**Barkat Rice Mills** (Pvt) Limited

Pakistan needs political stability: Ahsan Igbal

Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal said the continuity of the policies is inevitable for the progress of the country. Addressing a day-long workshop on Uraan Pakistan in Karachi on Monday, he said the political and economic stability in the country is the need of the hour.



Security forces kill 10 khawarij in KP

According to ISPR, an intelligence-based operation was conducted Khwarij. The troops effectively engaged the Khawarij, as a result of which ten Khawarij were killed. A sanitization operation is being conducted to eliminate any other Khawarij found in the area. The security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Sha'aban 26, Tuesday, February 25, 2025







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## Sharif, Aliyev finalize matters on Azerbaijan's \$2 bn nvestment in Pakistan

**Spokesman Report** 

BAKU: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev on Monday finalizing the matters on Baku's \$2 billion investment in Pakistan, agreed to expand bilateral Agreement. trade volume and promote joint defence production.

This was agreed during a

meeting between the two leaders Republic (SOCAR) and Paki- he himself would oversee the worth US\$2 billion in mutuin Baku. On the occasion, the two leaders also witnessed the signing of an amendment agree- State Oil Company Limited for where Azerbaijan was investing, ment for the Sale and Purchase of LNG cargoes related to Master LNG Sale and Purchase

Oil Company of Azerbaijan of Azerbaijan, assured that

stan's Frontier Works Organ- investment and mutual coopization (FWO) and Pakistan collaboration in Machike-Thallian-Tarujabba White Oil Pipe-

line Project. Later, Prime Minister eration projects in the sectors ensuring that there would be no disruption in the pace and effectiveness of these efforts.

"I am happy to share that we The two sides also signed an Shehbaz Sharif, in a joint press also had extensive discussions agreement between the State conference with the President regarding finalizing the portfolio of Azerbaijan investments

ally beneficial projects in Pakistan and I look forward to my dear brother, President Aliyev visiting Pakistan in April this year to sign historic agreements involving this investment," the prime minister said in a social media post on X.

Continue on Page 7

## SC's Constitutional Bench to hear elections 'rigging' case on February 28

**E** City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Constitutional Bench of the Supreme Court (SC) of Pakistan fixed a petition, seeking formation of a judicial commission to investigate the allegations of rigging in the February 8 general elections, for

The Constitutional Bench headed by Justice Aminuddin will the petition filed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran and Sher Afzal Marwat on



Prime Minister Imran Khan cial commission to probe into the

In his plea, incarcerated former sought the formation of a judi- alleged rigging in elections 2024.

The plea urged the top court to form a commission comprised of Supreme Court judges and suspend the federal and Punjab governments till the report of Judicial Commission.

Meanwhile, the Constitutional Bench will also hear a petition filed by Imran Khan, seeking an investigation into the May 9 incident. Additionally, the PTI founder has also requested that the Supreme Court declare the trial by the civilian military court

## Pakistan, Azerbaijan ink MoUs, agree to boost bilateral investment to \$2bln

Spokesman Report

BAKU: Pakistan and Azerbaijan have signed multiple Memorandums of Understanding and agreements to boost bilateral cooperation in different fields including trade, energy, tourism and education.

documents The exchanged following talks between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President Ilham Alivev

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev witnessed the documents exchange ceremony. The two countries signed

an MoU between the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR) and Pakistan's Fronwere tier Works Organization (FWO) and PSO for collaboration in Machike-Thallian-Tarujabba White Oil Pipeline Project.

Pakistan and Azerbaijan also signed an amendment agreement to Framework Agreement for the sale and purchase of LNG cargoes related to Master LNG Sale and Purchase Agreement.

A Memorandum of Understanding was also signed between Azerbaijan's city of Nakhchivan and Pakistan's city of Lahore to promote cooperation in the areas of culture, tourism, urban



development, education, science, economy and other relevant fields of public life.

### **Judicial Commission of** Pakistan member Advocate Akhtar Hussain resigns



Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Advocate Akhtar Hussain, a member of the Judicial Commission of Pakistan, has resigned from his position citing controversies regarding appointment of new judges.

Sources informed that Akhtar Hussain had sent his resignation to the commission Chairman Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Yahya Afridi.

The sources further said that Akhtar Hussain, who was the Bar Council in the commisupreme Court (SC)

In his resignation letter, he wrote that he could not get on with his job because he did not agree with appointments.

In his resignation letter, Akhtar Hussain stated: "The Pakistan Bar Council unanimously nominated me thrice as a member Judicial Commission of Pakistan and I continued to discharge my responsibilities to the best of my abilities...however, on present controversies with regard to judicial appointments, I am unable to continue and, hereby, resign as being representative of the Pakistan member of JCP and sending a copy of this resignation to sion, called it a day because he the Pakistan Bar Council for was unhappy with the recent making new nomination as appointments of judges to the provided under the Constitution."

### Pakistan's Prime Minister to pay an official visit to Uzbekistan

**Spokesman Report** 

TASHKENT: At the invitation of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirzivovev the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif will pay an official visit to Uzbekistan on February 25-26, 2025.

The agenda for the upcoming high-level negotiations includes further developing and expanding the strategic partnership and multifaceted cooperation between Uzbekistan and Pakistan.

The focus will be on joint transport connectivity, tap into

transit potential, and promote cooperation projects in the light and leather industry, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, electrical engineering, and other sectors of the economy.

Questions regarding the intensification of cultural, humanitarian and tourism ties will also be considered. Views will be exchanged on the current international and regional agenda.

Following the summit, a Joint Declaration and several bilateral documents will be adopted.

As part of the visit's business program, leaders will also plans to increase the volume participate in a joint Uzbekof bilateral trade, strengthen istan - Pakistan Business

### Pakistan eyes \$1.5 billion climate fund as IMF team lands in Islamabad

**Example 2** Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: A four-member delegation from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has arrived in Islamabad for crucial discussions on climate financing.

The team held an introductory meeting with officials at the Ministry of Finance on Friday morning and will engage in technical discussions over the next two days.

According to sources from the Ministry of Finance, the IMF delegation will hold discussions with both federal and provincial authorities, focusing on green budgeting, climate impact tracking, reporting mechanisms, and project funding. The talks will explore how Pakistan can



receive up to \$1.5 billion in climate resilience funds.

Pakistan is among the countries most vulnerable to climate change, according to the Global Climate Risk Index. The 2022 floods. which scientists believe were worsened by global warming, affected over 33 million people and resulted in more than 1,700 deaths.

The country's ongoing economic struggles and heavy debt burden hindered its ability to respond effectively to the disaster.

## **Information Minister** urges youth to use talents for positive change



BAGH: Azad government's Information Minister Maulana Pir Muhammad Mazhar Saeed Shah has said that equipping children with scientific and religious education is the need of the hour in the digital era.

Acquiring modern knowledge is essential to face modern challenges, otherwise we will be left far behind. In the era of modernity, we have to focus on technology.

Education with the translation of the Quran is among the priorities of the government. Reading the Quran and understanding and acting upon it are the rights of the Quran. No power in the world can stop Palestine and Kashmiris from the blessing of freedom.

The Kashmiri and Palestinian defenseless people have proven by confronting powerful countries that they will not accept any option without

The young generation should use

Muhammad Mazhar Saeed Shah gave their talents in positive works and expose Indian intentions on social media for the certificates of appreciation to the chil-Kashmir freedom movement before the dren and encouraged them.

> The ceremony was addressed by District Education Officer Sultan Ali Tahir, Principal Idara Ashiq Hussain, Vice Principal Saifullah Shaukat, Raja Sarfaraz, Maulana Maqsood Towhidi, Sardar Siya Khan Councilor, Maulana Luqman, Malik Sarfaraz, Muhammad Yasir, Qari Gulzar, Maulana Sarwar Naqshbandi, Maulana Yasir, Abdullah,

Information Minister Maulana Pir and others.

whole world. He expressed these views

while addressing the annual prize distri-

bution ceremony of Allama Iqbal School

The ceremony was presided over by

Maulana Aminul Haq Farooqui. Shields

and medals were given to the students

who secured prominent positions in the

and College Bagh as the chief guest.

## Kashmiris'unwavering love for Pakistan: Mehr-un-Nisa



 $RAWALPINDI: Secretary \, General \, of \, All \, Jammu \, and \, Kashmir \, Muslim$ Conference Mehr-un-Nisa while Congratulating all the overseas Kashmiris and Pakistani people, including party officials and workers of All Jammuand Kashmir Muslim Conference, on the successful holding of the convention organized by the All Jammu Kashmir Muslim Conference, UK, Secretary General Muslim Conference and former Deputy Speaker, Ms. Mehran-un-Nisa, in her message, and congratulated all the delegates, especially those from the UK, Europe and around the world, for participating in the convention and said that the Kashmiri people still love Pakistan as much as they did before. Kashmir and Pakistan are inseparable. The Kashmiri people will not hesitate to sacrifice their lives for the stability, development, prosperity and strong defense  $\,$ of Pakistan. Mehran-un-Nisa said that the Stability Pakistan Convention is an expression of Kashmiris' love for Pakistan.

### Sardar Atique expresses deep sorrow over death of senior journalist Wani

### **Spokesman Report**

MUZAFFARABAD: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Atique Ahmed Khan expressed deep sorrow and grief over the death of senior journalist Athar Masood Wani, son of prominent leader of Muslim Conference Abdul Samad Wani,



and said that the death of Athar Masood Wani is a great tragedy. As a journalist, he raised the voice of Kashmiris at every forum through his pen.

Meanwhile, Muslim Conference leaders, Secretary General Ms Mehrunnisa former President of Muslim Conference Mirza Muhammad Shafiq Jaral Advocate, Sardar Altaf Khan, Central Chief Organizer Raja Saqib Majeed, former government minister Shamim Ali Malik, Youth Wing Chairman Sardar Usman Ali Khan, Chairperson of Women's Wing Ms. Samia Sajid Raja, Sardar Abid Razaq, Sardar Abdul Rashid Chughtai Advocate, Major Retired Nasrullah Khan, Chairman of Muslim Conference Finance Board Syed Nazar Abbas Shah, President of Muslim Conference District Muzaffarabad Syed Yasir Naqvi Advocate, Chaudhry Khizr Hayat, President of Mirpur Division Women's Wing Amira Khanum, Jandad Abbasi, Aamna Anwar Abbasi, Chairperson of Students' Wing Maimuna Kiani Advocate, General Secretary of Women's Division Kausar Parveen Advocate, Khawaja Javed, Nasreen Akhtar Raja, Chairperson of Muslim Conference Mirpur Division Naheed Raja, Iqbal Inqilabi, City President Sheikh Magsood Ahmed, Mir Rizwanur Rehman, Sajiad Anwar Abbasi, Jabbar Abbasi, President of Muslim Conference Women's Division City Abida Munir, Khawaja Jahanzeb, Raja Muhammad Latif Hasrat, Raja Zareen Khan, Muslim Conference Poonch Division President Shahnaz Javed, Sved Tazar Moosavi, Saghar Azad, Muneeb Qureshi, Shakoor Mughal, Irfan Abbasi, Yasir Gilani, Shahida Tabassum, Sardar Akhlaq Nazir, Rana Ghulam Hussain expressed deep sorrow and grief over the death of senior journalist Athar Masood Wani and prayed for the forgiveness of the deceased.

### Attock District receives drought relief support from Punjab Government

### 👺 Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: February 24 Chief Minister of Punjab, Maryam Nawaz Sharif, is utilizing all available resources to support farmers and livestock owners affected by drought across the province. In this regard, following her directives, like other districts of Punjab, former PML-N candidate for the Punjab Assembly, Malik Hamid Akbar Khan, distributed Bajra Hybrid Napier Grass\*cuttings among farmers and livestock owners at the office of the Additional Director of Livestock, Attock. On this occasion, the Additional Director of Livestock Attock Price Control Magistrate Dr. Muhammad Malik Owais Akram Awan, District Veterinary Officer Attock Dr. Yasir Mahmood Assistant Focal Person for Development Scheme Livestock & Dairy Development Attock Najib Igbal Malik former President of the District Bar Association Malik Fakhar Zad Advocate Malik Muhammad Saeed Advocate, and other notable personalities were present. Speaking to the media, Malik Hamid Akbar Khan stated that the distribution of Bajra Hybrid cuttings is an important step towards improving the lives of farmers.

### Public Complaints

CHINIOT: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Qaiser Ahmad Shaikh listening to the public concerns during the open court on Monday



## EFP and PBDN honor employers championing disability inclusion

### **Example 2** Commerce Desk

KARACHI: In a powerful testament to the corporate sector's commitment to inclusivity, the Employers' Federation of Pakistan (EFP) and the Pakistan Business and Disability Network (PBDN) successfully hosted the 2nd Disability Inclusion Excellence Awards. The awards ceremony recognized employers for their



outstanding efforts in foster- ing disability inclusion in the workplace.

The event, held in collabo- President of EFP highlighted ration with the International Labour Organization (ILO), Sightsavers Pakistan, German Cooperation (GIZ), UNICEF, Standard Chartered, and other partners, celebrated organizations that have demonstrated exemplary policies and practices in integrating persons with disabilities into their workforce.

Speaking at the ceremony, Muhammad Feroz Alam, Vice

embracing inclusivity, businesses are not just meeting corporate social responsibility goals but also unlocking immense potential and innovation within their workforce. The Disability Inclusion Excellence Awards celebrate

the broader impact of inclu-

sive workplaces. He said, "By

these change makers who are leading the way towards a more equitable society."

## Renowned journalist Athar Masood Wani laid to rest

RAWALPINDI: The funeral prayers of renowned journalist, editor-in-chief of the weekly Kasheer and renowned columnist Athar Masood Wani were offered in Quaid-e-Azam Park F Block, in Rawalpindi after which he was laid to rest.

The funeral prayers were attended by former Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan, former Prime Minister Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan AKNS Amjad Chaudhry.senior Niazi, Minister of the Government Ahmed Raza Qadri, former Meer, Chief Editor Kashmir Senior Minister Chaudhry Tariq Express Sardar Zahid Tabassum, Farooq, former Information Minister Sardar Abid Hussain Butt, Chief Editor Kashmir Abid, former Member Kashmir Link Akram Shah, Senior Council Sardar Abdul Khaliq Hurriyat Leader Mahmood Wasi, former Additional Chief

Secretary Development Dr. Muhammad Asif, former Information Secretary Shaukat Majeed Malik, Director Information Raja Amjad Hussain Minhas, Director Kashmir Liberation Cell Raja Khan Afsar Khan, Deputy Director Sardar Sajid Mehmood, In-charge Social Media Sardar Najeeb Āl-Ghafoor, Superintendent Prisons Khawaja Sanaullah Dar, President of Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists Afzal Butt, President Tv Anchor Muhammad Aslam Chief Editor Kashmir Post Altaf Ahmed Saghar, Syed Yousuf Secretary General Farhat Ali Naseem, Syed Faiz Naqshbandi,

Mir, former Additional Chief Ijaz Rehmani, Raja Shaheen, Hassan Al Banna, Sheikh Abdul Mateen, Sheikh Yaqub, Haji Muhammad Sultan, Imtiaz Wani, Muhammad, Manzoor Ahmed Dar, Abdul Majeed Lone, Adeel Mushtaq Wani, Sheikh Abdul Majeed, Nazir Ahmed Karnai, Muhammad Farooq Rehmani, Zahid Safi, Former Officer Iklas Imtiaz Arif Hashmi, Executive Editor Jammu Kashmir Raja Kafeel Ahmed Editor Sana News Sardar Ashiq Khan, Chief Editor Jannat Nazir Ijaz Khan, Editor Kashmir Link Sardar Javed Iqbal, Editor Kashmir Post Mohiuddin Dar, Editor Sad-e-Chinar Ijaz Abbasi, Chief Editor Daily Nile Free Nisar Kiani, Chief Editor Daily Country News Sardar Hameed, Chief Editor Parliament Times Javed Iqbal, Chief Editor Daily Sad-e-Waqt Naqsh Abbasi, Member

Board of Governors Press Foundation Muhammad Zahid Bashir, Joint Editor Kashmir Post Raja Bashir Usmani Joint Editor INPAR A R Saghar, Member Press Foundation Tahir Masood, Former President KJF Khawar Nawaz Raja President KJF Irfan Saduzai, Senior Vice President KJF Iqbal Awan, Vice Presi-

dent KJF Danish Irshad Secre-

tary KJF Maqsood Muntazir, ident RABJA Sardar Shahid Pakistan Sardar Fayyaz, members Secretary Finance KJF Sardar Hameed, Sardar Shaukat of AKNS, RIUJ, National Press Imran Azam Joint Secretary KJF Ghulam Nabi Kashmiri Member Governing Body Press Club Raja Majid Afsar, Former Joint Secretary KJF Abid Hashmi,, Manzoor Dar, Naeem Asad, Press Secretary to Prime Minister Khawaja Imranul Haq, Rauf Ahmed Khawaja, Pres-

Mahmood, Maqsood Hanif, Irfan Khatana, Iqbal Samim, Kashif Journalists Forum and Press Mir, Abdul Raziq Bhatti, Sajjad Foundation, along with prom-Awan, Abdul Aziz Dego Sardar inent leaders of the journalist Talha Javed, Khayyam Abbasi, community, the journalist Akhlaq Khan, Shiraz Rathore, community of Rawalpindi and Zahoor-e-Sufi, Sardar Zameer Islamabad, Hurriyat leaders and Chief Editor Nagazeer, Dilawar a large number of people from Bukhari, Editor-in-Chief Bolta different walks of life attended.

Club Islamabad, Rabja, Kashmir

### **Spokesman Report**





SERVICES		
Namaz '	Timings	
Fajr	5:19 am	
Zohr	12:21 pm	
Asr	4:20 pm	
Maghrib		
Isha	7:23 pm	

### EMEDGENCY

### **Women Police**

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ENQU	JIRY
dhi Ambulance	
PIA Flight Info	11-
IΔ Cargo	928097

Luiii Airibulance	
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
CAA	9281092
HOCDITA	NIC

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

### **DEPARTMENTS**

CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropo	olitan
Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
Dawal Town	57722//2

### **COMPLAINTS**

Water Tanker Service G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8, G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 ..9266316 Wapda Islamabad......9217579-80

### Businessmen **Demand** Maximum Facilities to Boost Economy

### 跨 Tariq Khan Yousafzai

MARDAN: The Provincial General Secretary of the central organization traders Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Zahir Shah said that maximum facilities should be given to the bus ness community so that they can play their full role in the development of the country. He said that the central government should immediately put an end to unannounced electricity and gas load-shedding. He did this while addressing the Organization Tajran Trunk Association joining ceremony where he was the Chief Guest. President of Trunk Association Shamsher Khan, General Secretary Riaz Khan, Chairman Haji Ehsan, Vice Chairman Haji Syed Rahman, Patron-in-Chief Maulana Shahid, Syed Muhammad alias Khanji, Senior Vice President Asad Khan, Vice President Haji Imran, Finance Secretary Nishat, Information Secretary Ibrahim Lodhi and others thanked the Chief Guest. Chairman Ghulam Sarwar Saraf, General Secretary Waqar Ali Bacha, Acting President of Mardan Chamber of Commerce Nouman Faqir Saraf, Senior Vice President Shah Gee and others were present on this occasion.

## Third EIPA Awards 2025 hosted by Brain Designer

### 

ISLAMABAD: The third annual EIPA Awards 2025, organized by Brain Designer, took place in Islamabad with the aim of promoting Pakistan's positive image and encouraging foreign investment while fostering tourism in the country. The event brought together key stakeholders from the tourism, investment, and business sectors, including foreign diplomats, overseas Pakistanis' organizations, and officials from Chambers of Commerce and Industries, as well as prominent real estate figures.

The event's Chief Guest was His Excellency Mr. Yusuf Sharifzoda Toirali, Ambassador of Tajikistan. The Guest of Honor was Mr. Rahmat Hindiarta Kusuma, Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of Indonesia, along with other distinguished diplomats including Mr. Yushau Mohammed (Charge d'Affaires, Nigerian High Commission), Mr. Behbud Gadali (First Secretary, Azer-

High Commission of Malaysia), and Mr. Saidjon (Deputy Head of Mission, Tajikistan Embassy).

Also attending were Mr. Muhammad Rauf Raja, CEO of Brain Designers (Explore and Invest Pakistan), Mr. Tariq Jadoon, Vice President of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Mr. Malik Sohail, Chairman Coordination of FPCCI, Mr. Timur Aziz, Executive Vice President of NayaTel, Kiran Afzal senior officials from the World Bank group, Ch. Riaz Basra Chariman ICCR and Mr Dosil Ali Jan-Senior Vice President-Rawalpindi Chamber of Small Traders & Small Industries, along with key figures from the hospitality, tourism, and real estate sectors.

In his welcoming speech, Mr. Muhammad Rauf Raja, CEO of Brain Designers, emphasized the importance of showcasing Pakistan's soft image globally. He highlighted that Pakistan Hasbullah (Deputy Head of Mission, vast investment opportunities. He also investment of \$7 billion.



is a peaceful country, with a popula- mentioned that the hospitality sector baijan Embassy), Mr. Syafik Firdous bin tion where 65% are youth, offering in Pakistan is currently witnessing an

the Pakistan Chamber of Commerce future and enhance Pakistan's position and Industries, stressed the need for internationally.

Mr. Tariq Jadoon, Vice President of empowering youth to shape the nation's

### National Day

ISLAMABAD: Chief Guest Federal Minister for Housing and Works Mian Riaz Hussian Pirzada cuts the cake along with High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to Pakistan Colonel (Rtd) Pengiran Hi Kamal Bashah Pengiran Hi Ahmad and others on the eve of 41st National Day of Brunei Darussalam at local hotel in Federal Capital.



# Allama Iqbal Open University(AIOU) has organized a national seminar on 'Cancer Awareness'

### **E** City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Muhammad Kashif, Associate Surgeon (Oncologist) at Federal Government Polyclinic Hospital was the chief guest, while it was presided over by Dr. Zaheer Ahmed, Chairman of the Department of Nutritional Sciences & Environmental Design.

During his lecture on cancer, Dr. Muhammad Kashif emphasized the importance of recognizing early symptoms to effectively combat the disease. While discussing the causes, stages, types, symptoms, and treatment strategies for cancer, he highlighted key warning signs, including lumps in any part of the body, non-healing ulcers or wounds, coughing up consult a doctor if such symp- ized by the Department of



blood, persistent indigestion, toms appear, as early detecblood in urine or stool, and tion significantly improves unexpected vaginal bleeding. treatment outcomes. He stressed the need to

The seminar was organ-

Nutritional Sciences & Environmental Design under the Faculty of Sciences, with Dr. Mehpara Jadoon serving as

### Experts urge collective efforts for sustainable water management in OIC member states

### **Example 2** City Desk

ISLAMABAD: two-day meeting for the Networking of Water Centers of Excellence in OIC Member States commenced at the COMSTECH Secretariat, Islamabad, on Monday. It is being jointly organized by OIC-COMSTECH and



the OIC General Secretariat in collaboration with the Hisaar Foundation, SESRIC (Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries and INWADARM (COMSTECH Inter-Islamic Network on Water Resources Development and Management). In the inaugural session, Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam, Coordinator

to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, emphasized the urgency of addressing water challenges, particularly in the face of climate change. H. E. Ambassador Aftab Ahmad Khokar, Assistant Secretary-General of OIC for Science and Technology, underscored the OIC's commitment to tackling water-related challenges through collaborative research and

policy initiatives. In his welcome address, H. E. Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General of COMSTECH, outlined major initiatives that COMS-TECH is undertaking to enhance capacity building in water research

Other notable speakers included Dr. Zehra Zumrut, Director General of SESRIC, who emphasized the role of data-driven policies and capacity-building programs, and Dr. Marwan Alraggad, Executive Director of INWADARM, who highlighted the importance of integrated water resource management strategies. Ms. Afia Salam, Advisor, Hisaar Foundation Foundation also contributed insights into innovative water conservation techniques and sustainable solutions.

### Dun & Bradstreet deepens synergy with business community at networking round table

### **Example 2** Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Dun & Bradstreet Pakistan organized an interactive discussion with business leaders from across the country. The event was aimed at knowledge sharing and identifying gaps in Pakistan's business ecosystem.

Held at Dun & Bradstreet Pakistan's head office in Karachi, the event was graced by Dun & Bradstreet Pakistan Chairman Tajuddin Ahmad. The gathering brought together key industry leaders to discuss strategic business insights, marketing intelligence, and potential synergies for growth.

Among notable attendees of the event were Ehtasham Shahid, Director General, NADRA, Anis Younus, Managing Director, EMBA Corporation, Shahid Imam, Chief Executive, Executive Networks International, Anwar Khan, Founder & President, Pak Angels, Osama Waqar, Wealth Centre Manager, JS Investments, Intesar Uddin, Group Chief Executive, Deokjae Group of Companies, Khalid Zaman Khan, Group Head Human Resource, Meezan Bank, Farrukh Junaidy, Senior Partner, Junaidy Shoaib Asad Chartered Accountants, Kaiser Ashraf, Principal Architect, Kaiser Ashraf & Associates - Architects and Consultants, Muhammad Luqman, CEO, Software Export House, Farrukh Junaidy, EC Member, MAP, Muhammad Intesar, EC Member, MAP, and Syed Hasan Ali Naqvi, Executive Director, MAP.

## Non-communicable diseases, major challenge for Pakistan's economy

Non-communicable diseases tary General Sanaullah Ghuman especially those high in sugar, (NCDs) are a major challenge a huge strain on the healthcare system and causing a large number of premature deaths. The underlying causes of NCDs in Pakistan are largely preventable, with unbalanced diets being a major cause. These diseases include cardiovascular diseases. diabetes and cancer, not only affecting individuals but also having a large economic impact due to rising medical treatment costs and reduced productivity. This was stated today at a research dissemination event organized by Heartfile and Panah Saba Amjad and Panah Secre-nutritional content of products,

welcomed the guests. Research for Pakistan's economy, placing Head Ammar Rashid presented the research.

The research revealed that front-of-pack warning labels can play a role in reducing the burden of NCDs.

Among the most promising strategies adopted globally to combat NCDs are taxation and introduction of front-of-pack warning labels (FOWPL) on unhealthy food products. The idea behind these measures is to discourage unhealthy eating habits and to make unhealthy foods more expensive through taxes and to provide consumers at a local hotel. Heartfile CEO Dr. with clear information about the

salt and fat. Research conducted by Heartfile and Panah has examined how these measures are already working in different parts of the world. The results highlight the positive impact of these policies in other countries, where taxes on sugary drinks and unhealthy foods have led to reduced consumption and improved public health outcomes. Heartfile has played a key role in raising awareness of these measures, and in building support with communities, policymakers and the general public

to adopt them in Pakistan. To take the next step towards implementing these policies in Pakistan, Heartfile and

Panah organized a launch event today to formally present their research. The event was attended by representatives from all food authorities, including PSQCIA, and several other organizations. These stakeholders not only appreciated the research but also expressed their strong support for introducing such policies in Pakistan. They stressed the importance of taking proactive measures to address the growing threat of NCDs and emphasized that adopting global best practices, such as implementing taxes on unhealthy foods and clear labeling, can significantly improve the health outcomes of the Pakistani population.



## Editorial/Opinion

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

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### Chinese, Pakistani companies sign strategic cooperation agreement for electric vehicle development in **Pakistan**

hanghai Launch Automotive Technology Co., Ltd. (LAUNCH) and Yousuf Dewan Companies (YDC) who are pioneer electric vehicle assembly company in Pakistan, have officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Beijing.

This agreement marks a significant step in bringing advanced electric vehicle (EV) technology to Pakistan and promoting sustainable mobility solutions in the region.

In the signing ceremony, Khan Muhammad Wazir, Science Councilor, and Idrees Gigi, Director Projects of YDC along with senior officials from LAUNCH marked the official commencement of this exciting partnership.

The two sides thanked Pakistan Ambassador to China, Khalil Hashmi and Commercial Councilor, Ghulam Qadir for their strong support to make these agreements.

This strategic partnership aims to facilitate the local assembly, distribution, and development of electric vehicles in Pakistan, supporting the country's transition to green energy transportation, said a press release issued here.

Under the MoU, LAUNCH and YDC will collaborate on multiple initiatives, including the development of a National Car for Pakistan, leveraging LAUNCH cutting-edge design and technology expertise, establishing local assembly operations (CKD) for a range of battery electric vehicles (BEVs), including right-hand drive (RHD) and left-hand drive (LHD) models, for both domestic sales and export markets, creating a technology partnership focused on EV innovation, battery lifecycle management, and recycling solutions and exploring a joint venture for manufacturing and scaling BEV production in Pakistan.

Commenting on the partnership, an official representative from LAUNCH stated: We are excited to collaborate with YDC to introduce our world-class EV technology to Pakistan. This agreement underscores our commitment to sustainable mobility and further strengthens our global presence in the electric vehicle industry.

Similarly, Idrees Gigi of YDC added: This partnership with LAUNCH represents a transformative moment for Pakistan EV sector. By localizing production and introducing cutting-edge electric vehicles, we aim to accelerate the adoption of sustainable transportation and contribute to the country economic and environmental goals.

## Trump's Shift: Bully to Peacemaker

at the Future Investment Initiative (FII) Summit, shifted America's stance from a global enforcer to a peacemaker. He pledged to bring an end to the conflicts in the Middle East and Ukraine, vowing to leverage America's unmatched military prowess-not for war, but to secure peace. "Nobody knows how to fight better than the USA," he declared, "but now, we will lead the world toward stability, not destruction." With this powerful statement, President Trump redefined America's role on the world stage-not just as an economic powerhouse, but as the ultimate force for peace and progress.

For decades, the United States has been portrayed as a nation that fuels wars and conflicts, profiting from endless cycles of destruction by supplying weapons to both sides while ensuring that conflicts never truly subside. The global perception of America as a war machine—bullying nations, destabilizing regions, and keeping arms sales perpetual—has been deeply ingrained. However, President Trump has taken an entirely opposite stand, declaring that his greatest legacy will be that of a peacemaker, not a warmonger.

By making this bold proclamation, he has shattered the long-standing image of the U.S. as an aggressor and repositioned it as a nation committed to peace and stability. His approach signifies a monumental shift in American foreign policy—one that prioritizes diplomacy over dominance, negotiations over military interventions, and peace over perpetual war. With this stance, Trump has begun rewriting America's role on the world stage, transforming it from a force of coercion into a beacon of peace and cooperation.

President Trump laid out a clear roadmap to end both the Russia-Ukraine war and the Middle East conflict and

diplomatic negotiations, strong leadership, and economic incentives as the key to achieving lasting peace.

The selection of Mohammed bin Salman, the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, to lead peace negotiations between Ukraine and Russia, as well as to initiate discussions with parties in the Middle East, has surprised many. It was not India,

or the United Nations, but Saudi Arabia—led by the dynamic Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (affectionately known as MBS)-that was entrusted with this critical role.

The role assigned to Saudi Arabia is also arguably the most suitable one. Due to the

acumen of Saudi leadership, all stakeholders in the conflict have a high level of trust and confidence in the Kingdom, as it is seen as a neutral, non-controversial, and fair mediator. This stands in contrast to other global powers, many of whom are perceived as biased or having vested interests in the conflicts—factors that jeopardize both regional and international peace.

In pursuit of peace, his speech emphasized the unimaginable destructive power of nuclear weapons, urging serious negotiations with President Putin of Russia and President Xi of China to curb nuclear proliferation before it spirals out of

Trump underscored his philosophy of "peace through strength," arguing that without military strength, peace remains unattainable. However, he made it clear that nuclear weapons are a force so powerful that their use would mean the end of civilization. He referenced the devastation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki,

500 times more powerful than those that obliterated the two Japanese cities.

In his speech, Trump revealed that he had engaged in serious discussions with both Putin and Xi on denuclearization, recognizing that while the U.S. and Russia currently possess the largest nuclear arsenals, China is rapidly closing the gap and will reach parity within not China, nor any European country a few years. He emphasized that these

three superpowers hold the key to preventing a nuclear apocalypse and that negotiations must extend beyond just the U. S. and Russia to include China and other nuclear-armed nations.

Trump described his direct talks with Putin as "very successful" and highlighted his discus-

sions with Xi, signaling that China was open to negotiations. He emphasized that the world must come together to prevent new nations from acquiring nuclear weapons—not just Iran, which is often at the center of nuclear concerns, but other emerging nuclear powers as well.

The urgency of Trump's message was clear: if nuclear war occurs, the world as we know it will disintegrate. His words reflected a deep understanding of the devastating consequences of uncontrolled nuclear proliferation. He positioned himself as a leader who recognizes the dire necessity of preventing nuclear war—not through weakness, but through diplomacy backed by strength.

By taking bold steps to initiate serious negotiations with both Russia and China, Trump reaffirmed that denuclearization is not just a political strategy, but a moral imperative to save humanity from a future of unimaginable destruction. His approach marks a shift in global power dynamics, where instead of esca-

in dialogue to prevent the ultimate catastrophe—nuclear annihilation.

President Trump has repeatedly claimed that his party believes in common sense. Surprisingly, he is now taking steps that had long seemed unimaginable to many nations-steps that challenge the conventional, often destructive, approaches of global powers. For decades, nation after nation has abandoned the path of common sense, indulging in wars and conflicts that have wreaked havoc on humanity, bringing untold misery to the vanquished.

Despite knowing that wars are inherently destructive and bring no real benefit to humanity, even in this age of advanced knowledge, intense diplomacy, technological innovation, and supposed political maturity, nations have continued to subject hundreds of thousands of innocent people to suffering in the name of their convictions, ideologies, and misguided geopolitical ambitions. Instead of prioritizing diplomacy and peace, wars have been fueled by religious extremism, ethnic divisions, and racial animosities, pushing common sense to the back seat and leaving the world reeling under the weight of irrationality and destruction.

Now, President Trump is reversing this trend-steering the world away from senseless conflict and back toward common sense with full force. His approach aims to restore fairness, logic, and practical diplomacy as the foundation for global peace. If successful, this shift could lead the world to embrace a renewed commitment to reason, cooperation, and shared prosperity—ushering in an era of stability, development, and growth across the board.

Writer is Press Secretary to the President (Rtd), Former Press Minister at Embassy of Pakistan to France And Former MD, SRBC. He living at Macomb, Detroit, Michigan



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

### Separation Is Between the Spouses, Not Between the Parents

### Asifa Abdul Rasool Khowaja

eparation should only be between spouses, not between parents. This idea, once expressed by a Hon'ble Family judge, carries a deep truth. With rapid social and economic change in our society, conjugal and familial relationships are becoming more complex with each passing day, and so are the conditions for their dissolutions. When a marriage ends whether through a husband's decision to divorce or a wife's choice to seek khula, the real victims are often the children. Their wellbeing, both physical and emotional, is at stake. While a husband and wife may no longer be bound by marriage, their duties as parents must remain unchanged.

Through my experience in legal practice, I have seen many cases where divorce not only breaks the bond between spouses but also disrupts the crucial connection between parents and children. In such situations, children often suffer the most, as parents, driven by ego or personal grievances, neglect their responsibilities.

Legally speaking, courts in Pakistan and around the world emphasize that child custody decisions should be based on what is best for the child. The Guardian and Wards Act 1890 lays out guidelines to ensure that custody decisions serve the child's well-being, not the parents' personal disputes. Courts generally support shared parenting unless there is a risk of harm to the child. However, in reality, many separations turn into power struggles, where one parent tries to cut the child off from the other, causing further emotional harm.

Pakistan ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in 1990, which affirms that chil-

dren have the right to maintain relationships with both parents unless it poses a risk. Unfortunately, these principles are often ignored, leaving children at the mercy of their parents'

Ending a marriage does not end a parent's responsibility. Even when spouses part ways, they must continue to provide love, guidance, and support to their children. In many countries, co-parenting is a recognized practice that ensures children benefit from the involvement of both parents. Unfortunately, this concept is not widely followed in Pakistan. Twenty years ago, shared parenting was considered a questionable parenting arrangement when a marriage dissolved. Now with shared responsibility by both parents having become a widely accepted alternative, the debate has shifted toward examining what circumstances make it workable and the extent to which responsibility should be shared. (SHARED PARENTING-

The Pakistani Perspective 2nd Edition) Co-parenting requires both parents to put aside personal differences and make joint decisions regarding their child's upbringing. Education, healthcare, and emotional support should be a shared responsibility. When done right, co-parenting helps children feel secure and minimizes the trauma of separation.

One of the most distressing aspects of Pakistan's legal system is the court-supervised visitation process, where children are forced to meet the non-custodial parent in a formal, often intimidating setting. This makes the situation even harder for the child, reinforcing the idea that their relationship with a parent is conditional and restricted. A more compassionate approach, such as designated childfriendly visitation centers, would be far more

encourage co-parenting, ensuring that chil- they deserve.

dren maintain meaningful relationships with both parents. Family courts should mandate counseling and mediation to help parents create healthy co-parenting plans. Awareness campaigns can educate parents on the dangers of parental alienation and highlight the importance of shared parenting. Courts should also move away from rigid visitation policies and instead create environments where children can meet both parents in a comfortable setting.

At present legal framework for child custody is based on the assumption that custody can be vested with either one of the contesting parties, and suitability is determined in a comparative manner. We need to think about custody differently and provide for a broader framework within which divorcing parents and children can decide what custodial arrangement works best for them. Therefore, now the time has come to change our mindset of finding out who the better parent is and rather to adopt a new thinking as to find out how these two parents can behave responsibly and work collectively to give their child the best from both of them. Keeping in view the observations made by the superior courts of Pakistan in multiple judgments, for example, in case of Haq Nawaz VsZeba Rashid cited as 2023

Divorce or separation should never mean that children lose access to one of their parents. A husband and wife may choose to part ways, but the roles of a mother and father are permanent. As a society, we must promote responsible parenting, ensuring that children are not left to suffer because of their parents' choices. As Nelson Mandela once said, "There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children." It is time we put our children first, making co-parenting a Pakistan needs to adopt legal reforms that norm so they receive the love, care, and stability

### **Climate Change: The Defining Problem of Our Time**

### Waqas Anjum

limate change is the most pressing issue of the 21st century, with far-reaching consequences for our planet and future generations. From rising global temperatures and extreme weather events to biodiversity loss and sea level rise, the impacts of climate change are already being felt worldwide. Addressing this challenge requires urgent and sustainable action at local, national, and global levels.

The primary cause of climate change is human activity since the 19th century, particularly the burning of fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and natural gas. These activities release greenhouse gases (GHGs), including carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O), which trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere and cause temperatures to rise. Deforestation, industrial processes, and agricultural practices further contribute to the accumulation of GHGs, exacerbating the crisis

The effects of climate change are diverse and alarming. Rising temperatures have led to hotter summers and prolonged droughts. Extreme weather events such as hurricanes, wildfires, heatwaves, and floods have become more frequent and intense, causing loss of life and economic damage. Polar ice caps and glaciers are melting at unprecedented rates, leading to rising sea levels that threaten coastal communities and ecosystems. Biodiversity is also at high risk, as many species struggle to adapt to changing climate conditions, resulting in habitat loss and declining populations, with many species on the brink of extinction. Furthermore, shifts in climate patterns disrupt agricultural production and freshwater availability, posing significant threats to food security. The fight against climate change requires urgent and collective action. Governments, businesses, and individ-

uals must take responsibility and implement sustainable solutions. The Paris Agreement, signed in 2015, aims to limit global warming to below 2°C, with an aspirational goal of 1.5°C. However, current policies and commitments fall short of achieving these targets. Moreover, the United Nations Climate Change Conference, commonly known as COP, convenes annually to bring together countries worldwide. The primary goal of COP is to negotiate and agree on global actions to address climate change, including setting emission reduction targets and providing financial support to vulnerable countries.

Transitioning to renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and hydroelectric power can reduce reliance on fossil fuels. Enhancing energy efficiency in industries, transportation, and households can help lower emissions. Protecting and restoring forests is crucial, as they act as carbon sinks, absorbing CO2 from the atmosphere. Additionally, sustainable agriculture and land-use practices should be implemented to reduce GHG emissions and preserve soil health.

While systemic changes are necessary, individuals also play a crucial role in addressing climate change. Reducing energy consumption, using public transportation, supporting sustainable products, and advocating for climate policies can

collectively make a significant difference. Climate change is the defining problem of our time, with profound implications for human societies and natural ecosystems. Without decisive action, future generations will face increasingly severe consequences. However, by adopting sustainable practices, reducing carbon emissions, and prioritizing environmental conservation, we can work toward a stronger and healthier planet. Now is the time for action, and the responsibility to save our Earth and protect future generations is in our hands.

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## The Spokesman 5

### Gaurd of Honor

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif receives guard of honor on his arrival at Zugulba Presidential Palace in Baku, Azerbaijan on Monday.



## Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Israel's deployment of tanks is a systematic continuation of genocide, displacement, and annexation

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign the northern West Bank and its refugee Affairs and Expatriates warns of the Israeli occupation army's deployment 'Defense' Minister Israel Katz boasts that displaced 40,000 Palestinians from refu-

a prelude to expanding its crimes against displaced Palestinians from returning to the Palestinian people—particularly in their homes and has ordered an extendcamps. This escalation comes as Israeli

ed military presence in the area. Israeli occupation forces have already forcibly of heavy tanks around Jenin, viewing it as the Israeli occupation army will prevent gee camps in the northern West Bank.

The Ministry views these developments—including Katz's statements, the deployment of tanks, and the deliberate intimidation of defenseless civilians—as a grave escalation in the West Bank and intervene immediately to curb Israel's a flagrant attempt to entrench genocide unchecked aggression, which continues

and forced displacement against our unarmed people.

The Ministry renews its urgent calls on the international community to

in blatant violation of international law and signed agreements, and compel it to end its assault on the Palestinian people and their fundamental rights, foremost among them is their inalienable right to

## Russia Opens New Opportunities for the Islamic World In 2025 Livoltek Shines at Solar Pakistan Expo 2025 with Smart Energy Innovations

**№** City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The countries of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, of which Pakistan is a member, have markedly increased their interaction with Russia. Total trade turnover has increased by 30 per cent over the past year. The rapprochement of the sides will continue at the XVI International Economic Forum "Russia-Islamic World: KazanForum", which will be held from 13 to 18 May in the Russian Federation. An important issue for the participants will be the interaction between Russia and Pakistan.

Pakistan and Russia have many points of contact and More than 40 diplomatic grounds for developing missions from Europe, Asia co-operation. An important and Africa were represented. area is trade. Over the past About 180 events were held 5 years, trade turnover within the framework of between the countries has increased 1.5 times. This was in the conclusion of 120 helped by the opening of the agreements. Traditionally, St Petersburg-Karachi sea the participants of Kazanline. Russia actively exports Forum are leading experts food and agricultural prod- from the countries of the ucts. Exports of mineral Islamic world: representafertilisers are expected to tives of international organgrow and grain supplies are expected to resume. All this missions, Islamic clergy, construction, medicine, will enhance Pakistan's food



The previous Kazan-Forum 2024 gathered more than 20 thousand participants, including 11978 business programme participants from 87 countries, including 57 OIC states. the forum, which resulted isations, national diplomatic public authorities, financial education, tourism, culture, institutions, large interna-

tional business, members of parliaments, investors, entrepreneurs, heads of media corporations and mass media.

The aim of the forum

is to strengthen trade and

economic, scientific and technical, educational, social and cultural ties between the Russian Federation and the OIC countries. programme includes more than 100 sessions and events

The KazanForum 2025 on the following topics: international cooperation, business, Islamic finance and Halal industry, transport and logistics, science and technology, IT, industry, media industry and others.

Also in the KazanForum 2025 programme: a meeting of the Ministers of Transport of the participating countries and the Agreement on the North-South International Transport Corridor, the Conference on the Development of Transport Logistics Potential of the Participating Countries, the second international real estate exhibition International Property Market 2025, the International Forum of Chambers of Commerce and Industry. the Russia Halal Expo, the Islamic Fashion Festival "Modest Fashion Day", the International Tournament of Young Chefs of Islamic Countries, as well as separate special events and sessions

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Livoltek, a global leader in smart solar energy solutions, proudly concluded its participation in the Solar Pakistan Expo 2025, held from February 21 to 23 at the Expo Center Labor The event marked a significant milestone for Livoltek, attracting an impressive number of visitors and extensive media coverage. The event overall attracted 10,000 visitors, including industry professionals, business leaders, and renewable energy enthusiasts. Approximately a hundred new Chinese solar companies participated, showcasing a diverse range of innovative products and solutions.

Throughout the three-day expo, Livoltek's booth in Hall 4, Booth No. C17-C22, welcomed a substantial number of industry professionals, business leaders, and renewable energy enthusiasts. The overwhelming interest in Livoltek's innovative products and solutions underscored the company's pivotal role in advancing renewable energy technologies.

Max Maa, Director of Sales at Livoltek, expressed response during the expo:"At



Livoltek, we are dedicated to delivering smart, efficient, and future-ready energy solutions. The overwhelming interest and engagement at Solar Pakistan Expo 2025 reaffirm our commitment to driving the transition to clean energy. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all visitors and media representatives who contributed to the success of our showcase." In addition to the remark-

able visitor turnout, Livoltek's participation garnered significant attention from various media outlets. journalists and media representatives covered Livoltek's showcase. highlighting the company's contributions to the renewable energy sector and its gratitude for the enthusiastic impact on sustainable energy

comprehensive range of cutting-edge smart energy products designed to meet diverse energy needs. The featured products included hybrid inverters (IP 21 Series) available in 3.2kW and 6.2kW capacities for efficient residential energy management; grid-tied inverters ranging from 6kW to 125kW, ideal for both residential and commercial installations with high conversion efficiency and reliability; robust hybrid inverters (IP 66 Series) with capacities of 6kW, 8kW, 10kW, and 12kW, designed for various environmental conditions; threephase HV hybrid inverters offering 15kW, 20kW, and

larger energy demands with

seamless integration; and advanced lithium battery storage solutions available in 5kW, 10kW, and 15kW capacities, ensuring uninterrupted power supply and efficient energy utilization. Visitors had the opportunity to engage with Livoltek's team of experts, who provided live demonstrations and in-depth insights into the features and benefits of each product, facilitating meaningful discussions on tailored solar solutions and potential collaborations

Visitors engaged with Livoltek's team of experts, who provided live demonstrations and in-depth insights into each product's features and benefits. The interactive sessions facilitated meaningful discussions on tailored solar solutions and potential collaborations.

As a globally recognized brand, Livoltek continues to lead the renewable energy sector with cuttingedge technology, superior product reliability, and intelligent energy management systems. The company's presence at Solar Pakistan Expo 2025 exemplifies its dedication to fostering 30kW options to cater to sustainable energy solutions

## ISSI hosts Seminar on 'Navigating the Cyber Frontier'

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Arms Control and Disarmament Centre (ACDC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), hosted a seminar on "Navigating the Cyber Frontier: Governance and Security in a Global Digital Commons" to underscore the commonalities and differences between cyberspace and other global commons by exploring potential threats to national and international security arising from or through cyberspace. Mr. Zarrar Hasham Khan, Secretary, IT & Telecommunication. Government of Pakistan, was the keynote speaker. Other distinguished speakers included: Air Marshal Zahid Mahmood (Retd.), Director, Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies; Dr. Mehreen Afzal, Director GRC, National Cyber Emergency Response Team

Mr. Javaid Iqbal, Member of the Authority, Special Technology Zones Authority. The seminar was moderated by Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director, ACDC-ISSI.

Mr. Zarrar Hasham Khan, in his keynote address, underscored the transformative impact of industrial revolutions on global power dynamics, highlighting the emergence of data sovereignty as a critical aspect of national security. He emphasized the evolving nature of threats in an increasingly globalized world, necessitating robust digital governance frameworks.

DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, in his welcome remarks, emphasized the strategic significance of cyberspace as a global common, akin to maritime and outer space, serving as the backbone of communication, trade, governance, and security. He underscored the growing cyber (nCERT); Dr. Saadia Zahoor, threats, including cyber warfare, Lawyer and Policy Expert; and espionage, and cybercrime, high-

lighting the urgent need for robust governance structures.

Earlier, in his introductory remarks, Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director ACDC, underscored the growing reliance on cyberspace and its profound impact on national security. However, this dependency has heightened vulnerabilities, exposing nations to cyber threats, cybercrimes, and cyber warfare, posing significant risks to critical infrastructure and strategic stability.

Air Marshal Zahid Mahmood elaborated on "Cybersecurity and National Security." He outlined the shift from traditional to non-traditional security threats, emphasizing cybersecurity as a critical component of modern national security. He highlighted the role of cyber sovereignty, referencing China's "Great Firewall" and Iran's "Halal Internet" as examples of measures regarding digital infrastructure.

Dr. Mehreen Afzal shared her

insights on "Cybersecurity as a Global Common" and underscored the escalating cyber challenges confronting the nation. She highlighted the surge in cyberattacks, including hacking, identity theft, and financial fraud, which pose significant threats to national security and economic stability.

Dr. Saadia Zahoor exploring "Cyber Governance and International Law" emphasized that cyberspace, as a global domain, challenges traditional notions of state sovereignty, with cyber threats transcending borders and impacting national security, critical infrastructure, and economic

Mr. Javaid Iqbal while discussing "Cyber Threat Landscape & Readiness Imperatives for Pakistan" emphasized that AI has become a double-edged sword, amplifying cyber threats through sophisticated phishing attacks, AI-driven disinformation campaigns, and advanced hacking



Chairman BOG Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, in his vote of

thanks, highlighted the unprec-need for proactive actions at the edented pace of technological policy, legal, and technical levels, advancements. He stressed the along with capacity building.

## Economy/Commerce

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

### **Bull & Bears** PSX 100-Share

Index Fluctuation		
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
114,330.10 112,800.93  Day's High Day's Low		
		114,573.67
Index Value Change		
18,750,330,856	+1529.17	
Percentage	Time	
+1.36%	24 Feb, 2025 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
8,658.98	-0.39	
Percentage	Time	
-0.0045%	24 Feb, 4:35 pm GMT	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Avera		
Index Value	Change	
43,602.69	+174.67	
Percentage	Time	
. 0. 400/	24 Feb, 12:11 pm	

+0.40%	24 Feb, 12:11 pm GMT-5	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Avera		
Index Value	Change	
38,776.94	+98.90	
Percentage	Time	
. 0.26%	21 Feb, 3:45 pm	

+0.26%	+0.26% GMT+9  Open Market Forex Rates	
Open Market		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	179.00	181.25
Bahrain Dinar	738.35	746.35
Canadian Dollar	197.60	200.00
China Yuan	37.59	37.99
Danish Krone	38.48	38.88
Euro	292.75	295.50
Hong Kong Dollar	35.47	35.82
Indian Rupee	3.11	3.20
Japanese Yen	1.88	1.94
Kuwaiti Dinar	899.35	908.85
Malaysian Ringgit	62.33	62.93
NewZealand \$	158.9	160.90
Norwegians Krone	24.49	24.79
Omani Riyal	723.79	731.79
Qatari Riyal	75.93	76.63
Saudi Riyal	74.30	74.85
Singapore Dollar	210	212.00
Swedish Korona	25.35	25.65
Swiss Franc	303.71	306.51
Thai Bhat	8.14	8.29
U.A.E Dirham	75.95	76.60
UK Pound Sterling	354.50	358
US Dollar	280 00	281 50

### Pakistan Furniture Council to Review Budget Proposals for National Budget

**№** Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) has convened a special meeting of all stakeholders to review and consolidate their budget proposals for submission to the federal government.

Chairing here Sunday board of directors meeting its Chief Executive Officer Mian Kashif Ashfaq said the meeting aims to address key challenges and opportunities within the furniture industry, ensuring that the sector's needs are adequately represented in the upcoming national budget. Stakeholders, including manufacturers, exporters, designers, and industry experts, will assemble to discuss strategies for growth, innovation, and sustainability. He emphasized the importance of aligning the budget proposals with the government's economic policies to foster a conducive environment for the furniture industry. Key agenda items include tax reforms, incentives for local manufacturing, export promotion, and support for small and medium enterprises (SMEs). The council also plans to highlight the need for infrastructure development, skill enhancement programs, and access to affordable raw materials. This collaborative effort underscores the PFC's commitment to strengthening the furniture industry, which plays a vital role in Pakistan's economy, he concluded.

## Diplomats Briefed on Economy & Trade at FPCCI: Atif Ikram Sheikh

KARACHI: Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, has apprised that a large number of foreign visiting diplomats have been briefed on macroeconomy, improving economic indicators, potential sectors of cooperation, trade agreements and trade promotion activities at Federation House, Karachi.

Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh highlighted that in January 2025, Pakistan recorded a monthly trade deficit of \$2.83 billion - which represents an 18 percent year on year rise. Whereas, current account was in deficit by \$420 million in January, he added.

FPCCI Chief stated that despite these challenges, the economy as a whole is going in the right direction as key policy rate has come down by 10 percent in less than a year - which shows that the emphasis will be on expan-



sion and growth. This phenomenon creates an enormous demand for imports of the raw materials as well; therefore, we should create lishment of new industry.

sify and expand our export-basket through aggressive trade promotion by the means of trade diplomacy.

Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, SVP FPCCI, maintained that it is very important to activate the existing trade agreements like preferential trade agreements (PTAs); free trade agreements (FTAs) and other economic alliances with various countries and regions. The diplomats of various countries should be taken on board in a meaningful way to facilitate and enable the untapped potential, he added.

Mr. Asif Inam, VP FPCCI, briefed on the strengths and challenges of the textile industry that Pakistan has the potential to have mega joint ventures; industrial collaborations; transfer of technology and offer abundant, young labor force for the estab-

### Exchange of Agreements

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and President of Azerbaijan H.E. Ilham Aliyev witness the exchange of agreements and MoUs in various sectors between Pakistan and Azerbaijan in Baku on Monday.



## Cheezious x MathMania Competition 2025 Inspires Young Minds with the Joy of Mathematics



**Example 2** Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Cheezious, a proud Pakistani brand committed to empowering youth through education, successfully concluded the much-anticipated Cheezious x MathMania Competition 2025. The exhilarating final round left students, parents, and educators inspired by the power of mathematics, proving

formative.

The final round showcased exceptional talent, critical thinking, and teamwork as contestants tackled challenging problems under time constraints. Parents and educators praised the initiative for making math both approachable and enjoyable. Among the top performers were Salaar Ahmad, Muhammad Bin Ahsan, and Irtaza Haider Kazmi, who that learning can be both fun and trans- were recognized and awarded for their hurdle."

outstanding achievements.

Zohaib Hasan, Head of Marketing at Cheezious, expressed his excitement about the event, stating, "At Cheezious, we believe in empowering young minds through education.

MathMania is a testament to how learning can be both fun and impactful, encouraging students to see mathematics as an exciting challenge rather than a

## **Advisor to FTO Lahore Office** Passes Away After Prolonged Illness

LAHORE: Abdul Rehman the departed soul in eternal Dogar, Advisor to Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) regional office Lahore, family endure this irrepapassed away on Monday after a protracted illness.

Despite dialysis treatduty with his strong will power and conducting hear-

FTO Dr Asif Mahmood Jah, expressed deep sorrow Jah prayed to Allah to rest who will be deeply missed.

peace and grant strength and courage to the bereaved rable loss with patience and resilience.

Advisors Dr Wagar Ch ment, he was performing Arain and Almas Ali Jovinda said Abdul Rehman Dogar was known for his dedicaings of complaints regularly. tion and contributions to the FTO, and his passing is a significant loss to the orgaover the untimely loss, nization. Colleagues and extending heartfelt condo- friends remember him as a lences to the bereaved committed professional and family. In his message, Dr a compassionate individual

### **SAARC Chamber Chief Calls for Reduced Profit Margins on Essentials**



### Commerce Desk

LAHORE: SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry former President Iftikhar Ali Malik Sunday urged entire business community to sell daily-use products, edibles, groceries, garments, and shoes at minimal profit margins during the holy month of

Ramadan is a time for and solidarity, and business community should the financial burden on people, particularly low-income families. He highlighted that reducing profit public but also foster goodwill and trust. He stressed Ul Mubarak.

that such initiatives align with the spirit of Ramadan, which encourages sharing and caring for the less fortunate. He also appealed to traders and retailers to avoid hoarding and price gouging, practices that often lead to artificial inflation during this sacred month and Islam strictly forbids hoarding and excessive profiteering.

Iftikhar Ali Malik further In a statement here urged the government to today he emphasized that monitor markets closely to ensure compliance with compassion, generosity, fair pricing policies. He expressed hope that the business community, being play their part in easing octogenarian popular trade leader of South Asia, would respond positively to this call, demonstrating ethical responsibility and contribmargins on essential items uting to a more incluwould not only benefit the sive and compassionate society during Ramadan

### Expose Cartels, Earn Rewards:

## CCP seeks public's help in hunting market collusions

### **Example 2** Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The artificial increase in the price of goods and services in each other by offering better services Pakistan, and lack of quality goods, is largely the result of business cartelizathan colluding to fix prices. Engaging tion in the markets. Cartels are formed in agreements or understandings to when suppliers in a market coordinate control prices or supply of goods and or enter into agreements to fix prices services for unjustifiable profits is a for goods and services and control the serious crime under the Competition supply, all for unjustifiable gains and illicit profit, which is an illegal practice. To ensure the provision of better- Pakistan (CCP) has called for cooper-

to consumers, it is essential that all suppliers in the market compete with and products at better prices, rather Act 2010.

The Competition Commission of

the concerned stakeholders in particular to take strict action against such illegal business nexus and cartels and to report any such act.

If any individual is aware that a business association or product suppliers have colluded to fix prices or control supply, he is urged to immediately report such information to the CCP. Those who provide information and evidence regarding such illegal cartels will be rewarded with amounts ranging

quality goods and services at fair prices ation from the public in general and from Rs. 200,000 to Rs. 2,000,000. It is important to note that the identity of the informant will remain confidential.

This initiative by CCP aims to promote public participation in eliminating illegal business practices. The scheme not only provides a legal avenue but also encourages the public to be part of protecting the country's economy and their economic rights.

The CCP's mandate is to promote ensuring that every Pakistani has



fair competition in the economy, access to quality goods and services at fair prices. Let us work together to All!

identify these bad actors and support CCP in protecting consumer rights and promoting a transparent business envi-

Contact: You can reach CCP through phone, email, or their website to report cartel activities. If your information is verified, you will not only receive a reward but also be recognized as a national hero.

Competition Commission of Pakistan - Ensuring Fair Competition for

### **World Cricket Champions Trophy 2025**

# Pakistan and Bangladesh out of the Champions Trophy Semi-Final

**Asim Tanveer** 

ISLAMABAD: An official decision has been made in Rawalpindi to eliminate Pakistan from the ICC Champions Trophy, with two teams—New Zealand and India-securing their spots in the semi-finals. Bangladesh has also been eliminated.

Pakistan's final match on February 27 has now become a mere formality. Similarly, the last group-stage match between India and New Zealand has lost its significance. Following Pakistan's defeat against India, it was already evident that Pakistan's chances in the tournament had ended. However, some hopeful cricket fans continued to calculate scenarios in which Pakistan could still advance. They believed that if Bangladesh managed to defeat New Zealand, Pakistan might have a slim chance. However, Cricket Again had maintained that even if Bangladesh won, Pakistan's chances were nearly zero. This was due to Pakistan's earlier match against Bangladesh and the forecasted rain, which could have further complicated matters. Additionally, since New Zealand and India's match was scheduled last, New Zealand would have had the advantage of knowing the exact margin by which they needed to win or lose.

In today's crucial Group A match at the Pindi Cricket Stadium, New wickets. This was the first match of Rawalpindi venue, where the pitch Hossain Shanto played a slow knock of turned out to be slow. Winning the toss, New Zealand opted to bowl first. Bangladesh's batting lineup struggled throughout the innings, much like Pakistan had in their previous match

Pakistan had played 152 dot balls against India, while Bangladesh surpassed this number by playing 178



result, they managed only 236 runs for the tournament to be played at the the loss of 9 wickets. Captain Najmul 77 runs off 110 balls, while Ali contributed a quicker 45 towards the end. New Zealand's Michael Bracewell delivered an outstanding bowling performance, taking 4 wickets for just 26 runs in his 10-over spell. Will O'Rourke also claimed two wickets.

> When New Zealand began their chase, Bangladesh's bowlers Taskeen

Zealand defeated Bangladesh by five dot balls in their 300-ball innings. As a Ahmed and Naheed Rana created early tension. Will Young was clean-bowled for a duck by Taskeen, and soon after, the key wicket of Kane Williamson fell, caught off the bowling of Naheed Rana. Williamson managed just 5 runs. At 15-2, it seemed as though an upset was on the cards. However, Devon Conway and Rachin Ravindra stabilized the

Bangladesh's third breakthrough came in the 16th over when Devon Conway, who scored 30 runs, was



clean-bowled by Mustafizur Rahman. his fourth career century off 95 balls, onto the stumps, leaving Conway helplessly watching. At that point, New Rayindra to steer the innings forward and ease the growing pressure.

Rachin Ravindra, returning after an injury that sidelined him during the Pakistan tri-series in Lahore, marked his comeback with a century. Bangladesh's fielding let them down, as they dropped two catches and missed a run-out chance. Ravindra completed

The ball clipped his pads before rolling and all four of his centuries have come in ICC events. With this feat, he became the highest century-maker Zealand's score was 72. Wicketkeeper for New Zealand in ICC tournaments, Tom Latham then joined Rachin surpassing Kane Williamson, who has claimed 1 for 43, Mustafizur Rahman three centuries in ICC events.

Bangladesh's defeat became inevitable as New Zealand crossed the 200-run mark in the 38th over. India have officially qualified for the Ravindra was eventually dismissed after scoring 112 runs, while Tom Latham was run out for 55. New Zealand successfully chased the target in 46.1 overs, securing a five-wicket be determined from Group B.

victory. Glenn Phillips remained unbeaten on 21, and Mitchell Santner

For Bangladesh, Taskeen Ahmed took I wicket for 28 runs, Naheed Rana picked up 1 for 42, and Rishad Hossain took 1 for 58.

With this victory, New Zealand and semi-finals of the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 from Group A, both securing four points from two matches. The two remaining semi-finalists will



## FG storm into final as Olympia/AZB edge past HN in President of Pakistan Polo Cup

**Sports Desk** 

LAHORE: The high-goal season's premier event, sponsored by Fatima Group, is in full swing at Jinnah Polo Fields. Among the distinguished attendees were Sarsabz Pakistan Director Mian Abbas Mukhtar, Club Secretary Major Ali Taimoor (Retd), players, and a large number of families and polo

In the first match of the day, Olympia/ AZB edged out HN with a narrow 5-4 victory in a closely contested battle. Abdul Rehman Monnoo led the charge with two goals, while Ahmed Zubair Butt, Luis Manuel Aguirre, and Novillo Astrada scored one goal each. For HN, Hamza Mawaz Khan netted three goals, and Haider Naseem added one.

HN got off to a blistering start, netting two back-to-back goals in the opening chukker and adding another in the second to establish a commanding 3-0 lead. However, just before the second



through with a crucial goal, narrowing the deficit to 3-1.

The momentum shifted in the third chukker, as Olympia/AZB found the net once again, bringing the score to 3-2. They then dominated the fourth chukker, firing in two consecutive goals to snatch a 4-3 lead. Their advantage. however, was short-lived, as HN swiftly responded with an equalizer, levelling chukker ended, Olympia/AZB broke the contest at 4-4. With the match was the standout performer for FG take place on Friday.

hanging in the balance, the decisive fifth chukker saw Olympia/AZB capitalizing on a well-executed field goal, sealing a hard-fought 5-4 victory.

The second match witnessed a dramatic finish as FG Polo sealed a 9-8 sudden-death victory over DS Polo in the sixth chukker, securing a spot in the main final of the National Open are set for Wednesday (February 26, Polo Championship. Raul Laplacette 2025), while the tournament final will

Polo, smashing in five fabulous goals, while Nicolas Ruiz and Raja Mikael Sami contributed two each. DS's Lao Abelenda hammered five goals, and Max Charlton netted three in a valiant

FG Polo dominated the early proceedings, storming to a commanding 5-1 lead by the end of the second chukker. However, DS Polo staged a remarkable comeback, firing in five consecutive goals during the third and fourth chukkers to snatch a 6-5 advantage. The high-intensity fifth chukker saw both teams go head-to-head in a fierce battle, with FG Polo hammering in a hat-trick, while DS Polo responded with a brace, leveling the match at 8-8 and forcing a sudden-death chukker. In a thrilling climax, it was Raul Laplacette who rose to the occasion, smashing in the golden goal to seal a hard-fought 9-8 triumph for FG Polo. The last two league matches

### Int'l level training courses to be conducted for SBP coaches to hone their skills

**₿** Sports Desk

KARACHI: International level training courses will be conducted for Sports Board Puniab coaches to hone their skills

as per modern sports requirements. DG Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry made this announcement while chairing a meeting of Punjab Sports Department and Sports Board Punjab coaches at the National Hockey Stadium on Monday. The meeting was convened to review the performance and abilities of the coaches.

Director Admin Dr M Kaleem, Director Sports Rana Nadeem Anjum, Deputy Director Chand Perveen and all Sports Board Punjab coaches participated in the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, DG Sports Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry said that all coaches have adopted modern ince".

coaching methods at international level and that's why Sports Board is taking all possible measures to increase the capabilities of its coaches. "It is obligatory for all coaches to have proper awareness and knowledge about the latest global changes in sports," he added.

He said that specialist coaches will be deployed in certain areas of the province as per the talent ratio of a particular game. "The divisional coaches will also be assigned important responsibilities to improve the coaching standard across the province".

He further said that the professional coaching techniques and expertise of coaches in their respective games have always been a major advantage for the players, "Coaches' improved skills will play a key role in the development of sports culture in all parts of the prov-

## Sharif, Aliyev finalize matters on Azerbaijan's \$2bn investment in Pakistan

Continued from Page 1

Addressing the joint press stakeout, the prime minister said US\$2 billion investment in Pakistan announced by the President Alivev will bring dividends to both countries.

"This will be the first quantum jump in our trade and a huge reflection of our fraternal ties," the prime minister said adding that "Our business, trade, and investment ties were not reflecting the true strength

have achieved that target and in and by the beginning of April, a months' time we will celebrate

this great decision into action". President Aliyev regretted that the bilateral trade turnover was only several tens of million of US dollars that was needed

to be increased.

"I think we have the way how investment relations and will be to do it", he said adding that "We received concrete projects from Pakistan and Azerbaijani representatives are evaluating them, today we put ambitious and realistic targets to finalize all the of our relations but today we discussions within one month

the documents will be prepared for signing".

The President of Azerbaijan emphasized that these projects covered infrastructure development areas as well as energy,

economic, mining and others. He said during his meeting with PM Shehbaz Sharif, they discussed important issues, and reaffirmed resolve to continue to support each other on all issues of international relations.

He said they also discussed numerous issues of current

and cooperation in defence area including defence industry.

"Azerbaijan has already acquired defence equipment from Pakistan and we are satisfied with the quality of this equipment and we will continue to do to it.

At the same time, he said, they also discussed opportunity of joint manufacturing in defence industrial items, which will be another important sector of bilateral cooperation.

As regards connectivity

said that the people to people contacts had also been develtwo countries. "With regular airlines connection, the number will grow and we will see more Sharif extended his gratitude regular interactions between the two countries."

Praising Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's vision and reforms which he implemented in Pakistan, he said these steps brought important results in areas of economy and political stability. "All is due to your

team, and we as your brother and friend, really happy on the oped successfully between the achievements under your leadership," he added.

Prime Minister Shehbaz efforts," he added. to the Azerbaijan President for

and attraction to Islamabad. He also thanked him for his the cause of Kashmir without

any political conditions. We deeply appreciate this

international development and transportation sectors, he hard work and work of your and I hope that resolutions passed by the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council will be materialized one day soon through our collective

The prime minister underscored that the People of Gaza dispatching his delegation to now needed permanent cease-Islamabad to add further beauty fire and today was the time that pause in Gaza should now be converted into permanent country's continued support for ceasefire and dream of two-state of this area should be materi-

### Group photo

KARACHI: Group photograph of Naval Officials and representatives of National stakeholders after opening brief of Exercise Sea Guard 2025 on Monday.



## State Bank working on cryptocurrency regulations: Finance minister

### Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb has said that the PIA would be privatized during the ongoing year and "We should work on the cryptocurrency issue with an open mind".

Talking to the media men after delivering a speech at the Pakistan Banking Summit 2025 in Karachi on Monday, the finance minister maintained that regulations regarding the cryptocurrency are the subject of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), "From my perspective, this should be viewed with an open mind," he added.

The minister informed that the central bank was working on a regulation framework for cryptocurrency. "We will have to be open-minded on the matter."



"Therefore, we will have to work on losses. the public-private sector partnership formula," he asserted.

Senator Aurangzeb reaffirmed the government's commitment to Aurangzeb disclosed that the economic reforms, highlighting the government departments' losses urgency of restructuring state-owned had now run into billions of rupees. enterprises (SOEs) to curb mounting

He said the government faces Rs1 trillion in losses from SOEs, which necessitates privatization and SOE reforms. "At this point, reforming the SOEs and moving forward with the privatization sector is the right thing to do for the country," he said.

The minister reiterated that the government intends to move towards sustainable and inclusive growth. "We cannot continue with the external account vulnerability," he added.

Aurangzeb said the government intends to achieve export-led growth, beyond textiles, IT, and agriculture. "Going forward minerals will be a game changer from 2028. Between now and 2028, every single sector has to start exporting from Pakistan," he

To a question, the minister reiterated that the government intends to broaden and deepen the tax base. "There are sectors which contribute 19-20% to the GDP, but their contribution towards the exchequer is just 1%, which is not sustainable," he

The minister said the government plans to ensure compliance and plug tax leakages to provide relief to the overburdened sectors.

### Haripur University Celebrates another Milestone in Research Excellence

### News Desk

HARIPUR: Mr. Kamran Ahmad Awan successfully defended his PhD dissertation titled "An Intelligent Ensemble Learning-Based Trust Management Mechanism for Internet of Things" at the University of Haripur under the supervision of Dr. Ikram Ud Din on Monday, 10 February 2025. His research focuses on enhancing IoT security by developing intelligent machine learning-based trust management systems to detect malicious devices more accurately.

The PhD defence was evaluated by Professor University, Islamabad) and Pakistan). The external examthe PhD thesis of Dr. Kamran Dr. Muazzam Ali Khattak Professor Dr. Hammad iners Professor Dr. Muazzam Ahmad Awan adequate to Dam Project, Haripur).



(Department of Computer Afzal (National University Ali Khattak and Professor Dr. Quaid-i-Azam of Sciences and Technology,

Hammad Afzal have found

award the doctoral degree. The PhD defence was

attended by distinguished academicians, including Professor Dr. Mukhtaj Khan (Dean, Faculty of IT and Numerical Sciences, University of Haripur), Dr. Shah Masaud Khan (Director QEC, University of Haripur), Dr. Sami Ullah Khan (Director ASRB, University of Haripur), Dr. Attaullah (Assistant Professor, Department of Islamic & Religious Studies, University of Haripur), Dr. Hizbullah Khattak (Assistant Professor, Hazara University). and Asghar Khan Orakzai (Associate Professor, Wapda Postgraduate College, Terbela

## BISP: A Beacon of Hope for Pakistan's Vulnerable Communities

### 👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto said, "No nation can truly progress if its most vulnerable communities are left behind." BISP, the largest social safety net in Asia; BISP's UCT has provided a lifeline to 9.8 m families. Over 10.7 million children are enrolled in Taleemi Wazaif, while Nashonuma fulfills the health and nutritional needs of mothers and children; The National Socio-Economic Registry (NSER), as the backbone of the BISP database, has facilitated over 95 social sectors; Benazir Social Protection Accounts ensured financial empowerment of women through new payment model; BISP launching skill development initiatives to life better for its beneficiaries; Challenges of poverty, climate change, and economic instability demand stronger social protection mechanisms: Senator Rubina Khalid



Speaking at the opening of the Second National Social Protection Conference, Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid, highlighted that BISP is a flagship social

protection program. She recalled that Shaheed Benazir Bhutto envisioned a Pakistan where social protection is not a privilege but a fundamental right. This steadfast commitment to the poor led to the establishment of the Benazir model.

Income Support Programme (BISP)

Senator Rubina Khalid noted that over the past 15 years, BISP has evolved into a multi-dimensional social protection program addressing poverty, education, health, and economic inclusion. Through the Benazir Kafaalat program, BISP provides quarterly financial support to 9.8 million families, specifically targeting womenheaded households. Through Benazir Taleemi Wazaif, BISP has enrolled over 10.7 million children, 50% of whom are girls, by linking financial assistance to school attendance. Benazir Nashonuma is transforming maternal and child health by providing nutritional support to pregnant and lactating mothers across Pakistan. Furthermore, BISP is driving economic inclusion through Benazir Social Protection Accounts, ensuring women's financial empowerment through new payment

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## Maritime Security Exercise SEA Guard-25 **Commences in Karachi**

of Exercise SEA GUARD-25 was conducted under the auspices of Pakistan Navy. Commander Coast, Rear Admiral Faisal Amin, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

The second in its series, Exer-Navy initiative aimed at bringing together representatives from Pakistan's diverse maritime sectors; including shipping, fisheries, law enforcement agencies, private entities, and NGOs under one platform to collectively address multifaceted challenges in the maritime domain. In addition to prominent figures from private sector and fishing community, representatives from various organi-

zations, including the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency, Pakistan Coast KARACHI: The Opening Brief Guards, Pakistan National Shipping Corporation, Anti-Narcotics Force, Federal Investigation Agency, Karachi Port Trust, and Port Qasim Authority, attended the session.

During the opening brief, participants were apprised of the aims and cise SEA GUARD is a Pakistan objectives of Exercise SEA GUARD, as well as the critical role of the Joint Maritime Information Coordination Centre (JMICC) in ensuring maritime safety and security along Pakistan's coastline.

Commander Coast, Rear Admiral Faisal Amin, expressed his gratitude to all national stakeholders for their participation and commended their contributions towards fostering a safer maritime environment.

## PTA begins issuing licences to VPN service providers

### **Example 2** Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has initiated the issuance of licences for Virtual Private Network (VPN) service providers to help businesses.

A Virtual Private Network, or VPN, is a technology that creates a secure, encrypted connection between your device and a remote server. Imagine it as a private tunnel through the bustling public internet.

activities from prying eyes, ensuring connectivity.

your privacy and security.

According to PTA, two companies have already been granted licences upon submission of applications.

The move aims to facilitate businesses in legally using VPN services while ensuring compliance with regu-

PTA stated that the initiative will enhance data security, privacy, and regulatory enforcement.

The authority reaffirmed its commitment to supporting organi-The tunnel shields your online zations with secure and responsible

### Turkey offers to host possible Ukraine-Russia talks

### **Reuters**

ANKARA: Turkey said on Monday it was ready to host possible talks between Ukraine and Russia and would support any initiative leading to peace, following a visit to Ankara Lavrov.

initial talks between the sides months have done before," Fidan said. after Russia's 2022 invasion of the safe passage of grain exports in Ukraine's territorial integrity, Turkish the Black Sea.

the third anniversary of Russia's anniversary.

invasion, Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said Ankara valued a US initiative for peace as a "result-oriented" approach, but repeated that both sides must participate for a solution.

"In that framework, we are ready by Russian Foreign Minister Sergei to contribute all forms of support for peace to be achieved through talks. We are ready to host these talks as we

While he did not repeat Anka-Ukraine, helping secure a deal for ra's long-held stance supporting President Tayyip Erdogan did so in a Speaking alongside Lavrov on separate video message marking the

## **CAPS Ambassadors'** Forum proposes enhancing P2P and B2B linkages among Pakistan, Australia and South Korea

ISLAMABAD: The Consortium stan's educational progress, calling for Asia-Pacific Studies (CAPS) on its students "world-class." He also Monday hosted its flagship event, the discussed the increasing interest of "CAPS Ambassadors' Forum," here at the National Library of Pakistan, bringing together diplomats, industry leaders, and academic experts. Pakistani cuisine recipes

The forum focused on identifying challenges and exploring innovative ways to enhance people-to-people (P2P) and business-to-business (B2B) cooperation between Pakistan and Asia-Pacific nations, said a press release.

Moderated by Dr. Gulshan Rafiq, Chief Organizer of CAPS, the discussions centered on expanding Pakistan's engagement with the Asia-Pacific, particularly in education, tourism, and economic partnerships. Dr. Khurram Iqbal, President of CAPS, emphasized the CAPS's role in promoting understanding in "low politics" areas.

The forum's discussion on Australia-Pakistan relations, led by Ambassador (R) Naela Chohan, highlighted the long-standing ties between the two nations, dating back to the late 19th century.

Ambassador Chohan advocated for reviving a stalled Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on student exchanges between Pakistani universities and Australia's Group of Eight universities, building on existing academic links.

Michael Barnes, CEO of IAE Global, underscored the importance of Transnational Educational Opportunity

(TNE) in opening up opportunities. Barnes, who first visited Pakistan 25 years ago, commended PakiAustralian universities in offshore campuses, presenting a significant opportunity for Pakistan.

Ambassador (R) Masood Khalid provided context for South Korea-Pakistan relations, noting that the Asia-Pacific economy is significantly larger than that of the US, Europe, and Africa. Pakistani cuisine recipes

He emphasized the need to address the trade imbalance, which favors South Korea, and suggested that Pakistan could learn from South Korea's export-driven economic model and its "One Village, One Product" program.

Khalid also highlighted the strong people-to-people ties, citing South Korea's support following Pakistan's 2005 earthquake. Dr. Bilal Zubair (CISS) added a

cultural dimension to the conversation, suggesting exchanges in sports, music, and e-games, noting the popularity of Korean Taekwondo and Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan's music in South Korea.

Kim Janghoon, a South Korean student at Bahria University, shared insights from his experience in Pakistan, highlighting challenges such as high import taxes on cosmetics and the lack of awareness about Pakistan in South Korea, which affects Pakistani students' chances of securing scholar-

He emphasized Pakistan's potential, particularly its youth, and expressed a desire to bridge the cultural gap by helping Koreans better understand