed the packages.

The distribution process will start in Upper Swat today. According to the details, Muslim Hands has distributed winter packages among orphans, destitute and the poor in Swat this year as usual.

Muslim Hands Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Regional Director Rahimullah Khan, Deputy Director Irshad Khan, Finance Manager Abdul Ghafoor Khan, Principal Muslim Hands School Kanju Miraj Badshah and other officials distributed winter sup-

plies among orphans, destitute children studying at Muslim Hands School Kanju. On this occasion, Rahimullah Khan said in his speech that Muslim Hands, like last year, has also

distributed warm clothes to the destitute in winter this year. And they are starting the process of distributing it among the poor.

He said that 685 packages are being distributed in Swat. Today, 255 packages are being distributed in Madin (Muslim Hands) School. In this regard, packages will also be distributed in Kalam Mankial and other upper areas.

These packages include four blankets, socks, gloves, sweaters, warm shawls, warm hats, etc.

He said that Muslim Hands has been doing this good work for the last 31 years and the support of philanthropists and other people is needed.

## Dr. Ilyas Syed's remarkable contributions praised with promises of continued support

TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: Officials from the German donor agency GIZ and its partner organization, National Sabawun, visited the Paraplegic Center Peshawar (PCP), a unique institution dedicated to the comprehensive physical and psychosocial rehabilitation of individuals with spinal cord injuries. The delegation, highly impressed by the performance of the center, lauded it as a flagship project of the provincial government and assured their full cooperation.

In their remarks, the officials highlighted PCP's decades-long service under the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, providing free rehabilitation services to patients from Pakistan and neighboring Afghanistan. They acknowledged that the center operates on a limited budget, yet has set an exemplary standard for developing countries, deserving

support at every level. During the visit, GIZ Senior Advisor Muhammad Hashim Khan and Sabawun CEO Tariq Khan, along with their teams, were briefed by PCP

insights into their methodologies for patient care and rehabilitation. GIZ officials appreciated the center's integrated approach to physical, mental, and psychological recovery under one roof.

The visitors also toured the PCP-managed customized wheelchair and assistive devices production unit in Hayatabad Industrial Estate. They were briefed on the unit's research, designing, and manufacturing processes, which cater to the specific needs of individuals with disabilities, including age- and gender-appropriate wheelchairs and assistive tools.

The distinguished guests praised Dr. Ilyas Syed, his team, and the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for this exceptional initiative. They expressed their admiration in glowing terms and reiterated their commitment to forming partnerships and collaborating with PCP in the future.



CEO Dr. Syed Muhammad Ilyas. The presentation outlined the center's services, current needs, and future plans. Following the briefing, PCP's Director of Rehabilitation, Ameer Zeb, Deputy Director Assistive Technology, Mansoor Golra and Strategic Advisor Anwar Panezai guided the guests through various sections and wards of the center.

The delegation interacted with specialists and practitioners, gaining

## Khattak Ittehad set week deadline for recovery of youth

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KARAK: Khattak Ittehad gave the district administration until January 15 to recover the youth and immediately withdraw the FIR. Otherwise, it threatened to close the processing unit of OGDCL and MOL Company.

An emergency meeting of Khattak Ittehad was held at the Town Hall Karak under the chairmanship of Alhaj Mudassir Ayub. The regional leaders of Khattak Ittehad and members of other organizations expressed their anger and resentment over the FIR registered against the leaders.

The meeting was attended by Alhaj Mudassir Ayub, General Secretary Khattak Ittehad Noor Muhammad, Sher Qanoos, Badr Islam, Muhammad Nawaz Ustad, PPP District President Khurshid Alam Khattak, Maulana Sabz Ali, Naushpa local leaders, former district councillor Malik Hayat ullah, Awami National Party District President Shah Nawaz Khattak, Abdul Rehman ANP, and a large number of others.

The agenda of the meeting was conditional on the current FIR registered and the recovery of the two youths. The leaders gave separate suggestions in the meeting. It was unanimously agreed that the FIR registered against the elders should be closed before January 15 and the two youths should be recovered, otherwise they threatened to close the processing unit of OGDCL Noshapa block and MOL Company on January 15.

## EOC team felicitates newly elected cabinet of PPC

TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: Deputy Coordinator of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for Polio Eradication in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Zeeshan Khan, emphasized the critical role of media in protecting children from lifelong disability caused by polio.

He expressed these views on Thursday while congratulating the newly elected President of the Peshawar Press Club, M. Riaz, on his election.

A delegation from the EOC KP, led by Deputy Coordinator Muhammad Zeeshan Khan, visited the Peshawar Press Club and congratulated the newly elected cabinet on their success in the elections.

The delegation also included UNICEF Media Officer Ms. Shadab Younus and other members of the EOC media team. On this occasion, Muhammad Zeeshan Khan appreciated the unwavering support and efforts

of the Peshawar Press Club President, in particular, and the journalist community, in gener-



al, in promoting the polio eradication program in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and raising public awareness about anti-polio vaccination.

The newly elected President of the Peshawar Press Club, M. Riaz, assured the delegation of the continued support of the journalists in achieving the national mission of polio eradication.

During the visit, Muhammad Zeeshan Khan presented a bouquet to M. Riaz and extended his best wishes to the newly elected cabinet.

## WAPDA workers to protest against non-acceptance of demands'

TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: The extraordinary meeting of the All Pakistan WAPDA Hydro Electric Workers Union Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Executive Body was held yesterday at Iqbal Labor Complex, Ring Road, Peshawar, under the Chairmanship of Provincial Chairman Haji Muhammad Iqbal.

The meeting was attended by Regional and Zonal Commanders of PESCO, TESCO, and HAZECO from across the Province, along with Provincial Secretary Noor-ul-Amin Haiderzai, Central Chairman Gohar Taj, Provincial Vice Chairman Yasir Kamran, Joint Secretary Tariq Khan, Finance Secretary Nasir Khan, Information Secretary Gohar Ali Gohar, Chairman of Hazara Region Jamil Akhtar Tanoli, Secretary Aftab Khan Jadoon, and Secretary of TESCO Region Liaqat Ali, among others.

In his briefing to the executive body, Provincial Secretary

Noor-ul-Amin Haiderzai praised the union officials and workers for successfully conducting peaceful protest rallies and sit-ins across various circles from December 16, 2024, to January 8, 2025. He highlighted the critical issues faced by workers, including the privatization of DISCOs (a National and public interest concern), severe staff shortages, and other pressing matters.

He emphasized that written complaints have been submitted to all relevant authorities, from the President of Pakistan to the Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and even a face-to-face meeting was held with the governor. However, no action or response has been observed to date, which is highly concerning.

Moreover, the Boards of Directors of all three power distribution companies in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, as well as the PESCO administration, were duly informed both verbally and in writing.

## P.H.D Scholar defended his thesis

TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR : Hunar Shah, assistant professor of english GDC Jamrud, district Khyber

defended his P.H.D thesis (supervised by Dr English Literature ) Sameena Ashfaq professor of english, Qurtuba university, Peshawar. Dr Rooh Ul Amin was external examiner for



Successfully defend- The scholar was P.h.d thesis defence.



## Successful int'l conference on girls' education to commence on Saturday: Dr Khalid Siddiqui

Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training



# BISP increased amount from Rs. 10,500 to Rs. 13,500 to provide maximum assistance

### TIMES REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid, has announced that the amount distributed among the poor under the program has been increased from Rs. 10,500 to Rs. 13,500 to provide maximum assistance during these challenging times.

This is a gift from the Benazir Income Support Program to all registered families. Speaking to the media at the BISP office in Pabbi Tehsil, District Nowshera, Senator Rubina Khalid stated that the registration process has now become dynamic.

People who believe they are eligible for BISP can register themselves. For registration, certain documents are required, such as the family registration form (B-form) and details about their children, including their educational information.

All these details are necessary at the time of registration. In addition to this, she mentioned other ongoing initiatives, such as the Benazir Nasonuma Program for child development and the Benazir Taleemi Wazaif Program for educational scholarships.

She also revealed plans to relaunch the Waseela-e-Rozgar Program, as they firmly believe in extending

all possible assistance to the beneficiaries by providing them with skills training.



Furthermore, the Benazir Hunarmand Program will soon be initiated to create more ease for

passports, which opened doors for Pakistani laborers worldwide and created opportunities for them.

However, she emphasized that the global workforce has now become skilled, and it is essential for Pakistan to adapt accordingly. She stated, "We must provide our people with facilities to gain technical skills, so they can secure employment either abroad or within Pakistan." Quoting Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, she said, "Skill is your asset."

She elaborated that this small yet profound statement reflects a great philosophy and vision. Skills are something that cannot be

taken away from you—while property and bank balances can be lost, skills in your hands ensure that you will never be unemployed or dependent on anyone.

Senator Rubina Khalid expressed the resolve to dedicate the new year to skill development, training, and enhancing facilities for BISP beneficiaries, enabling them to learn new skills and become valuable assets for the country.

She also extended her gratitude to President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for increasing the program's budget, which made it possible to raise the stipends for deserving families.

## Advanced genetic testing lab to prevent childhood eye cancer inaugurated at Al-Shifa Hospital

### TIMES REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital inaugurated a state-of-the-art genetic testing laboratory to prevent and control eye cancer in children. Genetic testing offers significant benefits; it can alleviate uncertainty and guide individuals in making informed decisions about healthcare management.

If the result is negative, it may reduce the need for unnecessary check-ups, said the president of Al-Shifa Trust, Major General (Retd) Rehmat Khan. Speaking at a seminar at the inauguration of Pakistan's first genetic testing lab for eyes, he said that a positive outcome following genetic testing can guide individuals toward available options for prevention, monitoring, and treatment. Major General (Retd) Rehmat Khan said that all the patients at the trust will get free testing even though ophthalmic genetics and DNA diagnosis are very costly processes.

Ophthalmic genetics is a subspecialty of ophthalmology focusing on genetic conditions affecting the eye, which involves studying the causes, patterns of transmission, projection, and treatment of eye diseases caused by genetic defects, he informed.



Speaking at the occasion, Dr Tayyab Afghani, consultant and HOD of Orbit and Oculoplastic Department at Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital, said that Pakistan has a higher rate of eye cancer in children than its nearby countries. Because of this, the trust has chosen to step up its efforts to fight the problem.

He said that every year, different trust centres treat about 700 kids with eye cancer. This is twice as many as in India, right next door.

He added that genetic testing of parents can help control this occurrence in future generations. These tests provide information about how likely cancer will be possible in children. Tayyab Afghani said that if the problem is found early, it can be fixed before it worsens and could lead to loss of sight, eye loss, or even

total blindness. He said people should not be careless about eye cancer.

The number of people with eye cancer is going up, so they should see a doctor right away. Most people who go to hospitals are in the very last stages of their illness.

Afghani said that most of the kids with eye cancer come from low-income families who live in far-flung areas where there aren't any specialised eye hospitals.

He said that some tumours are incurable, while others may severely disfigure eyes, requiring complex surgical procedures.

However, eye problems due to cancer need more time and effort to be treated. Dr Rutaba Gul briefed the media persons about the development. Others who spoke on occasion included Prof. Dr. Shahid Mehmoob Baig, Prof. Dr. Saba Irshad, Prof. Dr. Aneesa Sultan, Dr. Saad Sarfaraz, Dr. Faheem Azher, and Prof. Dr. Wajid Ali Khan.

## ITP undertaken action against over 4,700 drivers

### NISAR AHADM

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) is raising awareness among citizens about traffic rules in the federal capital and taking legal action against drivers who violate traffic rules. In this regard, the Education Wing of the Islamabad Traffic Police and Special Squads are continuously working.

During the last two weeks, the Islamabad Traffic Police took legal action against over 4,700 drivers involved in traffic law violations. Additionally, 1,041 vehicles and motorcycles involved in serious traffic violations were impounded at various police stations. Furthermore, 11,922 citizens were educated about traffic rule violations, and 5,982 citizens were issued warnings.

A total of 59 cases

were registered against drivers aware of traffic rules.



involved in serious violations. The ITP Smart Response Unit and other special units are responsible for maintaining the flow of traffic on highways, improving traffic flow during rush hours, solving parking problems in commercial areas and preventing violations of traffic rules in Islamabad. ITP also organized 58 other activities, including a flower and candy campaign, a Clean and Green Islamabad awareness walk and a Friends of Police badge initiative to promote community policing and raise

These activities saw full participation from traffic police officers, members of civil society and other departments. The Islamabad Police Education Wing also educated over 97,000 citizens about traffic rules.

Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Islamabad Muhammad Sarfraz Virk said that the Islamabad Traffic Police is taking legal action against drivers who obstruct the flow of traffic and disrupt traffic discipline in the federal capital, aiming to reduce violations of traffic laws.

## IRSA releases 33,600 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Thursday released 33,600 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 40,800 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1475.66 feet and was 77.66 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 16,400 cusecs and 10,000 cusecs respectively.

The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1133.35 feet, which was 83.35 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 4,800 cusecs and 4,000 cusecs respectively.

## Ministry announces application process for 5,000 vacant Hajj seats

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony on Thursday announced the opening of applications for 5,000 vacant seats for Hajj 2025. According to the Ministry's spokesperson Muhammad Umar Butt, applications will be accepted on a "first-come, first-served" basis from January 10. He said the Ministry has instructed all designated banks to immediately upload the submitted applications to the portal on a daily basis.—APP

## Salik, Ramesh discuss initiatives for protecting minorities rights in country

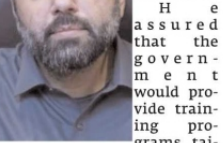
### BY:APP

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Chaudhry Salik Hussain on Thursday met with Minister for Human Rights and Minorities, Ramesh Singh Arora, to discuss initiatives for protecting minority rights in the country.

In a statement here, Chaudhry Salik Hussain reiterated the government's commitment in safeguarding minority rights, emphasizing that the government is dedicated to protecting all rights of minorities in the country.

He announced plans to introduce minority quotas in demands from countries seeking Pakistani workers, ensuring fair selection and equal opportunities for

minorities. The minister also highlighted the importance of technical training courses in enhancing skills and employment opportunities for minorities. He assured that the government would provide training programs tailored to market demand, enabling minorities to contribute to the national economy.



Ramesh Singh Arora appreciated the government's efforts to promote tourism, issue minority

cards, and protect the heritage of the Sikh community.

He noted that there are approximately 2.8 million minorities living in Punjab, who have a deep affection for Pakistan.

Ramesh Singh Arora emphasized the need for a proper secretariat for the Pakistan Gurdwara Committee and the Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (PSPGC).

He also highlighted his efforts to facilitate meetings between the foreign Sikh community and ambassadors in Pakistan, showcasing Pakistan as a safe country for minorities.

Chaudhry Salik Hussain assured his commitment to minority rights initiatives, providing every opportunity for minorities to contribute to Pakistan's economy.

## "Mukabila Hifz Qirat" organized at PNCA

### TIMES REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The ICT Administration, in collaboration with the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA), successfully organized two days prestigious "Mukabila Hifz Qirat" competition.

This event, held at the PNCA Auditorium (F-5/1), brought together talented students from various madaris across Islamabad, showcasing their remarkable skills in Quranic recitation.

The competition aimed to promote the art of Qirat and inspire a deeper connection with the Holy Quran. Students from different madaris participated in this event, categorized based on

their age and educational levels. The finalists demonstrated extraordinary talent, captivating the audience with



to the top performers in recognition of their outstanding achievements. Participants competed in two rounds, with separate categories for male and female students.

The event concluded with prayers for the prosperity of the country and the promotion of Islamic education.

The panel of judges included renowned Qaris and scholars from the Islamic community. The winners of each category will represent Islamabad in upcoming national-level competitions. The ICT Administration and PNCA reiterated their commitment to fostering platforms that encourage spiritual growth and cultural enrichment.

## GOVERNMENT OF KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT

### NOTICE INVITING E-BIDDING

Irrigation Department (Flood Division Dikhan) Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa invites electronic bids single stage two envelopes from the eligible Firms/Bidders in accordance with KPRA procurement prevailing rules 2014 for the following work. (The registered contractors/ Firms, who have renewed their registration / license with the Provincial Works Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Pakistan Engineering Council for the year 2024-25).

S/ No.	Name of Work & Name of Sub Work	Estimated Cost Rs. (M)	2% E/Money Stamp Duty Tender fee Rs. (M)	Required PEC Category	Last date/time of submission of Tender Forms	Time Limit
ADP (2024-2025) (SCHEME NO.1867/220742); FLOOD AND EROSION ARRANGEMENT OF VILLAGES PROTECTION ABADIES OF MOZA SHAH NAWAZ, PHOKE BASARAT ETC. AND AGRICULTURAL LAND ALONG LEFT BANK OF INDUS RIVER IN DISTRICT D.I. KHAN (PHASE-11 LONG TERM ARRANGEMENT). Sub Work: Flood Protection Marginal Bund Arrangement.	953.181	19.369	CE-04 (Minimum)	27/01/2025 Time 3:00PM & will be opened at 3:30 PM	As per work Order/ BOQ	

### TERMS AND CONDITIONS:-

- Bid Solicitation Documents containing all the terms and conditions and other relevant instructions for the work can be downloaded from the department and or KPRA websites ([www.irrigation.gkp.gov.pk](http://www.irrigation.gkp.gov.pk))/([www.kppra.gov.pk](http://www.kppra.gov.pk)).
- Bid Solicitation Documents contains mandatory requirements to be fulfilled in order for bidder to be eligible to participate. The bidders are required to agree to all terms & conditions of bidding documents.
- Electronic bidding shall be done on "above/below system" on BOQ/Engineer's estimate.
- The bidder shall submit their bids on the following address Executive Engineer Flood Division D.I. Khan only through leading/reliable Courier Service on or before the deadline along with required documents as per details mentioned in Bid Solicitation Documents. The labels of the Courier Service provider may be authenticated for tracking before opening. Fake Courier delivery shall be processed as per law and would not be considered.
- The bidders are required to quote their rates above or below on MRS-2024 1\* Bi Annual as well as non MRS components.
- The bidders shall submit 02% bid security of the estimated cost as mentioned above, in the shape of deposit at call (Original) enclosed along with their bids before closing date and time in the name of Executive Engineer Flood Division D.I.Khan.
- The bidders who quote their bids / rates more than 10% below on Engineer's Estimate shall submit along with their bids additional security as per KPRA Notification No. S.R.O (14)/Vol-1/24/2021-22, dated 10-05-2022.
- Notifications issued by KPRA pertaining to procurement process issued from time to time shall be applicable.
- The work is most important nature for the protection of Village Abadies, Govt. infrastructures and Agriculture Land will be executed continuously in all over the season if funds are irrespective of the funds availability.
- Any variation occurred after detailed survey and conducting of physical Model Study shall be incorporated through variation order/technical sanction for physical completion of the scheme. As Tender are invited on the direction of Secretary to Govt. of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Irrigation Department Peshawar on emergent basis (as per requirement of the letter) received through Deputy Director (Civil) letter No. P.M.C/ADP/2025, dated 06/01/2025.
- If the evaluated electronic bid costs of two or more bidders are equal, then the successful bidder will be declared through draw/toss.
- The last date & time for Submission of the Bid along with relevant documents is 27/01/2025 up to 3:00 PM which will be opened on the same day at 03:30 PM in the Executive Engineer Flood Division D.I.Khan in presence of Contractors and their representatives who wishes to attend.
- Bid security of 1%, 2nd and 3rd lowest bidders will be retained by the employer till the approval of bids by the competent Authority.
- Funds release depends upon policy of Provincial Government; hence payment will be made accordingly. Bidders/ Contractors agreeing with the financial constraints in respect of payment etc are at liberty to participate in the Instant E-Bidding as no claim whatsoever will be entertained in this regard. It is further added that work on the project shall be kept continued irrespective of the fund release, being time bound and flood protective work.
- All Government notifications/rules/taxes implemented from time to time shall be applicable.
- Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on 17/01/2025 in the office of Executive Engineer Flood Division D.I. Khan at 2:00PM.



# Opinion & Editorial

## The complicit individual is the robber, not the hacker

Arshad Naeem Choudhary

**B**ank card hacking is a persistent societal issue that needs immediate consideration at the government and the institutional level. The increasing frequency of these incidents highlights the vulnerabilities in our financial institutional mechanism and the need for stronger cybersecurity measures and legislation on the complicity aspect by the government.

Recent data breaches have exposed the sensitive information of millions of people, making it easier for hackers to commit fraud. According to a survey, the UAE, Bahrain, and Kuwait have become safe havens for individuals involved in these crimes. In some cases, hackers have managed to infiltrate financial institutions for extended periods, stealing large amounts of money. This not only causes economic losses but also erodes trust in

the security of our banking systems. Research shows that legislation has targeted the perpetrators, not the local facilitators behind this criminal societal issue worldwide. Therefore, it is necessary and timely request to the heads of government and departments consider this if they want to run a smooth system and establish peace in the countries suffering from this contagious societal sickness. To address this issue, we need to:

1. Institutional Denial Policy: This can be seen in various contexts, such as corporate, legal, or personal scenarios. It has been observed that a person, an institute or government agency, they start with denial to register first information report. This approach can be problematic for several reasons:

a. Trust and Credibility: Constant denial can erode trust and credibility, whether it's an organization, individual, or institution.

b. Legal Consequences: Persistent denial without address-

ing the underlying issues can lead to more severe legal consequences.

c. Reputation Damage: In the age of information and social media, denials can quickly be countered with evidence, leading to public relations crises.

d. Ethical Concerns: Ethically, it's important to address issues honestly and transparently to maintain integrity. 2. Enhance Cybersecurity Measures: Financial institutions must invest in advanced security protocols and regularly update their systems to protect against new threats. Now the time has come to revisit existing protocols and strengthen with adherence to ethical values. 3. Conduct Thorough Investigations in conjunction with moral values: Each incident should be meticulously reviewed to understand how the breach occurred, identify the hidden hands involved, and determine the necessary steps to prevent future attacks. New protocols based on moral values should be established for the person inves-

tigating the issues. Morally corrupt individuals should not be appointed to the investigation, as it is a matter of institutional reputation, integrity, and credibility.

4. Promote Awareness about adherence to legal and ethical values: Educating the public about the importance of cybersecurity and how to protect their personal information can help reduce the Digital, Social, Print, and electronic media can be utilized for education and awareness among the masses.

5. Reinforce Regulations with moral values: Governments and regulatory bodies should enforce stricter cybersecurity standards and hold institutions accountable for non-compliance with decent values and legal protocol breaches. Apart from legal responsibilities the staff must bear good moral character and manifest moral values understanding with justice, foresight, equal right, equal opportunity for all and for dignified living in action.

6. Institutional Responsibility:

Institutions must guarantee the security and integrity of their systems by implementing robust cybersecurity procedures, conducting thorough investigations, promoting awareness of legal and ethical values, and enforcing strict regulations to maintain reputation, credibility, and the trust of the public.

The above recommendations are a minimum prerequisite to track the system and maintain institutional reputation and credibility. Inherently, nobody likes to cheat or be cheated, it's the complicit individuals who are jeopardizing the reputation and credibility of their institutions for personal gains or vendetta.

Hence, it is to be noted that Societal growth comes through peace and prosperity and is a positive indicator of progress for the institutions and the state. Therefore, the legislature and heads of the institutions are responsible for the interests and reputation of their institutions.

## University Chancellor: Chief Minister or Governor? Who Holds the Authority?

By: A. Waseem Khattak



**T**he ongoing dispute within the Higher Education Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has taken a significant turn. The conflict between Governor Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, and Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur is clearly impacting the department. Recently, Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa attended the Senate meeting at Lakki Marwat University as the University Chancellor. However, following amendments in the 2024 Act, the Chief Minister was

designated as the Chancellor of all universities. The Governor's attendance has complicated the situation further. The Higher Education Department has granted many university Vice Chancellors the authority to conduct selection boards, which legally should be conducted by a full-time Vice Chancellor. Most universities have been without Vice Chancellors for over two years, deepening the crisis. During the caretaker government's tenure, the provincial government halted previous processes and initiated new planning. A new search committee was formed, but no progress has been made. An amendment in the act extended the Vice Chancellor's tenure from three to four years, transferring all powers from the Governor to the Chief Minister. This change mirrors similar actions taken by the PPP in Sindh, where the Governor has been rendered

powerless, and the Chief Minister holds all authority. The conflict intensified when the provincial government passed the University Act Amendment Bill through the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly, shifting the appointment powers of Vice Chancellors from the Governor to the Chief Minister. The Governor refused to approve the bill, returning it with objections, arguing that the bill is not financial and does not require his signature. Conversely, the Higher Education Department argues that the bill includes matters related to professors' salaries and financial issues, classifying it as a money bill that the Governor cannot block. This dispute has stalled reforms and delayed significant appointments and amendments in universities. The appointment of Vice Chancellors in various universities is currently pending, with the Governor neither

approving nor rejecting them. Additionally, appointments of Syndicate members in Hazara and Swabi universities have faced objections from the Higher Education Department. Experts in higher education believe that this conflict has led to an administrative crisis in the province's universities, severely affecting the reform process. If the dispute is not resolved soon, its negative impacts may persist for a long time. Government sources indicate that the provincial government is trying to resolve the issue within constitutional and legal boundaries. However, the ongoing differences between the Governor and the government are further complicating the situation. "Get in Touch with @awaseemkhattak, Head of Journalism at Women University Swabi.

## Taking cover

**I**t is unfortunate that, instead of taking ownership of important decisions, our officials usually seem keener to make even the good ones appear to be the result of some unavoidable obligation to the country's foreign creditors. This constant shifting of responsibility, or rather, blame, to external stakeholders has meant even necessary changes in state-level policy come to be seen publicly as the result of interference by unforgiving and unsympathetic foreign lenders rather than necessary steps that must be taken in the country's best interests. Take, for example, the finance minister, who, in a recent press conference on government rightsizing, seemed to be at pains to explain that the decision to reduce the size of our arguably bloated government had to be taken because of structural benchmarks set by the IMF. Though the minister admitted that the measure was also in Pakistan's best interests, one wonders why it was made to sound like an IMF prescription rather than a willingly embraced reform. The fact is that the size of the government needs to be cut. The country cannot continue to shoulder the burden of a large and inefficient bureaucracy, given its severely deteriorated economic position. The minister, during his press conference, himself revealed that many of the public sector entities, departments and their managements that were put on the chopping block admitted they had not much to show by way of their accomplishments over the past 20-30 years, but still wanted another six months to deliver results. This would seem to be an admission that, though these entities knew how to turn things around, they chose not to do so — and for decades, no less. While they thankfully did not get another lifeline, one still wonders why the move to cut them to size had to be framed as an obligation to a foreign lending agency. Indeed, the government should have taken pride in announcing that it was taking a major step to hold public servants and their departments accountable for funds they had been wasting for decades. That it did not seem eager to do so not only suggests a lack of concern for how the country's resources have been and continue to be squandered but also a seeming unwillingness to end such wastefulness. Perhaps this is why the finance minister dodged questions at the same press conference regarding why judges and certain categories of bureaucrats had been granted hefty salary increases in recent months. He also would not directly answer questions about whether certain 'favoured' ministries and departments would face cuts. The finance minister, himself an appointed technocrat, may at times feel obligated to deflect responsibility from the elected government. However, it is hoped that this is not also preventing him from taking the right decisions.

## Reform or Abolish: The sorry state of universities in Pakistan

Dr Imtiaz Ahmad



**P**akistan's higher education sector is facing an existential crisis. The Higher Education Commission's (HEC) drive to increase the number of universities has compromised education standards, perpetuated favoritism and nepotism, and deprived employees of their fundamental rights.

Since 2002, the number of universities in Pakistan has mushroomed, with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) witnessing a staggering increase from 5 to 34 institutions and from 40 to 147 in the country. However, this expansion has come at a steep cost. The standard of higher education has plummeted, and the lack of a robust mechanism to run these institutions has led to chaos.

The appointment of vice-chancellors (VCs) has become a challenging task for the government and HEC. The selection process is marred by favoritism and nepotism, with rules being changed daily to accommodate relatives or friends in key posi-

tions. This has resulted in many universities remaining without VCs for years.

On the other hand, the situation within universities is dire. Education has taken a backseat, and the focus is solely on appointing "blue-eyed" individuals. Rules of appointment are flouted, violating the Constitution of Pakistan and establishment codes. Employees are deprived of their fundamental rights, including pensions, salaries, and benefits.

Seniority rules are ignored, and promotions are granted based on favoritism and nepotism. The mantra of "you scratch my back, and I'll scratch yours" has become the norm.

The provincial and federal governments have turned a blind eye to the plight of these universities. Each province is increasing the number of universities without taking responsibility for funding them. As a result, employees are forced to stage strikes daily, demanding salaries and pensions.

Teachers, who are supposed to be leaders of the nation, are often found protesting on the streets against discriminatory practices by the HEC/HED.

It is time for the government to take drastic measures to

reform the higher education sector. The HEC must be held accountable for its actions, and a robust mechanism must be put in place to ensure that universities are run efficiently and effectively.

The odd practice of re-appointments has become a significant financial burden on universities. When eligible employees are due for promotion, universities advertise positions, only to change the promotion to a new appointment or a subsidiary role when other employees with higher qualifications apply.

This not only discriminates against deserving employees but also results in a financial liability five times greater than a simple promotion.

The continuous cycle of over-employment, daily advertisements, selection boards, syndicates, and lawyer fees has financially weakened universities. This panic can be settled by implementing uniform rules for promoting deserving employees especially the BPS faculty without discrimination.

This would stabilize universities, alleviate panic among students, teachers, and administrators, and potentially increase international rankings.

By allowing deserving teachers to become professors, Pakistan can attract international students, standardize teaching, and increase revenue like advanced countries. Restoring the country's dignity in the international community is possible if we can attract people to choose Pakistan for higher education, as was the trend before the HEC.

A viable solution is to:

- Increase the number of professors in each university - Offer scholarships for international students in each discipline at every university - Attract the international community to seek admission in Pakistan - Honor and trust university teachers and researchers - Resolve legitimate issues of university teachers and invest in scholarships for international students instead of abolishing the system through odd and discriminatory practices, let's take the first step towards standardizing higher education in Pakistan.

The writer is a PhD from the university of Essex UK, serving the university of Malakand as Associate Professor of Mathematics and is GS of the All Public University's BPS Teachers Association.

## Iran between the 'floods' of Sinwar and Al-Sharaa

Ghassan Charbel

**J**anuary has painful connotations in Tehran. Iran cannot forget what happened on the 10th of that month in 2020. A man far away crossed what it considered a red line. Qassem Soleimani was killed near Baghdad Airport. The commander of the Quds Force, the architect of the "proxies strategy" and the project of a "big strike" against Israel, was killed.

This January, Tehran cannot help dreading the 20th. On that day, the White House will once again fall into the hands of the

man who ordered Soleimani's assassination. The man who withdrew the US from the nuclear agreement and clogged the veins of Iran's economy.

The pain associated with this month might have been bearable if not for the bitterness of the terrible month that preceded it. A man named Bashar Assad, at whom Iran had thrown the kitchen sink to keep in power, fell. Soleimani had managed to convince Vladimir Putin to intervene and save him from the "flood" of popular opposition, and that is what happened.

The Iranian-Russian intervention extended the life of Assad's regime, but "Mr. President" chose to save himself from the flood that a man named Ahmad Al-Sharaa had precipitated from Idlib.

Assad boarded a plane to go into exile with no desire to fight it out in the ring, avoiding the defiance that ended the lives of Muammar Qaddafi and Ali Abdullah Saleh. He left the stage without a masterful final scene, an art perfected by Saddam Hussein, his Baathist "comrade." Assad's flight crowned a year of

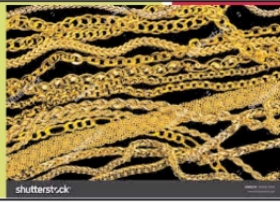
painful months for Iran, which also witnessed the assassinations of Hassan Nasrallah and Yahya Sinwar, as well as Ismail Haniyeh's assassination while he was being hosted by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps in Tehran.

Benjamin Netanyahu responded to Sinwar and Nasrallah with a flood of flames that devastated Gaza and Lebanon, sparing none of the Iranian "advisers" in Syria. The result: Assad's regime fell like a ripe fruit.

Courtesy Arab News



# Gold prices up by Rs1,300 per tola



# BUSINESS

## President FPCCI failing to uphold commitments: Abdul Rehman

TIMES REPORT

ISLAMABAD: A business leader said Thursday that the President of FPCCI has again backtracked on his commitments to annoy the business community, which will cost UBG dearly.

Atif Ikram, one of the most unpopular presidents of FPCCI known for violating rules and regulations for personal benefits, misuse of funds, ungratefulness, and harming well-wishers, had promised his supporters to appoint their nominees for important posts, he said.

Due to the lack of posts, it was decided that nominees would be divided into two parts. One part would be appointed against important posts in FPCCI for one year.

The remaining people will be appointed after one year so that they can enjoy perks and privileges for one year.

However, Atif Ikram again

displayed his negative tendencies and lack of integrity and refused to appoint the nominee of Khanawal Chamber of Commerce as in charge of the FPCCI Lahore office, said Mirza Abdul Rehman, former Vice President of FPCCI and founder President of A t t o c k Chamber of Commerce.

He said that instead, the President of FPCCI has issued an order extending the period of VP Zaki Ijaz as Chairman of FPCCI Regional Office Lahore, ditching the Khanawal Chamber of Commerce. Mirza Abdul Rehman said the decision has not gone down well with the Khanawal Chamber, and the leaders of this chamber may

react and leave UNG to join any other group, which will jolt UBG. He said that other chambers and trade associations that Atif Ikram Sheikh has cheated may follow suit, resulting in a crushing defeat of the UBG in the next elections. Mirza Abdul Rehman further said that the PM had constituted a committee comprising economic experts, known business leaders, chambers of commerce, and trade associations.

The committee, which will also include overseas chambers of the Pakistan Business Council, will provide feedback to the government on rationalizing the taxation system, improving rules and regulations, and taking other measures to reduce business costs and boost production and exports.

In this regard, an influential official statement was issued, and the names FPCCI

and UBG were skipped. This speaks volumes about the image of the Apex chamber, which has been severely tarnished by the current President and his gang of unselected cronies, he informed.

Mirza Abdul Rehman said that FPCCI is at the mercy of an incompetent president and unselected people who lack electoral legitimacy. He said that individuals not chosen through electoral processes receive priority over those duly elected who are ruining this organization for their benefit.

He added that unselected people who have no business have failed to serve the business community's interests, as they only care for their and their masters' interests.

The UBG's voters, who brought it to power, have been watching all the developments helplessly, which has annoyed them.

## Officers of mid career management course visited IPO

ISLAMABAD: A delegation comprising 16 officers of 42nd Mid Career Management Course from National Institute of Public Administration on Wednesday visited Intellectual Property Organization of Pakistan (IPO-Pakistan). The delegation visited the IPO-Pakistan headquarters as part of their field research, where they were briefed about their field research, performance, and operational details of the organization. Chairperson IPO-Pakistan, Ambassador (R) Farukh Amil, and Director General Ms. Shazia Adnan jointly briefed the delegation about the main functions of IPO-Pakistan.

The officers were informed about the administration of IP laws in the country, control and management of all IP offices, and IP rights enforcement coordination. They also learned about the promotion of IP education, research, and awareness, as well as advising the government on policy relating to IP rights and coordination with international organizations.

The delegation was particularly interested in learning about the different types of intellectual property, including trademarks, copyrights, patents, and geographical indications. They were also briefed about the importance of intellectual property in promoting innovation and entrepreneurship in Pakistan.—APP

## New projects for SIEs in Swat and Lower Dir to bring industrial revolution

TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Industries, Abdul Karim Tordher has stated that the proposed new projects for Small Industrial Estates in Swat and Lower Dir would bring industrial development to the area.

He said that a plan includes to provide the energy requirements to these new proposed industrial estates with the province own generated electricity through local corridors, which will lead to economic growth through industrialization.

He also mentioned that the proposed new industrial estate project in Bara, Khyber District, would be an important step for the development of small and medium enterprises in the area.

The Special Assistant directed the Small Industries Development Board (SIDB) to work on reasonable proposals to resolve some financial issues related to compensation for the Mardan III Industrial Estate.

He appreciated the department's efforts in addressing the obstacles to the establishment of an industrial estate in Naurak Waziristan. These remarks he made



during a meeting of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly's Standing Committee on Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, which was held on Thursday.

The meeting was chaired by the committee's chairman and Member of Provincial Assembly Itfikhwar Ali Mashwani, and attended

by Provincial Minister for Livestock and Fisheries, Fazal Hakeem Khan Yousafzai, Members of Provincial Assembly from Swat, Akhtar Khan, Sultan Room and Sharaf Ali, along

with other members, including Samiullah, Asif Khan, Sher Ali Afridi, Ali Shah, Secretary of Planning and Development Shahid Ullah Khan, Special Secretary of Industries Anwar Khan, MD SIDB Habib Ullah Arif, Deputy Commissioner of Swat Shehzad Mahboob, officials from the Departments of Finance,

Law, Elementary and Secondary Education, and Industries, as well as officials from the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Company,

Directorate General of Industry, Accountant General's Office, and representatives from the Swat Chamber of Commerce.

The committee members also shared their opinions, and several decisions were made in this regard. Similarly, relevant departments also presented their positions on their responsibilities.

The committee was informed about the notices issued regarding plots and other means in industrial estates across the province by SIDB.

Regarding the establishment of a Small Industrial Estate in Swat, a joint meeting will be convened with all the Members of National and Provincial Assemblies from the area, Chamber representatives, and SIDB officials.

The Deputy Commissioner of Swat was instructed to arrange this meeting to achieve a consensus on an appropriate location for the estate.

The committee granted a 15-day deadline for this meeting, all members of the assembly from Lower Dir would be invited to discuss and resolve obstacles to establish a Small Industrial

Estate in that district, which will help to consolidate the scattered industrial businesses in the area into one location.

The committee directed that a report from various organizations regarding the establishment of an industrial estate in Swabi be presented at the next meeting.

The proposed project in Norak Waziristan, for which funds have been released but there is a land dispute between two parties, was also discussed.

The department's efforts were praised and it was assured that a progress report on this issue would be presented in the next meeting. Regarding the electricity supply to the industrial estate connected to the Akram Durrani College feeder in Bannu, a mutual meeting between the board, relevant departments, and college officials will be held to develop a clear roadmap for the committee on how to proceed.

At the committee's request, officials from the University of Technology welcomed the idea of a possible visit to the university.

## Training Program on "Certified Seed Potato Production" Held at NARC

TIMES REPORT

ISLAMABAD: A three-day training program on Certified Seed Potato Production, was organized at the National Agricultural Research Center (NARC) in Islamabad from January 7-9, 2025.

The training, focused on the Aeroponic Potato Seed Production System, witnessed the participation of forty individuals, including representatives from seed companies, agricultural extension services, and farmers from across the country.

Addressing the training session, Dr. Chulam Muhammad Ali (S.I.),

Chairman PARC, highlighted the significance of developing aeroponic potato seeds for Pakistan.

He said that traditional potato cultivation yields only five tubers per plant, whereas aeroponic systems can produce between 50 to 60 tubers per plant.

Despite cultivating potatoes on approximately 850,000 acres, Pakistan remains heavily reliant on the importation of 6,000 to 12,000 tonnes of seed potatoes annually due to the compromised quality of locally produced seeds.

This dependency places a financial strain on the country, as farmers struggle with other members, including Samiullah, Asif Khan, Sher Ali Afridi, Ali Shah, Secretary of Planning and Development Shahid Ullah Khan, Special Secretary of Industries Anwar Khan, MD SIDB Habib Ullah Arif, Deputy Commissioner of Swat Shehzad Mahboob, officials from the Departments of Finance,

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its financial and technical contributions to Pakistan agricultural sector.

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Korea are collaborating on the production of seed potatoes using aeroponics technology.

This partnership between the Korea Partnership for Innovation of Agriculture (KOPIA) and the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) aims to enhance agricultural productivity, reduce post-harvest losses, promote on-farm processing, facilitate human resource development, and create substantial employment opportunities.

tems can produce between 50 to 60 tubers per plant. Despite cultivating potatoes on approximately 850,000 acres, Pakistan remains heavily reliant on

illusion of legitimacy by misusing its registration status to gain public trust. SECP clarified that the Company or unregistered entities are not authorized to accept deposits/ investments in any form or arrangement. The commission strongly warned the general public not to invest or deposit funds with Summit 4X Trade/Summit AH Experts/Summit AH Experts (SMC-Private) Limited or any similar illegal

investment or deposit-taking platform. The statement added, the name of the Company to the "List of Companies Engaged in Unauthorized Activities" on the SECP's official website. In addition, SECP has referred this matter to the relevant investigative authorities for further action against those involved in this illegal activity.

The general public is once again

reminded that a company's "Certificate of Incorporation" only confirms its registration with the SECP and does not authorize the company to raise deposits or launch investment schemes.

The SECP urged individuals to remain vigilant and verify the legitimacy of any investment opportunity through its official channels.—APP

**Water & Sanitation Services Company Mardan**  
Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa  
Registered under Section 25 of Companies Ordinance, 1984

### Auction Notice

Water and Sanitation Services Company Mardan intends to invite sealed bids from interested Individuals / Companies / Firms having registration with FBR for the Dismantling of OHR and removing of material from the site, through Auction located at FaramKoroona, Dagai Mardan on As is where it is basis. The Lump sum base price for the whole work is PKR: 2,087,553/- (Exclusive of all taxes).

S. No	OHR Location	Capacity in Gallons	Contact Person
1	FaramKoroona Dagai Mardan	100,000	Abdul Nabi (0315-1912094)

**GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS:**

- Interested and eligible Individuals / Companies / Firms may obtain Auction documents upon written request from the office of WSSCM.
- Interested bidder will be required to submit its sealed bid along with 5% of the bid amount as bid security in the shape of call deposit receipt in favor of "Chief Executive Officer WSSC Mardan". The same shall be released to the unsuccessful bidders. The security deposits of three highest bidders shall be retained with the authority till finalization of auction process. The bid without Bid security shall be considered as non-responsive.
- The Individuals / Companies / Firms shall submit the sealed bids on or before 28th January 2025 at 02:30 PM which will be opened on the same day at 03:00 PM in the presence of bidders or their authorized representatives, who wish to attend.
- The Individuals / Companies / Firms are advised to inspect OHRs at location / address mentioned above prior to auction date and time. The OHRs shall be auctioned in standing condition above the ground.
- The OHR dismantling shall be done only for the super structure that is no foundation dismantling shall involve.
- The water supply pipes along with all accessories in the OHR will be the property of WSSCM and shall be handed over to WSSCM during and after dismantling of OHR.
- The Reinforcement / Steel and brick during and after dismantling will be the property of successful Individuals / Companies / Firms.
- It shall be the responsibility of the successfully Individuals / Companies / Firms to remove all the debris from the site by their own risk and cost and give clear site to WSSCM.
- The selected Individuals / Companies / Firms strictly adheres to the terms of reference (TORs) outlined for the demolition of the Overhead Reservoir (OHR). All procedures regarding site clearance, dispose of dismantled material and extracted material must be fulfilled without any deviations. The Selected Individuals / Companies / Firms/bidders must duly sign the terms of reference and ensure strict compliance will all the specified requirements outlined herein.
- All terms & conditions are mentioned in the auction bid documents.
- The successful bidder shall pay all applicable Govt. taxes / KPRA taxes as per prevailing rates.
- In case of bids where collusion/pooling/cartel is observed or reported, the process will be cancelled and legal action will be taken under the law.
- The competent authority reserves the right to accept or reject the bid or bids assigning cogent reason thereof.

**MANAGER (HR & ADMIN)**  
Address: Muhabbatabad Bungalow, opposite Gulberg Town, Muhabbatabad, Mardan  
Phone # 0937-840892

## SECP alerts public against fraudulent investment scheme

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has identified another illegal deposit taking investment scheme being operated under the name of Summit 4X Trade and Summit AH Experts.

According to SECP press release issued here Thursday, the scheme's sponsors, Abdul Hai and Summar Abbas, are mainly targeting the residents of dis-

trict Layyah through branch offices, WhatsApp and calls. They persuade the people to make investment in Summit 4X Trade and Summit AH Experts promising lucrative profits of upto 30 percent.

To further their deceptive motives, Abdul Hai has registered a Company named Summit AH Experts (SMC-Private) Limited with SECP under the Companies Act, 2017, to create an



# SPORTS

## Pak-WI test series tickets sale starts in Multan on today



## PCB unveils domestic cricket schedule for 2025 season

TIMES REPORT

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Thursday unveiled schedule of the men's domestic cricket tournaments for the 2025 season with three first-class tournaments including the ongoing President's Trophy Grade I. Apart from the red-ball, focus will also be placed on white-ball tournaments, which include one 50-over List-A event, three T20 and one non-first-class three-day tournament.



Development cricket has seen some exciting changes as well with the introduction of the U15 and U17 tournaments, and the Champions U19 One-Day Cup and three-day Trophy. These three events

will serve as a clear pathway for aspiring and talented cricketers.

A total of 21 domestic, age-group and pathways tournaments are set to take place in 2025. This includes a minimum

of 131 first-class, 37 50-over List-A and 119 T20 matches. Additionally, the club, age-group, schools, colleges and universities tournaments are set to yield more than 10,000 matches across the country, further creating opportunities for emerging cricketers. The 18-team National T20 Cup will take place in March and will provide opportunities to players from 16 regions across Pakistan to showcase their talent in the shortest format.

## KP U-19 Cricket League Trophy unveiled

TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: The unveiling ceremony of the trophy for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's first Under-19 Cricket League organized through a collaboration between Insaaf Sports and Cultural Organization and Markhor Builders was held at Peshawar Sports Complex. The event's chief guest was Provincial Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Syed Fakhar Jehan accompanied by Member Provincial Assembly Fazal Elahi, Markhor Builders' owner Nabeel Afridi, Tameer Builders' Zia-ul-Haq Afridi, President of Peshawar District Cricket Association Asghar Ali, Secretary Hanif Shah, and event organizers Zulfiqar and Shakeel. Presidents and players from various clubs also attended the ceremony. For the first time in the province's history the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Under-19 Cricket League will feature 40 teams from across

the province. Eight players from Pakistan's Under-19 cricket team will also participate representing various teams. All league matches will be played at Peshawar Gymkhana Ground. Speaking

ensure that the talent of the province's youth does not go to waste. We are providing them with the best facilities so that they can shine on the global stage he said. The minister also announced



at the ceremony Provincial Minister Syed Fakhar Jehan stated that the provincial government is investing in players and future heroes. He emphasized the importance of organizing consistent sports activities and supporting players for national and international competitions. Our aim is to

cash prizes of PKR 200,000 for the winners, PKR 100,000 for the runner-up and PKR 50,000 each for the best bowler and batsman. Member Provincial Assembly Fazal Elahi in his speech appreciated the organization of such a significant event at the provincial level.

## KP female players honoured for remarkable performance in US Junior Squash Championship

TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs, Syed Fakhar Jehan, has praised the remarkable performance of the province's female players in the US Junior Squash Championship and assured that the provincial government will fully support and encourage them. He awarded a cash prize of Rs.500,000 to Mahnoor, who won the gold medal in the



US Squash Under-13 Junior Category, and Rs.200,000 to Seharish, who won the bronze medal. In this regard, on Thursday, both players hailing from the province, Mahnoor and Seharish, met with the Provincial

Minister at his office. The Minister lauded their performance at the Junior Squash Championship in the United States and said that they are a great asset to both the province and the country, as they are

making their mark internationally. He emphasized that the vision of Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur and Founder Chairman Imran is to support athletes and talent. He added that efforts are being made to encourage talented players in every possible way. The Minister extended his best wishes for further success to Mahnoor and Seharish in the future.

## Pakistan's young squash prodigies receive warm welcome

TIMES REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Squash Federation (PSF) accorded a warm welcome to the country's young squash prodigies, Mahnoor Ali Khan and Sehrish Ali, upon their arrival to the country at Bacha Khan International Airport on late Wednesday. According to a statement issued here by PSF, the two sisters have brought immense pride to Pakistan with their outstanding accom-



plishments on the international stage. Mahnoor Ali Khan, the top-ranked player in Asia in the U-13 category, showcased her dominance by clinching both the U.S. Junior Open and

the Scottish Junior Open titles. Her sister, Sehrish Ali secured the bronze medal at the Scottish Junior Open. Group Captain (R) Irfan Asghar, Director of Academies PSF,

received the champions at the airport. A large number of squash enthusiasts, players and supporters also gathered at the airport to celebrate the young athletes' feats.

## Fakhar Zaman declares full fitness, ready for Champions Trophy

TIMES REPORT

LAHORE: Pakistan cricket team's opening batter Fakhar Zaman has announced his full fitness, stating that he will be in action during the upcoming Champions Trophy.

In an interview with a private TV channel, Fakhar revealed that many were unaware he had been unwell following the T20 World Cup. His poor health prevented him from being fully fit, which is why he wasn't part of the national team.



He explained that he skipped tours to Australia and South Africa to focus on regaining fitness for the Champions Trophy.

Fakhar emphasized that preparing for the tournament was always on his

mind, as the Champions Trophy marked a phenomenal start to his career, and he is excited about the upcoming edition.

Speaking about Saim Ayub, Fakhar expressed hope and prayers for his swift

recovery. He praised Saim as a talented cricketer who, if consistent over the next 4-5 years, could become one of the top players globally.

Fakhar also mentioned feeling fortunate to be part of the team alongside Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan. He stated that while opening was his priority, he is willing to adjust his batting position based on the team's requirements, reaffirming that the team's needs always come first.

## New year sports kits among City Girls College players distributed

TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: Principal of City Girls College Gulbahar, Rabia Sikandar, distributed the college's new year sports kits among the college's female sports players for inter-class sports competitions. On this occasion, the college's Director of Sports

Najma Qazi and Cricket and Hockey Coach Abdul Aleem were also present. The college principal distributed the kits to the players of cricket, hockey, badminton, volleyball and various sports. Addressing the players, the college principal said that they should work hard to perform well in sports

competitions. He expressed the hope that the players of City Girls College will perform well in all sports competitions. He said that in the upcoming inter-zonal competitions, the players of City Girls College will play excellent games in various sports and will win first position for the college. The col-

lege's Director of Sports Najma Qazi said that the college is working hard with all the players, the fruits of which will be seen on the field of play. All the players have the passion to present the best game, which will make the name of City College famous throughout the province.

## AC Milan revel in Riyadh support as they celebrate incredible EA EA Sports FC SuperCup victory

SHAKEEL UR REHMAN

PESHAWAR: AC Milan praised the support they have received in Saudi Arabia for helping to inspire an incredible 3-2 comeback victory in the EA Sports FC Supercup final over holders and rivals Inter Milan in Riyadh on Monday.

Tammy Abraham's injury-time winner sparked joyous scenes from the AC Milan players, bench and fans packed into Al Awwal Park, united in celebration of sporting drama at its most thrilling. Having

fallen behind to goals from Inter strikers Lautaro Martinez and Mehdi Taremi in first half injury time and just after the interval respectively, AC Milan then produced a turnaround for the ages.

Firstly, Theo Hernandez curled in a free-kick from the edge of the penalty area in the 52nd minute before Christian Pulisic struck home from an angle with 10 minutes remaining. Pulisic's exquisite injury-time pass was then latched onto by substitute Rafael

Leao, who played a key role in the comeback, said: "It was not easy, especially the first half but I really believed in the signs the guys gave me during the week.

I changed just a few things, and they were good ones; I truly believe in my

work and in my staff. We need to have the right mentality to change the rest of the season. I accepted AC Milan and I'm happy.

We have been hosted in a wonderful way in Saudi and I want to thank all the organizers and fans. "Conceicao took over from Portuguese countryman Paulo Fonseca at the helm of the San Siro side on December 30.

Leao, the AC Milan No.10 who played such a key role in the comeback, said: "I must thank the Saudi fans; they have been incredible. They created a

beautiful vibe. Winning something

with Milan is full of emotion. It's a collective win, I also thank all of my team-mates and the coach too.

The coach brought a fresh mentality and new energy. We believed it till the end. This trophy is an opportunity to change the rest of the season. "For Inter, there was only one disappointment in a city that has served them so well over the past few years. The Saudi Arabian capital has been the host of two of the Nerazzurri's last three Italian

Supercup triumphs, meaning Inter were thwarted in their bid for a treble in Riyadh to crown a record four wins in succession.

Simone Inzaghi, the Inter Milan manager, told the post-final press conference: "We reopened the game with our mistakes and Milan did a few strategic changes. We had to do something more in the last 20 minutes. We will go back with a defeat, but we will do better.

We missed good players, but this is football at the end. Losing a derby is hard, but we will react positively and be ready as soon as possible for our following games." The Supercup final defeat for the Nerazzurri followed a late goal loss in Serie A to the Rossoneri in September. Serie A champions Inter are currently third in the Italian league, with AC Milan eighth. Federico



DiMarco, the Inter Milan left wing-back, added: "A team like us can't lose from 2-0. We did a few mistakes and congratulations to the Milan. All defeats help us to improve. Losing the derby in a final is not easy, but we will improve and make it better.

The team give everything, the opponent was strong. It's the second time they have scored against us in the final minutes. We will wake up and get ready for the following games. We won the last three Supercups. Everything was

beautiful, the vibes were good, but this time I can't say I'm fully happy." The EA Sports FC Supercup is being staged in Saudi Arabia - where some 80% of the population either play, attend, or follow football - for the fifth time. AC Milan entered the competition as runners up of last season's Serie A, while Juventus were included as Coppa Italia winners. Supercup holders Inter won Serie A, while the team they beat 2-0 on Thursday, Atalanta, lost to Juve in May's Coppa Italia final.



thrilling. Having

Leao to play in fellow



## Pope Francis, ramping up criticism of Israel, calls situation in Gaza 'shameful'



# WORLD NEWS

## Tensions high in Mozambique as opposition leader due home from exile

MAPUTO: Security forces prevented people from reaching the airport in Mozambique's capital on Thursday as the opposition leader Venancio Mondlane was due to arrive home from exile to push his claim that he won presidential elections.

At one of several barriers erected around the airport, security forces shot and wounded one of hundreds of mostly young people wanting to reach the airport to welcome Mondlane home, an AFP reporter at the scene said. Mondlane announced last week that he would land at Maputo's international airport at around 8:00 a.m. (0600 GMT) in a bid to continue his demand for "electoral truth" after the October vote. He claims that the election was rigged in favor of the candidate of the ruling Frelimo party,

Daniel Chapo, who is due to be sworn in on January 15. The election dispute has unleashed waves of violence that have left around 300 people dead, including protesters killed in a police crackdown, according to a tally by a local rights group.

Authorities say police have also been killed and there has been looting and vandalism.

There are fears that the charismatic Mondlane could be arrested on his return, including on charges related to the weeks of protests by his supporters, many of them young Mozambicans desperate for change after 50 years under Frelimo.

Any government action against Mondlane could send Mozambique — still scarred by years of civil war — into a major crisis, analysts said.

"If the government arrests Venancio, there will be an international outcry and potentially very dangerous demonstrations," said Eric Morier-Genoud, an African history professor at Queen's University Belfast.

"If they don't arrest him, he will occupy the center and Frelimo will be weakened just a few days before the inauguration of the deputies and the president."

Mondlane's return gives people hope, said Fatima Pinto, 20, who trained as a general medical technician. "We young people are here fighting for our tomorrow," she said, echoing a key complaint among the youth about not being able to find work that matches their qualifications. (Agencies)

## Russia battles Kyiv drone strike blaze for second day

MOSCOW: Russian firefighters on Thursday battled for a second day to put out a blaze caused by a Ukrainian drone strike on an oil depot in the city of Engels, some 500 kilometers from Russia's southern border. The blaze, which started on Wednesday, killed at least 13 people and wounded more than 100. "Emergency services are continuing to put out the consequences of the drone attack," Saratov governor Roman Busargin said in a telegram. "Specialists say that it will take some time to complete the burnout process," he added. Busargin said there was "no threat" to residential buildings. (Agencies)

## Kremlin declines to accept responsibility for plane crash

MOSCOW: The Kremlin on Thursday declined to say Russian forces accidentally shot at an Azerbaijani plane which crashed last month, despite Azerbaijan repeatedly urging it to accept responsibility for the fatal disaster. Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev has said the Azerbaijani Airlines passenger jet, which crashed in Kazakhstan on December 25, killing 38 people, was shot at "from the ground" over the Russian city of Grozny where it had been due to land.

Russia has said its air defenses were working at the time rejecting Ukrainian drones but has stopped short of saying it shot at the plane. Aliyev, a close



ally of Moscow, this week repeated that "guilt" lay with Russia and accused it of "concealment" of the real causes. "We are interested in an absolutely objective and impartial investigation in order to establish the causes of this catastrophe," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Thursday. "We are waiting for the results of the commission," he added, saying Russian "specialists are giving their full cooperation." Russian President Vladimir Putin called Aliyev twice since the disaster. The Kremlin said he had apologized for the fact the incident took place over Russian airspace but its account of the phone calls do not say Putin accepted responsibility.

Aliyev has expressed anger over Moscow's handling of the crash.

He issued fierce criticism and demanded an apology earlier this week, calling on Moscow to punish those responsible for the "criminal" shooting of the plane. Aliyev said air defense measures for Grozny — the capital of Russia's Chechnya republic — were only announced after the plane had been "shot from the ground."

Azerbaijan says the plane was riddled with holes and that preliminary results of its investigation show it was accidentally hit by a Russian air defense missile. (Agencies)

## Baby born on migrant vessel in Atlantic; Spanish rescuers

MADRID: Spanish coast guards rescued a baby that was born on an inflatable vessel carrying migrants to the Canary Islands, authorities said on Thursday.

The newborn was recovered safely along with their mother on Monday, the coast guard service said in a message on X. They were the latest to make the crossing that has seen thousands of migrants try to reach the Atlantic archipelago from Africa. "Christmas ended in the Canaries with the rescue of a baby born while crossing the sea," the coast guard said. A coast guard boat "rescued a mother who had given birth aboard the inflatable craft in which she was traveling with a large group of people." The two were taken by helicopter to Arrecife on the island of Lanzarote, it added. A record 46,843 undocumented migrants reached the Canary Islands in 2024 via the Atlantic route, official data showed this month. (Agencies)

## Taliban say India is a "significant regional partner" after meeting

KABUL: The Taliban's foreign office said they saw India as a "significant regional and economic partner" after meeting with its most senior foreign ministry official, the highest level talks with Delhi since their takeover of Afghanistan in 2021.

India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri met acting Taliban Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi in Dubai on



Wednesday. India has been developing for goods to bypass the ports of Karachi and Gwadar in its rival Pakistan. "In line with Afghanistan's balanced and economy-focused foreign policy, the Islamic

Emirate aims to strengthen political and economic ties with India as a significant regional and economic partner," the statement from Afghanistan's foreign ministry said late on Wednesday.

India's foreign ministry said after the Delhi meeting that India was considering engaging in development projects in Afghanistan and looking to boost trade ties. (Agencies)

### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DIVISION TORGHAR

## NOTICE INVITING E-BIDDING

(Single stage two envelope Procedure E- bidding System)

S#	Name of work	ESTIMATED COST IN (MILLIONS)	BID SECURITY 2% OF ESTIMATED COST AND STAMP DUTY
(A)	08 Nos: Sub Schemes of Public Health Engineering Sector under ADP Scheme# 895/170340, Special Development Package Phase-II District Torgghar.		
1	Water Supply Scheme New Killy Akazai	28.885	617700/-
2	Sanitation Scheme Karor Madakhel	8.925	187500/-
3	Sanitation Scheme Maira Madakhel	14.868	337360/-
4	Water Supply Scheme Dillo Bala & Paryeen Madakhel	30.000	640000/-
5	Water Supply Scheme Surmal Akazai	25.000	540000/-
6	Water Supply Scheme Kardanow Nasratkhel	25.000	540000/-
7	Water Supply Scheme Surband Baskhel	25.000	540000/-
8	Water Supply Scheme (Solar Pressure Pump) Gul Dheri	13.921	318420/-

- TERMS & CONDITIONS.**
- Bidding documents included instruction to bidder can be downloaded up to one day prior to the opening date from Public Health Engg. Department web site at the address ([www.phepk.gov.pk](http://www.phepk.gov.pk)).
  - Last date & time of submission of the CDR/bid is 04.02.2025 at 12:00 (Noon). Technical bids will be opened on at 12:00 P.M. in office of undersigned in presence of the contractors or their authorized representative, who go to attend.
  - The eligible bidder are required to send their bids through courier service or by hand along with their PEC/Renewal for the year 2024-25 and hard copies of all relevant documents.
  - The bidders shall submit as single envelope (Sealed Bid) containing two separate sealed envelope of Financial and Technical proposals.
  - The bid security and quoted rates in the BOQs shall provided in sealed Financial Proposal Envelope and duly stamped with firms' Co Seals.
  - No Refundable Bidding Entry Fee @ 0.03% of Tender cost along with earnest money & stamp duty both in the shape of separate call deposit may be furnished (in original) in this office as recommended by the Sub Committee of the Cabinet notified Vide Section Officer (confidential) Chief Minister Secretariat Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Peshawar No. SO/(C/CMS/KPK/2021/2828-31) dated 05.04.2021.
  - No bank Guarantee is acceptable.
  - After opening of technical bids, the detail scrutiny of documents of the bids will be carried out, the mandatory hard copies of the following documents must be attached with the bid, if the bidder fails to submit any of the following mandatory hard copies of following documents, the bid will be non-responsive and straightaway will be rejected. (i) CNIC copy of bidder. (ii) BOQ downloaded from net/(iii) valid PEC registration of the bidder (iv) Valid enlistment certificate from works department/(v) Valid KPPRA online verification form (vi) valid FBR online verification Form (vii) The Bidders who quote rate More than 10% below on the BOQ shall deposit additional call deposit in form of percentage on estimated cost with the bid as per KPPRA Notification No. S.R.O (14) Vol:1-24/2021-22 dated 10.05.2022. They shall also submit rates analysis attached with bids duly certified by Engineer in charge of their Firms, otherwise without additional CDR and rate analysis the bid will be considered as non responsive and straight away will be rejected.
  - Registration with the Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) for solar works (at S.No.8) under EE-11 (Solar) is mandatory for all bidders.
  - The bidder shall in addition place an affidavit in technical proposal stating that a bid security amounting 2% percent without indicating the Figure in the letter, has been placed in the financial proposal or bid otherwise the technical proposal will be considered non-responsive and will be returned to the bidder after being examined by the procurement committee.
  - The procuring entity reserve the right to accept/reject or declare non responsive any or all the participating bidder by assigning cogent reason.
  - The Call deposit/ additional Security of all the contractors will be retained till approval of the tenders by the tender approving authority.
  - All others terms and conditions are as per KPPRA rules, PEC, SBDs and other relevant laws.
  - All bidders are required to be registered with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue authority established under the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Finance Act, 2013 (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Act No. XXI of 2013) for works, consulting and non-consulting services as listed in schedule -II of the Act (bid)

**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER** (IN/P) 87/25  
**PUBLIC HEALTH ENGG: DIVISION TORGHAR**



ومن حیبا فانما حیبا الناس جمیعاً اور جس نے کسی انسان کی جان بچائی، گو یا اس نے پوری انسانیت کو بچایا (القرآن)

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## Governor Kundi condemns abduction of 16 employees in Lakki Marwat

BY:APP

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Thursday condemned the abduction of 16 employees from a government mining project in Lakki Marwat and the burning of the company's staff vehicle.

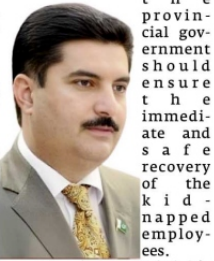
In a statement, the Governor expressed deep concern, calling the incident tragic and unacceptable.

He emphasized that those attempting to spread unrest in the province will

not be allowed to succeed under any circumstances.

The Governor said that the provincial government should ensure the immediate and safe recovery of the kidnapped employees.

He also extended his



sympathy to the affected families and appealed to the public to cooperate with government authorities in identifying and reporting the elements responsible for disturbing peace in the area.

### Governor Kundi visits Karachi to attend Governor's Conference

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi, on Thursday visited Karachi to attend the Governor's Conference on January 11.

The Governor's Conference will be held at the invitation of Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori.

Apart from the conference, Governor Faisal Karim Kundi will also attend the wedding ceremony of the Sindh Chief Minister's daughter.

During his stay in Karachi, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor will be residing at the Governor House, Sindh.—APP

## KP Govt committed to equip food authority with advanced High tech tools; Zahir Toru

TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Minister Zahir Shah Toru paid a visit to the Central Food Testing Laboratory in Hayatabad on Wednesday. The laboratory is operated by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety and Halal Food Authority. During the visit, the minister was briefed on the ongoing civil work and the functional state-of-the-art testing equipment at the laboratory.

The Director General of the Food Authority Wasif Saeed along with other officials, including Director Administration Abdul Rehman, Director Operations Akhtar Nawaz, and Director Technical Dr. Abdul Sattar Shah, were present during the visit.

The minister was informed that the laboratory is equipped with modern food testing machinery, including MilkoScan, Meat Testing Lab, CDR, P-NIR, Idexx Solution, ELISA, and incubators. These machines are actively being used to analyze various food samples. Additionally, other equipment such as the TDS meter, I-Check

Chroma, Sonicator, Laminar Flow Hood, Autoclave, and pH meter were reported to be fully functional.

Speaking on the occasion, Zahir Shah Toru stated that the Food Authority was established



to ensure the scientific evaluation of edible items. He highlighted that, apart from the Central Food Testing Laboratory, the authority is also operating 12 mobile food testing laboratories across the province.

The minister noted that KP Government is the first province in Pakistan to employ MilkoScan technology for assessing the quality of milk. He emphasized that providing citizens with safe and high-quality food is the top priority of the provincial government.

## Govt. focusing to introduce market oriented subjects in educational institutions; Meena Khan

TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Higher Education, Meena Khan Afridi has said that provincial government is focusing to include market oriented subjects in educational institutions and make universities financially self-sustainable.

He expressed these views during inaugural ceremony of newly established Institute of Health Sciences at the University

of Peshawar. The institute was inaugurated by Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali



Amin Gandapur, The provincial minister said that new institute marks a significant milestone for further increasing standard of University

ter said that new institute marks a significant milestone for further increasing standard of University

tiatives is to produce graduates who not only serve society but also create employment opportunities instead of falling victim to unemployment" he added.

He also announced the introduction of a ranking system to evaluate performance of universities and colleges in KP adding that under ranking system institutions would be ranked based on specific indicators.

## Police to allow visitors in MPAs hostel after member's permission; Suryia Bibi

BY:APP

PESHAWAR: Deputy Speaker Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly, Suryia Bibi has directed police and special branch personnel to

allow visitors in MPA Hostel after getting permission from concerned assembly member.

She was chairing a meeting of KP Assembly Standing Committee on House and Archives. She said that keeping in view existing security situation; visitors should be allowed entry in MPA hostel after getting approval from concerned member.

The meeting was also attended by MPAs including Mian

Sharafat Ali, Abdul Munim, Abdul Kabir, Iftikhar Mashwani, Muhammad Usman, Aasma Salim and Sehla Bano besides officials of finance department and estate office.

Deputy Speaker also directed to enhance security of MPA hostel and warned action against those found guilty of ignoring responsibilities. She also directed estate office to train staff working in MPAs hostel and arrange weekly training session for them.

On the occasion, meeting was also briefed about progress being made on previous decisions of standing committee. It was told that new tender has been approved for hostel canteen and funds would be released very soon for construction of new bloc in the hostel.

Meeting also took decisions to ensure provision of basic amenities in MPAs hostel and agreed to form interdepartmental and auction committee that would put efforts to solve problems.

## 'Youth Climate Education and Fellowship Program on Climate Governance', concluded

TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: Youth can advocate for evidence-based policy development to mitigate climate change impacts by exercising Right to Information (RTI). It was stated by Mrs. Farah Hamid Khan, Chief Information Commissioner, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Commission (KPIC) while addressing the conclusion ceremony of a collaborative program of Transparency International Pakistan and University of Peshawar 'Youth Climate Education & Fellowship Program on Climate Governance', here at Business Incubation Centre, University of Peshawar on Thursday.

Chief Commissioner, KPIC added "RTI helps students in research, to uncover data regarding emissions, government spending, and environmental impacts.

It also can highlight gaps or deficiencies in current climate policies".

## SACM directs to RTAs to dismantle all illegal transport Adda's across KP

TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on said that illegal transport Addas should be dismantled immediately, while those that are not registered should be registered immediately. He has said that the Adda,s that have not been renewed their license for years should be renewed

immediately. He directed the relevant authorities to take serious action against illegal, unregistered



and unexpired transport Adda,s. Registration and renewal of Transport Adda,s will make it

possibly increase revenue of the department as well as of the province. He expressed these

views while chairing a meeting in his office regarding illegal transport Adda,s.

## Historic steps to provide edu'l facilities in province, Pir Musavir

TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: A delegation of teachers met with Pir Musavir Khan, the Special Assistant to the Chief Minister KP on Forest, Environment, Wildlife, and Climate Change, at his office in the Civil Secretariat, Peshawar. The delegation was led by Senior Teacher Rahat Khan. During the meeting, the teachers' delegation informed the Special Assistant about the shortage of teachers, educational facilities, teacher regularization, and other issues in Agra and surrounding union councils in Malakand.

Pir Musavir Khan, while talking to the delegation, stated that the education sector is a fundamental part of the Pakistan

ing to the delegation, stated that the education sector is a fundamental part of the Pakistan



Tehreek-e-Insaf's manifesto and is one of the provincial government's top priorities.

The provincial government has taken practical steps to provide quality education, furniture, and other basic facilities to schools, spending billions of rupees in this regard.

## Fire erupts in forests of Koh-e-Suleman

DI KHAN : A fire suddenly erupted here in forests of Koh-e-Suleman at different points of Darazinda Tehsil last night and spread towards olive and pine forests.

According to local peoples, the fire ignited at four different spots including village Tajori on north side, Al-markan village on South side which is causing damage to valuable trees such as olive, pine nut, nettle, and gur-gure besides harming wildlife and birds in the area.

The Rescue 1122 spokesman informed that the fire has been controlled through a joint operation of rescue 1122 and Wildlife department.

In this emergency, such as smothering and starvation were employed to extinguish the fire, which were effective in high mountainous areas where fire trucks could not reach.

## Effective security measures assured for DHQ, Tank

DI KHAN : SP Investigation Tank, Cadet Haji Nasir Khan has said that concrete measures would be taken to ensure enhanced security on the premises of the District Headquarters Hospital(DHQ) of the district. He expressed these views during a meeting with Medical Superintendent of district hospital Tank, Nisar Ahmed Khan Burki, Dr. Ghulam Qadir Khan Betani and Dr. Aziz Ullah Khan Betani at his office. He assured the hospital officials that police presence within the hospital premises would be ensured on a permanent basis to prevent any untoward incident.

He further stated that the strong relationship between the hospital and police would not only benefit both institutions but also provide a secure and peaceful environment for patients and their families.

## Uplift of special and poor people topmost priority of KP' govt: Faisal Amin

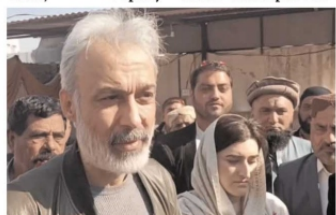
TIMES REPORT

DIKHAN: Member National Assembly Faisal Amin Khan Gandapur has said that special people and the poor have been the top priority of our government.

All the shelters that were closed or inactive are being restarted. The number of langarkhanas is also being further increased. Similarly, steps are being taken to provide facilities for orphans. He expressed these views while talking to media representatives at the ceremony of distributing financial assistance checks to special people at the Shelter

Home Dera Ismail Khan. On this occasion, Deputy Member of National Assembly Faisal Amin Gandapur further said that a few symbolic checks have been distributed today in this regard in this regard for the package being given for financial assistance to special people and this process will continue.

On this occasion, Deputy Member of National Assembly Faisal Amin Gandapur further



Commissioner Dera Ismail Khan Sara Rehman, officers and officials of the Social Welfare Department, political and social figures, dignitaries of the area and a large number of people were present.

## Judicial Academy hols two-day consultative workshop on "Prison Reforms"

PESHAWAR The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Judicial Academy Peshawar on Thursday hosted a 2-day consultative workshop on "Prison Reforms".

Hon'ble Chief Justice Peshawar High Court Peshawar, Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim graced the opening ceremony as Chief Guest.

Other distinguished participants included Justice (ret'd) Qalandar Ali Khan, Ahmad Kareem Kundi MPA, IG Prisons and other prison officials, Judges, Law officers, representatives of civil society organizations, selected prisoners, academicians and researchers.

The objective of this 2-Day workshop was to bring together all stakeholders of the



criminal justice system, including parliamentarians, prison officials, judiciary, law enforcement agencies, civil society organizations, members of the Bar and selected prisoners, to discuss the current situation of prisons and to identify areas of reforms.

In his remarks, Justice Ishtiaq

Ibrahim stated that jail reforms have been a key component of criminal justice

for many reasons. While progress has been made, the desired outcomes have not yet been achieved, and the consequences of inadequate reforms are grave for both individuals and society.

Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim highlighted that some reforms, such as proper prison infrastructure and recruiting sufficient and skilled staff, would naturally take time. It would also require significant funds, however, many issues stem from poor management, poorly designed policies, ill-thought laws, and a lack of clear framework.—APP

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The Chief Justice further elaborated that fresh focus on jail reforms is crucial

## KP cabinet to meet on Jan 13

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa cabinet meeting has been scheduled for January 13, to be chaired by Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur.

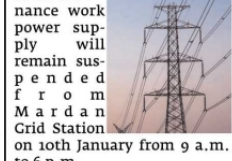
A 35-point agenda has been prepared for the meeting which also included establishment of a new cemetery in Peshawar and approval of a special grant for organizing sports in the merged districts.

The approval of a grant of Rs. 112.5 million for the affectees of Bakkakhel and approval of Rs. 1500 million as a research grant for higher education also included in the agenda.

This meeting will also focus on developmental projects and public welfare initiatives in the province.

## Power suspension in Mardan notified

PESHAWAR: Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO) on Thursday notified



that due to maintenance work power supply will remain suspended from Mardan Grid Station on 10th January from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Consequently, it said consumers of Mardan Medical Complex, Old Industrial, New Industrial, Sheikh Maltoon and BRMC feeders will face inconvenience.