



# PM Launches Health Card for Islamabad, AJK and GB

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday revived and extended the Prime Minister's Health Card programme to Islamabad Capital Territory, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit-Baltistan reaffirming the federal government's commitment to provide quality healthcare as a fundamental right to every citizen, regardless of social or economic status.

Addressing the launch ceremony, attended by Federal Minister for Health, Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan, federal ministers parliamentarians, senior officials including Secretary Health and the Chief Secretary AJK, the prime minister said the initiative marked another major step towards delivering healthcare facilities at people's doorsteps.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif recalled that the health card scheme was first introduced in 2016 under the leadership of Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and later expanded rapidly across provinces. He said there was nothing more valuable in life

than health. "If there is health, there is education; if there is health, there is dignified employment; if there is health, there is progress in every field of life," he remarked.

The PM said affluent segments of society could afford expensive treatment anywhere in the world, but the true test of the state lay in protecting the poor, widows, orphans and daily wage earners who struggle to make ends meet. "If a labourer falls ill and leaves this world without treatment, his children are left in permanent darkness. Healthcare is the right of every Pakistani whether prime minister or street vendor," he said. The prime minister congratulated Federal Health Minister Mustafa Kamal, Secretary Health, and their entire team on the launch, urging them to ensure transparent implementation through third-party monitoring so that treatment is provided at the right facilities and with the right standards. He expressed confidence that honest execution of the programme would not only serve the people but also earn reward in both this world and the hereafter.

## PM reaffirms resolve to crush terrorism, says peace, prosperity remains govt's core objective

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday reaffirmed the government's firm resolve to defeat terrorism through a unified national effort, stressing that peace, stability and prosperity remained the country's core objectives.

Chairing a meeting of the Qaumi Paigham-e-Aman Committee (QPAC) here, the prime minister said the committee would play a pivotal role in strengthening the national narrative against extremism and terrorism, similar to the historic role played by Ulema in the creation of Pakistan. He recalled that Pakistan was created to implement the principles of peace, justice and tolerance, adding that the country was now steadily moving towards prosperity and stability.—APP

# Naqvi, CM Bugti laud FC's role for establishing peace in Balochistan

QUETTA: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi and Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Friday appreciated the valuable role of Frontier Corps (FC) Balochistan North in establishing peace in the province. They expressed these views while visiting the headquarters of Frontier Corps (FC) Balochistan (North). On this occasion, a colorful contingent of FC Balochistan North presented a salute to the Federal Interior Minister and the Chief Minister.

Inspector General (IG) Frontier Corps Balochistan North



Major General Muhammad Atif Muftaba introduced the senior officers to Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti. The Federal Interior Minister and Balochistan Chief Minister visited the Yadgar-e-Shuhada, laid a wreath and offered Fateh. They prayed for the elevation of the ranks of the martyrs of FC Balochistan North and paid tribute to their eternal sacrifices.

IG FC Balochistan North gave a briefing on the force's training, operational preparedness and professional capabilities. Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi and Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti appreciated the valuable role of Frontier Corps Balochistan North in establishing peace in the province.

Mohsin Naqvi said that the sacrifices of FC Balochistan North in the war against terrorism are unforgettable and their services for establishing peace are a bright chapter in history. The Federal Minister further said that the sacrifices made by the officers and men of Frontier Corps Balochistan North to end the Fitna-ul-Hindustan would always be remembered.

Chief Secretary Balochistan and IG Balochistan Police were also present on the occasion.

Visits Tirah Valley, meets with families affected by fresh operation

# Chief Minister Sohail Afridi orders for prompt resolution of Tirah TDPs problems

Says KP govt has raised its voice for peace from day one

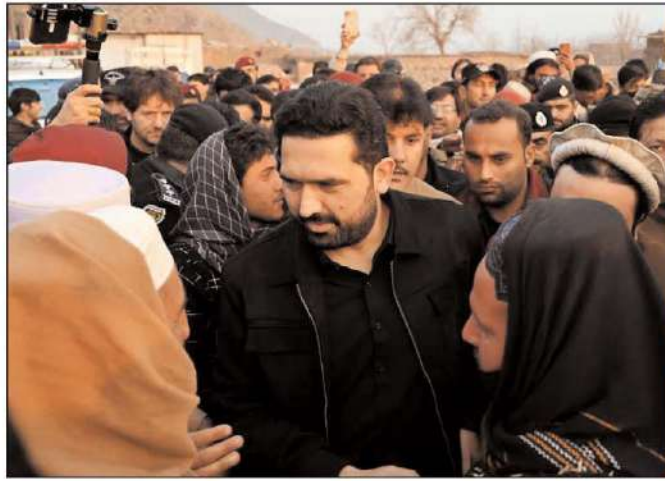
TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Muhammad Sohail Afridi, on Friday, visited Tirah Valley where he met the affectees of the recent Tirah operation and listened to their grievances. The Chief Minister issued on-the-spot directives for the immediate resolution of their problems.

Addressing the affectees, he said that what the people of Tirah are facing is completely unacceptable. Despite repeated failures, decisions are still being taken behind closed doors. After 22 major and nearly 14,000 small military operations, what guarantee is there that peace will now be established? he added.

The Chief Minister said that whenever he demand a change in failed policies, they are labeled as supporters of terrorists, and when they call for consultation, they are

accused of having links with remarked.



smugglers. He added that due to opposition to these policies, he and his tribe are being deliberately targeted. "They know that my heart aches for my people, and that is why my land is being targeted," he

because lasting and sustainable peace can only be achieved through a consensus-based policy formulated with the consultation of all stakeholders," he said.



Muhammad Sohail Afridi said that his government has raised its voice for peace from day one. "We were against the operation yesterday, we are against it today, and we will remain against this failed pol-

icy in the future as well, people, the Chief Minister

pushed into grief and suffering and then left helpless.

He declared that the protection and dignity of the Tirah affectees is now his direct responsibility, warning that any negligence in addressing their issues would be intolerable. The Chief Minister directed all relevant departments to take emergency measures to immediately reduce the hardships of the affected people. He also warned the administration that stopping people at various checkpoints and humiliating them by making them stand in queues would not be tolerated under any circumstances.

He instructed that additional NADRA offices be established on an emergency basis to expedite the registration process and concluded by saying, "I promise my people that we will replace the gun with the pen."

# CM Sohail Afridi to lead historic Hazara Rally: Shafi Jan

TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Information and Public Relations, Shafi Jan, has said that the young Chief Minister of Khyber

Qalandarabad, while public gatherings will be addressed at Pinyan Chowk, Havelian Morr, Fawara Chowk and Mansehra Bazaar. A special reception by youth is also planned at Chamba Pul.

Shafi Jan said that from



Pakhtunkhwa, Muhammad Sohail Afridi, will lead a historic and grand public rally in Hazara Division on Saturday.

In a statement, Shafi Jan said the rally will commence from Hattar Interchange and proceed via CT Road to Mansehra. He added that the Chief Minister will be accorded warm and enthusiastic receptions at Kangra, Sarai Saleh, Shah Maqsood, Lora Chowk, Mandian and

Khyber to Karachi, the founding chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Imran Khan, continues to rule the hearts of the people, reflecting the party's enduring popular support despite adverse circumstances.

He further stated that since the general elections, unannounced restrictions have been imposed on the political activities of PTI across

the country. The founding chairman Imran Khan, along with party leadership and workers, is facing what he termed as unjust imprisonment, while meetings with Imran Khan have remained suspended for months.

He said that the party is also being denied adequate political space for democratic and constitutional activities.

Referring to the street movement, Shafi Jan said that under these conditions, the movement launched under the leadership of Chief Minister Sohail Afridi has emerged as a significant step towards breaking political stagnation. He termed the Hazara rally a continuation of the struggle for public awareness and the protection of democratic rights.

The Special Assistant reiterated that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf will continue its struggle for public rights under the leadership of Imran Khan while remaining within the ambit of the Constitution and law, and will not bow before any form of political coercion.

## Shafi concerned over suspension of Gas Supply to CNG Stations

PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Information and Public Relations, Shafi Jan, has expressed serious concern over the suspension of gas supply to CNG stations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and called for uninterrupted provision of gas to the sector in accordance with the province's quota and constitutional rights.

He made these remarks during a meeting with a representative delegation of the All Pakistan CNG Association, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chapter, which called on him at his office on Friday. The delegation briefed the Special Assistant in detail about the gas shutdown to CNG stations and highlighted the problems and financial losses being faced by the sector due to the suspension.

# Achakzai notified as leader of opposition in NA

BY:APP

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly Secretariat on Friday issued a



notification declaring Mahmood Khan Achakzai, MNA, as the Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly.

According to the notification, issued under Rule 39 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly, 2007, the decision was approved by the Speaker of the National Assembly and has taken effect from Jan 16, 2026.

Achakzai, a senior parliamentarian and head of his party, will now assume the constitutional role of the opposition leader in the lower house of parliament.

The position carries key responsibilities, including consultation in important state appointments and playing a central role in parliamentary oversight.

The Office of the Leader of the Opposition had remained under discussion in recent weeks amid evolving parliamentary alignments.



# CityNews

## PCP Team Visits Pharmacy Deptt UoM, briefed on academic, administrative, and infrastructural

### OUR CORRESPONDENT

**MALAKAND:** Team Members from the Pharmacy Council of Pakistan (PCP), including Dr. Kashif (UVAS, Lahore) and Professor Dr. Noor Jahan (Dow University of Health Sciences, Karachi), visited Department of Pharmacy, University of



Malakand as part of a routine inspection for renewal of PharmD program. Such visits are conducted every five years in accordance with PCP regulations.

During the visit, Prof Dr. Mir Azam Khan, Dean Faculty of Biological Sciences & Prof Dr. Waqar Ahmad, Chairman Department of Pharmacy, University of Malakand delivered detailed presentations on the academic, administrative, and infrastructural aspects of the department.

Faculty members of Department of Pharmacy were also present on the occasion. On behalf of Vice Chancellor, UoM Prof Dr Rashid Ahmad, the Pro-Vice Chancellor, Prof Dr Mir Azam Khan welcomed & addressed the visiting committee, highlighted key issues and expressed appreciation for the continued support of the Pharmacy Council of Pakistan.

The inspection team visited the Department of Pharmacy and expressed satisfaction with its overall progress and facilities. They particularly appreciated the enhancement of student intake from 50 to 100 seats, recognizing it as a significant step toward meeting national needs in pharmaceutical education. The committee also commended the faculty members for their continuous efforts and dedication toward the uplift of the department.

In recognition of its growth and performance, the visiting team recommended that the Department of Pharmacy, University of Malakand, be upgraded to the status of a Faculty in the future.

Prof Dr Mir Azam Khan & Prof Dr Waqar Ahmad Presented Souvenirs to the Team Members of Pharmacy Council & pledged to strive for the uplift of academic activities at Department of Pharmacy, University of Malakand.

## Najeeb Raza completes M.Phil in emerging and highly demanding field of Cyber Security

### OUR CORRESPONDENT

**MALAKAND:** Najeeb Raza successfully completed his MPhil in an emerging and highly demanding field of Cyber Security, with a particular focus on Quantum Cryptography, which has significant



applications in the defense, banking, and financial sectors. His MPhil research, titled "A Quantum-Secure Authentication Protocol for 6G-Enabled Smart Homes Using Kyber KEM and AEGIS," aimed to develop secure, efficient, and future-ready authentication mechanisms capable of protecting smart devices against emerging cyber and quantum threats. The research was conducted under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad, TI, with Dr. Akhtar Badshah serving as Co-Supervisor. Prof. Dr. Aurangzeb Khan, former Vice Chancellor, University of Lakki Marwat, served as the external thesis examiner.

## Irrigation Secy takes action over canal cleaning negligence in Peshawar

### TIMES REPORT

**PESHAWAR:** Acting on the directives of the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Minister for Irrigation and the Chief Secretary, the Secretary Irrigation on Friday took prompt action on a public complaint regarding negligence during canal cleaning in the inner city area of Yakatoot. According to officials, debris left on roads during the cleaning of a canal had caused traffic congestion and created serious difficulties for pedestrians.

## Commissioner calls for dignified, organized return of Afghan Refugees

### OUR CORRESPONDENT

**KOHAT:** Commissioner Kohat Division Syed Motasim Billah Shah chaired a high-level meeting to review the arrangements for the voluntary, orderly and dignified repatriation of Afghan refugees. The meeting, held at the office of the Deputy Commissioner Hangu, brought together refugee elders, community representatives, senior district officials, police officers, and relevant departmental authorities.

The meeting discussed in detail the key operational matters including repatriation schedules, legal requirements, transport arrangements and the establishment of district-level coordination mechanisms.

Commissioner Shah emphasized that the government was committed to ensuring the return process was transparent, well-coordinated and carried out

with human dignity and mutual respect. He directed the adminis-

communities about government procedures and cooperate fully to

and livelihood support and assured authorities of their com-



tration to provide full assistance with registration, travel arrangements, information dissemination and resolution of any administrative issues.

Commissioner urged the refugee elders to inform their

ensure a smooth, phased and organized repatriation. Refugee representatives expressed gratitude to Pakistan, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government and local communities for nearly five decades of hospitality, protection

plete cooperation.

The meeting concluded with a reaffirmation that the repatriation process would continue under mutual trust, cooperation and respect, with district authorities facilitating every stage.

## PPP leader Hamayun criticises KP' govt over poor performance

### TIMES REPORT

**PESHAWAR:** Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Secretary General Muhammad Humayun Khan has strongly criticized the poor performance of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government, stating that the provincial government's priorities are focused on unnecessary political statements and non-serious matters, such as securing the release of a prisoner, instead of addressing the real problems faced by the public.

He said that the situation in health, education, employment, and law and order in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is deteriorating day by day, while the provincial government has completely failed to provide any meaningful relief to the people.

Muhammad Humayun Khan pointed out that government hospitals are facing a severe shortage of basic facilities, educational institutions are in a state of decline, and rising unemployment has made life extremely difficult for the common citizens.

He further stated that the worsening law and order situation in the province is clear evidence that the provincial government is completely disconnected from ground realities. The people are suffering from inflation, unemployment, and insecurity, yet the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa remains focused only on political rhetoric and non-serious actions.

## No place in Lower Dir for any theft, robbery, crime, land mafia: DPO

### JAVED UR REHMAN

**CHAKDARA:** There is no place in Lower Dir for any theft, robbery, crime, land mafia, drug peddler, timber mafia and people involved in immoral activities. SHOs of all police stations should listen to the problems of the people and present themselves with respect and dignity. On public complaints, SHO Noor Akbar and Investigation SHO Javed have been directed to be immediately transferred and brought to the line. District Police Officer Lower Dir Taimur Khan addressed an open court in Police Station Och.

According to the details, an open court was organized in Police Station Och on the instructions of DPO Lower Dir Taimur Khan to resolve the complaints of the people of Tehsil Adenzai and listen to their problems. On this occasion, Circle DSP Muhammad Zaman Traffic DSP Khan Nazar Khan Traffic Incharge Zahid Hussain SHO Police Station Onor Akbar SHO Police Station Chakdara Rahim Gul Khan SHO Police Station Asbanar Muhammad Naeem and dignitaries of the area participated in large numbers from different areas.

People belonging to the Adenzai Tehsil submitted their complaints to the DPO regarding the law and order situation in the area, drug dealers, land mafia, brothels, traders, under-ply begging, and the registration of people residing in the area from outside and the collection of data on crimes.



## Govt urged to take action against occupying of Dostan Coal Company

### MUHAMMAD SALEEM

**PESHAWAR:** The elders of the Akharwal tribe belonging to the Tirah Valley, Darrah Adam Khel, including the current MD of Dostan Coal Company, Haji Ramin Khan, Haji Ghand Shah Salahuddin, Haji Rab Nawaz, Haji Babar, Haji Jan Sabir, Haji Qalandar Khan, Haji Naseem Khan, along with the head of the Stability Pakistan Movement, Muhammad Wasil Bani, addressed a press conference at the Peshawar Press Club on Friday and demanded that the federal government take action against Yousaf, who occupied Dostan Coal Company along with hundreds of others, because on the one hand, a person named Yousaf

is wanted by the government resources, minerals and coal,



for funding banned organizations and there are regular FIRs against him, but now the situation has reached such a point that a person named Yousaf, who has defrauded the people of the area and Dostan Coal Company of four billion rupees, has also occupied the hills of Darrah Adam Khel, a valley of valuable natural

with the help of unknown masked men, through his masked force. Which have become a symbol of terror in the area. Addressing a press conference, the dignitaries of the Akharwal tribe said that a person named Yousuf was a partner in Dostan Coal Company but disappeared from the scene between 2015 and

2025 and fraudulently stole four billion rupees from the company. Now, along with taking control of Dostan Coal Company, he has also taken control of the hills, due to which there is a risk of bloodshed in the area.

They alleged that the head of an armed group named Yousuf has the support of high-ranking officials of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf. They added that the occupation of the hills in the presence of institutions is raising many questions. Because a person first commits fraud of billions of rupees and when we raise our voice against him, our voice is not even heard and now he has taken over the coal company as well as the hills.

## 3rd meeting of the Malakand Varsities Consortium held at UoS

### CORRESPONDENT

**SWAT:** Third meeting of the Malakand Varsities Consortium (M-Varsities Consortium) was held today at University of Swat. The worthy Special Secretary Higher Education, Archives and Libraries Department Mr. Sharif Hussain was the Chief Guest on the occasion, who also chaired the meeting.

Other participants of the meeting included Vice Chancellors from all the participating universities of Malakand Division i.e. University of Swat, University of Malakand, University of Buner, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University, Sheringal, Dir Upper, University of Engineering and Applied Sciences, Swat, University of Agriculture, Swat, University of Veterinary

and Animal Sciences, Swat, while Principal Saidu Medical College also attended the meeting to represent Khyber Medical University,



Peshawar.

The meeting discussed and finalized the working paper while the partner universities also signed the Letter of Intent (LoI), which was designed by Prof. Dr. Hassan Sher, Vice Chancellor, University of Swat to facilitate and leverage the collective strengths of these insti-

tutions to foster innovation, capacity building and socio-economic uplift in the region.

The meeting discussed in details the Key Objectives of the Consortium including Academic Collaboration, Research & Innovation, Faculty & Staff Development, Youth Engagement & Social Development, Policy Advocacy & External Linkages, Governance Structure, and Future Outlook of the consortium.

At the end of the meeting, all the participants thanked the Honourable Special Secretary Higher Education for sparing time and chairing the meeting. The participants also appreciated the Vice Chancellor University of Swat for arranging and hosting the meeting.

## DC declares zero tolerance for child labour, human trafficking

### CORRESPONDENT

**KOHAT:** Deputy Commissioner Kohat Rahimullah Mehsud has on Thursday announced a zero-tolerance policy against the child labour and human trafficking while chairing a review meeting of the District Vigilance Committee.

The meeting reviewed ongoing measures to curb forced child labour, child exploitation and human trafficking and assessed challenges faced by enforcement agencies. Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Hamid Iqbal, officers from the district administration, representatives of line departments and members of civil society attended the session. Briefings were given on actions taken so

far to prevent the exploitation of minors.

The deputy commissioner said child labour remained a serious social

safeguard the children's fundamental rights across the district.

The deputy commissioner also urged the



issue and stressed that its eradication required close coordination and a joint strategy among all the relevant institutions. He directed the authorities to immediately identify individuals involved in child labour and human trafficking and to take strict legal action against them in accordance with the law.

Participants agreed to adopt an integrated and coordinated approach to

public to report cases of child labour or human trafficking to the Deputy Commissioner's Office control room at 0922-920268 or 0922-920032.

The meeting concluded with a renewed commitment to enforce a zero-tolerance policy against the child labour and human trafficking in Kohat, pledging to utilise all available resources to ensure a safe and secure future for children.

از دفتر تحصیل میونسپل ایڈمنسٹریشن واڑی دیر بالا  
نوش برائے تاخیر تاریخ سینڈر  
مجوزہ مورخہ 26/01/2026

برخاص و عام کوڈ ریفرنش کیا جاتا ہے کہ دفتر TMA واڑی نے اخباری  
اشہار روزنامہ "مشرق" مورخہ 09/01/2026 کے ذریعے مختلف ترقیاتی  
کاموں کے لئے ٹینڈر شہر کئے تھے۔

مذکورہ اشہار میں ٹینڈر کی تاریخ 26/01/2026 مقرر کی گئی تھی جس کو تیدیل  
کر کے مورخہ 03/02/2026 مقرر کیا گیا ہے یعنی مذکورہ ٹینڈر مورخہ  
03/02/2026 کو ہوگا۔ باقی تمام شرائط و ضوابط حسب مذکورہ اشہار ہوں گی۔

لہذا نوٹ فرمائیں۔

تحصیل آفسر انفراسٹرکچر اینڈ سروسز | تحصیل میونسپل آفیسر  
تحصیل میونسپل ایڈمنسٹریشن واڑی | تحصیل میونسپل ایڈمنسٹریشن واڑی

INF(P): 273/26 Zero Tolerance To Corruption



# Ambassador Wunna Han highlights historic Myanmar-Pakistan ties on “78th Independence Day”



# TWIN CITIES

## Speaker Ayaz Sadiq names Mehmood Achakzai Leader of Opposition

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Friday formally notified Mehmood Khan Achakzai as Leader of the Opposition in the Lower House of Parliament.

According to the notification issued by the National Assembly Secretariat, the appointment was made under Rule 39 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly, 2007. Achakzai will assume the role with immediate effect.

The Speaker handed over the official notification to a delegation of opposition members, including MNAs Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, Junaid Akbar, Sardar Latif Khosa, Jamal Ehsan Khan, Shehram Khan, Shandana Gulzar, Makhdoom Zain Qureshi, Ali Asghar Khan, Malik Anwar Taj and Yousaf Khan.

Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar and Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam were also present at the occasion.

## Dr. Muhammad Waqas Completes Ph.D degree

### TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: Dr. Muhammad Waqas, Veterinary Officer at the Livestock and Dairy Development Department (Extension), has successfully completed his PhD from Agriculture University Peshawar under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Sarzamin Khan, Chairman of the Department of Poultry Science. He defended his research dissertation on Wednesday.

The dissertation was reviewed by experts from the USA and Canada, who praised its quality and academic value. During the defense seminar, Dr. Waqas provided satisfactory answers to all questions raised by participants.

The ceremony was attended by Dr. Muhammad Sajid, Director of Advanced Studies and Research; Prof. Dr. Umer Saddique, former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Sciences, Swat; Prof. Dr. Murad Ali, Principal of the College of Veterinary Sciences; Dr. Muhammad Sohail, Chairman of the Department of Livestock Management; faculty members, officers, and postgraduate students.

## Residents of Gulbahar No. 3 Suffer due severe gas outages

### TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: The gas crisis in the densely populated area of Gulbahar No. 3 in Peshawar has intensified, leaving residents in severe distress. Citizens receive gas supply for only 2 to 3 hours in a 24-hour period, while the area remains completely without gas for the remaining 21 hours, severely disrupting daily life.

According to local residents, gas supply is completely suspended during school and office hours. From 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, there is no gas at all. Gas is briefly restored at noon but is again shut off by 1:00 p.m., and remains unavailable until 8:00 p.m.

Residents say that due to the extremely limited gas supply, cooking meals, preparing breakfast for children, and managing other household activities have become nearly impossible, causing particular hardship for women, the elderly, and students.

Locals complain that despite repeatedly lodging complaints with the relevant departments, no action has been taken, leading to growing frustration and anxiety among the public.

The residents of Gulbahar No. 3 have strongly appealed to senior authorities, Sui Gas management, and the provincial government to take immediate notice, ensure uninterrupted gas supply, and relieve the area from this severe crisis, warning that failure to act may lead to public protest.

## ISSI, IFA sign MoU to formalize institutional relationship

ISLAMABAD, Jan 16 (APP):The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) formalized an institutional relationship with Ethiopia's Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA), based in Addis Ababa, by concluding a Memorandum of Understanding

respective sides, said a press release issued on Friday.

The MoU was facilitated by the Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East and Africa (CAMEA). The signing ceremony was also attended by Atif Mian Sharif, Ambassador of Pakistan to



(MoU).

The MoU was signed by Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman Board of Governors ISSI, and by H.E Jafar Bedru Geletu, Executive Director, IFA, for their

Ethiopia; and Ambassador Dr. Oumer Hussein Oba, Ambassador of Ethiopia to Pakistan.

Director CAMEA Dr. Amina Khan, while giving her introductory remarks, stated that the signing

of the MoU was a reflection of warmth and desire on both sides to expand the scope of bilateral interaction. She hoped that the MoU would help further the relationship between Pakistan and Ethiopia, through institutional linkages for collaborative research and dialogue on issues of mutual interest.

Welcoming the MoU, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood said Pakistan and Ethiopia share cordial and long-standing relations, and strengthening ties with the Institute of Foreign Affairs aligns with Pakistan's Engage Africa policy, promoting dialogue, research, and knowledge exchange. He highlighted that this partnership reflects ISSI's commitment to fostering regional cooperation and informed policy engagement.

H.E. Jafar Bedru Geletu described the MoU as a historic step that renews a decades-old friendship, turning goodwill into action and strengthening research and institutional cooperation, while creating opportunities for deeper dialogue and joint initiatives between the two countries. — APP

## KPITB Holds IT Training Workshop for Prime Youth Parliament

### STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Technology Board (KPITB) organized a one-day training workshop for members of the Prime Youth Parliament, highlighting the growing importance of information technology in the modern era and its potential

as a sustainable source of income.

KPITB Deputy Director Muhammad Shoaib conducted the training session, emphasizing the role of IT in employment generation and economic development. He informed participants that KPITB has played a pivotal role in digitizing government depart-

ments, training thousands of young people in the IT sector, and providing services to the private sector. These initiatives, he said, have improved governance and created employment opportunities for thousands of youth, contributing significantly to the provincial economy.

Muhammad Shoaib

urged young people to make positive and productive use of information technology and adopt it as a means of livelihood.

He noted that the IT sector offers vast opportunities for skill development and earning, provided youth pursue these skills with proper guidance and dedication.

## Pakistan Hindkoan Movement concerned over deteriorating situation in KP

### TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: The Provincial President of the Pakistan Hindkoan Movement, Muhammad Akbar Sethi, has expressed grave concern over the deteriorating situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, stating that a province rich in resources has deliberately been turned into a hub of problems, making life unbearable for the common people.

In a strong and unequivocal statement, he severely criticized the current and former provincial governments, saying that there is no concept of good governance left in the province and that the rule of law has completely collapsed.

Muhammad Akbar Sethi said that a particular political party has given the province nothing over the past 13 years except sit-ins,

arson, and the politics of “March on Islamabad.” When questioned about performance, attempts are made to take credit by naming old hospitals such as LRH and KTH, whereas in reality the public has received no relief whatsoever. He said that former Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur wasted his valuable time on protest politics, while the current Chief Minister is also busy with tours and symbolic activities instead of resolving the province's serious issues. Expressing deep sorrow over rising unemployment, industrial shutdowns, and rampant inflation, the provincial president said that the price of a 20-kilogram bag of flour has reached Rs 3,000, while ghee has crossed Rs 600 per kilogram. Even before the arrival of Ramadan,

the “seasoning” of inflation has already begun. The flour crisis has reached alarming levels, yet the government remains a silent spectator. Addressing the Chief Minister, he urged him to abandon futile political activities and focus on the oppressed people of the province.

He demanded that at least a 50 percent reduction in the prices of essential food items be ensured before Ramadan, bringing the price of a 20-kilogram bag of flour down to Rs 1,000 and ghee to Rs 300 per kilogram.

Akbar Sethi also called for the immediate formulation of an effective strategy to overcome the electricity and gas crises, warning that if timely measures are not taken, it will become impossible for poor people to preserve the joys of the holy month of Ramadan.

## Artists hold Introductory Meeting with DG KPC&TA

### TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: A delegation of the All Artists Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, led by Provincial President Saeeda Khan and comprising provincial and district presidents and general secretaries, held an introductory meeting with Director General of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority, Muhammad Usman Mehsud. The meeting took place at the DG's office in Peshawar Saddar.

Prior to the meeting, Saeeda Khan and other office bearers congratulated Muhammad Usman Mehsud on assuming charge as Director General. On the occasion, flower petals were showered, garlands were presented, and a cake was also cut in the name of the All Artists Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The introductory ses-

sion was attended by Provincial President Saeeda Khan, Patron-in-Chief Bilal Khan alias Bebo, Vice President Fazal Khaliq, General Secretary Khushhal Haider, Press Secretary Shakeel Ahmed, Finance Secretary Majnoon Sarhadi, Office Secretary Ismail Shahid, Akbar Ali, District President Charsadda Kamran and General Secretary Rehman, Nowshera President Jalil Shabnam, Malangi Mola Jatt, along with a large number of male and female office bearers. During the meeting, members of the provincial cabinet as well as district presidents and general secretaries introduced themselves one by one.

Speaking on the occasion, Provincial President of the All Artists Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Saeeda Khan, highlighted the issues and demands faced by the artist community and

expressed hope that Muhammad Usman Mehsud would take effective steps for the welfare of artists and play a positive role in resolving their problems.

Director General KP Culture and Tourism Authority Muhammad Usman Mehsud thanked the provincial and district leadership of the All Artists Association and said that artists are a valuable asset and serving them is a collective responsibility. He assured that artists' issues would be resolved through mutual cooperation and that practical measures would be taken for their welfare. He added that the doors of his office would always remain open for artists.

Later, Provincial President Saeeda Khan requested time for a detailed meeting on artists' issues and demands, which was accepted by Director General Muhammad Usman Mehsud.

## NOTICE INVITING EBIDDING THROUGH EPADS

Sealed tenders based on MRS-(2025 1<sup>st</sup> Bi Annual) / Non MRS-Items for the below mentioned work is hereby invited on the basis of **Single stage single envelope procedure** through EPADS from the government contractors registered with PEC, enlisted with C&W Department as per Centralized Enlistment Policy of the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for the current financial year:

Work No	Work Name	Estimated Cost (Millions)	Bid Security @ 2% of the Estimated Cost (Rupees)	Last date & time of submission of electronic tender form	Date & Time of opening of electronic bid
01	Repair and Maintenance of Damaged Transformers of Different capacities in various VCNCs of PK-68 District Mohmand	10.00	200000/-	10.06.2026 12:30 PM	10.06.2026 01:30 PM

### TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Bidding Documents along with Tender form can be downloaded from the official EPADS website i.e.(www.portalkp.eprocure.gov.pk) and KP-PPRA website (http://www.kppra.gov.pk) after publishing NIT. The bid documents will be filled neatly and a clear scanned copy of the same shall be uploaded at the time of apply through EPADS. Cutting and overwriting in the bid documents shall not be acceptable.
- Only PESCO registered Contractors/Firms are eligible to apply. The eligible contractors/firms must have;
  - Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC), codes EE04 & EE05.
  - Inspectorate of Electricity, Energy & Power Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa License in Category "C" or "E".
- The securities shall be in shape of calf clepost in favor of the Assistant Director (Sr) LG&RDD Tehsil HQ Ghalani district Mohmand
- All bidders shall enter the details of the bid security (2% CDR) and, where applicable, the additional security (CDRs) in the EPADS system at the time of bid submission. The original bid security and additional security (CDRs), details of which have already been entered in EPADS, shall be submitted to the Office of AD LG&RDD Tehsil HQ Ghalani district Mohmand located in Ghalani civil colony before closing time of bid through registered courier.
- Matters related to the failure to submit Bid Security and Additional Security shall be dealt with in accordance with KPPRA Notification No. S.R.O. (29)/Vol:1-40/2025-26 dated 29th October, 2025 and matters pertaining to additional security shall be in accordance with Notification No. S.R.O. (14)/Vol: 1-24/2021-22 dated 10 May, 2022.
- In case of rates more than 20% below, a detailed rate analysis must be uploaded along with valid and justifiable supporting documentation.
- The rates may be offered as %age above or %age below or at-par on engineer estimate.
- The last time and date for online clarification is up-to 05:00pm on 02-01-2026.
- The call deposits i.e bid security for the work/contract must be prepared after publishing of NIT and before the closing time of the bid.
- The time for completion of scheme shall be as per work order. The contractor or his representative can be present at time of opening of electronic bids opening.
- In case of tie / draw amongst the responsive bidders, the bid may be decided through free toss which shall be considered as final.
- Any electronic bidder who provides false, or materially inaccurate or incomplete or do not send bid securities in hard will be disqualified as per KPPRA Act Section 29 (1) read with KPPRA Rule (43). Furthermore, the Procuring Entity/Executing Agency will recommend and sent cases for debaring / Blacklisting and will initiate / take action in light of approved procedure / mechanism as per KPPRA Act section 29 (2) read with KPPRA Rule (44).
- Bids will remain valid for 120 days from the closing date of bids.
- The firms/contractors who wants to participate in tendering process may registered themselves with the EPADS for gaining their unique username and password.
- The PEC, FBR and KPRA registration (Active Tax Payer) must be valid for current Financial Year.
- No bidder shall be allowed to withdraw his bid till award of the contract or till bid is valid, whichever is earlier.
- Any addition made in the terms & conditions in NIT advertised shall be implemented as per KPPRA Act & Rules

INF(P)262/26

**Assistant Director (Sr)**  
LG&RDD Tehsil HQ Mohmand



# Editorial & Opinion

The Voice of the Time

## DAILY TIMES

Editor-In-Chief Fazli Haq

Head Office: 2nd Floor, Flat#1,  
Dar-I-Salam Plaza Sikandarpura  
Chowk Peshavar City,

Phone: 091-2216407, Fax: 091: 2218687

Regional office: Flat#06 Block-11, 3rd Floor  
PHA Apartments, G-7-1, Islamabad  
Cell#: +92 321 9111947  
E-mails: dailytimespes@gmail.comLahore office: 398-J-2 wapda town.  
Bureau chief :Ghulam Haider Shaikh  
00923225300703  
Email: haraman.pk@gmail.com

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## Populism at the border

Donald Trump has long understood that immigration is not merely a social or cultural issue in American politics but also an economic lever that can be pulled to mobilise domestic support. The latest decision by the United States to suspend immigrant visa processing for 75 countries, including Pakistan, effective January 21, is best read through this prism. Branded under the familiar "America First" slogan, the move once again fuses populist politics with economic messaging — casting the immigrant as a potential fiscal burden and the state as the protector of the American taxpayer.

The official justification is explicit. The State Department has linked the unprecedented freeze to the "public-charge" rule, arguing that immigrants from the affected countries are more likely to rely on public welfare programmes. Until Washington can ensure that new immigrants will not "extract wealth from the American people", all categories of immigrant visas — family, employment and diversity — will remain suspended. The language is framing immigration not as human mobility or opportunity, but as a balance sheet risk.

Yet the real-world implications, particularly for countries like Pakistan, are far from abstract. Thousands of Pakistanis who annually seek immigrant visas, particularly for family reunification or permanent employment, now face uncertainty. For many, these visas are not only gateways to better standards of living but pathways to long-term economic safety that can benefit both economies. A blanket suspension, with no clear timeline for review, risks penalising legitimate applicants alongside the small minority the policy claims to target.

At the same time, it would be intellectually dishonest to dismiss all security and economic concerns as mere dog-whistling. States do have a legitimate right to ensure that immigration systems are not exploited by individuals involved in suspicious or unlawful activities. Ignoring these risks altogether would be reckless. The challenge lies in precision, not prohibition. Populism may win elections, but policy built on broad-brush exclusions rarely stands the test of time.

## Back from the brink

Better sense has prevailed in Iran as protesters have taken a backseat amid a much lenient response from the government. The breakthrough was evident as the Islamic Republic stayed away from executing alleged spies. That came as a thaw with the US, which had threatened to use force against Iran as a mark of 'retaliation', after having stirred the protesters to stay put on the streets, awaiting its blatant meddling.

Tehran, on its part, heaved a sigh of relief as millions demonstrated in favour of the government in many major cities, pushing back the dissenting voices to a footnote. Last but not least, President Pezeshkian's damage control measures to beef up the economy by working on an obliterating rial and providing cash relief to the masses had struck the right chords. Also, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi came up with a timely intervention assuring Western capitals that "no hangings" will take place, and reportedly sought help from the allies to broker an understanding with the US. That gesture worked wonders, and a trigger-happy Trump was surprisingly seen taking a back foot, hoping that Iran would uphold 'human rights'.

Tehran was quite successful in assuring its domestic audience that the 'uprising' is synthetic and is backed by Israeli agents holed up at home and abroad. That push-back in narrative has worked for the time being, and streets have reportedly gone quiet. Iran, however, has a responsibility to shoulder and that is to work closely with dissenting voices for an inclusive administration, and one that discovers new vistas for opening up with the outside world and addressing the pestering economic woes.

Washington, meanwhile, must desist from interfering in Iranian affairs. Its modus operandi in Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, Somalia, Syria and Lebanon has left behind miserable memories of death and destruction. It was neither able to build those respective nations nor uplift their social strata. This thaw comes as an opportunity in disaster for both the US and Iran to get talking and end the decades of mistrust. The regime change mantra is untenable.

## Iran on Edge, Region Watches Closely



JUNAID QAISER

Iran is currently facing a tumultuous period that poses serious risks not just for itself, but for the entire region. What started as widespread protests against economic struggles in late December has spiraled into one of the most intense clashes between citizens and government forces we've seen in decades. Reports indicate that the death toll could be over 2,500, and the U.S. has dismissed claims that executions have come to a halt, even after President Donald Trump hinted at a pause in potential military strikes based on unverified information from Iranian officials.

In light of this grim situation, U.S. policymakers found them-

selves in a tough spot: should they take military action against Iran for its harsh crackdown on protesters, or should they hold back? A CNN report revealed that during a late-night meeting, senior national security officials discussed the possibility of limited military strikes after Trump was shown disturbing footage of past executions and informed about the impending execution of a young protester named Erfan Soltani. The thought of such an execution heightened Trump's worries about how the regime might react. However, the following day, the administration claimed that executions had supposedly stopped—a statement that hasn't been independently verified but seemed to ease the immediate threat of intervention. Trump referred to this as "good news," even as U.S. military assets were already being moved closer to the region.

This situation underscores the complex moral and strategic challenges surrounding Iran's crisis. From a humanitarian perspective, no government should ignore state violence against its own citizens. Yet, the potential for external military intervention—especially in a region already fraught with instability—is a concern that Pakistan and its neighbors are acutely

aware of. Islamabad has consistently urged for restraint and for all conflicts to be resolved through dialogue in line with international law, stressing its opposition to any outside interference in Iran's internal matters.

Regional powers have been watching this developing situation with concern and, in some cases, active engagement. Reports suggest that Gulf states, including Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Oman, have pushed diplomatic de-escalation, wary of the wider consequences of open conflict.

For Pakistan, the implications are particularly sensitive. Islamabad shares a long border with Iran and deep cultural, historical, and economic ties, and it has made clear that its territory and airspace will not be used for hostile action against Tehran. The Foreign Office reiterated this stance.

Pakistan's diplomatic posture underscores a broader principle: regional disputes should be settled without military intervention. This is not a neutral refusal to acknowledge suffering within Iran; rather, it reflects a conviction that external use of force often multiplies suffering and destabilisation. At the United Nations, Pakistan's representative

stressed that threats of force would only push all parties further from negotiated solutions and greater humanitarian harm.

What is at stake in Iran today is both moral and geopolitical. Citizens are risking their lives for economic dignity, civil liberties and political freedom. At the same time, the international community is being tested on its willingness to defend human rights without triggering broader conflict. For Pakistan, the preference for diplomacy and peace resonates with national interests in regional stability. Any spillover—whether through conflict, refugee flows, or economic shockwaves—would have profound effects.

The events unfolding across Iran are a reminder that in a deeply interconnected world, internal crises have external consequences. Regional actors must tread carefully, balancing support for human rights with a commitment to de-escalation. In the current climate, Pakistan's call for restraint, dialogue, and respect for international obligations is not only principled but pragmatic. While Iran's internal situation remains fragile and uncertain, any slide toward regional confrontation would carry costs that no neighbouring country is in a position to bear.

## How the law still enables Palestinian dispossession



FAISAL KUTTY

In the flood of commentary on Gaza, displacement and Israel's expanding settlement enterprise, one fundamental truth is often obscured: the Nakba did not end in 1948. It continues, and the law has been one of its most powerful instruments.

That is the central argument of *Stolen Nation: The Right to Reparation of Palestinian Refugees*, a deeply researched and compelling new book by Dr Lena El-Malak. Rather than treating Palestinian dispossession as a tragic historical episode, El-Malak shows how it has been sustained and normalised through legal systems that convert forced displacement into permanent, state-sanctioned ownership. El-Malak is a commercial technology and data-privacy attorney and an independent expert in international and refugee law. Before entering private practice, she worked as a legal and development consultant in the Middle East, including with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Amman. She also writes as a descendant of Palestinian refugees — a perspective that gives the book both analytical depth and moral urgency. "I discovered over the

years that the Nakba is ongoing," she writes, reflecting on her encounters with refugee camps and the enduring trauma of displacement.

One of the book's great strengths is its refusal to treat land loss as symbolic or abstract. El-Malak traces how Palestinian land ownership was systematically undermined through successive legal regimes — from Ottoman land classifications to British Mandate policies, and finally through Israeli legislation after 1948. She shows how ambiguous land categories and incomplete registration systems were later weaponised to justify sweeping confiscations. At the centre of this legal architecture lies Israel's 1950 Absentees' Property Law, which transferred the homes, farms, orchards and businesses of millions of Palestinians to state-controlled bodies. This was not a neutral administrative measure; it was the legal consolidation of mass displacement. Crucially, El-Malak argues that this confiscation is not a closed chapter. Under international law, it constitutes a continuing wrongful act. Because the violation continues, so too does the obligation to remedy it — through restitution of property and compensation for losses. United Nations General Assembly Resolution 194, she reminds readers, affirms these rights clearly. They are not aspirational claims or bargaining positions; they are legal entitlements.

This is not nostalgia. It is the law. What makes the book especially urgent is its relevance to the present moment. Two-thirds of Gaza's population are refugees or descendants of refugees from 1948.

Since October 2023, Israel has again displaced nearly the entire population of the Strip, destroying vast numbers of homes, farmlands and commercial areas.

El-Malak completed the book during this period of devastation. She notes that refugee camps in the West Bank, including Jenin and Nablus, have also been subjected to repeated assaults. The pattern is unmistakable: displacement followed by destruction, justified and entrenched through law. As Lex Takkenberg, a leading authority on Palestinian refugee law, observes in the book's foreword, El-Malak's analysis is directly relevant to the unprecedented property losses Palestinians are experiencing today. Seen through this lens, reparations are not a matter for some distant "post-conflict" future. They are a present-day demand arising from ongoing harm. El-Malak is unsparing in her critique of the so-called peace process. From Madrid to Oslo to Camp David and Taba, Palestinian refugee rights were steadily stripped of their legal character and reframed as "final status issues" to be negotiated — and often traded away.

This shift had profound consequences. Binding rights were treated as obstacles rather than foundations for peace. Law was replaced by power. The result was not compromise, but erasure — and negotiations that collapsed precisely because they ignored justice.

Any future political process that once again sidelines refugee reparations, El-Malak argues, is destined to repeat these failures.

El-Malak does not romanticise international law. She recognises that legal systems have often

served imperial and settler-colonial projects. Citing legal scholar Noura Erakat, she notes that law can only serve an emancipatory function when it is wielded deliberately in the service of a political movement.

Abandoning law altogether, however, would mean surrendering the terrain to those who have long used it to entrench inequality. What the book offers instead is a framework for reclaiming law — transforming refugee rights from moral appeals into enforceable demands in international forums, negotiations and global advocacy.

The significance of El-Malak's work lies in how it situates Gaza's destruction within a century-long continuum of dispossession. By grounding Palestinian claims in established legal principles — restitution, compensation and state responsibility — she makes clear that accountability is not optional.

If the international community is serious about ending cycles of displacement and violence, reparations cannot be deferred indefinitely. They must be the starting point.

El-Malak's book is not only a work of legal scholarship; it is a reminder that justice requires naming the crime, exposing its mechanisms and refusing to accept dispossession as destiny. For readers seeking to understand Palestine not only as a humanitarian crisis but as a legal and moral reckoning, the book offers clarity — and a challenge that can no longer be ignored.

The writer is a lawyer, law professor and regular contributor to various foreign media. Follow him on X @faisalkutty

## Education: The Silent Strategy That Decides a Nation's Future



AWAIS BAHADAR

Education is often discussed as a development need—a tool to reduce poverty, improve employment, and raise living standards. While this view is correct, it is dangerously incomplete. Education is not merely a social service or a welfare investment; it is a strategic instrument that determines the survival, strength, and sovereignty of a nation. Countries that understand this truth rise quietly but decisively, while those that ignore it remain trapped in cycles of dependency, instability, and decline.

At its core, education shapes the human mind, and the human mind shapes history. Roads, bridges, and buildings can be imported or reconstructed after destruction, but a nation's thinking—its capacity to analyze, innovate, and lead—cannot

be borrowed. This is why the most powerful countries in the world do not treat education as charity; they treat it as national security. Their classrooms are extensions of their strategy rooms, and their universities are laboratories of future power.

A nation without quality education may still function, but it cannot compete. It produces followers instead of leaders, consumers instead of creators, and emotions instead of solutions. When education is weak, decision-making becomes impulsive, public discourse becomes shallow, and society becomes vulnerable to manipulation. Rumors overpower reason, slogans replace substance, and extremism finds fertile ground. In such an environment, even sincere patriotism can be misdirected and exploited.

Education also defines the moral architecture of a society. It teaches not only how to earn a living, but how to live together. Through education, citizens learn tolerance, responsibility, critical thinking, and respect for law. Without these values, development becomes hollow. You may have economic growth, but no social cohesion; technology, but no ethics; power, but no wisdom. History is full of examples where nations advanced materially but collapsed morally—and education was either neglected or reduced to rote learning.

From a strategic perspective, education is the most cost-effective defense system a country can build. An educated population strengthens institutions, improves governance, and reduces corruption. It creates citizens who question authority respectfully, demand accountability, and contribute constructively. No army, no surveillance system, and no foreign alliance can protect a nation as effectively as an aware and educated public.

In the modern world, wars are no longer fought only on borders; they are fought in economies, media, cyberspace, and narratives. Education equips a nation to fight these silent wars. It produces economists who protect financial sovereignty, engineers who secure digital infrastructure, journalists who defend truth, and diplomats who understand global complexity. Without education, a country becomes strategically blind—reacting to events rather than shaping them.

Yet, the tragedy in many developing nations is that education is treated as an expense, not an investment. Budgets are allocated reluctantly, teachers are undertrained and underpaid, curricula are outdated, and critical thinking is discouraged. Degrees multiply, but understanding shrinks. This approach creates a dangerous illusion of progress—educated on paper,

but unprepared in reality.

True education does not mean producing examination-passing machines; it means nurturing problem-solvers. It does not mean memorization; it means comprehension. It does not mean blind obedience; it means informed discipline. A strategically designed education system aligns with national goals, cultural values, and future challenges. It asks a simple but powerful question: What kind of citizen do we want to produce in the next twenty years?

For countries like Pakistan, where youth make up a majority of the population, education is not just strategic—it is existential. A young population without education is a liability; with education, it is an unstoppable force. The choice is clear, but the responsibility is heavy. Policymakers, educators, parents, and society at large must recognize that every neglected classroom today becomes a crisis tomorrow.

In conclusion, education is not a luxury to be afforded after development; it is the foundation upon which development stands. It is not only about individual success, but collective destiny. Nations that invest in education invest in stability, dignity, and long-term power. Those that delay it may survive—but they will never truly lead. Let's change the concept, and change the future.



# Monitoring, evaluation framework strengthened to ensure effective reform delivery: Wealth Pakistan



# BUSINESS

# Regulatory reform targets streamlined licensing, improved business environment: Wealth Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The government has outlined a comprehensive set of regulatory reforms aimed at simplifying licensing procedures, reducing compliance burdens and improving the overall business environment as part of the Prime Minister's Economic Governance Reforms (PM-EGR), according to an official document released by the Finance Division.

The reform agenda recognises that complex regulations, overlapping requirements and lengthy approval processes have historically constrained private sector growth and discouraged investment. To address these challenges, the government has prioritised regulatory streamlining to make it easier for businesses to operate, expand and contribute to economic growth.

A central element of the reform programme is the rationalisation of licensing and approval processes across federal institutions. The document outlines plans to reduce the number of permits and clearances required for business operations, eliminate duplicative procedures and simplify regulatory frameworks. By reducing unnecessary regulatory layers, the reforms aim to lower compliance costs and shorten approval timelines for businesses.

The reforms also focus on improving coordination among regulatory bodies to

ensure consistency in viously created uncertainty enforcement and interpretation of rules. Overlapping jurisdictions and inconsistent requirements have pre-



mote a more predictable regulatory environment.

Another key component of the reform agenda is the introduction of risk-based regulation. Under this approach, regulatory oversight will be aligned with the level of risk posed by different activities, allowing authorities to focus resources on high-risk areas while easing compliance requirements for low-risk businesses. This is expected to reduce administrative burdens without compromising regulatory objectives.

The document further emphasises the importance of digitalisation in improving regulatory efficiency. Expanding online portals for

licensing, registration and compliance reporting is expected to enhance transparency, reduce processing times and limit discretionary decision-making. Digital tools will also support better tracking of applications and regulatory performance.

Improving the ease of doing business is a central objective of the reform effort. By streamlining regulations and improving coordination among regulatory agencies, the government aims to create a more predictable and investor-friendly environment. The reforms are expected to encourage formalisation, attract investment and support private sector-led growth.

## Mobile Phone Business Fully Integrated with FBR System: Nafees ur Rehman

TIMES REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Standing Committee, Mobile Phones Association ICCI, Nafees ur Rehman, has stated that the mobile phone business is already fully integrated with the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) system.

Around 95 to 97 percent of stock monitoring, imports, and distribution at every stage are within the knowledge and record of the FBR.

He said that when complete data of purchases is already available, sales can also be determined on the same basis.

In such a situation, the additional requirement of POS integration is unnecessary, disproportionate, and contrary to business realities.

Nafees ur Rehman further said that mobile phones are not sold only through retail shops but also through franchises of telecommunication companies and other channels.

If the law is not applied equally to all, the system becomes non-transparent. He demanded that sales conducted through e-commerce platforms, online websites, and digital marketplaces should also be brought under the ambit of the POS and tax system.

## TDAP, WCCIP to organise WEXNET-Peshawar on Jan 21-22

TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: The Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), Ministry of Commerce, Government of Pakistan, in collaboration with the Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Peshawar, is organizing WEXNET-Peshawar on 21-22 January 2026 at Sheraz Arena, Deans Trade Center, Peshawar.



In this connection, a curtain raiser ceremony for WEXNET-Peshawar was held today at 3:00 p.m. at TDAP Peshawar, where officials of TDAP, representatives of the Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry, women entrepreneurs, print and electronic media representatives and other stakeholders were briefed about the objectives, scope and significance of the upcoming exhibition.

WEXNET-Peshawar aims to promote women-led enterprises in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by providing a dedicated platform for market access, business networking, and trade exposure. Women

## از دفتر تحصیل میونسپل ایڈمنسٹریشن تیسر گرہ

## پبلک نوٹس

تحصیل میونسپل ایڈمنسٹریشن تیسر گرہ ضلع پرلوچیز پختونوا اہلک گورنمنٹ ایکٹ 2013 کی دفعہ 42(2) کے تحت حاصل اختیارات کو بروئے عام اناس کی وسیع تر مفاہ کے پیش نظر موجودہ میں اضافہ اور کچھ نئے فیس نافذ کرنا چاہتی ہے اس طرح حاصل کیونہالی آمدنی بڑھنے سے بڑے اخراجات ملتی ہوں گے اختیارات کے میں مطابق ہیں اور اس میں مندرجہ ذیل بات قرار دیا جا رہی ہے۔ لہذا عوام اناس سے موجودہ فیڈل میں اضافہ اور نئے وسائل جس کی نشاندہی اس نوٹس کے حدود میں کی گئی ہے۔

نمبر شمار	مقام (ا۔و۔ج۔ا)	کوٹر موجودہ فیس	موجودہ فیس	بس موجودہ فیس	موجودہ فیس	فلا پینک کوچ ایکس موجودہ فیس	موجودہ فیس	ڈائن، ٹو، آئی، فیلڈ موجودہ فیس	موجودہ فیس	2D موٹر موجودہ فیس	موجودہ فیس	موجودہ فیس	موجودہ فیس
1	تیسر گرہ پشاور	400/-	1200/-	600/-	1500/-	300/-	1200/-	150/-	150/-	200/-	500/-	350/-	2000/-
2	تیسر گرہ مردان، چارسدہ، نوشہرہ	350/-	1000/-	450/-	450/-	250/-	1200/-	120/-	120/-	120/-	400/-	250/-	1500/-
3	تیسر گرہ راولپنڈی، اسلام آباد	800/-	2000/-	2000/-	700/-	2000/-	1200/-	300/-	300/-	500/-	1000/-	800/-	3000/-
4	تیسر گرہ کوئٹہ	1200/-	3000/-	2500/-	5000/-	1200/-	1200/-	500/-	500/-	1000/-	2000/-	1200/-	4000/-
5	تیسر گرہ چکدرہ، بٹ خیل	150/-	500/-	250/-	250/-	150/-	250/-	80/-	500/-	200/-	150/-	150/-	500/-
6	تیسر گرہ سووات	200/-	700/-	300/-	300/-	200/-	300/-	100/-	500/-	150/-	200/-	200/-	1000/-
7	تیسر گرہ راولپنڈی، اسلام آباد	500/-	2000/-	700/-	2000/-	400/-	2000/-	300/-	2000/-	250/-	700/-	450/-	2500/-
8	تیسر گرہ راولپنڈی، اسلام آباد	200/-	400/-	300/-	600/-	150/-	600/-	80/-	500/-	300/-	150/-	150/-	1500/-
9	تیسر گرہ کوئٹہ	500/-	2000/-	1000/-	1000/-	500/-	1000/-	300/-	1000/-	400/-	700/-	400/-	2000/-
10	تیسر گرہ کوئٹہ	200/-	500/-	250/-	250/-	100/-	250/-	50/-	300/-	100/-	100/-	100/-	1000/-
11	تیسر گرہ کوئٹہ	100/-	100/-	150/-	150/-	80/-	80/-	50/-	80/-	100/-	100/-	80/-	800/-
12	تیسر گرہ کوئٹہ	100/-	100/-	200/-	200/-	100/-	200/-	70/-	300/-	150/-	100/-	100/-	1000/-
13	تیسر گرہ کوئٹہ	1000/-	1000/-	2500/-	4000/-	1200/-	2000/-	30/-	2000/-	300/-	1000/-	1200/-	5000/-
14	تیسر گرہ کوئٹہ	200/-	200/-	300/-	300/-	150/-	150/-	120/-	150/-	250/-	150/-	150/-	500/-
15	تیسر گرہ کوئٹہ	100/-	100/-	150/-	150/-	800/-	800/-	50/-	200/-	100/-	100/-	80/-	800/-
16	تیسر گرہ کوئٹہ	100/-	100/-	200/-	200/-	100/-	100/-	50/-	100/-	100/-	100/-	80/-	800/-
17	تیسر گرہ کوئٹہ	150/-	150/-	250/-	250/-	150/-	150/-	80/-	150/-	100/-	100/-	100/-	1000/-
18	تیسر گرہ کوئٹہ	150/-	150/-	150/-	150/-	60/-	120/-	300/-	300/-	150/-	100/-	100/-	1000/-
19	تیسر گرہ کوئٹہ	80/-	80/-	150/-	150/-	60/-	150/-	50/-	150/-	300/-	300/-	80/-	800/-
20	تیسر گرہ کوئٹہ	1000/-	3000/-	1200/-	1200/-	800/-	2000/-	500/-	2000/-	300/-	1000/-	500/-	2000/-
21	تیسر گرہ کوئٹہ	600/-	1200/-	800/-	2000/-	500/-	2000/-	300/-	2000/-	400/-	1000/-	500/-	2000/-
22	تیسر گرہ کوئٹہ	400/-	400/-	600/-	600/-	400/-	600/-	300/-	400/-	400/-	400/-	400/-	4000/-
23	تیسر گرہ کوئٹہ	400/-	400/-	500/-	500/-	300/-	700/-	200/-	200/-	200/-	200/-	300/-	3000/-
24	تیسر گرہ کوئٹہ	150/-	150/-	150/-	150/-	120/-	300/-	100/-	100/-	100/-	100/-	150/-	1500/-

نمبر شمار	نوعیت	موجودہ فیس	موجودہ فیس
1	سوزی بجڑ کے حدود کے اندر باہر چلائی جائے	40/- روپیہ (ٹی پیس)	100/- روپیہ (ٹی پیس)
2	ڈائن بجڑ کے حدود کے اندر باہر چلائی جائے	40/- روپیہ (ٹی پیس)	100/- روپیہ (ٹی پیس)
3	ریٹ بجڑ کے حدود کے اندر باہر چلائی جائے	60/- روپیہ (ٹی پیس)	100/- روپیہ (ٹی پیس)
4	فلپ بجڑ کے حدود کے اندر باہر چلائی جائے	50/- روپیہ (ٹی پیس)	100/- روپیہ (ٹی پیس)
5	تیسر گرہ کوئٹہ	150/- روپیہ (ٹی پیس)	150/- روپیہ (ٹی پیس)
6	تیسر گرہ کوئٹہ	150/- روپیہ (ٹی پیس)	150/- روپیہ (ٹی پیس)
7	تیسر گرہ کوئٹہ	40/- روپیہ (ٹی پیس)	40/- روپیہ (ٹی پیس)
8	تیسر گرہ کوئٹہ	150/- روپیہ (ٹی پیس)	150/- روپیہ (ٹی پیس)
9	تیسر گرہ کوئٹہ	150/- روپیہ (ٹی پیس)	150/- روپیہ (ٹی پیس)
10	تیسر گرہ کوئٹہ	150/- روپیہ (ٹی پیس)	150/- روپیہ (ٹی پیس)
11	تیسر گرہ کوئٹہ	150/- روپیہ (ٹی پیس)	150/- روپیہ (ٹی پیس)
12	تیسر گرہ کوئٹہ	150/- روپیہ (ٹی پیس)	150/- روپیہ (ٹی پیس)
13	تیسر گرہ کوئٹہ	150/- روپیہ (ٹی پیس)	150/- روپیہ (ٹی پیس)
14	تیسر گرہ کوئٹہ	150/- روپیہ (ٹی پیس)	150/- روپیہ (ٹی پیس)
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16	تیسر گرہ کوئٹہ	150/- روپیہ (ٹی پیس)	150/- روپیہ (ٹی پیس)
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نمبر شمار	نوعیت	موجودہ فیس	موجودہ فیس
1	سوزی بجڑ کے حدود کے اندر باہر چلائی جائے	40/- روپیہ (ٹی پیس)	100/- روپیہ (ٹی پیس)
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# SPORTS



## friendly matches between Pak-Chinese players on January 24 in Tenpin Bowling

## Governor Challenge Cup Tournament to be organised

### TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: In a significant and encouraging move aimed at promoting football and reviving the sport's declining activities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, it has been decided to organize a mega football event in Peshawar under the title of the Governor Challenge Cup. The formation of an organizing committee and the announcement of the tournament's final dates are expected soon, after which formal preparations will begin.

The decision was taken during an important meeting held in honor of former international football players, which witnessed the participation of a large number of ex-national footballers and prominent figures associated with the sport. The meeting was chaired by former talented footballer and international referee Qazi

Muhammad Asif. Former national team captain Shaukat Mufti, along with Muhammad Arshad, Tauqeer Abbas, Abdul Chafoor Ajiz, Malik Hidayat-ul-Haq, Shahid Shinwari,

held detailed discussions on the current state of football in the region.

Addressing the gathering, speakers expressed deep concern over the unfortunate decline of football in



and representatives of district associations including Hussain Ahmed (Chitral Football Association) and Ataullah Khan (Mardan Football Association), as well as football personalities from Mardan and other districts of the province, attended the meeting and

Peshawar and other districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. They recalled that there was a time when club football in Peshawar and across the province was highly active, with regular tournaments producing talented players. However, the current situa-

tion stands in stark contrast to those vibrant days.

Participants also regretted the lack of proper public football grounds in a major city like Peshawar, where players can freely practice or tournaments can be organized. They pointed out that even where facilities exist, the collection of fees by the Sports Department has become a major hurdle in the promotion of sports.

The meeting emphasized that former footballers, coaches, and organizers must step forward collectively to reorganize football activities and provide young, talented players with opportunities to showcase their skills.

At the conclusion of the meeting, it was unanimously decided that the Governor Challenge Cup Football Tournament will be organized in Peshawar, featuring teams from all districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

## All Pakistan National Men's Squash C'ship kicked off

### TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: The All Pakistan National Men's Squash Championship has commenced at the Qamar Zaman Squash Court, Peshawar Sports Complex with more than 90 talented young squash players from across the country taking part in the event.

The opening ceremony was graced by the Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Asif Khan as the chief guest. Among the prominent personalities present on the occasion were former world champion legend Qamar Zaman, legend Mohibullah Khan, Provincial Squash Association Finance Secretary Wazir Muhammad, Associate Secretary Sajjad Khalil, senior coach and chief organizer Manwar Zaman, coach Tahir Iqbal and other notable officials.

While addressing the ceremony, Secretary Sports Muhammad Asif Khan expressed his pleasure over the of the championship, stating

that such competitions play a vital role in polishing young talent and promoting sports in the country. He also appreciated the efforts of the organizers and players for the successful conduct of the event.

In the matches played on the



opening day PAF's Muhammad Ali Khan, Pak Army's Faheem Ahmed, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Muhammad Fawad Khan and Punjab's Nawaz Khan won their respective matches. Similarly Khyber Pakhtunkhwa players Intikhab Alam, Tanveer Qamar, Waqas Hussain, Kamran Hussain, Khushhal Riaz Khan, Ubaidullah, Fahad Sharif, Nauman Shahid and Shehzad along with Army's Nauman Khan, Punjab's Salman Saleem and WAPDA's Abdullah Nawaz, also secured victories in their respective encounters.

## Buraq 62nd National Badminton C'ship to begin on Feb 1

### TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: The 62nd National Badminton Championship will begin in

media, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Badminton Association Secretary General and Organizing Secretary of the event Mian Sadaqat Shah,



Peshawar on February 1, with all arrangements for the mega event finalized. After a gap of 27 years the national badminton championship is once again being hosted in Peshawar, jointly organized by the Directorate General of Sports Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in collaboration with Buraq Builders.

The championship matches will be played at the Pakistan Sports Board Training and Coaching Centre Peshawar. Speaking to the

along with CEO Buraq Builders Ali Haider Babakhel, said that hosting national-level badminton competitions in Peshawar after a long time is a significant achievement. They added that all necessary facilities will be provided to ensure the successful conduct of the championship and all arrangements have been finalized. Also present on the occasion were the Brand Ambassador of the National Badminton Championship renowned

singer Seher Khan and Deputy Secretary General of the Provincial Badminton Association Masood Khan.

Mian Sadaqat Shah further informed that more than 300 male and female players from Pak Army, WAPDA, Police, Pakistan Air Force, Railways, Higher Education Commission (HEC) as well as teams from Sindh, Balochistan, Punjab, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan, Islamabad and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will participate in the 62nd National Badminton Championship. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Murad Khan will defend his title in the championship.

On the occasion CEO Buraq Builders Ali Haider Babakhel said that sponsoring this mega sports event and playing a role in promoting sports activities is a matter of pride for them. He added that Buraq Builders will continue to support such sports events in the future as well. He said the company has always taken initiatives for the promotion of art, culture and sports, and has made dedicated efforts to contribute to the development of the province.

It is worth mentioning that the champion of the National Badminton Championship held in Peshawar 27 years ago, Wajid Ali Chaudhry, is currently serving as President of the Pakistan Badminton Federation.

## Peshawar Services Club wins Inter-Club Tennis Tournament

### TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: Peshawar Services Club clinched the title of the Inter-Club Tennis Tournament after defeating Peshawar Sports Complex by 2-1 in the final played at the Peshawar Sports Complex.

The tournament was organized under the auspices of the Regional Sports Office and the District Administration Peshawar. The final witnessed a thrilling contest between the two teams, with players from both sides putting up a tough fight. However, Peshawar Services Club displayed superior skills and composure to emerge as champions. The winning team of Peshawar Services Club comprised Hamza Afridi, Arsalan, Salar and Faizan while the Peshawar Sports Complex

team included Shah Sawar, Abdul Rehman Afridi, Rayan Umar and Daniyal. International

were also present. The Inter-Club Tennis Tournament featured participa-



cricketer Abbas Afridi was the chief guest at the closing ceremony and distributed prizes among the players.

On the occasion, Senior Vice President of the Provincial Tennis Association Umar Ayaz, Chief Coach Shafqatullah, Regional Sports Officer Kashif Farhan and coach Roman Khan

tion from more than 70 players representing 16 teams including Ladies Club, PDA Club Hayatabad, Peshawar University Club, Hayatabad Sports Complex, Pakistan Tennis Club Shahi Bagh, Nowshera Garrison Officers Club, Peshawar Services Club, Police Lines and Peshawar Sports Complex, among others.

## Sports festival for street children on Jan 21

### TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: A four-day sports festival for street children will commence on January 21 under the auspices of the Directorate General of Sports, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

More than 500 children from various welfare institutions across the province are expected to participate in the event.

The opening ceremony will be held on January 21 at 11 a.m. at the Model Institute for Street Children, Charsadda Road, Peshawar. The Advisor to the Chief Minister for

Sports, Taj Muhammad Khan Tarand, will be the chief guest on the occasion. Secretary Sports Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Asif Khan, Director General Sports Tashfeen Haider, Director Operations Jamshed Baloch, and Director Model Institute Sadaqatullah will also be present.

The festival will feature competitions in badminton, hockey, tug of war, musical chairs, volleyball, cricket, football, and archery.

Children from various organizations working for the welfare of orphans and street

children, including Zmung Kor Peshawar, Boys Zmung Kor Abbottabad, Swat Campus Kor, Dera Ismail Khan Campus, Khpal Kor Swat, SOS, Mercy Aghosh, and others, will take part in the competitions.

The closing ceremony will be held on January 24 at the Model Institute for Safe Children (Zmung Kor), Charsadda Road, Peshawar.

The Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sohail Afridi, will attend as the chief guest and distribute prizes among the participants.

## Where Champions Once Ruled, Squash Returns

## Elite players converge for the Rich Venus PSA Gold Open 2026 in Karachi

### BEENA KHAN

After nearly two decades away from the international spotlight, squash made a powerful return to Pakistan in April 2025 with the hosting of the U23 World Squash Championship at DHA Creek Club. The event brought together 34 men and 22 women from 22 countries and marked a long-awaited revival of the sport in a country once synonymous with squash excellence. Building on that momentum, the Rich Venus PSA Gold Open emerged as the second major international

ded in Pakistan's sporting identity. For nearly five decades, Pakistan dominated the global squash arena. Legends such as Roshan Khan, Hashim Khan, Qamar Zaman, Jahangir Khan, and Jansher Khan amassed British Open and World Open titles with remarkable consistency, setting unparalleled standards of fitness, strategy, and mental resilience in a sport that demands absolute precision.

That legacy was unmistakably present at the Rich Venus Open. In the men's draw, Mohamad Zakaria clinched the title after a gripping five-

event ranked World No. 38, Noor delivered a standout per-

is superb for playing squash. The people in Pakistan are very



formance in a thrilling quarter-final against former World Champion Mohamed ElShorbagy, narrowly losing 3-2. His spirited showing earned widespread acclaim and propelled him to a career-high world ranking of No. 30. Noor's matches not only underscored his growing stature but also highlighted the energy of the home crowd and the exceptional quality of the DHA Creek Club courts, featuring gleaming glass walls, optimal lighting, and climate-controlled conditions that allowed athletes to compete at the highest level.

The women's competition was equally compelling. Amina Orfi secured the title in straight games, exhibiting remarkable poise and precision throughout the tournament. Runner-up Sivasangari Subramaniam lauded the venue, saying, "Yes, the venue

hospitable." Torrie Mallick echoed the sentiment, noting, "I love the venue and the environment as well," while Orfi added, "I love the venue, especially the court—it was so good playing here." Their remarks reflected both the technical excellence of the facilities and the warm, professional atmosphere fostered by DHA Creek Club. The success of the tournament also underscored DHA's long-term commitment to developing world-class sports infrastructure. From glass courts and training facilities to seamless event management, the venue impressed players and officials alike, demonstrating that Pakistan is fully capable of hosting international competitions at par with global standards.

Among the distinguished attendees was squash legend Jahangir Khan, whose presence symbolized the bridge

between Pakistan's glorious past and its promising future. Emphasizing the fundamentals of the sport, he remarked, "Focus and training are essential, as squash is a game of physical resilience and mental focus. That is what I would urge young players to concentrate on. Training hard is the key." He also described DHA Creek Club's facilities as "state of the art," reinforcing the belief that Pakistan's new generation of players now has the infrastructure needed to match their ambition and talent.

Ultimately, the Rich

formances today, Pakistan's courts once again resonate with world-class talent, passion, and promise.

For players and spectators alike, the event reaffirmed that Pakistan is not merely part of squash history; it remains a formidable force within it. The roar of the crowd, the brilliance of the glass courts, and the caliber of competition all pointed to a single conclusion: squash has truly come home.

With the successful hosting of both the U23 World Championship and the Rich Venus PSA Gold Open,



tournament at the venue, drawing elite players from more than 20 countries and offering a total prize purse of \$243,000.

The tournament was more than a display of world-class competition; it was a celebration of a sport deeply embed-

game final, displaying composure and skill under pressure. Praising the venue, he said, "The venue was state of the art and it was a joy to play here."

For Pakistan's rising star Noor Zaman, the tournament proved to be a defining chapter in his career. Entering the



coming. After years of absence driven by security concerns and infrastructural challenges, squash has returned to its natural home. From memories of Jahangir Khan's unparalleled unbeaten streak to Noor Zaman's electrifying per-

map. The convergence of elite talent, world-class infrastructure, and an enabling environment signals the beginning of a new era—one in which Pakistan's squash legacy is not only remembered, but actively rebuilt.



# Venezuelan interim leader vows oil sector reform after Maduro ouster



# Putin Calls for Multipolar World, Stronger UN Role

### OUR CORRESPONDENT

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin has emphasized the importance of international cooperation, dialogue, and respect for international law as essential foundations for global stability, security, and sustainable development.

Speaking at the ceremony for presenting letters of credence by newly appointed ambassadors in Moscow on January 15, President Putin said that peace does not emerge on its own but must be built through consistent effort, responsibility, and deliberate choices.

He noted that the current international environment is deteriorating, with old conflicts intensifying and new centers of tension emerging.

The Russian president criticized unilateral actions that replace diplomacy and compromise, stating that some states

rely on the "might-makes-right" principle to impose their will on others. He said dozens of countries are suffering from viola-

President Putin stressed that respect for international law and the development of a fair, multipolar world order offer a



tions of sovereignty, chaos, and lawlessness, lacking the resources to defend their rights.

reasonable path forward. He reaffirmed Russia's commitment to a balanced and constructive foreign

policy that considers both national interests and global development trends.

He also underscored Russia's support for strengthening the central role of the United Nations in global affairs and reiterated that security must be comprehensive, equal, and indivisible, warning that ensuring security for some at the expense of others leads to instability.

Referring to the Ukraine crisis, President Putin said it was the result of years of ignoring Russia's legitimate security concerns and the expansion of NATO towards Russia's borders, contrary to earlier assurances.

He concluded by stating that Russia remains open to building equal and constructive relations with all international partners in the interest of global prosperity, well-being, and development.

# Venezuelan Nobel Peace Prize winner presents her medal to Trump

WASHINGTON, United States: Venezuelan opposition leader Maria Corina Machado said Thursday she "presented" her Nobel Peace Prize medal to Donald Trump, in a bid to win over the US president who had sidelined her since over-

Machado, 58, said it was "recognition for his unique commitment with our freedom." It was not immediately clear if Trump actually kept the award following the closed-door meeting. The Norwegian Nobel committee says its prizes cannot

loyalist Rodriguez.

Trump and Rodriguez had their first telephone call on Wednesday and the White House said Thursday he "likes what he's seeing" with Venezuela's interim leaders. Rodriguez said however that Thursday her

for her to bring the the issue of a democratic transition back into the foreground.

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said as the lunch started that Machado was a "remarkable and brave voice for many of the people of Venezuela."But while Leavitt said Trump was "committed to hopefully seeing elections in Venezuela one day," she would not give a timeline.

Sixth tanker seizure - Since Maduro's capture, Trump has said the United States will "run" Venezuela - exerting pressure through a naval blockade and threats of further attacks -- but has appeared content to let Rodriguez remain in power so long as oil keeps flowing.

US forces on Thursday seized a sixth oil tanker in its campaign to control the South American country's critical fossil fuel sector.

Separately, the first US-brokered sale of Venezuelan oil, worth around \$500 million, has been finalized, a US official told AFP on Thursday without identifying the buyer.

Rodriguez in her speech also announced plans for legal reforms to Venezuela's oil sector -- which currently limit the involvement of foreign entities -- but did not give specific details.

Washington has also hailed the release of dozens of political prisoners in the past week, though hundreds remain behind bars.

Meanwhile the shockwaves from the lightning US raid that toppled Maduro continue to reverberate.

Cuba paid tribute on Thursday to 32 soldiers killed in the operation, some of whom had been assigned to Maduro's protection team, in a ceremony attended by revolutionary leader Raul Castro.— AFP



throwing Nicolas Maduro. Her extraordinary gesture comes after Trump had said the award should have gone to him instead -- and after he refused to back Machado following the January 3 US military operation to capture Maduro.

Trump has instead backed Maduro's vice president Delcy Rodriguez, so long as she toes Washington's line, particularly on access to Venezuela's vast oil reserves. "I presented the president of the United States the medal of the Nobel Peace Prize," Machado told reporters outside the US capitol, where she met with lawmakers after having lunch with Trump at the White House.

be transferred. Trump had campaigned hard to win last year's Nobel Peace Prize for what he says are his efforts to stop eight wars.

Instead it went to Machado, who appeared in Oslo last month to collect her prize -- following a daring escape from Venezuela by boat -- and then dedicated it to Trump. Venezuela's opposition has argued and presented evidence that Maduro stole the 2024 election from the candidate of Machado's party, Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia -- claims supported by Washington.

But Trump has said that Machado does not have enough support among Venezuelans, and opted to stick with former Maduro

government was "not afraid" of a diplomatic clash with Washington.

"We know they are very powerful. We know they are a lethal nuclear power... We are not afraid to confront them diplomatically, through political dialogue," said Rodriguez.

Rodriguez was delivering Maduro's state of the nation address to parliament while the toppled Venezuelan leader is in a New York jail facing drug trafficking charges.

By contrast Machado, who campaigned for years to end leftist Maduro's rule, was greeted by jubilant supporters as she left the White House.

And her meeting with Trump was an opportunity

# Canada's Carney hails 'strategic partnership' in talks with Xi

BEIJING: Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney and Chinese President Xi Jinping began talks in Beijing on Friday,

Carney lauded a "new strategic partnership" between the two countries after he arrived for the talks at the Great Hall of the

reduce his country's economic reliance on its main market, the United States.

Carney told Xi that "together, we can build the

finance, that's where we can make the most immediate progress," he added.

Xi welcomed Carney and his delegation, saying that China-Canada relations were at a turning point after their last meeting at an APAC summit in October.

"It can be said that our meeting last year opened a new chapter in turning China-Canada relations toward improvement," Xi told Carney.

"The healthy and stable development of China-Canada relations serves the common interests of our two countries," he said, adding he was "glad" to see discussions over the last few months to restore cooperation. Officials from both countries have been in talks to lower tariffs, but an agreement has yet to be reached. Carney, who on Thursday met with Premier Li Qiang, is also scheduled to hold talks with business leaders to discuss trade.



marking the first meeting between the countries' leaders in China's capital in eight years.

People. Following President Donald Trump's aggressive tariffs on Canadian products, Carney has sought to

best of what this relationship has been in the past to create a new one". "Agriculture, energy,

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

### Environmental Impact Assessment Report

The notice is published for information of all stakeholders and general public that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Protection Agency has admitted the application of the following project to accord environmental approval required under Section-13(1) of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Protection Act, 2014.

Name of the Project	Location	District
Effluent Treatment Plant	Coronet Foods (Pvt) limited, Plot No. 55, Road-I, Phase-III, Hattar Industrial Estate, Haripur.	Haripur

All the stakeholder and general public are invited to submit their comments for or against the grant of the approval. The comments may be submitted to Director General EPA Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Peshawar within the duration of 30 days for the date of publication of this notice.

Copy of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report submitted by the proponent of the project is available at the following locations for the review of stakeholders/general public:

1. Director General EPA Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
2. Coronet Foods (Pvt) Limited.

The public hearing will be conducted as per the following schedule

Date	Day	Time	Venue
04-02-2026	Wednesday	1:00 PM	Coronet Foods (Pvt) limited

All stakeholder and general public are invited to attend the public hearing proceeding to share their proposal/ suggestions.

## NOTICE INVITING EIDDING THROUGH EPADS

Sealed tenders based on MRS-(2024 1th\* BI Annual) /Non MRS-items for the below mentioned works are herer/ invited on the basis of **Single stage single envelope procedure** through **EPADS** from the government contractors regulated with PEC. onlisted with CSW Department as per Contralized Enlistment Policy of the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for the current financial year

INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PACKAGE (NON-ADP) FOR DISTRICT D.I.KHAN.					
Work No	Work Name	Estimated Cost (Millions)	Bid Security @2% (Rupees)	Last dato & time of submission of electronic tender form	Date & time of opening of electronic bid
1	Construction of Streets/Drains in Village Wanda Jani	3.000	60000	10.02.2026 12:30 PM	10.02.2025 02:00 PM
2	Construction of Streets/Drains in Village Yarik	4.500	90000	10.02.2026 12:30 PM	10.02.2025 02:00 PM
3	Construction of Streets/Drains in Village Kalch	4.500	90000	10.02.2026 12:30 PM	10.02.2025 02:00 PM
4	Construction of Streets/Drains at Various Places in Kulchi City	6.000	120000	10.02.2026 12:30 PM	10.02.2025 02:00 PM
5	Construction of Streets/Drains in Mohalla Haroon Abad (Kulachi City)	4.500	90000	10.02.2026 12:30 PM	10.02.2025 02:00 PM
6	Construction of Streets/Drains in Village Kot Attal Sharif	6.000	120000	10.02.2026 12:30 PM	10.02.2025 02:00 PM
7	Construction of Streets/Drains in Village Malang	1.000	20000	10.02.2026 12:30 PM	10.02.2025 02:00 PM
8	Construction of Streets/Drains in Village Bakhtiar	4.000	80000	10.02.2026 12:30 PM	10.02.2025 02:00 PM
9	Construction of Streets/Drains in Village Kanori	5.000	100000	10.02.2026 12:30 PM	10.02.2025 02:00 PM
10	Repair/Rehabilitation of Road From Shakhi Gale to Bazar (Kulachi City)	5.000	100000	10.02.2026 12:30 PM	10.02.2025 02:00 PM
11	Construction of Road in Village Kot Attal Sharif	10.000	200000	10.02.2026 12:30 PM	10.02.2025 02:00 PM
12	Construction of Veranda of Graveyard in Village Band Kural	1.000	20000	10.02.2026 12:30 PM	10.02.2025 02:00 PM
13	Installation of Solar Based Submersible Pumps in Village Bandkurai, Rehmani Khel, Wanda Maddat	14.000	280000	10.02.2026 12:30 PM	10.02.2025 02:00 PM
14	Installation of Solar Based Submersible Pumps in Village Wanda Malakhel	5.000	100000	10.02.2026 12:30 PM	10.02.2025 02:00 PM
15	Construction of Water Tanks in Village Giloti, 15 Wanda Khan Muhammad, Kirri Khaisour, UC Paniyala	10.000	200000	10.02.2026 12:30 PM	10.02.2025 02:00 PM
16	Construction of Water Tank in Village Malang.	3.000	60000	10.02.2026 12:30 PM	10.02.2025 02:00 PM

### Terms and Conditions:

1. Bid Documents along with Tender form can be downloaded from the official EPADS website i.e. ([www.eprocure.gov.pk](http://www.eprocure.gov.pk)) and KP-PPRA website ([www.kppra.gov.pk](http://www.kppra.gov.pk)) after publishing NIT. The tender form will be filled neatly and a clear scan copy of the same will be uploaded at the time of apply (bid submission) through EPADS.
2. While the original tender form along with original bid securities and detail rate analysis (if applicable) complete in all respect must be delivered through courier to the Office of AD LG&RDD THQ D.I.Khan located at Opposite Faqimi Gate D.I. Khan before closing time of bid.
3. Cutting and overwriting in the bid documents (including the Tender Form and BOQ) shall not be acceptable. Any discrepancy between the scanned copies submitted through EPADS and the hard copios will result in disqualification. and the bid will be considered non-responsive.
4. No bidder shall be allowed to withdraw their bid till the award of the contract or the bid is valid, whichever is earlier.
5. The rates may be offered as %age above or %age below or al-par on engineer estimato.
6. The last time and date for online clarification is up-to **05:00 PM on 04.02.2026.**
7. The securities shall be in shape of call deposit in favor of the **Assistant Director LG&RDD H/Q H.Q.J.Khan**
8. The eligible bidders must possess the relevant specialization codes for the respective schemes, as prescribed by the Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC)
9. The contractors quoting their bids up to a limit of 10% below Engineer Estimate shall submit bid security 2% only of Engineer Estimate.
10. The contractors quoting their bids more than 10% below up to 20% below on Engineers' Estimate shall submit along with their bids 8% Additional Security of Engineer's Estimated cost in addition to 2% bid security. If the bid is not accompanied with the required amount of additional security, then it will be considered as non-responsive and the 2% bid security shall be forfeited in favor of Government and the second lowest bidder and so on will be considered accordingly.
11. Similarly, a contractor, quoting bid more than 20% below shall submit with his bid an additional security on Engineer's estimated cost equal to the differential amount of submitted bid and Engineers' Estimate along with detailed ralo analysis. In case of more than 20% below bids, if the bid is not accompanied by the detailed rate analysis and/or required amount of additional security, then said bid shall be considered as non-responsive. All the securities submitted along with such non-responsive bid shall be forfeited in favor of Government and the 2nd lowest bidder and so on will be considered accordingly.
12. In case detailed rate analysis submitted with the bids is, In vlow of the Procuring Entity, not convincing, the Head of the Procuring Entity may declare such bid as non-responsive without any forfeiture of bid securities and record reasons thereof.
13. The procuring entity may offer the contract to next lowest bidder after due diligence in the context of financial difference between such two bids or may advertise procurement opportunity afros.
14. The call deposits i.a. bid security for the work / contract must be prepared after publishing of NIT and before the closing time of the bid.
15. Work order will be issued subject to availability of lunds. The time for completion of scheme shall be as per work order The contractor or his representative can bo present at lime of opening of electronic bids opening
16. In case of the / draw amongst the responsive bidders, the bid may be decided through free toss which shall be considered as final.
17. Any electronic bidder who provides false, or materially inaccurate or incomplete or do not send inforination in hard farm will be disqualified as per KPPRA Act Section **29 (1)** read with KPPRA Rule (43). Furthermore, the Procuring Entity/Executing Agency will recommend and sent cases for debarring/Blacklisting and will Initiate / take action in light of approved procedure / mechanism as per KPPRA Act section **29 (2)** read with **KPPRA Rule (44).**
18. Bids will remain valld for **120 days** from the closing date of bids.
19. The firms/contractors who want to participate in tendering process may register themselves with the EPADS for gaining their unique usemane and password.
20. All bidders are required to be registered with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority (KPRA) under the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Finance **Act 2013.**
21. The PEC and KPRA registrations must be valld for the current financial year and must be attached to the bid documents The bidder must also be an active taxpayer.
22. Any addition made In the terms & conditions in NIT advertised shall be implemented as per KPPRA Act & Rules.
23. The procuring entity reserves the right to reject any or all e-bids while assigning valld reasons for such rejection.

INF(P)236/26

Assistant Engineer (Sr)

Assistant Director (Sr)

LG&RDD H/Q D.I.Khan

LG&RDD H/Q D.I.Khan

Zero Tolerance To Corruption



# REAR WINDOW

## Senior Officers greet newly appointed DG KPRA

TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: Senior officers of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority (KPRA) on Friday congratulated the newly appointed Director General KPRA, Ms. Irum Naz, on assuming charge of her office and presented her with a shield.

During the meeting, the officials appreciated the professional capabilities and skills of the Director General and assured her of their full cooperation.

Speaking on the occasion, DG KPRA Ms. Irum Naz said that she believes in collective teamwork and will work together with all officers for the progress and institutional strengthening of KPRA.



She further stated that she would utilize all her professional abilities and acquired skills to fulfill the responsibilities entrusted to her by the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and make concerted efforts to not only achieve the assigned revenue targets but also to exceed them.

The meeting was attended by Collector Sales Tax on Services Syed Kazim Hussain Shah, Advisor Tax Enforcement Fazal Amin Shah, Director Finance Asma Khyber, Director Inquiry and Investigation Pir Muhammad Mehsud, and Deputy Director H R Aftab Ghazi.

## Official Reviews Progress of Developmental and Sanitation Projects

OUR CORRESPONDENT

MARDAN: In pursuance of the directions of the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the decision of Provincial Cabinet, Secretary Local Government Zafar Ul Islam paid a surprise visit to Mardan and Nowshera and reviewed various devel-



opmental and sanitation projects. During the visit, the Secretary expressed serious displeasure over poor sanitation arrangements in Rashakai Bazaar, Nowshera, and sought an explanation from the TMO Nowshera. He also directed the Secretary Local Council Board to initiate action against the TMO.

The Secretary Local Government visited Zamong Park, Mardan, where he reviewed available facilities and directed that the park's 65 kanals of land be utilized effectively. He also visited Amir Muhammad Khan Park (MDA) and issued instructions to make the park fully functional.

He expressed serious concern over the presence of stray dogs in Sheikh Maltoon Town, Mardan, the Secretary directed the Project Director to remove the stray dogs from residential areas within three days, warning that strict action would be taken in case of non-compliance. He also reviewed the overall cleanliness situation in Mardan city and expressed satisfaction with the sanitation arrangements. The Secretary inspected the sewerage treatment plant being constructed in Mardan with the support of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and emphasized the use of high-quality construction materials, stating that no negligence would be tolerated. He directed that the project be completed within the stipulated timeframe. The Secretary Local Government further directed that the pace of construction work at the WSSCM office building be accelerated and directed that it must be completed by February 8, otherwise strict action would be taken.

## Meeting reviews uplift schemes of Irrigation and PHE deptt in District Charsadda

TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Public Health Engineering Fazal Shakoor Khan presided over an important meeting regarding developmental schemes of Irrigation and Public Health Engineering departments in District Charsadda at his office in Peshawar.

The meeting was attended by the Executive Engineers (XENs) Irrigation and PHE Charsadda division.

During the meeting, officers from both departments gave separate and detailed briefings to the provincial minister on the progress of ongoing development projects in district Charsadda.

The XEN Irrigation briefed the minister on projects aimed at improving the irrigation system in the district, including canals and other related infrastructure. He also informed about the overall progress, ongoing works, and construction activities completed so far.

Similarly, the PHE department XEN also provided a detailed briefing on ongoing schemes related to the provision of clean drinking water, water supply projects, and measures taken to facilitate the public. Speaking on the occasion, Provincial Minister Fazal Shakoor Khan said that the timely completion of development projects linked to public welfare in district Charsadda is among the top priorities of the KP government.

He directed that all ongoing projects be completed within the stipulated time frame while strictly ensuring high quality standards. He further emphasized that the primary objective of development projects is to provide direct relief and facilities to the people; therefore, no compromise will be made on monitoring, transparency, and quality.

# KP Governor discusses CPEC road projects with NHA Chairman

TIMES REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi held a meeting with



Chairman National Highway Authority (NHA) Captain (Retd) Asadullah at the Governor House here on Friday to review ongoing and proposed development projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

During the meeting, a detailed discussion was held on key infrastructure projects including the Paniyala Interchange, Shah Esa

Interchange, and the construction of a dual carriageway from Dera Ismail Khan to Ramak and from Taunsa to Dera Ghazi Khan.

The Governor termed these projects vital for regional eco-

nomc development, promotion of trade activities, and improvement in public facilities.

It was also decided that bypass roads would be constructed for three major cities, including Naiwaila, under the Dera Ismail Khan-Dera Ghazi Khan road project to ease traffic flow and reduce congestion in urban areas.

Governor Faisal Karim Kundi said that the construction of roads and interchanges under CPEC would significantly improve connectivity in southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and adjoining regions, create new investment opportunities, and provide better travel facilities to the public.

Chairman NHA Captain (Retd) Asadullah briefed the governor on the progress of the projects and assured him that all schemes would be completed on time while maintaining high construction standards.

## Governor condoles demise of PPP religious wing leader's father

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Friday expressed deep sorrow over the demise of the father of Pir Aftab Alam Utmanzai, Provincial President of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ulema and Mashaikh Wing.

The Governor prayed for the elevation of the departed soul's ranks in Jannat and for atience and fortitude for the bereaved family to bear the loss.

He extended heartfelt sympathies to Pir Aftab Alam Utmanzai and his family during this difficult time.

# CS reviews PHE Health, C&W reforms under Good Governance Roadmap

TIMES REPORT

PESHAWASR: Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Shahab Ali Shah on Friday reviewed progress on key reform initiatives of the Public Health Engineering (PHE) and the Communication and Works (C&W) Departments under the provincial Good Governance Roadmap, with a strong emphasis on digitization, evidence-based planning and institutional strengthening.

Chairing separate review meetings, the Chief Secretary assessed measures aimed at improving water service delivery, infrastructure sustainability and road asset management across the province. Senior officials, including the Secretaries C&W & PHE departments and relevant departmental representatives, attended the meetings.

During the review of the PHE Department, significant progress was noted in the digitization of water billing and collection systems to enhance transparency and transition towards digital interbank and

mobile payment mechanisms. The meeting also emphasized

He underlined the importance of robust district-level data

departmental coordination and completion of required



strengthening water quality surveillance through expanded testing coverage, upgraded Management Information Systems (MIS), and structured follow-up mechanisms to ensure timely corrective actions and random verification.

The Chief Secretary stressed the need for evidence-based maintenance and repair planning, focusing on addressing infrastructure-related causes of contamination.

To improve budget preparedness and resource allocation. To ensure long-term sustainability, the meeting reviewed steps to institutionalize service delivery functions through dedicated internal units for service delivery, laboratories and resource management.

Proposed water conservation pilot initiatives, including rain-water harvesting and groundwater recharge, were also discussed, with directions for inter-

approvals. Progress on the solarization of water supply schemes under ongoing development projects was reviewed, and directions were issued to finalize work plans, resolve site-specific constraints and adopt a phased implementation approach.

The Chief Secretary emphasized inter-departmental collaboration, timely approvals and performance tracking to ensure consistent improvements in water services.

# Health Minister Attends White Coat Ceremony at PIMC Hayatabad

TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: Provincial Minister for Health, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Khaliq ur Rehman, attended the White Coat Ceremony at Pakistan International Medical College (PIMC), Hayatabad, as the Chief Guest. Upon his arrival, the Minister was warmly received and welcomed by the Dean, Principal, faculty members, parents, and a large number of medical students, who applauded his presence at the prestigious ceremony.

Addressing the newly admitted students, the Provincial Health Minister stated that the White Coat Ceremony marks a historic and defining moment in their professional journey. He emphasized that the oath taken today is not merely a formality, but a lifelong commitment to serve humanity with honesty, professionalism, dedication, and integrity. He reminded the

students that the medical profession is a noble and sacred



responsibility, which must be practiced without greed or material motives, and with compassion for every patient.

The Minister highlighted that the Health Department requires young, energetic, competent, and dedicated professionals to strengthen the healthcare system. He made it clear that there is no room for incompetence, negligence, or dishonesty in the health sector, as doctors are entrusted with human

lives. He urged the students to uphold the highest ethical stan-



dards throughout their careers.

Paying tribute to the parents, Mr. Khaliq ur Rehman acknowledged their sacrifices and unwavering support in enabling their children to pursue medical education.

He noted that millions of deserving young boys and girls across the country are unable to afford the high cost of medical education, and therefore those who have been given this opportunity must value it and serve

society with sincerity and responsibility.

The Provincial Health Minister further stated that the government's focus is on quality healthcare delivery and positive outcomes. He informed the gathering that the Health Department is formulating comprehensive and long-term policies aimed at sustainable and meaningful reforms in the healthcare system. Emphasis is being placed on improving service delivery, infrastructure, human resources, and medical equipment across health facilities.

Highlighting the importance of preventive healthcare, the Minister stressed the need for changes in lifestyle, food habits, and public awareness to reduce the burden of disease. He pointed out that hospitals are increasingly overburdened due to the rising influx of patients, and prevention remains the most effective solution.

# All Resources to be utilized for Improvement of the Education System in Malakand

TIMES REPORT

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Elementary and Secondary Education, Arshad Ayub Khan, has directed the relevant authorities to utilize all available resources for the immediate and effective resolution of issues facing the education system in District Malakand.

He issued these directives while chairing an important meeting held to review educational issues in District Malakand. The meeting was attended by Members of the Provincial Assembly from Malakand, Shakeel Ahmed and Pir Masoor Ghazi, Tehsil Chairman Afzal Hussain, and senior officials of the Education Department.

On this occasion, the Minister was given a detailed

mitted to ensuring the provision of quality education, and

ronment for students, and ensure the timely completion



briefing on educational facilities in the district, the shortage of teachers, the condition of schools, and other challenges being faced. Addressing the meeting, the Provincial Minister stated that the provincial government is com-

no effort will be spared to improve the education sector in Malakand.

He instructed the officials to take concrete steps to enhance the performance of educational institutions, provide a conducive learning envi-

of ongoing projects. He emphasized that these measures are necessary so that students do not have to travel far from their areas to acquire education and can instead access quality education near their homes.