Barkat Rice Mills

Trump to revive TikTok, but wants 50% US ownership

President-elect Donald Trump said he would revive TikTok access in the U. S. by executive order after he is sworn in on Monday, but said he wants the popular social media app to be at least half owned by U. S.



Omar Ayub announces PTI's negotiations with other political parties

Omar Ayub stated that discussions are one

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Return to home

Displaced Palestinians carry their belongings as they return to central Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip on Sunday.



SC delists case on civilians' trial in military courts

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court of Pakistan has delisted the $case\ addressing\ the\ contentious$ matter of civilians' trials in military courts. In an official notice, the apex court announced the removal of the case from its schedule, which had initially been set for hearings on January 20 and 21. The decision to delist the case followed the absence of seven-member constitutional bench. A seven-member bench. led by Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan, had been slated to preside over the matter.



Earlier this week, the consti- tutional bench of the Supreme Court ordered the Ministry of

Defence to furnish complete shan Sudhir Jadhav.

The instructions were issued by Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan while pointing towards the ministry's counsel Khawaja Haris Ahmed in an apparent move to determine whether procedural justice was not sacrificed at the altar of expediency.

The bench had taken up a set of intra-court appeals (ICAs) against the Oct 23, 2023, order of nullifying the trial of civilians by military courts involved in the May 9 violence.

During the hearing, Justice data on civilians' tried in mili- Naeem Akhtar Afghan undertary courts, barring the case of scored the need for clarity Indian spy commander Kulbhu- regarding the apparent lacuna in the Pakistan Army Act 1952 (PAA), which does not explicitly define the term 'any person'

A seven-member constitutional Bench-led by Justice Aminuddin-convened address the ongoing legal battle surrounding the military courts' jurisdiction over civilian trials. The bench had included Justices Jamal Mandokhel, Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Hassan Azhar Rizvi. Masrat Hilali, Naeem Akhtar Afghan, and Shahid Bilal Hassan.

PM Shehbaz approves deployment of several new ambassadors in various countries

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has approved the deployment of new ambassadors of Pakistan to various countries on the recommendation of Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar.

According to details, Rahim Hayat Qureshi has been appointed as an ambassador of as Pakistan's ambassadors in Pakistan to European Union. African countries. Abdul Hameed Bhatta as an ambassador to Japan, Najeeb Durrani as an ambassador to Philippines.

Ghana, Zahid Hafeez Chaudhry to Indonesia and Moazzam Shah has been appointed ambassador to South Korea.

Malik Farooq has been appointed as an ambassador to South Africa. Shahbaz Khokar in Lebanon, Adil Gilani in Morocco while Tariq Karim and Aqsa Nawaz have also been posted

Asma Rabbani will be the new ambassador of Pakistan to the



Syed Haider Shah has been appointed ambassador in

Netherlands, Amir Shaukat to Egypt, Marghoob Salim Butt as ambassador to Switzerland and Shahryar Akbar has been appointed as ambassador to Czech Republic.

Zaman Mehdi has been appointed as Consul General in Chicago, Wajid Hashmi as Consul General in Melbourne, Tanveer Bhatti in the Chinese city of Chengdu and Imtiaz Gondal has been appointed as Consul General of Pakistan in

Al Qadir University not a personal property, it's a Trust like Shaukat Khanum: Salman Raja

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: PTI Secretary General Salman Akram Raja has said that Al Qadir University is not a personal property of anybody as the University has been constituted on Trust basis like Shaukat University in 2021 and she too Khanum Hospital and NAML University.

Talking to media in Islamabad on Sunday, Salman Raja claimed that PTI founder Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi had not taken any benefit from the university. PTI Secretary General said Bushra



had not taken any other favour.

PTI leader Salman Raja said by announcing sentence to Bushra Bibi, PTI founder's family was targeted. PTI Secretary General said 26th Constitutional Amendments was aimed at bringing selective judges in the apex court. Bibi became the trustee of the He said PTI will fight legal and moral war against injustices. Talking about 190 million

pound case, PTI Secretary General said 9 bank accounts of Malik Riaz family were opened in UK and UK's National Crime Agency conducted the audit of all of the accounts and found that suspicious transactions were made in the accounts.

After this transaction, the British government placed ban on the visas of Malik Riaz family by saying that UK did not need their money. PTI Secretary General said agreement was signed between NCA and Ali Riaz

Malik and NCA decided that this money will be sent back to Pakistan and it was also decided that

the agreement will be kept secret. Salman Raja said it was decided by UK that this amount will be transferred to Malir Cantonment in Karachi and after the settlement of Rs460 billion amount case, press release was released once the case is settled.

Salman Raja said then Federal Cabinet meeting was held later and NCA had transferred the amount earlier. He said it was decided in the Cabinet meeting that the amount which had been

deposited in Supreme Court of Pakistan's account has in fact come to the government. PTI Secretary General said Rs460 billion does not come in the personal account of any government official or Malik Riaz's account. He said after the deposit of this amount in Supreme Court's account, the forex reserves of the country had jumped up. And later this amount was transferred to Sindh government account. Salam Raja said UK government has made public his decision and all facts have come in front of public.

FO thanks Jan Egeland for drawing attention to humanitarian predicament in Afghanistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office on Sunday thanked Jan Egeland, Secretary General of the Norwegian Refugee Council for drawing attention to the humanitarian predicament of Afghanistan.

In a statement, the Foreign Office Spokesperson said, "It would have been more appropriate had the world not abandoned the Afghan people after the war and if conducive socioeconomic conditions had been created inside the country for the Afghan people to prosper."

"For forty years, Pakistan has generously hosted over four million Afghan refugees. Those sent back were residing illegally without any documentation or proof cases of thousands of Afghan the country," he added.



nationals who were promised resettlement in western countries remains painfully slow,"

He said, "UN Humanitarian aid to Afghanistan remains critically underfunded with only 37.5% of the required funds secured last year. Pakistan and Afghanistan are tied together by historical, religious and cultural links that transcend time."

"Pakistan has been and will continue to support all efforts aimed at addressing the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan as well as for of residence. Progress on the lasting peace and stability in

Aafia Siddiqui appeals for mercy before Biden leaves presidency

ISLAMABAD: The lawyers of Dr. Aafia Siddiqui, Pakistani neuroscientist accused of "terrorism" by the United States, said this week that she has appealed to outgoing President Joe Biden to grant her clemency before he hands over the reins of the country to

President-elect Donald Trump. Siddiqui, who is a US-trained neuroscientist, was convicted in 2010 on multiple charges, including attempting to kill US nationals. She became a suspect after leaving the US and marrying a nephew of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, a self-proclaimed mastermind of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Siddiqui was wounded during a confrontation with US officials in Afghanistan in 2008, with some reports suggesting she shot at the Americans. She was sentenced to 86 years in prison by a US court in 2010, prompting a huge outcry from Pakistan and human rights voices world-

Dr. Siddiqui's lawyer, Clive



Stafford Smith, has submitted a 76,500-word dossier to Biden and is calling on the American president to pardon her before Trump's swearing-in on Monday.

We just pray and keep our fingers crossed and I hope to goodness our clemency is granted Monday morning," Smith told Arab News late Saturday night.

"And if not, revert to plan B and plan C and plan D until we get her out of this awful place," he added.

Smith said Siddiqui was 'in good spirits" when he met her on Friday at the detention facility in Fort Worth, Texas, for four hours despite her trauma. He said Dr. Fowzia Siddiqui, her sister, had travelled 10,000 miles to see her sister but was only allowed an hour and 40 minutes to see her sister.

Pakistan to issue Panda Bonds by June 2025: Finance Minister

E Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has announced that Pakistan plans to issue Panda Bonds by June 2025.

In an interview with Hong Kong's TVB News, the finance minister stated that the initiative aims to integrate Pakistan into China's capital markets.

He revealed that Pakistan intends to raise approximately \$200 million from Chinese investors through the issuance of these bonds.

The government is focused on shifting the economy towards export-driven growth to achieve sustainability in the

balance of payments, he added. The minister emphasised the significance of the second



Economic Corridor (CPEC

He also expressed Pakistan's commitment to enhancing financial cooperation with Hong Kong. Minister Aurangzeb invited

Hong Kong to send delegations to explore trade and financial opportunities in Aurangzeb further stated

that Hong Kong could serve as an ideal hub for joint ventures between Chinese and Pakistani companies.

Kashmir, nuclear flash point between two nuclear countries: Attique

跨 Abdul Majeed Tahir

RAWALPINDI: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan said that the United Nations should play its role in giving the Kashmiris the right to self-determination.

Peace in the region is not possible without resolving the Kashmir issue. According to several resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, the Kashmiri people should be given the right to decide their future through a free and impartial plebiscite. It has been 76 years since India's usurped Kashmir.

Kashmiri people to the worst state Abdul Majeed Tahir and other various



During this long period, Indian terrorism. He expressed these views governments have subjected the while talking to our correspondent

He said that after the illegal and unilateral Indian actions of August 5, 2019, the chain of Indian oppression has become even longer.

House-to-house sieges and search operations have become the norm of the day. Incidents of pellet gun use, destruction of property, enforced disappearances, custodial torture and extrajudicial killings have become

The entire main Hurriyat leadership is behind bars. Yasin Malik, Masrat Alam Bhat, Shabbir Ahmed Shah, Naeem Ahmed Khan and Asia Andrabi are under house arrest while Mir Waiz Umar Farooq's house has also been declared a prison.

Similarly, Kashmiri leaders Altaf Ahmed Shah and Ashraf Sehrai have

delegations of the Muslim Conference. died in Indian custody due to inhuman treatment and torture. Indian atrocities in occupied Kashmir are not hidden from the world.

The United Nations and international human rights organizations have exposed these Indian atrocities many times. The reports of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the UN Human Rights contain detailed accounts of human rights violations in occupied Kashmir. I salute the Kashmiri brothers and sisters who have been facing Indian oppression for a long

The Muslim Conference will continue to extend moral, political and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri people in their just struggle for their right to self-determination he pledged.

Railway Prem Union, rejecting the government's expected decision to privatize the railways



👺 Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Railway Prem Union, rejecting the government's expected decision to privatize the railways, launched a protest movement against it under the slogan "Privatization of Railways, Treason to the Country" by waving banners and posters at railway stations across the country. Despite severe cold and snowfall, employees also protested against the privatization of the railways at Chaman Border, Shelabagh and Walbadin railway stations. Prem Union Chairman Ziauddin Ansari, President Sheikh Muhammad Anwar, Secretary General Khair Muhammad Tonio, Vice President Abdul Qayyum Awan, Chief Organizer Khalid Mahmood Chaudhry appreciated the spirit of the railway employees and said that the privatization of Pakistan's largest charitable and welfare institution is tantamount to treason against the country and the nation. We will not allow any mother's son to privatize the railway. The employees will shed their blood to save the railway, but we will not allow anyone to loot the railway in the name of privatization. The spirit of the railway employees cannot be defeated. The struggle that the Prem Union started for the rights of railway employees under the leadership of the late Hafiz Salman Butt will be continued under all circumstances. He said that due to the incompetence of the Ministry of Railways, the railway administration could not present the railway case to the government in a proper manner, due to which the government has put the railway in the non-essential category.

Operation launched against encroachments

👺 Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH, KAMALIA: Assistant Commissioner and Administrator Municipal Committee Kamalia Iqra Nasir and Chief Officer Ali Raza led the encroachment operation to remove the encroachments. An operation has been conducted in which illegal encroachments have been carried out in other areas including Iqbal Bazar, Kalma Chowk and Mamun Kanjan Road and seized several items I was taken. On this occasion, Assistant Commissioner and Administrator Municipal Committee Iqra Nasir and Chief Officer Ali Raza said that encroachment in Kamalia will not be tolerated under any circumstances, so shopkeepers should keep their goods within the limits of their shops, otherwise the goods will be confiscated and along with FIR will also be registered.

Smugglers will not be allowed to escape. Collector Taimur Kamal Malik

Abdul Maiid ■

FAISALABAD: Operations will continue to be carried out to prevent smuggling. This was said by Collector Taimur Kamal Malik while recovering smuggled goods worth about Rs 150 million in Faisalabad. These operations were carried out in Sargodha Road, Jamia Chishtia Chowk, Saka Tower Tire Market, Makki Market and Grain Market. The seized goods include foreign tires, women's clothes, groceries and other prohibited items. While two sets of tires were seized from Jamia Chishtia Tire Market. The enforcement team has repeated intensive operations in Faisalabad.

Tangible actions imperative to curb human trafficking, Governor Punjab



ISLAMABAD: Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan, on Sunday, called for strict action against the elements involved in human trafficking for its elimination and to promote a positive image of the country across the globe.

The Governor made these remarks during a book launching ceremony at the National Press Club (NPC) "Japan Kahani," written by renowned writer and journalist Amjad Siddiqui. Several notable dignitaries from different walks of life attended the ceremony.

Governor said that the book written by Amjad Siddiqui highlighted the burning issue prevailing in the country which needed to be addressed through tangible actions.

Sardar Saleem Haider Khan expressed deep concern over the alarming number of deaths of Pakistani citizens in the migrant boat accidents, which denounced the image of the country. Pakistani cuisine He emphasised that the human trafficking issue should not be

viewed solely through the lens of poverty, adding that an individual who can afford to pay 5 to 6 million rupees for illegal travel could invest that amount in establishing a legitimate business within the country, thus securing a stable and prosperous future. However, he lamented that the country's youth had lost confidence in

the national system and stressed the importance of restoring that trust. The Governor emphasized that the country was blessed with abundant of natural resources, which, if utilized effectively, have the poten-

tial to transform the country's destiny.

Pointing out the person within the institutions assisting human trafficking, he said, the connections of these human traffickers within the institutes needed to be identified and all those involved in the heinous crime should be brought before the law.

To combat the root causes of human trafficking, Governor Khan suggested the inclusion of anti-trafficking content in school curriculums, alongside organizing seminars and discussions to raise awareness about the dangers and consequences of illegal migration. This, he argued, could help restore trust among the youth and guide them towards legitimate opportunities within the country.

Shuttle Service

RAWALPINDI: People are enjoying free of cost shuttle service at Bank Road Sadar area in the city.



Another woman dies as no medical service available in Neelum Valley

👺 Bureau Report

NEELUM VALLEY: In a week, a second pregnant young woman in Union Council Upper Grace died on the way due to road closure.

The promises and claims made in the good speeches of Anwar Sarkar have proven false. Due to snowfall, the road in Union Council Upper Grace of Upper Grace Valley has been continuously closed for the last 15-16 days.

Neither the Exeon Highways, nor the SDO Highways, nor the administration, nor any kind of useful machinery is taking any steps to open the road. The people are worried, they have nothing else to do except give ten thousand. Expressing their sorrow and grief, social media and political activist Suleman Shah Advocate said that the ruling class has eaten the revenue of Upper Grace Valley, but in return they



should not forget that the rod of Allah is known. The public strongly demands and open the road for traffic, otherwise the capital.

are holding funerals every day. Rulers silent, when it moves, then it is not even that send a chain dozer immediately they will hold a long march towards

A Strategic Move for Risk Management and Economic Growth

Bureau Report

In a significant call for financial prudence and risk management, experts have urged the Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJ&K) to allocate a dedicated budget for the insurance of public property. The move is seen as essential to protect the state's assets from unforeseen risks and ensure the smooth delivery of public services.

The AJ&K, being a region prone to risk to its public assets. However, critical public moveable and immoveable vulnerable to damage from natural disasters like floods, landslides, and earthquakes. In the wake of such events, the public has already suffered

the 2005 mega earthquake, as well as in subsequent floods and landslides, which caused widespread destruction. The loss of vital infrastructure, including hydro power projects, had far-reaching consequences, further exacerbating the socio-economic challenges faced by the region. Experts emphasize that the reconstruction and repair of these public assets, in the absence of insurance, placed a heavy natural calamities, faces a significant financial burden on the government and its citizens. Without adequate insurance coverage, the restoration assets remain uninsured, leaving them of these assets becomes an even more challenging and costly process, delaying recovery and hindering devel-

The Public Assets Management

immense losses, particularly during Guidelines 2024, issued by the allocation for public property insur-Government of Pakistan, already emphasize the importance of budgeting for the payment of insurance premiums for public property. This national directive sets a precedent for AJ&K, urging the local government to follow suit and ensure the protection of its public assets. The current situation has raised concerns among civil society groups and policymakers, urging the government to adopt a proactive approach. "AJ&K, being a region prone to natural calamities, faces a significant risk to its public infrastructure. The time to act is now, to ensure these assets are protected for the future of our citizens," stated an insurance industry expert. Furthermore, experts have stressed that the

ance aligns not only with financial prudence but also contributes to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Proper insurance coverage for public infrastructure ensures long-term resilience, promotes economic growth, and supports disaster recovery efforts-key factors in advancing sustainable development in AJ&K.

The call for the allocation of funds for the insurance of public assets aligns with both national policy directives and global sustainability objectives. The public and experts alike are hopeful that the government will prioritize this crucial investment, securing a stable and resilient future for the region.

Monday, January 20, 2025

Solution Celebrating Diplomacy & Friendship

Diplomatic Focus Welcomes New Envoys to Pakistan with a Grand Reception

Naveed Ahmed Khan

ISLAMABAD: In a remarkable event celebrating the spirit of diplomacy, Diplomatic Focus magazine hosted a grand reception to honor the newly appointed envoys to Pakistan.

The evening was graced by the presence of Rana Tanveer Hussain, Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research, who served as the chief guest. A significant gathering of ambassadors, high commissioners, representatives from the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), Islamabad Chambers, and prominent media personalities marked the occasion with their presence.

Welcoming the guests, Mr. and Mrs. Mian Fazal Elahi, CEO of Diplomatic Focus, expressed their gratitude for the active participation of the diplomatic community and dignitaries. "Tonight, we celebrate the bonds of friendship and cooperation that unite our nations. This event reflects the importance of diplomacy in fostering mutual understanding and collaboration," said Mian Fazal Elahi.

The Federal Minister extended a warm welcome to the new envoys, underscoring Pakistan's dedication to strengthening bilateral relations with their respective nations. "Your presence reflects the strong bonds between our nations, and together, we can address common challenges and explore new opportunities for collaboration," he remarked.

The event underscored the significance of media platforms like Diplomatic Focus in fostering diplomatic ties. By offering a bridge between Pakistan and the global community, the magazine plays a pivotal role in promoting dialogue, understanding, and cooperation. Through its coverage of international affairs, bilateral relations, and global challenges, it serves as an influential tool in shaping narratives that highlight Pakistan's commitment to peace and progress. In a rapidly evolving global landscape, such journalistic efforts are essential for projecting a positive image of Pakistan and nurturing meaningful connections with the world.

Rana Tanveer Hussa Diplomatic Focus for organizing a meaningful gathering that celebrated the essence of diplomacy. peoples," he said. He acknowledged the vital role of relationships between Pakistan and other nations. "As we enjoy



















ulated Mian Fazal Elahi and ples of mutual respect and cooperation. Together, we can build a brighter future for all nations and

Mian Fazal Elahi, in his address, such initiatives in strengthening extended a heartfelt welcome to relationships in the years to come," the envoys and expressed appreciation for the gathering of distinthis evening's festivities, let us guished guests. He emphasized a toast to the new envoys, the continues to serve as a vital plat-

understanding among nations. our shared values and goals. We look forward to fostering stronger



nations. The event highlighted the "This evening is a testament to commitment of Diplomatic Focus in promoting bilateral relations and advancing Pakistan's global outreach. As a leading publication dedicated to diplomacy and The reception concluded with current affairs, Diplomatic Focus

fostering peace, prosperity, and enduring friendships between building bridges between Pakistan and the global community.

The Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Pakistan and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, H. E. Mr. Atadjan Movlamov, alongside H. E. Mrs. Andrea Wicke, Ambasduring the event. They were joined Bangladesh, and H. E. Dan Stoebetween Pakistan and the interunderstanding.

Gatherings like these play a duty that has no match indeed. crucial role in enhancing diplomacy between nations. They attendees left inspired to further provide a platform for meaningful dialogue, cultural exchange, and the fostering of mutual trust. In ching message of cooperation and today's interconnected world, sador of Australia, and Dr. Mirza such events are more important Ikhtiar Baig, Honorary Consul than ever, especially for Pakistan, 📙 Photos by Imtiaz Ahmad Faizi

General of the Republic of Yemen, as they showcase the country's delivered insightful speeches commitment to building strong international relationships. By by H. E. Mr. Md. Iqbal Hussain bringing together diplomats, Khan, High Commissioner for government officials, and media representatives, these occasions nescu, Ambassador of Romania open doors to collaborative opporto Pakistan. The dignitaries collectunities in trade, development, tively praised Diplomatic Focus and cultural understanding. They for its significant contributions also allow Pakistan to project a to fostering diplomatic relations positive image globally, reinforcing its dedication to peace and coopnational community, empha- eration. Initiatives like these are sizing the magazine's pivotal role vital for strengthening Pakistan's in promoting dialogue and mutual global standing. Diplomatic focus is indirectly performing a national

At the end of the evening, strengthen diplomatic ties, reflecting the evening's overarcollaboration.

Vietnamese Embassy Celebrates Lunar New Year in Islamabad with Cultural Festivities





slamabad witnessed a vibrant cultural evening as Mr. and Mrs. Pham Anh Tuan, Ambassador of Vietnam to Pakistan, hosted a reception at the Embassy to celebrate the Vietnamese Lunar Year, also known as the Community Tet Celebration. The event, themed around "The Year of the Snake," brought together friends of Vietnam from across Pakistan, offering a blend of tradition, hospitality, and shared joys.

Deputy Head of Mission Mr. Thang Truong, along with the Embassy staff and their famithe distinguished guests. Among the attendees were former Paki-

ambassadors and high commissioners from ASEAN countries. including Malaysia, Thailand, Brunei, Myanmar, and Indonesia, alongside representatives from civil society, the business community, and chambers of commerce.

The centerpiece of the event was the Lucky Tree, a beloved Vietnamese tradition. Guests eagerly participated by plucking beautifully prepared red envelopes, hanging like fruits from the tree. These envelopes, containing lucky money, symbolize good fortune for the year ahead. The tradition resonated deeply with Pakistani guests, many of whom expressed growing interest in

lies, extended a warm welcome to adopting this cultural practice. Traditional Vietnamese soup and delicacies were served, stani ambassadors to Vietnam, delighting the palates of guests

who have come to admire the culinary excellence at Vietnam's cultural events. Adding to the evening's charm, the hosts donned vibrant traditional attire, sparking interest and appreciation among attendees for its intricate designs and colors.

A documentary screening showcased Vietnam's development journey, highlighting its progress in various sectors. The visual presentation left guests impressed by the nation's resilience and growth.

In his address, Ambassador Pham Anh Tuan shed light on the cultural and emotional significance of the Tet holiday. "Every Tet holiday, Vietnamese people, wherever they may be, turn their thoughts toward their families, ancestors, and homeland. It's a





time for nostalgia, reunion, and the flavors that define our traditions," he said.

He welcomed the Vietnamese community in Pakistan and close friends of the Embassy, saying, "Today, we are delighted to share the atmosphere of Tet, enjoy traditional Vietnamese cuisine, and together reflect on our homeland and beloved families."

Reflecting on Vietnam's achievements in 2024, Ambassador Tuan highlighted the nation's strides in maintaining a stable macroeconomy, ensuring national defense and social welfare, and enhancing Vietnam's international standing. "The people's lives continue to improve, and our country's prestige on the global stage has been continuously enhanced," he shared with pride.

Events like the Vietnamese Lunar Year celebration play a crucial role in fostering cultural diplomacy and building stronger



international relationships. They provide an opportunity for countries to showcase their rich traditions, heritage, and achievements, creating a deeper understanding and appreciation among diverse communities. For Pakistan, such gatherings help strengthen ties with global partners, promote cultural exchange, and encourage culture, and culinary delights, collaboration in trade, education, and diplomacy. These events bridge cultural gaps, inspire

mutual respect, and highlight

shared values, fostering goodwill that transcends borders. By celebrating traditions together, nations lay the groundwork for long-lasting partnerships and

global harmony. As the evening concluded, the guests departed with fond memories of Vietnamese hospitality, looking forward to continued engagement and friendship

between the two nations. Photos by Imtiaz Ahmad Faizi

Monday, January 20, 2025

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Chinese, Pakistani companies reach \$250 mln MoUs

oUs worth around \$250 mln were signed at the China-Pakistan B2B matchmaking conference in the medical equipment and surgical instrument sector held today in Beijing.

Silk Road Assistance Industrial Internet Platform, a provider of advisory services for companies to do cross-border businesses, entered into agreements respectively with Pakistan's dental and surgical instrument manufacturer Sawuat, and Chinese pharmaceutical company UPH Biopharma.

This collaboration aims to steer more Chinese companies to engage in trade and set up joint ventures in Pakistan in the medical instrument sector.

Mr. Sunny Yang, Chief Technology Officer of this platform, told China Economic Net that Pakistan's vast market, tax incentives, and set of standards consistent with Europe give it a competitive edge in capturing international investment.

"Its medical industry can be further advanced in collaboration with China. For example, while it excels in equipment and instruments, there is significant room for improvement in areas like image documentation. By joining forces, Chinese technology can help Pakistan build its own brand and climb the global value chain," he remarked.

Home to the world's fifth-largest medical manufacturing hub in Sialkot, Pakistan exports over 80% of its domestic production. Its low cost of production and favorable geographic location linking Central Asia and Middle East offer attractive opportunities for international companies. Its inexpensive medical raw materials and primary products are also supplied to other countries for processing and export.

"Pakistan boasts abundant raw material resources and a large labor force. With significant strengths in medical consumables, such as surgical instruments, the demand for high-value medical products continues to rise," according to Mr. Zhou Hui, Chairman of the China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Medicines and Health Products.

"Pakistani enterprises seeking cooperation with China should stay updated on China's regulations concerning medical devices and drugs. The Chamber will continue offering consulting services to support the entry of Pakistani medical products into the Chinese market," he suggested.

Dr. Muhammad Shahbaz, President of China Pakistan Medical Association shared that he is working to build a China-Pakistan friendship hospital in Islamabad and planning a joint medical technology park in Pakistan. At this conference, his association reached an agreement with a technology company based in Hangzhou, China for medical equipment trade, establishment of joint ventures, and transfer of technologies.

Organized by the Pakistani Embassy in China, the conference attracted the participation of over 120 companies from the two countries. This event marks the conclusion of the first series of seven B2B events held since Pakistani PM's visit to China last June. It is announced that another seven roadshows are in pipeline and expected to roll out from next month. These

International Media Reports India's Global Terrorism

Abdul Basit Alvi

and complex relationship, rooted in historical grievances, territorial disputes, and entrenched political rivalries. The two nuclear-armed nations have fought multiple wars and been involved in numerous skirmishes, particularly over the disputed region of Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistan has long accused India of supporting insurgent groups and fostering instability within its borders, with several pieces of evidence backing these claims. India has been implicated in supporting insurgent groups, militant organizations, and separatist movements aimed at destabilizing Pakistan, especially in regions such as Balochistan and Sindh. These accusations often center on India's alleged backing of nationalist movements within Pakistan, including intelligence operations and support for separatist activities in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK). Balochistan, a resource-rich province in Pakistan, has experienced decades of ethnic and political unrest, and Baloch separatist groups have engaged in terrorism with alleged support from India to weaken Pakistan's

control over the region. One of the most significant recent events that heightened tensions between India and Pakistan was the 2016 arrest of Kulbhushan Jadhav, a former Indian Navy officer, by Pakistani authorities in Balochistan. Jadhav was accused of working as a spy for RAW and plotting acts of terrorism and subversion in Balochistan and other parts of Pakistan. Pakistan released a video in which Jadhav

supporting separatist movements. The Jadhav case became a symbol of India's covert interference in Pakistan's internal affairs, further intensifying the diplomatic rift between the two nations.

The Johar Town bomb blast, which occurred in Lahore on June 23, 2021,

was another high-profile incident that raised questions about the perpetrators and their motivations. The bombing caused significant loss of life, with at least three people killed and over 20 injured. The blast, caused by a bomb planted in a vehicle, resulted in extensive damage to nearby

buildings, including residential homes and businesses. Pakistani authorities swiftly launched an investigation, initially focusing on various terrorist groups operating in the region. However, the sophisticated nature of the attack—along with the careful planning involved-suggested that the perpetrators had considerable resources and likely received external support. In the aftermath of the blast, numerous Pakistani officials, security agencies, and analysts pointed to India's involvement, alleging that Indian intelligence, through RAW, played a role in orchestrating or supporting the attack. These claims are part of a long-standing fact that India has been involved in destabilizing Pakistan, particularly in regions like Balochistan, Gilgit-Baltistan, and

in Pakistan have suggested that India may have been attempting to exacerbate internal instability and sectarian violence within Pakistan, particularly at a time when the country was already facing significant political tensions and a fragile security environment.

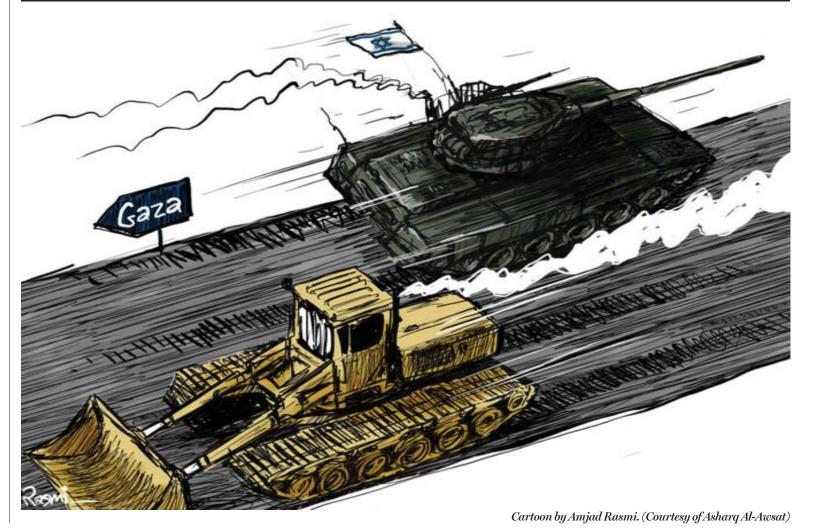
India's involvement in international terrorism has also been reported by global media outlets. Recently, an American newspaper provided a damning account of the terrorism allegedly perpetrated under the Indian government's auspices. The Washington Post published an

exposé highlighting India's complicity in terrorism and severe human rights violations. According to the report, India is implicated in carrying out targeted killings through terrorist operations in Pakistan. The article detailed how the Indian intelligence agency RAW was allegedly responsible for the targeted killing of six individuals in Lahore, Pakistan, in April 2024, one of whom was identified as Aamir Sarfraz. These individuals were specifically targeted. The newspaper reported that India has also been involved in extrajudicial killings in the United States, Canada, and other Western nations. According to the article, India's intelligence agency, RAW, was responsible for the assassinations of Sikh leaders in both Canada and the U.S., with RAW officer Kavish Yadav

ndia and Pakistan share a long allegedly confessed to his involvement in parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Analysts allegedly directing the deadly attack on a Sikh separatist leader in New York. The Washington Post also cited Canadian officials who have exposed the involvement of Indian diplomats and RAW in terrorist

> Moreover, a recent investigative report by the leading British media outlet The Guardian has revealed that the Indian government has implemented a broader strategy to eliminate its opponents residing abroad. This strategy, according to the report, has led to the targeted killings of several Pakistani citizens. The report claims that Indian agencies were involved in the deaths of 20 people in Pakistan since 2020, with these individuals being killed by unknown gunmen. The Guardian traced these killings to India's national security policies, which, it says, became more aggressive following the Pulwama attack in 2019. The report points to clear evidence of the direct involvement of India's intelligence agency, RAW, in these operations. Since 2019, according to the article, RAW has been responsible for 20 such killings in Pakistan. The British outlet based its report on evidence provided by Pakistan and interviews with intelligence officials from both countries.

The historical record, as well as recent reports from renowned and neutral global media outlets, paints a troubling picture of India's role in international terrorism. The international community should take note of these facts and press India to cease its involvement in terrorism and targeted killings in Pakistan and other nations.



From Despair to Hope in Pakistan | The Renaissance of Art

Amjid Khan

recent tragedies involving migrant From Despair to Hope in Pakistan capsizing off the coasts of Morocco and Greece have highlighted the dire circumstances faced by many Pakistanis, who are compelled to undertake perilous journeys in search of a better future. On January 2, 2025, a boat carrying 86 migrants departed from Mauritania, aiming for Spain's Canary Islands. After 13 harrowing days at sea, the vessel capsized near Morocco's coast. Reports indicate that 50 individuals perished, including 44 Pakistani nationals, while only 36 survivors were rescued by Moroccan authorities. This heartbreaking incident serves as a stark reminder of the risks associated with human trafficking networks that exploit vulnerable individuals seeking opportunities abroad.

The impact of illegal migration extends beyond individual migrants; it affects families and communities left behind in Pakistan. The emotional toll on families is compounded by financial instability when their loved ones are lost or remain unaccounted for. In many cases, families invest their life savings into sending a member abroad in hopes of securing a better future; when these dreams turn into nightmares, it not only devastates individual households but also contributes to broader societal issues.

Pakistan is also experiencing a significant brain drain as skilled professionals seek opportunities abroad. This exodus capital necessary for development while ensuring that migrants' rights are

and innovation. Engineers, doctors, teachers, and other professionals leaving for better prospects contribute to a cycle where Pakistan struggles to retain talent while facing increasing challenges at home.

To tackle the root causes of illegal migration effectively, it is essential for the Pakistani government to implement comprehensive reforms aimed at reducing corruption and improving governance. This includes increasing transparency in public spending and ensuring that development funds are utilized effectively for social services that benefit ordinary citizens rather than being siphoned off by corrupt officials.

Pakistan must focus on economic reforms that promote sustainable growth and job creation across various sectors. Investing in industries with high potential for employment generation such as technology, agriculture, renewable energy, and manufacturing can create more job opportunities for its citizens while fostering an environment conducive to business development and attracting foreign investment.

Public awareness campaigns should also be initiated to educate potential migrants about the dangers associated with illegal migration and human trafficking. Providing information about legal migration pathways can help individuals make informed decisions about their futures rather than falling prey to traffickers who exploit their desper-

Addressing illegal migration requires international cooperation between countries of origin, transit nations, and destination countries. Collaborative efforts can lead to more effective deprives the country of valuable human strategies for managing migration flows

protected throughout their journeys.

The tragic boat incidents off Gavdos Island and Morocco serve as sobering reminders of the dire circumstances faced by many Pakistanis today. Economic instability, rampant corruption, and limited opportunities compel individuals to risk their lives in search of a better future abroad. It is imperative that both the Pakistani government and international community take decisive action to address these underlying

This is not merely an issue of migration; it is fundamentally about human dignity and survival. As citizens continue to embark on dangerous journeys across treacherous waters in search of hope and stability, it falls upon government officials, policymakers, civil society organizations and indeed all citizens to create an environment where such desperation is no longer necessary.

We must advocate for comprehensive reforms that prioritize transparency, accountability, and genuine economic opportunity for all citizens. It is time for our leaders to recognize that addressing corruption and fostering sustainable development are not just political responsibilities but moral imperatives.

Let us come together as a nation demanding change from our leaders so that no Pakistani feels compelled to risk their life on unsafe boats in pursuit of dreams that should be attainable at home. The future we envision, a prosperous Pakistan free from the shackles of corruption and despair, is within our grasp if we act decisively today.

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Abdul Hadi

rt is a powerful form of storytelling, conveying emotions, ideas, and experiences through various mediums like painting, sculpting, poetry, and dance. Each art form has its unique ability to connect people with the story being told. Art has been an integral part of human existence since the dawn of our species. Artists always pour their feelings and perspectives into their work, sometimes reflecting the society's narrative. But this wasn't the case in the Middle Ages (5th-14th centuries), the Catholic Church's dominance stifled artistic expression. Artists were forced to promote such themes that suppressed intellectual exploration and creativity. This period is often referred to as the

Before talking about all this let's dive into the history of art first for better understanding. For this let's start from scratch.

We all know that art is with us from the very start of our race but this is the first recorded era. The "Prehistoric Era". This era has left us with some remarkable art created by talented individuals such as the Harappa artists, Rock artists, and Cave artists. Although their work was limited, still they provide a glimpse into the creative minds of our ancient ancestors. Some of the most dramatic examples of prehistoric art have been found in the caves frequented by Stone Age

humans, such as Lascaux in France and Altamira in Spain. This era marked the beginning of artistic expression, showcasing the significance of art in human culture. This era worked as the pioneer for art and set the stage for others

like "The ancient civilization". And that marks the revival of art catholic church was going week and in the meantime "Giotto di Bondone" the Italian painter and architect who paved the way for revolution with his work "A sight for sore eyes" especially "The lamentation of Christ" which shows that artist still has that intellectual persona. Following his footsteps other artists also started to embrace their boldness and started showing their true self. This movement started from Italy and history found some of the greatest artists there like "Leonardo, Raphael, Michelangelo" just to name a few. But the work of Giotto didn't only thrive italy it makes waves in the whole artist community and in the late 15 century France stepped up and and showed that they too have the guts to overcame

this pressure and in 1520 they showed the world "Château de Chambord" and even started institutes in respect of arts and with this the clouds started to move and artists now

enjoying their sunlight. In the 15th century not only Spain got the chance to shine in art, many others also had just like Belgium due to their great interest in trade the art renaissance started in Flanders. They had pure love for art and because of this they started to trade art too and soon "Rogier van der Weyden" visited Italy and he got inspired from their craft and came back with exceptional ideas and he didn't hold that knowledge in himself as a true artist he taught everyone too. Now Belgium has its own beautiful mark in art with work like the "Ghent altarpiece".

Now west is in the new era of art, the "Renaissance era" but still England wasn't fully free of the middle age ideas but God had mercy on them and in the late 15 and early 16 century the magic happened there too. When Italian artists started their trade with the British and taught them the true knowledge of art, the invention of the printing machine also played a key role in all of this. With England on the side the renaissance era started to flourish greater than ever now artists were like a whale in the ocean. England people showed us why they ruled the world once with their work in literature in the lights of "Shakespeare, John Donne's, Ben Johnson and many more. Their work in art is just like a mountain covered with clouds. Almost every piece they created made waves, some of their work like "Hans Holbein, St. Paul's cathedral, Hampton court palace". Their work didn't stop in just art and literature they also revolutionised the music industry with "Thomas Tallis's choral music" and it will be a sin not to include the philosophical work of them in the light

of "Francis Bacon's and William Gilbert's scientific work". As the old saying goes "There's ease after every difficulty" and indeed we had that ease and for that we still can't thank everyone who was included in that movement because artists still around the world use this information and create their own masterpiece and try to match them. History has seen so many revolutions but there won't be any other one like

the "Renaissance of art" because: "Art is a lie that makes us realise a truth"

(Pablo Picasso) Abdul Hadi student pursuing bachelor's in Business Economics from University of the Punjab. He can be reached at a.hadi408858@gmail.com

Delegation of Pakistan Britain Maritime Association (PBMA) calls on High Commissioner in

London

LONDON: The delegation included Commander (R) Shahid Akhtar, Mr. Saleem Sabir, Mr. Hassan Khan, and PBMA General Secretary, Captain Farrukh Shehzad. PBMA UK has been established to create a robust network of Pakistani maritime professionals in the UK, offering a platform for knowledge sharing, collaboration, and advocacy for Pakistan's maritime interests with UK government agencies, industry leaders, and international organ-

Welcoming the delegation, Dr. Mohammad Faisal, who also serves as the Patron-in-Chief of PBMA, emphasized the importance of fostering trade, investment, and coop-

Standbry Tabraiz Aurah eration between Pakistan and the UK in the maritime sector. He highlighted that such efforts would significantly enhance Pakistan's blue economy potential.

Dr. Faisal assured his full support for PBMA's initiatives to promote Pakistan's maritime sector through training, education, and capacity building. He encouraged the association to strengthen ties between Pakistani and UK maritime industries, academia, and research institutions.

The High Commissioner further urged the PBMA to organize events, conferences, and exhibitions to showcase Pakistan's maritime capabilities and promote collaborative efforts between the two countries' maritime industries.

The PBMA delegation time Science & Technology national platforms.



briefed Dr. Faisal on their interactions with key maritime stakeholders in the UK. They discussed potential collaborations with Pakistan Mari-

Park (PMSTP) and the Pakistan International Maritime Expo & Conference (PIMEC), aiming to advance Pakistan's maritime initiatives on inter-

This meeting underscores the commitment to strengthening maritime ties and leveraging opportunities for mutual growth between Pakistan and

Asma Butt organized a fish party in National Press Club Islamabad

E City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Whether it's a mango party in the summer or a fish party in the winter, the goal is to get together with friends, to share each other's joys and sorrows. Happiness is doubled by being with loved ones. We should thank ALLAH PAK in every situation. Everyone is facing difficulties in times of inflation. With the help of such events, people stay aware of each other's problems. And this way it is easier to help others.

Renowned writer and director Ms. Asma Butt organized a fish party in honor of journalists and photographers at the National Press Club Islamabad. On this occasion, President Pakistan Union of Journalists Afzal Butt, President National Press Club Azhar Jatoi, Secretary Nayyar Ali, Abid Abbasi, Amiad, Sohail Malik, Shakeel Awan, Asif Bashir, Azhar Khan Niazi, Javed Qureshi and others said that Asma Butt is a well-mannered woman who shares the joys and sorrows of others. In a busy era where there is no time to get together, Asma Butt brought everyone between artists and journalists. together in one place.

role in building better relations hearts with their acting, while jour-



They are like a precious gift in our A beautiful event was organized. lives. Asma Butt thanked everyone Asma Butt is playing an important for this and said, Artists win people's

downs of life. Because life is about around us.

nalists bring out the realities of society moving forward. When we stop, our with the power of their pen. I always achievements also stop. We all have try to take my artists and journal- to move forward together to play an ists with me even during the ups and active role for Pakistan and the people

Rawalpindi Restaurants Caterers Sweets and Bakers Association strongly reacted additional bills of Sui Gas

E City Desk

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Restaurants Caterers Sweets and Bakers Association has strongly reacted to the issue of the Sui Gas Department sending additional bills worth millions of rupees to commercial consumers in the form of fault volume. Who demanded the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Minister of Petroleum, Chairman OGRA and other relevant authorities to Immediate notice should be taken of the sending of additional bills by the Sui Gas Department.

Muhammad Farooq Chaudhry, Prespaid by the customers, bills worth



ident of the Rawalpindi Restaurants, Caterers, Sweets and Bakers Associa-In his important statement, tion, said that Even after the bills were

millions of rupees were sent in the the Cantt area. He further said that name of fault volume. We Completely he has pointed this out several times worth millions of rupees were sent to commercial customers last month as part of rebate adjustments to Sui this regard, several requests were Gas bills. Which is tantamount to also made to the MD Sui Gas and utter cruelty and injustice. While in GM Sui Gas, But we were not heard. winter, the gas pressure is extremely low, which prevents even the stove from lighting. It is the department's responsibility to meet the gas pressure. It is beyond understanding to put the burden of this on the users in the name of fault volume. Sui Gas Department teams have them- otherwise we will be forced to close selves confirmed the low pressure our businesses and take to the streets across Rawalpindi city, including

reject extra bills. Additional bills to the relevant officers, including the Chairman OGRA, during the hearings regarding the Sui Gas Tariff. In We demand to the Prime Minister of Pakistan, the Minister of Petroleum, the Chairman of OGRA and other relevant authorities to They should take notice of the Sui Gas Department sending additional bills in the name of fault volume, And stop this,

Pakistan High Commission Vehicle Destroyed in Fire: Key Questions Arise

Example 2 Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

LONDON: A vehicle belonging to the Pakistan High Commission in London was completely destroyed in a fire, raising serious questions about the circumstances surrounding the incident.

Key concerns have emerged regarding the use

and handling of the vehicle:

Who was using the vehicle? Who was driving the vehicle late at night? Who filed the insurance claim for the vehicle? Who attempted to conceal the actual cause of the fire? While the High Commission has vet to issue an official statement, sources suggest an internal inquiry is underway to uncover the truth behind the incident. The lack of transparency has sparked speculation, with many demanding answers about potential negligence or mismanagement. Further details are expected to emerge as investigations continue.

'Students in ICT lead rally against use of tobacco products'



ISLAMABAD: Human Development Foundation (HDF) organized a student athletes led rally against the use of tobacco products and advocated for declaration of smoke free spaces in schools and colleges. The rally took place at the National Sports Complex at the Annual Sports Gala arranged by Private Education Society (PES). The students showcased posters promoting smoke-free campuses and areas for children through posters and placards. The event focused on raising awareness in younger generations about the harmful effects of tobacco products and misleading figures about heated tobacco products, such as vapes and tobacco pouches.

The event cautioned minors against the use and purchase of all tobacco products. The event brought together students, athletes, parliamentarians, education professionals, and leading schools from across ICT. According to WHO, around 19 percent of adults aged fifteen and above currently use tobacco in any form. Tobacco kills over 163,600 people each vear in Pakistan. Almost 31,000 of these deaths are due to exposure to secondhand smoke. Human Development Foundation has been actively advocating against the use of tobacco products and for regulation of emerging tobacco products in Pakistan to protect youth from this mena

Photojournalist Association Election, Sajjad Haider President, Sohail Shahzad General Secretary elected



ISLAMABAD: The annual election of Islamabad Photojournalists Association was held at Pindi Press Club, according to Chairman Election Commission Nasir Mir and member Aamir Lodhi, all the candidates of "Apna panel" won the election

The result was; Sajjad Haider President, Sohail Shahzad General Secretary, SVP Jahangir Chaudhry, Ch Javed and Mudassar Raja vice Presidents, M Asim Finance Secretary, Faisal Khan Joint Secretary and Syed Mehdi Information Secretary were elected.

While the members of Governing Body Rizwan Khan, Habib Sheikh, Raja Zafar Hanif Khattak, Abid Zia, Sultan Bashir, Tahir Kazmi was also declared successful.

87 photojournalists including senior photojournalist Javed Nasir, BK Bangash, Mazhar Khan, Latif Adil, Agha Mehroz, Tanveer Shahzad were present in this election.

SWEN Annual Awards Ceremony Celebrates Cricketing Excellence

跨 Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

LONDON: The SWEN Cricket (STC) Annual Awards Ceremony took place in East London recognizing outstanding cricketing achievements.

Mr. Ijaz Hussain, First Secretary at the Pakistan High Commission in London, congratulated Abrar Mir, President of SWEN, and the management team, including Adeel Rafi (Secretary), Mukhtar Mohsin (Vice President), Kashif Naqvi (Vice President), Rana Irfan (Coordinator West), and Muhammad

Amir (Coordinator North), on a to continue their exceptional

successful 2024 season. Mr. Hussain commended the SWEN winning teams and indi-

performances.

Prominent community leaders and cricket officials, including vidual players, encouraging them Salim Yasin (Chairman EDLCL),

Graham Pryke (Cricket Development Manager, Essex), Nadeem Ahmed (Director, ABS Loft Makers), Shahidul Alam Ratan (CEO, Capital Kids), Inayat

Kothia (Chairman, Metropolitan Essex District Board), Abdul Samad Musa (Chairman, Independent Cricket League), and Haroon Hafiz (Chairman, Skills

Academy), distributed awards to players and teams.

Hounslow Leopards received all three major SWEN formats,

while Prince CC was celebrated as the runner-up in all competitions. The event was attended by

cricket enthusiasts, community leaders, and distinguished guests who appreciated the players' achievements and the SWEN organization's efforts in promoting cricket.

At the conclusion of the program, senior journalists Muhammad Saleem Sabri, Mian Farrukh Shamsi, and Tariq Khan were honored with awards in recognition of their outstanding special recognition for winning journalistic contributions to the

Monday, January 20, 2025



Index Fluctuation			
Pakistan: PSX 1	00-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close		
115,272.08	113,836.74		
Day's High	Day's Low		
115,356.12	113,571.95		
Index Value	Change		
23,122,855,680	+1435.34		
Percentage	Time		
+1.26%	17 Jan, 2025 5:00 pm		
Europe: FTSE 100 Index			
Index Value	Ohanna		
Illuex value	Change		
8,505.22	+113.32		
8,505.22	+113.32		
8,505.22 Percentage +1.35%	+113.32 Time 17 Jan, 4:35 pm		
8,505.22 Percentage +1.35%	+113.32 Time 17 Jan, 4:35 pm GMT		
8,505.22 Percentage +1.35% USA: Dow Jones I	+113.32 Time 17 Jan, 4:35 pm GMT ndustrial Average		
8,505.22 Percentage +1.35% USA: Dow Jones Index Value	+113.32 Time 17 Jan, 4:35 pm GMT ndustrial Average Change		

+1.00%	GMT-5		
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Averag			
Index Value	Change		
38,451.46	-121.14		
Percentage	Time		
-0.31%	17 Jan, 3:45 pm GMT+9		

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	174.25	176.00
Bahrain Dinar	739.10	747.10
Canadian Dollar	194.60	197.00
China Yuan	37.59	37.99
Danish Krone	37.97	38.37
Euro	288.00	290.75
Hong Kong Dollar	35.41	35.76
Indian Rupee	3.13	3.22
Japanese Yen	1.78	1.84
Kuwaiti Dinar	896.30	905.80
Malaysian Ringgit	61.29	61.89
NewZealand \$	154.23	156.23
Norwegians Krone	24.25	24.55
Omani Riyal	723.40	731.90
Qatari Riyal	75.9	76.60
Saudi Riyal	74.20	74.75
Singapore Dollar	204.5	206.50
Swedish Korona	24.64	24.94
Swiss Franc	303.71	306.51
Thai Bhat	7.86	8.01
U.A.E Dirham	75.85	76.50
UK Pound Sterling	342.00	345.5
US Dollar	279.60	281.10

SMEs, an integral part of supply chain: Mian Kashif Ashfaq

Commerce Desk



LAHORE: Small and medium enterprises(SMEs) play an important role as they constitute an integral part of the supply chain of key export industries

including textiles, food processing and engineering etc in Pakistan.

It was stated here Sunday by Chief executive officer Pakistan Furniture Council Mian Kashif Ashfaq while talking to a delegation of industrialists led Coordinator to Minister of State and Federal Tax Ombudsman Muhammad Farhan Munir Arain. He said the share of manufacturing-based SMEs in bank's lending to the entire manufacturing sector is only 5.3 percent and nominal 11.5 percent in construction sector which needed to be increased manifolds to boost exports and productivity in line with USA and western countries. He said manufacturing and construction are the two largest job providing sectors in Pakistan.

He said expansion in e-Commerce and IT-ES can only prove qualitative for economic growth if the manufacturing sector continues to grow simultaneously. And for facilitating the growth of the overall manufacturing sector, promoting manufacturing-based SMEs is a must. He said if this not done, manufacturing-based Industry will opt for trading, leaving a vacuum in the supply chain of our key manufacturing industries. Mian Kashif Ashfaq stressed the urgent need for using ultra modern hi technology by SMEs to improve the quality of products and compete global markets at par with international standards. He said SMEDA claimed that SMEs contribute 40 percent to GDP and 25 percent to export revenue which is urgently needed to be boosted on the pattern of France, Italy, Japan, China, UK and other developed countries.

Leader of the delegation Muhammad Farhan Munir said SMEs linked both vital sectors should never be deprived of due bank financing otherwise it may aggravate the chronic problem of unemployment. He urged the SBP to further ease the conditions of financing by addressing the issue of lack of acceptable security and high cost of bank finance models.

Jam Kamal Khan **Arrives in Phnom** Penh for Key **Trade Talks**

Spokesman Report

PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA: The Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan arrived in Phnom Penh on a three-day official visit to participate in the inaugural Joint Trade Committee and Ministerial Meeting.

Upon his arrival, the Minister was warmly received by Pakistan's Ambassador to Cambodia, H. E. Zaheer Uddin Baber Thaheem, and H. E. Mr. Tith Rithipol, Undersecretary of State from the Cambo- agreements are anticipated during the visit.

dian Ministry of Commerce.

The visit aims to strengthen bilateral trade ties, explore new economic opportunities, and enhance cooperation between the two nations. The meetings are expected to cover a range of topics, including trade facilitation, investment prospects, and market

This marks a significant step toward deepening economic engagement between Pakistan and Cambodia. Further discussions and



Awesome weather

ISLAMABAD: People are enjoying tea at a local café at Fatima Jinnah park during dark clouds on the sky, in the Federal Capital,

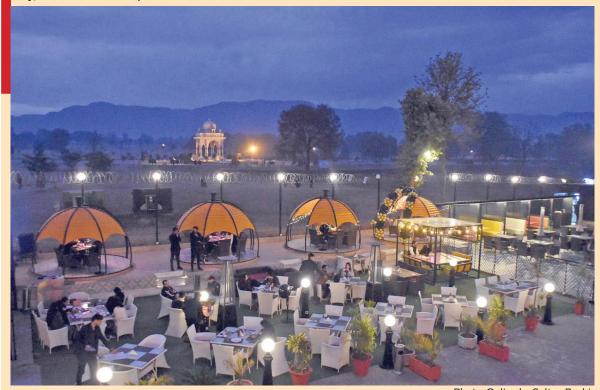


Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Ahsan Bakhtawari emphasizes the need for collective efforts to stabilize Pakistan's economy and promote local industries



Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Member of the Central Core Committee of United Business Group (FPCCI), Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, emphasized the need for collective efforts to stabilize Pakistan's economy and promote local industries. He stated that the establishment of an industrial estate in Chakwal would be a game-changer for the region. To complete this project promptly, Islamabad, Chakwal, Talagang, and other regional chambers must adopt a joint strategy.

He expressed these views during his visit to the Chakwal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, where he congratulated the newly elected President of the Chakwal Chamber, Aamir Najeeb Bhutta, and other office bearers. On this occasion, former President of the Chakwal Chamber and

Chief Coordinator Khawaja Arif hosted a luncheon at his residence in honor of the

Ahsan Bakhtawari, along with UBG Secretary General Zafar Bakhtawari, former President of Chakwal Chamber Waqar Bakhtawari, and President of Talagang Chamber Malik Shabbir Awan, presented bouquets and congratulated Aamir Najeeb Bhutta, Senior Vice President Sheikh Riaz Ahmed Farooqi, Vice President Khalid Mirza, and other office bearers of the Chakwal Chamber.

The newly elected President, Aamir Najeeb Bhutta, stated that establishing the industrial estate is one of his top priorities, and he would utilize all resources to make it a reality. He appreciated the support of other chambers and the business community in this regard.

În his speech, Zafar Bakhtawari high-

lighted the importance of the Chakwal Industrial Estate project, stating that it would give a new direction to the economy of not just Chakwal but the entire region. Waqar Zafar Bakhtawari noted that Chakwal has always been a hub of business activities, and the establishment of the industrial estate will provide employment opportunities to locals and open new avenues for the business community.

President of the Talagang Chamber of Commerce, Malik Shabbir Awan, assured his full support for the completion of the project and stressed that the government and local chambers must ensure the provision of funds and resources for its successful implementation.

Group Leader of Chakwal Chamber, Qazi Muhammad Akbar, emphasized that the industrial estate would bring an industrial revolution to the region.

FTO refunds amounting to Rs 21 billion to aggrieved taxpayers during the year 2024

E Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Federal Tax Ombudsman Dr Asif Mahmood Jah after completing the entire laid down process got paid within the ambit of law record billion to aggrieved taxpayers during the year 2024.

Addressing the awareness session with business community here Sunday Coordinator to FTO for South Punjab Saif of refund's complaints received nationwide during the period under review were dully processed according to law and orders were issued for their refunds. He said all entire businesses commucomplaints were filed during of South Punjab.

last year of which 95.96 percent were disposed of by giving them lawful relief. He said any aggrieved tax payers, importers or exporters can approach any regional office of FTO and can also file direct complaints to refunds amounting to Rs 21 FTO secretariat through email, fax, by post, website, WhatsApp, which will be processed within 24 hours from the time of submission.

Saif Ur Rehman on the other hand urged the business community to pay Ur Rehman said scores their FBR taxes timely to help run affairs of the states smoothly as government is fully committed to the welfare of the business community and working day and night for ease of doing business by offering a basket nity has reposed full confi- of unprecedented incentives dence in the overall perfor- for economic growth. He mance of FTO for timely said FTO on his invitation redressal of their genuine will visit Multan Chamber grievances without any delay. of Commerce and Industry He said 66.55 percent more next month and the traders

Over 5.489m cotton bales arrive at ginneries

MULTAN: Seed cotton (phutti) equivalent to over 5.489 million (5,489,818) bales have reached ginning factories across Pakistan till January 15, 2025, registering a decrease of 33.52 per cent as compared to corresponding period of last year. Pakistani cuisine recipes

According to a fortnightly report of Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association (PCGA), issued to the media on Saturday, over 5.489 million bales have undergone the ginning process i.e. converted into bales. Cotton arrivals in Punjab were recorded 2,686,521 bales, registering a decrease of 35.40pc as compared to the corresponding period of last year when arrivals were recorded at 4,158,606 bales. generated Sindh

a decrease of 31.62pc as compared to corresponding period of last year, when arrivals were recorded at 4,099,509 bales. Arrivals in

Balochistan were recorded

at 156,500 bales. Exporters/traders bought 46,700 cotton bales while textile sector bought total 4,901,034 bales. The Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) did not procure cotton in 2024-25, says the report. As many as 542,084 unsold bales stock was present. Total 140 ginning factories were operational in 2,803,297 bales, registering the country.

A delegation of food exporters from South Punjab met Governor Punjab



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: A delegation of food exporters from South Punjab met Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan, at the Governor House today.

The delegation, led by Shahid Imran, convener of the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry's (FPCCI) regional committee on food, highlighted the critical role South Punjab's industrialists are playing in enhancing the country's food exports. He briefed

the governor on how the region's environment for business growth. exporters are successfully competing in global markets, contributing significantly to Pakistan's economic growth. He emphasized the need for government support in addressing challenges such as energy shortages, outdated infrastructure, and logistical inefficiencies that hinder the export potential of the region.

Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan appreciated the efforts of South Punjab's food exporters and assured them of the government's commitment to fostering a favorable

He acknowledged the region's immense potential in agriculture and food processing, stressing the importance of expanding market access and introducing policies to incentivize exports.

Governors also highlighted upcoming government initiatives aimed at modernizing infrastructure, reducing regulatory hurdles, and encouraging innovation in food production and processing to boost South Punjab's contribution to the national economy.

President felicitates Pak Team on winning 1st test against West **Indies**

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Sunday congratulated the national cricket team on winning the first test match against West Indies in

The president appreciated the excellent performance of the national team

and expressed the hope that such display of brilliance would continue in future, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

He also expressed his good wishes for the future ventures of the Green shirts.

Pakistan leads the two-test series with 1-0 after winning the 1st test with

PM Shehbaz felicitates team Pakistan on test win against WI

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has congratulated Pakistan Men's cricket team on remarkable win against West Indies in the first test of the two-test match rubber at Multan Cricket stadium, Multan.

The Men in Green beat the Windies by 127 runs in three days of the first test match and gained an unassailable 1-0 lead in the test series.

wrote, "Spin to win: Brilliant bowling as well.

by team Pakistan! Congratulations to our cricket team on spectacular victory, Shabash (Bravo)!" The premier also commended Chairman Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Mohsin

Naqvi on his tireless efforts.

The Prime Minister extolled bowling performance of off-spinner Sajid Khan who grabbed 9 wickets in the match with a fifer in the second innings.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that the nations are proud of the Men In his congratulatory message on the in Green, urging the team to continue social media platform X, the premier the good work in the coming matches

to highlight the best of Karachi's basketball scene. Commissioner reviews arrangements for 20th Cholistan Rally

Karachi Basketball Scrutiny

KARACHI: The Karachi Basketball Scrutiny Committee, under the leadership of Chairman Ashfaq Ahmed, has announced the Karachi Basketball Championship 2025. The championship is scheduled to take place in the last week of January 2025.

Chairman, Ashfaq Ahmed extended an open invitation to all basketball clubs to participate in the tournament, emphasizing the importance of this event in promotion of Basketball and scrutinizing the basketball clubs in Karachi. He urged interested clubs to confirm their participation by January 20, 2025.

The championship will be hosted at three prestigious venues:

This championship not only aims to showcase the city's

basketball talent but also serves as a significant step in final-

izing club registrations. Following the championship, the Scru-

tiny Committee will complete the process of club registration. Basketball enthusiasts and clubs are encouraged to mark their

calendars and prepare for an exciting tournament that promises

Committee Announces

Championship 2025.

Karachi Basketball

Sports Desk

- LOB Basketball Court - Hill Park Basketball Court - KMC Sports Complex

Sports Desk

BAHAWALPUR: Divisional Commissioner Musarrat Jabeen reviewed the arrangements for the 20th International Cholistan Desert Jeep Rally, here on Saturday and told the meeting that the event would highlight Cholistan and the historical and cultural heritage of



the region at the national and international levels.

Participation of international racers, in addition to Pakistani racers, would help present the soft image of the area to the world, she said while presiding over a meeting regarding preparations for the Desert Jeep Rally event. The event would be held from February 12 to February 16 in Cholistan.

The commissioner directed that temporary tent settlements, food and beverage facilities, and other necessary arrangements for the participants and spectators of the rally be completed in a timely manner, and that the repair work on the roads adja-

Derawar Fort be finished soon.

She said that a cultural festival would also be organised alongside the Cholistan Desert Rally. Commissioner Bahawalpur Division Musarrat Jabeen emphasized that timely arrangements will be ensured for traffic and security plans, as well as other facilities during the rally.

RPO Bahawalpur Rai Babar Saeed, Deputy Commissioner Bahawalpur Dr. Farhan Farooq, DPO Bahawalpur Asad Sarfraz Khan, and Managing Director Cholistan Development Authority Tariq Mahmood Bukhari attended the meeting. Deputy Commissioner Rahim Yar Khan, DPO Rahim Yar Khan, Deputy Commissioner Bahawalnagar, DPO Bahawalnagar, and the Assistant Commissioners of the relevant tehsils participated through video link. Additional Commissioner Aamir Khichi, GM TDCP Nauman Khan, and TDCP Manager Naeem Iqbal Baig briefed

Bangladesh seeks arrest of Shakib over bounced cheques

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: A Bangladeshi court issued an arrest warrant on Sunday for cricket star Shakib Al Hasan for bounced cheques totalling more than \$300,000, in the latest blow for the ousted lawmaker.



The court has previously summoned Shakib but he did not appear at the court", said Mohammed Shahibur Rahman from the IFIC Bank, which filed the case.

"Now, the court has issued the warrant," he said. Shakib is a former lawmaker from the party of autocratic ex-leader Sheikh Hasina, who was overthrown by revolution

and fled by helicopter to India in August 2024.

His links to Hasina made him a target of public anger and he was among dozens facing murder investigations for a deadly police crackdown on protesters during the uprising.

He has not been charged over those allegations. Shakib was playing in a domestic Twenty20 cricket competition in Canada when Hasina's government collapsed and has

not returned to Bangladesh since. The left-arm allrounder has played 71 Tests, 247 one-day internationals and 129 Twenty20s for Bangladesh, taking a combined 712 wickets. However, he was left out of the 15-man squad for the one-day international tournament in the Champions Trophy in Pakistan and Dubai next month.

Najmul Hossain Shanto will captain the side, with Bangladesh placed in Group A alongside India, Pakistan and New Zealand.

Pakistan beat West Indies by 127 runs in first test



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: In a thrilling encounter, Pakistan secured a commanding 127-run victory over the West Indies in the first Test match in Multan, taking a 1-0 lead in the two-match series.

Chasing a target of 251, the West Indies were bowled out for just 123 runs, due to a stellar performance by Pakistan's spin-

Sajid Khan was the star of the show with five wickets, while Abrar Ahmed

and Noman Ali claimed four and one wickets, respectively. For the visitors, Alick Athanaze stood tall with a resilient 55 runs, but his efforts were not enough to save his team from defeat.

Resuming their second innings at 109/3, Pakistan struggled to build momentum.

Saud Shakeel departed early without adding to his overnight score, falling for just two runs. Wickets tumbled quickly as Mohammad Rizwan (2), Kamran Ghulam (27), and Salman Ali Agha (14)

failed to contribute significantly. Pakistan vals as the visitors struggled to handle the were eventually dismissed for 157 runs, setting a 251-run target for the visitors.

West Indies spinner Jomel Warrican wreaked havoc, taking an impressive seven wickets, while Gudakesh Motie offered brief resistance. picked up one while two Pakistani players were run out.

The West Indies began their chase under pressure, losing their first wicket at just 16 runs when skipper Kraigg Brathwaite was dismissed by Sajid Khan. Wickets continued to fall at regular inter-



Imlach (14) and Kevin Sinclair (10) Gudakesh Motie and Jomel Warrican were both dismissed without scoring, leaving Alick Athanaze as the lone fighter with his valiant 55-run effort. Earlier in the match, Pakistan managed

Pakistani spin attack. Keacy Carty (6),

Kavem Hodge (0), and Justin Greaves

(9) failed to make an impact, while Tevin

230 runs in their first innings, with West Indies collapsing for just 137 in response. The early lead

proved crucial as the hosts dominated the second innings. With this convincing win, Pakistan showcased their dominance, particthrough ularly their pinners. The victory also gives them momentum heading into the second Test of the series, as they look to secure a clean



Everton beat sorry Spurs to ease relegation fears

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Everton took advantage of injury-ravaged Tottenham's troubles with a 3-2 victory to pull clear of the ison days of old for David Moyes Premier League relegation zone on Sunday.

The goal-shy Toffees tore through a bedraggled Spurs backline to net three times before the break through Dominic Calvert-Lewin, Iliman Ndiaye and an Archie Gray own goal.

A first win in seven league games takes Everton four points clear of the bottom three. Tottenham's 12th Premier

League defeat of the season leaves them just four points above Everton in 15th and ramps up the pressure on under-fire

manager Ange Postecoglou. who felt the fury of the travelchange at the top of the club. Everton did bite the bullet

to sack Sean Dyche earlier this month and it was like the Goodas he enjoyed a first win of his second spell in charge.

Moyes' homecoming fell flat in a 1-0 defeat to Aston Villa in midweek, after which the former Manchester United boss said he was aware of the task he faces to preserve Premier League status due to a lack of firepower.

Calvert-Lewin had not scored since September but did not look like a striker short on confidence as he turned Gray and Lucas Bergvall before firing in the opening goal on 13 minutes.

To compound the absence of first-choice goalkeeper However, it was chairman Guglielmo Vicario and three Daniel Levy, not the Australian, of Postecoglou's preferred back four in Cristian Romero, Micky

ling support as they chanted for van de Ven and Destiny Udogie, Tottenham were also without club record signing Dominic Solanke due to injury.

Captain Son Heung-min stepped in to start as a makeshift centre-forward and should have levelled when he shot too close to Jordan Pickford from Dejan Kulusevski's cross.

But Tottenham looked likely to concede every time Everton sprang out on the counter-attack.

Calvert-Lewin should have had a second but for a heavy touch that allowed Antonin Kinsky to block before the Czech goalkeeper turned Orel Mangala's effort onto the post.

Everton had scored just 15 goals in 20 league games prior to kick-off, going goalless in nine of their previous 11 games.

What little inspiration there has been from the Toffees this season has come from Ndiaye.

The Senegal international produced a moment of magic to double the lead as he skipped past the statuesque Radu Dragusin before slotting high past Kinsky.

Gray's own goal compounded a terrible first 45 minutes for the visitors as their frailty from set-pieces was again exposed when the 18-year-old could only turn Calvert-Lewin's flick into his own net.

Postecoglou responded by replacing Dragusin with former Everton favourite Richarlison at half-time.

However, the damage was already done and could have got even worse for the ex-Celtic boss before it got better in the second period.

Calvert-Lewin shot wide with another glorious chance for his Kulusevski's classy chip

over three scrambling Everton showed the gap in quality Spurs tions, but Levy has a decision to defenders pulled a goal back before Richarlison turned home at the back post in stoppage time.

should have exploited before the

make on whether the quest for a first trophy since 2008 would Postecoglou's men remain be better served by a change of But a spirited second half alive in three cup competi-



The Spokesman

Group photo ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani in a group photo with the degree holders and faculty members at Degree Awarding Ceremony of Igra University on Sunday. EGREE AWARDING CEREMONY

Ahsan Iqbal slams PTI supporters for defending founder's proven corruption

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Sunday condemned what he described as 'regrettable and shameful' attempts by supporters of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to defend their leader Imran Khan, even after he was proven corrupt and convicted in the mega £190 million

In a statement, the minister said that the PTI founder built his entire political campaign around the "corruption card" and lured people toward him with promises of transparency and accountability.



defend a leader who, rather Riaz." than confronting the grave breach of trust, resorts to religious or anti-establishment narratives to deflect criticism."

Ahsan mentioned some clear and undeniable facts, including that Britain's National Crime Agency had returned £190 million to Pakistan, which was supposed to be deposited in the national treasury for public benefit. "Instead of depositing this money in the national treasury. Imran Khan transferred these funds to benefit his ally, the famous property tycoon Malik Riaz. The money was deposited in a Supreme Court account that was created to pay

In return, the minister said, the PTI founder received personal benefits from Malik Riaz, adding, "Even if these benefits are ignored, transferring state funds for personal purposes is an unforgivable

He recalled that a leading British daily, The Financial Times, had published a detailed report on July 28, 2022, exposing Imran Khan's corruption in using charitable funds for his political campaigns. "To date, Imran Khan has not taken any legal action against the newspaper, which raises serious questions about his innocence," he

He regretted that PTI corrupt practices, adding, supporters had turned a "The duplicity and hypocrisy blind eye to Imran Khan's of PTI are laid bare as they the fine imposed on Malik World has seen corrupt face of PTI:

Attaullah Tarar **Bureau Report**

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage, and Culture Attaullah Tarar has said that the entire world has seen the corrupt face of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf

cial verdict has confirmed allegations of corruption against that the Pakistan Muslim the PTI founder, claiming it as the largest financial scandal in Pakistan's history involving £190 million.

Speaking at the inaugu-

projects in Union Council 238, NA-127, Lahore, Tarar said that economic development and public relief remain the government's top priorities. Member of Provincial Assembly Mian Imran Javed, Chairman Ghulam Nabi Toor, Vice Chairman Haji Aslam Bhatti, and other He remarked that the judi- party workers were present.

Attaullah Tarar asserted League-Nawaz (PML-N) is a people-centric party dedicated to resolving public issues.

"We are tirelessly working to fulfill our election prom-



the government's efforts, he was at 38 per cent last year, ration of developmental ises," he said. Highlighting noted that inflation, which has decreased to 3.9 per cent, atives at the Al-Qadir Trust.

and foreign investment is steadily increasing.

Referring to the £190 million corruption scandal, he criticised the PTI leadership for approving significant financial misappropriations behind closed doors. "They manipulated funds meant for the state, used religion as a cover, and indulged in personal luxuries, including acquiring expensive properties and jewellery," he said. He challenged PTI's legal team to refute the allegations and questioned the credibility of the religious education initi-

for us to participate in a ceremony

that symbolizes leadership and

public trust. The International

Human Rights Movement will

promote human rights and global

peace. This event not only high-

lights the importance of leader-

Interior Minister commends Security Forces for foiling terrorist infiltration attempt



ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has commended the security forces for their successful operation against Khawarji terrorists, thwarting their attempt to infiltrate from the Pak-Afghan border into Zhob.

Interior Minister praised the security forces for conducting a timely operation, which resulted in the elimination of 5 Khawarji terrorists attempting to infiltrate Balochistan. He appreciated the security forces for foiling the nefarious designs of Khawarji terrorists and acknowledged their efforts in establishing peace.

The Interior Minister emphasized that the nation takes pride in the professional capabilities of the security forces. He commended the security forces for their bravery and professionalism in combating terrorism.

lHRM leadership will attend inauguration ceremony of U. S. President Donald Trump

跨 Zafar Chishti

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND: The leadership of the International Human Rights Movement has received an official invitation to attend the second inauguration ceremony of U.S. President Donald J. Trump. This historic event will take place on January 20, 2025, at the United States Capitol Building in Washington, D. C., where President Trump and Vice President Vance will take their oaths of office. The International Human Rights

Movement, which operates in over 60 countries to promote human rights, will be represented at this occasion to reaffirm its commitment to global peace, social justice, and the protection of human dignity. Dr. Tamara Alqolaghassi, Chairperson for the United States of Amer-

ica and Canada, will represent ment, expressed his sentiments the organization at the event in on this significant occasion, stather official capacity. She will be ing. This is a historic opportunity joined by Dr. Piya Ratna Maharjan, who serves as the Ambassador At Large for the International Human Rights Movement. Their participation underscores continue its tireless efforts to the organization's commitment to fostering international collaboration and advancing the cause of human rights globally. Rana ship but also provides a platform Basharat Ali Khan, the founder to strengthen global cooperation and central chairman of the Inter- among human rights organizanational Human Rights Move-

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Security forces kill five terrorists trying to infiltrate from Afghan border in Zhob: ISPR

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The security forces have killed at least five terrorists when they were trying to infiltrate into the country from Pak-Afghan border in the limits of Zhob district in Balochistan on Sunday.

According to ISPR press release, on night 18/19 January, movement of a group of khwarij was reported to security forces in general area Sambaza, Zhob District. Pak Army's troops thwarted their attempt to infiltrate and killed all of five Khwarij.

According to ISPR, security forces remain committed to secure its borders and eliminate the menace of terrorism from the country. Pakistan Afghan Government to ensure effecagainst Pakistan.



tive border management on their side of the border. Pakistan hopes that Interim Afghan Government was expected to fulfill its obligations and will not allow Khawarij to use Afghan has consistently been asking Interim soil perpetuating acts of terrorism

President lauds security forces for stopping intrusion at Pak-Afghan border



E City Desk

Zardari Sunday lauded the security forces for stopping intrusion at Pak-Afghan border in district Zhob. The President appreciated the

security forces for their timely action against the terrorists of Fitna al-Kha-He commended the security forces

for eliminating five Khawarij during the operation. He said the brave security forces of Pakistan were always ready to protect

borders of the country. He reiterated the determination to

completely eradicate terrorism and ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali defend borders of the country.

PM Shehbaz Sharif highly appreciates security forces for killing five Khawarij terrorists

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday highly appreciated security forces for carrying out successful action against 'Fitna-al-Khawarij' terrorists in district Zhob at Pak-Afghan Border.

The premier paid tribute to the security forces for killing five 'Khawarij' terrorists.

Terrorists were trying to enter Pakistan from across the border.

Brave forces of Pakistan were standing like a rock to protect borders, Shehbaz Sharif said and added that entire nation was also standing with the security forces in war against terrorism.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif root out all types of terrorism from said: "We are fully determined to the country."



PTI leaders pointing fingers at others are themselves corrupt: Barrister Daniyal



ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting, Barrister Danyal Chaudhary slammed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for promoting chaos and hate politics in the country.

Talking in an exclusive interview with a private news channel, he accused the PTI party of being hypocritical as those pointing fingers at others are themselves proven to be corrupt added that more revelations about PTI's wrongdoing will be exposed in the future.

He further made some serious alle-

filling their own pockets over serving the people. He also accused PTI of harassing the general public and the business community, with Shahzad Akbar being singled out for allegedly harassing businessmen. Responding to a query, he said

PML-N has been instrumental

in rescuing Pakistan from crises, including isolation and stalled projects like CPEC. When PML-N took the reins, Paki-

stan was facing significant challenges but through their efforts, the country has begun to revive and reclaim its standing.

Notably, CPEC, a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative, has gained momentum under PML-N's leadership. This comprehensive project aims to enhance regional connectivity, promote economic growth, and improve the lives of people in Pakistan and beyond, he added.

"We are proudly claiming that gations against PTI, claiming that PML-N is taking the country towards during their tenure, they prioritized progress." Danyal Chaudhary added.