

Heavy rain, windstorms, snowfall forecast for Pakistan's north, west



BT NEWS

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has forecast moderate rains, windstorms, and snowfall in hilly areas of northwest Balochistan and northern regions from January 18 to 21, as a westerly wave is expected to approach on January 18. The weather system is expected to bring moderate rain and windstorms to areas including Quetta, Ziarat, Chaman, Pishin, Qilla Abdullah, Qilla Saifullah, Chaghi, Noushki, Kalat, Barkhan, Khuzdar,

Harnai, Zhob, Musakhel, Kharan, Kech, Panigur, and Gwadar from January 18 to 20. Similarly, rains, windstorms, and snowfall are predicted in Chitral, Dir, Swat, Shangla, Kohistan, Mansehra, Abbottabad, Haripur, Buner, Bajaur, Mohmand, Khyber, Orakzai, Kurram, Waziristan, Peshawar, Charsadda, Nowshera, Swabi, Karak, Kohat, Murree, Galfyat, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Kashmir from January 18 to 21. Light rain is also expected in Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Attock,

Jhelum, and Chakwal on the evening and night of January 18 and during the day on January 19. The PMD has warned of possible flash floods in Chaghi, Noushki, Kharan, Pishin, Qilla Abdullah, and Quetta during the night of January 18 and the morning of January 19. Moderate to heavy snowfall may cause road closures and slippery conditions in Naran, Kaghan, Chitral, Dir, Swat, Kohistan, Mansehra, Abbottabad, Shangla, Astore, Hunza, Skardu, Neelum Valley, and Quetta during this period.

Deathtraps: Karachi's roads turn deadlier than ever as motorcyclist fatalities surge

NEWS DESK

An alarming surge in Karachi's traffic accidents has turned motorcyclists into the primary victims, claiming hundreds of lives and leaving countless others permanently disabled.

With over 4.2 million registered motorcycles on Karachi's roads and 128,000 new registrations in 2024 alone, motorcycles now make up 64% of the city's transport. This overwhelming presence has raised urgent questions about road safety and traffic rule enforcement.

Motorcyclists, regardless of whether they collide with an object or are hit by another vehicle, often bear the worst injuries. Key reasons for the increasing accidents include untrained riders, ignorance of traffic rules, lack of lane discipline,

speeding, and the absence of side mirrors. "Thirty-year-old Muhammad Rizwan, who was injured in a motorcycle accident, shared his ordeal from the emergency ward at Jinnah Hospital. 'My bike slipped, and now I've come to Jinnah Hospital. I've had my wound dressed, and let's see what happens next,' he said. Similarly, Alam Zeb, another victim, recounted his experience: 'I was riding my bike when a car coming at high speed hit me from behind. That's why I got injured and ended up in the hospital.' Dr. Irfan, a doctor at Jinnah Hospital's emergency ward, highlighted the dire situation: 'There's a lack of traffic rule enforcement. Wrong turns, illegal slipping because of poor infrastructure, speeding, underage riders, and the absence of side mirrors.'"

"Because of this there is a 15% to 20% increase in cases from last year to this year, along with a rise in the severity of injuries," he added. "We've started enforcement, issuing over 4,000 tickets in the past two weeks to motorcyclists without side-view mirrors." said DIG Traffic Ahmed Nawaz. He emphasised the critical role of side mirrors and other safety measures in reducing accidents: "The front and back lights of motorcycles must be functional, side-view mirrors are installed and used, and helmets are worn. If motorcyclists follow these rules, they can significantly reduce their chances of serious accidents." Experts say that 97% of emergency room cases involve motorcycle accidents, underscoring the need for widespread public awareness campaigns.



Pakistan rubbishes Wakhan Corridor annexation reports, says territory part of Afghanistan

NEWS DESK

Pakistan on Thursday categorically rejected the reports of any annexation of Wakhan Corridor, calling it a part of neighbouring Afghanistan. However, it reiterated the call for the Afghan government to act against terrorist groups enjoying sanctuaries across the border. "I have seen this endless speculation. Wakhan is part of Afghan territory. Afghanistan is a neighboring

country. We recognise its sovereignty and territorial integrity. There is no question of Pakistan having designs on one of its neighbors. I deem it speculative and totally erroneous actually," newly appointed Foreign Office Spokesperson Shafigat Ali Khan said in his maiden weekly press briefing. He said that both Pakistan and Afghanistan understood the importance of relations and wanted to nurture good ties but the key problem was

the terrorists' sanctuaries on Afghan soil. He said both countries were in contact on the matter through an ongoing multilayered engagement. The spokesperson expressed deep concern over the increasingly racist and Islamophobic political and media commentary in the UK aimed at conflating the reprehensible actions of a few individuals with the entire 1.7 million British-Pakistani diaspora. Strongly rejecting the "baseless" accusations



and "unfounded" assertions made by India's Defence Minister and Chief of Army Staff on January 13 and 14, he said Jammu and Kashmir remained an internationally recognised disputed territory, whose final status was to be determined in accordance with relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

Housemaid's gang steals 80 tola gold in Gujranwala



NEWS DESK

The incident occurred in Gujranwala, where a complaint was filed with the emergency helpline 15, accusing a domestic worker of being involved in the crime. Following the complaint, Safe City authorities launched an immediate investigation using their surveillance camera network. CCTV footage from the area showed the suspects, three women and two men, fleeing the scene in a rickshaw. Initial investigations revealed that the gang, led by the housemaids, made a quick escape after carrying out the theft. The virtual patrolling officer of Safe City Gujranwala

collected the footage and promptly provided it to the local police for further action. Within hours, the police tracked down the suspects and made the arrests. Legal proceedings are now underway. Authorities have urged residents to thoroughly vet any domestic workers before hiring them, including checking their police records to avoid such incidents in the future. Earlier in Karachi, a housemaid in DHA, Karachi, drugged her employer and stole valuables worth millions, including Rs2 million, \$100,000, and 32 tola of gold. CCTV footage showed the masked maid fleeing with the stolen goods in a rickshaw.

Lahore Gymkhana lease sparks PA debate

NEWS DESK

Punjab Assembly lawmakers sharply criticised Lahore Gymkhana's administration for failing to submit its response to the Assembly's special committee. Treasury members admitted their inability to obtain detailed information about the

Gymkhana, expressing frustration over what they deemed a disregard for the Assembly's authority. "It is tantamount to disrespecting this highest forum if Lahore Gymkhana does not respond to the special committee of the Punjab Assembly," lawmakers stated, urging immediate compliance.

PRINCIPAL STAFF OFFICER (PSO) OF THE ARMED FORCES DIVISION OF BANGLADESH VISITS NAVAL HEADQUARTERS AND CALLS ON NAVAL CHIEF

BT NEWS

Islamabad, Principal Staff Officer (PSO) of the Armed Forces Division of Bangladesh, Lieutenant General SM Kamrul Hassan, visited Naval Headquarters, Islamabad, and called on the Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral

prospects for enhanced bilateral naval collaboration between the two countries were discussed. Various avenues of cooperation, including training, exchange of visits, and conduct of bilateral naval exercises between the navies of Pakistan and Bangladesh, were also highlighted. The

Security Patrols. The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan Navy's role and contributions in promoting collaborative maritime security in the region. The visit of Lieutenant General SM Kamrul Hassan, Principal Staff Officer, is expected to further strengthen and expand



Naveed Ashraf.

During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, the regional maritime security environment, and

Naval Chief emphasized Pakistan Navy's initiatives to ensure maritime security and peace in the region through Regional Maritime

defence ties between the two brotherly countries, fostering collaboration and robust relations between their defence forces.

Blazing the Trail to Academic Success: HEC-IPFP Program Sets New Standards for Professional Growth

The pursuit of academic success is often intertwined with the quest for professional growth. The Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan's Indigenous PhD Fellowship Program (IPFP) stands as a beacon of excellence. In this regard, HEC sets new standards for nurturing the next generation of scholars. Through its rigorous selection process, comprehensive support on research fellowships, the HEC-IPFP program becomes a cornerstone for academic blaze a trail to success in their respective fields. HEC-IPFP program is designed to provide exceptional scholars with the opportunity to pursue professional career in Pakistan's leading universities while receiving financial support and mentorship. The program's selection process is highly competitive, ensuring most promising candidates chosen in this transformative journey. A demonstrated passion for research and a commitment to academic excellence, the HEC-IPFP program exemplifies the transformative potential of a well-structured fellowship initiative, setting new benchmarks for professional development and academic achievement. This holistic approach not only enhances individual capabilities but also fosters a collaborative learning atmosphere that benefits all members. Moreover, IPFP programs commitment to diversity and inclusion enriches the academic landscape. They attract individuals from varied backgrounds and disciplines, it encourages innovative thinking and diverse perspectives. This multifaceted engagement stimulates critical dialogue among fellows, ultimately leading to groundbreaking ideas that can influence the IPFP program is its focus

on professional excellence. IPFP fellows are expected to perform an impactful service in their field of professional career. The fellowship program cultivates a culture of respect, professional efficiency and academic rigor that pushing fellows make a meaningful contribution to their fields. HEC-IPFP program equips its fellows with the skills and competencies needed to succeed as academics in a competitive global academic landscape. IPFP program stands as a shining example of how a well-designed fellowship program can set new standards for professional growth and academic success. Offering a supportive environment, rigorous selection process program empowers scholars to reach their full potential and make a lasting impact in their fields. As more scholars benefit from the transformative experience of the HEC-IPFP program, the future of academia in Pakistan looks brighter than ever. HEC-IPFP program exemplifies the transformative potential of a well-structured fellowship initiative, setting new benchmarks for professional development and academic achievement. This holistic approach not only enhances individual capabilities but also fosters a collaborative learning atmosphere that benefits all members. Moreover, IPFP programs commitment to diversity and inclusion enriches the academic landscape. They attract individuals from varied backgrounds and disciplines, it encourages innovative thinking and diverse perspectives. This multifaceted engagement stimulates critical dialogue among fellows, ultimately leading to groundbreaking ideas that can influence the IPFP program is its focus

HEC-IPFP program serves as a paradigm of excellence in fellowship design. Its comprehensive framework not only nurtures personal and professional development but also elevates collective academic standards, making it an invaluable model for future initiatives aiming at fostering talent in academia. HEC emphasizes practical engagement and real-world applications. This distinctive approach not only equips participants with essential skills but also fosters a deeper understanding of the complexities inherent in public policy and governance. HEC integrates a diverse cohort of professionals, thereby enriching the learning experience through varied perspectives. In contrast, many standard fellowship programs often attract homogenous groups that limit the scope of discourse and innovation. The collaborative environment fostered by HEC-IPFP encourages critical thinking and creativity among its fellows, enhancing their capacity to address multifaceted challenges in their respective fields. HEC encourages dynamic exchanges of ideas among diverse cohorts. Such interactions not only stimulate intellectual growth but also inspire creative problem-solving approaches. Fellows learn to appreciate different perspectives, empowering them to devise comprehensive strategies that address real-world problems effectively. In an era marked by rapid change and uncertainty, the capacity to think critically and creatively is paramount. The HEC-IPFP not only prepares its fellows for immediate challenges but also instills a lifelong commitment to intellectual curiosity for future leaders in any discipline.

Ring Road project hits key milestone

BT NEWS

RAWALPINDI: The installation of the girders on the longest Soan Bridge under the Rawalpindi Ring Road (RRR) project officially commenced on Thursday, marking a critical milestone in this significant infrastructure initiative aimed at easing traffic congestion in Rawalpindi. Inaugurating the installation of the girders on the Soan Bridge, Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) Director-General

Kinza Murtaza on Thursday said this development marks a major achievement in the construction of the multi-lane highway, which aims to reduce traffic congestion and boost regional connectivity. The Soan Bridge girder, which spans over the Soan River, is a crucial component in completing this vital infrastructure project. "The completion of this girder is an important step forward in the Ring Road Rawalpindi project," said DG RD adding, "Once finished,

the Ring Road will not only alleviate traffic congestion in Rawalpindi but will also provide a safe, more efficient route for travellers across the region." The DG directed the officers concerned for timely

and efficient completion of the work. She emphasised that the project must meet all deadlines set in the timeline. "However, there will be no compromise on the quality and standard of the

work. We are committed to ensuring that the flyovers are built to the highest standards for the safety and convenience of the public," she added. The RRR project, a flagship initiative by RDA, is set to enhance the city's transportation network by connecting various major roads, highways, and industrial areas. The project will provide an alternative route to the already congested city centre, helping reduce travel times and improve traffic flow, she said.

