

PM's directives for oppressed people of Gaza reflect sentiments of Pakistani people, Muslim world: Ashrafi



Aurangzeb Khichi visits Mazar-e-Iqbal with high-level delegation to mark Allama Iqbal's 149th birth anniversary



Iqbal's teachings key to Pakistan's bright future: Amir Muqam

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DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD

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PM Shehbaz directs MoFA to step up humanitarian aid to Gaza

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday directed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) to pursue "all possible means" to step up urgent humanitarian assistance to Gaza, and condemned Israel's continued restrictions on aid and violations of the ceasefire and international law.

In a post on X, the prime minister said he was "deeply concerned" about Israel's continued illegal actions to deny basic humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people.

"Heart-rending images of tents being flooded and of Gazan children with nowhere to go being trapped and subject to starvation and extreme cold," he said.

PM Shehbaz strongly condemned violations of the ceasefire and international law, as well as continued Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people.

He said he had directed MoFA to pursue "all possible means" to step up humanitarian assistance to Gaza urgently.

The storm, which began late Friday, also brought down dozens of walls, according to the Government Media Office. It estimated initial losses at about $3 million. Displaced Palestinian families have been left without shelter after heavy rain and strong winds flooded 70,000 tents in the Gaza Strip, with officials warning that damaged infrastructure and equipment shortages were overwhelming emergency efforts. Gaza Municipality spokesman Hosni Muhanna.



KARACHI: Speaker of the National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq is being presented with a shield by Speaker of the Sindh Assembly Owais Qadir Shah during his visit to the Sindh Assembly.

Security forces neutralise terrorists' hideouts in North Waziristan's Mir Ali: ISPR



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Security forces conducted an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Muzak village, on the southern outskirts of Mir Ali in North Waziristan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, neutralising two terrorist hideouts, the military's media wing said on Monday.

During the operation, troops "sanitised" the hideouts belonging to the India-sponsored Fitna al-Khawarij, the military's media wing said.

Fitna al Khawarij is a term the state uses for terrorists belonging to the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), security forces recovered a huge cache of prepared improvised explosive devices (IEDs), explosive preparation material, weapons, and ammunition from hideouts, which were established inside mosques.

The statement added that the terrorists had "deliberately established hideouts in Masajid to store explosive materials and also were running torture cells there," observing that, "this reprehensible desecration of places of worship by Indian proxy Fitna Al Khwarij serves.

Iran open to negotiations to end 'no war, no peace' situation: Iranian president



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Monday that Tehran remains open to negotiations to end the country's "no war, no peace" situation, stressing that Iran sought dialogue with the US based on mutual respect but would not surrender to pressure.

Speaking at a ceremony, Pezeshkian said Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei had instructed officials to end the state of "neither war nor peace," according to a statement published on the Iranian presidency's website.

"We can negotiate with dignity and resolve the issue with dignity. We favour dialogue and negotiations," he said.

Pezeshkian stressed that logic dictates resolving disputes through negotiations rather than war whenever a country's rights can be secured through dialogue. "However, we will not surrender to force and bullying," he added.

Recalling his address to the UN General Assembly, the president reiterated that Iran seeks negotiations based on justice and equal conditions while refusing to relinquish its rights under pressure. Referring to what he described as plots by Iran's adversaries to undermine the country, Pezeshkian emphasised the importance of strengthening domestic production. and meeting national needs to enhance resilience and independence.

Pakistan to host ECO ministerial meeting on Nov. 15-16, Afghan Taliban not invited: Sources



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will host the 30th meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) Council of Ministers in Islamabad on Nov. 15 and 16, with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar set to chair the session, sources said Monday. Pakistan will preside over the meeting as part of its chairmanship of the organisation's Council of Ministers for the 2026-27 term.

Sources said Pakistan had not extended an invitation to the Afghan Taliban government to participate in the meeting. The meeting is expected to focus on promoting regional trade, strengthening economic cooperation and improving connectivity among ECO member countries, sources said.

Constable martyred, three abducted in attack on Hangu police post

PEAK POINT

PESHAWAR: A police constable was martyred and three other personnel were abducted when terrorists attacked the Shalmas Pir Ziarat police post in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa's (K-P's) Hangu on Sunday night, Hangu District Police Officer (DPO) Salahuddin Kundi said on Monday.

According to the DPO, the terrorists took the three personnel towards Khanano Kot in the Samana mountain range. A heavy contingent of police and security forces reached. the scene, where an exchange of fire with the terrorists.

Opposition alliance hints at movement against govt, hopes JUI-F chief will lead the effort

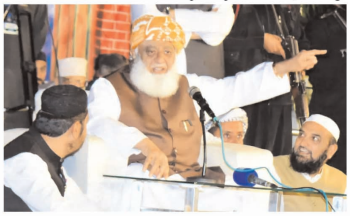
PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Tehreek Tahafuz-i-Ayeen Pakistan (TTAP) on Monday hinted at starting a movement against the incumbent government, with hopes that Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman may lead it.

Last week, opposition leaders and JUI-F agreed to strengthen their alliance and parliamentary coordination amid recent tensions between the latter and the federal government.

Fazl has been critical of the federal government over the imposition of governor's rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He has accused the Centre of reneging on its commitments amid his efforts to mediate between the federal and KP governments.

Since mid-October, the veteran politician and key federal ministers have also made harsh remarks against each other, after Fazl accused the Centre of depriving the provinces of their rights.



TTAP spokesperson Akhundzada Hussain Ahmed Yousufzai warned that it had become apparent that JUI-F would "meet the same fate as PTI".

"It is a war between democratic and undemocratic powers and TTAP will stand by the democratic people," the TTAP spokesperson said, adding: "We will always support those who are being suppressed."

Replying to a question, Yousufzai said that during a recent meeting between JUI-F Senator Kamran Murtaza and TTAP leaders, it was agreed in principle to gather on one platform.

"It was also decided that soon we will hold a multiparty conference (MPC), so a movement can be started against the government after that.

"We hope that Maulana Fazlur Rehman will be one of the figures who will be leading the movement," he said.

On Oct 16, without naming anyone, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi had claimed that a "head of a party" was "extremely upset over being denied a role in the new setup in KP and not getting the governorship".

The next day, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif and State Minister for Interior Tallal Chaudhry rebuked Fazl directly, who later clarified his criticism was aimed at policies, not state institutions. The row played out in the Parliament as well, where Fazl questioned Asif's absence and Naqvi's presence at a meeting of the Makkah pact countries and Iran in Tehran.

Water surges into nearby work areas after rock mass collapse at Tarbela Dam



PEAK POINT

SWABI: A rock mass collapsed at the Tarbela Dam 5th Extension Project (T-5) construction site on Monday, causing a surge of water to enter nearby work areas, said the Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda).

An emergency was declared following the collapse; construction work was suspended and workers were directed to move to safer areas. However, no loss of life was reported in the incident. In a statement, Wapda said that water entered the under-construction power house area and a tunnel of the T-5 project after a weak rock mass collapsed during excavation work, prompting the evacuation of workers.

The authority said the incident occurred during excavation of the 2nd Bench.



PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD

SPORTS



First Test: Debutants Tayyab, Taha hit fifties as Pakistan dominate opening day



MOHSIN ALI

RAWALPINDI: Fifties from debutants Tayyab Arif and Mohammad Taha, alongside skipper Babar Azam and Saud Shakeel, helped Pakistan reach 281-5 at stumps on the opening day of the first Test at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Monday.

Pakistan made an impressive start after being asked to bat first, with openers Azan Awais and debutant Tayyab Arif taking the attack to the Sri Lankan bowlers through confident strokeplay.

The opening pair capitalised on loose deliveries and regularly found the boundaries, putting the visitors under early pressure. Their positive approach helped Pakistan cross the 50-run mark during the opening stages of the first session.

Tayyab looked assured on his international debut and brought up his maiden Test half-century, providing Pakistan with a solid platform. However, Sri Lanka broke the 86-run opening partnership in the 16th over when Milan Rathnayake dismissed Azan for 30 off 35 deliveries, including seven boundaries.

The visitors struck again in the following over as Asitha Fernando removed Tayyab, who departed after scoring an impressive 57 off 51 balls, hitting nine fours and a six at a strike rate of 111.76.

Following the two quick dismissals, captain Babar Azam joined fellow debutant Mohammad Taha at the crease. The pair consolidated the innings while maintaining the scoring momentum, taking Pakistan past the 100-run mark in the 21st over.

Pakistan resumed after lunch at 137-2 in 30 overs, with Babar unbeaten on 31 off 39 deliveries, including four boundaries, while Taha was batting on 15 off 42 balls.

The pair added a valuable 69-run partnership for the third wicket, taking Pakistan beyond 150 before Dilshan Madushanka dismissed Babar shortly after he completed his 35th Test half-century. The Pakistan captain scored 50 off 58 deliveries, including seven boundaries, leaving the hosts at 159-3.

Saud Shakeel joined Taha, and the duo steadied the innings with another important partnership, guiding Pakistan past the 200-run mark in the 49th over.

Taha continued his positive approach and brought up his maiden Test half-century on debut. However, Sonal Dinusha ended their 68-run fourth-wicket.

Governor Punjab recognises rising tennis star Ashtar Alam Khan



PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Pakistan's promising junior tennis player Ashtar Alam Khan, a student of Army Public School for International Studies (APSIS), Lahore, has received special recognition from Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan in appreciation of his outstanding talent, dedication and achievements in tennis.The Governor acknowledged Ashtar's growing stature among Pakistan's top-seeded junior tennis players and commended his commitment, hard work and passion for the sport. He also encouraged the young athlete to maintain his focus, continue striving for excellence and pursue even greater accomplishments in his tennis career.This recognition marks a proud and memorable occasion for APSIS Lahore while providing valuable encouragement to Ashtar as he continues his journey towards sporting excellence.The appreciation also highlights the importance of supporting emerging sporting talent and encouraging young athletes to pursue their ambitions with determination, discipline and confidence.Motivated and dedicated Ashtar Alam Khan vowed that he is now more commiutted to build on his achievements and make further strides in junior tennis, bringing pride to his institution and Pakistan.

‘I stand with my brother’: David Warner says Usman Khawaja’s ‘sandpapergate’ claims ‘100pc accurate’



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: David Warner backed former teammate Usman Khawaja’s claims that the entire Australian team was in on the 2018 “Sandpapergate” scandal as “100 per cent accurate” on Monday.

Warner, one of three players banned over the ball-tampering controversy in Cape Town along with Steve Smith and Cameron Bancroft, said he stood “with my brother” Khawaja.

“It’s been eight years since I spoke on this topic,” the former opener said on Instagram.

“Uzzie, I throw my full support behind you. I thank you for what you’ve done.

“It’s 100 per cent accurate what you’ve said. Now everyone knows the truth. It’s out there. People wanted to know it. You’ve come out and said it.” Khawaja, Warner’s close friend and long-time opening partner, re-ignited the infamous incident on Saturday ahead of the release of his autobiography this week, where a chapter is dedicated to the issue.

“It was all of us. Not the batters, not the bowlers, not the staff. All of us,” Khawaja claimed about who was in on the plot to doctor the ball with sandpaper.

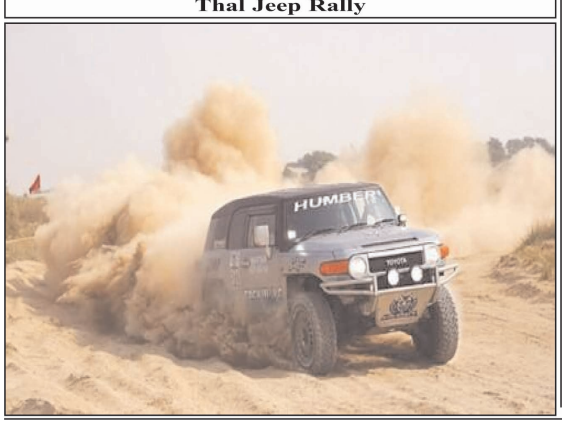
Cricket Australia’s original investigation found only Smith, Warner and Bancroft were in the know, with the governing body at the weekend saying it remained “comfortable” with its findings.

Bowlers Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood and Nathan Lyon all denied publicly in 2021 that they knew about it, while Darren Lehmann, who was head coach at the time, denied on Saturday there was widespread knowledge.

Wolff hails Mercedes double team and driver titles



Zafar Khan Baloch wins Pro Class D title at 11th Thal Jeep Rally



Pakistan WAPDA clinches overall Title at 16th National SeniorJu-Jitsu Championship 2026

PEAK POINT

LAHORE (Press Release): The 16th National Senior Ju-Jitsu Championship 2026 concluded successfully at the WAPDA Sports Complex, Lahore, with thrilling competitions and an impressive display of talent, discipline and sportsmanship by athletes from across Pakistan.Organized by the Pakistan Ju-Jitsu Federation (PJJF), the championship brought together talented male and female athletes representing various departments, provinces and regions of the country.At the conclusion of the championship, PAKISTAN WAPDA emerged as the overall champion, securing first position with an outstanding performance of 27 Gold, 15 Silver and 5 Bronze Medals, bringing its total medal tally to 47.PAKISTAN NAVY secured second position with 11 Gold, 14 Silver and 9 Bronze Medals, for a total of 34 medals, while PAKISTAN SINDH claimed third position with 9 Gold, 6 Silver and 18 Bronze Medals, achieving an overall tally of 33 medals.FINAL TEAM STANDINGS1ST POSITION – PAKISTAN WAPDA 27 Gold Medals 15 Silver Medals 5 Bronze Medals TOTAL: 47 MEDALS 2ND POSITION – PAKISTAN NAVY 11 Gold Medals 14 Silver Medals 9 Bronze Medals TOTAL: 34 MEDALS 3RD POSITION – PAKISTAN SINDH 9 Gold Medals 6 Silver Medals 18 Bronze Medals* TOTAL: 33 MEDALSThe closing ceremony was attended by distinguished guests, including Mr. Khalil Ahmed Khan, Chairman, Pakistan Ju-Jitsu Federation (PJJF), along with Mr. Tariq Ali, Secretary General, Pakistan Ju-Jitsu Federation (PJJF) representatives of the sports fraternity and members of different communities.The distinguished guests appreciated the efforts of the organizers, coaches, technical officials and athletes for making the championship a successful national sporting event.





Forensic audit raises questions over Rs1.35 billion received by swan garden society

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: A formal inquiry has been launched into alleged financial irregularities in the Civil Employees Cooperative Housing Society, commonly known as Swan Garden, after a preliminary forensic audit reportedly showed that the society received around Rs1.35 billion during the three year tenure of its former management, while residents continued to face problems with basic facilities.Former society president Raza Saleem Gondal and former general secretary Muhammad Ayub have been summoned to appear before the inquiry officer on November 10 and explain the financial affairs of the society during their tenure from 2022 to 2025.The inquiry will examine how the reported Rs1.35 billion in revenue was spent, which projects received funding and whether money collected for residents' facilities was used for its intended purposes. The audit figures have raised questions that authorities will now investigate. However, the reported amount alone does not establish that any money was misappropriated or that any individual is responsible for wrongdoing.The action followed an application submitted to the Registrar Cooperative Societies by the society's incumbent general secretary, Chaudhry Yasir Arafat Mehdi, along with Abdul Rauf Bhatti and Shahid Hamid Mirza. They raised concerns about the previous management's financial affairs and the use of society funds.Following the application, the Registrar ordered a forensic audit to examine the society's accounts, income and expenditure and assess the concerns raised. According to the preliminary audit report, the society generated approximately Rs1.35 billion in revenue from various sources between 2022 and 2025. Despite these reported receipts, residents allegedly continued to face difficulties relating to water supply, electricity, sanitation and security.The central question now facing the inquiry is how such a large amount of money was used while residents continued to complain about the lack of essential services.Residents had reportedly raised repeated complaints about these problems and sought improvements. They were allegedly told that the society could not resolve the issues because of a shortage of funds. The reported revenue has therefore increased demands for a detailed explanation of the society's financial position and spending decisions.The Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, who also serves as the Registrar of Cooperative Societies, has appointed Chaudhry Muhammad Afser, Deputy Director at the Commissioner's Office, as the inquiry officer.The officer has issued summons to the former president and general secretary, directing them to appear on November 10 and provide explanations about the society's finances and the use of its funds during their time in office.The inquiry is expected to examine financial records, bank accounts, expenditure details, development projects and fund transfers. It will also look into whether money intended for residents' basic facilities was spent on the stated purposes.Residents have welcomed the inquiry and called for a transparent and impartial investigation. They said the money collected by the society belongs to its members and should be used to provide essential services and development facilities.They have demanded that the authorities examine the complete financial record and establish how much money was received, where it was spent and whether all payments were properly documented.Residents have also called for action against anyone found responsible for financial misconduct, negligence or misuse of authority, provided the allegations are supported by evidence.The inquiry has placed the financial management of Swan Garden under scrutiny and is expected to provide an opportunity for the former office bearers to respond to the questions raised in the audit and complaints.No final finding of misappropriation or corruption has been announced. The responsibility of the inquiry officer will be to examine the available record, hear the explanations of those summoned and determine whether any financial irregularity took place.Residents say they hope the investigation will protect members' money, establish accountability and help ensure that future society administrations use funds transparently and provide the facilities promised to residents.

IHC orders show cause notices over alleged disobedience of court directives

CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has expressed strong displeasure over the absence of respondents and their alleged failure to comply with its earlier directions, ordering the issuance of show cause notices in a contempt of court petition and directing the respondents to explain why contempt proceedings should not be initiated against them.Justice Inaam Ameen Minhas passed the order on November 4, 2026, while hearing Criminal Original No. 323/2026, filed by Mahmood-ud-Din and another against Dr Rizwan Taj and others. Advocate Imran Ishfaq appeared on behalf of the petitioners, while no one appeared on behalf of the respondents.According to the court order, the petitioners approached the court seeking contempt proceedings against the respondents over their alleged wilful and persistent failure to comply with directions issued in a judgment dated March 16, 2026, in Writ Petition No. 3912 of 2013.The court had issued formal notices to the respondents on September 9, 2026, directing them to submit their replies within seven days. On September 21, the court also directed all respondents to appear in person at the next hearing to explain their position regarding the allegations of contempt.On October 1, counsel for the respondents sought an adjournment, stating that an amicable resolution was expected. Relying on the assurance given by counsel, the court granted the request and conditionally dispensed with the respondents' personal appearance.However, on October 12, the respondents' counsel sought further time to submit a compliance report. When the matter came up for hearing on November 4, neither the respondents nor their counsel appeared before the court.The court expressed serious displeasure over the repeated requests for more time and the subsequent absence of the respondents and their counsel. It observed that their conduct prima facie amounted to disregard of judicial authority and could attract proceedings under Article 204 of the Constitution of Pakistan, 1973, read with the Contempt of Court Ordinance, 2003. Consequently, the court directed its office to issue show cause notices to the respondents forthwith. The respondents have been directed to submit detailed written replies within seven days of receiving the notices, explaining why contempt of court proceedings should not be initiated against them.The court further directed the respondents to ensure their personal appearance at the next hearing and at every subsequent hearing until further orders.The matter has been directed to be relisted for further proceedings.

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From deadlock to mandate

The struggle for power in Israel has entered a decisive phase as former military chief Gadi Eisenkot has been called to form a government. That development, however, is not in itself the end of Benjamin Netanyahu's record-long tenure, as his Likud party and its allies still remain the largest bloc in the Knesset, though short of a simple majority. The surprising swing of 19 Arab-Israeli candidates in Eisenkot's favour, despite the General's reservations, has rekindled the hope of seeing an end to the war criminal's rule, as well as the hope that the Jewish state might take a break from aggression and aggrandisement. The son of Moroccan-born parents now has an opportunity in disaster to reshape Israel's security and political profiles by, at the very least, trying to make it a normal state that learns to live in peace with its neighbors. The October 27 vote that left behind a hung parliament is leading to real-time, tectonic political shifts. Although Eisenkot enjoys the support of 67 Knesset members in a house of 120, he also has fallback options in this political exigency. Given his deep reservations about relying on the Arab-led parties, he may instead settle for a unity government by striking a deal with Netanyahu.

Modern Technology, but Why Is Office Work Still So Slow?

By: Zaheer Haider Jafri



The world has rapidly entered the digital age. Computers, the internet, modern software, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) have brought remarkable changes to almost every aspect of human life. Tasks that once required several hours or even days can now be completed within minutes. Despite these advancements, however, the pace of work in many public and private offices has not improved as much as expected. This raises an important question: if technology has made work easier, why has office performance not improved accordingly?The issue is not simply the availability of technology; it is also about its effective use, human expertise, administrative capacity, and institutional systems. Modern machines and software are important, but achieving the desired results requires trained employees, clearly defined responsibilities, and effective supervision.One of the major problems in our office environments is that computers and modern software are installed, but proper employee training is often given secondary importance. Some employees possess basic computer skills but struggle to use complex software, digital record systems, data management tools, and automated processes effectively.As a result, tasks that should be completed quickly with the help of technology become delayed because of repeated corrections, unnecessary procedures, and technical difficulties. Artificial Intelligence can also be beneficial only when it is used with proper understanding, accurate information, and appropriate supervision. Simply introducing AI does not guarantee improved institutional performance.In the past, many office tasks were performed manually. Maintaining registers, organizing files, preparing letters, and checking records required time. However, experienced employees were often familiar with their responsibilities, office procedures, relevant rules, and the finer details of record management. Their practical experience helped them identify and correct many mistakes before they became serious problems.Nevertheless, it would be incorrect to claim that manual systems were completely free of errors. Human oversight, illegible handwriting, misplaced records, and calculation mistakes were also possible under traditional working methods. The important point is that experience and practical skills played a significant role in maintaining accuracy in many offices .Today, a gap has emerged in some workplaces between traditional experience and modern technical skills. Employees who understand conventional office procedures may not receive adequate training in digital systems, while those who are familiar with new technology may lack sufficient experience in administrative rules and practical matters. Consequently, the potential benefits of both experience and technology remain underutilized.It is also unfair to hold employees solely responsible for slow office performance. Poor administrative planning, unnecessary approval procedures, unclear responsibilities, outdated software, slow internet connections, and weak coordination between departments can all contribute to delays. Sometimes, the approval of a simple document requires several stages, even when the relevant information is already available in a digital system. The solution is not merely to purchase new machines or increase pressure on employees. Institutions must identify where delays occur, determine which procedures are unnecessary, and assess the skills their employees need. Measurable indicators, such as task completion time, error rates, pending cases, and complaints from citizens or customers, can help evaluate actual performance. Institutions should provide continuous professional training, simplify digital systems, and reduce unnecessary administrative procedures. Information and documents generated through Artificial Intelligence must also be reviewed by qualified individuals to prevent inaccurate information, protect privacy, and reduce unintended errors.Similarly, the practical knowledge of experienced employees should not be ignored. Instead, it should be integrated with modern technology. When experience, professional training, and digital tools work together, both the speed and quality of office work can improve significantly.Ultimately, progress cannot be measured simply by counting the computers in an office or identifying the latest software being used. The real measure of progress is how quickly, accurately, and transparently an institution completes its work for the public and its stakeholders. Technology should not diminish human capability; rather, it should make that capability more productive.If office work remains slow despite the availability of modern facilities, it is time to examine administrative systems, employee training, and working procedures rather than blaming technology itself. Technology is certainly a means of progress, but *real progress occurs only when modern tools are supported by professional expertise, responsibility, and effective management.

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DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD

Allama Iqbal's timeless vision celebrated at International Poetry Festival in Moscow



PEAK POINT

MOSCOW: The literary and philosophical legacy of Allama Muhammad Iqbal was celebrated at an international poetry festival here ahead of his 149th birth anniversary.

The gathering brought together diplomats, scholars, poets and Russian students to reflect on Iqbal's enduring message of selfhood, humanity and intellectual awakening, a Pakistan Embassy news release said. Welcoming the participants on behalf of the university, Vice-Rector Professor Vera Zabotkina reflected on Iqbal's lifelong search for the essence and purpose of human existence. She highlighted the universal appeal of his philosophy, particularly his belief that true human progress requires both intellectual growth and moral strength. She noted that Iqbal's ideas continue to inspire young minds across cultures and generations.

Addressing the gathering, Ambassador of Pakistan to Russia, Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, described Iqbal as a visionary who could see far beyond his times. He noted that Iqbal wrote extensively in Persian, reaching audiences beyond the Urdu-speaking world. Recalling Iqbal's visit to Kabul in 1933 to advise on the development of Kabul University, he highlighted the poet's belief that Afghanistan was the heart of Asia and that peace there was essential for regional stability.

The Ambassador spoke of Iqbal's message of love, courage and conviction, which remains relevant nearly a century later. He recited verses from the celebrated poem Masjid-e-Qurtuba.

Mian Iqbal Salahuddin, grandson of Allama Iqbal, recited verses from Masjid-e-Qurtuba and offered a thoughtful interpretation of its philosophical and prophetic vision. He spoke about Iqbal's concept of revolution, explaining that the poet regarded it as the very essence of life and the driving force behind the rise and survival of nations. For Iqbal, revolution was not confined to political upheaval but represented a continuous process of intellectual awakening, moral courage and transformation. He emphasized that a nation which loses its revolutionary spirit and the will to change with the times eventually faces decline. He recalled Iqbal's powerful verses:

Dr Khurram Ilahi offered a fascinating interpretation of Iqbal's imagination, describing his poetry as anti-gravitational for its ability to transcend the physical boundaries of the world. Referring to *Javed Nama*, he spoke about Iqbal's extraordinary imaginary journey through the cosmos, including Mars, where the poet explores an imagined civilization and reflects on human progress and knowledge.

PM's directives for oppressed people of Gaza reflect sentiments of Pakistani people, Muslim world: Ashrafi

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Pakistan Ulema Council and Coordinator of the National Paigham-e-Aman Committee Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Monday said Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's condemnation of Israeli aggression in Gaza and his directives to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to take all possible measures for immediate humanitarian assistance reflected the sentiments of the Pakistani people, the Muslim world and all humanity.

He said innocent children in Gaza, whose tents are being flooded by rain and who are suffering from extreme cold, hunger and helplessness, are a matter of grave concern for all humanity. At this time, the most urgent need is the immediate provision of secure tents and protection of affected families from cold and rain, he said.

Ashrafi appealed to the people of Pakistan, the Muslim world, philanthropists, the business community and humanitarian-minded people across the globe to immediately provide financial resources for secure tents, blankets, warm clothing, food and medicines, and ensure their prompt delivery through credible relief organizations. He urged Islamic countries, the United Nations and international relief organizations.

Aurangzeb Khichi visits Mazar-e-Iqbal with high-level delegation to mark Allama Iqbal's 149th birth anniversary

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Division and President of Iqbal Academy Pakistan, Aurangzeb Khan Khichi, along with a high-level delegation, visited Mazar-e-Iqbal on Sunday to mark the 149th birth anniversary of Allama Muhammad Iqbal.

Aurangzeb Khichi visits Mazar-e-Iqbal with high-level delegation to mark Allama Iqbal's 149th birth anniversary

The federal minister laid a floral wreath at the mausoleum, offered Fateha and paid tribute to the great poet and philosopher of the East. He also recorded his remarks in the visitors' book at the mausoleum.

The delegation included Vice President Iqbal Academy Pakistan Dr Shahzad Qaiser (Sitara-i-Imtiaz), Director Iqbal Academy Pakistan Dr. Abdul Rauf Rafiqi (Sitara-i-Imtiaz), Chairman Aiwan-e-Iqbal Salman Ghani and Administrator Aiwan-e-Iqbal Anjum Waheed.

Aurangzeb Khichi visits Mazar-e-Iqbal with high-level delegation to mark Allama Iqbal's 149th birth anniversary. Speaking on the occasion, Aurangzeb Khan Khichi said that 2027 would be observed as the year of Iqbal activities, featuring a series of academic, literary, research and cultural events at national and international levels to promote the philosophy and teachings of Allama Muhammad Iqbal.

He said Iqbal Academy Pakistan would play a pivotal role in promoting activities marking the 149th birth anniversary of Allama Iqbal.

Aurangzeb Khichi visits Mazar-e-Iqbal with high-level delegation to mark Allama Iqbal's 149th birth anniversary. The academy would undertake further initiatives, including national and international conferences, seminars, competitions based on Iqbal's thought, translation projects and research and publication programmes to convey Iqbal's universal message to the younger generation.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Division and President of Iqbal Academy Pakistan, Aurangzeb Khan Khichi, along with a high-level delegation, visited Mazar-e-Iqbal.

Iqbal's teachings key to Pakistan's bright future: Amir Muqam

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON Engineer Amir Muqam on Monday said the philosophy and teachings of Allama Dr Muhammad Iqbal continued to serve as a guiding light for Pakistan's bright, sovereign and stable future.

In his message on the occasion of Iqbal Day, the minister said that the revolutionary ideas of the Poet of the East had awakened a spirit of selfhood, self-confidence, freedom of thought and struggle among the Muslims of the Subcontinent, while giving them a distinct national identity and a clear vision of their destination.

He said that Iqbal's philosophy of 'Khudi' (selfhood) was not merely a theory but a comprehensive way of life, encouraging individuals to recognize their potential, face challenges and pursue their goals through hard work and determination.

Amir Muqam said that Iqbal's message was particularly relevant to the youth, who had a vital role.

Interior Minister pays tribute to Allama Iqbal on his 149th birth anniversary

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister, Mohsin Naqvi on Monday paid tribute to national poet and philosopher Allama Muhammad Iqbal on his 149th birth anniversary, highlighting his message of self-respect, awareness, unity and action.

He said Iqbal's teachings remained relevant and needed to be followed to build a strong and welfare-oriented Pakistan.

In his message, Naqvi said Allama Iqbal had given the Muslim Ummah a lasting message of selfhood, awakening and action. He said the nation needed to follow these teachings in its individual and collective lives.

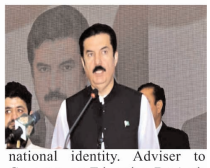
The interior minister said Iqbal's poetry was a legacy of knowledge and thought, rooted in self-respect, dignity and national pride. Through his poetry, Iqbal awakened the spirit of selfhood among Muslims and made them aware of their purpose.

Naqvi said Iqbal had presented the idea of a separate state for the Muslims of the subcontinent in his Allahabad address. The concept became a reality within a few years, he added.

He said Iqbal's ideas continued to guide the nation and provided the foundation.

Iqbal's vision can only be realized through educated, empowered youth: Governor

PEAK POINT



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Monday said Allama Muhammad Iqbal had given the nation a great vision and a clear intellectual direction, and it was now the responsibility of the people, particularly the youth, to transform that vision into reality.

Addressing an Iqbal Day ceremony as chief guest at Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University Peshawar, the Governor said Allama Iqbal was not merely a poet but a great philosopher and visionary who awakened among Muslims the spirit of selfhood, dignity, intellectual freedom and a distinct national identity. Adviser to Governor on Education Dr Amir Abdullah, Adviser on Sports and Youth Affairs Sarfraz Ali, Secretary Higher Education Abidullah Kakakhel, Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Anila Anwar, faculty members and students attended the ceremony. Congratulating the Vice Chancellor and the university administration for organizing.

Poetry of Iqbal inspiration for youth: President

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari urged young people to use inspiration from Iqbal's poetry as a catalyst to boost the spirit of inquiry and develop critical faculties.

In a message on the occasion of 149th Iqbal Day (9 November 2026), he said, "On 149th birth anniversary of Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal, I pay tribute to our national poet, whose words awakened people to their dignity, their rights and their power to shape their own destiny. Iqbal gave intellectual direction to the aspirations of the Muslims of the Subcontinent. His poetry also spoke to a wider human struggle: the pursuit of freedom, equality and a life of self-respect."

"Iqbal envisioned a society in which wealth, privilege and inherited status would no longer determine a person's worth or opportunities. His poetry challenged exploitation, called for the awakening of the poor and upheld the dignity of labour. He placed ordinary people at the centre of humanity's future. His vision of an egalitarian society calls upon us to build a Pakistan where the worker receives a fair wage, the farmer enjoys the fruits of his labour, and every child can learn and advance, regardless of family circumstances, gender or faith," he added.

He said, "At the heart of this vision lies Khudi: the development of a confident, purposeful and responsible self. It grows through knowledge, effort, courage and strength of character. A person conscious of his or her own dignity must also respect the dignity of others. The same principle applies to nations. National self-respect demands the capacity to make independent decisions, develop our own strengths and engage with other countries on the basis of equality and mutual respect."

"For me, fidelity to Iqbal's vision means building a Pakistan where no citizen's dignity is diminished by poverty, no child's future is limited by birth, and our nation stands among others with confidence and self-respect," he remarked.

He said, "Iqbal's poetry also carried a powerful message of Asia's awakening. He urged its peoples to overcome subjugation, recover their confidence and become makers of their own future. As we look towards the dawn of an Asian century, his message acquires renewed significance. The promise of that century must reach beyond economic growth to embrace freedom from hunger, access to knowledge and opportunity, and respect for the sovereignty of nations. Pakistan must help realise this promise through education, scientific progress, regional cooperation and peace."

The President said, "The struggle for the empowerment of ordinary people has continued through our political history. Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto gave voice to those denied influence and opportunity, affirming their right to participate in national life. We honour that democratic tradition by strengthening institutions, protecting equal citizenship and ensuring that development improves the lives of the many."

"On this Iqbal Day, let us translate Khudi into confidence rooted in knowledge, national self-respect into hard work to transform Pakistan into a developed and strong nation, and the ideal of equality into justice in everyday life. This is how we can honour Iqbal and fulfil the promise of Pakistan," he concluded.