



## Putin issues warning to United States with new nuclear doctrine

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday lowered the threshold for a nuclear strike in response to a broader range of conventional attacks, and Moscow said Ukraine had struck deep inside Russia with U. S.-made ATACMS missiles.



## IDEAS 2024 begins in Karachi under strict security measures

The 12th edition of Defence Exhibition and Seminar (IDEAS) 2024 has been organized to showcase a wide range of modern and traditional defence equipment, weapon systems and vehicles. Global defence experts are showing deep interest in the IDEAS 2024 exhibition. Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif said the integration of public and private sector to enhance the efficiency and volume of defence production and exports.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

## Apex Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of the Federal Apex Committee of National Action Plan on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

# Apex committee approves comprehensive military operation against terrorist groups in Balochistan

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The federal apex committee of the National Action Plan has approved a comprehensive military operation against active terrorist organisations in Balochistan.

According to the communiqué on Tuesday, the operation would target terrorist organisations operating in Balochistan including the banned outfits "Majeed Brigade, BLA, BLF and BRAS who are targeting innocent civilians and foreign nationals to scuttle Pakistan's economic progress by creating insecurity at the behest of hostile external powers."

Pakistan has seen an increase in militancy since the Afghan Taliban returned to power in 2021, with the Pakistani chapter of the movement carrying out

attacks mostly targeting security forces.

In the recent past, terrorists have attacked civilians and Chinese nationals in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, and Karachi.

Last week, seven security personnel were martyred in an exchange of fire with terrorists who attempted to attack a security forces' post in the general area Shah-e-Mardan of the Kalat district in Balochistan.

Earlier this month, a suicide attack near the Quetta Railway Station killed at least 27 people and injured more than 50 people.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif presided over the committee's meeting. Federal cabinet members, provincial chief ministers, Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir and senior government officials attended

the meeting.

The agenda of the meeting focused on the 'Reinvigorating Pakistan's Counter Terrorism Campaign'. Officials briefed participants on the evolving security landscape and the measures being taken to counter terrorism and other critical challenges, including general law and order situation, actions against efforts to stoke sub-nationalism, religious extremism, tackling the illegal spectrum and crime-terror nexus, subversion and disinformation campaigns, among other issues.

The committee highlighted the necessity of a "unified political voice and a cohesive national narrative to effectively address" such multifaceted challenges.

It was emphasised that political support across party lines and complete national consensus

are "critical" to reinvigorating the national counter-terrorism campaign under the framework of 'Vision Azm-e-Istehkam'.

They also agreed on NACTA's revitalisation and the National and Provincial Intelligence Fusion and Threat Assessment Centre's establishment.

"A whole-of-system approach was adopted, incorporating diplomatic, political, informational, intelligence, socio-economic, and military efforts to address these issues comprehensively," it added.

Specific emphasis was placed on strengthening collaboration between federal and provincial governments and between relevant institutions and ministries to ensure seamless execution of the CT campaign.

It was decided to establish district coordination committees under the provincial apex

committees to ensure the implementation of directions received from federal and provincial governments.

The forum demonstrated political resolve to dismantle the ecosystem of illegal spectrum and crime-terror nexus.

At the meeting, COAS Munir reiterated the Pakistan Army's "unwavering" resolve to eliminate all threats to national security and provide "robust" support to the government's initiatives aimed at ensuring peace and stability.

PM Shehbaz directed all stakeholders to pursue the outlined initiatives with vigor, ensuring their timely implementation. He underscored the importance of sustained, coordinated efforts to protect the country's sovereignty, ensure the safety of its citizens, and reinforce economic and social stability.

## Those who hinder army's work will face consequences, says COAS Munir

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir has warned against obstructing the army's counter-terrorism efforts in Pakistan as the country deals with an uptick in terrorist attacks.

"Anyone who obstructs Pakistan's security efforts and hinders their work will face consequences," he said in his address to the apex committee meeting in Islamabad on Tuesday.

"The Pakistan Army and law enforcement agencies are continuously addressing governance shortcomings, sacrificing the lives of their martyrs in the process," the army chief said.

"Every Pakistani is a soldier in the war against terrorism, whether in uniform or not," he



said and stressed the need for unity in the fight against the threat.

"We must all come together to confront the scourge of terrorism," the army chief said and urged that the Constitution of Pakistan is "paramount" for everyone. He reiterated that the Constitution places the responsibility of both internal and external security on all citizens.

## Interior Minister meets Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman to discuss matters of national interest



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the residence of Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam (JUI) chief Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman on Tuesday.

The two leaders engaged in discussions on matters of mutual interest and the overall political and economic situation of the country.

During the meeting, Minister Naqvi asked about Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman's health and conveyed his best wishes.

He also expressed gratitude to the JUI chief for his pivotal

role in the historic approval of the 26th Constitutional Amendment.

"Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman has consistently prioritized Pakistan's interests," said Naqvi, commending the JUI leader's contributions to the nation. Pakistan's cuisine

Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman reiterated his commitment to serving the country, stating, "Our priority is Pakistan and its people."

The meeting was also attended by Senator Kamran Murtaza, highlighting the significance of the gathering amid the country's ongoing political developments.

## Rana Sanaullah urges PTI founder to come to table talk



Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Political Affairs, Rana Sanaullah Khan, reiterated the government's readiness to engage in political negotiations, urging Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan to come to the table to find a way forward.

Speaking on the Dunya News program "Dunya Mehr Bukhari Ke Sath", Rana Sanaullah underlined that dialogue remains the cornerstone of resolving political disputes. He revealed that the establishment

supports political dialogue and suggested that even if a committee for negotiations is formed, its members would remain unknown for now.

"Negotiations require mutual space and compromise," he stated, adding that discussions can encompass all issues. He noted that the Prime Minister has already extended an olive branch for political dialogue, underscoring the importance of resolving political matters through democratic means rather than confrontation.

Rana Sanaullah stressed that PTI has no viable alternative but to engage in dialogue with political stakeholders. "Imran Khan must sit at the table with political parties, devise a roadmap, and set the rules of the game. There is no other option," he said.

Rana Sanaullah reiterated that reconciliation is the only path forward for the country's political stability.

## Ali Muhammad says Khan will negotiate with establishment

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Incarcerated former prime minister Imran Khan has made it clear that anyone wishing to negotiate should speak directly with him before November 24, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf lawmaker Ali Muhammad Khan said on Tuesday. But the ex-PM's lawyer and sister have stated otherwise.

"It is need of the hour that establishment stays away from politics," Ali told reporters outside the Adiala Jail. "The 'call' made by the PTI founder for November 24 is final. This is an important day for PTI supporters."



Khan has urged his followers to march towards Islamabad on November 24 for the "restoration" of democracy and the judiciary.

Ruling coalition leaders have slammed the PTI for causing unrest in the country with such protests.

In reaction, the PTI founder set four demands for ending the protest. They are related to the recent steps taken by the government like the 26th Constitutional Amendment. According to former information minister Fawad Chaudhry, Khan's demands "are not wrong."

"November 24's protest aims to uphold the rule of law and the Constitution. The public remains steadfast in their support for the PTI founder," Ali said and reiterated that anyone wishing to dialogue must do so directly with the PTI founder before the protest deadline.

## Justice Mohsin Kayani's cause list cancelled



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday cancelled the cause list of the court of Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kiyani due to his sickness.

The cause lists of cases for single member bench and division bench, too were cancelled due to no availability of Justice Kiyani.

However, the speech of Justice Kayani to Islamabad High Court Bar Association was also cancelled.

## Islamabad police requests massive numbers of men and munitions to deal with PTI protest

Waseem Khokhar

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police have requested a large-scale deployment of anti-riot gear, including thousands of tear gas canisters and rubber bullets, from the government in preparation for a planned Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protest on November 24.

This request comes as the capital administration extended Section 144, banning political or religious gatherings for 10 days, for another two months.

While reports suggest ongoing back-channel talks between the government and the PTI to avert the protest, the police are preparing for the worst-case scenario. According to media reports, police officials have requested 22,000 security personnel and 1,200 containers to counter the



protest. The deployment will require substantial funding for food and transportation for both local and incoming security forces.

The police's request includes 40,000 tear gas canisters (both short and long-range), 50,000 rubber bullets, and 2,500 fire-arms. They have also requested 5,000 anti-riot kits to bolster the anti-riot unit. The requested personnel include 22,000 officers from Punjab and Sindh police, along with the Frontier Constabulary and Rangers.

# Women Entrepreneurs Day held in Multan at State Bank of Pakistan Auditorium

✉ **Quratul Ain Asim**

MULTAN: Women Entrepreneurs Day was celebrated at the State Bank of Pakistan Auditorium in Multan, similar to other events across the country. The ceremony saw the enthusiastic participation of hundreds of businesswomen, representatives from the Chamber of Commerce, Women's Chamber, Women University, students, and representatives from various banks.

During the event, loans were distributed to women entrepreneurs, and banks providing the most loans to women were awarded prizes. The ceremony was inaugurated by Chamber of Commerce and Industry Multan President Mian Bakhtawar Tanveer Sheikh, Mrs. Romana Tanveer, and Mrs. Farah Saqib.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Manager of the State Bank of Pakistan Multan, Javed Iqbal Marth, stated that empowering women enables them to become productive members of society, creating opportunities for economic and social development while eliminating deprivation. He highlighted that only 23% of women currently have a bank account.

He stated that the first entrepreneur in Islam was the esteemed Hazrat Khadija (RA), who serves as a role model for women. The guest of honor, President of the Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mian Bakhtawar Tanveer Sheikh, remarked that Pakistan is a resource-rich country and does not lack human resources. Men and women make up 50/50 of the population, and if both sectors work together, many of our problems can be resolved.



President of the Women's Chamber of Commerce, Farah Saqib, stated in her address that providing women with every possible opportunity will lead to positive change and economic prosperity. She emphasized removing barriers to enable women to emerge as successful entrepreneurs.

The event also featured speeches by Deputy Chief of the State Bank of Pakistan Multan, Adeel Khan, GM Habib Bank Nasser Mehmood, and Shehzad Murtaza, while Kiran Anjand and Faheem Arshad served as stage

secretaries. Women entrepreneurs, including Mehwish Jillani, Ayesha Yaseen, and Javeria Imran, shared their successful and inspiring stories under the State Bank's initiatives. Awards were presented to banks that provided the most loans to women entrepreneurs. Souvenirs were distributed to guests, and loan checks were handed over to women entrepreneurs during the ceremony.

The event was attended by Vice President of the Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Azhar Javed Baloch; Convener of the Women's Wing, Mrs. Romana Tanveer Sheikh; Secretary General of the Chamber, Muhammad Shafiq; Vice Chancellor of Women University, Professor Dr. Kulsoom Paracha; Vice President of the Women's Chamber, Nadia Wasim; former Presidents of the Women's Chamber, Seerat Fatima and Masooma Sibtain; and representatives from the All Pakistan Women's Association, including Tahira Najm, Abida Ashfaq, and Tahmeena Munir.

Additionally, representatives from various universities, banks, and a large number of female students were also present at the event.

## Peaceful Assembly and Public Citizens Ordinance 2024 implemented



✉ **Abdul Majeed Tahir**

RAWALAKOT: Commissioner Poonch Division Sardar Waheed Khan has said that the recent ordinance issued by the government, which has been named Peaceful Assembly and Public Order Ordinance 2024, has actually been implemented for the protection of citizens. Some people are misleading the citizens by misinterpreting it. Now that the court has also declared it correct, no one can be allowed to deprive the rights of citizens. Action will be taken against anyone who violates the law. He was holding a press conference here at the Commissioner's Office on Tuesday. DIG Poonch Division Shehryar Sikandar was also present on the occasion. He said that even in Act 74 of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, where civil liberties or human rights are mentioned, it has been made conditional. Legislation through amendments to the constitution or ordinances is the job of the government. If someone does not like the law, they can approach the competent forum, but it cannot be allowed for any person or persons to obstruct the personal freedom of others by blocking roads and intersections.

## Noman Ali shares his bowling tips with young cricketers in Attock



ATTOCK: Precision, practice, and passion- Noman Ali winning tips to young cricketers

✉ **Raza Naqvi**

Pakistan left-arm spinner Noman Ali who was named as the ICC Men's Player of the Month award for October has utilized the off season to help young cricketers learn the technical side of the game during his maiden visit to Dr. Sikiandar Hayat Khan cricket stadium Hassanabdal on Tuesday. Cricketer Faisal Akhtar, President PPP district Attock chapter Sardar Ashar Hayat Khan, President PPP Hassanabdal chapter Zulfikar Hayat Khan Advocate and Professor Tahir Durrani, President, Sir Syed Education Foundation were also present on this occasion.

"Precision, practice, and passion are key to shine in the field of cricket" urged left-arm spinner Noman Ali while revealing best bowling tips to the players during a strenuous training session. The 38-year-old Noman Ali named among ICC Men's Player of the Month nominees for October thanks to 20 wickets at an average of 13.85 across his two Tests against England in Multan and Rawalpindi. He said that it felt great imparting knowledge to the upcoming cricketers. He said that the purpose of visiting cricket academies at district and regional bases was to ensure increased participation of people and finding talent from a larger pool. He hoped that the young players would form the backbone of regional based cricket structure.

## All Possible Steps Will Be Taken to Promote Tai Bando Karate

✉ **Shahzad Anwar Amrohi**

MULTAN: All possible steps will be taken to promote Tai Bando Karate. Newly elected officials express their views after taking oath. Mussrat Ali Khan Dasti, Muhammad Naeem Khalid, Umtilal Chaudhry, Noman Younis, and Muhammad Kishwar Shafiq, Malik Tariq Noonari, Member Punjab Bar administered the oath to the officials.

The oath-taking ceremony of the elected members of the Punjab Tai Bando Karate Association was held in which the elected officials from all over Punjab were administered the oath by the special guest Malik Tariq Noonari, Member Punjab Bar Council, Pakistan Bando Federation President Muhammad Kishor Shafiq attended the ceremony on the instructions of Supreme Grand Master M. A. Tai, winner of the Presidential Award. The newly elected Elected officials expressed their views on the occasion. And expressed their determination to take all possible steps to promote Bando and to benefit the youth from martial arts. Mussrat Ali Khan Dasti, President Punjab Bando Association, announced the Multan vs. DG Khan Championship in DG Khan and Fort Monroe in December. Muhammad Naeem Khalid, The Secretary General announced that the South Punjab Tai Bando Karate Championship will be held in Khanewal next month. In January, the Lahore Division vs. The Multan Division Championship will be held in Multan. Muhammad Kishor Shafiq announced that the South Punjab Tai Bando Karate Championship will be held in Multan in March. Umtilal Chaudhry Chairman and Tanveer Anjum Associate Secretary announced that the All Punjab Tai Bando Championship will be held in Pir Mahal in May. And Muhammad Kishor Shafiq also announced that the All Pakistan Tai Bando Karate Championship will be held in Multan in September 2025. On this occasion, the chief guest announced that a sports festival will be organized in Khanewal under the organization of Tai Bando, which will be held between the lawyers and session judges of Khanewal and D. G. Khan

## Awareness walk

LAHORE: Participants hold a banner during smog awareness campaign walk at Liberty Chowk, in the Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

# Cotton arrivals in Pakistan factories for 2024-25 season: PCGA

✉ **Kiran Asim**

MULTAN: The Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association (PCGA) has released data on cotton arrivals at factories. According to the report, by November 15, 2024, a total of 4,893,948 bales of cotton had arrived at the country's ginning factories. In comparison, by November 15, 2023, 7,370,624 bales had been received at factories. This marks a decrease of 2,476,676 bales compared to the same period last year, reflecting a decline of 33.60%.

In Punjab, 2,244,880 bales of cotton have arrived at factories this year, which is 1,184,035 bales less than the 3,428,915 bales recorded during the same period last year.

In Punjab, the decline rate was



34.53%. In Sindh, 2,649,068 bales of cotton were received at factories, which is 1,292,641 bales less than the 3,941,709 bales recorded during the same period last year. The decline rate in Sindh stood at 32.79%.

By November 15, 2024, a total of 4,506,779 bales of cotton were processed into lint. Across the country, 515 ginning factories are operational. Exporters and traders purchased

38,000 bales of lint cotton during the current season, while the textile sector procured 4,139,582 bales. The Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) has not made any purchases during the 2024-25 cotton season.

In Punjab, 283 ginning factories are currently operational.

A total of 2,068,575 bales of lint cotton were produced. By November 15, 2024, the following quantities of cotton had been received at factories:

- Multan District: 43,826 bales
- Lodhran District: 60,103 bales
- Khanewal District: 139,713 bales
- Muzaffargarh District: 54,717 bales
- Dera Ghazi Khan District: 198,366 bales
- Rajanpur District: 15,394 bales
- Layyah District: 96,485 bales
- Vehari District: 142,510 bales

- Sahiwal District: 110,406 bales
- Rahim Yar Khan District: 301,915 bales

- Bahawalpur District: 362,947 bales
- Bahawalnagar District: 557,300 bales

In Sindh:

- Sanghar District: 1,209,449 bales
- Mirpur Khas District: 55,300 bales
- Nawabshah District: 51,699 bales
- Naushahro Feroze District: 199,700 bales
- Khairpur District: 223,800 bales
- Sukkur District: 328,212 bales
- Jamshoro District: 37,380 bales
- Hyderabad District: 127,363 bales

In Balochistan, 149,900 bales were received at factories.

The unsold stock includes 716,366 bales of both cotton and lint.

# Convocation 2024 of CUI Wah Campus

✉ **City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Convocation of COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI), Wah Campus was held on Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at Jinnah Convention Center, Islamabad in which degrees were conferred to 925 graduating students of Wah Campus at undergraduate and graduate levels in the discipline of Management Sciences, Electrical & Computer Engineering, Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Computer Science and Mathematics. 33 graduates were awarded with gold, silver, and bronze medals at the Institute

and Campus level on account of their excellent academic performance. 13 graduates were awarded with the PhD degrees in the disciplines of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Computer Science, and Management Sciences.

Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad, Chairman, Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan, graced the event as the Chief Guest.

On this occasion, the Director Campus, CUI, Wah Campus, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Abid, T. I., presented a comprehensive campus report. He highlighted the Campus achievements, establishment of Department of Humanities, launch of Master

Programs and future plans, including ongoing developmental projects such as the installation of a solar energy system, the construction of sheds for the transport parking area, and the completion of the mega project Academic Block-I.

Dr. Mukhtar, in his address, congratulated all the graduating students and their parents on achieving this significant milestone. He urged the graduates to work diligently and contribute to the country's development. He emphasized that the youth must harness their skills and energies to help overcome the challenges facing the nation. He

also commended the teaching faculty of the university for their pivotal role in shaping the graduates' success, acknowledging that their efforts are as vital as the support provided by the students' families.

The Rector of COMSATS University Islamabad, Prof. Dr. Sajid Qamar, advised the graduates to stay prepared for rapid technological advancements and to equip themselves for future challenges while contributing to the country's economic development. He also recognized the significant contributions of the faculty and staff in making this convocation a success and in advancing the university's mission.









**Bull & Bears**  
PSX 100-Share  
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
95,856.66	94,995.67
Day's High	Day's Low
96,036.48	95,212.63
Index Value	Change
19,375,854,288	+860.99
Percentage	Time
+0.91%	19 Nov, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,099.02	-10.30
Percentage	Time
-0.13%	19 Nov, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
43,259.94	-129.66
Percentage	Time
-0.30%	19 Nov, 12:15 pm GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
38,414.43	+193.58
Percentage	Time
+0.51%	19 Nov, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	181.25	181.43
Bahrain Dinar	731.21	739.21
Canadian Dollar	198.16	200.56
China Yuan	38.58	38.98
Danish Krone	39.58	39.98
Euro	290.85	293.60
Hong Kong Dollar	35.37	35.72
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.92	1.98
Kuwaiti Dinar	894.99	904.49
Malaysian Ringgit	62.5	63.10
New Zealand \$	163.14	165.14
Norwegians Krone	24.78	25.08
Omani Riyal	715.66	724.16
Qatari Riyal	75.62	76.32
Saudi Riyal	73.65	74.20
Singapore Dollar	206.27	208.27
Swedish Korona	25.82	26.12
Swiss Franc	311.45	314.25
Thai Bhat	7.93	8.08
U.A.E Dirham	75.35	76.00
UK Pound Sterling	349.55	353.05
US Dollar	277.40	278.90

# IT Companies at risk of losses and closure due to VPN blockage and internet slowdown

**Spokesman Report**

KARACHI: Sajjad Mustafa Syed, Chairman of the Pakistan Software Houses Association (P@SHA) – the apex representative body of the Information Technology industry – has warned that the internet slowdown and blocking of virtual private network (VPN) services will certainly translate into an existential threat as it will result in unrecoverable financial loss, service disruptions, and reputational loss in the export of IT and IT-enabled Services (ITeS). It is pertinent to note that IT industry exports clocked at \$3.2 billion in FY24, he added.

Sajjad further elaborated that even by conservative estimates the IT industry will suffer losses in tens of millions of dollars in the short term; and the reputational and intangible losses will be huge and devastating for the

industry in the longer run, especially with the global competitive landscape evolving in this space. It will be a huge blow to one of the fastest-growing industries of Pakistan and will also have domino effect on other sectors of the economy as IT has become an integral part of all industries, he added.

Sajjad made it clear that domestic and international IT companies will be forced to close or significantly restrict their operations in Pakistan – and it will be detrimental to the most flourishing industry of Pakistan vis-à-vis exports, skills development and employment generation. It will be an irreparable setback to the enabling and fruitful initiatives P@SHA is driving with the support of Ministry of IT & Telecom (MoITT), Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC); and Prime Minister's Office (PMO). In addition to this, it will be

extremely demoralizing and discouraging for our IT companies, their workforce, start-up entrepreneurs, freelancers, and everyone involved in the sector – who are working very hard to bring Pakistan at the forefront of global technology destinations.

He clarified that the IT industry wholeheartedly stands with the state and the government against its fight with all forms of terrorism – be it physical, psychological, financial or cyber terrorism due to the misuse of internet. However, we believe, the economic well-being and the exports of the country is indispensable to help overcome the unending crises of balance of payments (BoP); current account deficit (CAD) and socio-economic issues – which stem from unemployment, poverty and lack of skills development, he added.

P@SHA Chairman apprised that Paki-

stan's IT and ITeS exports; which are heavily dependent on the use of internet and VPN; have been growing at an average of 30 percent per year, and are on the way to achieve \$15 + billion USD in the next 5 years – provided the government ensures continuity in the export, fiscal, financial, SME, infrastructure and IT policies.

He explained that if the VPNs are blocked most of IT companies, Call Centers, BPO Organizations of Pakistan will lose all the major Fortune 500 clients, as well as others – as data protection and cyber security are of paramount importance to our clients, and connecting to client systems through VPN is a global norm and standard, and is a basic requirement and expectation of clients around the world. Additionally, no international company of any size tolerates any intrusion into their security protocols by any private or public institution.

## Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja in a meeting with Ambassador of Qatar to Pakistan H.E. Ali Mubarak Ali Essa Al-Khater on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

## Retailers urge govt to lift restrictions on markets as smog level eases



**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Chainstore Association of Pakistan (CAP) appreciates the proactive measures taken by the government to address the smog crisis that gripped major urban centers in recent weeks. As these efforts yield positive results and the smog levels recede, CAP urges the government to lift the remaining restrictions on markets and malls, allowing businesses to resume full operations and recover from substantial financial losses.

"Thanks to the Punjab Government's swift actions, the smog situation is under

control, and cities like Lahore, Faisalabad, and Multan are beginning to breathe easier," said Asfandyar Farrukh, Chairman of the Chainstore Association of Pakistan (CAP). "Now is the time to support our businesses and the thousands of livelihoods dependent on them by reinstating retail timings to 10 PM instead of 8 PM at the minimum. Extending operating hours will provide the much-needed boost to retail and consumer activity as the crucial season for commerce has commenced."

As per The Urban Unit report and other research bodies, the contribution of commercial activity to air pollution is negligible. Whereas, heavy transport using low-quality fuel, the burning of waste and crop residue as well as non-compliant factories contribute to smog the most, not retail. No other country or region is shutting down markets to control air pollution, Farrukh pointed out.

## PTCL Group Partners with Atlas Honda to Champion Road Safety through Bike Safe Riding Training Initiative



ISLAMABAD: PTCL Group, Pakistan's leading telecommunication services provider, has taken a step forward towards road safety with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Atlas Honda Ltd. This collaboration underscores PTCL's commitment to promoting safe commuting practices for motorcyclists and aligns with the Group's ongoing Health, Safety, and Environment (HSE) initiatives.

The signing ceremony, held at the

Atlas Honda Limited office in Lahore, with Taimoor Khan, Group VP HSE & Sustainability PTCL & Ufone 4G and Zafar Iqbal, GM After Sales, Atlas Honda signing the MoU. The partnership introduces specialized "Training of Trainers" (TOT) sessions, led by certified trainers from Atlas Honda, aimed at instilling essential safety skills amongst PTCL's field staff, who rely on motorcycles for their daily commute.

Furthermore, the MOU with Atlas

Honda also exemplifies PTCL Group's commitment to its ever-growing employee well-being program by fostering sustainable activities that benefit employees and contribute to community welfare at large. PTCL employees participating in the TOT program will carry forward the message of safe riding, amplifying the initiative's positive impact. The event concluded with both parties expressing enthusiasm for the potential of this partnership to make roads safer for everyone. Ends

## SSWMB Announces to Make 2 Model Roads in Site Industrial Area

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: The Managing Director of Sindh Solid Waste Management Board (SSWMB) Saifullah (SITE LTD), Faheemuddin Shaikh (SITE LTD), Muhammad Kamran Lakhani, Abdul Rehman Fudda, Junaid-ur-Rehman, Ehtesham Rais, Muhammad Tahir Goreja and others.

The proposed Model Streets include Naurus to Dollar Road and NINA Street. Syed Imtiaz Ali Shah, while responding to a complaint from a member, announced to immediately start door to door garbage collection from industries. He clarified that MUCT is not the SSWMB tax and KMC has no role in cleaning of the area. On this occasion, he also gave statistics of garbage collection from the city.

Former SVP Saleem Nagaria, Hussain Moosani, Tariq Ali Nizamani (SSWMB), Saifullah (SITE LTD), Faheemuddin Shaikh (SITE LTD), Muhammad Kamran Lakhani, Abdul Rehman Fudda, Junaid-ur-Rehman, Ehtesham Rais, Muhammad Tahir Goreja and others.

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## Pakistani Embassy and Federation of Belgian Chambers Host Webinar on "Trade and Investment Opportunities in Pakistan"

**Commerce Desk**

BRUSSELS: The Embassy of Pakistan in Brussels, in collaboration with the Federation of Belgian Chambers of Commerce and Belgian-Luxembourg Chambers Abroad successfully organized a webinar titled "Trade and Investment Opportunities in Pakistan" for Belgian and Luxembourg companies.

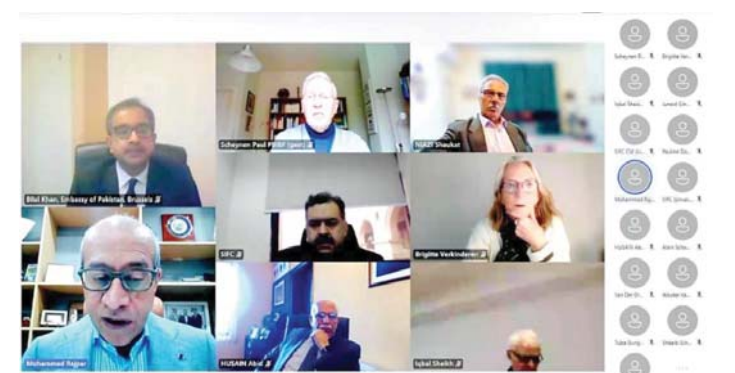
The webinar featured a distinguished panel of participants, including the Trade Commissioner of Belgium in Islamabad, the Joint

Secretary of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), and the President of the Pakistan-Belgium-Luxembourg Business Forum. Over 30 companies from Belgium and Luxembourg attended, showcasing strong interest in exploring Pakistan's economic and investment potential.

Muhammad Bilal, Trade and Investment Attaché at the Embassy of Pakistan in Brussels, delivered an insightful presentation on the diverse trade and investment opportunities available in Pakistan. The presenta-

tion highlighted key growth sectors such as manufacturing, technology, agriculture, and renewable energy, while also emphasizing Pakistan's strategic geographic location, modern infrastructure, and policies designed to attract foreign investment.

This webinar marks a significant step in enhancing economic ties and fostering mutually beneficial partnerships between Pakistan, Belgium, and Luxembourg. It underscored the shared commitment to unlocking new avenues for trade and investment collaboration.



## Cheezious Unveils New #AaRahaHuMein Fast Delivery Promise Campaign



**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Cheezious, A proud Pakistani brand is setting a new benchmark for delivery excellence with the official launch of its #AaRahaHuMein campaign. The brand is proud to announce its commitment to faster, more reliable delivery with the release of its new Digital Video Commercial (DVC), showcasing its operational upgrades.

With the launch of this campaign, Cheezious is reaffirming its commitment to delivering exceptional customer satisfaction. Customers can place their orders until 3 AM, and Cheez Riders will deliver their food directly to their doorsteps with an assurance of efficiency and speedy delivery. This initiative underscores Cheezious dedication to staying ahead of consumer expectations in Pakistan's fast-paced food delivery market, providing a seamless and fast delivery experience for every order.

Head of Marketing Cheezious Zohaib Hassan said that "Aa Raha Hu Mein is not just a campaign; it's a promise to our customers that we are focused on delivering not only great taste but also the speed they deserve." He further said We are excited to share this evolution with our loyal customers, who continue to inspire our commitment to excellence."

The campaign is already seeing positive customer feedback, with prominent engagement highlighting the need for this customer centric approach in the market.



## Called on

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Interior Minister of Saudi Arabia H.E. Dr. Nasser bin Abdul Aziz Al Dawood calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

## PM expresses satisfaction over implementation of MoUs on \$2.8 bln Saudi Investment

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday, emphasizing the significance of cooperation between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia in different sectors, expressed satisfaction over the implementation of recently signed bilateral MoUs for Saudi investment worth \$2.8 billion in Pakistan.

The bilateral ties were discussed as Deputy Interior Minister of Saudi Arabia, who is on an official visit to

Pakistan, paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, according to a PM Office press release.

Recalling the historic and fraternal relations between the two countries, the prime minister thanked the Saudi leadership and government for always supporting Pakistan and said both sides were working together to further strengthen Pakistan-Saudi Arabia ties into mutually beneficial economic and investment cooperation.

The prime minister

welcomed the Saudi Deputy Interior Minister to Pakistan and wished him a successful visit.

He also conveyed his greetings and best wishes to The Custodian of Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud and Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud.

Discussing the situation in Gaza and the broader Middle East, the prime minister recalled the recent

Arab-Islamic Summit held in Riyadh, and appreciated the leadership of Saudi Arabia for holding the event and also the stance of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman over the issue of Palestine.

Prime Minister Shehbaz lauded the leadership role of Saudi Arabia and the efforts of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in unifying the Ummah to collectively seek an end to violence in Gaza due to Israel's genocidal actions.

Emphasizing the signifi-

importance of bilateral cooperation in defence and security sectors, he said that the visit of the Saudi deputy interior minister and his delegation would help bring both sides closer in terms of cooperation in these specific areas.

Prime Minister Shehbaz also reiterated his invitation to Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to undertake an official visit to Pakistan at his earliest convenience as the people of Pakistan were waiting to accord him a very warm welcome.

## Malaysia, Pakistan conclude Harimau Markhor exercise after successful conclusion

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: On 15 November 2024, the Closing Ceremony of Exercise Harimau Markhor Series 2/2024 was successfully held at the National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC), Pakistan. The event was attended by Malaysia's High Commissioner to Pakistan, His Excellency Ambassador Dato' Mohammad Azhar Mazlan, who highlighted the exercise's success in fostering closer defence ties between Malaysia and Pakistan.

The ceremony was officiated jointly by the Commander of the 2nd Infantry Division Malaysia (2 Div), Major General Dato' Hj Fazal Hj Abdul Rahman, and the Commander of the 23rd Division



of the Pakistan Army, Major General Muhammad Intikhab Alam.

The two-week joint exercise, which ran from 4 to 15 November 2024, focused on Counter-Terrorism Opera-

tions in jungle environments. It facilitated the exchange of tactics, techniques, and procedures, along with valuable insights into Pakistan's diverse and challenging terrain.

The 2nd Harimau

Markhor exercise has significantly strengthened the military-to-military relationship between Malaysia and Pakistan, and developed greater understanding through the exchange of ideas, knowledge, and operational skills.

The exercise involved five (5) officers and 13 personnel from the 5th Battalion of the Royal Ranger Regiment (5RRD), along with a Doctrine Evaluation Officer from the Headquarters of Army Training and Doctrine Command (MK PLDTC). The Pakistan Army was also represented by five (5) officers and 28 personnel from the 4th Light Commando Battalion (LCB).

As part of the Closing Ceremony, attendees witnessed a Clearance of Stronghold

demonstration, followed by a formal Closing Parade.

During the visit, the Malaysian delegation, led by the Commander of 2 Div, conducted courtesy calls on the Commander of the 23rd Division of the Pakistan Army and the Commandant of the NCTC.

The event was also attended by key dignitaries, including Malaysia's Defense Adviser in Islamabad, Colonel Noraripin Othman, the Staff Officer 1 (Operations) of 2 Div HQ, Lt Colonel Ku Syairi Ahmad, the Commanding Officer of 5 RRD, Lt Colonel Chai Kean Seng and the First Secretary of the High Commission of Malaysia in Islamabad, Mr. Muhammad Zulasri bin Rosdi.

## U. S. Amb. Blome commends Education USA, U. S. Educational Foundation in Pakistan efforts

City Desk

ISLAMABAD, NOV 19 (APP): U. S. Ambassador to Pakistan, Donald Blome commended the efforts of EducationUSA and the U. S. Educational Foundation in Pakistan for organizing the ceremony and providing students with guidance on pursuing education in the U. S.

He was addressing the EducationUSA High Achievers' ceremony the other day.

The event recognized the academic accomplishments of some of Pakistan's brightest students, highlighting the opportunities awaiting them in higher education abroad, particularly in the United States.

Ambassador Blome

congratulated the students on their academic achievements and extended his gratitude to their families for their unwavering support.

"Your schools nominated you as high achievers, and with your strong academic credentials, you are poised for even greater success," said Ambassador Blome. "As you start planning your university applications, I hope you will consider U. S. colleges and universities for the next stage of your academic journey."

The ceremony coincided with the launch of International Education Week, a celebration of the long-standing educational partnership between the U. S. and Pakistan. Ambassador Blome shared exciting statistics from the U. S. State Department's



annual "Open Doors Report", which highlighted a record-breaking number of Pakistani students studying in the U. S.

"For the 2023-2024 academic year, 11,000 Pakistani students are attending U. S. universities, placing

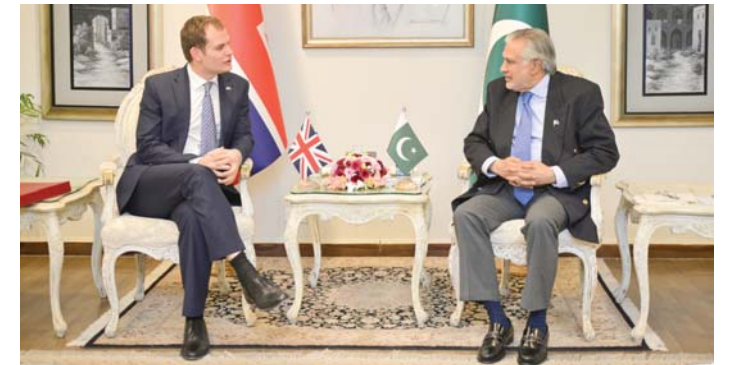
Pakistan 15th globally among countries sending students to the United States," he announced. This milestone reflects a growing trend of Pakistani students pursuing higher education in America, with about one-third of them

enrolled in undergraduate programs.

Ambassador Blome emphasized the value international students bring to U. S. campuses, enriching academic cultures with diverse perspectives and ideas. He encouraged students to leverage the resources of EducationUSA, which offers free advice on selecting universities, finding scholarships, and crafting successful applications.

Acknowledging the critical role of school counselors, the Ambassador revealed that the U. S. Embassy will support an additional cohort of Pakistani counselors to visit the United States. This initiative aims to help counselors better understand the U. S. higher education system and guide students in making informed decisions.

## Pakistan, UK discuss regional relations, seek more cooperation in trade, investment



City Desk

Deputy Prime Minister / Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar today received Hamish Falconer, the UK Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan and Pakistan). They reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations and discussed regional issues of common interest.

Deputy Prime Minister Dar and Parliamentary Under Secretary Falconer noted the strong convergence between Pakistan and the United Kingdom on a wide range of bilateral and regional issues. They reaffirmed the importance of strong Pakistan-UK relations and underscored the shared interest in promoting cooperation in trade, investment and climate action.

The Deputy Prime Minister emphasized the importance of transforming the close relationship

between the two countries into an enhanced strategic partnership, commensurate with the rich history of Pakistan-UK cooperation and in line with the aspirations of the 1.7 million-strong British Pakistani community.

The Deputy Prime Minister also briefed the Parliamentary Under Secretary Falconer on Pakistan's perspective on Afghanistan and the evolving situation in South Asia. He stressed that the resolution of long-standing disputes, including the core Jammu and Kashmir dispute, was critical to achieving lasting peace and stability in South Asia.

Parliamentary Under Secretary Falconer thanked the Deputy Prime Minister for receiving him and underlined the importance accorded by the United Kingdom to its relations with Pakistan. He added that the UK was looking forward to working with Pakistan at the UN Security Council.

## Pakistan, Netherlands discuss ways to strengthen ties

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Pakistan here on Tuesday called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb to discuss matters of mutual interest and explore ways for further strengthening the existing ties between Pakistan and The Netherlands.

According to press release issued by finance ministry, during the meeting, various aspects of the longstanding friendship and bilateral cooperation between the two countries were discussed. They identified priority areas like mining, IT, oil and gas, agriculture, dairy, and farm production for further business collaborations.

On the occasion, the minister high-



lighted the government's economic plan and reform agenda for promoting economic growth and ensuring fiscal sustainability.

Ambassador de Vries reciprocated the sentiments on strengthening bilateral ties and further expanding cooperation in various fields, including sports.

She mentioned the Dutch cricket team was scheduled to visit Pakistan early next year to play matches and learn from Pakistan's cricketing prowess.

## Azerbaijan & Pakistan to go for G2G: Abdul Aleem Khan held meeting in Bakoo

News Desk

BAKOO, AZERBAIJAN: Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Privatisation and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan held meeting in Azerbaijan with Minister for Economy H. E. Mikayal Jabbaro. They both discussed a number of bilateral matters especially Investment in different sectors. Abdul Aleem Khan offered Government if Azerbaijan to take part in Privatisation of PIA, Utility Stores, Zari Tarqati Bank, DISCOs and other state owned entities. He said that there is no doubt that Pakistan and Azerbaijan can increase volume of both side trade. Similarly, in LNG and Renewable Energy there is wider scope of investment while IT, Telecom, Agriculture, Energy and other sectors also open. In Communications, Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan offered Azerbaijan to come forward on the



project of Karachi to Sukkar Motorway M6 which is the busiest route as linked directly with Seaport.

Minister Economy of Azerbaijan H. E. Mikayal Jabbaro expressed his satisfaction over direct flight from Pakistan to Bakoo which resulted in increasing their Tourism. He himself received warmly Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan and assured all out cooperation from the Government of Azerbaijan. Both the Ministers lauded the close and brotherly relations of Pakistan and Azerbaijan and expressed hope that these will further enhance in the days to come.

## Palestine welcomes the G20 summit statement on stopping the war and the two-state solution

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates welcomes the statement issued by the G20 summit in Brazil, which included support and adoption of the two-state solution and a call for a ceasefire in Gaza and Lebanon, and a demand for the entry of aid and a warning of the dangers of the worsening humanitarian disaster in the Gaza Strip.

At the same time, the Ministry calls on all countries and the international community to translate positions and statements into practical steps that

oblige Israel to immediately stop the war of extermination and displacement and abide by international legitimacy resolutions and relevant precautionary orders.

In a related context, the Ministry welcomes the US Treasury's decision to impose sanctions on the "Amana" settlement organization and its colonial company, which is active in building and developing settlements, and calls on the US administration to impose sanctions on the entire colonial settlement system on the path to ending the occupation in accordance with international law.