Barkat Rice Mills

Shaban moon sighted

The Ruet-e-Hilal committee has announced that the Shabaan moon has been sighted and the Islamic month will begin from Friday. By this sighting, Shab-e-Baraat will fall on February 13.



Passports of Shehzad Akbar, Farah Shahzadi, Malik Riaz and Ali Riaz blocked

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Sha'aban 1, Friday, January 31, 2025





www.dailyspokesman.net 🔰 @daily_spokesman 🚹 Daily Spokesman Vol: 18, Issue: 290 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Meeting on Green Initiative

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs the Federal Cabinet meeting on Thursday.

Federal cabinet ratifies ME Green Initiative charter

跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet on Thursday ratified the charter of the Middle East Green Initiative that would enable restoration of 200 million hectares of land and plantation of 50 billion

The federal cabinet meeting was chaired by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif held here at the Prime Minister House, a PM Office news release

During the meeting, the offi-Change informed the forum the pilots of Pakistan Interna-

PFUJ announces

black day tomorrow

that Pakistan was among the tional Airlines was irresponsible founding members of the Charter and therefore the Ministry had recommended the forum to accord its approval.

The cabinet approved the Off-the-Grid Captive Power Plants Levy Ordinance 2025 on the recommendation of the Petroleum Division.

The forum was briefed on the statement made in Parliament in 2020 regarding the pilots of Pakistan International Airlines.

The meeting was informed that the statement made by a

and exaggerated, which not only severely affected the image of the country and the national airline, but also caused serious damage to the national exchequer.

The cabinet approved the formation of a fact-finding committee to review the said statement, which would probe motives behind it and also estimate the loss caused to the

national airline. The federal cabinet approved the agreement between the Government of Pakistan and the cials of the Ministry of Climate former federal minister regarding European Union on the recommendation of the Ministry of

Commerce regarding the distribution of tariff rates quota.

The federal cabinet approved the reorganization of Accountability Court-III, Islamabad and its conversion into Special Court (CNS-III), Islamabad, on the recommendation of the Islamabad High Court and the proposal of the Ministry of Law and Justice.

The federal cabinet also approved the additional charge of Chairman Karachi Port Trust, Rear Admiral Habib-ur-Rehman, for a maximum of two

months. Prime Minister Shehbaz directed to complete the process of appointing a regular Chairman of Karachi Port Trust immedi-

The federal cabinet approved a 25 percent reduction in the provincial quota in medical and dental colleges managed by the federal government. The initiative was taken in the context of extremely low quota for students domiciled in the Islamabad Capital Territory in provincial medical and dental colleges so that students domiciled in Islamabad could get better opportunities for education in such insti-

Civilians' military trial: Judge asks is crime of May 9 more serious than terrorism incidents

Maveed Ahmad Khan

over PEČA

amendments

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) has announced a nationwide "Black Day" protest tomorrow against the recently amended Prevention of Electronic Crimes a protest; it would be a Act (PECA).

In a joint statement, PFUJ President Afzal Butt and ment has begun and will Secretary General Arshad Ansari declared that black flags will be hoisted at press clubs and union offices across the country, and protest added that the PFUJ is rallies will be held. They criticized the government, stating that while in opposition, the current ruling party had championed press freedom, a sentiment echoed by previous

governments. Butt expressed disappointment with the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leadership, stating that he and others had high hopes for Asif Zardari and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, particularly noting Bilawal's past advocacy for press freedom in parliament.

PFUJ leaders

described the amended PECA as allowing for arrest and punishment without due process. They announced a "Press Freedom Movement" to oppose the act, emphasizing that their response would be more than just sustained movement.

Butt stated that the movecontinue until the PECA amendment is repealed, including a sit-in outside the Parliament House. He pursuing legal challenges to the amendment, with legal experts currently reviewing its various clauses.

While acknowledging that immediate enforcement is unlikely due to pending authority rules, Butt expressed concern that the government's swift passage of the law may indicate rapid implementation is planned. He said the speed of enforcement would become clear within days. The PFUJ pledged to provide legal and humanitarian support to

journalists affected by the act.

ISLAMABAD: Justice Hasan Azhar Rizvi, one of the seven judges of the Supreme Court's constitutional bench, asked on Thursday if the crime of May 9 was more serious than terrorism incidents. He said this during the hearing of intra-court appeals against military courts.

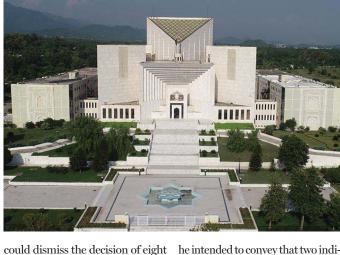
Naveed Ahmad Khan

A seven-judge constitutional bench, led by Justice Khan, is currently reviewing a series of intra-court appeals challenging the October 23, 2023, decision made by a five-judge bench. This earlier ruling annulled the military court trials of civilians who were implicated in the violence that occurred on May 9.

Defence ministry counsel Khawaja Haris completed his argu-

In the previous hearing, Haris submitted military trial records in white envelope folders to the constitutional bench, stating that the court should review the trial procedures. Seven copies of the military trial records were provided to all seven judges of the constitutional bench.

At the outset of the hearing on Thursday, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail clarified his earlier observations, responding to reports that suggested he claimed two judges



judges. He noted that many retired judges had contacted him regarding

He explained that a news report had suggested he stated that two judges could dismiss the decision of eight judges. Justice Mandokhail emphasised that his comments were intended to refer to individuals, not the judges themselves, regarding the non-acceptance of the decision made the previous day.

Justice Mandokhail clarified his previous comments regarding the decision of eight judges, stating that

viduals might casually assert opinions about the verdict in social gatherings.

He noted that some media colleagues reported this incorrectly. He emphasised that the 21st Constitutional Amendment was enacted because the country was in a state

The SC judge remarked that the powers of courts established under Article 175 (establishment and jurisdiction of courts) are "extensive while the jurisdiction of courts formed under specific laws is limited."

Army Major martyred, six terrorists killed in North Waziristan gunbattle



跨 City Desk

RAWALPINDI: On night 29/30 January 2025, Security Forces conducted an intelligence based operation in general area Mir Ali, North Waziristan District on reported presence of khwarij.

During the conduct of operation, own troops effectively engaged the khwarij location and resultantly six khwarij were sent to hell.

However, during intense fire exchange, Major Hamza of District Rawalpindi), a resolve.

brave officer who was leading his troops from the front and Sepoy Muhammad Naeem (age: 26 years, resident of District Naseerabad), having fought gallantly, paid the ultimate sacrifice and embraced Shahadat.

Sanitization operation is being conducted to eliminate any other Kharji found in the area as the Security Forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe-out the menace of terrorism from the country and such sacrifices of our brave Israr (age: 29 years, resident soldiers further strengthen our

President, PM pay tribute to security forces for killing 6 terrorists

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday paid tribute to the security forces for their bravery in eliminating Fitna-ul-Khawarij terrorists during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in North Waziristan District.

The president and prime minister paid homage to Major Hamza Israr and Sepoy Muhammad Naeem who embraced martyrdom while valiantly confronting the Khawarij terrorists during the operation, the President's and Prime Minister's Office in separate news releases said.

The president and prime minister praised the bravery and patriotism of Major Hamza Israr Shaheed and Sepoy Muhammad Naeem he added.



Shaheed and expressed heartfelt grief over the martyrdom of the two valiant sons of the

Prime Minister Shehbaz

Sharif prayed for the high ranks of the martyrs and patience for their bereaved families.

"We will not let the great sacrifices of the sons of the nation go in vain and will destroy the nefarious intentions of anti-state elements," the prime minister said.

The government and security forces were mobilized to completely eradicate terrorism from the country,

Funeral prayer of Major Hamza Israr Shaheed offered at Chaklala Garrison



跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The funeral prayer of Major Hamza Israr Shaheed (aged 29, resident of District Rawalpindi), who embraced martyrdom while valiantly defending the motherland in Mir Ali, was offered at Chaklala Garrison, Rawal-

pindi. Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif,

along with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar, Defence Minister, the Information Minister and General Syed Asim Munir, Chief of Army Staff (COAS), attended the funeral. A large number of senior serving and retired military officers, soldiers, and the bereaved family members of the fallen hero also paid their respects.

29th meeting of AJK Cabinet held chaired by PM Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The 29th meeting of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Cabinet was held here today with Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq in the chair. The crucial meeting, attended by ministers as well as top officials of the government, ratified decisions taken by the cabinet during the 27th and 28th meetings. During the meeting, Inspector General Police Abdul Jabbar Khan gave a detailed briefing to the Cabinet regarding law and order situation in the State. After presenting the regular agenda, 11 items were taken up for consideration in the meeting. Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq said that February 5 will be celebrated all across the liberated territory with a renewed commitment to express solidarity with our brethren by the government helped to reduce in Indian occupied Kashmir who are engaged in a just struggle for their right to self determination.

Commenting on various initiatives the coalition government had taken



said, besides improving governance the government took revolutionary steps to improve lives of ordinary citizens. He said that austerity measures taken expenditures and save millions of rupees. He said that steps have also been taken to bring reforms in the health and education sector.

He said that the Social Protection during the past two years, the PM Haq Fund was one of the revolutionary

initiatives that was bound to change the destiny of poor and economically less privileged segments of society. The PM maintained that the government has provided great relief to citizens in the shape of cheap flour and electricity.

The AJK premier said that all available resources will be used for the protection of citizens. Paying great tributes to the Pakistan army for its significant contribution to defend pertinent officials.

the country's territorial integrity, he said that the Pak army had rendered immense sacrifices while defending the country's geographical and ideological frontiers.

The meeting was attended by Senior Minister Colonel (retd) Wagar Ahmed Noor, ministers, chief secretary Khushal Khan, Principal Secretary Zafar Mahmood Khan and other

TEVTA Employees Association KPK met Special Assistant to CMKPK

👺 Quratul Ain

to Head of the Department.

Kareem Bakhsh takes

Additional Charge of Director General PHA Multan

MULTAN: According to a notification issued by the Ministry of National

Food Security and Research, Dr. Rehana Anjum has been appointed as

the Director of the Central Cotton Research Institute (CCRI), Sakrand.

Prior to this appointment, she had been serving as the Head of the Plant Breeding and Genetics Department at CCRI Sakrand since 2001

Dr. Rehana Anjum began her career at the Pakistan Central Cotton Committee (PCCC) in 2001 as a Scientific Officer in the Plant Breeding and Genetics Department at CCRI Sakrand. In 2018, she was promoted

She immediately assumed charge and started her duties.



15 Tariq Khan Yousafzai

MARDAN: The cabinet members of All TEVTA Employees Association of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa met Special Assistant to the Chief Minister of Khyber Pukhtunkhwa for Technical Education Tufail Anjum, and Mansoor Qaiser Managing Director of TEVTA in which there was a detailed discussion on the problems of KP Toyota Employees. Tufail Anjum Special Assistant for Technical Education assured, All the problems of KP TEVTA employees are being worked on very seriously and INSHALLAH all the issues like C-P fund, service structure, mandatory training, creation of post for promotion of Employees PhD and M. P. allowance, EOBI, and death grant etc. will be resolved soon. The cabinet members expressed special thanks to Special Assistant for Technical Education Tufail Anjum and MD and offered to play every role in solving the problems of KP TEVTA

VC University of Kamalia meet with former Governor of Punjab Ch Sarwar



Abdul Majid

KAMALIA: Vice Chancellor University of Kamalia Prof. Dr. Yasir Nawab met with former Governor of Punjab and founder of Sarwar Foundation Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar. The meeting was also attended by Dr. Shahzad Sarfaraz Malik, Director, FAST NUCES, Chiniot-Faisalabad Campus and Dr. Malik Muhammad Asif, Chairman, Department of Computer Science, National Textile University. Dr. Yasir Nawab had a fruitful discussion on the initiatives of Sarwar Foundation and discussed possible cooperation to enhance education in Toba Tek Singh district, especially in partnership with Kamalia Official University, expressing hope for cooperation with Sarwar Foundation founder Chaudhry Muham-

Awareness campaign of Polio can be launched with the help of **TikTokers**

Majid Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: The government and citizens, especially parents, can succeed in eradicating the polio virus together. An effective awareness campaign is being run in collaboration with TikTokers, cricketers and scholars so that Pakistan can be made polio-free by making as many people aware of the importance of two drops of polio. This was said by the Chief Minister of Punjab, Focal Person for Polio Eradication, Uzma Kardar, while presiding over a meeting of the District Polio Eradication Committee in the committee room of the Deputy Commissioner's Office, Faisalabad. CEO Health Asfandyar gave a briefing regarding the arrangements for the upcoming polio eradication campaign. He said that the first polio campaign of the year is starting from February 3, which will be formally inaugurated by the Deputy Commissioner on Saturday. The 7-day campaign will continue till February 9. He said that the target is to administer polio drops to more than 1.6 million children

Uzma Kardar Expressing satisfaction over the briefing, Deputy Commissioner Faisalabad Captain (retd) Nadeem Nasir appreciated the steps taken by the Health Authority to eradicate polio. He said that focus should be on the target and provide thorough training to the area in-charges, UCS and transit teams and a female worker should be included in each team so that mothers can administer drops to children with ease and satisfaction. He directed to solve the problems of fingerprinting and micro-planning. He said that the cooperation of every community, including the Ulema, is essential for the eradication of polio.

Media Briefed



Ms. Mehr-un-Nisa demand a clear and transparent inquiry incident that took place in Khawra

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Muslim Conference Secretary General and former Deputy Speaker Ms. Mehr-un-Nisa has demanded a clear and transparent inquiry into the unfortunate incident that took place in Constituency Five, Khawra, and said that the real facts should be brought to the public.

The Muslim Conference has always played its positive role in every era to establish an atmosphere of tolerance and brotherhood in Azad Kashmir. Political tension and chaos within the state will send a negative message to



occupied Kashmir.

The Muslim Conference is the founding party of the state and any kind of conspiracy against it is unacceptable. Mehrun-Nisa said that the situation arising in Khawra needs to be resolved within the framework of law and justice. She said that only through a transparent investigation can the real story and those responsible be deter-

Mehrun-Nisa said that all political parties need to work for political tolerance in the state. She said that to riorating situation in occupied Jammu restore peace and order in the state, it is necessary to keep in mind respect, dents be avoided here she added.

ical parties. Mehrun-Nisa said that non-state parties in the state should determine their role and the Election Commission should take notice of the election campaign on government resources. It is the responsibility of the leadership to avoid bringing personal domestic matters into politics. It is the responsibility of the leadership to make the workers adhere to the code of conduct. The Secretary General of the Muslim Conference said that the deteand Kashmir demands that such inci-

dignity and tolerance among polit-

Pakistan Peoples AJK announced to celebrate Kashmir Solidarity Day with grand manner

跨 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The Pakistan Peoples Party Azad Kashmir has announced to celebrate Kashmir Solidarity Day on February 5 in a grand manner on both sides of the ceasefire line, in all four provinces of Pakistan and all over the world. A special session of the Azad Kashmir Legislative Assembly will be convened on February 5, which will be addressed by the President of Pakistan or the Prime Minister of Pakistan, while a human chain will be formed on the highways connecting Pakistan and Azad Kashmir, and rallies will be held throughout Azad Kashmir. Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Chairperson of Political Affairs Ms. Faryal Talpur, Party President Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin, Central Senior Leader of the Party Chaudhry Riaz, Speaker



Chaudhry Latif Akbar, Secre-nated Candidate for Assembly tary General Faisal Rathore, have directed the party and its affiliated organizations to celebrate Kashmir Solidarity Day in a grand manner. Yesterday, the party's Central Deputy Secretary Information and Nomi-

Constituency 7, Leepa Valley, Shaukat Javed Mir, while giving details to the media, said that the worst state terrorism of the eight lakh occupying forces of India and serious violations of human rights have been terrible conspiracies to convert

committed in their The arrests of Hurriyat Conference leaders are on the rise. The worst atrocities have reached their peak. After August 5, 2019, after the amendments to Article 370 and Article 35A, the

a minority by giving domicile to more than four million non-state actors are on the rise and a plan has been made to change its natural status including its name. Shaukat Javed Mir said that the founding chairman of the People's Party, former Prime Minister of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Awam Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, on February 27, 1974, called for a historic successful strike on both sides of the state of Jammu and Kashmir, bringing it out of the cold storage and making the Kashmir issue alive and the right to self-determination alive all over the world. The daughter of the east, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, the martyr, got the Kashmiris observer status in the OIC and established a parliamentary Kashmir committee in the National Assembly under the leadership of the late Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, comprising all parties.

the majority of Kashmiris into



SERVICES		
Namaz	Timings	
	5:40 am	
Zohr	12:21 pm	
Asr	3:59 pm	
Maghrib	5:37 pm	
Isha	7:03 pm	
	Namaz Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib	

EMEDGENCY

EMERGENCY
Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police9266044
Motorway Police9270601-20
W

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20
EN	QUIRY
Edhi Ambulan	ce115
PIA Flight Info	114

Edhi Ambulance	115
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
CAA	9281092

HOCDITALC

HU3PI	IALƏ
CMH	5611111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

DEPARTMENTS

CDA	9221334-43	
CDA	. 9208301-04	
Met Office	9250360-6	
RDA	5555864	
TMA	5770886	
Cantonment Board .	9270151-3	
Islamabad Metropolitan		
Corporation	9209224	

Sindhi Play 'Ghato Ghar Na Aya'enthralls audience at **PNCA**

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) hosted a captivating performance of the Sindhi stage play Ghato Ghar Na Aya, directed by Rafique Isbani.

The play attracted a large audience from Islamabad and Rawalpindi, who applauded the stellar performances of the artists.

The production, staged by the Bhittai Arts Council Sindh under the leadership of its president Rafique Isbani, was a dramatic interpretation of Sur Ghato, a poetic masterpiece by the revered Sufi saint and Sindhi poet Hazrat Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai.

With over a thousand stage productions to his credit as an actor and director, Rafique Isbani brought to life the powerful script written by acclaimed Sindhi writer Siraj Memon.

The cast featured prominent artists, including Rafique Memon, Sidra Shaikh, Talib Hussain, Khalid Hussain, Rasool Bux Chandio, Benazir Junejo, Noor Memon Sajan, Sufi Sattar, Aslam Siyal, and Javed Tagafi, who delivered outstanding performances, infusing the play with realism and depth.

The PNCA auditorium was packed with an enthusiastic audience, including political and social dignitaries, media representatives from both print and electronic outlets, and a special delegation from Turkey, which highly appreciated the performance.

Pakistan Navy **COMKAR Command Annual Efficiency Awards Ceremony 2024** held

Command Annual Efficiency Awards Ceremony 2024 was held at PNS JAUHAR, Karachi. Vice Chief of the Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Ovais Ahmed Bilgrami, graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Upon arrival, the Chief Guest was received by Commander Karachi, Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi.

In his address, VCNS expressed complete satisfaction in efficient achieve-KARACHI: Pakistan Navy COMKAR ment of assigned targets by COMKAR Command. He emphasized the significance of training in ongoing techno-strategic landscape embedded with Artificial Intelligence and Cyber Security. He acknowledged the role of COMKAR Command in providing professional and academic training to PN Officers and personnel, while focusing on their person-



ality development and intellectual growth. The Chief Guest congratulated the prize winners for demonstrated performance during the year 2024 and encouraged healthy inter-command competition.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Commander Karachi, Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi, elaborated the role and significance of COMKAR Command units in imparting professional

and technical training.

During the ceremony, VCNS presented efficiency awards and trophies to the best-performing units and individuals of COMKAR Command.

Year of the Snake (Lunar New Year)

ISLAMABAD: Mr. Atta Tarar, Federal Minister for Information & Broadcasting, Mr. Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs: Mr. Chen Peng, Chinese Cultural Counsellor; Mr. Zafar Bakhtawari, Chairman Pakistan Cultural Forum; and Ms. Wang Oianting (Mussarat) Director China Media Group attended the Spring Festival celebrations for the Chinese New Year at PNCA, on Thursday.



Zong 4G and Waste Hero Champion Sustainability

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Zong 4G, Pakistan's leading connectivity provider, partnered with Waste Hero to organize a series of impactful activities focused on waste management and eco-friendly practices. This collaboration underscores Zong 4G's commitment to environmental sustainability through green and low-carbon initiatives.

Key activities included an interactive session at Excellence College, where 75 students learned about waste segregation and recycling, fostering eco-conscious habits among youth. This was followed by a workshop with NICAT in Rawalpindi, where over 50 professionals and entrepreneurs explored



innovative electronic waste management solutions.

Building this on momentum, an awareness drive was held at Zong's headquarters, where employees took part in discussions and activities focused on e-waste Zong 4G's spokesperson. "At disposal. The campaign concluded with a clean-up just connect people. We strive hike at Margalla Trail 5 in to connect them with a sense Islamabad, where volunteers of purpose and responsibility

removed 7kg of waste, highlighting the importance of preserving natural spaces.

"Through these events, we've witnessed the power of collective action in driving sustainability," said Andleeb Aslam, Zong, we aim to do more than

toward our planet. Together, we can lead the way to a greener, healthier Pakistan."

Zong 4G continues to lead by integrating environmentally responsible practices into its operations, promoting waste reduction, recycling, and conservation efforts to reduce its carbon footprint and foster a culture of environmental

A People-Powered Energy Revolution: The Great Solar Rush is here to Stay

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's solar revolution is rewriting the energy landscape as communities and businesses take control of their power supply, outpacing government policy and infrastructure. With 22 GW of solar panels imported in just 18 months, the country is undergoing a mass shift towards decentralized solar solutions.

In her opening remarks, Senator Sherry Rehman that failure to integrate solar emphasized the urgency of policy alignment with this people-led transformation, stating, "Pakistan has emerged as a market leader in South Asia for solar adoption.



We should not be disabling lighted the economic realithis revolution; we should be enabling it." She warned

of Renewables First, high- ment policies, but because

ties driving this transition. "Millions of people are simultaneously deciding that they into national planning would have had enough of expenstall Pakistan's progress on sive grid electricity and are energy security and economic rushing towards installing solar PV panels—not because Zeeshan Ashfaq, CEO of climate change or govern-

Waqas Moosa, Chairman of the Pakistan Solar Association, reinforced that Pakistan's solar adoption rate is one of the highest globally. However, he warned that poorly communicated policy changes-such as potential net metering reductionscould create instability in the

In his keynote address, Dr. Fiaz Chaudhary, Chairman of NTDC, criticized outdated regulations and infrastructure, warning that net metering creates financial imbalances as solar prosumers pay less for grid maintenance. To address this, Pakistan's grid

economics make perfect must urgently integrate smart metering and distributed energy controls. Umer Farooq of LUMS Energy Institute emphasized that Pakistan's energy planning must shift from a top-down approach to decentralized, smart-grid solutions to balance supply and demand efficiently.

Member of National Assembly Dr. Nafisa Shah & Mr. Usama Mela, Sonia Dunlop, CEO of the Global Solar Council, further emphasized that there is a need to gradually open up the power sector for competitive trade under the CTBCM model while also considering the past contracts and decisions that are clogging the system.

Government gives attention to the special children: Deaf and Welfare Society



LAHORE: Prof. Sarwat Kazmi and social activist, philanthropist Nauman Mehmood Malik, said that the government gives attention to the special children who are an important part of the special children in our society, civilized nations take special care of the development of special people. Deaf and Welfare Society Shahdara Lahore and it provides education

to orphans and poor children of poor people who need financial support. These people should also be financially supported and we wish that. A special meeting should be arranged with Chief Minister Punjab Miss

Maryam Nawaz Sharif and We appeal to the Chief Minister of Punjab, Governor Punjab to provide financial support to our children and to take action on their positive problems.

Sindh High Court reinstates initial order in journalist Nasrullah Guddani murder case

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court (SHC) has suspended the second ruling issued by the lower court in the murder case of journalist Nasrullah Guddani and reinstated the initial order. The court has also issued notices to the parties for a hearing scheduled on February 17.

According to the initial order, the decision regarding the accused will be made by the court itself instead of the investigating officer. During the hearing, the petitioner's lawyer, Salahuddin Panhwar Advocate, argued that the accused were using various tactics to influence the case, including changes in the investigation officers and judges

Justice Salahuddin Panhwar remarked that the transfer of judges is a routine administrative matter and has no connection with the accused. The petitioner's lawyer further stated that on May 21 in Mirpur Mathelo, Nasrullah Guddani was shot at in an act of open terrorism by local feudal lords. The lawyer also highlighted that in 2020, Nasrullah Guddani was targeted after filming the protocol of an MPA's son, Shehbaz Lund, who later opened fire on him. Guddani had filed a case against Shehbaz Lund for the attack. Additionally, he was detained under the MPO (Maintenance of Public Order) law.

After reviewing the arguments, the SHC suspended the second ruling of the lower court and reinstated the first order, ensuring that the court will decide on the accused rather than the investigating officer.

The court has summoned all concerned parties for the next hearing on February 17.

Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi pays Musical Tribute to Renowned Guitarist Afaq Adnan



跨 City Desk

KARACHI: Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi organized a musical event to paid tribute to the renowned guitarist Afaq Adnan on his first death anniversary. The event took place at Jaun Elia Lawn, where a large number of Adnan's students, colleagues, and admirers gathered to honor his $memory. \ The \ event \ featured \ outstanding \ performances \ by \ various \ artists,$ including ACMA The Band, Sounds of Kolachi, Arman Rahim, Ahsan Bari, Faraz Anwar, Shams-ul-Arifeen, Shahid Rahman, Imad-ur-Rehman, Zaib, Russell D'Souza, Jambroz, Mustafa Baloch, Ahmer Mustafa, Muhammad Zubair, Muneeb Khan, Muzammil, and Mohsin Ali. Renowned singer Arman Rahim expressed his sentiments, stating that Afaq Adnan may no longer be among us, but he will always live in our hearts. He further praised Adnan as not just a great friend but also an exceptional mentor, describing him as a university of music in himself. The event became even more mesmerizing as musicians performed some of Afaq Adnan's most famous compositions, leaving the audience enthralled. The audience deeply appreciated the performances and celebrated the late guitarist's contributions to the music industry. The event was hosted by Nauman Khan.

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: Almass Ayoub Sabir Vice Chairman:

Editor:

Head Editorial Advisory Board: Amjad Mehmood

Bureau Chief Karachi:

Bureau Chief Lahore:

Head Office:

AIMS Building, Street No. 4, H-8/1, Islamabad. spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com

Phone: +92 51 2227123,

WhatsApp +92 346 5008408 Karachi office: A111, Block C, Gulsha-e-Jamal, PRECHS,

Karachi Phone:021-33399390 Email: spokesmankarachi@gmail.com

Asim Nazir Ahmad

Khurram Jaffrani

(jaffrani@adpluse.pk

Sved Afraz Ali Nazish

(afrazalishah@gmail.com)

Naveed Ahmad Khan

Lahore Office: 7-E, Samanberg, Johar Town. spokesmanlahore@gmail.com

Plans to export nursing workforce from **Pakistan to US**

rogress was reported on the move to export skilled nursing professionals from Pakistan to the U.S. at a discussion in an online meeting between representatives from Pakistani embassy in Washington and the New York Consulate General, the New York State Assembly as well as the American Pakistani Public Affairs Committee (APPAC), officials said.

The U. S. has a shortage of nurses and other healthcare workers and Pakistani professionals are to be brought here to fill that gap.

Deputy Speaker Ramos acknowledged the importance of the recent opening of NCLEX examination centers in Pakistan. (NCLEX is a computer-based test that determines if a nursing student is ready to practice).

The Deputy Speaker highlighted the growing demand for qualified healthcare professionals in the U. S. and expressed interest in collaborating with Pakistan to meet this

Ambassador Sheikh termed the development as a significant milestone that eliminates the need for Pakistani nursing professionals to travel abroad for such exam. He emphasized that this step reduces financial burdens and encourages greater participation.

The Ambassador also stressed the need for developing a demand-supply link aligned with local requirements while streamlining the recruitment and immigration process for applicants who clear the exam.

The APPAC leaders highlighted their pivotal role in initiating this collaboration by facilitating the Deputy Speaker's visit to Pakistan. They underscored the shortfall of healthcare professionals in the U.S., particularly in the nursing sector, presented a valuable opportunity for Pakistani professionals.

It was agreed that representatives from each party would regularly hold follow-up meetings to ensure smooth progress of this initiative.

Dr. Ijaz Ahmad commended the collective efforts of the APPAC team, highlighting this achievement as a milestone in Pakistan-U. S. relations.

Dr. Pervez Iqbal, APPAC's new President, emphasized the growing demand for healthcare professionals in North America. He underscored that this initiative presents a significant opportunity for Pakistan to train and export its medical workforce, benefiting both the U. S. healthcare system and the lives of Pakistani families.

This development marks a new chapter in Pakistan's contribution to the global medical community while showcasing the impact of APPAC's vision and collaborative efforts, An APPAC press release said.

Trump's Hammer Falls on Transgenders

diately following his inauguration as the 47th President of the United States, Donald Trump signed an executive order titled "Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government." This order mandates that all federal agencies recognize only two sexes—male and female—as determined at birth, effectively eliminating federal recognition of transgender and non-binary identities. The order states: "Sex refers to the immutable biological classification of male or female as determined at conception.

The executive order directs federal agencies to replace the term "gender" with "sex" in official documents and policies, cease funding for gender-affirming care, and prohibit the promotion of what it terms "gender ideology." It also rescinds previous policies that allowed individuals to self-identify their gender on federal documents such as passports and mandates that federal facilities, including prisons and shelters, assign individuals to sex-segregated spaces based on their biological sex assigned at birth.

In addition to this order, President Trump signed another executive order on January 28, 2025, aimed at prohibiting federal support for gender transitions for individuals under 19 years old. This order directs federal insurance programs, including Medicaid and TRICARE, to exclude coverage for gender-affirming care for minors and encourages legal action against healthcare providers offering such

Transgender rights in the U.S. have evolved significantly over time, shaped by different presidential administrations. The Obama administration (2009–2017) implemented policies recognizing gender identity in federal laws, issued guidance allowing transgender students to use bathrooms corresponding to their gender iden-

 $nJanuary 20, 2025, imme-tity, and \, removed \, the \, ban \, on \, transgender \quad legally \, recognized \, across \, the \, world.$ individuals serving openly in the military.

The Biden administration (2021–2025) introduced transgender military service rights, strengthened Title IX protections for transgender students, and expanded rights for transgender inmates, allowing them to be housed based on their gender identity. Additionally, gender-affirming care had been included in various federal health programs. Under Biden's policies, transgender students could participate

in sports teams aligning with their gender identity, though several states had passed laws restricting transgender athletes in female sports. In U. S. prisons, poli-

cies allowed transgender

inmates to request housing based on their gender identity. One significant legal case involved a federal judge ruling in favor of a transgender

inmate's right to receive gender-affirming surgery while incarcerated. The LGBTQ+ movement, particularly

the Pride movement, has gained significant visibility, with major corporations, media outlets, and politicians expressing support. What once started as small-scale protests has now grown into large global celebrations. June was officially designated as Pride Month in the U.S., with corporations, government institutions, and celebrities promoting LGBTQ+ inclusivity.

Over the past few decades, the conversation around gender identity, transgender rights, and medical gender transition has gained significant traction. What was once a fringe discussion has now become a mainstream topic, driven by advocacy organizations, media coverage, medical advancements, and policy shifts. The concept of individuals experiencing gender dysphoria-where a person feels they were born in the wrong body—has been widely discussed, debated, and, in many cases,

received significant support from various advocacy groups, including organizations such as the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), GLAAD, and the National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE). These groups have played a major role in lobbying for legal protections, healthcare access, and social acceptance of transgender individuals. The media, too, has contributed by producing stories, docu-

mentaries, and movies portraying the struggles of transgender people, bringing their experiences into the public consciousness.

Pharmaceutical companies and medical institutions have also entered the conversation, offering hormone

therapy and surgical procedures to help individuals transition to their perceived gender identity. The gender-affirming care industry, which includes hormone replacement therapy (HRT), puberty blockers, and sex reassignment surgeries, has grown into a multi-billion-dollar sector. Studies show that the cost of gender transition treatments can range from \$10,000 to over \$100,000, depending on the procedures involved.

President Trump, with his trademark unpredictable policies and thinking pattern, with one stroke of a pen, has reversed two decades of advocacy and transgender policies and sex transformation technologies back to zero. After his executive order, many sex change clinics will be closed, many drug manufacturing companies and surgical procedures that were minting money will go bankrupt, the federal government will trash tons of stationery to change the word sex to gender in their forms and formulations, and the schools, hospitals, and jails will have to close down transgender facilities.

What Trump did reflected his conserva-The transgender movement had tive ideology and deeply religious inclinations. While modern science, psychology, and behavioral sciences recognize transgender identity as a legitimate phenomenon, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam traditionally acknowledge only two sexes-male and female-as divinely ordained. Islamic teachings generally reject gender transition, considering gender immutable. Christianity upholds the binary concept of gender, citing Genesis 1:27, with conservative denominations rejecting transgender identity. Judaism, particularly in Orthodox traditions, also adheres to the binary gender framework.

> Though President Trump's executive order has officially denied the existence of any gender beyond male and female and has halted federal funding for gender-affirming treatments, the notion of transgender identity is unlikely to disappear anytime soon. Hormone treatments and surgical procedures may move underground, while other countries could become destinations for gender transition surgeries. Advocacy groups are expected to launch protracted legal battles, and Congress and the Senate will likely engage in serious debates on the issue. Human rights organizations may condemn the order as a violation of fundamental rights, arguing that individuals should have the freedom to make decisions regarding their bodies and gender identity. Some critics may accuse the president of turning the U. S. into a theocracy, while religious institutions may support his stance. While the executive order will undoubtedly impact the transgender movement, how societyparticularly the transgender community and the rest of the world—reacts to it, is

Mr. Qamar Bashir is Press Secretary to the President (Rtd), Former Press Minister at Embassy of Pakistan to France and Former MD, SRBC. He is living in Macomb, Detroit, Michigan



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmi. (Courtesy of Asharq Al-Awsat)

Greater Israel Map Emphasizes the Importance of a Strong Country & Military

of 'Greater Israel' on its official social media platforms in Arabic, asserting historical territorial claims over lands in several Arab nations. The publication of this map has been widely criticized across the Arab world. Gulf countries, including Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, and Saudi Arabia, have strongly condemned the map, which claims "historic terri-

and Syria. The release of the map coincides with statements from hard-line Israeli ministers advocating for the full re-occupation of Palestinian territories in the West Bank and the rebuilding of Israeli settlements in the Gaza Strip. In March 2023, far-right Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich was photographed standing

next to a map of "Greater Israel" that included Jordan as part of Israel during a speech in Paris. The publication of this controversial map has sparked widespread backlash, with several Arab nations calling on the international community to intervene and stop Israeli violations against the region's countries and peoples.

The timing of the publication has surprised many, particularly as Syria faces significant instability, leaving no major military power in the immediate vicinity of Israel. This situation emphasizes the need for strong countries and military forces as a safeguard against external

In addition to external threats, Pakistan faces significant internal security challenges. The rise of terrorism, particularly from groups like Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and various on the country's security forces. Over the years,

ecently, Israel published a map Pakistan's military has been heavily involved in counterterrorism operations aimed at dismantling militant groups that threaten the state's stability. To effectively combat terrorism, Pakistan's military requires substantial resources for intelligence gathering, surveillance, special operations, and the upkeep of its counterterrorism infrastructure. Operations like Zarb-e-Azb and Radd-ul-Fasaad, which targeted militant hideouts in urban and rural areas, were successful torial rights" over Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, due to well-funded and coordinated military

efforts. These operations not only targeted terrorist organizations but also contributed to improving internal stability, which is essential for long-term

Beyond counterterrorism, Pakistan must also address sectarian violence and separatist movements, particularly in regions like Baloch-

istan. The military's role in maintaining law and order in these areas and countering insurgencies demands ongoing investment in personnel, equipment, and logistics. Modern warfare has been drastically transformed by technological advancements, including cyber warfare, unmanned aerial vehicles (drones), artificial intelligence, and advanced missile systems. To keep pace with these advancements, Pakistan needs to make significant investments in defense research and development. This approach not only strengthens military capabilities but also promotes domestic defense production, thereby decreasing dependence on foreign suppliers. Investments in technology are essential for strengthening Pakistan's defense, whether through upgrading radar systems, improving cybersecurity defenses, developing autonomous sectarian militias, has placed considerable strain military systems, or acquiring more advanced weaponry. A robust technological base enables

Pakistan to develop indigenous defense products, reducing reliance on foreign arms imports while fostering national pride and economic growth. Although critics often highlight the high costs of military spending, Pakistan must recognize that defense expenditure is not just an expense but an investment in the nation's long-term security. A stable and secure environment is essential for economic growth, attracting foreign investment, and promoting trade. A strong military presence ensures the protection of vital infrastructure, such as ports, highways, and energy pipelines, and instills the confidence necessary for long-term economic planning. Additionally, Pakistan's defense industry plays a significant role in the country's economy, providing jobs, supporting local industries, and contributing to advancements in science and technology. By investing in defense, Pakistan can strengthen its industrial base, foster innovation, and generate employment opportunities, thereby promoting national economic growth.

Military spending is not just a matter of national pride but a critical necessity for Pakistan's survival and stability. Given the external threats, internal security challenges, and the rapidly evolving nature of global warfare, Pakistan's military must be well-equipped and modernized to effectively protect the nation's interests. Defense spending is crucial to ensuring national security, maintaining strategic deterrence, and addressing both conventional and non-conventional threats. It is clear that investing in defense is an investment in the nation's future. Pakistan's survival, sovereignty, and security depend on its ability to maintain a formidable and modern military, capable of addressing any challenges that may arise. The people of Pakistan stand with the country and its military, rejecting all efforts by enemies and anti-state elements to weaken the nation and its defense forces.

The Menace of Ice: A Looming Crisis in Pakistani Society

Kiran Asim

rural landscapes, a new specter haunts the populace, one that thrives in the shadows of alleys and seeps into the stigma. veins of its youth with devastating consequences. Crystal methamphetamine, colloquially known as "ice," has emerged as the latest and perhaps most potent threat to public health and societal stability.

With its crystalline appearance resembling shards of glass, ice is not just another narcotic; it represents a seismic shift in the drug culture of the country. Unlike cocaine or heroin, which come with their own perilous consequences, ice's rapid proliferation and affordability have democratized its access across socioeconomic strata. From

affluent neighborhoods to college campuses, its presence has infiltrated every echelon of society, leaving a trail of shattered lives in its wake.

The government's response, while well-intentioned, has often been reactive rather than proactive. Legislative measures aimed at curbing drug trafficking and tightening regulatory oversight of pharmaceutical ingredients have vielded limited success in stemming the tide of ice's proliferation. What is needed is a concerted effort that spans prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation, addressing not just the symptoms but the underlying socioeconomic factors that perpetuate substance abuse.

Public Awareness Campaigns:

Nationwide campaigns should educate people about the dangers of ice, especially targeting schools, colleges, and workplaces. Media, social platforms, and community leaders can play a crucial role in spreading awareness.

Rehabilitation and Treatment: The government must invest in easily acces-

n the labyrinth of Pakistan's urban and to provide medical and psychological support to those struggling with addiction. Families should be encouraged to seek help without fear of social

Strengthening the Economy and Job Creation

Many individuals turn to drug trade due to financial hardships. By providing better employment opportunities, skill development programs, and entrepreneurship incentives, the government

can reduce the appeal of illegal activities.

Engaging Religious and Community Leaders Scholars, religious figures, and community elders should be mobilized to spread awareness and guide individuals towards healthier lifestyles.

Encouraging Sports and Extracurricular Activities

Establishing more parks, sports complexes, and recreational centers can provide youth with positive alternatives, reducing the likelihood of them resorting to drug use.

The fight against ice addiction is not just the responsibility of the government; it is a collective battle that requires the involvement of families, educators, healthcare professionals, and the media. Parents must be vigilant about their children's activities, teachers should be trained to identify early signs of drug use, and society at large must shed the stigma surrounding addiction so

that those suffering can seek help without fear. Pakistan stands at a crossroads. Ignoring this crisis will only lead to a future where an entire generation is lost to addiction, crime, and mental illness. The time for action is now. Authorities must take bold steps to dismantle the networks fueling this deadly trade, and society must unite in raising awareness and supporting those affected. Only through a determined and united front can we hope to rid our nation of this growing menace sible and well-equipped rehabilitation centers before it is too late.

Disclaimer: All reports and recommendations have been prepared for your information only. Summary and Analysis are not recommendations to buy or sell. This information should only be used by investors who are aware of the risk inherent in securities trading. The facts, information, data, indicators and charts presented have been obtained from sources believed to be reliable, but their accuracy and completeness cannot be guaranteed. Daily The Spokesman and its employees are not responsible for any loss arising from use of these reports and recommendations.

The Spokesman 5

ISSI hosts Seminar on International Year of **Peace and Trust 2025**

跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organ- but rather is a dynamic and participaised a seminar titled "International Year of Peace and Trust: Cooperation mutual understanding, and the ability for Peace," in collaboration with the to accept and respect differences. Embassy of Turkmenistan and the UN Resident Coordinator Office in Paki- noted that we are witnessing a stan. The event included speeches by H. E. Atadjan Movlamov, Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Pakistan; Mr. to consolidate international efforts for Mohamed Yahya, UN Resident Coordinator in Pakistan; and Ambassador ducing a General Assembly resolution Syed Haider Shah, Additional Secre- on "International Year of Peace and tary (UN and OIC) Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The working session featured talks by Ambassador Masood Khalid, former Ambassador of Pakistan to China; Ms. Ammara Durrani, Assistant Resident Representative UNDP; and Dr. Maria Saifuddin Effendi, HOD Department of Peace and Conflict Studies, NDU.

In his welcome remarks, Ambas-UNGA Resolution 78/266 declaring rary international relations. He also

2025 as the International Year of Peace noted that Pakistan has been instruand Trust. He emphasized that peace mental in supporting the resolution is not merely the absence of conflict and commended the country's diplotory process which requires dialogue,

Ambassador Atadjan Movlamov complexity in global politics. In this backdrop, Turkmenistan advocated purposes of peace and trust by intro-Trust 2025." The resolution projected fundamental principles and commitments of the UN charter, particularly peaceful settlement of disputes. Turkmenistan also adopted a special program called "The Concept of Activities and Priorities of Turkmenistan within the Framework of International Year of Peace and Trust 2025."

Mr. Muhammad Yahya, the UN sador Sohail Mahmood congratulated Resident Coordinator, remarked that Turkmenistan on playing a leadership the unanimous support for the Interrole globally in steering the process of national Year of Peace and Trust is advancing the objectives enshrined in an achievement in the contempo-

matic efforts.

Ambassador Syed Haider Shah during his address commended the efforts of Turkmenistan for promoting peace and neutrality and expressed hope that the initiative for the International Year of Peace and Trust will result in inculcating the culture of peace across the globe.

Ambassador Masood Khalid commended Turkmenistan for initiating the UN General Assembly Resolution proclaiming the International Year of Peace and Trust. He noted that the Doomsday Clock is set at '89 seconds to midnight' now, symbolizing the severe existential threats the world

Ms. Ammara Durrani noted that five areas were identified by the United Nations for enabling multilateralism. These include sustainable development and finance, international peace and security, science and technology innovation, youth and future generations, and transforming global governance.

Dr. Maria Effendi shared an



lution 78/266, with a focus on the role of academia.

Earlier, Dr. Talat Shabbir noted that Pakistan, as a staunch advocate of peaceful coexistence, has always supported international efforts aimed at conflict resolution and dialogue-based

stan's policy of permanent neutrality offers a unique model for strengthening global peace and stability.

In his closing remarks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BOG should not be limited to just one year ISSI, noted that the United Nations was but rather should be celebrated every principally founded with the aspira- day and every year.

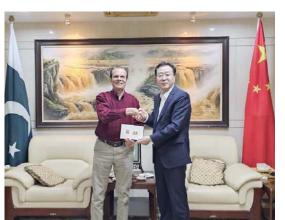
academic perspective on UNGA Reso- diplomacy. In this context, Turkmeni- tion to promote international peace and prevent coming generations from the scourge of war. He concluded stating that celebrating and recognising the importance of international peace

Chinese Envoy Calls for Enhanced Bilateral Trade with Pakistan Sarfraz emphasized the importance of fostering literary collaborations

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Mr. Yang Yundong, Consul General of the People's Republic of China, expressed satisfaction with the diplomatic and economic relations between China and Pakistan and emphasized the need to further accelerate bilateral trade between the two countries. "The friendship between China and Pakistan is an example for the world. We deeply value Pakistan's support for China on every forum and hold the philatelist and Chief Advisor Consulate. On this occasion, same sentiments for Pakistan," he said.

Consulate with renowned



of the Pakistan Chemicals & Arif Balgamwala presented a Dyes Merchants Association This was discussed during (PCDMA), Arif Balgamwala Consul General to mark the a meeting at the Chinese (Tamgha-e-Imtiaz), who Chinese New Year, which

stamp folder to the Chinese was invited to the Chinese the Consul General greatly

Arif Balgamwala, the renowned philatelist and Chief Advisor of PCDMA, thanked the Chinese Consul General for offering full support to Pakistani traders and mentioned that Pakistan would participate in the stamp show in China this year.

Additionally, a delegation of traders would be formed for the Interdye 2025 exhibition, aimed at further strengthening trade relations with China. He also discussed visa-related matters with the Consul General, who assured him that Pakistani traders would be provided with visa facil-

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) had the honor of hosting Mr. Sarfaraz Baig, a distinguished novelist settled in Paris, France. During his visit, he was warmly welcomed by Dr. Bilal Karim, Director PRR, and Mr. Khursheed Ahmed, Deputy Director Admin.

In recognition of his literary contributions, Dr. Bilal Karim presented Mr. Sarfaraz Baig with a book as a token of appreciation.

The visit provided an opportunity to discuss the role of literature and the arts in cultural diplomacy and international literary exchange.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Sarfaraz Baig expressed his admiration for PNCA's efforts in promoting the arts and preserving Pakistan's rich cultural heritage. He also emphasized



collaborations between Pakistan and welcoming creative minds from around the international literary community. the world to celebrate and contribute to

the importance of fostering literary artistic and intellectual engagement, PNCA continues to serve as a hub for Pakistan's evolving cultural landscape.

Afghanistan and Japan Sign Agreement to Combat Landmine Threats: Mullah Nooruddin Turabi

S Asim Tanveer

KABUL: In a significant step towards addressing the dangers of landmines in Afghanistan, the country's National Disaster Management Authority has signed a \$502,296 agreement with the Japanese humanitarian organization AAR Japan. The agreement aims to raise awareness about the threats posed by landmines and unexploded ordnance in various regions of Afghanistan.

The agreement was signed in Kabul by Mullah Nooruddin Turabi, the head of the National Disaster Management Authority, and Mohammad Bashir Basir, the president of AAR Japan. Speaking at the signing ceremony, Mullah Nooruddin Turabi welcomed the AAR Japan delegation and reiterated his organization's commitment to working with humanitarian groups. He emphasized the need for increased support and transparent distribution of aid to ensure maximum benefit for those affected by land-

AAR Japan's president, Mohammad Bashir Basir, expressed gratitude for the cooperation extended by the National



acknowledged the government's role in addressing the challenges faced by humanitarian organizations and highlighted AAR Japan's ongoing collaboration with aid agencies in Kabul and various provinces.

will implement awareness programs in a secure future for its people.

Disaster Management Authority. He Kabul city and Zabul province, specifically targeting the districts of Shamalzai, Shinkay, Narang, and Jaldak.

With continued support from humanitarian agencies and international partners, Afghanistan can move closer to becoming a As per the agreement, AAR Japan safer and landmine-free country, ensuring

Saad Siddiqui Entrepreneur of the Year 2025 award in Russia

KARACHI: Saad Siddiqui, Founder & CEO of Edversity, has been honored with the BRICS & SCO Social Entrepreneur of the Year 2025 award in Russia. Organized by the Academy of Youth Diplomacy and the Ministry of Youth Affairs, Russia, this prestigious event celebrates individuals making a significant impact through innovation and entrepreneurship. The recognition of Saad Siddiqui in the Top Entrepreneur Award category highlights the growing influence of young Pakistani entrepreneurs

on the global stage. As the driving force behind Edversity, Pakistan's largest learning platform, Saad Siddiqui is revolutionizing digital education by bridging the tech skills gap and tackling youth unemployment. Edversity offers affordable and future-focused courses in Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain, and Web3, equipping individuals with industry-relevant expertise. With rapid expansion into the Middle East, Edversity is setting new bench-



marks in accessible, high-quality

The event brought together influential leaders, policymakers, and innovators from across the BRICS and SCO nations, providing a platform to discuss challenges and opportunities in social entrepre-

This year's ceremony showcased groundbreaking ventures from various sectors, highlighting

the role of young entrepreneurs in driving sustainable development and economic growth.

Speaking on this achievement, a spokesperson from JS Zindigi stated: "This recognition reaffirms our belief in the potential of young entrepreneurs to drive transformation at a global level. Which is why we remain dedicated to empowering bright minds and supporting them in their journey to success.'

Transforming Child Health: How Community Incentives Drive Breakthroughs in Pakistan

👺 Bureau Report

KARACHI: A groundbreak-Lancet Global Health reveals how community-driven incentives can greatly improve child health outcomes in rural Pakistan. The Community Mobilization and Community Incentivization-(CoMIC) trial, conducted by researchers from Aga Khan University's Institute for Globillnesses such as childhood diaramong children under five.

The CoMIC trial is based on the recognition that behaviour ing study published in The change interventions should ensure active community engagement and adapt context-specific strategies to facilitate change (bottom-up approach for sustainable improvement).

The findings revealed significant improvements in child health indicators in incentivized communities. Compared to the al Health and Development control groups, they included (IGHD), offers a transformative an 80% higher breastfeeding model for addressing preventable rate, a 50% rise in the use of oral rehydration treatments, a 30% rhoea and pneumonia, which improvement in cleanliness habit remain leading causes of death and a 30% higher immunization

Dr. Jai K. Das, Assistant Director at IGHD and lead author of the study explained: "The study shows that when communities are actively engaged, empowered, and take charge to set their own priorities, it leads to extraordinary results. The ability to choose non-cash rewards, such as water pumps or sanitation facilities, fostered a sense of ownership and accountability, driving sustainable behavior changes.'

In Pakistan, the poorest populations are disproportionately affected by the substantial discrepancies in access to necessarv health services. Less than

one-third of rural households have access to adequate sanitation, while the nation's immunization rates are still at 66%. The findings showed that communities are more likely to invest when they are empowered to decide on incentives. This was evident by the fact that contributions including labour, land and supplies resulted in a cost-sharing rate of 36% above the 25% target.

Dr. Zulfiqar A. Bhutta, Founding Director of IGHD, emphasized the broader implications of the trial: "This trial demonstrates the potential of community-driven solutions in achieving scalable health



improvements. It is a model that address vaccine resistance, parent mechanism for delivering address inequities and save lives."

can be adapted in other low- improve sanitation, and enhance community-level benefits while and middle-income countries to child health outcomes across Scaling this approach could work offers a practical and trans-

fostering accountability and longdiverse contexts. The frame-term investment in health infra-

Index Fluctuation			
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index			
Current	Prev. Close		
113,206.40	111,487.36		
Day's High	Day's Low		
113,400.56	111,805.66		
Index Value	Change		
15,737,122,573	+1719.04		
Percentage	Time		
+1.54%	30 Jan, 2025 5:00 pm		
Europe: FTS	E 100 Index		
Index Value	Change		
8,646.88	+89.07		
Percentage	Time		
+1.04%	30 Jan, 4:35 pm GMT		
USA: Dow Jones I	ndustrial Average		
Index Value	Change		
44,866.14	+152.62		
Percentage	Time		
9			
+0.34%	30 Jan, 12:03 pm GMT-5		
+0.34%	30 Jan, 12:03 pm		
+0.34%	30 Jan, 12:03 pm GMT-5		
+0.34% Asia Pacific: Nikk	30 Jan, 12:03 pm GMT-5 ei Stocks Average		
+0.34% Asia Pacific: Nikk Index Value	30 Jan, 12:03 pm GMT-5 ei Stocks Average Change		

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	174.75	177.00
Bahrain Dinar	738.60	746.60
Canadian Dollar	194.60	197.00
China Yuan	37.59	37.99
Danish Krone	38.48	38.88
Euro	290.75	293.50
Hong Kong Dollar	35.41	35.76
Indian Rupee	3.14	3.23
Japanese Yen	1.81	1.87
Kuwaiti Dinar	897.80	907.30
Malaysian Ringgit	63.04	63.64
NewZealand \$	156.31	158.31
Norwegians Krone	24.46	24.76
Omani Riyal	722.90	731.40
Qatari Riyal	75.84	76.54
Saudi Riyal	74.20	74.75
Singapore Dollar	207.5	209.50
Swedish Korona	25.01	25.31
Swiss Franc	303.71	306.51
Thai Bhat	8.09	8.24
U.A.E Dirham	75.85	76.50
UK Pound Sterling	348	351.5
US Dollar	279.50	281.00

Open Market Forex Rates

MAP Elects New Executive Council ಟ Office Bearers

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: January 30, 2025: The Marketing Association of Pakistan (MAP) has announced its newly elected office bearers and Council members, Muhammad Azfar Ahsan, Founder & Chairman, Nutshell Group, has been re-elected as President, bringing a wealth of experience and strategic insight to the role.

Azfar is joined by Umar Ahsan Khan, CEO, Dawlance (Pvt) Limited, as Vice President. Erum Shakir Rahim, Vice President & General Manager, GlaxoSmith-Kline Pakistan, has been appointed as Honorary Secretary, while Khawaja Shahzain Munir, Executive Director, English Biscuit Manufacturers (Pvt) Ltd, will serve as Honorary Treasurer.

The newly elected Council comprises accomplished professionals from various industries, further strengthening MAP's position as a premier platform for marketing leadership. The Council members include Saira Awan Malik, President, TCS (Private) Ltd; Ali Akhai, Chairman, Martin Dow Limited; Sami Wahid, Managing Director, Mondelez Pakistan Limited; Talib Syed Karim, President, Institute of Business Management; Amna Khatib Paracha, Managing Director, Mindshare Pakistan; Syed Imran Ahmad, Director, Pace (Pvt) Limited; Jahangir A. Rasheed, Director, Dalda Foods; Jamil Ahmed Mughal, COO, McDonald's Pakistan; Sadia Dada, Chief Distribution & MarComms Officer, K-Electric Ltd; Imran Haleem Shaikh, Deputy CEO, Bank Islami Pakistan Limited; and Raeda Latif, Chief Marketing & Business Development Officer, Pakistan Stock Exchange.

Speaking on his re-election, Azfar stated, "The marketing industry is at a transformative juncture where innovation, adaptability, and collaboration will define success. I am honored to lead MAP once again and look forward to working with this exceptional team. With a power-packed Council comprising some of the most accomplished and forward-thinking leaders across industries, MAP is well-positioned to drive meaningful change, foster strategic partnerships, and set new benchmarks for marketing excellence in

Increase the Country's Exports; Exporters are being provided with **Every Possible Facility: Governor**

State Bank

MULTAN: Governor State Bank of Pakistan Jamil Ahmed has stated that to increase the country's exports, exporters are being provided with every possible facility. Over the next five years, loans amounting to up to 1.1 trillion rupees will be extended to the SME sector for its development. The legalization of digital currency is not yet ready, but a government committee has been formed to work on it. Steps are being taken to implement initiatives in the IT sector, understanding its importance. A foreign exchange reserve of \$11.50 billion is available for imports for 60 days, previously standing at a level sufficient for only 15 days. Soon, a scheme will be announced for exporters who introduce non-traditional products in new markets rather than traditional ones. These remarks were made during an address at the Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The Governor of the State Bank, Jamil of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in government is playing its role and aims to ation globally and in Pakistan.

Ahmed, stated that Pakistan's economic growth is expected to exceed 3% in the current fiscal year, with even higher growth anticipated in the next fiscal year. He further mentioned that remittances are stabilizing and are expected to reach \$35 billion this fiscal year.

Regarding the legalization of digital currency, Jamil Ahmed said that the State Bank is not yet ready; however, it is improving its capacity for digital currency. A government-level committee is working on this matter, assessing the technological and regulatory requirements, and amendments to the State Bank Act will be

By the end of 2025, inflation will stabilize. providing long-term economic stability for the public. He also highlighted that inflation has been reduced from 38% to 4.1%, and a significant reduction in the policy rate has been imple-

The Governor emphasized the crucial role



economic growth and improvement, as busi- provide all possible facilities to exporters. nessmen highlight their challenges, leading to the development of new policies or improvements in existing ones.

Bank Jamil Ahmed stated that under the GDP growth at 4% and interest rates between Export Finance Scheme, exporters are bene- 9% and 10%, and everything was running fiting from a 9% policy rate, and there are no smoothly. However, the arrival of COVID-19 issues with the availability of financing. The in 2019 drastically changed the economic situ-

Earlier, President of the Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mian Bakhtawar Tanveer Sheikh, stated in his speech that before In response to a question, Governor State COVID-19, Pakistan's economy was stable, with

ISLAMABAD: DG (Welfare and Services Division) OPF and DG (A&P) NAB signing a MoU between OPF and NAB in the presence of Chairman NAB Lt Gen (Retd) Nazir Ahmed and Chairman OPF Board



Dawlance partnered with OICCI for 'Pakistan Climate Conference 2025'

KARACHI: Dawlance, a leading home appliance manufacturer in Pakistan, once again partners with the 'Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce & Industry' (OICCI), for the annual 'Pakistan Climate Conference 2025, where Dawlance also received an award for its contributions in the 'Water-Stewarship' projects.

The Chief Executive Officer of Dawlance in Pakistan-Umar Ahsan Khan stated that: "We are thankful to the OICCI for organising this insightful forum, to emphasize the urgency of the global climate crisis and find its solutions. Since the crisis is caused by humans, we must take actions at every level, from individuals, corporations, and governments, to overcome this crisis, soon. Despite Pakistan's minimal contribution to global climate-change, the country is facing severe consequences,



such as; floods, shifting weather patterns, food-insecurity and rising poverty. Hakan Bulgurlu, CEO of Beko, shared

his concerns about the global climate crisis, emphasizing the urgency of reducing

Bank Makramah achieves significant milestones

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Bank Makramah Limited (BML) is pleased to announce that the court has accepted the settlement application filed by BML and OMNI Group of approximately Rs. 10 billion on account of loans owed by various companies of the Omni Group and its affiliated entities.

The court has graciously ment Limited (GHDL).

issued a decree in favour of Bank Makramah Limited, affirming its right to recover approximately Rs. 10 billion, which will now be recoverable under the agreed-upon terms of the settlement.

Moreover, BML has filed a scheme of arrangement for its restructuring before the Islamabad High Court for the merger between BML and Global Haly Develop-

Mayor Hyderabad meets World Bank Delegation - Discussions on **Development Projects**

跨 Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi Hyderabad Ubaidullah

HYDERABAD: Mayor Hyderabad Kashif Ali Shoro met with the World Bank delegation at the Mayor's Secretariat, Civic Center, Hyderabad, to discuss vari-

aimed at the city's progress and prosperity. The meeting was

attended by Senior Urban Develop-Specialist ment Mocha Davison Deneka, Disaster

Risk Management Specialist Mumtaz Ali Halipoto, Urban Consultant Syed Ibrahim Ali Shah, Senior M&E Specialist Click Muhammad Rafiq Brohi, Deputy Mayor Sagheer Ahmed Qureshi, Deputy Commissioner Zain-ul-Abideen Memon, Municipal Commissioner Hyderabad Regional Director Local Government Department

Siddiqui, MD/CEO Hvderabad Water and Sewerage Corporation Syed Shujaat Hussain, and other officials. Discussions focused on

the implementation of the Sindh Secondary Cities ous development initiatives Development Program,



covering key areas such as Yuko Okura, Consultant clean water supply, sanitation, climate-responsive urban planning, construction of parks, renovation of sports grounds, and establishment of modern education facilities, including IT centers and libraries for vouth empowerment.

The World Bank delegation appreciated Mayor Zahoor Ahmed Laghari, Hyderabad's efforts towards public welfare and urban development.

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Newly elected President of Chakwal Chamber of Commerce & Industries, Aamir Najeeb Bhutta, has stated that he aims to modernize the business environment of Chakwal so that local businesses and industries can grow on a global scale. He expressed his expectations for full cooperation from all members in achieving this goal.

addressing a dinner hosted in honor of the newly elected office bearers of the Chakwal Chamber of Commerce & Industries by former President Waqar Zafar Bakhtawari in Islamabad.

On this occasion, Group Leader of Chakwal Chamber of Commerce & Industries Qazi Muhammad Akbar, Senior Vice President felt that he is in Islamabad; when-

awari, Waqar Bakhtawari, Sheikh Riaz Ahmed Farooqi, Khurram Kamran, Shehzad Saadat, Haji Nazir Sultan, Malik Shabbir Awan (President of Talagang CCI), Malik Hafeez Anjum, Sufi Mushtaq, Umar Sami, Noman Iftikhar, Sheikh Riaz Ahmed Farooqi, Aziz Malik, Mian Khawar Saleem, Chaudhry Ishaq, Asif Mani, Tariq Mustafa, Sohail Akhtar, Ahmad Farooqi, Irshad Ali He made these remarks while Amir, Raja Manan, Zafar Iqbal, and several others were present.

Aamir Najeeb Bhutta expressed his gratitude to Zafar Bakhtawari, Ahsan Bakhtawari, and Waqar Bakhtawari for hosting the dinner and said, Zafar Bakhtawari is our leader and has always been at the forefront in resolving our issues. We have never

ever we needed him, he was always there for us. We are hopeful that he and his sons will continue to support

Qazi Muhammad Akbar, Senior Vice President Khawaja Arif Yusuf, Sheikh Riaz Ahmed Farooqi, Waqar Bakhtawari and President of Talagang

us in the same way.

lighted the need for collective efforts with the Chakwal Chamber to address the concerns of the local business community.

Additionally, Khurram Kamran, Haji Nazir Sultan, Shehzad Saadat, Malik Hafeez Anjum, Sufi Mushtaq,

Chamber, Malik Shabbir Awan, high- Umar Sami, Noman Iftikhar, Aziz Malik, Mian Khawar Saleem, Chaudhry Ishaq, Asif Mani, Tariq Mustafa, Sohail Akhtar, Ahmad Farooqi, Irshad Ali Amir, Zafar Iqbal, and others reiterated their commitment to resolving issues through joint

Newly elected President says "his aims to modernize the business environment of Chakwal" Khawaja Arif Yusuf, Zafar Bakht-

CM Maryam inaugurates 'Khelta Punjab' Games 2025

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif inaugurated the 'Khelta Punjab' Inter-Division Games 2025 with the vision to populate the playgrounds and engage the youth in healthy sporting activities in the prov-

"I am immensely pleased to be among the youth and wish to see the youth prosper in sports, education and other fields", the Chief Minister said while addressing the young athletes and sports administrators from across the province at the Punjab Stadium here on Thursday, adding she wished to see 'champions' in every nook and corner of Punjab.

'Khelta Punjab' Games 2025, the first of its kind, have entered the final stage. Inter-Club level competitions were held across the province in the first phase while winners competed at the district level in the second phase and qualified for the Division level games in the third

CM Maryam hailed Sports Minister Faisal Ayub Khokhar for holding the largest sports competitions of the country, adding she had promised to set aside as much funds as the sports minister demanded for the sake of the youth of Punjab. "I told Sports Minister Khokhar that coffers of the provincial government will be opened for youth even if you need two billion rupees or five billion," she said. The Chief Minister said the young athletes had made their

parents and country proud. She said the sports fields were deserted and these were coming to life after consistent efforts of her govern-



ment to provide healthy opportunities to the youth.

She said as many as 120,000 athletes registered in the 'Khelta Punjab' Games from across the province, adding that this land produced champions like javelinist Arshad Nadeem and tennis player Aismaul Haq. She said 65 percent population of Punjab was made up of the youth and they must be provided opportunities to excel in sports.

Maryam Nawaz said, "The daughters and sons have turned up here after recording victories in their respective fields and I am sure the youth will hold the national flag high."

She said first-ever inter-club competitions were conducted in the province

adding that 30000 were awarded sports scholarships on merit. She said the young intern athletes were being paid 60000 per month by the government.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz exhorted the youth to work hard and make a niche for themselves. She said she would look after their needs and ensure facilities as chief executive of the

Maryam Nawaz said that international coaches should be hired so that rise in literacy and move forward. the youth could win maximum medals

The Chief Minister called upon the youth to understand the difference between sports and anarchy, adding the

in which 15000 clubs were registered, champions should focus only on their sports activities and must not be misled by the miscreants for creating chaos and unrest in the country.

"Never pay heed to those who instigate the youth to create anarchy in the country," she said, adding, "Those who invite you indulge in anti-state activities against the institutions are your foes not friends."

She said if the youth stayed focused to their studies and sports, Punjab would

CM Maryam also announced free e-bikes for 2200 players who would reach the podium in the divisional level competitions of 'Khelta Punjab Games'

PCB elated with overwhelming response to ICC CT tickets

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has expressed satisfaction with the public response to ticket sales for the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 beginning next month (February).

Tickets for Pakistan vs New Zealand (February 19, Karachi), Australia vs England (February 22, Lahore), Pakistan vs Bangladesh (February 27, Rawalpindi) matches are



Initially, the PCB had available for physical of tickets avail- purchase starting February

PCB officials have

across the country.

expressed satisfaction with the public response to ticket sales, noting that tickets sold out within hours. This strong demand reflects the excitement of Pakistani cricket fans.

The PCB has reassured fans that it will ensure as many spectators as possible can attend the matches, demonstrating its commitment while, the tickets will be with over 100 outlets cricket enthusiasts.

PCB finalises' plans for Champions Trophy opening ceremony

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has finalised plans for the opening ceremonies of the ICC Champions Trophy 2025, with multiple events scheduled across different venues, sources told Geo News on Thursday. According to insiders, PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi has given his final approval for all related events. The main opening ceremony is set to take place on February 16 at Hazuri Bagh, Lahore, marking the formal commencement of the prestigious tournament. Additionally, the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore will host its own opening ceremony on February 7. completely sold out, said a able for online sale. Mean- 3 at TCS Express Centers, to supporting Pakistani | while the National Stadium in Karachi will hold an inauguration event on February 11.

Champions Trophy to embark on final tour as it arrives in Pakistan

LAHORE: The majestic and exhibited during the opening prestigious ICC Men's Champi- ceremonies at the newly-renoons Trophy returned to Pakistan vated Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore after concluding its world tour on and Karachi's National Stadium

The silver trophy arrived in team tournament scheduled to start on February 19.

The trophy will embark on its second tour of the country and will be displayed in major cities tabad but was not exhibited in like Islamabad, Peshawar, Lahore, Lahore. The eight-team tourna-Faisalabad, Multan, Bahawalpur, ment, comprising 15 matches, will Sargodha and Sheikhupura until run from February 19 to March 9,

on February 7 and 11, respectively. The Champions Trophy

Pakistan after visiting each partical ready toured several cities in ipation nation part of the eight- Pakistan in November last year.

During the tour, the trophy was exhibited in major cities like Karachi, Islamabad, Murree, Nithia Gali, Taxila and Abbotacross three venues — Karachi,



Pakistan and Dubai.

The eight teams are divided $into\,two\,groups.\,Group\,A\,features$ Pakistan, India, New Zealand and Meanwhile, it will also be Lahore and Rawalpindi — in Bangladesh, while Group B is on February 19 in Karachi, while

Trophy is scheduled to be played

Hosts Pakistan will take on

in Lahore but if India qualify then consisted of Afghanistan, South Africa, England and Australia.

it will be held in Dubai. Furthermore, a reserve day has also been allocated for the final clash as a precautionary measure New Zealand in the curtain raiser to combat any weather-related

hindrance.

the blockbuster clash between

arch-rivals Pakistan and India

is scheduled for February 23

in Dubai. Pakistan will host a

total of 10 matches, while four

matches, including all three of

India's group-stage matches and

the first semi-final, will be played

The final of the Champions

Hard evidence of terrorists using US weapons against Pakistan: FO

He categorically rejected the baseless and unfounded allegations aimed at targeting the Pakistan-China friendship.

commitment to the foundational principle of the One China Delegations from across the Policy, which is a consistent cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy and remains unchanged."

Spokesperson Shafqat Khan 9th edition of the multinational AMAN exercise, from February

Dialogue, where Chiefs of Naval Forces, Heads of Coast Guards, and others. and senior leaders from around

"Around 60 countries will participate in AMAN 25, contributing ships, aircraft, Special Operations Forces, "We reaffirm our unwavering explosive ordnance disposal teams, marines, and observers. globe will also attend the international dialogue."

To a question, the spokesperson said that Pakistan told the newsmen that Pakistan had taken note of US Presiwas set to host AMAN 25, the dent Donald Trump's decision to halt aid for 90 days and expressed hope for its resumption as the USAID was working A key feature of this year's on multiple projects in Pakistan exercise will be the Aman in multiple sectors including energy, health, narcotics control

About the visit of US "reputed the world will convene to discuss businessmen" to Pakistan, he regional maritime security and said the foreign ministry was devise joint strategies to counter not processing it, though such

Continued from Page 8 evolving maritime threats, he visits were a regular feature of bilateral relations.

He said that the confiscation of properties was an ugly facet of the Indian authorities' campaign to crush dissent in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (HOJK). As part of this campaign, assets of 11 individuals were seized in Kishtwar district, a few days ago.

The ongoing campaign to victimize the dissenters and intimidate the Kashmiri people must stop. India must also allow the people of IIOJK to freely exercise their right to self-determination, as enshrined in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

He also lamented the Indian government's decision to confer the award on Sadhvi Ritambhara, who faced criminal charges for facilitating the destruction of the Babri Masjid

indicator of the dangerous turn in the Indian polity.

total of 770 Pakistani nationals were imprisoned in Indian jails on varying charges. The spokesperson termed

the US president's suggestion of displacing Palestinians to Egypt and Jordan "troubling and unjust" and reiterated Pakistan's stance of a two-state solution based on the pre-1967 borders with Al-Quds Al Sharif as its capital.

He condemned the Israeli withdrawal from 1967 agreement between Israel and UNRWA and its efforts to hamper UNRWA's ability to fulfill its mandate of providing humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza valley.

This ban would lead to further instability and wors-

in 1992, and called it another ening of humanitarian situation in Gaza as the region and its people are in dire need of To another question, he said a humanitarian assistance and support."

The spokesperson also condemned the continued Israeli aggression in West Bank and called on the international community to break its silence on continuous acts of brutality by Israel against innocent Palestinians.

He told the media that bilatpolitical consultations eral would be held between Pakistan and Serbia on January 31; Pakistan and Uzbekistan on February 4-5; and Pakistan and Qatar on February 5. The Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar will lead the Pakistan delegation in the BPS and would also interact with the Qatari lead-

Airport Gymkhana moved into Pre Quarter Final of the Master Oil Inter Club Cricket Tournament

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Airport Gymkhana moved in to the Pre Quarter Final after beating Shahi Bagh Cricket Club by 21 runs in the Master Oil Inter Club Cricket Tournament at Young Fighter

The highlights of the days play was brilliant 121 by Huzaifa Muneer of Shahi Bagh Cricket Club he scored 121 but he could not safe their team from defeat. Haider Ali also played a fine knock of 93 for Airport Gymkhana.

The Tournament is being organized by Regional Cricket Association Karachi with the collaboration of Master Oil Lubricant.

Airport Gymkhana beat Shahi Bagh CC by 21 runs at Young Fighter Ground. Haider Ali 93 8x4 1x6, Shafiullah 32, Arman Shafiq 31, Wahab Zafar 28 not out, Zubair Dilawar 22. Subhan Sadiq 3/47, Adnan Akhtar 2/51.

Shahi Bagh CC 233 all out in 38.3 overs. Huzaifa Munir 121 9x4 6x6, Adnan Akhtar 37, Anas Jawed 29. Rehman Ghani 3/35. S. Umar Shaikh 2/23.

International Musheer Rabbani Memorial 5-A-Side Hockey Tournament Kicks Off on January 31

₿ Sports Desk

KARACHI: The much-anticipated International Musheer Rabbani Memorial 5-A-Side Hockey Tournament is set to commence on Friday, January 31, 2025, at 4:00 PM at the Olympian Hanif Khan Hockey Stadium.

This exciting youth hockey event will feature five teams in a double-league format, each consisting of seven players - three girls and four boys under the age of 15. The participating teams

Team Gladiators

Team Spartan

Team Dolphin **Team Lions**

The tournament is dedicated to the memory of Musheer Rabbani, a 1976 Pakistan Colour Holder, who played a pivotal role in the promotion and development of sports in Sindh. His relentless efforts in nurturing young talent and uplifting hockey

in the region continue to inspire the new generation of athletes. Hockey enthusiasts and supporters are invited to witness the future stars of the game in action. Stay tuned for match updates

Afghan women cricketers reunite in first game after fleeing Taliban

Afghanistan's women cricketers on Thursday played their first game since fleeing the Taliban three years ago, a charity match in Australia that captain Nahida Sapan hoped would spark "a movement for change".

Hundreds of women athletes fled Afghanistan as the Taliban took over in August 2021, escaping a hardline stance that essentially banned women's sport and education.

Most of the national women's cricket side settled as refugees in Australia, where they reunited for the first time on Thursday to play a charity match in Melbourne.

Together, we're building not just a team, we're building a movement for change and promise," Sapan said in the run-up to the game. "We have big hopes for this match because this match can open doors for Afghan women, for education, sport

The Afghanistan Cricket Board made a significant stride in November 2020 when it handed 25 promising women cricketers professional contracts. But before the fledgling squad had a chance to play together, the Taliban captured capital Kabul and declared an end to women's cricket.

We have sacrificed a lot to be here today," said cricketer Firooza Amiri after the match.

"The situation in Afghanistan is very terrible. Women don't have their rights.

"I can live freely in Australia and live my life the way I want. "But back home in Afghanistan... I can only say it is very heartbreaking and very hard to live in that situation." 'Profound sadness'

Diana Barakzai, who helped found Afghanistan's first women's cricket program almost 20 years ago, said Thursday's match was an "amazing moment". "I'm sure it's a big message for the world, that the world will

do something for Afghan women," she told AFP. "Especially for opening the school doors, opening up work

for women."

Of the 25 women once contracted by the Afghanistan Cricket Board, 22 are now settled in the Australian cities of Melbourne

Prime Minister Mustafa stresses

Continued from Page 8 attacks by the Israeli occupa-

Mustafa also revealed ongoing discussions with international partners and various parties to convene an international donor conference for reconstruction, as well as the establishment of an independent national body to oversee the process transparently and efficiently.

Reaffirming that the Gaza Strip is an integral part of the Palestinian State, Mustafa stressed the Government's readiness to fully assume its responsibilities in the Strip and move forward with reunifying Palestinian institutions—a critical step toward ending the occupation and realizing Palestinian statehood. He also underscored the importance of implementing UN Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolution

Turning to the escalating

tion army and settlers, Mustafa stressed:

"What is happening in the West Bank is a systematic effort to destroy the foundations of the Palestinian state. We are witnessing military incursions into northern West Bank governorates, accompanied by killing, detention, infrastructure destruction, and demolition of homes and structures. This demands urgent international action to put this to an end."

The Prime Minister also emphasized that Israel's ban on UNRWA's operations will lead to grave consequences, particularly in providing services to refugees in Gaza and the West Bank. He called for immediate international intervention to stop the Israeli occupation's targeting of UNRWA and efforts aimed at liquidating the refugee issue and eliminating the right of return.

The Spokesman

Foreign Minister chaired meeting on economic

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired the 2nd meeting to prepare a comprehensive road map for enhancing trade, economic and investment cooperation between Pakistan and Turkiye, on Thursday,



US plane with 64 onboard crashes after colliding with military copter

WASHINGTON: A US passenger plane carrying 64 people crashed into Washington DC's chilly Potomac River after colliding midair with a military helicopter on a nighttime training exercise Wednesday, prompting a major emergency response and the grounding of

The plane had been about to land at nearby Reagan National Airport after flying from Kansas when it was hit by the helicopter and crashes into river, with US media reporting multiple bodies pulled from the dark, near-freezing water.

American Airlines, whose ıbsidiary operated the flight said "there were 60 passengers and four crew members on board the aircraft."

Hawk model carrying three soldiers — their status currently military spokesperson said in lined Potomac.



A US Army official said the "there is no confirmed informahelicopter involved was a Black tion on casualties at this time."

However, a massive search and rescue operation was in described "a stream of sparks" unknown. They had been on progress, with divers visible as and what looked like a large firea "training flight," a separate they plunged into the snow-

The Washington Post quoted Washington police said unnamed sources saying police it looked fine, normal. It was had started to pull multiple bodies from the water.

Witness Ari Schulman work when the collision erupted overhead as he drove home.

"Initially I saw the plane and right about to head over land," he told CNN

"Three seconds later, and at that point it was banked all the way to the right... I could see the underside of it, it was lit up a very bright yellow, and there

was a stream of sparks underneath it," Schulman added. "It looked like a Roman candle."

President Donald Trump said in an official statement that he had been "fully briefed" and said of any victims, "may God bless their souls."

But less than four hours after the disaster — and while other officials stressed they were waiting for investigations to unfold — he went on social media to critique the air traffic control.

"The airplane was on a perfect and routine line of approach to the airport. The helicopter was going straight at the airplane for an extended period of time. It is a CLEAR NIGHT, the lights on the plane were blazing," Trump wrote on his app Truth Social.

"Why didn't the helicopter go up or down, or turn. Why didn't the control tower tell the helicopter what to do instead of asking if they saw the plane. This is a bad situation that looks like it should have been prevented. NOT GOOD!!!"

DPM chairs 2nd meeting to prepare comprehensive roadmap for enhancing Pak-Turkiye economic ties

City Desk

ISLAMABAD, JAN 30 (APP): Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Thursday chaired the 2nd meeting to prepare a comprehensive road map for enhancing trade, economic and investment cooperation between Pakistan and Türkiye. Pakistani cuisine recipes

The meeting was attended by Federal Ministers for Power, Food Security, Petroleum, SAPM on Foreign Affairs, Coordinator to PM on Health and Federal Secretaries of Foreign Affairs, Economic Affairs, Communication, Industries, Food Security and other officials, a DPM's office news release said.

The DPM reviewed progress on

completed and ongoing initiatives under Strategic Economic Framework 2020-24, and discussed preparation for the meetings of nine Joint Working Groups and Pakistan-Türkiye Business Forum to be organized on the sidelines of 7th Session of High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSCC), which will be held in Islamabad.

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister Senator Ishaq Dar also chaired the meeting on power tariff reforms which was attended by Ministers of Power, Economic Affairs Division and Minister of State for Finance, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Power and other senior officials. The meeting deliberated upon various proposals for reforming the power sector.

JUI won't compromise on freedom of speech, says Fazl

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Mualana Fazl-ur-Rehman has said that JUI was against fake news but there will be no compromise on freedom of speech.

Talking to media in Dina, JUI Chief said on the PECA Act, President Zardari had admitted that he would listen to the journalists but later signed it.

Zadari had further said that Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi would listen to the journalists, but later Zardari signed the bill.

Fazl said JUI was in favor of blocking the way of fake news but journalists concerns over the estabafter the promulgation of PECA Act lishment's bill.



there was possibility that this law will be used against journalists.

JUI Chief said if sharia laws were postponed because there was a possibility of its misuse, then why the government did not listened to the

FBR halts purchase of 1010 vehicles for officers

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has halted the purchase of over 1000 new vehicles for its officers, following the directives of the Senate Standing Committee on Finance,.

Chairman FBR Rashid Langrial in a statement said that the purchase of vehicles will remain frozen until the finance committee is satisfied. The committee has summoned the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) to clarify the rules governing the purchase.

The FBR had decided to purchase 1200cc vehicles for its officers on January 13, 2025, despite facing a revenue shortfall. The decision was met with criticism, and the board had planned to pay Rs. 3 billion upfront and the remaining amount in installments.

The 1010 vehicles were supposed to be delivered from January to May, with 75 vehicles in January. 200 in February, 225 in March, 250 in April, and 260 in May. However, the purchase has now been put on hold indefinitely.

criticised the FBR, saying that there is evidence of officials misusing cars, including removing stickers and using them for personal purposes

He took a jibe at the FBR's move to purchase over 1,000 vehicles for its staff despite revenue shortfall. Speaking on the floor of the Senate, Faisal Vawda said FBR failed to achieve Rs384 billion revenue target and yet are getting vehicles.

"Shortfall in FBR's targets might be the reason behind rewarding them with new vehicles."

Faisal Vawda further said if you insist on fulfilling your desires and providing vehicles, why not opt for economical options like 600cc cars instead of locking in 1,300cc ones?

Faisal Vawda also referenced the controversial case of £190 million. stating, "The cabinet had approved that decision as well, which led to imprisonment. These vehicles Earlier, Senator Faisal Vawda might lead to similar consequences."

Hard evidence of terrorists using US weapons against Pakistan: FO

👺 City Desk

ist activities on its soil, reminding the Kabul administration of evidence. About the boat abad on the day.

its responsibility to act against capsizing incident in Morocco,

At his weekly news briefing was coordinating the repatria-ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has in Islamabad on Thursday, tion of 22 Pakistani survivors. reiterated that it had suffi- Foreign Office spokesperson After "thorough investigations" cient proof of terrorist groups Shafqat Ali Khan, said Paki- the said individuals would be in Afghanistan using the US stan had repeatedly conveyed returned to Pakistan in batches left-behind weapons for terrorits concerns to the Afghan as the first batch had already government and also provided arrived via two flights in Islam-

was in close coordination with Moroccan authorities to oversee the relief efforts and finalize the complex repatriation process.

He extended condolences and sympathies to the victims and families of those affected by the recent attack on a Saudi The spokesperson said that hospital in El Fasher, calling

he said the foreign ministry the Pakistan Embassy in Rabat its a clear violation of international law.

> "Pakistan believes that the conflict can only be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy. We express our full support for the unity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity

> > Continued on Page 7

Prime Minister Mustafa stresses importance of international support for Gaza

RAMALLAH: Prime Minister's Office - Prime Minister Dr. Mohammad Mustafa met today, Thursday, in his office in Ramallah with ambassadors, consuls, heads of diplomatic missions, and representatives of international organizations operating in Palestine; joined by Minister of Planning and International Cooper- Palestinian institutions' efforts ation Wael Zaqout, Minister of Social Development and Relief Samah Hamad, and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs.

in the Gaza Strip through the Government Operations Room for Emergency Interventions and its field teams to implement the Relief, Early Recovery, and Emergency Response Plan for the next six months.

Addressing the diplomatic corps, Mustafa emphasized the crucial role of the international community in supporting and coordinating with them to enhance emergency relief, restore basic services, and drive economic recovery—ultimately reducing The Prime Minister outlined reliance on relief and humanithe Government's ongoing efforts tarian aid and reviving economic

He noted that the Government Operations Room for Emergency Interventions for Gaza has started operating through joint committees comprising various ministries and government agencies in the West Bank, alongside field teams in Gaza. These efforts focus on shelter, humanitarian aid, debris removal, and targeted assistance through the Ministry of Social Development, as well as repairs for partially damaged homes.

The Prime Minister further announced that a detailed report on Gaza's damages and losses



the United Nations, European and damage of infrastructure and tural sectors, among others. This and reconstruction plan. will soon be released. Being Union, and World Bank, the homes, along with losses across assessment will serve as a founda-

prepared in collaboration with report will assess the destruction social, economic, and agricultion for a comprehensive recovery

Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi