

At least six policemen martyred in IED attack on police vehicle in KP's Tank

● Unidentified assailants targeted armoured vehicle on Gomal Bazaar road in Tank district, say police

SPECIAL REPORTER

TANK

At least six cops were martyred on Monday when an improvised explosive device (IED) hit their armoured vehicle on Gomal Bazaar road in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's (KP) Tank district.

The blast destroyed the armoured vehicle, which was returning from Gomal Police Station. Additional Station House Officer (SHO) Ishaq Khan was among those martyred, police said.

Soon after the incident, law enforcement agencies reached the site and cordoned off the area, while an investigation into the attack was launched.

President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and KP Governor Faisal Karim Kundti have expressed deep grief and sorrow over the martyrdom of police personnel in a terrorist attack. In their separate



statements today, both prayed for the eternal peace of the departed souls and extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.

The latest attack on police personnel comes a week after four policemen were martyred in two different incidents of firing carried out by unidentified assailants in Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa's Lakki Marwat and Bannu districts.

In Lakki Marwat, unidentified motorcycle-riding terrorists opened fire on traffic police personnel in Sarai Naurang city, resulting in the martyrdom of three officers, according to a police spokesperson.

Separately in Bannu, a police

constable was martyred after unidentified individuals opened fire in the Mandan area. Police had said constable Rashid Khan came under attack while he was on his way from home to report for duty at Mandan Police Station.

A day earlier, KP police foiled a major terror bid as they neutralised eight terrorists during joint operations of the police and the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) in different parts of the province on Sunday.

The operations had been conducted in the tribal districts of Bannu, Khyber, and Zahir Garhi — a suburban area of KP capital Peshawar. The police claimed that they eliminated eight terrorists involved in attacks on the security forces, besides the recovery of a huge cache of weapons and other equipment.

According to the Central Police Office (CPO), two terrorists were killed in an operation carried out by the local police and CTD Bannu region.

Five terrorists killed in CTD operations in Jamrud, Bannu



Staff Reporter

JAMRUD

At least three terrorists were killed in Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) operation in Jamrud area of in the Khyber District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Sunday. According to a statement issued by the CTD, acting on intelligence information, the department conducted an operation in the Naka Khel area located on Shal Kas Bypass Road in Jamrud, targeting a cell of Fitna al-Khawarij, during which three terrorists were killed. The CTD said that the slain terrorists were active members of Fitna al-Khawarij and were involved in attacks on security forces, as well as murder, attempted murder, extortion, and other terrorist activities.

111 Finance Department Jobs to Be Offered Online in Balochistan

● CM Sarfaraz Bugti Announces 100% Merit-Based Recruitment With Appointment Letters Issued Within One Hour

City Reporter

QUETTA

Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti has said that his government has achieved another important milestone in the province's history wherein 111 jobs in the Finance Department will be offered online 100% on merit and appointment letters will be issued within one hour of the test,

In a post uploaded on his X platform account on Monday, CM Sarfaraz Bugti said dubbed it a major step by the Government of Balochistan towards good governance and a transparent recruitment system. "Paperless, and purely on merit; this system will soon be implemented in other departments as well," he added.

The CM said online test will be taken from the candidates and there will be a transparent examination of the qualifications, and successful



candidates will be issued appointment letters within an hour.

"This reform system is being started from the Finance Department which will be implemented in all government jobs of the province in phases," Bugti maintained.

"I had already made a clear promise to the people of Balochistan that

neither jobs will be sold nor corruption or nepotism will be tolerated," he said and added "To fulfill this promise, the transparency system is being further strengthened in Balochistan."

The chief minister remarked merit, transparency and promises made to the people are the basis of our

Indonesian defence delegation calls on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Baber



CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

A defence delegation led by Minister of Defence of the Republic of Indonesia, Lieutenant General (Retd) Sjafrie Sjamsoedin, called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, NI (M), HJ, Chief of Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force, at Air Headquarters, Islamabad, following the recent state visit of the Indonesian President.

The meeting reaffirmed the historic and brotherly ties between Pakistan and Indonesia and focused on strengthening bilateral Air Force cooperation, particularly in capacity building, training and technological collaboration. The Air Chief briefed

the delegation on PAF's modernization drive, including infrastructure development, revamped training and induction of niche capabilities to enhance readiness for multi-domain operations.

The Indonesian Defence Minister praised PAF's professionalism, combat readiness and indigenization achievements under the National Aerospace Science & Technology Park, and expressed strong interest in expanding cooperation in training, aviation and aerospace domains.

The meeting reflected growing momentum in Pakistan-Indonesia defence ties and a shared resolve to deepen cooperation through sustained engagement and dialogue.

KP Assembly seeks Peshawar corps commander's in-camera briefing On security situation

● Letter says without broader political, social and developmental initiatives, operation alone may not ensure suitable peace

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Owing to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's precarious law and order circumstances, the provincial assembly has written a letter to the Peshawar corps commander seeking an in-camera briefing on ongoing operations and the security situation in the province.

"The [special] Committee desires to receive a detailed briefing from Headquarters XI Corps, Peshawar, particularly in the context of the ongoing operations being conducted by the federal government and LEAs in the merged districts of KP," reads the letter issued by KP Assembly Deputy Secretary Tariq Noor, while referring to the Special Committee (on Security) constituted by the house.

The committee features more than 40 members, including the leader of the house, the leader of the opposition and provincial ministers, along with

parliamentary leaders of respective political parties.

The letter, dated January 8, also points out that the committee has received detailed briefings from key stakeholders, including the chief secretary, the additional chief secretary, the IGP, and now seeks a briefing as part of the consultative process. Letter written by KP Assembly's deputy secretary to Headquarters XI Corps. — Reporter Letter written by KP Assembly's deputy secretary to Headquarters XI Corps. — Reporter

The KP Assembly's request for a briefing from a senior army commander comes as the province, as stated by Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director-General Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry in a recent media briefing, accounted for nearly 71% of all the terrorist incidents in 2025.

The overwhelming share of KP in facing terror incidents, as per the military's spokesperson, was due to a "politically conducive

environment and the flourishing political-criminal-terror-nexus" in the province.

Noting that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government in KP was resisting counterterrorism efforts at every forum — a claim denied by the PTI — Lt Gen Chaudhry highlighted that the law enforcement agencies (LEAs) carried out 75,175 intelligence-based operations (IBOs) across the country in 2025, of which 14,658 IBOs were conducted in

KP. Out of the total 5,397 terrorism incidents reported nationwide in the previous year, as many as 3,811 incidents occurred in KP. The issue of terrorism and military operations has been a point of contention between the PTI's KP government and the Centre in recent times, where the former has time and again stressed a political solution and dialogue, whereas the latter has pressed on with taking action against the terrorists.

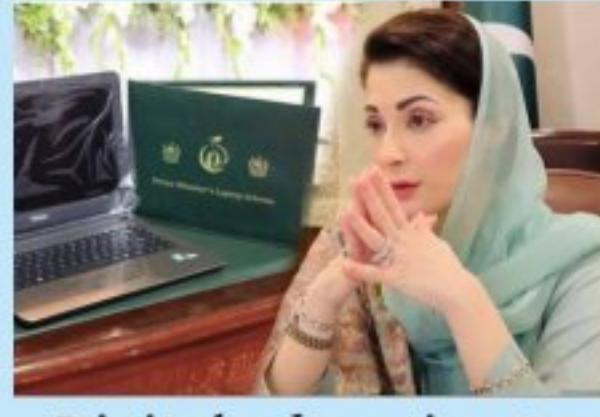


President Zardari to embark on official visit to Bahrain on Jan 13

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

President Asif Ali Zardari will undertake an official visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain from 13-16 January 2026. He will be accompanied by a high-level delegation, the Foreign Office said in a press release on Monday. During the visit, the President will hold meetings with King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the King of the Kingdom of Bahrain, and Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Bahrain. The discussions will focus on bilateral, regional, and international issues of mutual interest. The visit seeks to reinforce Pakistan's longstanding cooperation with the brotherly Gulf nation while expanding opportunities for collaboration in trade and economic partnership, defence and security, and people-to-people ties.



Digital education to be introduced in Punjab govt schools

Staff Reporter

LAHORE

In a major development to expand education, the Punjab government has decided to introduce digital education in all government schools of the province. According to details, the Punjab cabinet approved the Goalwork Space for Productivity and Collaboration programme in this regard. This programme will help students to avail the facility of the latest digital learning and collaboration tools. The students through Google Workspace will have access to the facility of online classroom, e-mail, cloud storage, and document sharing. The project will help students to explore their digital skills, research capabilities, and teamwork.



LHC admits petitions against killing stray dogs with firearms, poison

■ Lahore High Court has accepted a petition challenging the use of firearms and poison to control stray dogs. The petitioner urges enforcement of the Animal Birth Control Policy to prevent harm



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

The Lahore High Court has accepted a petition for hearing challenging the use of firearms and poison to eliminate stray dogs. The petition was filed by Advocate Izzat Fatima, and the court issued notices to the Punjab

government, the Secretary of Livestock, and the Secretary of Local Government. The petitioner argued that the government's operations to kill stray dogs were endangering citizens' lives, citing an incident in Khanewal where a young girl was injured by a bullet during a dog-killing operation.

The petition further emphasized that using firearms and toxic substances in residential areas posed significant risks. It was also pointed out that the Punjab government has not been fully implementing the Animal Birth Control Policy 2021, which includes methods like vaccination and neutering to control the stray dog population.

The petitioner called for the court to order the enforcement of this policy and halt the harmful practices of shooting and poisoning dogs.



A worker busy making wooden boxes for packing various fruits at his workplace in Fruit Market.

Federal Constitutional Court shifts to FSC building

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

The Federal Constitutional Court (FCC), established under the 27th Constitutional Amendment, was officially shifted to its permanent premises in the Federal Shariah Court (FSC) building in Islamabad on Monday. Chief Justice Aminuddin Khan inaugurated the new building. Other FCC judges were present at the ceremony. Federal Law



Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar and Attorney General Mansoor Usman Awan also attended. Three benches of the FCC have already started hearing cases at

the new location. A three-member bench, led by Chief Justice Khan, is currently handling super tax cases. The FSC building was

renovated for several weeks to accommodate the FCC. After the move, the Federal Shariah Court will now operate from the Islamabad High Court building. Since its formation on November 18, the FCC had been operating at temporary arrangements at the IHC. The relocation to permanent premises was part of the original plan. However, it was delayed due to objections raised by some judges of the Federal Shariah Court.

KP CM Sohail Afridi pays surprise visit to Mazar-e-Quaid

■ PTI Sindh leadership accompanies CM Afridi: Visit comes hours after Afridi's fiery address in Karachi targeting Punjab and Sindh governments:

Web Desk

KARACHI

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister (CM) Sohail Afridi, accompanied by senior Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders, on Monday once



TENDER NOTICE
TSE-252601942583, TSE-252601942333
Only electronic bid will be submitted. No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The Executive Engineer Buildings District Usta Muhammad invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2026 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates

Tender Fee 1000 PKR and Bid Security 3% for each work

S.No	Name of Work/s	E/Cost
1	Upgradation of 50 Middle Schools to High Level in Balochistan PSDP No. 5292 (Z.2025.2331) (GBMDS Habib Kot District Usta Muhammad BEMIS Code 5452)	74,405,444
2	Upgradation of 100 Primary Schools to Middle level in Balochistan PSDP NO.5274 Z.2025.2330 (GBPS Muhammad Hassan Pindriani District Usta Muhammad BEMIS Code 5441)	25,480,000

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 1 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 52,083,810 PKR, 17,836,000 PKR. Amount in 2 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm. An affidavit on Rs. 100/- stamp paper, in favor of the Procuring Agency, mentioning the Tender TSE Number and the title of work, duly notarized, confirming that the bidder has submitted correct and complete information along with the bid/offer. Bidder must provide affidavit confirming no conflict of interest not blacklisted no major litigation no nonperformance in last 5 years and no failure to sign contract. All bidders must submit the original deposit challan and original Call Deposit Receipt (CDR) within two (02) hour of bid opening. Failure to do so will result in disqualification of the bidder. **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure. **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit at Call of 3 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gob.pk. **Issuance of tender Documents:** Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gob.pk. **Last Date of bid submission:** Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 28 January, 2026 till 12:00 PM through supplier dashboard. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at 01:00 PM on EPPS System Address: Office of Executive Engineer Buildings CWP&H Department Main Jinnah Road, District Usta Muhammad. Phone no: 03337804431 Email: Yaseenchaudhary@gmail.com

TENDER NOTICE
The Secretary Balochistan Blood Transfusion Authority (BBTA) invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items. TSE-252601942381 Only electronic bid will be submitted. No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB.

Tender Fee Not Required

S.No	Class of Object	Bid Security
1	Manufactured Vehicles & Accessories	2%

(Total Item(s) Count: 1)

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** 3 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity 40,000,000 in Previous 3 Years Turn over of at least 40,000,000 PKR in 3 Subsequent Previous Years Presence in Active Tax Payer List Sales Tax Certificate. The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. JV is not permissible. Submission of the required Bid Security in case Bid Security is not found as required during financial evaluation the bidding firm shall be declared as in-eligible and non-responsive. Manufacturer must be registered with the SECP Firm must have Quetta based 3S Dealership Facility. i) Affidavit on stamp paper of Rs. 100/- duly notarized to the effect that ii. Bidder has submitted the correct and complete information along with the bid/offer. If any document / information is found forged / engineered / fake / bogus at any stage, the bidder may be declared as Blacklisted in accordance with law and the performance guarantee and payment, if any may be forfeited. iii) Bid Validity Compliance (90 Days) iv) Delivery Period Compliance v) Price Reasonability vi) Compliance of warranty period. vii) Agreement with all terms & conditions viii) Agreement of operations of plant during the warranty period. Last 3 Years Audit Report Catalogue / Brochures / technical data sheet (having complete technical specifications of the offered goods) **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure. **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit at Call of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gob.pk. **Issuance of tender Documents:** Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gob.pk. **Last Date of bid submission:** Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 28 January, 2026 till 11:00 AM through supplier dashboard. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at 12:00 PM on EPPS System Address: Balochistan Blood Transfusion Authority (BBTA) Spiny Road Quetta Phone no: 0322812000 Email: afzalzarkoon@gmail.com

Executive Engineer Buildings District Usta Muhammad

AB No.696/12-01-2026

www.dpr.gov.pk dpr.gov.pk dpr.gov dprgohalochistan

Motorway sections closed as fog descends on Punjab, KP, Sindh

■ Motorists have been advised to use fog lights, reduce speed, and maintain a safe distance from vehicles ahead



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Heavy fog in plain areas of Punjab, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on night between Sunday and Monday forced closure of several motorway sections after visibility dropped.

According to the Motorway Police spokesperson, Motorway M1 from Peshawar to Burhan, Motorway M2 from Thokar Niaz Baig to Chakri, Motorway M3 from Faizpur to Darkhana, Motorway M4 from Shershah to Pindi Bhattian, Motorway M5 from Rohri to Shershah and Motorway M11 from Lahore to Sambrail have been closed for all kind of traffic.

Motorway Police spokesperson said the closures were necessary to protect lives and property amid hazardous weather conditions.

Forensic report exposes PTI's false narrative: Tariq

■ Tariq Fazal Chaudhry said that the attack on Radio Pakistan and other government installations was in fact an attack on the state of Pakistan



Staff Reporter

GENEVA/WASHINGTON

Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry on Sunday said that the Punjab Forensic Science Laboratory's report on videos of the May 9 incidents in Peshawar has once again exposed the false narrative of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

In a post on the social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter, Tariq Fazal Chaudhry said that confirmation of the presence of PTI leadership through frame-by-frame analysis is proof that the

attacks on state institutions were not carried out by an "emotional mob," but under the patronage of organized political leadership.

Tariq Fazal Chaudhry said that the attack on Radio Pakistan and other

government installations was in fact an attack on the state of Pakistan. He added that PTI leadership not only incited violence but also exploited it for political gain. A party that claims to be a champion of democracy, he said, cannot be associated with setting institutions on fire.

The federal minister emphasized that the law should now be equal for everyone, regardless of how big a name one may have. He further stated that no one can be allowed to attack the dignity of Pakistani institutions and the supremacy of the Constitution.

Rewiring Pakistan's growth model

Pakistan's economic policy framework is increasingly being shaped by sector-specific reforms aimed at correcting long-standing structural distortions and reviving growth. Among the most significant developments are the gradual deregulation of the sugar sector, a renewed emphasis on an ambitious agriculture export strategy, and sustained efforts to attract foreign direct investment (FDI). These initiatives are closely interlinked and reflect a broader shift away from heavy state intervention towards market-oriented, export-driven and investment-friendly policies. While challenges remain, official data and historical experience suggest that progress in these areas could strengthen Pakistan's external position, raise productivity and generate much-needed employment. The sugar sector has historically symbolised Pakistan's interventionist

economic approach. For decades, it operated under extensive government controls, including administratively fixed sugarcane support prices, restrictions on exports and imports, regulated stock releases and recurring subsidies. Although these measures were intended to stabilise prices and protect farmers, they often produced the opposite effect. According to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, sugarcane production has exhibited sharp fluctuations over the past decade, rising from 78.9 million tonnes in 2019-20 to 85.4 million tonnes in 2020-21, before falling to 75.2 million tonnes in 2021-22 and rebounding to 82.3 million tonnes in 2022-23. Such volatility has been driven not only by weather conditions but also by policy uncertainty and distorted incentives. The sector expanded beyond economically efficient capacity. The rapid growth in the

number of sugar mills, particularly during the 1990s and 2000s, was not matched by gains in productivity or competitiveness. As a result, Pakistan repeatedly faced cycles of surplus and shortage, forcing the government to subsidise exports or allow costly imports. These interventions imposed a fiscal burden and undermined trust within the supply chain, especially as delayed payments to farmers became routine. Despite being among the world's leading sugarcane producers, Pakistan failed to establish itself as a consistent exporter, with exports remaining sporadic and policy-dependent.

Recent moves towards deregulation represent an attempt to break from this legacy. By easing export restrictions and reducing direct administrative controls, policymakers aim to allow market signals to

guide production and pricing decisions. The Ministry of National Food Security and Research has indicated that greater flexibility in sugar exports is intended to reduce surplus accumulation and fiscal exposure. In global comparison, the potential remains significant. According to the United States Department of Agriculture, major producers such as Brazil exported more than 25 million tonnes of sugar in 2024, while India exported over five million tonnes. Pakistan's historically negligible export presence underscores the opportunity cost of prolonged regulation. However, the transition carries short-term risks, particularly for consumers, underscoring the need for adequate buffers and transparent market oversight.

Might Makes Right

By: Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal

From the very dawn of creation, the universe has moved according to a divine equilibrium. Allah Almighty brought into existence innumerable creatures, assigning each its sphere and sustenance. On land, human beings were endowed with intellect, conscience, and moral responsibility; in the oceans, an astonishing diversity of life was created, numbering in the hundreds of thousands of known species, with many more still undiscovered. Among these aquatic beings, the Whale Shark (Rhincodon Typus) stands as the largest fish, gliding through the seas and sustaining itself by filtering vast volumes of water to consume plankton and tiny fish. In the underwater world, the larger feeding upon the smaller is part of a natural order, governed by instinct rather than arrogance or domination. Human society, however, was never meant to mirror this crude biological struggle. Nations were not created to swallow one another merely because they possess greater strength. Whether large or small, wealthy or poor, every country has its own historical identity, territorial integrity, and moral right to exist with dignity within its geographical boundaries. Yet history tells a sobering story. For centuries, powerful empires invaded weaker lands, plundered resources, redrew borders, and justified their aggression as destiny or necessity. The consequences were ruinous wars, shattered civilizations, and

unending human suffering. The unprecedented devastation of the First World War forced humanity to confront the cost of unchecked power. Millions perished, economies collapsed, and entire regions were destabilized. In response, the League of Nations was established in 1920 as the first serious attempt to replace force with collective security and dialogue. Its declared aims were lofty: preventing war, resolving disputes peacefully, promoting disarmament, and fostering

cooperation among nations. Yet beneath its noble language lay structural weaknesses. Major powers remained absent or indifferent, enforcement mechanisms were feeble, and decision-making required unanimity. When confronted with aggression in Manchuria, Ethiopia and Europe, the League stood helpless, ultimately collapsing under the weight of its own contradictions. After the Second World War, even more catastrophic than the first, the United Nations (UN) emerged in 1945 with renewed promises. This new organization sought to correct earlier failures by including major powers and granting binding authority to the Security Council. Its Charter pledged to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, to uphold International Law, and to protect the sovereignty of states. For many newly decolonized nations, the UN symbolized hope that the age of imperial domination had ended and that justice would no longer be subordinate to power.

Contradictions. After the Second World War, even more catastrophic than the first, the United Nations (UN) emerged in 1945 with renewed promises. This new organization sought to correct earlier failures by including major powers and granting binding authority to the Security Council. Its Charter pledged to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, to uphold International Law, and to protect the sovereignty of states. For many newly decolonized nations, the UN symbolized hope that the age of imperial domination had ended and that justice would no longer be subordinate to power.

Yet recent events have once again exposed the fragility of these ideals. The arrest of the Venezuelan President and his wife by the United States, coupled with claims of control over Venezuela's internal affairs and oil reserves, has

raised profound questions about

the relevance of international law. The open declaration by the US President that he does not recognize international law in this context has shocked even seasoned observers. Political analysts widely believe that Venezuela's decision to sell oil to Russia and China—bypassing the dollar and opting for national currencies—triggered deep anxiety in Washington, as it threatened the economic dominance upon which American power largely rests.

Although Russia and China formally condemned these actions, the global response remained restrained, reinforcing the perception that international law is applied selectively. Some commentators argue that an unspoken arrangement among major powers is taking shape: China asserting itself over Taiwan, Russia consolidating its hold over Ukraine, and the United States extending its reach over

Venezuela. If this logic prevails, the world will no longer be governed by law, morality, or collective responsibility, but by raw power—the rule of the strongest baton. The repercussions of such conduct extend far beyond Venezuela. Even America's traditional allies now observe these developments with unease, questioning whether sovereignty is respected only when it aligns with dominant interests. Elsewhere, similar patterns are discernible. In Iran, repeated waves of unrest are widely viewed by independent critics as externally encouraged, reflecting a belief that regime change becomes inevitable wherever powerful actors feel discomfited. Such interventions deepen global mistrust and further erode confidence in international institutions. Nearly a century ago, Allama Muhammad Iqbal captured this reality with piercing insight.

If you walk into any ancient library of history, wander through the ruins of Greece, or read about the rise and fall of Rome, one pattern appears with disturbing consistency. Civilizations did not collapse when they ran out of food. They collapsed when they ran out of moral clarity — when the distinction between right and wrong was blurred, negotiated, or rebranded. Societies begin to decay not when evil exists, but when evil finds defenders, advocates, and eloquent justifications. Today, we are standing at that very point.

We have entered an age where sin no longer arrives quietly. It does not sneak in through back doors, hiding under the weight of shame. It now walks in confidently, armed with arguments, wrapped in sympathy, escorted by media narratives, and validated by social platforms. Most dangerously, it presents itself as the victim.

That which was once committed in secrecy and repented for in silence is now displayed publicly, defended passionately, and celebrated as a form of "justice" or "personal truth." Social media walls have become courtrooms where morality is overturned and wrongdoing is acquitted by popular vote.

Recently, a digital controversy dominated public discourse. It involved no global leader, no intellectual giant, no pillar of society — just ordinary individuals. Yet the debate it triggered shook the moral foundations of the public sphere. The intensity of the arguments suggested that the ethical compass of society itself was under trial.

The real issue, however, was never the individuals involved — neither the man nor the woman. The real issue was the narrative that emerged in defense of wrongdoing.

A narrative delivered with apparent compassion and emotional weight: "What choice did she have? She was helpless." Another voice insists: "This was not sin; it was love." A third, cloaked in philosophical tone, argues: "Marriage was the intention — circumstances simply didn't allow it."

This is the moment where a living society faces its greatest test. We forget that the universe does not function on human logic alone, but on divine order. Islam does not merely declare adultery forbidden; the Qur'an commands: "Do not even go near adultery." This is not a casual

phrasing. It is a comprehensive moral barricade — blocking not only the act itself, but every path, excuse, secrecy, and justification that leads toward it.

This command came without conditions. It did not say poverty creates allowance. It did not say emotional suffering grants permission. It did not say "true love" transforms the unlawful into the lawful. Because the Creator knows that once circumstances are

allowed to legalize sin, no sin remains a sin. Then every thief will justify hunger, every murderer will defend rage, and every betrayal will plead necessity.

A popular claim today is that "the woman was oppressed." Let us accept this argument for a moment. Even then, an essential question remains: does victimhood grant moral immunity? Does suffering provide a license to violate divine boundaries?

Islam does not expect women to endure injustice silently. That is precisely why it provides mechanisms of reform, family intervention, and dignified legal exits such as divorce and khula. But Islam never presents a third party — another man — as a solution. A relationship outside lawful bounds, no matter how softly packaged in empathy, is neither justice nor liberation. It is simply another sin, sweetened with emotional language.

Equally disturbing is the modern redefinition of masculinity. Physical intimacy is now portrayed as manhood. This is not masculinity; it is instinct. Animals follow instinct. Humans are distinguished by restraint. True masculinity is responsibility, loyalty, moral courage, and the ability to defeat one's own desires.

If physical contact were the ultimate measure, then marriage, fidelity, and family would be redundant institutions.

Another emotionally charged claim often heard is: "She did not want sin; she wanted marriage." It sounds compassionate, but it collapses under scrutiny. If marriage was the goal, why was the path unlawful? In Islam, the order is explicit and non-negotiable: marriage precedes intimacy. Reversing that order is

When Sin Begins to Demand Justification

By Muhammad Asif

not faith—it is self-deception. Poverty is also frequently offered as justification. History, however, tells a different story. There were times when people tied stones to their stomachs out of hunger, yet guarded their dignity fiercely. When the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) addressed financially struggling youth, he did not permit moral compromise. He taught patience, self-control, and

discipline. If poverty becomes a moral exemption, society devolves into a jungle where every desire claims legitimacy.

The problem, then, is not hardship. It is the glorification of wrongdoing. A hero is not someone who drifts with circumstances; a hero is someone who stands firm against both societal pressure and personal desire.

Some argue that society itself has become shameless. This is a convenient escape from responsibility. Societies are not shameless — consciences are. The truly exposed individual is not the one who falls and repents, but the one who sins openly and demands applause. The most dangerous mindset is the one that brands immorality as modernity and modesty as backwardness.

We must ask ourselves: what legacy are we leaving for the next generation? Are we teaching our children that hardship justifies every moral breach? Or are we teaching them that dignity must survive even when comfort does not?

If we allow sin to be defended with eloquence, every wrong will soon have a script. Every mistake will come with a narrative, and we will stand silently, lamenting that "times have changed."

The truth is simpler and harsher: times do not decay — people do. The sun still rises on schedule. The universe remains disciplined. What has changed is human priority. What has eroded is moral courage.

We must draw a clear line between empathy and endorsement. Compassion does not require surrendering principles.



Mustafa Kamal, Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination chairing the 34th National Steering Committee Meeting of Sehat Sahulat Program.



Homeland Security to send hundreds more officers to Minnesota, Noem says

■ The officers would be deployed to bolster the safety of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Border Patrol officials already in Minnesota, Noem said on Fox News' "Sunday Morning Futures" programme

Web Desk

WASHINGTON

The US Department of Homeland Security is sending "hundreds" more officers to Minnesota, Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said in remarks that aired on Sunday, after tens of thousands of people marched through Minneapolis to protest the fatal shooting of a woman by an immigration agent.

The officers would be deployed to bolster the safety of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Border Patrol officials already in Minnesota, Noem said on Fox News' "Sunday Morning Futures" programme. Some 2,000 federal officers have already been dispatched to the Minneapolis-St. Paul area in what DHS has called its largest operation ever.

The new deployments began even as more than 1,000 rallies took place nationwide on Saturday and Sunday to protest the federal government's deportation push and

Wednesday's fatal shooting of 37-year-old Renee Good by an ICE officer.

Video from Chicago, Pittsburgh and other cities showed crowds in the streets on Sunday, though none appeared to be as large as Saturday's gathering in Minneapolis. Thousands of people marched peacefully in New York City on Sunday, stopping in front of Trump Tower on Fifth Avenue where demonstrators blocked traffic and chanted, "Hey, hey, ho, ho, Donald Trump has got to go!" The New York Times reported. Minnesota officials have called the shooting of Good unjustified, pointing to bystander video they say showed her vehicle turning away from the agent as he fired. Noem and other US officials have maintained that the agent acted in self-defense because Good, a volunteer in a community network that monitors and records ICE operations in Minneapolis, drove forward in the direction of the agent who then shot her.

International law applies to everyone, including US, says German finance minister

■ "It is solely up to Denmark and Greenland to decide about Greenland's future. Territorial sovereignty and integrity must be respected," Klingbeil said ahead of his departure to Washington



WEB DESK

BERLIN

The principles of international law apply to everyone, including the United States, German Finance Minister and Vice Chancellor Lars Klingbeil said on Sunday, in reference to President Donald Trump's threats to seize Greenland. "It is solely up to Denmark and Greenland to decide about Greenland's future. Territorial sovereignty and integrity must be respected," Klingbeil said ahead of his departure to Washington for a meeting of finance ministers from

the Group of Seven advanced economies.

A US military seizure of the mineral-rich Arctic island from Denmark, a long-time ally, would send shockwaves through NATO and deepen the divide between Trump and European leaders.

"We increase security in the Arctic together as NATO allies, not in opposition to one another," Klingbeil said.

Monday's G7 meeting will focus on access to critical minerals as Western countries seek to reduce their dependence on China given moves by Beijing to impose strict export controls on rare earths.

Klingbeil said Germany has a strong interest in expanding international cooperation in this area in order to strengthen security of supply, reduce dependencies and ensure reliable economic framework conditions.

"That is why it is important that we consult with our international partners and - wherever possible - act together," he said.



Deaths from Iran protests reach 'more than 500'

■ Tehran threatens to target US military bases if Trump carries out renewed threats to intervene

WEB DESK

Tehran

Unrest in Iran has killed more than 500 people, a rights group said, as Tehran threatened to target US military bases if President Donald Trump carries out his renewed threats to intervene on behalf of protesters.

With the Islamic Republic's clerical establishment facing the biggest demonstrations since 2022, Trump has repeatedly threatened to get involved if force is used on protesters. According to its latest figures - from activists inside and outside Iran - US-based rights group HRANA said it had verified the deaths of 490 protesters and 48 security personnel, with more than 10,600 people arrested in two weeks of unrest.

Iran has not given an official toll and Reuters was unable to independently verify the tallies.

Authorities intensify crackdown

The protests began on December 28

in response to soaring prices, before turning against the clerical rulers who have governed since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

included military strikes, using secret cyber weapons, widening sanctions and providing online help to anti-government sources.

"The military is looking at it, and we're looking at some very strong options," Trump told reporters travelling on Air Force One on Sunday night.

Trump said he was in contact with Iranian opposition leaders. He also said, without elaborating, that Iran's leaders had called him on Saturday and want to negotiate, and that he might talk to them.

Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf warned Washington against "a miscalculation."

"Let us be clear: in the case of an attack on Iran, the occupied territories (Israel) as well as all US bases and ships will be our legitimate target," said Qalibaf, a former commander in Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards.

Authorities intensify crackdown

The protests began on December 28 in response to soaring prices, before turning against the clerical rulers who have governed since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Cuba defiant after Trump says island to receive no more Venezuelan oil or money

WEB DESK

HAVANA/HOUSTON

US President Donald Trump on Sunday said no more Venezuelan oil or money will go to Cuba and suggested the Communist-run island should strike a deal with Washington, ramping up pressure on the long-time US nemesis and provoking defiant words from the island's leadership.

Venezuela is Cuba's biggest oil supplier, but no cargoes have departed from Venezuelan ports to the Caribbean country since the capture of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro by US forces in early January amid a strict US oil blockade on the OPEC country, shipping data shows.

Meanwhile, Caracas and Washington are progressing on a \$2 billion deal to supply up to 50 million barrels of Venezuelan oil to the US with proceeds to be deposited in US Treasury-supervised accounts, a major test of the emerging relationship between Trump and interim President Deley Rodriguez.

"THERE WILL BE NO MORE OIL OR MONEY GOING TO CUBA - ZERO! I strongly suggest they make a deal, BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE," Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform.

Demonstrators in London, Paris, Istanbul back Iran protests

■ Demonstrators rallied in London, Paris and Istanbul in support of protests in Iran that have been countered with a deadly crackdown by the country's security forces.

WEB DESK

LONDON

Demonstrators rallied in London, Paris and Istanbul on Sunday in support of protests in Iran that have been countered with a deadly crackdown by the country's security forces.

London demonstrations, initially in front of the Iranian embassy and later in front of the British prime minister's residence, grew to several thousand as the day progressed. "We want revolution, change the regime," Afsi, a 38-year-old Iranian, who declined to give her last name, told AFP at the rally in front of Downing Street.

Afsi has lived in London for seven



years, and has not been able to contact her family in Iran because of an internet blackout imposed by authorities since Thursday.

"?It's so frustrating, but it's not the

first time," he said. "This time, we have hope ... we feel like we can do it (overthrow the government) this time."

In Paris, more than 2,000 people

waving Iran's flag from before the Islamic Revolution in 1979 demonstrated, to chants of "No to the terrorist Islamic Republic".

Police did not allow them to approach the Iranian embassy.

"Close the mullahs' embassy, the terrorist factory," some demonstrators yelled.

A 20-year-old Iranian student living in Paris, who gave his first name as Arya, said: "In Iran, the people are rising up in the streets, and we Iranians outside Iran are here to show we are with them and they are not alone."

He said he was waiting to hear what the son of Iran's last shah, US-based Reza Pahlavi, "will tell us to do".

Iran's Pezeshkian pledges action on economic woes amid spiralling protests

■ Africans in search of a better future became the latest casualties of Yemen's decade-long conflict.

WEB DESK

TEHRAN

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian has pledged to address mounting economic grievances in the country, saying his government is "ready to listen" to protesters while urging them to prevent "rioters" and "terrorist elements" from wreaking havoc.

Pezeshkian spoke about the unrest in an interview on state television on Sunday as the demonstrations, which began when merchants at Tehran's Grand Bazaar closed their

shops over the Iranian rial's sharp depreciation, entered a third week.

The Iranian president told the IRIB broadcaster that Israel and the United were masterminding the destabilisation in the country, saying "the same people that struck this country" during Israel's 12-day war in June were "trying to escalate these unrests with regard to the economic discussion".

"They have trained some people inside and outside the country, they have bought in some terrorists from outside," Pezeshkian said, claiming the

perpetrators had attacked a bazaar in the city of Rasht and setting "mosques on fire".

The Iranian president said the government had heard the concerns of shopkeepers' concerns and is going to solve their problems "by any means necessary". But he urged the public not to allow "rioters" to disrupt the country, insisting: "Rioters are not protesting people. We hear the protesters and have made every effort to solve their problems."

The protests, which have evolved from economic grievances into broader anti-government demonstrations,

are the largest in Iran since the 2022-2023 movement spurred by the custodial death of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old woman who had been arrested for allegedly violating the strict dress code for women.

State media reported that 109 security personnel have been killed during the latest unrest.

Authorities have not confirmed the number of demonstrators who have lost their lives, but opposition activists based outside the country say the death toll is higher and includes hundreds of protesters.



Comeback kid Hurkacz inspires Poland to first United Cup title

- Hubert Hurkacz capped his injury comeback and earned United Cup redemption as he inspired Poland to a first title with a 2-1 victory in the final against Switzerland.

Sports Desk
SYDNEY

Hubert Hurkacz capped his injury comeback and earned United Cup redemption as he inspired Poland to a first title with a 2-1 victory in the final against Switzerland in Sydney. Switzerland took a shock early lead when Belinda Bencic stunned world number two Iga Swiatek 3-6, 6-0, 6-3 in the opening singles of the mixed teams event.

Playing his first tournament in seven months following knee surgery, 28-year-old Hurkacz withstood a Stan Wawrinka fightback to prevail 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 and send it to a deciding doubles.

Katarzyna Kawa and Jan Zielinski then completed a famous victory by beating Bencic and Jakub Paul 6-4, 6-3 to erase the heartbreak of Poland losing in the final in 2024 and 2025.

"Finally, we made it! Third time



lucky!" Swiatek said during the trophy ceremony. "I really felt it was a team effort this year. "Hubi, what a comeback after so many months. You played amazing. You inspired us all with determination. "Our doubles team, wow! You just beat everyone. It was amazing." Hurkacz fired 18 aces against the 40-year-old Wawrinka to erase two heartbreaking near misses in the last

two United Cup finals. In 2024, Hurkacz squandered two championship points before falling to Germany's Alexander Zverev. The USA's Taylor Fritz denied him in a third-set tie-break last year. "He's definitely an inspiration," Hurkacz said of Wawrinka, who is playing his final season on tour before retirement. "I was growing up watching him play,

compete and win so much. Obviously his game style is really powerful.

"The shots that he can pull off sometimes, you can really admire them even when you are on the other side of the net."

Bencic won 12 of the final 15 games against a shell-shocked Swiatek, earning her second victory over the world number two.

"To be honest, I felt I was in the match from the very first point," said Bencic, who won all five of her singles matches in the tournament.

"I thought I was going great and I was 0-3 down. I was 'OK, what do I have to do?' "I think I just tried to keep the level and just wait for some chances." With the title on the line, Zielinski partnered Kawa to victory over the Swiss pair who had been unbeaten in the tournament, scuppering Bencic's attempt at a perfect 10-0 record in singles and doubles.

"This moment is so bittersweet," Bencic said, adding Switzerland had nothing to be disappointed about.



Yashma Gill's bold red off-shoulder look shines at Mehwish Hayat's birthday

Web Desk
LAHORE

Pakistani actress Yashma Gill turned heads with a striking fashion moment that has quickly become a fan favorite. At Mehwish Hayat's star-studded birthday celebration, Yashma was photographed wearing a vibrant red off-shoulder top that perfectly balanced chic style with casual ease.

The top featured a wide neckline that sat just below her shoulders, revealing her collarbones and adding a subtle yet confident touch to her look.

The fabric hugged her silhouette without feeling restrictive, giving the outfit a refined but relaxed feel. She paired the top with classic blue jeans, grounding the vibrant upper piece with a versatile and comfortable choice.



Sonya Hussyn shares elegant night at the iconic Novaya Opera in Moscow

Web Desk
ISLAMABAD

Sonya Hussyn delighted her followers with a glimpse into a cultured evening at the Novaya Opera in Moscow, showcasing her appreciation for the performing arts.

In a recent Instagram reel, she captured moments from inside the historic opera house that drew attention for its architecture and live performances.

The clip begins with Sonya seated in an ornate balcony area, framed by rich red railings and warm lighting that highlights the grandeur of the venue. Her expression is one of enjoyment as she takes in the scene around her.

She wears a fitted black outfit with long sleeves and button detailing at the front, offering a look that is both comfortable and refined for an evening of classical performance.



Ayesha Omar shares glimpses from coastal adventure

Sports Desk
ISAMABAD

Ayesha Omar has treated fans to glimpses from her coastal getaway in Karachi, sharing a series of sun-soaked shots on social media.

Taking to Instagram, the actor posted the pictures and short clips with the caption, "Beach bums found another heavenly spot in Karachi."

For the outing, she opted for a relaxed beach look, wearing a white, cropped, long-sleeved tie-front blouse paired with flowy, wide-leg pants featuring a blue, yellow, and green tile-inspired print.

The pattern resembled the popular Positano or Sicilian tile style.

She also tagged Sahil-e-Firdous, effectively promoting the exclusive, members-only luxury beach resort and club located about an hour's drive from Karachi near Gadiani Beach in Balochistan.

Last month, Ayesha kickstarted the buzz around her upcoming film Mera Lyari by unveiling its first set of covers featuring her alongside Dananeer Moheen, followed by individual character posters spotlighting Samiya Mumtaz, Nayyer Ejaz, Adnan Shah Tipu, and Sania Sohail.

The posters maintain a restrained, serious tone, hinting at a story rooted in realism rather than spectacle.

Ayesha penned an emotional caption that underscored the personal significance of the project for her, writing: "Alhamdolilah. My first baby coming after an intense labour of love, hard work, and commitment. Releasing soon."

Australian Open 'underdog' Medvedev says he will be hard to beat

- It was his second tournament victory in three months after his first title in two years came at Kazakhstan in October.



SPORTS Desk
ISLAMABAD

Three-time Australian Open runner-up Daniil Medvedev will be an underdog at the opening Grand Slam of the year, but the Russian warned he will be hard to beat in his current form.

Medvedev should move up a place to number 12 in the rankings after warming up for another crack at the Melbourne Park title by winning the Brisbane International on Sunday. It was his second tournament victory in three months after his first title in two years came at Kazakhstan in October.

"I for sure have been playing very good (at the) end of the season. I think I made six out of the last seven tournaments quarters, a lot of them semis, two titles," he said. "So I'm happy with the way I'm playing, and I know that when I'm playing good, there are not that many players that can beat me easily or at all."

Medvedev, who reached the final of the Australian Open in 2021, 2022 and 2024, will be an underdog in Melbourne with Jannik Sinner and Carlos Alcaraz overwhelming favourites.

"If we look in the long run, for sure I'm the underdog, because it's been some time I haven't been in the later stages of a Grand Slam. I'm outside of the top 10," he said.

Last year Medvedev lost in the Australian Open second round to 19-year-old Learner Tien over five gruelling sets, before going out in the first round at Roland Garros, Wimbledon and Flushing Meadows.

He has since split with long-time coach Gilles Cervara and started working with a former Australian Open champion, Thomas Johansson, and Rohan Goetzke.

"Last year was not easy," he said. "It was a little bit turbulent and changing the team helped, so I'm happy with it."

Troubled Man Utd crash out of FA Cup against Brighton

- Manchester United's problems mounted as the managerless Red Devils crashed out of the FA Cup after a 2-1 defeat against Brighton.

Sports Desk
ISLAMABAD

Manchester United's problems mounted as the managerless Red Devils crashed out of the FA Cup after a 2-1 defeat against Brighton on Sunday.

Brajan Gruda put Brighton ahead in the first half at Old Trafford and former United striker Danny Welbeck netted after the break.

Benjamin Sesko's reply came too late to save his side from a third round exit as United teenager Shea Lacey was sent off in the final moments.

United were barraged by jeers from furious fans following the latest miserable result in another troubled season.

Caretaker boss Darren Fletcher has failed to stop the

rot following Ruben Amorim's shock sacking on Monday, with United looking to appoint an interim manager until the end of the season.

Former United boss Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and Michael Carrick, a decorated ex-United midfielder, have both been linked with the temporary role.

But regardless of United's past pedigree, the chaos enveloping Old Trafford hardly makes it an appealing job for any manager of stature these days.

Welbeck, 35, was at United when they won their most recent Premier League title in 2013 under Alex Ferguson, who watched the Brighton debacle from the directors box as the current generation showed how far they have fallen from the Scot's golden

era.

United, currently a disappointing seventh in the Premier League, are without a win in four games and have managed only one victory in their last seven matches.

That wretched form is unlikely to improve anytime soon with United hosting Manchester City next weekend before travelling to Premier League leaders Arsenal on January 25.

After a humiliating League Cup loss at fourth tier Grimsby in August, United have exited both domestic cups at the first hurdle for the first time since 1981-82.

Avenging their 2023 FA Cup semi-final loss to United, Brighton have now won on four of their last five visits to Old Trafford.





By:
Murad
Baloch



EMERGING AND PROGRESSING BALOCHISTAN

**Under the Leadership of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti:
Transparency, Development, and Public Service**



Launch of Merit-Based RecruitmentChief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti announced the province's first-ever recruitment of 111 government posts on a 100% merit basis through a paperless online system. He stated this is a historic step towards eliminating corruption and ensuring institutional reforms.

Role of Pakistan Navy in National SecurityChief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti congratulated the nation on the successful test of the modern LY-80 defense missile by the Pakistan Navy. He said Pakistani scientists and engineers are second to none in modern technology and Pakistan's defense is invincible.

Pink Bus Service for WomenChief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti inaugurated the first Pink Bus Service in Quetta under the vision of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. He emphasized that women's empowerment is the foundation of social progress and the government is committed to providing safe and dignified transport facilities.

Prime Minister's AppreciationChief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti and his cabinet were praised by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif for their performance, calling it a government dedicated to serving the people of Balochistan. ---??

Joint Development Commitment with the Federation Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti highlighted that for the first time in provincial

history, 100% of the development budget resources have been utilized transparently and effectively. He stressed that the provincial government, in collaboration with the federation, is taking serious and result-oriented steps to bring Balochistan into the national development mainstream.

High-Level Meeting on Quetta's CleanlinessChief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti expressed dissatisfaction over the city's sanitation system in a high-level meeting. He directed immediate improvements, public surveys, and strict action against those dumping garbage in open spaces.

Low BTU Gas Plants ProjectChief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti chaired a meeting deciding to install Low BTU gas plants on a commercial basis in the province. He

instructed investor companies to prioritize local skilled workers, noting that industrial projects will generate employment and increase tax revenue.

Joyful Celebration at SOS Children's VillageOn New Year's Day 2026, Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti sent cakes and gifts to children at SOS Children's Village. He said children are the nation's most valuable asset and their welfare, education, and happiness are the state's responsibility.

Launch of Sui Master Development PlanOn January 5, 2026, Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti chaired a high-level meeting to launch the Sui Master Development Plan. The plan includes internal development, beautification, street lights, drainage, water supply, sports

grounds, and a bus terminal. He said the aim is to provide modern urban facilities and improve the quality of life for the local population.

Address at Balochistan National Workshop On December 26, 2025, Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti addressed the participants of the 18th Balochistan National Workshop. He clarified that the state has never pursued a policy of indiscriminate force in Balochistan, and targeted actions should not be misrepresented as state operations. He emphasized that Pakistan is a strong and indestructible state, and youth must resist false narratives spread through social media.

Address at Balochistan National Workshop On December 26, 2025, Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti addressed the participants of the 18th Balochistan National Workshop. He clarified that the state has never pursued a policy of indiscriminate force in Balochistan, and targeted actions should not be misrepresented as state operations. He emphasized that Pakistan is a strong and indestructible state, and youth must resist false narratives spread through social media. He also highlighted reopening of 3,200 closed schools, provision of health facilities in remote areas, and the launch of the Benazir Bhutto Scholarship Program for students including minorities and transgender individuals. ---??

Speech at Quaid Day CeremonyOn December 25, 2025, at Quaid-e-Azam Residency in Ziarat, Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti said: - The Pakistan envisioned by Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah is now becoming a reality. - Global leaders acknowledge Pakistan as a strong, dignified, and emerging state. - The Pakistan Army's courage and professionalism have enhanced Pakistan's global respect. - Balochistan government, in collaboration with security forces, has prepared a comprehensive roadmap for peace and development.

- He warned against conspiracies to divide the nation on ethnic or ideological grounds, stressing that "Pakistan ka matlab kya, La ilaha illallah" is the foundation of unity. - He praised Pashtun tribes for standing shoulder to shoulder with the armed forces to defeat terrorism. - He assured the people that Balochistan will once again achieve complete peace, stability, and progress, fulfilling Quaid's dream. This edition is centered on the vision and leadership of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti. His initiatives reflect transparency, institutional reforms, women's empowerment, energy projects, child welfare, urban development, educational opportunities, national security, and ideological strength. Balochistan is now moving forward with federal cooperation and modern planning, firmly entering the national development mainstream.

