

# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ

ہم سے اسما جیل بنی اور اس نے بیان کیا، ان سے ان دنوں وہب نے بیان کیا، ان سے یونس نے ان سے ان شہاب نے ان سے عروہ بن زبیر نے ان سے عروہ بن زبیر نے ان سے ام المومنین عائشہ رضی اللہ عنہا نے بیان کیا کہ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا چور کا ہاتھ ایک چوہا کی طرح کاٹ لیا جائے گا۔ (کنز العمال، حدیث نمبر 5979)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



## Pakistan committed to fight cancer: PM Shehbaz

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said Pakistan stands in solidarity with people around the world to raise awareness, inspire action, and reaffirm its commitment to combating cancer – globally the second leading cause of death. In a message on World Cancer Day observed on February 4, he said, "Pakistan has made significant progress in cancer research, treatment, and patient care."



## National polio-eradication drive starts in AJK

The 5-day integrated nationwide polio eradication on Monday began across Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) with adequate arrangements coupled with great enthusiasm of the parents as routine. The anti-polio campaign will be continued till February 7, without any pause to immunize at least 7, 42, 500 children under 5 years of age

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## Signing Ceremony

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif witnesses signing of Oil Import Financing Facility/Loan Agreement for Gravity Flow Water Scheme, Mansehra on Monday.



Photo: PID

## Visit of President Asif Ali Zardari to China today



### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: At the invitation of Mr. Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Mr. Asif Ali Zardari will undertake a state visit to China from 4-8 February 2025.

During the visit, the President would hold meetings with Chinese leadership, including President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Qiang and other senior Chinese leaders in Beijing.

The discussions will encompass the full spectrum of Pakistan-China relations, with a particular focus on economic and trade cooperation; counter-terrorism and security collaboration; China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and future connectivity initiatives.

The two sides would also exchange views on the unfolding global and regional geopolitical landscape, and bilateral cooperation at multi-lateral fora.

## PECA aims to curb fake news, protect digital media: Attaullah Tarar

### Bureau Report

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Attaullah Tarar, has reiterated that the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) is aimed at eliminating fake news and addressing the damages caused through social media.

Speaking as the chief guest at the oath-taking ceremony of the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) Union, he emphasized that social media could not be left unchecked under the guise of journalism.

He warned that fake propaganda, false news, harassment, child abuse content, threats to national security, economic uncer-



tainty, and personal defamation were being spread online, creating unrest in society.

The event was attended by PML-N leader Begum Sajida Farooq Tarar (mother of the minister), Coordinator for Heritage and Culture Farah Diba, Director General Radio Sheikh Saeed, Bureau Chief APP Lahore Talib Hussain, and several senior journalists and media professionals.

## Saudi Arabia to provide \$ 1.2b oil to Pakistan on deferred payment

### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief Executive Officer of Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) Sultan Abdulrahman Al-Marshad witnessed the signing of agreement. The prime minister hailed the signing of Oil Import Financing Facility according to which Pakistan will receive the oil on deferred payment.

This project will strengthen Pakistan's economic resilience by securing a stable supply of petroleum products while reducing immediate fiscal burdens. The

other agreement pertained to a concessional loan agreement for the construction of a gravity-flow water scheme at Mansehra amounting to \$41 million.

SFD will provide an amount of US\$ 41 million for the Gravity Flow Water Supply Scheme at Mansehra, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa which shall enhance access to clean drinking water for 150,000 local people of Mansehra (and will be sufficient to meet the demand by 2040 by providing water to 201,249 people) improving overall public health and quality of life.

Secretary Economic Affairs

Division Dr. Kazim Niaz and CEO SFD Sultan Bin Abdul Rehman Al Marshad signed the agreements on behalf of their respective governments.

The signing ceremony was also attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, federal ministers, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Pakistan Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki and relevant authorities.

Meanwhile, the delegation of Saudi Fund for Development (SFD), led by Sultan Bin Abdul Rehman Al Marshad, Chief

Executive Officer (CEO) called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

The prime minister welcomed the delegation and appreciated the long-standing friendship between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Pakistan and the efforts of SFD for providing financing to Pakistan in the fields of health, energy, infrastructure and education as well as for the reconstruction after the 2022 floods, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, Minister for Economic Affairs Division Ahad Khan

Cheema, Minister for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb, Minister for Information & Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar, Minister for Petroleum Dr. Musaddiq Malik and SAPM Tariq Fatemi along with senior officials of the Government of Pakistan attended the meeting. Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki was part of the four member Saudi delegation.

The CEO, SFD thanked the Prime Minister and Government of Pakistan for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to the Saudi delegation.

## In his open letter Imran Khan urges Army Chief to revisit policies: Barrister Gohar

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar has said that PTI Founder Imran Khan has written a letter to Army Chief General Asim Munir in his capacity of former prime minister and shared the 'causes of growing gulf between public and military'.

Talking to media in Islamabad, Barrister Gohar said in his open letter Imran Khan advised Army Chief to revisit his policies. PTI chief said Imran Khan in his letter told Army Chief that fraudulent general elections 2024 and 26th Constitutional Amendments created distance between the army and the people.

PTI founder Imran Khan said due to such steps made by the government, people of the country were offending with the army. He said masses think behind all policies of the government, there was any Army there they are pleased with the military command. Imran Khan made it clear that "PTI don't want

chaos, the army is ours." Barrister Gohar said PTI founder was of the view that Army has given huge sacrifices for the country. He said the letter of Imran Khan will be shared with media today.

Meanwhile, Aleema Khan, sister of PTI founder, has claimed that the government has destroyed judicial system of

the country by bringing selective judges in apex court, adding that door of justice were being closed on PTI. She said new judges were being brought in IHC to prolong the jail term of Imran Khan.

Talking to media outside Adiala Jail, Aleema said during the last three years conspiracies were being hatched to crush PTI.

## CJP Yahya Afridi welcomes transfer of judges to IHC; says it is as per law

### City Desk

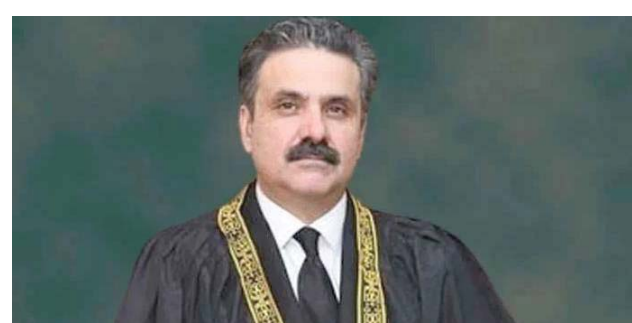
ISLAMABAD: Pointing out that the transfer of three high courts' judges to the Islamabad High Court (IHC) was in accordance with the constitution, Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Yahya Afridi on Monday described the transfer of these judges as a good omen.

Addressing a function in Islamabad, he said it was a good step under Article 200 and that

more judges from the high courts should be transferred to the IHC.

He said that the recently transferred judges should be encouraged. "Judges from the provinces should also be given an opportunity to serve at the federal capital's top court," the CJP said, adding that the appointment and transfer of judges were two different things.

"The IHC does not belong to just one province. It belongs to the entire country," he emphasized.



sized.

Justice Afridi went on to say

that being the CJP, his vision should be broad. "We need more judges in the Supreme Court (SC) since we have to get rid of the case backlog."

He said he heard 30 to 40 cases daily. "I meet with the judges in order to address their concerns. I am ready to gossip with all judges, including those of the high courts, since I am the CJP."

He said he recused from hearing the cases in which he had an 'interest'.

### News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has agreed to host 15 Palestinian prisoners freed under a ceasefire deal that was reached between Israel and Hamas on January 15 to end the Gaza war, Arab News quoted a Hamas spokesperson as saying on Monday.

The Hamas spokesperson described Pakistan as an "elder brother".

Hamas spokesperson Dr Khaled Qaddoumi said that Israel has so far released nearly 180 Palestinians and some of them have traveled to Egypt to settle there, while several Muslim countries, including Egypt, Turkey, Algeria,

Malaysia, Pakistan and Indonesia, have expressed their willingness to host these prisoners.

"We have officially received confirmation that Pakistan has agreed to receive 15 prisoners. For this, we are deeply grateful to the Pakistani government, the Pakistani people, and the Pakistani establishment," Dr Qaddoumi said.

"Alhamdulillah, it has been proven that Pakistan is not just a brother but an elder brother, with a spiritual connection that has always stood with Al-Quds."

Pakistan has not yet officially commented about hosting Palestinian prisoners freed by Israel.



# Ghulam Bilal Javid announces full support for PTI Swabi Jalsa

**Bureau Report**

PESHAWAR: Senior Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and a key figure in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's business community, Ghulam Bilal Javid, has announced his full support for the February 8 Swabi Jalsa. He made this announcement while attending an important PTI consultative meeting at Arbab Jehandad's hujra, where he addressed the party leadership, particularly PTI's provincial president, Junaid Akbar Khan, affirming his unwavering commitment to participate in the rally as per the directives of his leader.

On this occasion, senior trade leader and former Cantonment Board member Ghulam Hussain Chand, along with national footballer and senior trader leader Shahid Khan Shinwari, were also present with Ghulam Bilal Javid. They pledged their full participation in the rally and vowed to mobilize traders for the cause. Shahid Khan Shinwari contributed 3,000 PTI flags and presented a bouquet to provincial president Junaid



Akbar Khan as a gesture of encouragement for the newly elected provincial leadership.

Ghulam Bilal Javid emphasized, "We fear neither bullets nor oppression. We will step out, and we will come out in great numbers." Congratulating PTI's newly elected provincial president Junaid Akbar Khan, he

remarked, "We need fearless leaders like you who can unite the business community."

Today, provincial president Junaid Akbar Khan, former National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser, Senator Liaqat Tarakai, provincial general secretary Ali Asghar, MNAs Shahram Tarakai, Dr. Amjad Ali,

Mehboob Shah, provincial ministers Aqib Khan, Faisal Tarakai, and MPAs Irshad Khan and Tariq Aryani visited the Swabi Anbar Interchange to oversee preparations for the upcoming jalsa.

InshaAllah, a grand jalsa will be held near Anbar Interchange in Swabi on February 8.

## Sardar Imtiaz Khan Message on Kashmir Solidarity Day

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Former Special Assistant to the Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Imtiaz Khan, in his special message on the occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day on February 5, stated that the people of Pakistan, as in previous years, will once again show unparalleled solidarity with the people of Jammu and Kashmir. From Karachi to Khyber and from Bhimber to Tattobut in Azad Kashmir, a human chain will be formed on all bridges, while rallies and gatherings will be held to express solidarity. The citizens, both inside Pakistan and abroad, will raise their voices in support of the Kashmiri people.



## Agreement between Justajou Foundation and Active Women Foundation



**Abdul Ghafoor Sarahi**

HYDERABAD: In a significant step towards social welfare, Justajou Foundation and Active Women Foundation have signed a formal agreement to collaborate for social well-being. According to the details, this agreement was finalized during a meeting held at the historic Munshi House in Hyderabad, where key representatives from both organizations were present.

The agreement was signed by Justajou Foundation's Chairperson Sadaf Warraich and Active Women Foundation's Chairperson Nazish Fatima. The event was attended by Justajou Foundation's COO, Bahzad Bashir Memon, Abdul Wahab Munshi, Abdul Ghafoor Sarahi, and other officials from Active Women Foundation.

At the end of the event, Sadaf Warraich and Nazish Fatima expressed their joy over the collaboration and reiterated their commitment that their joint efforts would play an essential role in bringing about positive change across the country.

## Anti Polio drive launched in South Waziristan Lower under tight Security



**A-K Wazir**

SOUTH WAZIRISTAN: A five-day anti-polio campaign was launched in South Waziristan Lower (SWL) on Monday, with strict security arrangements in place to ensure the safety of polio workers.

Heavy police personnel were deployed on the first day of the campaign, while District Police Officer (DPO) South Waziristan Lower Asif Bahader personally reviewed the law and order situation. According to the DPO, security personnel were stationed at various locations to protect polio workers from any potential threats.

Deputy Commissioner Nasir Khan and Additional Deputy Commissioner Kashmir Khan said that 353 mobile teams had been constituted in 36 union councils to administer polio drops to children under the age of five. The campaign aims to vaccinate 70,000 children across the district.

Officials further said Security arrangements were also intensified in Tehsil Wana, Birmal, Toi Khullah, and Shakai to ensure the smooth execution of the campaign. Deputy Commissioner Nasir Khan, DPO Asif Bahader, and Additional Deputy Commissioner Kashmir Khan appealed to parents to cooperate with polio teams and vaccinate their children.

## Rule of law and governance-driven approach termed vital for restructuring Pak-Afghan relations

**Aziz Ur Rehman Mujahid**

ISLAMABAD: Restructuring Pakistan-Afghanistan relations requires a departure from short-term policy fixes toward a comprehensive, strategic, and governance-driven approach. Since the erosion of the rule of law and the spread of divisive rhetoric fuel mistrust and instability, this approach must prioritize mutual recognition of sovereignty, the rejection of polarizing narratives, the restoration of the rule of law, public ownership in law enforcement, and institutional integrity.

The views were reflected during a discussion followed by the keynote speech of Ambassador (r) Asif Durrani, Pakistan's former special representative on Afghanistan, in a roundtable on "Geopolitical Imperatives: Redefining Pakistan-Afghanistan Relations in a Post-Taliban Era," held at the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad.

The session was addressed by Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, Brigadier (r) Said Nazir, defense analyst, Noor-ul-Ain Naseem, policy advisor, GIZ, Dr Farhat Taj, associate professor, University of Tromsø, Norway, Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, Ambassador (r) Ayaz Wazir, Dr Lutfur Rehman, an expert on Afghanistan and FATA affairs, and other academics, former officials, and policy experts.

Ambassador (r) Asif Durrani highlighted that geopolitical challenges in Pak-Afghan relations, such as the complex tribal dynamics, cross-border trade issues, and refugee management, cannot be managed through conventional diplomacy or a garrison approach.

In concluding remarks, Khalid Rahman emphasized that the blame game is counterproductive and does not resolve longstanding issues.

## Solidarity

FAISALABAD: Activists of Anjuman-e-Tajran hold rally to show solidarity with Pak Army at District Council Chowk in City.



Photo: Online

# We pay tribute to the martyrs and honor the Ghazis: Trader Leader

**Abdul Majid**

FAISALABAD: A huge rally was taken out from Chowk District Council under the leadership of Khawaja Shahid Razzak Sikka, the Patron-in-Chief of the Central Organization of Traders of Pakistan and President of Anjuman Tajran City Faisalabad, to express solidarity with the Pakistani Armed Forces. The participants of the rally carried banners with different slogans, Pakistan Zindabad, Pakistan Zindabad, Gener-

al Asim Munir Zindabad, Anjuman Tajran City Zindabad and Khawaja Shahid Razzak Sikka Zindabad. They reached Chowk Ghanta Ghar through Kachhari Bazaar and chanted slogans like "Long live Pakistan, Long live the Pakistani Armed Forces, Long live the General Asim Munir, Anjuman Tajran City Zindabad and Khawaja Shahid Razzak Sikka Zindabad". Apart from traders, people of different schools of thought were present in large numbers in the rally taken out to express solidarity with the Paki-

stani Armed Forces. General Secretary of Anjuman Tajran City Sheikh Saeed Ahmad, Deputy Secretary and President Montgomery Bazaar Mian Riaz Shahid and President Young Traders Malik Sohail Niaz Toor, General Secretary Malik Abbas Ashraf, Malik Asim Saifdar, SM Ayub, Imran Khan, Sheikh Arsalan Aslam Achi, Mian Bilal Ahmed, Malik Zulfiqar, Chaudhry Shahandim, Chaudhry Latif Sial, Sheikh Farhan, Farhat Ali Rana, Rai Nasir Naqshbandi, Zeeshan Kakezai, Malik Wahab, Younis Jamal, Malik

Shahid Majeed, Malik Zahid Majeed, Malik Imran Majeed and other business leaders, students and children participated in the rally. Slogans of Pak Army Zindabad, Army Chief Zindabad, Pakistan Zindabad continued to resound. Khawaja Shahid Razzak Sikka, Sheikh Saeed Ahmed, Mian Riaz Shahid, Malik Sohail Niaz Toor, Malik Abbas Ashraf while addressing the gathering said that the business community across the country is proud of the courage and greatness of our armed forces.

# University of Agriculture Faisalabad is considered the guardian of rural culture: VC

**Abdul Majid**

FAISALABAD: Rana Manzor Khan, Raja Rustam Khan Memorial Greyhound Derby Championship was organized at the Javelin Throwing Ground of the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad. It remained the center of attention of greyhound fans across the country. Its aim was to present the beautiful moments of rural culture to the participants. In his message, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Muhammad Sarwar Khan said that the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad is considered the guardian of rural culture and it continues to organize various events in this regard.



tural scientists. He said that as the first agricultural academy of the Indian subcontinent, it is taking all possible steps to

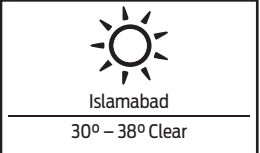
solve the problems faced by agriculture.

He said that only by bringing modern agricultural

technology to the doorstep of the farmers, the dream of economic development can be realized and food security can

also be ensured. Dr. Haroon Zaman and Dr. Shahid Ibn Zameer were also present on the occasion.





**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr	5:38 am
Zohr	12:22 pm
Asr	4:03 pm
Maghrib	5:41 pm
Isha	7:06 pm

**EMERGENCY**

Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad	1122 & 1122 & 1122
Emergency Ambulance	4451122
& Rescue Services	9266044
Motorway Police	9270601-20

**Women Police Stations**

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

CMH	561111
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
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

**COMPLAINTS**

Water Tanker Service	
E-7, F-10 & F-11	9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8	9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8	9266316
Wapda Islamabad	9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint	119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank	
Rawalpindi	0331-5022125

# PCDMA Chairman urges FBR to conduct awareness sessions on SRO 55(i)/2025

**Khurram Jaffrani**

KARACHI: The new conditions introduced by the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) through SRO 55(i)/2025, which require the filing of monthly stock statements, consumption data, complex purchase, sales, and stock reports, have become a significant challenge for traders due to a lack of awareness. These conditions are especially difficult for small-scale traders to comply with.

In this regard, Salim Valimuhammad, Chairman of the Pakistan Chemicals and

Dyes Merchants Association (PCDMA), stated that the business community supports economic stability and does not oppose the FBR's initiatives. However, it is crucial to raise awareness and understanding about any new measures or policies before their implementation so that the business community does not perceive them as a burden and can cooperate with the FBR in ensuring compliance.

"The lack of awareness regarding the complex requirements for submitting stock details under SRO 55(i)/2025

makes it difficult for small-scale businesses and traders to file monthly sales tax returns on time. This is especially true for importers, traders, and wholesalers who, due to low profit margins, cannot afford the expenses of professional accountants or tax consultants," he said.

Therefore, the FBR should recognize the challenges faced by the business community and, instead of immediate implementation of the said SRO, grant some time for compliance. Awareness sessions should also be organized to help traders meet the requirements

more easily. Salim Valimuhammad addressed the Chairman of FBR, stating that instead of abruptly implementing complex conditions, the FBR should consult with stakeholders, including the business community, and develop a feasible approach through mutual consultation to ensure easy compliance.

PCDMA Chairman was of the view that the business community and government institutions are the wheels of the economic vehicle that drives the country toward progress. Therefore, this journey



can only move forward through mutual cooperation. Otherwise, the wheels of the economic vehicle will come to a halt, and the country will be deprived of substantial revenue.

## Souvenir

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, in a meeting with a delegation from the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF)-V20, representing finance ministers from climate-vulnerable countries, at the Finance Division, on Monday.



Photo: PID

## 'Strengthening Collaboration for Regional Climate Resilience'

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The secretariat of the Climate Vulnerable Forum-Vulnerable Twenty Group of Finance Ministers (CVF-V20) and the Pakistan-China Institute (PCI) are pleased to announce the signing of a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen cooperation on climate resilience, sustainable development, and environmental governance in Pakistan and the broader region.

The MoU was Signed by Hamza Haroon Regional Director CVF-V20, witnessed by delegation head, Sara Jane Ahmed Managing Director CVF-V20 who is here for a two week-long delegating to conduct comprehensive in-country consultations and Mustafa Hyder Syed on behalf of Pakistan-China Institute (PCI).

Hamza Haroon, Regional Director South Asia of the CVF-V20, remarked, "This partnership marks a pivotal step toward building a climate-resilient future for Pakistan and the region.



We must continue forging a pathway to unlock climate finance, drive sustainable growth, achieve development and climate outcomes, ensuring that all regional Climate Prosperity Plans create real impact for countries on the

frontlines of climate change." Mustafa Hyder Syed, Executive Director of Pakistan-China Institute stated, "Addressing Pakistan's climate vulnerability requires both immediate resilience-building and long-term policy innovation.

The MoU signing ceremony took place at Marriott Hotel Islamabad, attended by key representatives from CVF-V20 and PCI, along with distinguished guests and stakeholders from the climate, policy, and development sectors.

## UAJK Conference to Set a Roadmap for Achieving SDGs in AJK

**Bureau Report**

MUZAFFARABAD: The University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK), in collaboration with the Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Helping Hand for Relief and Development, is set to host a significant National Conference tomorrow (Tuesday). According to a press release issued by UAJK's Public Relations Office, the conference, "Revitalizing AJK's SDG-2030 Roadmap: Pathways to Sustainable Development," will take place at the auditorium of King Abdullah Campus, Chattar Kallas.

The conference aims to formulate an effective and actionable framework for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The event will serve as a platform to strengthen collaboration among academia, government institutions, civil society, and local communities while promoting research, innovation, and mutual cooperation.

Highlighting the significance of the conference, Vice Chancellor of UAJK, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi, stated that as a leading academic institution, the UAJK plays a crucial role in providing research-driven solutions and fostering partnerships for sustainable development.

## MPA kicks off anti-polio drive; targets over 68k children in the bordering district

**Rafiullah Mandokhel**

ZHOB: Member of the Balochistan Assembly Fazal Qadir Mandokhel says, polio is a paralyzing disease that has no cure, but multiple doses of the anti-polio vaccine and completion of the routine vaccination for children are essential to provide them with high immunity against the crippling disease polio.



MPA Fazal Qadir Mandokhel, flanked by the health officials, inaugurated the drive by administering anti-polio drops to children here at the DC complex. Officials of the district administration and DEOC, including DHO Dr Syed Muzaffar Shah, Area Coordinator WHO Dr Ibrahim Kakar, N-STOP Officer Dr Aziz Kakar, CCO Saeedullah Lawoon, CBO Abdul Salam Mandokhel, local influencers and notables attended the inaugural ceremony.

CCO Saeedullah Lawoon says, a total of 68423 children would be administered anti-polio drops, adding that a total of 245 mobile teams have been constituted, while 29 fixed sites, 9 transit and one border points have been established in the district to administer anti-polio drops to children. He briefs the media persons.

## Virtual University of Pakistan conducted the first chapter of its 14th Convocation



**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Virtual University of Pakistan (VUP) successfully conducted the first chapter of its 14th Convocation in Peshawar today, celebrating the academic achievements of its graduating students in a grand ceremony.

The event commenced with an academic procession led by Prof. Dr. Ather Azim Khan, Registrar of VUP, reflecting the enthusiasm and pride of the occasion.

The ceremony was honored by the presence of Prof. Dr. Muhammad Inayatullah Khan, Vice Chancellor of UET Taxila, as the Chief Guest, along with Prof. Dr. Usman, Vice Chancellor of IMS, who attended as the Guest of Honor. Both dignitaries praised the Virtual University for its commitment to digital education and congratulated the graduates on their achievements.

Additionally, 79 Gold Medals and 152 Merit Certificates will be awarded to outstanding students of the 14th Convocation. At the Peshawar ceremony, 2 Gold Medals and 1 Merit Certificate were presented to distinction holders.

Addressing the graduates, Prof. Dr. Arshad Saleem Bhatti, Rector VUP, extended his heartfelt congratulations to the students and their families. He encouraged them to continue striving for excellence and wished them success in their future endeavors.

The Virtual University of Pakistan remains dedicated to its mission of providing accessible, high-quality education, empowering students with the knowledge and skills needed to excel in their careers.

## IHC acquits accused in drugs smuggling case

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday terminated the imprisonment sentence of an accused in drugs smuggling case and ordered to release him.

A division bench comprising Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani and Sardar Ijaz Ishaq Khan heard the appeal of accused Waseem Anwar against his conviction.

At the outset of hearing, petitioner's lawyer appeared before the court and contended that his client is innocent, adding that a baseless case was made against him but real culprits were set free.

The bench earlier reserved the verdict and later terminated the sentence of the accused while announcing the decision.

It may be mentioned here that Anti-Narcotics Control Rawalpindi had registered a case against the accused regarding smuggling of 27,600 kilogram opium and 176,400kg hashish.

## AI in Clinical Practice: Revolutionizing Healthcare at 26th NHSRS

**City Desk**

KARACHI: Experts from around the world gathered at the 26th National Health Sciences Research Symposium (NHSRS) at Aga Khan University (AKU) to discuss the rapidly evolving role of artificial intelligence (AI) in clinical practice. Over two days of keynotes, plenary talks, and pre-symposium workshops, leaders in medicine and technology explored how AI is revolutionizing healthcare delivery, education, and patient care.

Dr. Adil Haider, Dean of AKU's Medical College, opened the symposium by emphasizing the urgent need to adapt to the technological advancements reshaping healthcare.

Professor Mayur Narayan, who leads the trauma department at AiACCESS, stressed the importance of addressing access disparities as AI technology advances in the surgical field.



plenary talks from experts such as Dr. Patricia Geli, co-founder and COO of C10 Labs, and Dr. Yasar Ayaz, a professor at NUST and Head of robotics and machine engineering.

Additional plenary talks were delivered by Mr. Shahid Azim, co-founder and CEO of Deep Tech Entrepreneur, who spoke on the intersection of technology and healthcare delivery, and Mr. Arhum Ishtiaq, cofounder of Connecthear, who discussed how AI

can be used to develop hearing aids that significantly improve the quality of life for people with hearing impairments. His innovative work was recognized with the TRT World Citizen Award 2025.



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# Trump's Adventures Imperil the U. S. and the World

President Trump's most important and election-winning promises was to reduce inflation, a concern that has been hitting American households hard, especially blue-collar working families. He outlined a two-pronged approach to achieving this: first, by expanding domestic oil drilling to lower energy costs and, second, by generating revenue through tariffs on imports. According to Trump, tapping into America's vast oil reserves would bring down fuel prices, which in turn would help control inflation and stabilize the economy. However, instead of prioritizing the necessary investment, technological infrastructure, and workforce needed to ramp up domestic oil production, he implemented his vision in reverse.

Rather than first developing oil wells, refining capacity, and supply chain mechanisms to ensure a steady, affordable domestic energy supply, Trump swiftly imposed tariffs on imports from Canada, Mexico, China and many other countries. Meanwhile, counter-tariffs imposed by Mexico, Canada, and China impact \$323.23 billion in U.S. exports to Mexico, \$291 billion to Canada, and \$148 billion to China. U.S. exports to Mexico include electrical and electronic equipment, machinery, nuclear reactors, mineral fuels and oils (\$45.07 billion), vehicles (\$28.36 billion), and plastics (\$21.2 billion). Exports to Canada primarily consist of automobiles, energy products, machinery, and agricultural goods, while shipments to China are largely agriculture, semiconductors, and industrial machinery. These retaliatory tariffs threaten to reduce U.S. export competitiveness, further straining industries already impacted by rising costs.

The increased cost of all imports will exacerbate the production costs for domestic manufacturers and retailers. Concurrently, the retaliatory tariffs will make American goods less competitive abroad, reducing demand and hurting industries like agriculture, automotive, and manufacturing.

Consequently, the Consumer Price Index (CPI), will rise pushing up the prices of fruits, vegetables, dairy, and meat, directly affecting household budgets. As inflation will rise, real wages will lose value, meaning that even if incomes remain the same, purchasing power will decrease, forcing American families to spend more on essential goods and services while cutting back on discretionary spending. This would create a ripple effect on the broader economy, reducing consumer demand and slowing business growth.

To counter inflation, the Federal Reserve is expected to raise interest rates triggering economic stagnation or even a recession. Higher interest rates will make business loans, mortgages, and personal credit more expensive, leading to reduced investments and spending leading to layoffs and reduced hiring across multiple sectors. Moreover, as borrowing costs will rise, homeownership and auto purchases could decline, further affecting real estate and consumer goods markets leading to prolonging economic distress, squeezing household budgets, and reducing overall economic growth.

Countries like Canada and Mexico are hurt not just by the imposition of tariffs but even more by what they perceive as

a deep sense of betrayal by the United States. For decades, these nations have been reduced to near-vassal states, fully supporting U.S. policies and aligning themselves with American geopolitical adventures, even in conflicts where they had no direct role or stake.

Both Canada and Mexico stood by the U.S. in its wars and interventions, including the war against Russia, the invasions of Iraq and Libya, military actions in Yemen, Iran, and Afghanistan, and the broader War on Terror. They committed soldiers, resources, diplomatic backing, and moral support without questioning U.S. motives, often bearing the consequences of American foreign policy missteps.

Despite the risks and blowback, they remained steadfast allies, following Washington's lead without hesitation. They were among the first to extend sincere aid during natural disasters, including the recent California wildfires, proving their loyalty and goodwill time and again. Yet, instead of appreciation, they now find themselves targeted by heavy tariffs, straining relations and leaving them feeling abandoned by the very country they stood by through thick and thin.

The unpredictability of President Trump is beginning to take its toll across the continent, creating a sense of uncertainty and unease. It seems as if the entire world has been caught in a whirlwind, with global powers struggling to anticipate his next move. Europe is growing increasingly nervous over Trump's rhetoric about occupying Greenland and his

potential withdrawal or reduction of U.S. commitments to NATO, which could jeopardize the security of the entire region.

In the Middle East, Trump's controversial proposal to relocate the entire Palestinian population to Jordan and Egypt has ignited a geopolitical storm, further destabilizing an already volatile region. Meanwhile, his plans to assert U.S. control over the Panama Canal have sent shockwaves through Latin America, escalating tensions in an already turbulent political landscape. Additionally, his aggressive deportation of undocumented immigrants has triggered a human rights crisis, drawing widespread condemnation both domestically and internationally. Perhaps most alarming is his suggestion to annex Canada as the 51st state of the United States, a move that has sparked deep anxiety across the American continent and raised serious diplomatic concerns.

Historically, such expansionist ambitions have been associated with figures like Genghis Khan, the Crusaders, Nazi Germany, and the Soviet Union, where large-scale movements aimed to impose their will on the rest of the world. However, Trump's success or failure will ultimately hinge on his domestic economic performance. If his adventurous foreign policies generate nationalistic support, they may boost his popularity among his base. However, if he fails to curb inflation and stabilize the U.S. economy in the short term, he may face an early downfall, with economic distress overshadowing his global ambitions.

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Analysis

Qamar Bashir

## Chinese New Year celebrations in Pakistan bring

As the world welcomed the Year of the Snake on January 29, the Confucius Institute at the University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF), Pakistan, hosted a grand Spring Festival celebration, drawing over 200 faculty members, students, and guests from diverse backgrounds.

The festive occasion, held on the first day of the Chinese New Year, was a vibrant tapestry of colors, traditions and cultures, celebrating the rich heritage and diversity of both China and Pakistan.

The Spring Festival, also known as Chinese New Year, is a time of reunions, feasting and fireworks, marking the turn of the lunar calendar. This year's celebration at UAF was no exception, with a colorful parade of 12 international students from nine countries, including Sri Lanka, Syria, Sierra Leone, Afghanistan, Indonesia, Togo, Benin, Somalia, and Malaysia, adding a unique flavor to the festivities. Carrying their national flags and dressed in vibrant ethnic attire, these students showcased the diversity and unity of the global community, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Monday.

On the occasion, the Confucius Institute learners showcased the diversity of Chinese culture through their performances of various Chinese folk songs, filling the air with melodies that resonated with the spirit of the season. Meanwhile, Pakistani students captivated the audience with dances that vividly depicted the rich cultural heritage of their country, showcasing the vibrant diversity of Pakistani arts and traditions.

Adding a humorous twist to the festivities, Confucius Institute students presented a short play titled "Lost in Translation", which highlighted the challenges posed by language barriers in communication and emphasized the importance of understanding different languages and cultures. The play resonated with the audience, sparking laughter and thought-provoking discussions on the role of language in fostering global understanding and cooperation.

The event then moved to a calligraphy demonstration, where students and faculty members alike had the opportunity to showcase their skills in writing Chinese Spring Festival couplets.

Vice Chancellor of the University Prof. Dr. Muhammad Sarwar Khan, and other senior officials also participated in the demonstration, adding their own unique touches to the festive decorations.

Chinese students from UAF performed a Pakistani song, demonstrating the strong cultural ties between the two nations. Prof. Dr. Khan, in his address, highlighted the significance of the event. "This celebration is not merely about promoting a language or culture; it has profound implications for the future development of Pakistani students," he said. "China and Pakistan have a strong foundation of cooperation in economic development, and we aspire to establish even closer ties in terms of cultural diversity."

To further enhance the festive mood, the event culminated with a delightful Chinese cuisine dinner and a breathtaking fireworks display. The dinner offered a taste of China's culinary richness, while the fireworks lit up the night sky, symbolizing the bright future of cultural exchange between China and Pakistan.



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmii. (Courtesy of Ashfaq Al-Azmat)

## Peace by war

Rutger Bregman, a Dutch historian, is saying, "Human beings are cooperative and kind by nature, as were our hunter-gatherer ancestors. However, our leaders (kings, generals, and politicians) can build upon their suspicions of the out-group to motivate them to wage war".

History bears witness to this cognizant fact that the human mind is embossed

to maintain peace by war, while at the same time, it is pretty sure that war is the only source that tarnished the reputation of peace. Strikingly, it would be pertinent to remind the readers about the preamble of UNESCO's charter, "Wars begin in the minds of men. And it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be built". It seems like we first provoke the sentiments of war and then defend ourselves for peace. The only reason we fight for is the self-interest of every state as per their foreign policy. No one fights for the collective interest of humanity, because that is not in the domain of their interest. Just have a look at America's foreign policy. On one side, they proclaim that we want peace in the world, and on the other side, she is a ground provider and alliance of every international conflict and largely contributes to the Cold Wars, like the war in Afghanistan, which became a ground for international powers to serve their interests on, but unfortunately, they left with empty hands.

From all perspectives, it is quite unambiguous that war is not the way to resolve

conflicts or retaliate to meet your grievances. It will rather complicate the de facto, which will lead to a point of no return, as in WWI and WWII, where resettlement and peaceful dialogue were words unknown to opponents.

The most perturbing is that according to the United Nations International School, humans have been at peace for 268 years out of the past 3,400 years, which is only 8% of recorded history. However, historians say that there have been no periods of history without war. Growing disenchantment is that if history is made by wars, then what can we predict about the future? The future might be more encircled by wars than the past. The only difference will be like "old wine in a new bottle." In three thousand years of history, China has spent at least eleven centuries at war. The Roman Empire was in conflict during at least 50 percent of its lifetime. Since 1776, the United States has spent over one hundred years at war. The dream of peace has been universal in the history of humanity.

Broadly speaking, it is presumed that war is an inescapable terminology. Then it pops into mind what then makes a difference between the uncivilized of the past and the civilized of the day. That would simply mean that the clock is ticking the same as before. Inasmuch, the world is more civilized and educated than before. So, it must be a one-size-fits-all approach to prove through actions and policies to pacify the region.

In A Political History of the World, Jonathan Holslag has produced a

sweeping history of the world, from the Iron Age to the present, that investigates the causes of conflict between empires, nations, and peoples and the attempts at diplomacy and cosmopolitanism. A bird's-eye view of three thousand years of history, the book illuminates the forces shaping world politics from Ancient Egypt to the Han Dynasty, the Pax Romana to the rise of Islam, and the Peace of Westphalia to the creation of the United Nations.

At the risk of displeasing innocent ears, that famed philosopher Bertrand Russell rightly noted that war does not determine "who is right, but who is left". Nations have historically waged wars to show their dominance and to follow the strategy of expansionism and nationalism. War does not lead any nation to glory. That is why great leaders are the ones who end a war and promote peace. Peace agreements, like the Treaty of Hudaibiya, were put forward to avoid conflicts and wars, and had it not been for such pacts, the world would have been a different place today.

Similarly, the Holy Quran enjoins that if they (enemies) are inclined towards peace on just terms, the overture should be accepted: "If they incline to peace, incline you as well to it, and trust in Allah. Surely, He is All-Hearing, All-Knowing". Therein, it is pertinent to understand that the world doesn't need any more wars to bear. What needs to be ensured is peace, inasmuch as peace is a word unknown to the people of Palestine, Ukraine, Afghanistan, and many more.

At the end, I am convinced that wars can't lead us towards peace. What can ensure peace is mutual understanding, acceptance, table talks, and, more importantly, mutual interest for the sake of humanity.

## How Corruption is Hindering Pakistan's Financial Stability

Pakistan, a country rich in natural resources and human potential, has long struggled to achieve financial stability. Despite numerous economic reforms and international aid programs, the nation remains trapped in a cycle of debt, inflation, and slow growth. One of the biggest reasons behind this ongoing crisis is corruption, which has deeply infiltrated every level of governance, from politics and bureaucracy to business and law enforcement. Corruption weakens institutions, discourages investment, and diverts public resources away from essential sectors like education, healthcare, and infrastructure. As a result, ordinary citizens bear the burden of economic instability, while a privileged few continue to enrich themselves at the expense of national development.

To understand how corruption is holding Pakistan back, it is essential to examine its impact on public funds, investment opportunities, bureaucratic inefficiencies, and political instability. By addressing these issues, Pakistan can move toward a more transparent and prosperous future.

One of the primary ways corruption destabilizes Pakistan's economy is through the mismanagement of public funds. Large portions of tax revenue and international aid are either misused or stolen. Instead of being invested in infrastructure, education, and healthcare, this money is funneled into private bank accounts of politicians, bureaucrats, and influential elites.

Additionally, many civil servants engage in corruption while publicly advocating for honesty and good governance, creating a dangerous cycle of hypocrisy and social instability. This weakens public trust in institutions and compromises financial security for the majority. Corruption also discourages the growth of small enterprises and skilled labor, which form the backbone of any economy. When economic opportunities are stifled by corruption, skilled workers and entrepreneurs either struggle to succeed or seek better opportunities abroad, further damaging Pakistan's economy.

The military plays a dominant role in Pakistan's economy, controlling vast business empires, from real estate to manufacturing. While the military is essential for national security,

its excessive involvement in business creates unfair advantages and monopolies that discourage private-sector growth. Similarly, bureaucratic corruption creates unnecessary obstacles for businesses and individuals. Obtaining business licenses, permits, or even basic services often requires paying bribes. This red tape increases the cost of doing business and drives many entrepreneurs into the informal economy, where regulation and taxation are easily avoided.

To achieve financial stability, Pakistan must take bold steps to eliminate corruption. Strengthening anti-corruption institutions such as the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and ensuring their independence is crucial. Transparency in government spending through e-governance can help track public funds in real-time. Reducing cash transactions and promoting digital payments can minimize bribery and illegal financial activities. Whistleblowers should be protected and incentivized to expose corruption, while public awareness campaigns should educate citizens on its long-term consequences.

In the modern era, digital advancements should be utilized to overhaul the financial system. Government financial transactions should be managed digitally, with real-time accountability at every stage. While the public may not yet be fully equipped to transition to digital systems, the public sector, where vast amounts of taxpayer money are allocated, must be digitized. Additionally, reducing the discretionary power of public servants and implementing standardized procedures at every level of governance can help curb corruption.

Corruption is a cancer that has deeply affected Pakistan's economy, preventing it from achieving long-term stability. By allowing corruption to flourish, Pakistan continues to lose billions in tax revenue, investment opportunities, and public trust. Unless decisive action is taken, the country will remain trapped in a cycle of financial instability, political chaos, and social inequality. A corruption-free Pakistan is not just a dream—it is a necessity for economic prosperity and a better future for its people.

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Analysis

M Azam Tariq



Analysis

Jalal uddin Kakar



# Deepening cooperation with Malaysia is one of the important priorities of Uzbekistan's foreign policy in the Asian direction



**Analysis**  
**Madina Aripova**

Strengthening friendly relations and developing a multifaceted partnership with Malaysia is one of the important priorities of Uzbekistan's foreign policy in Asian direction.

This year marks the 33rd anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our countries. Over this period, Uzbek-Malaysian relations have been developing consistently and fruitfully, based on the principles of friendship, equality, mutual support, respect and consideration of each other's interests.

The traditional close ties of friendship between the Uzbek and Malaysian peoples are based on common religion, similarity of customs and cultural values.

The main goals and objectives of the strategic development and modernization programs «Uzbekistan-2030» and «Malaysia MADANI» implemented by our countries also demonstrate similarity and are aimed at ensuring sustainable economic growth and improving the quality of life and well-being of the population.

High-level visits and established mechanisms of interstate dialog have played an important role in promoting and deepening bilateral interaction.

To date, six high-level visits have been conducted. In 2020, «friendship groups» were established between the parliaments of the two countries, which significantly intensified inter-parliamentary dialogue. Consequently, in April 2023, Johari bin Abdul, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Malaysian Parliament, visited Uzbekistan. In June 2024, Nur Jazlan Mohamed, the Deputy President of the Senate of the Parliament of Malaysia visited our country. In return, a parliamentary delegation led by Speaker of the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis Nuriddin Ismoilov paid a visit to Malaysia in July 2024.

Political consultations between the foreign ministries of the two countries are held regularly, where the sides discuss current issues on the bilateral agenda. Six rounds of political consultations have taken place thus far. Notably, delegations led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan visited Malaysia in February and July of 2024.

A solid legal framework has been established between the two countries, consisting of 25 intergovernmental and other documents.

Furthermore, Tashkent and Kuala Lumpur closely coordinate within the framework of regional and interna-

tional organizations such as the UN, CICA, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and the Non-Aligned Movement, mutually supporting each other's initiatives and demonstrating a convergence of positions on the most pressing global and regional issues.

It is important to note that a more active dynamic in Uzbek-Malaysian relations has been observed in recent years. Thanks to the active and trusting political dialogue between the leaders of the two countries—President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Prime Minister of Malaysia Anwar Ibrahim, Uzbek-Malaysian cooperation is now filled with new content and reaching a higher level.

Undoubtedly, Anwar Ibrahim's visit to Uzbekistan in May 2024 gave a significant impetus to bilateral interaction. As a result of this visit, important agreements were reached and new directions were outlined for further expanding cooperation between the countries.

In particular, a Joint Statement on Deepening Multifaceted Cooperation was signed, which reaffirmed the commitment to further strengthening of political dialog, inter-parliamentary ties, trade and investment, cultural and humanitarian interaction. The leaders emphasized the need to elevate bilateral relations to the level of a comprehensive partnership in the near future.

Following the Uzbek-Malaysian Business Forum held in Samarkand as part of the visit, a solid package of 19 investment agreements worth over \$3 billion was signed.

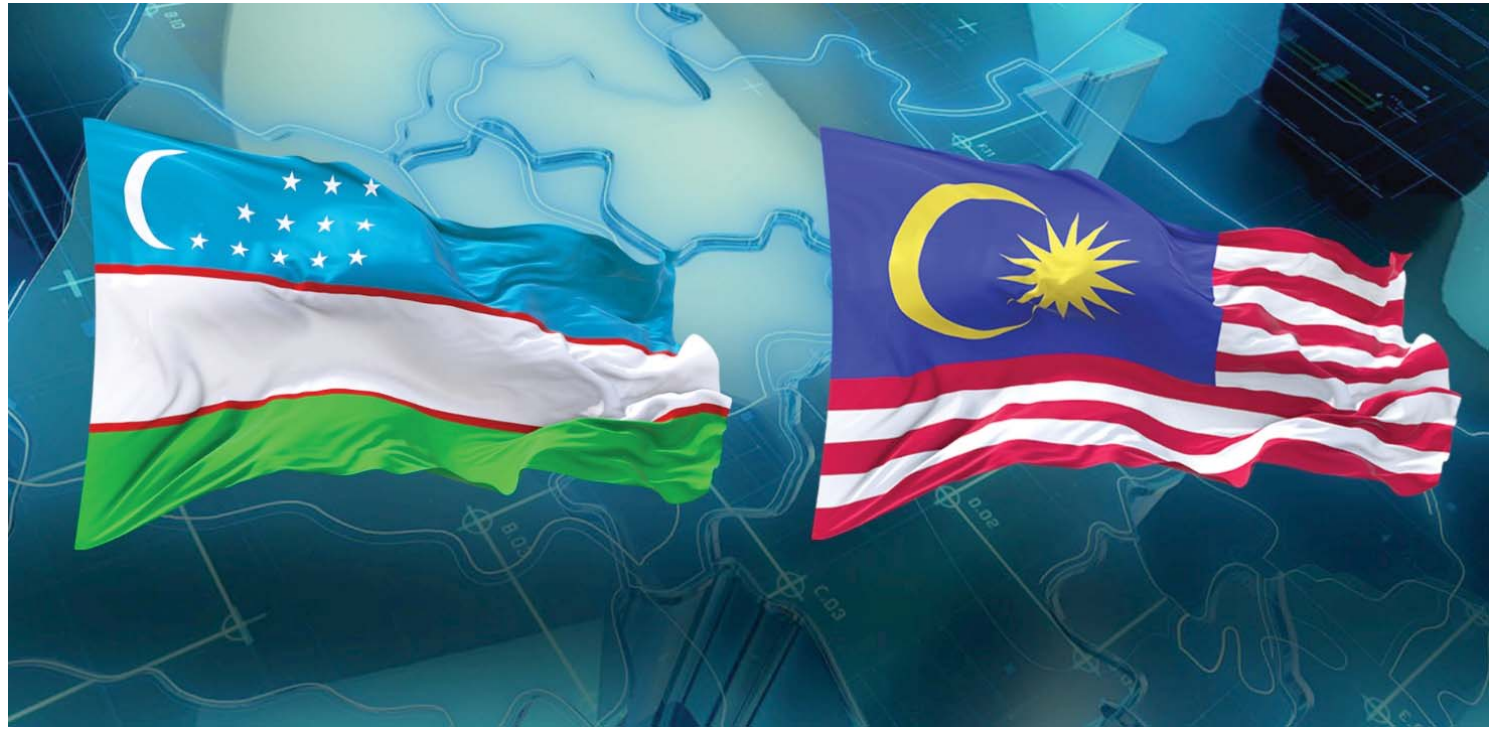
In this context, it is important to emphasize that in recent years there has been a steady growth in bilateral trade turnover between the countries, which has increased 2.5 times since 2020. The number of joint ventures with Malaysian capital in Uzbekistan has reached 37.

During the visit, in order to further intensify trade and economic cooperation, it was decided to transform the existing bilateral Trade Committee into an Intergovernmental Commission. Its first meeting was successfully held in Kuala Lumpur in May 2024.

In addition, the parties agreed to create a special Uzbek-Malaysian industrial zone to promote high-tech projects. Undoubtedly, its creation will significantly deepen industrial cooperation between the countries and lay the foundation for the formation of joint productions with high added value.

In this context, an important direction of industrial cooperation could be the production of microelectronics and semiconductors. As it is known, Malaysia has achieved high results in the development of the semiconductor industry, which accounts for 25% of the country's GDP. It ranks 6th in the world in semiconductor exports and accounts for 13% of the global market for testing and assembling microchips.

In the near future, Malaysia has set a goal of becoming a leading «chip design powerhouse» and increasing its share of the global semiconductor trade from the current 7% to 14% by



2029. To achieve this goal, a National Semiconductor Development Strategy was adopted in 2024, with plans to invest about \$107 billion in its implementation.

Uzbekistan, which has a significant resource potential of rare earth metals, also aims to actively develop the production of semiconductors and microelectronic products, which are becoming increasingly in demand on the global market. In this regard, our country is interested in establishing cooperation with Malaysia to develop the semiconductor industry and launch joint startup projects in this area.

Another significant direction of industrial cooperation could be pharmaceuticals. Malaysia is one of the leaders in the production of pharmaceutical products. In 2024, the profit of its pharmaceutical industry amounted to more than \$1.7 billion.

Uzbekistan also actively supports the development of the pharmaceutical industry and has abundant natural resources that can be used for the production of medicines. In this regard, there is a great potential for creating joint ventures for the production of pharmaceuticals, as well as conducting joint scientific research in the field of pharmacology.

An important area of Uzbek-Malaysian cooperation is also the «halal» industry. This sphere is of particular interest to Uzbekistan taking into account the current trends of its growth on a global scale. In recent years, the global «halal» market has been growing rapidly and is now valued at \$2.6 trillion. According to forecasts, by 2030 it will reach \$5 trillion.

In turn, Malaysia is among the largest exporters of «halal» products and is recognized as a world leader in «halal» certification, including food, cosmetics, and pharmaceuticals. Today, exports of these products in Malaysia account for 17.3% of the country's total exports.

The «halal» industry is regu-

lated by the Department of Islamic Development of Malaysia, known as JAKIM, which serves as the competent authority being responsible for halal certification in Malaysia. Its certificate is recognized in 49 countries around the world, which indicates a high level of confidence in this certificate and its international recognition.

It should be noted that since 2018, the Department of Islamic Development of Malaysia and the Agency «Ustandart» started cooperation on the introduction of «halal» certification system in Uzbekistan. Further intensification of cooperation in this direction will significantly increase the competitiveness of Uzbek goods in the markets of Muslim countries and will play an important role on the way of Uzbekistan's integration into the global supply chains of «halal» products.

Islamic banking may become another key area of bilateral cooperation. Today, the Islamic banking system is increasingly becoming an important part of the global financial sector. According to the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector, total Islamic banking and financial assets worldwide exceed \$4.5 trillion. According to forecasts by the international market research company «Mordor Intelligence», the compound annual growth rate in the Islamic finance market will be more than 10% in 2024-2029.

To date, Malaysia is recognized as an international center of Islamic finance. It was one of the first to introduce laws on Islamic banking and Islamic insurance. The size of the Islamic interbank money market is about one-third of the total market, and Shariah-compliant securities account for 81% of listed stocks. In addition, Malaysia has a well-developed training system in the field of Islamic finance. The International Center for Education in Islamic Finance (INCEIF) is the leading institution in this direction. In this regard, Uzbekistan is interested in intensifying

cooperation with the Malaysian side on the development of Islamic banking in our country, as well as in training specialists in this sphere.

Uzbekistan and Malaysia attach particular importance to the expansion of cultural and humanitarian ties, which contribute to deepening mutual understanding and enrichment of the cultures of the two peoples.

Every year, cooperation in tourism, health care and sports is expanding, educational and academic exchanges are being strengthening. This facilitated by regular joint conferences, symposia, exhibitions, tourism fairs, culture and cinema days, concerts and festivals.

The achieved level of bilateral cooperation in the sphere of education and personnel training deserves special attention. For example, within the framework of the Malaysian Government's Technical Cooperation Program, more than 850 specialists from Uzbek ministries and agencies have upgraded their qualifications at various short-term courses and seminars in Malaysia. Today, about 500 Uzbek students are studying at prestigious Malaysian universities.

In 2021, a branch of Malaysia's «Binary» International University was opened in Urgench, which trains specialists in management, information technology and entrepreneurship. At the same time, our country is interested in further expansion of cooperation with leading universities in Malaysia in such areas as green energy, artificial intelligence, creative economy, Islamic banking, «halal» industry and others.

There is huge potential for cooperation in the tourism sector. Both citizens of Malaysia and Uzbekistan have a 30-day visa-free regime. Thanks to this, in recent years there has been a steady growth in the number of Malaysian tourists visiting Uzbekistan. In 2023 their number was 4396 people, then by the end of 2024 their number

reached 8854 people.

On the territory of our republic there is a large number of unique architectural monuments, ancient mosques and madrasahs, tombs and burial places of great Islamic theologians, scientists such as Imam al-Bukhari, Imam at-Termezi, Imam Moturidi, Bahauddin Naqshbandi and others, which arouse great interest among Muslims from all over the world.

It must be acknowledged that thanks to the measures taken to develop ziyorat tourism in our republic, today Uzbekistan is becoming one of the largest centers of pilgrimage in the Islamic world. This evidenced by the growth of our country's position in various global ratings. Thus, in the Global Muslim Travel Index (GMTI-2023), Uzbekistan took 13th place among 140 countries in the direction of international pilgrimage tourism. At the Halal in Travel Awards 2023, Khiva was awarded as «Islamic Destination of the Year».

It is noteworthy that in 2024 Uzbekistan was honored with a prestigious award by Malaysia. Our country was recognized in the nomination «Best Asian Travel Destination with Rich Architectural Heritage». In this regard, it is important for the countries to expand cooperation on the creation of joint tours with a focus on the development of ziyorat tourism in the cities of Bukhara, Samarkand, Tashkent, Khiva, where historical Islamic monuments are concentrated.

In general, it can be stated with confidence that Uzbekistan and Malaysia are long-term partners whose interests coincide in most areas of interaction. A solid foundation has been laid in our relations for the further development of bilateral cooperation for the benefit of the peoples of the two states.

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## Pakistan has always advocated for the freedom of the Kashmiris: Mehr-un-Nisa

**Abdul Majeed Tahir**

RAWALPINDI: Secretary General of the Muslim Conference and former Deputy Speaker, Ms. Mehr-un-Nisa, has said that the Pakistani people's solidarity with the Kashmiri people on February 5 will prove to be a strength in the freedom struggle of the Kashmiri people.

Pakistan has always advocated for the freedom of the Kashmiris and has played an excellent role at the international level.

Ms. Mehran-e-Nissa said that once again, the people of Pakistan and the government of Jammu and Kashmir are expressing solidarity with the



oppressed and oppressed people of Jammu and Kashmir.

She said that the state is conveying this message to the world through protests and processions around the world that the Kashmiri people do not accept India's illegal occupation under any circumstances and will continue to struggle for their freedom.

India has deployed one million armed terrorist forces to suppress our freedom movement and has martyred, injured and displaced millions of Kashmiris over the past seventy-five years and this trend is continuing.

She said that the people of the state should show solidarity by participating fully in tomorrow's protests.

## Sardar Atiq expressed grief over the martyrdom of two soldiers including a major of Pakistan Army

**Abdul Majeed Tahir**

MUZAFFARABAD: Former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir and President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan expressed grief over the martyrdom of two soldiers including a Pak Army Major in an operation by security forces in North Waziristan and said that the security forces are determined to eradicate terrorism from the country, the sacrifices of brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve. Terrorists are enemies of the country and nation and are making a heinous attempt to spread unrest to fulfill their nefarious objectives. Eradicating terrorism is a global challenge, the world needs a common strategy to deal with this scourge. The entire nation



is united to eradicate terrorism from the country, the nation stands by the security forces to wipe out terrorism. The Pakistan Army has made unforgettable sacrifices to protect every corner of the country. Securing the stability of Pakistan from the conspiracies of external enemies is the fruit of the day-to-day work of security institutions and law enforcement agencies. History will always write the glorious

role of the Pakistan Army in the defense of the country in golden and bright words. The credit for the stability that has been achieved in terms of the law and order situation in Pakistan goes to our brave armed forces. In this regard, the sacrifices of the Pakistan Army in particular are unforgettable, whose officers and soldiers have sacrificed their lives to protect this homeland. The Pakistan Army not only faced the terrorists within the country but also fought the machinations of such elements outside the country who were trying to destabilize Pakistan. He said that the great sacrifices of the martyrs for the protection, security and defense of the motherland are unprecedented role. We pay tribute to the martyrs, ghazis and the brave and courageous Pakistanis he elugised.

## First Session held at Academy of Literature, Campbell Pur Attock

**Raza Naqvi**

ATTOCK: First Critical Session held at Academy of Literature, Campbellpur Attock—The first critical session under the auspices of the Academy of Literature, Campbellpur was held on January 2, 2025 (Sunday) at 2:00 PM at the Municipal Committee Attock office, following the special interest,

efforts, and official notification of Administrator Municipal Committee Attock, Anil Saeed, and Deputy Commissioner Attock, Rao Atif Raza.

The session was presided over by renowned poet, writer, and researcher Professor Syed Nusrat Bukhari, while Ahmad Ali Saqib Advocate was the chief guest. During the session, Aqeel Malik presented his creative work, a

“conceptual dialogue between Mir Taqi Mir and Sauda,” for critique, which was discussed in detail by the attendees. Among those who expressed their views were Professor Syed Nusrat Bukhari, Shahzaib Saqib Advocate, Tahir Aseer, Sajjad Hussain Sajid, Professor Usman Siddiqui, Rana Afsar Ali Khan, Shakir Qadri, Munees Raza, Saqlain Abbas, and

Raja Mukhtar Ahmad Saghrovi. The attendees not only analyzed the dialogue but also explored its various aspects through critical and research-based discussions.

Prominent participants in the session included Professor Muhammad Usman Siddiqui, Owais Mabas, Muhammad Tauseef Alvi, Mian Mudassir Ahmad, Nadeem

Jafar Khan, Sajjad Hussain Sajid, Saqlain Anjum, Usman Nazir, Shuja Akhtar, Dr. Muhammad Tauqeer Ahmad, Raja Mukhtar Ahmad Saghrovi, Iqbal Zargash, Muhammad Tahir, Sahira Naqvi Sahara, Ahmad Ali Saqib, Syed Munees Raza, Tahir Aseer, Syed Nusrat Bukhari, Majid Khan, Rana Afsar Ali Khan, Rana Sharjeel Ashraf, Syed Shakir Qadri,

Raja Zahid Hussain, and Muhammad Hamza, along with many other writers and poets.

This session proved to be a significant literary and academic gathering under the platform of the Academy of Literature, Campbellpur, where intellectuals reaffirmed their commitment to the promotion of critique and research.



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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
112,745.01	114,255.72	
Day's High	Day's Low	
114,620.79	112,681.33	
Index Value	Change	
13,070,340,984	-1510.71	
Percentage	Time	
-1.32%	3 Feb, 2025 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
8,574.51	-99.45	
Percentage	Time	
-1.15%	3 Feb, 4:35 pm GMT	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
44,473.32	-71.34	
Percentage	Time	
-0.16%	3 Feb, 11:33 am GMT-5	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
38,520.09	-1,052.40	
Percentage	Time	
-2.66%	3 Feb, 3:45 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	172.75	175.00
Bahrain Dinar	739.10	747.10
Canadian Dollar	191.60	194.00
China Yuan	37.59	37.99
Danish Krone	38.31	38.71
Euro	286.25	289.00
Hong Kong Dollar	35.43	35.78
Indian Rupee	3.14	3.23
Japanese Yen	1.81	1.87
Kuwaiti Dinar	899.20	908.70
Malaysian Ringgit	63.04	63.64
New Zealand \$	155.18	157.18
Norwegians Krone	24.46	24.76
Omani Riyal	723.40	731.90
Qatari Riyal	75.91	76.61
Saudi Riyal	74.20	74.75
Singapore Dollar	205	207.00
Swedish Korona	25.01	25.31
Swiss Franc	304.14	306.89
Thai Bhat	8.09	8.24
U.A.E Dirham	75.85	76.50
UK Pound Sterling	344.00	347.5
US Dollar	279.60	281.10

# Kashmir Solidarity Day commemorated at Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce

**Spokesman Report**

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) organized a ceremony to mark Kashmir Solidarity Day, reaffirming support for the people of Kashmir and their struggle for self-determination. The event also featured a documentary on Kashmir's history and a cultural tableau performed by children dressed in traditional Kashmiri attire, symbolizing the region's rich heritage and the spirit of its people.

The ceremony commenced with the national anthems of Pakistan and Azad Kashmir, setting a tone of unity and patriotism. In his welcome address, RCCI President Usman Shaukat emphasized the purpose of observing Kashmir Solidarity Day.

Addressing the gathering, Sardar Masood Khan highlighted the sacrifices made by the Kashmiri people, stating, "Over 500,000 lives have been lost in the struggle. Our efforts must continue until the world listens and acknowledges our cause."

Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan reiterated that "Kashmir is the jugular vein of Pakistan."



Rawalpindi: RCCI President Usman Shaukat along with Sardar Masood Khan (Former AJK President) presenting a memento to Mashaal Hussein Maluck on the eve of Kashmir Solidarity Day at RCCI.

He also highlighted the plight of Kashmiri political prisoner Dr. Muhammad Qasim

Fakto, incarcerated for 29 years, describing him as the "Mandela of South Asia."

Mishal Malik, addressing the audience, condemned the silence of human rights organizations over the atrocities in Kashmir. She detailed the harsh conditions faced by Kashmiri leaders in Indian jails, subjected to third-degree torture. "The RSS has completely hijacked India. The Modi government seeks the death penalty for my husband, Yasin Malik, who remains imprisoned because he resists their oppressive agenda," she said.

Abdullah Gul described Pakistan as "a symbol of hope," while Hurriyat leader Altaf Hussain Wani urged the global community to see beyond Indian propaganda.

Group Leader Sohail Altaf, Senior Vice President Khalid Farooq Qazi, Vice President Fahad Barlas, former presidents, executive committee members, women members and a large number of chamber members attended the ceremony.

Event Chairperson Falak Anjum expressed gratitude to the RCCI leadership, senior members, and the entire organizing team for their support in making the event successful.

## Development

The lower court of Islamabad on Monday adjourned the hearing for a case related to the Azadi March, filed against the founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and others, due to the leave of senior civil judge.



## FPCCI supports the proposed tax incentives for the real estate sector

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, has appreciated the proposed tax measures to facilitate investments into real estate and construction sectors by the general public as 4 percent tax rate on sale and purchase of property has been a major obstacle in the development and commercial activities.

Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh added that the real estate sector has been stagnant for the past few years; and, the government should present a comprehensive plan for its revival and rejuvenation – so that, buying houses becomes



affordable and viable for the masses.

President FPCCI stressed that the government should move towards vertical development and high-rise buildings to provide decent housing to the masses with decent civic amenities in an efficient time-frame.

## PTCL and MTronic set to redefine lifestyles by automating homes with cutting-edge IoT solutions

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Country's leading telecom and ICT services provider, Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL), and smart home solutions provider, MTronic have entered into a strategic partnership to revolutionize living through cutting-edge Internet of Things (IoT) solutions. The collaboration aims to redefine lifestyles with a range of affordable, seamless, and user-friendly home technologies that deliver unprecedented convenience, home management, and a reduced carbon footprint.

Amad Khan, Vice President of Products and Segments, PTCL, and Waqas Khalil, CBO of MTronic, signed the agreement in Islamabad in the presence of senior officials on both sides. The partnership aims to foster innovation and digital transformation in the country and encourage the adoption of IoT solutions for smart living.

Waqas Khalil, CBO, remarked, "Our collaboration with PTCL is driven by a



shared vision to enhance lifestyles through innovative smart home solutions. With PTCL's market presence and our expertise in IoT technologies, we are confident in delivering exceptional value and convenience to our shared customers. Together, we aim to redefine what it means to live in

a digitally connected home."

The forward-looking initiative offers unlimited possibilities in smart home management and digital living. PTCL and MTronic will carry forward this collaboration to usher further ease and enablement to their shared customer base.

## foodpanda partners with Govt of Punjab and Wasl to launch Electric Vehicles for delivery riders

**Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: In a significant move towards sustainable mobility, foodpanda, Pakistan's leading food and grocery delivery platform, has officially launched Electric Bikes as part of its delivery fleet. The collaboration is done jointly with the Government of Punjab and Wasl (a non-banking finance company) with a view to reduce carbon emissions and promote eco-friendly delivery solutions.

The launch event in Lahore was attended by the Parliamentary Secretary, Excise, Taxation & Narcotics Control, Shehryar Malik and Chairperson, Public Accounts Committee, Ahmad Iqbal Chaudhary who also distributed EV bikes among foodpanda riders to

officially mark the beginning of the program in Punjab.

Also speaking on the occasion, Ahmad Iqbal Chaudhary, Chairperson, Public Accounts Committee stated, "The transition towards electric mobility is vital for sustainable urban development.

While sharing his views, Hassan Arshad, Director Policy and Communications foodpanda Pakistan, stated, "This is a key moment in our journey towards sustainable

foodpanda delivery heroes can now access EV financing through Wasl Investment Finance, an SECP-regulated non-bank finance company (NBFC). Wasl specialises in tech-driven credit solutions for micro and small businesses, including mobility finance.

## Sona Welfare Foundation: Spreading Prosperity for Healthy Communities

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Sona Welfare Foundation (SWF) the implementing partner of FFC in alignment with its mandate to advance the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is committed to sustainable development through its operational excellence to address pressing societal challenges. Working towards health equity underscores the core of SWF's mission of fostering resilient, thriving and prosperous communities. In

order to address pervasive physical deformities—including limb impairments and blindness—in Mirpur Mathelo area in partnership with Sehat Kahani a leading health care platform organized a two-day Disability Screening Camp (26-27 January 2025), which saw 315 persons with disabilities (PWDs) meticulously assessed by a multidisciplinary team of expert which included renowned Orthopedic Surgeons, Ophthalmologists, General Physicians, and Surveyors from Karachi. MD&CEO FFC / Chairman SWF

Mr. Jahangir Piracha accompanied by his wife met with all the persons with disability, shared the burden of aggrieved and vowed to continue assisting and enabling communities in becoming productive and prosperous citizens of Pakistan. This Initiative is named as "Tum Akaley Nah" enabled precise clinical categorization, root-cause analysis to curb recurrence, and personalized treatment pathways under expert guidance. This milestone reaffirms SWF's resolve to elevate health equity, ensuring dignity



and well-being for all community members.

## Cement domestic offtake—slight increase after many sluggish months

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: According to the data released by All Pakistan Cement Manufacturers Association (APCMA), local cement despatches by the industry during the month of January 2025 were 3.313 million tons compared to 2.967 million tons in January 2024, showing an increase of 11.64%. Exports despatches also increased by 30.25% as the volumes increased from 446,595 tons in January 2024 to 581,691 tons in January 2025. Total cement despatches during January 2025 were 3.894 million tons against 3.414 Million Tons despatched during the same month of last fiscal year showing an overall increase by 14.08%.

In January 2025, North based cement mills despatched 2,728 million tons cement showing an increase of 12.08% against 2,434 million tons despatches in January 2024. South based mills despatched 1,166 million tons cement during January 2025 that was 19.04% more compared to the despatches of 0,980 million tons during January 2024.

North based cement mills despatched 2,669 million tons cement in domestic markets in January 2025 showing an increase of 11.89% against 2,385 million tons despatches in January 2024. South based mills despatched 644,173 tons cement in local markets during January 2025 that was 10.63% more compared to the despatches of 582,258 during January 2024.

Exports from North based mills increased by 21.42% as the quantities increased from 48,883 tons in January 2024 to 59,355 tons in January 2025. Exports from South also jumped by 31.34% to 522,336 tons in January 2025 from 397,712 tons during the same month last year.

During the first seven months of current fiscal year, total cement despatches (domestic and exports) were 26,827 million tons that is 1.71% lower than 27,295 million tons despatched during the corresponding period of last fiscal year. Domestic despatches during this period were 21,435 million tons against 23,196 million tons during same period last year showing a reduction of 7.59%.



Opening Ceremony

# 2nd COAS National Inter Club Hockey Championship 2025

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The final round of the 2nd COAS National Inter Club Hockey Championship 2025 kicked off today with a colourful opening ceremony. The honourable Chief Guest, Lieutenant General Fayyaz Hussain Shah, declared the tournament open amidst a large gathering of hockey legends, PHF officials, and sport enthusiasts.

The opening ceremony was witnessed by thousands of school children and players. The trophy of the tournament was also unveiled, followed by the launch of the official song of the grand event and performance on national song that added to the excitement and enthusiasm of the gathering.

The distinguished guests included national hockey heroes including Ch Akhtar Rasool, Manzoor ul Hasan, Tauqeer Dar, Shahbaz Ahmed Senior, Tahir Zaman, Asif Bajwa, Anjum Saeed, Danish Kaleem, Kamran Ashraf, M Khalid, Tariq Sheikh, Sheikh M Usman, M Kashif, M Asim, Mian Zahid Iqbal & Babar Abdullah besides President



Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF), Mir Tariq Hussain Bughti and Secretary Rana Mujahid Ali.

Secretary PHF expressed his gratitude to the Pakistan Army for sustained support for the revival of the national support. He also appreciated the participating teams, officials, and organisers in making the event a big success.

The final round features the top 10 teams, which have qualified through district, division, and provincial rounds. The tournament started with district level contests across Pakistan from 20 December 2024 onwards, wherein 11594 players participated from 57 districts representing 527 clubs. Four teams from Punjab, two each from Sindh and KPK,



and one each from Balochistan, GB, AJK, and Islamabad have qualified for the final stage. These teams will compete

for the coveted trophy, showcasing their skills and talent on the national stage. The matches between the best ten

teams will continue until the final match and closing ceremony on 15 February 2025.

## Pakistan Cricket Board Announced Tickets for Tri-Nation Cricket Series

Asim Tanveer

ISLAMABAD: The tickets for the tri-nation series involving hosts Pakistan along with New Zealand and South Africa will go on sale from 4pm on Tuesday, 4 February. The online tickets will be available here, while physical tickets will also be available at eight Express Centres of TCS (infographic attached) from Tuesday. Up to 10 tickets can be purchased on one ID card.

To facilitate fans for tri-series, which is set to be played from 8-14 February in Lahore and Karachi as the newly upgraded Gaddafi Stadium (GSL) and National Bank Stadium (NBS) are set to welcome back international cricket, the tickets will be available at an affordable pricing at PKR 350.

The weekend matches (Pakistan v New Zealand, 8 February at GSL) and (final, 14 February at NBS) will be available from PKR 500.

To encourage maximum fans to

enjoy their favourite players in action at the GSL and NBS before the ICC Men's Champions Trophy 2025, the maximum ticket pricing for newly constructed enclosures in Lahore – Majid Khan and Zaheer Abbas (VVIP enclosures) at the Jinnah End will be available to fans at PKR 5,000 for Saturday's fixture, while Monday's fixture for fans will be available at PKR 4,000.

For Waqar Younis and Wasim Akram (VVIP enclosures) at the Iqbal End, the fans can witness Saturday's match from PKR 3,500, while ticket for Monday's encounter will cost PKR 2,500. The VIP enclosures (Fazal Mahmood and Imran Khan) will be available to fans at PKR 2,000 for Saturday's fixture, while on Monday, the fans can enjoy the action from the same enclosures at PKR 1,500.

The premium enclosures (Rajas and Saeed Anwar) will be available to fans at PKR 1,500 for the opening match of the tri-series on Saturday, while Monday's fixture will cost fans

ticket available at PKR 1,000.

The general enclosures (Hanif Mohammad, Imtiaz Ahmed, Inzamam-ul-Haq and Saeed Ahmed) at the Gaddafi Stadium will be available to fans at PKR 350 (Monday's fixture) and PKR 500 (Saturday's fixture). Moreover, first-class enclosures (Abdul Hafeez Kardar, Abdul Qadir, Javed Miandad and Sarfaraz Nawaz) will be available to fans at PKR 1,000 (Monday's fixture) and PKR 1,500 (Saturday's fixture).

In Lahore, the fans can also witness action from Gallery (hospitality) boxes at PKR 6,000 for Saturday's fixture and PKR 5,000 for Monday's fixture.

For Karachi's National Bank Stadium, the general enclosures (Asif Iqbal, Nazir Mohammad, Waqar Hasan and Younis Khan) tickets will be available to fans at PKR 350 for Wednesday's fixture, while for the tri-series final on Friday the tickets will be available to fans at PKR 500.

For first-class enclosures (Imran Khan, Intikhab Alam, Wasim Akram,

Wasim Bari and Shahid Afridi) entry tickets will be available for sale for Wednesday's fixture at PKR 750, while final on Friday will be available at PKR 1,000. Additionally, premium enclosures (Iqbal Qasim, Mohammad Brothers, Naseem ul Ghani) will be accessible to fans at PKR 1,000 for Wednesday's fixture while tickets for Friday's fixture will be available at PKR 1,500.

VIP enclosures (Fazal Mahmood, Hanif Mohammad and Javed Miandad) tickets will be worth PKR 1,500 for Wednesday's fixture, while it will cost PKR 2,000 for the final scheduled on Friday. The VVIP enclosures (Majid Khan and Zaheer Abbas) located at the University End, will be available to fans at PKR 4,000 for Wednesday's fixture, while fans can buy tickets at PKR 5,000 for Friday's final match.

The Gallery seats will be available to fans at PKR 5,000 for Wednesday's fixture, while Friday's fixture will be available to fans at PKR 6,000.

DAY	DATE	SUB-ACTIVITY	BOX 1-3	15 SEATER BOX NEW PKR	20 SEATER BOX NEW PKR	24 SEATER BOX NEW PKR
SAT	8-FEB-25	1st ODI	1,000,000	800,000	1,000,000	1,200,000
MON	10-FEB-25	2nd ODI	800,000	600,000	800,000	1,000,000

DAY	DATE	EAST 2-5	EAST 2-5	10 SEATER BOX NEW PKR	15 SEATER BOX NEW PKR	20 SEATER BOX NEW PKR	24 SEATER BOX NEW PKR
WED	12-FEB-25	600,000	600,000	400,000	600,000	800,000	1,000,000
FRI	14-FEB-25	800,000	800,000	600,000	800,000	1,000,000	1,200,000

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## Larkana Sports Festival

LARKANA: Students participate in the grand opening ceremony of the Girls Larkana Sports Festival 2025 at MA Khuhro Sports Complex.



## Jibran bin Salman Butt elected President of Pakistan Weightlifting Federation

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Pakistan Weightlifting Federation elected new office bearers for 2025-2029. The Electoral General Council meeting of Pakistan Weightlifting Federation was held on 1st February 2025 at Pakistan Olympic Association House Lahore under the chairmanship of Hafiz Imran Butt, President Pakistan Weightlifting Federation.

The elections were conducted under the supervision of Advocate Zulfiqar Ahmed of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, who served as the Chairman of the Election Commission of Pakistan Weightlifting Federation.

Deputy Secretary General of Pakistan Olympic Association Muhammad Jahangir supervised the election process on behalf of Pakistan Olympic Association.



25 affiliated representatives of Pakistan Weightlifting Federation. Members attended the Electoral General Council meeting.

The following office bearers were elected for a term of 4 years (2025-2029) President Jibran bin Salman Vice President Shiraz Muhammad. Sheikh Muhammad Anwar. Nafseem Ahmed. Abdul Sattar Rahi, Sahara

Munir, General Secretary, Sidra Gul, Treasurer, Mian Nasir Ahmed, Associate General, Humaira Latif, Aqeel Javed, Executive Members, Muhammad Bilal, Muhammad Rashid, Nahla Maqsood Butt, Salma Faiz, Muhammad Kashif. The Pakistan Weightlifting Federation is committed to promoting and developing doping-free sports across the country.

## UCI Ethics Commission declares Syed Azhar Ali Shah eligible for ACC

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) Ethics Commission has declared Syed Azhar Ali Shah, President of the Pakistan Cycling Federation (PCF), eligible for candidacy in the Asian Cycling Confederation (ACC) Management Committee and as a voting delegate ACC member for UCI.

The decision was made after a thorough review by the UCI Ethics Commission Electoral, ensuring that Shah meets all the ethical and eligibility criteria required



for these prestigious roles. His candidacy reflects his longstanding contributions to the development of cycling in Pakistan and Asia, said a press release.

Shah, who has been instrumental in promoting cycling across Pakistan, expressed his gratitude to UCI and ACC for their trust. "This is not just a personal achievement but a recognition of Pakistan's growing role in the international cycling community," he said.

The upcoming elections for the ACC Management Committee and UCI voting delegates will play a crucial role in shaping the future of cycling in Asia. If elected, Shah aims to advocate for the development of cycling infrastructure, talent grooming, and international collaboration.

## Syed Khawar Shah National Archery Academy Jhang Shines at Khelta Punjab Games 2025

Zafar Chishti

JHANG: Athletes from Syed Khawar Shah National Archery Academy, Jhang, secured a historic victory while representing Faisalabad Division at the Khelta Punjab Games 2025, held in Lahore. Demonstrating exceptional skill, dedication, and passion, the players dominated the archery events, clinching the first position across Punjab. On this occasion, internationally trained coach and Secretary of the Punjab Archery Association, Aman Ullah Shan, expressed his pride, stating that the young archers of Syed Khawar Shah National Archery Academy have not only proven their talent but also brought immense pride to Faisalabad Division. He further high-



lighted that the academy's mission is to engage youth in positive activities through sports and to provide them with opportunities for recognition at national and international levels.

District administration, the District Sports Department, and officials from the District Archery Association Jhang congratulated the victorious athletes.



## Called on

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Japan H.E. Mr. AKAMATSU Shuichi called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf at Naval Headquarters on Monday.



Photo: PID

## ECC urges measures for tangible relief to common man

## Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet met today under the chairmanship of Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb. Besides the regular agenda, the meeting focused on reviewing the trends in inflation and the prices of essential commodities, as presented by the Economic Advisor's Wing of the Finance Division.

At the outset, the ECC conducted a monthly review of inflation trends as per its earlier decision. The Cabinet body was informed that inflation during the first half of FY2025 (July-December) had decreased significantly to 7.2%, compared to 28.8% during the same period last year. Additionally, inflation for the month of December



2025 was recorded at 4.1%, a sharp reduction from 29.7% in December 2024. This marked the lowest inflation rate in 80 months, largely owing to exchange rate stability, prudent fiscal management, and improved supply arrangements of essential items across the country.

The ECC expressed satis-

faction with the ongoing decline in the Sensitive Price Index (SPI) over the past few weeks. However, the chair emphasized that the reduction in core inflation, average inflation, and the downward price trends should translate into tangible relief for the common man.

Despite positive trends, the Committee expressed

concern over the rising prices of sugar, vegetables, and edible oil, particularly in light of declining prices in the international market. To address this, the ECC directed the Ministry of Industries and Production and the Ministry of National Food Security & Research to collaborate with the National Price Monitoring Committee (NPMC)

and report back to the ECC within two weeks with measures to ensure the maintenance of strategic reserves of wheat, sugar, and pulses, as well as to improve the supply chains of essential items ahead of the holy month of Ramadan.

The Cabinet body also considered and approved a summary by the Power Division seeking amendment to a 16th February 2024 mediation agreement pertaining to claims of KE for tariff differential subsidy and KWSSB and payables of KE to different state-owned enterprises (CPPA/NTDC and SSGC), with the proviso that it would not lead to any increase in the tariff.

Finally, a proposal from the Intelligence Bureau Division for provision of a TSG of Rs 500 million was also considered and approved.

## Romina Khurshid advocates for ambitious climate

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to the Prime Minister for Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam has emphasized the need for climate prosperity through bold economic and financial resilience strategies to attract investments and resources that will advance the realization of climate and development goals.

In a meeting with the high-level delegation of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) of the Vulnerable Twenty (V20) group led by Sara Jane Ahmed, Managing Director on Monday, Ms. Alam highlighted the



significant challenges faced by climate-vulnerable countries,

including the lack of a collective voice in global processes often

dominated by wealthy nations. She underscored the persistent

representation deficit that these countries encounter, along with the exacerbated financial instability caused by climate vulnerabilities.

The Climate Vulnerable Forum delegation visited the ministry of climate change to conduct a meeting to engage in-country consultations for the development of Pakistan's Climate Prosperity Plan, a low-carbon, long-term, national investment strategy.

Additional Secretaries Zulfikar Younus and Hamad Shamimi and other high officials of Climate Ministry also attended the meeting.

## First Meeting of the High-Level Committee (HLC) on ECO Reforms

## Spokesman Report

TEHRAN: The Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, Ms. Amna Baloch represented Pakistan in the High-Level Committee (HLC) on Economic Cooperation Organization Reforms and the Prospects of Cooperation in the Region held on 3 February 2025 in Tehran, Iran.

At the HLC, the Foreign Secretary presented Pakistan's perspectives on key matters related ECO reforms. The Foreign Secretary stated that ECO needs comprehensive reforms, including financial and budgetary matters, enhancing efficiency of the secretariat, effective recruitment policy, and deliberation on other related matters.

Being the founding member of the organization, the Foreign Secretary



reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to regional connectivity and trade. The Foreign Secretary asserted that Pakistan attaches great importance to ECO Trade Agreement's (ECOTA) early implementation and also would urge all Member States to take a broader and more holistic view of the matter and in the earliest implementation of ECOTA.

The Foreign Secretary further highlighted the importance of ECO Vision 2025 in terms of increasing intra-regional trade and regional connectivity and also appreciated the Uzbekistan's proposed Strategic Objectives of Cooperation- 2035.

The Foreign Secretary expressed that with collective and coordinated efforts from the platform of ECO, all member states can realize the true potential of the ECO in the region.

## Inimical elements attempting to sabotage Balochistan's peace, development not to succeed: PM



## Bureau Report

QUETTA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday visited security forces personnel injured during various anti-terror operations in Kalat and other districts of Balochistan and paid tribute to them for their indomitable resolve to protect the motherland.

"The evil intentions of the enemies of peace, development, and prosperity of Balochistan will never be allowed to succeed," the prime minister said as he arrived at Combined Military Hospital (CMH) during his daylong visit here.

"The elements spreading terrorism in Balochistan are enemies of the development of the province. The security forces are busy day and night to eliminate such elements," Prime Minister Shehbaz said.

The injured soldiers also interacted with the prime minister during the visit.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Information and Broadcasting Minister Attaullah Tarar and Power Minister Owais Leghari also accompanied the prime minister.

## Nawaz Sharif keeps a critical eye on my work, says CM Maryam



## Bureau Report

Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) President Mian Mohammad Nawaz Sharif and Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on Monday held a detailed meeting with members of Punjab Assembly in Lahore.

These MPAs belonged to Rawalpindi, Attock, Murree, Chakwal, Wazirabad, Hafizabad and Mandi Bahauddin. During the meeting they discussed various development schemes in their respective areas.

The MPAs lauded the performance showed by Maryam Nawaz as chief minister of Punjab.

Addressing the MPAs, Nawaz Sharif said that "you are my energy and honour." He said that difficulties of common man are being lessened gradually.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Maryam said that Punjab is the only province where roti (bread) is available for Rs12 to Rs14.

She further said that our performance is being checked by people and Nawaz Sharif himself.

She directed to complete Rawalpindi Ring Road till December 2025 and different development projects of Gujranwala and Rawalpindi as per schedule.

## CM Sindh Murad Ali Shah Inaugurates National Polio Campaign



## Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah officially inaugurated the National Polio Campaign for February 2025 by administering polio drops to children at CM House. He reaffirmed the government's strong commitment to eradicating polio and ensuring a healthy future for the children of Sindh.

The inauguration ceremony, held on Monday at CM House, was attended by Health Secretary Rehan Baloch, IG Police Ghulam Nabi Memon, Karachi Commissioner Hassan Naqvi, EOC Coordinator Arshad Sodhar, Rotary representative Aziz Memon, and other officials. The chief minister emphasized that the fight against polio is not just a health issue but a crucial battle for the well-being of Sindh's children. He reiterated his firm resolve to ensure that no child in Sindh falls victim to this crippling disease. The Sindh government is fully engaged in this mission and will personally oversee the campaign.