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At least 14 killed, 20 injured in suicide attack on Kabal police station in Swat: Police

PEAK POINT

SWAT: At least 14 people were killed and 20 others injured in a suicide attack on Swat's Kabal police station on Sunday, police said.

Swat police spokesperson Nasir Iqbal Karimi confirmed to Dawn that 14 people had died in the blast.

Earlier, Swat Deputy Inspector General of Police Fida Hussain had told AFP that seven people, including four police officers, were killed and 20 others injured in the attack.

According to the Swat District Police Officer (DPO) Umar Khan, the suicide bomber detonated explosives after police personnel attempted to stop and search him at the entrance of the police station.

The DPO said that the police remained on high alert. "Security forces have cordoned off the area, and an investigation is underway to collect further evidence," he added.

The explosion occurred near the gate of Kabal police station while hundreds of people were participating in a public demonstration at nearby Kabal Chowk against the recent wave of terrorism in Swat Valley.

The powerful blast caused multiple casualties, prompting an immediate emergency response by police, rescue teams and local authorities.

The injured were shifted to nearby Saidu Sharif Teaching Hospital for treatment, while security personnel sealed off the area and launched a search operation.



Police officials inspect the site following a suicide bombing during a protest in Swat district.

Several Khawarij killed, hideouts destroyed during Operation Garj-11 in Bajaur

PEAK POINT



RAWALPINDI: During effective intelligence-based operations of security forces under Operation Garj-11, several Khawarij were killed and their hideouts were destroyed.

According to security sources, during the operation, security forces also arrested facilitators while recovering a large quantity of arms and ammunition.

In an intelligence-based operation in the Shakra area of Bajaur, security forces effectively targeted Khawarij hideouts.

There are reports of several Khawarij being killed and injured during successful operations in Bajaur.

Security forces also destroyed improvised explosive devices used by Khawarij during Operation Garj-11. Terrorists are being forced to flee from the local population through ground and quadcopter-assisted operations. The operations are being carried out to ensure that the lives and property of the people are protected and that no harm is done.

Trump says US 'locked and loaded' but will hold off on fresh Iran attack in hope of quick deal

PEAK POINT



WASHINGTON: United States President Donald Trump said late on Saturday he would hold off on a fresh attack on Iran as long as a deal could be reached quickly to halt Iran's nuclear ambitions and reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran and "other Middle Eastern Countries" asked for a time to complete a deal that would lead to "the Immediate, Complete and Total" reopening of the Strait and "an end to Iran's nuclear threat," Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform.

"Based on this request, I have agreed, for the future benefit of the WORLD and, likewise, the survival of a successful and prosperous Iran, to cancel the attack, subject to being able to rapidly make a DEAL," Israel "joins me in this commitment," Trump wrote. Israel did not immediately make a public statement on the issue. Iran warned the US this weekend against any adventurous action and said it would retaliate decisively if American forces followed through on Trump's threats of fresh attacks on Iranian targets.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi comments in separate phone calls on Saturday with senior Turkish, Pakistani and Saudi officials came just hours after Kuwait's army said it destroyed hostile drones launched by Iran against several vital facilities. Speaking to Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Asim Munir and Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan.

Asif reacts to Naqvi's call for governance reset, urges him to begin with his own ministry or PCB

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Reacting to Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi's call for an overhaul of the country's governance structure, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has advised him to initiate the change by implementing the National Action Plan (NAP) and with his own ministry.

He also urged him to bring a "revolution" in the Pakistan Cricket Board, which Naqvi heads in addition to the interior ministry.

Speaking at the Pakistan Economic Summit on Thursday, Naqvi had said the governance system in the country had "collapsed" and argued that the country needed new administrative units, or provinces, to improve service delivery, accountability and access to justice. He had also said new leadership was needed in the country and argued that the youth wanted justice, merit and jobs rather than stipends and laptops.

A day later, the military's spokesperson also urged political parties to consider an administrative reset for improving governance.

Postponed election in LA-27 Muzaffarabad to be held on Aug 4

PEAK POINT

MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Jammu and Kashmir's Chief Election Commissioner announced that the postponed election in LA-27 Muzaffarabad will be held on August 4.

Talking to media, Chief Election Commissioner Ghulam Mustafa said polling had to be postponed in LA-27 due to bad weather. He said that the polling process is going on peacefully across the country so far. "Change can be brought not through violence but through votes," the Chief Election.

AJK polls' second phase ends amid PPP claims of rigging

PEAK POINT

MUZAFFARABAD: Polling for the second phase of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) elections ended on Sunday evening after authorities extended voting by one hour until 6pm across nine constituencies in the Muzaffarabad division.

Similar to the first phase, the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) alleged that there was rigging in the second phase as well. The polling process, originally scheduled from 8am to 5pm, was extended by an hour to facilitate voters in the Muzaffarabad division. The AJK Election Commission said in a statement that the decision was taken in view of the large number of voters arriving at polling stations and to facilitate them in exercising their right to vote. Voting took place in nine constituencies of Muzaffarabad division —

five in Muzaffarabad district, two in Jhelum Valley,



and two in Neelum — with 207 candidates contesting. Simultaneously, polling was held in all 12 refugee constituencies, including six seats reserved for refugees from the Kashmir Valley and six for refugees from the Jammu region. A total of 137 candidates are in the race for these refugee seats. PML-N leaders rejected allegations of rigging and claims that Azad Kashmir President Chaudhry Latif Akbar and

MNA Salahuddin Junejo had come under attack during the



AJK elections. Prime Minister's Adviser on Political Affairs Rana Sanaulлах said a democratic party had started alleging rigging from around 10:30am despite the polling process continuing. He claimed PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari had been given incorrect information and was being misled into making false statements. Sanaulлах said only three incidents were reported dur-

ing polling across Azad Kashmir. Referring to one of them, he said Latif Akbar had gone to cast his vote at his polling station, where he had a dispute with members of the Sadat family.

He said an altercation took place there, adding that whether someone threw a punch or shots were fired, "we are responsible", but claimed the dispute was later portrayed as an attack on the AJK president. Referring to another incident in LA-31, Sanaulлах said MNA Salahuddin Junejo, accompanied by Sindh Police personnel, entered a polling station in Khawra. He alleged that Junejo's gunmen opened fire after he entered a third polling station and claimed there was also firing from the other side. Rana said reports suggested the MNA had sustained a bullet injury, but added that this had not been confirmed.

2 cops injured in IED blast targeting police van in Peshawar

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: According to the police, the driver of a police van and a constable sustained minor injuries, while the vehicle itself sustained damage.

"Both the cops have been shifted to the hospital," the city police spokesperson Alam Khan told Dawn.

The bomb disposal unit (BDU) reached the scene shortly after the incident was reported. "It was a roadside IED explosion, and the bomb was planted in the green belt [next to the vehicle]," Peshawar Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Farhan Khan told Dawn.

He said the BDU was busy scanning the green belt for other devices, adding that both cops were stable and had only scratches.



SPORTS



Famed climber Nirmal Purja, nine others, die in Skardu avalanche



PEAK POINT
SKARDU: Celebrated Nepali climber Nirmal Purja, who set a record for the fastest ascent of the world's 14 highest mountains, died in an avalanche during an expedition in Pakistan, his company said.

"Today it is with profound sadness and immense heartbreak that we confirm that Nirmal 'Nimsdai' Purja tragically lost his life following the avalanche on Broad Peak," his expedition organising company Elite Exped said in an Instagram post.

"We have also received confirmation that other members of the expedition sadly did not survive,"

it added, without giving details. Purja, 43, and nine others had been missing since Thursday after being struck by an avalanche on the 8,051-metre (26,414-foot) Broad Peak, the world's 12th highest mountain, a technically difficult climb in Pakistan's Gilgit-Baltistan region.

Purja, who served with British special forces as a Gurkha, completed the record-breaking feat in six months in 2019. He became widely known internationally after the Netflix documentary chronicling his journey "14 Peaks: Nothing Is Impossible" was released two years later.

The 10 mountaineers were

caught in an avalanche around midday on Thursday. Six of the 10 climbers were Nepalis and the others were from Pakistan, Oman, the US and China.

Powerful avalanche
The avalanche struck while the mountaineers were on a mission to summit Broad Peak (8,047 metres, 26,400 feet) on Thursday while the team were ascending at an altitude of around 6,600 metres, according to regional authorities.

The expedition comprised 10 people — including Purja, five Nepalis, a Pakistani, an Omani, an American, and a climber from China.

The team were last in contact on Thursday morning, the official statement said, with reports emerging that evening of the powerful avalanche.

"Data from their tracking devices indicates that they were thrown hundreds of metres down the mountainside," Naila Kiani, from Pakistan's Alpine Club, told Le Monde newspaper.

Super peaks
Purja, 43, had written on X this week that he was close to becoming the first person to climb all 14 "super peaks" twice without oxygen. "Broad Peak, I ask for nothing but safe passage up and back down," he wrote.

WI eye series sweep as Pakistan look for redemption



PEAK POINT

PORT-OF-SPAIN: West Indies look to sweep the Test series against Pakistan when the two sides meet in the second game here at the Queen's Park Oval on Sunday.

Home team captain Roston Chase is hoping that the hosts can establish their reputation as a formidable opponent in their home conditions. "After having the year we had last year [winning one and losing eight Tests], we sat down with the plan and said this is where we want to be," Chase said ahead of their series decider against Pakistan which is part of the ICC World Test Championship (WTC).

"And as I said, we're exactly where we want to be. We want to level up. We want to just come into this second Test, not take anything for granted, just go through the process that we've sat down and talked about.

"We want to come and execute them to the best of our ability. And look to get that second victory," he added. The West Indies beat Babar Azam-led Pakistan by 90 runs in a low-scoring series opener at the Brian Lara Stadium in Tarouba.

The result added to West Indies' tally of 30 points in the WTC Standings, where they are placed eighth, just above Pakistan. "We're very blessed and very happy for the results that we've been having at home so far.

Sri Lanka women clinch T20I series against Pakistan



PEAK POINT

SRI LANKA: Debutant Sanjana Kavindi and captain Chamari Athapaththu smashed rapid cameos to help Sri Lanka defeat Pakistan by six wickets in the second T20I on Sunday, sealing an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

Chasing a challenging target of 176 at the Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium, the hosts paced their chase clinically to cross the finish line with 14 balls to spare, ending on 178 for four in 17.4 overs.

The visitors had earlier ridden on a blazing 90-run open-

ing stand between works, striking an unbeaten 30 off 19 balls, including three fours and two sixes, to post a formidable 175 for five after opting to bat first.

Pakistan enjoyed a flying start, racing to 68 without loss in the powerplay. Shawaal Zulfiqar top-scored with a 35-ball 48 that featured eight boundaries while Muneeba struck six fours and six in her 30-ball 45.

Sri Lanka's Chamudi Praboda broke the opening stand and finished as the pick of the bowlers with two for 27. Despite losing both openers in quick succession, Pakistan maintained their scoring momentum through Eman Naseer (21) and Saira Jabeen (16). Eyman Fatima provided late fire-

Arshad lacked fitness before Glasgow, says former coach



All four Pakistan squash players advance to quarters

PEAK POINT

KARACHI: All four Pakistan players advanced to the quarter-finals of the Pakistan Navy Fleet Club Open Squash Championship as Hamza Khan, Noor Zaman, Asim Khan and Nasir Iqbal secured victories in the second round here at the Pakistan Navy Roshan Khan-Jahangir Khan Squash Complex.

Hamza, fourth seed, edged Switzerland's David Bernet in a marathon five-game thriller, prevailing 11-13, 14-12, 9-11, 11-7, 11-5 in a gruelling 70-minute encounter. Noor, ranked 29th in the world, overcame Brazil's Diego Gobbi in straight games 12-10, 11-5, 11-9. "I was down in the first set, but I made some adjustments and thankfully was able to win," the 22-year-old Noor said after the match.

Asim downed Hong Kong's Matthew Lai 3-1 in a 40-minute contest, with game

scores of 5-11, 11-4, 11-9, 11-5. "I was under pressure after losing the first game as I am playing in a tournament after a long time," Asim said. "But still I am able to win, so I feeling good."

Veteran Nasir Iqbal continued his strong run, beating

12-10 in 47 minutes.

In an all-Egyptian contest, Aly Tolba edged Karim El Hammamy 11-8, 11-13, 11-4, 6-11, 14-12 in an 85-minute battle. Another all-Egypt affair saw Yassin Elshafei down compatriot Abdullah Hafeez 8-11, 11-8,



Egypt's Yassin Shohdy 11-9, 11-5, 11-3.

In other second-round matches, Egypt's Salman Khalil defeated Malaysia's Yee Xian Siow 11-8, 11-6, 11-4 in 36 minutes, while compatriot Mohammed Naseer overcame Japan's Naoki Hayashi 3-1 with scores of 6-11, 11-8, 11-8,

11-2, 5-11, 16-14 in 50 minutes. The quarter-finals will be all-Pakistan affairs, with Hamza, 20, taking on veteran Nasir while top seed Noor faces Asim. About his upcoming match against Noor, Asim said he has a better record against him and hoped it would be an entertaining clash.

Pakistan stage comeback to overcome South Korea 3-1 in second





Senate delegation to represent Pakistan at UNITE Global Summit 2026 in the Philippines

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: A parliamentary delegation of the Senate of Pakistan will participate in the UNITE Global Summit 2026, to be held in Manila, Philippines, from 3-4 August 2026. The summit, convened under the theme of advancing equitable, resilient, and sustainable global health systems through parliamentary leadership and international cooperation, will bring together parliamentarians, policymakers, international organizations, and global health experts from across the world. The Senate delegation comprises Senator Khalida Ateeb, Senator

Husna Bano, Senator Rahat Jamali, Senator Nadeem Ahmed Bhutto, Ms. Misbah Khar, Advisor to the Chairman Senate, and Ms. Shahana Ifikhar, Director General. The composition of the delegation reflects the Senate of Pakistan's commitment to inclusive representation by ensuring meaningful participation of senators from different political parties in Senate at an international policymaking forums. Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani has always advocated strengthening Pakistan's parliamentary diplomacy through active engagement in global platforms while promoting the role of women and



minorities in addressing international policy challenges. During the two-day summit, the Pakistani delegation will participate in high-level plenary sessions, parliamentary dialogues, leadership forums, policy workshops, and panel discussions focusing on innovative and sustainable health financing, universal immunization, mental health and wellbeing, climate-resilient

health systems, pandemic preparedness, digital health governance, and strengthening regional and global partnerships for public health security. The delegation will also engage with fellow parliamentarians, government representatives, development partners, and international organizations to exchange experiences, promote evidence-based legislative approaches, and explore col-

laborative solutions to emerging global health challenges. Pakistan will share its parliamentary perspectives and reaffirm its commitment to advancing inclusive, people-centered health policies aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. The participation of the Senate delegation underscores Pakistan's continued commitment to promoting parliamentary diplomacy and contributing constructively to international efforts aimed at building resilient, equitable, and sustainable health systems. It further reflects the Senate's resolve to strengthen cooperation with regional and global partners in support of improved pub-

lic health outcomes and sustainable development. The UNITE Global Summit is the flagship annual event of the UNITE Parliamentarians Network for Global Health, serving as a premier international platform where legislators and decision-makers engage with leading experts and global institutions to shape policy responses to the world's most pressing health challenges. Through dialogue, collaboration, and knowledge-sharing, the Summit promotes evidence-based legislation and strengthens parliamentary leadership in advancing global health, resilience, and sustainable development.

NDMA warns of rising river levels across Pakistan this week

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Sunday warned that water levels in Pakistan's major rivers are expected to rise significantly between Aug 2 and 4, prompting flood alerts across several regions and urging the public to avoid unnecessary travel to flood-prone areas as heavy monsoon rains continue to intensify.

According to the NDMA's National Emergencies Operation Centre (NEOC), high-level

flooding has been recorded in the Lehri River at Head Gogi, while medium-level flooding is under way in Nullah Palkhu at Wazirabad.

The authority said low-level flooding continues at Kalabagh, Chashma, Guddu and Sukkur along the Indus River, as well as at Head Nari on the Nari River.

On the Chenab River, high level flows are expected at Marala, while low to medium level flows are forecast at Khanki and Qadirabad. Water levels are also expected to rise in the Jhelum, Ravi and Kabul rivers and their tributaries.



The NDMA warned that streams linked to the Jhelum, Chenab and Ravi rivers could experience medium to high flows, while water levels in the Ravi and Sutlej will depend on releases from Indian reservoirs.

The authority also cautioned about the risk of flash floods in the hill torrents of Dera Ghazi Khan and Rajanpur, as well as seasonal streams in central and southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and northern Balochistan.

It further warned of urban flooding and rainwater accumulation in low-lying areas of Rawalpindi, Jhelum,

Gujranwala, Lahore, Faisalabad, Peshawar, Mardan, Nowshera, Hyderabad, Badin, Thatta and other parts of Sindh. The NDMA advised people to avoid unnecessary travel to flood-hit areas, refrain from crossing floodwaters on foot or by vehicle, monitor weather forecasts and road conditions before travelling, and strictly follow instructions issued by local authorities. It urged the public to stay updated through the official Pak NDMA Disaster Alert mobile application for timely weather warnings and emergency information.

Opinion & Editorial

Power and youth

Muhammad Amir Rana

YOUTH are highly innovative in expressing their anger. Meanwhile, ruling elites struggle to understand that the existing power structure can no longer meet the aspirations of the young. The context of this statement is neither the events in Delhi, where the youth-led Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) succeeded in achieving its demands, nor the violent protests in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, nor the recent provocative statement by the federal interior minister about the state system. Rather, the reference is to a silent protest by the youth of Khuzdar in Balochistan, in which they succeeded in having their demand met. Is it not a unique event in Pakistan when the demands of the youth are met?

What was the youth's demand? The reopening of a local library, where students study and prepare for their civil service examinations. The library was closed by the local bureaucracy, quite likely with the consent of superior institutions, which see books and libraries as sources of dissent. One cannot spare the bureaucracy either, which has a narrow vision and has been taught to rule like colonial masters. There is a high probability that in Khuzdar, too, they would have seen the youth's inclination towards books and literature as a potential threat to security. It is ironic that most students, including many female students, were using the library

as a safe and peaceful space to prepare for their exams. Most of them aspired to become bureaucrats, but the bureaucracy itself had shut down the library and closed the door to their future.

Whatever factors were involved in the library's shutdown, the youth adopted a unique and peaceful way to protest. They held a sit-in outside the library and converted the footpaths and adjoining street into an open-air study space. They did not raise any slogans or attempt to confront the police or the local administration; they simply continued sitting silently and studying. Finally, the Balochistan chief minister intervened, and the library doors opened again.

This peaceful protest happened in a conflict-torn province where an insurgency is at its peak. The state has cracked down on violent actors. Sadly, those who participate in peaceful political and civil rights movements are also targeted. The district of Khuzdar has its own complex local, tribal and political context, and sardars, good or bad, have made the local people's lives miserable. Yet the youth found a way to register their protest.

The youth are not politically blind; they see how the system works and how it is manoeuvred.

The protests by the youth in Khuzdar and by the CJP in India were related to education and inspired by the idea of getting a fair chance in life. Power structures have lost

sight of the fact that equal opportunities and a fair system are essential for the youth. The youth are not politically blind; they see how the system works and how it is manoeuvred.

Whether it is referred to as Gen Z or Alpha-Z, this is a different generation with a different worldview. A dominant trend, especially among the more privileged youth of this generation, is to try out new modes of production and expand their class influence. Their forefathers accumulated leverage for their protection through wealth and relationships within the power structure. Less privileged youth are becoming less interested in civil services and industries and more interested in the corporate and financial sectors.

Certainly, the majority still belong to the middle- and lower-income groups, and they try every avenue they believe can empower them. They know that power is the only pathway to economic prosperity. Civil services and public-sector jobs of any sort are their shortcuts to finding a way out.

When someone tries to block the path to their dreams, they resist and protest. The older generations respond to the new generation in the conventional way, claiming that the new generation knows nothing. Where the youth have brought about political change, as in Nepal and Bangladesh, senior figures in the system dislike them and see their worldview as flawed.

Courtesy Dawn

Reset or another political ploy?

Imtiaz Gul

Mohsin Naqvi - the second most powerful figure in Pakistan's present hybrid system - made a series of striking admissions during the Economic Summit in Islamabad. Not known for polished public speaking or political sophistication, he nevertheless delivered a carefully calibrated message that appeared to reflect thinking within the power structure itself. Coming from somebody thought of as the de facto prime minister, the speech suggested a system searching for a way out of its current predicament, albeit on its own terms. Describing the present governance model as "tardy" and "a total flop", Naqvi called for an urgent "reset" backed by all political forces. Otherwise, he warned, Pakistan could face a public backlash similar to the recent rise of the youth-led Cockroach Party in India, whose protests unsettled the political establishment there and enforced a minister's resignation. Naqvi acknowledged that young people cannot be appeased merely by distributing a few thousand rupees or laptops - an implicit swipe at PML-N's longstanding laptop and stipend schemes. He also questioned the PPP's resistance to revisiting the 18th Amendment, arguing that Pakistan needs more administrative units for better governance. In doing so, he quietly revived the debate over creating new provinces. Taken together, Naqvi's speech reflected an apparent recognition that the absence of political legitimacy has rendered the present governance arrangement increasingly ineffective. We have hit a dead end, was the implicit message. It combined an admission of failure, anxiety over growing public frustration - particularly among the youth - and a call to restructure the constitutional and administrative framework with the support of business elites and mainstream political parties. Yet an obvious question follows: do the rulers really believe they have hit a dead end? And one, is the confession genuine?

Courtesy Tribune

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An orphaned generation

There are 60,000, and there is no sign that the Zionist government can be shamed into stopping that number from increasing. Of the 60,737 children who have lost at least one parent since Israel's military campaign began in October 2023, at least 2,713 have lost both parents. Given the already impoverished state of the territory, these children have lost any chance to access the basic family and societal structures that might have helped them grow up safe and healthy. Yet, some families have suffered even more violence than these orphans. At least 2,276 entire families - accounting for 8,858 people - have been completely wiped out, as the total death toll in Gaza has crossed 73,000. We must reiterate that no matter what lies the Israelis and their allies try to sell, none of the death and suffering these children face is a tragic case of 'collateral damage' in war. It is the direct consequence of deliberate policy. A United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry concluded in June that "Israeli authorities and security forces have deliberately targeted Palestinian children, resulting in genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes." The commission found that approximately 30% of those killed in Gaza were children, and that the killing and maiming of Palestinian children "was part of a strategy to destroy the biological continuity and future existence of the Palestinian group".

Muqam urges all parties to allow democratic process to proceed peacefully



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister and senior Leader Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Engr Amir Muqam on Sunday urged all parties to allow the democratic process to proceed peacefully and let voters decide the outcome through the ballot box.

Addressing media in Islamabad, Engr Amir Muqam said political parties should focus on winning public confidence instead of making allegations that could undermine the elec-

toral process before polling has taken place. He maintained that election results could not be altered through accusations and called on political stakeholders to accept the people's verdict with maturity.

"Making allegations without evidence does not change election results," Amir Muqam said. "Instead of blaming others, political parties should ask the people why they failed to secure their votes. The public's decision should be accepted with an open heart", he added.

Amir Muqam said the PML-N had accepted the results of the Gilgit-Baltistan elections despite political differences and expected other parties to demonstrate the same democratic spirit. "Initially, they raised objections over four constituencies, and now they have reduced those claims to two," he said. "An inquiry committee has already been formed to examine the complaints, but nothing substantial has emerged from those alle-

gations so far," he added.

Defending his party's electoral strength in Azad Kashmir, Amir Muqam said the people of Mirpur Division had supported the PML-N because of its governance and development record. "The people voted for the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz on the basis of its performance," he said.

"We have worked systematically across constituencies, resolved differences and united people on a common platform," he said, adding that meetings with PPP leaders had taken place but did not violate any agreed political framework.

"We have witnessed arbitrary transfers and administrative decisions that appear discriminatory," Amir Muqam alleged. "Such actions create an uneven playing field for political parties."

"The solution lies in the general elections. Let the people decide whom they want to lead.

Chairman Senate meets Pakistani professional wrestler Ather Zahid

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate of Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, met with internationally acclaimed Pakistani professional wrestler Ather Zahid, the first Saudi-born Pakistani wrestler to represent Pakistan on the international stage.

The Chairman congratulated Ather Zahid on his outstanding achievements and wished him continued success.

He praised his dedication and appreciated his efforts in bringing recognition to Pakistan through his performances in international wrestling competitions.

Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani said that sports promote peace, friendship, and harmony among



nations, while athletes serve as ambassadors who inspire people and enhance the country's image globally.

He emphasized that sports contribute to physical fitness, mental well-being, discipline, and resilience, and stressed the need for collective efforts to encourage young talent, strengthen sports infrastructure, and provide greater opportunities for Pakistani athletes to excel at regional and international levels.

Governor KP calls voluntary blood donation national, humanitarian responsibility

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Saturday termed voluntary blood donation not only a welfare act but also a national, humanitarian and moral responsibility, saying timely availability of safe blood was essential for saving precious lives and strengthening the healthcare system. Addressing the inaugural session of the two-day Annual Blood Conference 2026, jointly organized by the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and Blood Chain Pakistan, the Governor said voluntary blood donation played a vital role in building a compassionate society and ensuring an effective public health system.

The event was attended by ICCI President Sardar Tahir Mahmood, office-bearers of Blood Chain Pakistan, doctors, business leaders, political and social per-



sonalities, volunteers from across the country, children suffering from thalassemia and people from different walks of life. Governor Kundi lauded the services of Blood Chain Pakistan for promoting voluntary blood donation and serving humanity, saying such organizations were fostering the spirit of sacrifice, compassion and social service in society. At the conclusion of the ceremony he planted a sapling in the lawn of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and distributed medals and awards among individuals for their outstanding contributions to social services.

Abasin columnists association welcome Ansarullah Khilji's appointment as DG Information

PEAK POINT

PESHAWAR: President Abasin Columnists Association (ACWA) and prominent senior columnist, Ziaul Haq Sarhadi (Sitara Imtiaz) has termed the appointment of Ansarullah Khilji as Director General Public Information Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as a good move. In a statement, he said that Ansarullah Khilji is a senior and experienced officer of the Information Department who has served in important positions not only in the Information Department but also in national and international organizations. He graduated with distinction in



Journalism from the University of Peshawar. Zia said Ansar Khilji is a well-known Pashto language poet and author of several books. His appointment is being welcomed by journalists, columnists, intellectuals, newspaper owners, business community and officials of the Information Department.

Overseas Pakistanis' welfare a top government priority: Imran Ahmad Shah

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Syed Imran Ahmad Shah said the welfare of overseas Pakistanis and the provision of quality public services remained among the government's top priorities, stressing that Pakistani missions abroad must provide efficient, accessible, timely and people-centric consular services. He made these remarks while addressing a gathering during his visit to the Consulate General of Pakistan in Chicago, where he inaugurated a photo exhibition highlighting the rights and struggle of the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). The minister was received by Consul General Zaman Mehdi along with officers and staff of the Consulate. Members of the Pakistani-American community also attended the event. Syed Imran Ahmad Shah said overseas Pakistanis should be treated with dignity, respect, compassion and sincerity.

He stressed the need to further simplify consular procedures, eliminate unnecessary delays and ensure timely assistance to applicants, adding that public service delivery should be guided by the principles of humanity, justice and Islamic values. According to a news release, the minister appreciated the invaluable contribution of overseas Pakistanis to Pakistan's economy, national development and the country's positive image around the world. He said consular services could be further improved by addressing the concerns and suggestions of overseas Pakistanis, strengthening institutional engagement, enhancing public communication and making greater use of modern technology.

During the visit, Consul General Zaman Mehdi briefed the federal minister on the Consulate's initiatives to facilitate the Pakistani community across the American Midwest. He highlighted efforts including organizing consular camps in different cities, maintaining regular engagement.



Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Syed Imran Ahmad Shah visit to the Consulate General of Pakistan in Chicago.

Abbasi puts railways on high alert amid flood threat to ensure safe train operations

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi Saturday placed the Ministry of Railways on high alert to ensure the safety of passengers, protection of railway tracks and uninterrupted train operations amid the prevailing flood situation across parts of the country.

The minister also cancelled the weekly holidays of railway officers and staff and directed all officials to remain on duty until further notice to

effectively respond to any emergency, said a news release. Hanif Abbasi instructed senior railway officers to remain present in the field, while emergency measures were enforced at all field offices to closely monitor the situation and ensure an immediate response to any damage caused by heavy rains or flooding. He warned that he would personally supervise the performance of officers and directed strict action against officials found negligent in addressing

public complaints or carrying out their responsibilities. The minister directed all Divisional Superintendents (DSs) to personally oversee repair, restoration and maintenance work in flood-affected areas to ensure the earliest possible resumption of rail services.

He further ordered Pakistan Railways' control rooms to remain operational round the clock for continuous monitoring of the situation, adding that he would conduct surprise

inspections to review the implementation of emergency directives.

Hanif Abbasi urged railway officials to demonstrate exceptional dedication in serving the public during the emergency, saying efficient officers would be appreciated while those showing negligence would face disciplinary action.

He said the safety and convenience of passengers, along with the full restoration of train operations, would remain the ministry's top priority.

FCAA holds meeting to condoles death of Arshad Jamal

PEAK POINT

PESHAWAR: A condolence meeting of Frontier Customs Agents Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was held under the chairmanship of Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi (Sitara Imtiaz) to express grief and sorrow over the demise of Arshad Jamal, Chief Executive of Associate Customs Clearing and Forwarding and Jamal Logistics (Pvt) Ltd., Karachi. Late Arshad Jamal also served as former Vice President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and



Industry (FPCCI), founder and former Chairman of the All Pakistan Customs Agents Association, Karachi, and founder and former General Secretary of the Karachi Customs Agents Association.