



# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ  
ہم کو عبادتِ حق نے تجری، انہیں عمر نے،  
انہیں ہمارے، انہوں نے ابو ہریرہ رضی اللہ  
عنه سے بنا کر نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے  
فرمایا کہی شخص اپنے کسی دینی بھائی کی طرف  
بھیجا رہے اٹھا کر کہے کہ وہ وہ نہیں جانتا  
مکن ہے شیطان اسے اس کے ہاتھ سے چڑھا  
دے اور پھر وہ کسی مسلمان کو مار کر اس کی روچ  
سے جہنم کے گڑھے میں گر پڑے۔  
(بخاری، حدیث نمبر 7072)  
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## President extends greetings to Sikhs on Vaisakhi

President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday extended greetings to the Sikh community in Pakistan and around the world on the joyous occasion of Vaisakhi. Vaisakhi is a symbol of Pakistan's beauty in its cultural and religious diversity, the president said in a message.



## PM greets Sikhs on Vaisakhi; calls for following festival's spirit

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif extended his warm greetings to Sikhs living in Pakistan and around the world on the joyous occasion of Vaisakhi being celebrated on Monday. "This festive occasion marks the ripening of the Rabi harvest—a time of great joy for farmers as they reap the fruits of their hard labour," he said in his message on the occasion.

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## Team Spirit Exercise-2025

PABBI: Flags display during the Opening Ceremony of 8th International Pakistan Army Team Spirit Exercise 2025 held at NCTC Pabbi.



Photo: ISPR

# Pakistan Army's Team Spirit Exercise kicks off with 20 international participants

Naveed Ahmad Khan

RAWALPINDI: The opening ceremony of 8th International Pakistan Army Team Spirit Exercise-2025 was held at National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC) Pabbi. Director General Military Training opened the 60 hours long

Patrolling Exercise which aims at enhancing military to military cooperation under complex international security environment.

A total of 20 friendly countries including military observers are participating in the event Participating countries include Pakistan, Bahrain, Belarus, China, Kingdom

of Saudi Arabia, Maldives, Morocco, Nepal, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Turkiye, United States of America and Uzbekistan, while Bangladesh, Egypt, Germany, Indonesia, Kenya, Myanmar, South Africa and Thailand.

Pakistan Army Team Spirit is a mission specific and task

oriented professional military exercise organized annually in Pakistan. The exercise calls for highest standard of physical fitness, mental agility/robustness and professional military expertise for quick decision making in varied situation during conduct of challenging missions in near real

environment.

The aim and objectives of this exercise revolve around perseverance acclaimed through the team spirit. The exercise would help hone basic soldierly attributes besides interoperability through sharing of innovative ideas and mutual best practices.



## Tarar reaffirms Pakistan's unwavering support for Palestinians

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaulah Tarar Monday said that the entire Pakistani nation stood united on the issue of Palestine and condemned the brutalities being inflicted upon innocent Palestinians in Gaza.

Participating in a debate on the Palestine issue in the National Assembly, he reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering support for the Palestinians and reiterated the country's demand for an independent, viable, and contiguous Palestinian state based on pre-1967 borders with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its

capital.

He said that Pakistan has consistently raised its voice on every international platform against the ongoing Israeli atrocities in Gaza and the occupied Palestinian territories.

He said that Israel was committing war crimes and violating all international laws.

## IMF mission on Pakistan visit to complete governance and corruption assessment today

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: An International Monetary Fund (IMF) team currently in Pakistan for a Governance and Corruption Diagnostic Assessment (GCDA) is set to conclude its mission today, Monday, according to an official familiar with the process.

Last month, IMF staff reached an agreement with Pakistan for a new \$1.3 billion climate resilience loan program spanning 28 months, alongside the first review of the ongoing 37-month, \$7 billion bailout package. Pending board approval, the new arrangement

would unlock \$1.3 billion, while an additional \$1 billion would be disbursed under the existing bailout, bringing total IMF disbursements to \$2 billion.

"Following a scoping mission in February, an IMF team is in Pakistan until April 14 [Monday] to conduct a Governance and Corruption Diagnostic Assessment," a source said. "A press release will be issued at the conclusion of the mission."

The GCDA is a comprehensive evaluation tool used by the IMF to identify weaknesses in governance, including fiscal management, financial

oversight, and the rule of law. The goal is to support reforms that enhance transparency, accountability, and institutional performance.

The preliminary phase of the assessment took place in February, following a request from the Pakistani government. The IMF commended Pakistan's commitment to governance reform after that visit. A second review began on April 4.

Separately, a technical team from the IMF is expected to arrive in Pakistan this week to meet with senior officials from the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to discuss taxation

measures for the 2025-26 budget. The talks will focus on expanding the country's narrow tax base, particularly by including retailers and other untaxed sectors.

"One of the key issues will be the government's proposal to lower tax rates for salaried individuals, which the IMF is expected to review as part of broader fiscal discussions," says a report.

Meanwhile, a high-level Pakistani delegation led by Finance Minister Mohammad Aurangzeb will attend the IMF and World Bank's annual spring meetings in Washington from April 21 to 26.

## Achakzai demands IMF Transparency in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Mahmood Khan Achakzai, head of the Movement for Protection of the Constitution, said on Monday that incumbent rulers had occupied the country with the support of the powerful institutions.

Speaking to the media outside the Parliament House, Achakzai showed his resentment at the government's handling of the international issues. He said he wanted to ask the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to explain where funds have been spent in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He said that six highways were promised in Balochistan, but work has not been started on a single highway until now. He said that Baloch children should have the right to live a life of freedom in their province.

## PM hails foreign remittances crossing record \$4 bln mark in a month



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday expressed his pleasure as foreign remittances sent by overseas Pakistanis in a month crossed the \$4 billion mark for the first time in the country's history, terming it a reflection of their trust in the government's policies.

The prime minister, in a statement, also thanked the Pakistani expatriates for sending a record \$4.1 billion during March this year, taking the current fiscal year's foreign remittance volume to \$28 billion.

He said that a surge of 37.4% in foreign remittances was recorded compared to March last year.

He said that the announce-

ment of a record increase in remittances during the ongoing Overseas Pakistanis Convention in Islamabad reflected the dedication, passion, and trust of overseas Pakistanis in the country's economy and the government's policies.

Calling them a valuable asset, Prime Minister Shehbaz said that overseas Pakistanis working tirelessly abroad not only made the nation proud but also strengthened the national economy through remittances.

He said that the entire nation was proud of hard-working overseas Pakistanis and the incumbent government was fully committed to providing them with all necessary facilities.

## Supreme Court issues notice to acting IHC CJ in judges transfer case

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court's constitutional bench has issued notice to Islamabad High Court (IHC) acting chief justice and its two other judges after conducting hearing into pleas challenging their transfer to the IHC and the subsequent changes in the

seniority list.

Led by Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar and comprising Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan, Justice Shahid Bilal Hassan, Justice Salahuddin Panwar and Justice Shakeel Ahmed, the five-judge SC bench on Monday took up petitions filed by five IHC judges and others.

# CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif's 'Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar' Program continues successfully

**Bureau Report**

LAHORE: On the direction of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, 'Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar' Program is continues successfully. The vision of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif is becoming a reality and a source of happiness for thousands of families. A unique completion record of 1806 houses in a short span of time has been set under the 'Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar' Program.

The recovery of loans worth Rs. 9 crore 24 lakhs under the 'Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar' Program gives ample proof of transparency of the said program. More than 22,600 houses are in their final stages of completion under the 'Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar' Program. More than 25,500 families have been granted loans worth more than Rs 27 billion 43 crore. The second installment has been granted to more than 12,000 families for the construction of houses. Approval has



been given for issuing 2000 additional loans under the 'Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar' Program.

Under the 'Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar' Program, loans are being provided for

the construction of houses ranging from one to five marlas in the urban areas. Under the 'Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar' Program, loans are being provided to plot owners ranging from

one to ten marlas in villages. Under the 'Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar' Program, loans can be applied from home on [acag.punjab.gov.pk](http://acag.punjab.gov.pk).

The Chief Minister said, "Under the vision of Quaid Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, 'Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar' Program is successfully underway. 'Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar' Program brings a message of happiness to thousands of families. The joy felt after seeing every new house being built is hard to describe in words. Myself and my team are fully determined to accomplish the target of 'Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar' Program within stipulated period of time."

She added, "In the past, many false promises were made with regard to building houses for citizens, but the leadership of PML-N accomplished this task successfully in a short time frame. I am overjoyed that Allah Almighty has bestowed upon me this opportunity to fulfil another promise being made to the people."

## Unity against barbarity: Minister urges Muslim Ummah to stand with Palestine

**Spokesman Report**



ISLAMABAD: The Minister for Information of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir State, Pir Muhammad Mazhar Saeed Shah, has said that the Muslim Ummah should demonstrate unity to stop the ongoing Zionist barbarity on the land of Palestine. The sorrows of the Palestinians and Kashmiris are the same. Kashmiris stand with their Palestinian brothers and sisters like a lead wall. Israel is involved in the heinous crimes of genocide of the Muslims of Gaza. There is no justification for Israel's brutal bombing of Gaza. We pay tribute to the

unarmed Palestinians who stood firm in the face of Israel.

Israel's breaking of the agreement during the holy month of Ramadan is tantamount to hostility towards humanity and flouting international laws. While Hamas fully respected this agreement. The United Nations is still unable to take effective action on the issue of Palestine and the issue of Kashmir. The youth should play their role in highlighting the Zionist atrocities on social and digital media.

## Kashmiri leader blasts India for cowardly act, demands international intervention

**Bureau Report**



MUZAFFARABAD/ISLAMABAD: The martyrdom of innocent youth in Kishtwar is a cowardly act of the Indian occupation army. The Kashmiri people are struggling for their birthright. Such acts cannot separate the Kashmiri people from the freedom movement. Muslim Conference Secretary General and former Deputy Speaker Ms. Mehrun-Nissa, while condemning the martyrdom of innocent youth, arrest

of several and burning of houses in the name of house searches in the Kishtwar area of occupied Jammu and Kashmir, has said that the international community must play a role in establishing lasting peace in South Asia, otherwise a tragedy much bigger than the Middle East may occur. Ms. Mehrun-e-Nissa said that peace, development, prosperity and stability cannot be achieved without resolving the Palestine and Kashmir conflicts. Ms. Mehrun-e-Nissa said that India cannot avoid suppressing the freedom movement through state terrorism and granting the recognized right of the Kashmiri people to self-determination.

## DFP urges UN to intervene in escalating human rights crisis in Kashmir

**Abdul Majeed Tahir**

ISLAMABAD: The Jammu & Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (DFP), through its Acting Chairman Mr. Mehmood Ahmed, has issued a formal appeal to the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. Antonio Guterres, drawing urgent attention to the rapidly worsening political and human rights situation in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IoK).

In his letter, Mr. Ahmed highlighted the ongoing human rights violations including extrajudicial killings, arbitrary detentions, suppression of free speech, and collective punishment of civilians by Indian forces. He expressed grave concern over the Indian government's policies of demographic change, marginalization of the majority community, and the silencing of dissent through repressive laws and misuse of the judiciary.

Mr. Ahmed urged the United Nations to take immediate and effective notice of the situation and to play a decisive role in resolving the long-standing Kashmir dispute in accordance with international law and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

## Punjab Culture Day observed in colleges across South Punjab

MULTAN: Punjab Cultural Day was marked with great enthusiasm in the colleges across South Punjab under the auspices of the Higher Education Department here on Monday.

Various events were organized on this occasion, including displays of traditional dresses, music, dance, exhibitions of regional cuisine, handicraft stalls, and poetry recitals.

Students actively represented the culture of their respective regions, highlighting the local heritage.

The purpose of celebrating Culture Day was to promote national unity, cultural awareness, and positive activities among students.

Teachers, parents, and officials also participated in the events and appreciated the students' enthusiasms.

The HED South Punjab had issued special instructions to all colleges for organizing Culture Day, and in response, each institution held splendid events in their own unique ways.

At the conclusion of the events, students who demonstrated outstanding performance were awarded prizes and certificates.

## AC holds open court to resolve women's issue on priority

KOHAT: On the instructions of Deputy Commissioner, Abdul Akram Chitrali, a special open court for women on Monday was organized under the chairmanship of Assistant Commissioner Headquarters Kohat, Nimra Owais.

The open court was organized in collaboration with the SRSPP/LG Project, with the aim of directly listening to the problems of women and paving the way for their immediate solutions.

The open court was part of the public agenda of the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, under which the policy of resolving the problems of the people at their doorsteps is being implemented.

The Women representatives of various line departments and a large number of women belonging to Village Councils (VCs) and Neighborhood Councils (NCs) attended the open court and registered their problems.

During the court, the women presented complaints and suggestions regarding health, education, sanitation, road condition, water supply and other basic issues.

The assistant commissioner issued immediate orders to resolve the women's issues. She said that the government was taking serious steps for resolving women's problems.

The AC assured that all the problems presented in the court would be resolved on priority basis.

The public circles have appreciated this initiative and expressed hope that the continuation of such open courts would prove helpful in timely resolution of public issue.

## Humanitarianism

CHINIOT: Federal Minister for Board of investment, Qaiser Ahmad Sheikh, listening the grievances of poor people in open court on Monday.



Photo: PID

# Kashmiris will continue their struggle until Pakistan fulfills their destiny

**Abdul Majeed Tahir**

LALA MUSA/RAWALPINDI: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan said that the case of Kashmiris should be fought in a manner that is required. The Muslims of the subcontinent decided to unite to demand a separate homeland for themselves democratically where they can live their lives with their Islamic values, traditions, justice, equality and freedom. A strong and stable Pakistan is the guarantor of Kashmir's freedom.

He said that Kashmiris consider Pakistan a sacred land for themselves. Despite the worst atrocities in human history in occupied Kashmir, under



the shadow of Indian enmity, Kashmiri youth express their commitment to Pakistan by raising slogans of Pakistan Zindabad.

The All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference has its own ideology, history, present and future.

The Muslim Conference is committed to its ideology. These views were expressed by Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan while addressing the Eid-ul-Azha party organized by the Muslim Conference Traders Wing. On this occasion, Major Sardar Nasrullah

Khan, Patron-in-Chief of Anjuman Tajran Dhirkot Raja Muhammad Maqbool Khan, President of Anjuman Tajran Dhirkot Raja Adnan Aftab, Senior Vice President of Anjuman Tajran Azad Kashmir Raja Waqar Khan, President of Muslim Conference Traders Wing Hafiz Raja Imran, Sardar Irfan Abbasi, Raja Munir Khan, Raja Shahbaz Khan, Rashid Abbasi, Patron-in-Chief of Anjuman Tajran Arja Raja Amjad Arif, President of Anjuman Tajran Chamankot Sardar Pervez Abbasi, Wasid Abbasi, Abdul Basit Abbasi and others also spoke. President of Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan further said that the Muslim Ummah needs to unite against the ongoing Israeli atrocities in Palestine.

# Commissioner warns mobile companies to fix network issues in Mirpur Division

**Bureau Report**

MIRPUR: Commissioner Chaudhry Mukhtar Hussain, taking strict notice of the network malfunction of mobile companies in Mirpur Division, the system behavior of the internet, and the non-provision of services according to the internet packages, summoned the local in-charges of all mobile companies to his office and instructed them to immediately fix the malfunction of mobile phones and internet in Mirpur Division and to provide 4G services



in the areas where there are no internet 4G services, power backup at the

towers of mobile companies and the number of their respective users across the division by contacting the relevant authorities regarding the malfunction of the internet. A meeting of the Internet and Mobile Phone Ombudsman will be held again on April 26 in which a detailed briefing will be given about the steps taken. Legal action will be taken against such telephone companies whose phone and internet services are not restored in Mirpur Division by April 26. No concessions will be made in this regard.



Islamabad  
30° - 38° Clear

**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**  
Fajr .....4:12 am  
Zohr .....12:08 pm  
Asr .....4:47 pm  
Maghrib .....6:38 pm  
Isha .....8:05 pm

**EMERGENCY**

Rescue (Police) ..... 15  
Bomb Disposal ..... 15  
Fire Services Rawalpindi/  
Islamabad .....1122 & 16  
Emergency Ambulance ..... 1122 &  
& Rescue Services ..... 4451122  
Motorway Police ..... 9266044  
Motorway Police ..... 9270601-20

**Women Police Stations**

Islamabad ..... 9222596  
Rawalpindi ..... 9270601-20

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

CMH ..... 561111  
MH ..... 561116  
MH ..... 561116  
Cantt Hospital ..... 9270907-11  
DHQ ..... 5556311-4  
RGH ..... 9290301-7  
Holy Family ..... 9290322-7  
PIMS ..... 9261170-79  
Polyclinic ..... 9218300-09  
Shifa International ..... 4603666

**DEPARTMENTS**

CDA ..... 9221334-43  
CDA ..... 9208301-04  
Met Office ..... 9250360-6  
RDA ..... 5555864  
TMA ..... 5770886  
Cantonment Board ..... 9270151-3  
Islamabad Metropolitan  
Corporation ..... 9209224  
Potohar Town ..... 9209224  
Rawal Town ..... 5773343

**COMPLAINTS**

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

*CDA chairman reviews sectors development progress, directs expedited work*

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa chaired a high-level meeting on Monday to review progress on development works in various sectors of the federal capital.

The meeting was attended by Member Environment, Member Engineering, Member Estate, Member Finance, Member Planning, along with senior enforcement and administrative officers.

The meeting assessed ongoing and pending development projects, with a focus on Park Enclave Phases I, II, and III.

Officials reported that road infrastructure in Park Enclave-I has been completed, and possession has been handed over to allottees.

Over 75% of plot owners in Park Enclave-II have received possession, with directives to expedite the remaining allotments. Electricity installations in Park Enclave-III will be completed within two months, while tenders for electricity poles and street-lights will be floated soon.

# London Academic Plans School (LAPS) celebrates Parents' Day with Prize Distribution Ceremony

**Tooba Khan**

ISLAMABAD: Annual Parents' Day and Prize Distribution Ceremony of London Academic Plans School (LAPS) was held at the local hall in Bara Kahu, Islamabad. A large number of school students, teaching and other staff, parents, local people, educational, social, political and journalists participated in the event. The ceremony began with the recitation of the Holy Quran.

On this occasion, the director of Ghori Campus, Kayani Road, Bhara Kahu, Sardar Muhammad Zubair, welcomed the parents, local people and distinguished guests. While addressing, he expressed his gratitude to them and said that their participation is not only a source of encouragement for the administration of the institution but will also prove to be a great help in organizing and revitalizing their determination and strategy.

Sardar Zubair said that he is playing his role in promoting education and eradicating the darkness of ignorance from society along with other educational



institutions and we strongly hope that the darkness of ignorance will be eradicated from our beloved country very soon.

Mr. Zubair said today's ceremony dedicated to the Palestinian children as these oppressed people are lamenting the indifference of the international community, the indifference of the Islamic Ummah

and the helpless leadership of the rulers of fifty-seven Islamic countries.

On this occasion, Regional Director of Dar Arqam Schools Zahid Bashir Dar Advocate, Central and Zonal Presidents of PSMA Raja Muhammad Arshad and Muhammad Siddique Siddle, Zonal President of PES Raja Khalid Mahmood,



renowned educationist Abdul Salam Khan, Professor Qari Waqar Ahmad Abbasi, Muhammad Idrees Abbasi, Director of Ghazali College Muhammad Amir Nawaz, Muhammad Nazar Abbasi, the spirit of Scholars School STEM, social figures Muhammad Ikram Abbasi, Muhammad Nafees Abbasi,

heads of various educational institutions Muhammad Kifayatullah Khan, social media activist Muhammad Zafaran Chichi, LIPS School Ghori Campus Shabnam Khalil, Social Media Activist Muhammad Zafaran Chichi, and others distributed prizes among the children who secured distinguished positions.

## Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry meeting with Kazakhstan's Ambassador Yerzhan Kistafin, who called on him on Monday.



Photo: PID

# Archery Competition Concludes with a Bang

**Zafar Chishti**

JHANG: The District Council Jhang, in collaboration with the Sports Department and the District Archery Association, organized an archery competition. The event saw participation from men, women, and young athletes, with over 100 players from across the division showcasing exceptional marksmanship. Tariq Khanzada, Deputy Director of Development and Planning at the Punjab Sports Board, stated that such competitions play a vital role in boosting athletes' confidence and bringing new talent to the forefront. The participating athletes also praised the event, saying that



such programs encourage and motivate players. Distinguished guests at the ceremony included Divisional Sports Officer Shah Manzoor Faraed, Chief Officer of District Council Muhammad Akram Bhawanana, District Sports Officer Muhammad Imran, Advocate Armaghan Ali Malkana

and other government officials and sports personalities. At the conclusion of the competition, prizes worth 130,000 rupees were distributed among the winning athletes. Guests and officials from the District Archery Association congratulated the winners. Amanullah Shan, Secretary General of

the Punjab Archery Association emphasized the need for more such events to promote archery in the region. The closing ceremony highlighted the collective efforts to encourage sports and nurture young talent, with participants and organizers expressing optimism for future initiatives.

## CPO Faisalabad: Celebrating Punjab Culture Day is a Tradition of Pride

**Abdul Majid**

FAISALABAD: On the occasion of Culture Day, SSP Investigation Ali Bin Tariq and SP Lyallpur Town and other officers performed their office duties wearing traditional turbans. On this occasion, the City Police Officer said that Punjab culture is our identity, the protection of which is the common responsibility of all of us. The protection and propagation of this beautiful culture and fascinating traditions is the common responsibility of all of us. In view of the vision of the Punjab government and the orders of the IG Punjab, they wore traditional turbans during



duty and performed their official duties to highlight Punjabi culture. On this occasion, CPO Faisalabad said that celebrating Punjab Culture Day is a good tradition and the purpose of celebrating this day is to highlight the beautiful culture of the land of Punjab and take it forward. Living nations not only keep their culture alive, but today Punjab Culture Day is being celebrated, which gives us a message of peace, brotherhood and love.

## Toba Tek Singh: DOP Hafiz Shoaib Takes Charge of Municipal Officer Planning in Kamalia

**Zafar Chishti**

TOBA TEK SINGH: According to details, District Officer Planning (DOP) of District Council Toba Tek Singh, Hafiz Shoaib has been given the additional charge of Municipal Officer Planning, Municipal Committee Kamalia. A formal notification has been issued for this. Hafiz Shoaib has taken the charge of Municipal Officer Planning at M. C. Kamalia and has started the work. According to sources, the seat of Municipal Officer Planning was vacant for a long time, due to which the planning works were pending. Hafiz Shoaib has completed all the pending works while performing his duty. The citizens of Kamalia appreciated Hafiz Shoaib's performance.



## Clean Sweep for Professional Lawyers Forum in Takht Bhai Bar Association Elections

**Tariq Khan Yousafzai**

TAKHT BHAI: In the elections of the Takht Bhai Bar Association, all candidates of the Professional Lawyers Forum achieved a clean sweep, defeating the Democratic Alliance.



Saifullah Khan Mohmand Advocate, representing the Professional Lawyers Alliance, was elected as President of the Takht Bhai Bar for the second time with a large majority, while Intiaz Malik Advocate was elected as the General Secretary. The annual elections of the Takht Bhai Bar Association for the year 2024-2025 were held on Tuesday in a very peaceful environment in the Bar Room Hall under the supervision of the Election Committee Chairman Muhammad Ikram Safi Advocate and members Nisar Khattak Advocate and Muhammad Shahid Khan Advocate. Out of the Bar's 99 members, all exercised their right to vote between 9 AM and 4 PM. Exceptional security arrangements were made, and the elections were held in a completely peaceful manner. The contest was a one-on-one between the Democratic Alliance—comprised of Malgaray Wakeelan and Jamiat Lawyers Forum—and the Professional Lawyers Forum, which included Insaf Lawyers Forum, Islamic Lawyers Forum, and Justice Lawyers Forum. In the end, all candidates from the Professional Lawyers Forum emerged victorious, defeating the candidates of the Democratic Alliance. According to the results: Saifullah Khan Mohmand Advocate received 132 votes and was elected as President for the second time. Mian Shah Hussain Advocate secured 125 votes and became Vice President. Intiaz Malik Advocate received 124 votes for General Secretary.

# Sui Gas Launches Comprehensive Awareness Campaign for Health, Safety, and Environment

**Kiran Asim**

MULTAN: General Manager of Sui Gas Multan Region, Ahmad Jawad Khakwani, stated that today marks a significant milestone in the history of our organization as we launch a comprehensive and impactful awareness campaign focusing on Health, Safety, and Environment (HSE). This is not merely a campaign but a reflection of our firm commitment to transforming our company into a safe, healthy, and eco-friendly institution. Our top priority is the protection of our employees' lives and property. A secure environment ensures better performance and sustainable growth.

He urged all departments to take the campaign seriously, strictly follow safety protocols, and involve their colleagues as well. "Only by working together can we bring about a positive



change," he said during the inaugural ceremony of the week-long HSE event held at the Sui Gas Distribution Office

yesterday. On this occasion, Branch Secretary Mirza Nadeem Baig shared that

under this campaign, training workshops, drills, and awareness sessions with Rescue 1122, Civil Defense, Traffic Police, and other departments have been organized so that every individual is well-informed and implements these principles.

In conclusion, General Manager Ahmad Jawad Khakwani, along with other officials, planted trees to initiate a plantation drive, inspected various safety awareness stalls, and participated in a cake-cutting ceremony.

The event was also addressed by Deputy Chief Admin Officer Usman Kareem Baig, Chief Engineer Muhammad Binyamin Shahid, Deputy Chief Engineer Asif Shamim, Additional Secretary Syed Kashif Shah, Senior HSE Engineer Muhammad Imran Khan, Senior Engineer Junaid Ghori, Additional General Secretary Arshad Ameen Afridi, and others.

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: Almass Ayoub Sabir  
 Vice Chairman: Asim Nazir Ahmad  
 Editor: Naveed Ahmad Khan  
 Head Editorial Advisory Board: Amjad Mehmood  
 Bureau Chief Karachi: Khurram Jaffrani  
 (jaffrani@adpluse.pk)  
 Bureau Chief Lahore: Syed Afraz Ali Nazish  
 (afrazalishah@gmail.com)  
 Head Office: AIMS Building, Street No. 4, H-8/1, Islamabad.  
 spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com  
 Phone: +92 51 2227123,  
 WhatsApp +92 346 5008408  
 Karachi office: A111, Block C, Gulsha-e-Jamal, PRECHS,  
 Karachi Phone: 021-33399390  
 Email: spokesmankarachi@gmail.com  
 Lahore Office: 7-E, Samanberg, Johar Town.  
 spokesmanlahore@gmail.com

# Breaking Dependency: Trade Wars and Global Disbalance

The tectonic shifts in global trade are not just a matter between Washington and Beijing—they ripple outward, shaking the foundations of economies across the Global South. Asia, Africa, Latin America—regions long navigating between growth and dependency—now find themselves watching as two economic titans clash, not just with tariffs, but with ideology, influence, and the future of global rules.

China, once dismissed as the “world’s factory,” has evolved into the anchor of many developing economies. Its Belt and Road Initiative has brought infrastructure where no one else would invest. Its markets have become critical destinations for commodities, textiles, and electronics from countries like Bangladesh, Vietnam, Kenya, and Peru. For many, China is no longer just a partner—it is the engine pulling them forward.

In a world caught up in the turbulence of great power competition, it is tempting for smaller economies to take cover, wait for the storm to subside and join the stronger side. But history teaches us that passivity has never been the path to sovereignty. Today, as the economic confrontation between the United States and China shakes the foundations of world trade, a new question arises: what if Asia and the Global South didn’t just sit back and wait? What if they refused to be spectators in a game that affects their destiny and instead chose to become architects of a new order?

importantly, they must see regional trade not just as an economic necessity, but as a strategic shield against external volatility. Imagine if countries in Africa and Latin America jointly invested in green technology supply chains, reducing their reliance on European or American patents. Or if ASEAN and South Asian nations jointly created food security mechanisms and emergency reserves insulated from external shocks.

Developing nations like Pakistan face tough choices amid US-China rivalry, limiting their strategic options and maneuverability.



Analysis  
Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani

One of the most underestimated effects of the U.S.-China trade war is the erosion of global trust. Agreements can no longer be assumed to be binding. Commitments can be reversed by elections or populist waves. For countries in the Global South, this unpredictability has profound consequences. Aid gets frozen. Market access is revoked. Sanctions appear without warning.

But trade wars don’t recognize nuance. Tariffs levied on China ripple outward. When supply chains falter, it’s not just factories in Guangzhou that go dark—it’s also the port in Colombo, the garment line in Dhaka, and the mining town in Zambia. The US might target China, but the collateral damage lands squarely on the developing world.

The current unraveling of the U.S.-led global trade architecture offers a chance to break from this dependency. The rise of China as a formidable economic force has already diversified the options for trade and investment. But why stop there? Instead of replacing one pole of power with another, what if the Global South reimagined a system where no single nation dominates, but where collective bargaining, cooperation, and self-reliance take precedence?

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The crumbling of multilateral trust poses the greatest danger. If the rules of trade are no longer rules but tools of coercion, then developing countries are the first to suffer. From World Trade Organization sidelining to International Monetary Fund politicization, global institutions risk becoming weapons in a new Cold War.

To gain “true teeth,” regional trade blocs must move beyond mere agreements and summits. They must build mechanisms for conflict resolution, tariff standardization, digital infrastructure sharing, and labor mobility. They must harmonize customs procedures, data regulations, and investment protections to attract internal investment and build trust among member states. And most

But in this collapse of trust lies a hidden opportunity. The time is ripe to imagine a different economic future—one where prosperity is not extracted from the periphery for the benefit of the center, but one where the periphery becomes a network, generating its own innovations, financing its own growth, and setting its own rules.

is not America’s to reclaim or China’s to inherit. It is the world’s to shape—and the Global South’s to lead. But leadership requires courage. It requires imagination. And it requires unity. If Asia and the developing world refuse to simply choose sides in someone else’s rivalry and instead choose to write new rules, then trade becomes more than just commerce—it becomes a platform for sovereignty, justice, and shared prosperity.

Yet, perhaps in this moment of fracture

This model would not abandon globalization—it would redefine it. It would emphasize resilience over efficiency, inclusion over exploitation, and long-term partnerships over short-term gains. Think of an economic belt stretching from Morocco to Malaysia, linked by renewable energy grids, AI-driven logis-

(The writer is Peshawar based political and foreign affairs analyst, Secretary General of Pakistan China Friendship Association, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chapter. Can be reached by syed.gilani@gmail.com)



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmi. (Courtesy of Ashfaq Al-Awcat)

## When Journalism Crosses the Line: A Crisis of Ethics and Authority

Police-organized open courts are widely considered a practical way to address public complaints and ensure direct access to senior officers. However, the recurring presence and interference of certain crime reporters and beat journalists have cast doubts on the transparency and effectiveness of these gatherings. There are growing concerns that some journalists pressurize the police to recover goods from criminals or intervene in criminal investigations, influencing the outcome for personal or professional gain.

Given the current state of affairs, media management is no longer a luxury but a necessity for the police, especially in departments that are directly connected with the public. For an institution like the police, media is more than just a communication tool—it is a bridge of trust between law enforcement and society. To strengthen that trust, the police must adopt a proper media strategy. There should be trained media spokespersons in every district or zone to engage the press professionally. After significant incidents, immediate and clear press briefings should be held to prevent speculation and rumors. A well-organized social media team must be in place to quickly share verified updates with the public.

Moreover, the police must not limit their relations to a few favored journalists. They should build working relationships with reporters from all newspapers and television channels. If misinformation or false propaganda is circulated, timely and well-reasoned responses must be provided to clarify the facts. Silence after an incident or failure to respond promptly to the media creates an atmosphere of mistrust and misunderstanding. A recent example was the news about the CPO Multan—no clarification or statement was issued from the CPO’s office, which further fueled rumors and uncertainty.

Additionally, transparency reduces the likelihood of corruption and ensures a level playing field for all market participants. Investors identify and mitigate risks associated with their disclosure requirements in financial markets ensure that investors have access to relevant information about companies, enabling them to assess the financial health and performance of potential investments. For promoting transparency, governments can reduce information irregularity and prevent fraudulent activities that could harm investors. Promoting transparency, governments can create a conducive environment for investment, enhance market confidence, and facilitate economic growth. Investors rely on transparent information and regulations to assess risks, make sound investment choices, and secure their financial interests. Therefore, policymakers must prioritize transparency to foster a sustainable and resilient investment climate.



Analysis  
Zain-ul-Abideen Abid

Moreover, the police must not limit their relations to a few favored journalists. They should build working relationships with reporters from all newspapers and television channels. If misinformation or false propaganda is circulated, timely and well-reasoned responses must be provided to clarify the facts. Silence after an incident or failure to respond promptly to the media creates an atmosphere of mistrust and misunderstanding. A recent example was the news about the CPO Multan—no clarification or statement was issued from the CPO’s office, which further fueled rumors and uncertainty.

Effective media management, therefore, is not just about public relations—it is about preserving the credibility of law enforcement and ensuring that truth and justice are not lost in the noise. Writer is senior analyst and based at Multan. He can be reached at zakhamultan@yahoo.com

Transparency ensures that investors have access to reliable information, understand the rules and regulations governing their investments, and can assess risks accurately. The importance of transparency in government policies and regulatory frameworks attracts the investors contributes to the protection of their investments. Transparency in government policies and regulatory frameworks is essential for investors to make well-informed decisions. When governments are open and transparent about their policies, rules, and regulations, investors can assess the opportunities and risks associated with investments more effectively. Transparency fosters trust and confidence in the market, enables investors to hold authorities accountable, and enhances the overall investment climate. Transparent government policies provide investors with

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# Destruction of Gaza Hospital exposes international complicity

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates affirms that the brutal bombing of Al-Ahli Baptist Hospital in Gaza City by the Israeli occupying forces, which led to its complete destruction and forced it out of service, alongside the forced evacuation of patients and the wounded, leaving them on the streets, could not have occurred without the complicity and alarming inaction of the international community. This comes after the occupation had deliberately destroyed 34 hospitals in the Gaza Strip and rendered them non-operational, in parallel with the ongoing policy of starvation, thirst, and the denial of access to medicine.

The Ministry considers the targeting of hospitals, healthcare centers, and medical personnel to be among the most horrific manifestations of genocide and a blatant disregard for international humanitarian principles and laws.

These actions are part of a systematic Israeli policy aimed at the complete destruction of all aspects of life in Gaza, turning it into an uninhabitable area in an attempt to forcibly displace the population through military force.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs



affirms that the United Nations Security Council bears full responsibility for its failure to protect civil-

ians, enforce an immediate halt to the genocide, open the crossings, ensure the sustainable entry of humanitarian

aid, and initiate the implementation of all forms of relief and reconstruction.

## RCCI appoints Lt. Gen (R) Nigar Johar Khan as Brand Ambassador for Women Empowerment



Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: In a landmark move championing gender equality and female leadership, the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has proudly appointed Lieutenant General (R) Nigar Johar Khan as its official Brand Ambassador for Women Empowerment and Women Initiatives.

This historic announcement was made during RCCI's prestigious event, "SHE LEADS - A Tribute to Women," held at the Chamber House on Monday. The event celebrated the resilience, strength, and trailblazing contributions of women across Pakistan — with the presence of Lt. Gen (R) Nigar Johar Khan, Pakistan's first and only female three-star general, as the Chief Guest, adding unmatched inspiration and gravitas.

"Her journey is one of courage, dedication, and breaking barriers," said RCCI President Usman Shaukat, in his welcome address. "She has redefined what's possible for women in Pakistan and stands as a beacon of hope and ambition."

Group Leader Sohail Altaf echoed this sentiment, emphasizing the Chamber's unwavering commitment to inclusive development:

# Pakistan-Japan Parliamentary Group seeks to strengthen bilateral ties

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan-Japan Parliamentary Friendship Group (PFG) held a productive meeting with H. E. Mr. AKAMARSU Shuichi, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, to discuss avenues for strengthening the cordial and longstanding relations between the two countries.

The meeting was chaired by the Convener Pakistan-Japan PFG, MNA Mehtab Akber Rashdi and attended by MNAs, Rana Muhammad Qasim Noon, Mr. Anwar-ul-Haq Chaudhary, Mr. Muhammad Khan Daba, Mr. Shamsheer Ali Mazari, Mian Khan Bugti, Mr. Pullain Baloch, Ms. Akhtar Bibi, Ms. Zeb Jaffar and Syed Hussain Tariq (Virtually).

During the meeting, both sides reaffirmed their shared commitment to deepening bilateral ties, particularly in the areas of trade, development, and people-to-people engage-

ment.

The Convener Pakistan-Japan PFG Mehtab Akber Rashdi emphasized the importance of conservation and preservation of cultural heritage and expressed her interest in tourism-based activities and collaborative projects between the two nations.

She also highlighted the need to counter misconceptions about Pakistan through increased interaction and public diplomacy, encouraging greater people-to-people exchanges.

The Ambassador of Japan appreciated the "Uran Pakistan" program for its role in promoting cultural understanding and showcasing Pakistan's potential.

Discussions also touched upon enhancing cooperation in key sectors such as manpower, religious tourism, and investment opportunities. Special mention was made of the interest shown by Japanese youth in Pakistan's vibrant activities at the Paki-



stan Pavilion, underscoring growing engagement.

The meeting concluded with a strong reaffirmation from members

of the Pakistan-Japan PFG to work closely with their Japanese counter-

parts in building a more robust and dynamic partnership.

# IIUI Hosts First Alumni Eid Milan Brunch at New Campus to Strengthen Graduate Engagement

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) organized its first Alumni Eid Milan Brunch at the H-10 new campus, aiming to strengthen institutional ties with its graduates and to apprise them of recent academic and administrative developments.

The event was coordinated by the university's Alumni Office and took place simultaneously at both the male and female campuses, following a structured program designed to engage alumni in institutional discourse.

The event commenced with a plantation drive in which alumni participated. Notably, Dr. Sajida Ahmed Chaudhry, Additional District & Sessions Judge, Lahore, has contributed 300 trees to IIUI as a gesture of goodwill, supplementing the



university's plantation drive and reinforcing the alumni's commitment to the university's green

initiatives spearheaded by its horticulture section.

At the Female Campus, the

inauguration ceremony was addressed by Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed. Speaking on the occa-

sion, he emphasized that IIUI is a sacred trust (amaanat) for all its stakeholders — a space that must be protected, strengthened, and cherished by everyone associated with it. He stressed that the university is not merely an educational institution but a legacy, whose foundations must be fortified against any attempts to undermine its integrity, values, and standing.

Meanwhile, President IIUI, Dr. Ahmed Shuja Syed, in his welcome address described the alumni brunch as a "curtain raiser" for a renewed mission and vision of the university. He said the event signifies the beginning of a broader effort to strengthen team building and reshape the university's direction.

Reaffirming the significance of IIUI's identity, Dr. Ahmed Shuja Syed said, "IIUI has an identity, and it reflects in practical life. He said its renaissance and this

reconnect are essential to restore our mission."

Vice President (Female Campus) Dr. Amna Mehmood said the alumni get-together was encouraging and served as a valuable opportunity for the alumni fraternity to reminisce about their student life. She noted that this connection-building activity would prove even more beneficial in the longer run.

Among the distinguished alumni who attended the event were Dr. Sajida Ahmed Chaudhry, Additional District & Sessions Judge, Lahore, and Ms. Huma Akhtar Chughtai, Governance and Gender Specialist and Member National Assembly of Pakistan. The event also drew prominent professionals such as Jabbar Karmi, Executive Director, ZTBL; Wing Commander Arshad Hussain, GM Cargo, Shaheen

Air Services, Peshawar Airport; Faredullah, Director Education, Peshawar; Muhammad Ramzan Khan, Legal Advisor, IIUI; legal experts Shahid Iqbal Janjua and Mazhar Iqbal; Syed Mansoor Shakeel, CEO, Character Education Foundation; Hafiz Rehmatullah, Secretary, AJK; Hafiz Qamur al Zaman; Ms. Syeda Fouzia Jalaal Shah, Director, Law & Legal Research Wing, Council of Islamic Ideology; Ms. Raheela Jabeen, Ex-Warden, IIUI; Ms. Zubaida Khatoon, Ex-Director Admissions & Exams, IIUI.

Interactive segments during the brunch included video presentations and structured alumni discussions focused on academic progression, institutional support systems, and knowledge exchange mechanisms. The event closed with remarks by Dr. Faiz Raheem and Dr. Taimia Sabiha.

# Pakistan Stock Exchange launches Nationwide Financial Literacy Week

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) proudly launched Pakistan Financial Literacy Week 2025 (PFLW 2025) with a Gong Ceremony, marking the start of a nationwide initiative to promote financial literacy and inclusion. This impactful campaign is organized in collaboration with the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), Central Depository Company (CDC), and National Clearing Company of Pakistan Limited (NCCPL).

The Gong Ceremony, held at the PSX Trading Hall, symbolized the financial sector's collective commitment to democratizing access to financial knowledge and empowering every Pakistani to participate in the

nation's economic growth. It brought together leaders from key institutions, reaffirming their shared resolve to bridge knowledge gaps and foster an inclusive economy.

Throughout PFLW 2025, a diverse range of activities will be conducted across schools, colleges, universities, and communities nationwide. These include workshops, awareness sessions, and digital campaigns designed to equip individuals with the knowledge and tools needed for informed financial decision-making.

As part of its outreach efforts, PSX is excited to announce the National Trading Simulation Contest, "Battle of the Bulls - The Ultimate Investment Challenge." Registration opens today, April 14, 2025, and closes on May 5, 2025. The competition

will offer participants a risk-free virtual trading experience to master the art and science of stock trading. Spanning three months, the contest will culminate in a prize distribution ceremony, where winners will receive prizes worth substantial amount of money. Interested participants can register at: <https://www.psx.com.pk/psx/PSX-Battle-of-the-Bulls>.

Chairperson of PSX, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, emphasized the transformative power of financial education during her address: "There is no doubt that literacy—and particularly financial literacy—is critical for any society. Financial literacy serves as the bedrock for an inclusive economy. We must work together on building an ecosystem that enables meaningful impact. Educating people about finan-

cial products is key to empowering them, especially youth and women, to take charge of their financial futures."

Governor SBP Mr. Jameel Ahmad emphasized the need for financial literacy to achieve true financial inclusion. He reaffirmed that increasing financial inclusion remains a top strategic goal within the SBP's Strategic Vision 2028, alongside building an innovative and inclusive digital financial ecosystem.

Governor shared key initiatives under the National Financial Inclusion Strategy (NFIS) 2024-28, including efforts to increase financial inclusion from 64% to 75% by 2028, while reducing the gender gap in financial services from 34% to 25% by 2028. Governor SBP also expressed his appreciation to the PSX management for their continued efforts



in providing a vital platform for

the country's capital market. Mr. Ahmad highlighted the impor-

tant role of financial literacy in

## Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
116,390.03	114,853.33
Day's High	Day's Low
116,494.19	115,246.20
Index Value	Change
20,087,261,932	+ 1536.70
Percentage	Time
+ 1.34%	9 Apr, 2025 3:30 pm

## Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
8,135.67	+ 171.49
Percentage	Time
+ 2.15%	14 Apr, 3:35 pm GMT+1

## USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
40,647.70	+ 434.99
Percentage	Time
+ 1.08%	14 Apr, 10:35 am GMT-4

## Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
33,982.36	+ 396.78
Percentage	Time
+ 1.18%	14 Apr, 3:45 pm GMT+9

## Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	174.00	176.25
Bahrain Dinar	738.85	746.85
Canadian Dollar	199.35	201.75
China Yuan	37.59	37.99
Danish Krone	40.15	40.55
Euro	307.40	310.15
Hong Kong Dollar	35.66	36.01
Indian Rupee	3.18	3.27
Japanese Yen	1.91	1.97
Kuwaiti Dinar	898.40	907.90
Malaysian Ringgit	62.57	63.17
New Zealand \$	158.75	160.75
Norwegians Krone	26.4	26.70
Omani Riyal	723.10	731.60
Qatari Riyal	76.28	76.98
Saudi Riyal	74.70	75.25
Singapore Dollar	207.5	209.5
Swedish Korona	27.45	27.75
Swiss Franc	314.86	317.66
Thai Bhat	8.13	8.28
U.A.E Dirham	76.35	77.00
UK Pound Sterling	359.60	363.1
US Dollar	280.65	282.15

## Fiza Farhan Named Among 40 Under 40 Global Leaders

### Commerce Desk

DUBAI: Fiza Farhan, CEO of ORA Global Development Advisors and a leading global expert and advisor on various development agendas, has been recognized as one of the Forty Under 40 Global Changemakers. This prestigious platform honors young business leaders shaping the future of industries, economies, and societies. Fiza was recognized at the Forty Under 40 Global Summit held in Dubai in April 2025, as the sole representative from Pakistan among distinguished leaders from across the world.

A two-time Forbes "30 Under 30 List of Social Entrepreneurs" honoree (2015, 2016), Fiza received this recognition in the Sustainable Development category for her outstanding contributions to women's empowerment, climate action, sustainable & collaborative development & inclusive finance —further cementing her position as a global advocate for inclusive growth and systemic change.

"I am honored to be named among the 40 Under 40 Global Changemakers," said Fiza Farhan. "This recognition is a testament to the power of collective action and collaboration. It reflects the dedication of countless women and men around the world who continue to challenge the status quo and drive change.

As a Pakistani woman, I'm proud to represent my country on the global stage, and I hope this encourages other young leaders—particularly women—to keep pushing for a more sustainable and equitable future."

## Gold prices reach all time high to Rs.340,600 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold increased by Rs.1,800 and was traded all time high at Rs.340,600 on Saturday as compared to its sale at Rs338,800 on previous trading day. All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewelers Association reported.

# Pakistan's salt mining industry gears up for growth, innovation, and sustainability

### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Industries and Production, Government of Pakistan, inaugurated the International Workshop on Salt Mining today, marking the beginning of a three-day event focused on innovation, sustainability, and value addition in the salt industry. The opening session was graced by Mr. Haroon Akhtar Khan, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister, who served as the chief guest and delivered the keynote address.

In his address, Mr. Haroon Akhtar Khan emphasized that innovation and sustainability are critical needs of the hour in the salt mining industry. He acknowledged the pivotal role being played by the National Productivity Organization (NPO) in the industrial development of the country.

Highlighting key initiatives, Mr. Khan mentioned the Ministry's plans to establish model factories aimed at enhancing productivity and value addition. He particularly stressed the importance of boosting global demand for Pakistan's renowned pink salt,



known not only for its unique taste but also for its health benefits, including stress relief and therapeutic uses.

"Value addition will lead to increased exports and generate employment opportunities," he stated. "We must prioritize utility

creation and aim for a strong presence in the global market."

The workshop includes sessions focused on mine safety, productivity, and exploring new business opportunities in the salt sector. International experts and industry leaders are participating in discussions surrounding exports and value-added products.

Mr. Khan also noted the significance of the National Industrial Policy, currently being formulated, as a vital step towards enhancing the country's export potential and industrial growth. He reiterated that minerals like pink salt and gemstone factors are essential to boosting Pakistan's mineral exports.

He concluded with a call to action: "We must steer our economy towards growth in GDP, salt mining, and mineral exports. Highlighting our products on the global stage is key to creating job opportunities and sustainable economic development."

The workshop will continue until April 16, 2025, bringing together experts, stakeholders, and policymakers to explore the full potential of Pakistan's salt mining industry.

## High-level Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb chairs a high-level meeting on priority sector lending with senior officials from SBP, PBA, and leading banks on Monday.



Photo: PID

## IBA Karachi hosted an informative session on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in Commercial Disputes

### Commerce desk

KARACHI: IBA Karachi hosted an informative and insightful session titled, "Impact of IBA for Smoothly Handling Commercial Disputes through ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution)" at the IBA Main Campus. The session aimed to raise awareness about the growing relevance of ADR mechanisms in resolving commercial disputes in Pakistan.

The event featured Hon'ble Mr. Justice Jawad Hassan as the esteemed guest speaker. In his address, he emphasized the significance of ADR processes of arbitration, mediation, and reconciliation as efficient, cost-effective, and time-saving alternatives to conventional litigation. He stated, "The first ADR Center in Pakistan was established by IBA Karachi, the finest business school in the country," and commended Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, Executive Director IBA, and Mr. Kamran Bilgrami, Director, IBA-CEE,

for their pivotal role in institutionalizing ADR education and practice. He also highlighted the high costs associated with traditional legal proceedings and emphasized the importance of mandatory mediation in enabling businesses and individuals to resolve disputes more efficiently, affordably, and with greater ease.

The session reflects IBA's ongoing efforts to enhance legal literacy and promote alternative legal frameworks among its students, faculty, and broader stakeholder community, strengthening its commitment to informed business practices and good governance. The session was attended by esteemed IBA faculty members, including Dr. Abdullah Zafar Sheikh, Dean, IBA School of Business Studies (IBA-SBS); Dr. Hilal Anwar Butt, Chairperson, Department of Finance, IBA-SBS; Dr. Syed Sharjeel Ahmed Hasnie, Chairperson, Department of Accounting & Law, IBA-SBS, and Mr. Irfan Qamar, Director HR, IBA.

## OPPO A5 PRO launches in Pakistan—Always Be Pro with You

### Commerce Desk

LAHORE: OPPO, the global leader in smartphone devices, has officially launched its latest smartphone, the OPPO A5 Pro, in Pakistan, now available nationwide starting from April 14th. Designed to bring super durability and reliability with above-class IP69/68/66 water and dust resistance and Military grade certification, the OPPO A5 Pro delivers strength, intelligence, and sleek style that is accessible to all.

Speaking at the event, George Long, CEO of OPPO Pakistan, said, "The OPPO A5 Pro is a reflection of OPPO's deep understanding of local market needs. We designed this device to be more than just a smartphone—it's a dependable companion for the everyday



Pakistani. With Pro-level durability, smart AI features, and elegant style, the A5 Pro is our commitment to delivering technology that empowers and inspires."

## Food security is a serious issue; authorities must pay attention: Karim Aziz Malik

### Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Capital Office FCCI Karim Aziz Malik has stated that food security has become a serious issue that authorities must address immediately. Pakistan's population is over 240 million, and to secure it, it is necessary to protect agricultural land. He expressed these views in a statement along with Vice President Tariq Jadon, Ashfaq Ahmed, and Chairman Coordination Malik Sohail.

He said that we need to start from Punjab. The land in Sialkot, Pasrur, Gujrat, and Wazirabad is very fertile for rice and wheat. Until ten years ago, these areas had agricultural land, but in the last

few years, they are being converted into industrialization and housing societies, which is very worrying. Where there is no cultivation or areas are near cities, develop those instead of agricultural land, just as SIFC has started work in Cholistan, away from the city in Bahawalpur, for agriculture, for which they deserve congratulations.

The government should definitely pursue industrialization, which is the backbone and a major source of employment, but it should also protect agricultural land for a secure agricultural future. The government can organize a seminar on this important issue in collaboration with the FPCCI to highlight it.



## TCL achieves triple top 1 ranking in global TV Shipments Across Key Categories

### Commerce Desk

LAHORE: TCL, Pakistan's No. 1 LED TV brand has been recognized with three Global TOP 1 rankings by the market research company Omdia, highlighting its leadership in ultra-large TVs, Mini LED TVs, and Google TVs.

Majid Khan Niazi, Director of Marketing for TCL Middle East and Africa, expressed pride in the brand's milestone achievement.

"We are honored to see TCL once again recognized globally for its innovation and leadership. These top rankings are a testament to our commitment to delivering world-class technology and pushing the boundaries of what's possible in home entertainment. As the demand for larger and smarter TVs grows, TCL remains focused on creating immersive experiences that enrich the lives of our consumers."

## PSX witnesses bullish trend, gains 1,536 points

ISLAMABAD: The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bullish on Monday, gaining 1,536.70 points, a positive change of 1.34 percent, closing at 116,390.04 points as compared to 114,853.33 points on the last trading day.

A total of 484,547,019 shares were traded during the day as compared to 458,589,593 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs27.430 billion against

Rs31.628 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 455 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 247 of them recorded gains and 145 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 63 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were Energyco PK with 55,091,076 shares at Rs 8.64 per share, Pak Int. Bulk with 45,232,730 shares at Rs 10.86 per share and Sui South Gas with 31,842,819 shares at Rs 41.71 per share.

# BYD makes a dynamic debut at the Opening Ceremony of PSL X

Player of the Tournament to be awarded with BYD Seal as part of this groundbreaking partnership

ISLAMABAD: In an electrifying collaboration that unites the worlds of sports and innovation, BYD Pakistan—Mega Motor Company recently announced their partnership with HBL PSL 10 as the official mobility partner of this season. This momentous alliance between the World's No.1 NEV manufacturer and Pakistan's most premier cricket league took the center stage at the tournament's grand opening ceremony on Friday, April 11, marking the launch of a dynamic series of activations, set to drive the excitement throughout the tournament.

In a spectacular fusion of entertainment and technology, BYD made a grand entrance into the stadium by carrying the tournament trophy on BYD Shark 6. Later in the evening, the excitement soared as superstar Ali Zafar descended the stage and boarded the BYD Shark 6, taking a celebratory lap around the stadium. The act, seamlessly choreographed as part of the star-studded opening gala, unfolded in front of a packed crowd and millions watching live, solidifying BYD's presence and marking its grand entrance at Pakistan's biggest



sporting event.

As part of this groundbreaking partnership, BYD Pakistan will be awarding the Player of the Tournament with BYD Seal—a bold move that celebrates the top cricketing talent. In addition, throughout the tournament, BYD vehicles will be prominently placed inside stadiums across all four host cities — Rawalpindi, Lahore, Karachi, and Multan — offering fans an up-close look at the future of

technological innovation and sustainable mobility. Models including the BYD Seal, BYD Shark 6, and BYD ATTO 3 will be on display, varying from venue to venue, showcasing the brand's diverse and cutting-edge line-up.

"We are thrilled to partner with HBL PSL X for this remarkable season. This collaboration not only strengthens BYD's presence in Pakistan but also reiterates our commitment to leading the shift

towards sustainable mobility solutions. Through this partnership, we are proud to showcase our high-tech and revolutionary New Energy Vehicles, bringing eco-friendly innovation to the heart of the country's most prestigious sporting event", said Lei Jian, Country Head of BYD Pakistan.

"Our collaboration with HBL PSL X marks a major milestone for Mega Motor Company as we continue to drive BYD's mission of promoting innovative and sustainable transportation," said Syed Haider Mujtaba, GM Marketing, Mega Motor Company. "We're excited to bring a new dimension to the fan experience by showcasing our futuristic vehicles through this partnership that truly reflects our pioneering approach and also provides us a unique opportunity to engage with the passionate cricket community of Pakistan", he added.

With this innovative approach, BYD continues to redefine brand engagement in the sporting arena, combining its commitment to sustainability with a flair for memorable experiences — both on and off the field.

Four more matches decided in the Dr. Shah Five-A-Side Hockey Tournament



Sports Desk

KARACHI: Four more matches decided in the Dr. Shah Five-A-Side Hockey Tournament. Organized by the KHA Women's Wing in collaboration with the Karachi Hockey Association, in the first match played at the Mini Astro Turf of the Olympian Hanif Khan and Dr. Junaid Ali Shah Sports Complex, Gulshan-e-Iqbal. Rose Rebels easily defeated Diamond Divas 4-1. Maheen Ali and Sehrish scored two goals each for the winning team. In the second match, Pearl Pioneers defeated Queen Bees 1-0. The only goal of the match was scored by Musfirah. In the third match, Lionesses of the Field easily defeated Diamond Divas 3-0. Momal Suqena scored two goals and captain Iqra scored one goal. While in the fourth match, Lionesses of the Field defeated Pearl Pioneers 3-1 thanks to Momal Suqena's brilliant hat trick. Musfirah scored the only goal for Pearl Pioneers. These matches were supervised by umpires Kashmiri Batool, Rizwan Khan and Zafeer Ahmed.

Punjab Culture Day observed in Attock

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Punjab Culture Day Celebrated with Great Enthusiasm in Attock, as in Other Districts of Punjab. To pay tribute to the rich culture of Punjab, "Punjab Culture Day" was celebrated across Attock today with traditional zeal and enthusiasm. Deputy Commissioner Rao Atif Raza, Additional Deputy Commissioner General Anil Saeed, Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Waqas Aslam Marth, along with Assistant Commissioners and other district officers, donned traditional attire and performed their official duties in cultural dress. The main festivities were held at the District Council lawns, featuring horse dances, Punjabi folk dances, traditional songs by Hikmat Awan, and stalls showcasing traditional Punjabi food and clothing. Office bearers and members of the Attock chapter of the Academy of Letters also participated in the event. On this occasion, Deputy Commissioner Rao Atif Raza stated that the culture of Punjab is a symbol of brotherhood, peace, tolerance, hospitality, and love. The purpose of celebrating Punjab Culture Day is to highlight these beautiful traditions and introduce the younger generation to their cultural heritage. He added that only those nations flourish which stay connected to their culture, and the soil of Punjab is rich in the fragrance of peace, love, and values. ADCG Anil Saeed said that Punjab Culture Day is our identity, which we had forgotten amidst the noise of modernity. Today, under the guidance of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, this day is being celebrated to reconnect with our roots and to showcase our culture to the world. He further stated that the people of Punjab are brave and dignified, and their culture is equally rich and fertile. Punjab Culture Day was celebrated in all government offices across the district, where officers and staff appeared in traditional attire.

ITF Pakistan World Jrs Tennis C'ship kicks off Pakistani travel guides

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The ITF Pakistan World Juniors Tennis Championship 2025 Leg-2 kicked off here at the PTF Tennis Complex on Monday. A total of 36 boys and 24 girls representing 18 countries, including Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Singapore, Turkey, Japan, China, Austria, Uzbekistan, the United Kingdom, Canada, Russia, Sweden, Korea, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Romania and Sri Lanka, are participating in the championship. Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi, President-PTF, and Col. (R) Zia-ud-Din Tufail, Secretary General PTF, wished the best of luck to all participants for the championship.

In the main draw 1st Round, Pakistani boys Nadir Mirza, Mikael Ali Baig, Abubakar Talha, Zohaib Afzal Malik, Salar Khan and a girl Soha Ali won their matches and qualified for the 2nd round.

Boys Singles 1st Round: Nadir Mirza (PAK) beat Yuxuan Li (CHN) 3-6, 6-3, 6-2; Arjan Singh Dharmi (SGP) beat Ahtesham Humayun (PAK) 6-2, 6-3; M. Salar Khan (PAK) beat Ajamal Khakimov (RUS) 6-0, 6-2; Mikael Ali Baig (PAK) beat Alexey Ryabov (RUS) 6-1, 6-1; Yagiz Yildiz (TUR) beat Chris Jovan (AUT) 6-1, 6-2; Platon Kovalyov (KAZ) beat Nabeel Ali Qayum (PAK) 6-4, 6-2; Takaya Ishi (JPN) beat Shehryar Anees (PAK) 6-2, 6-0; Abubakar Talha (PAK) beat Ramazan Shagatayev (KAZ) 6-1, 6-1; Rodion Lukashov (KAZ) beat Amir Mazari (PAK) 6-2, 5-7, 6-4; Artem Khusanov (RUS) beat Nelson Guo (USA) 6-7(5), 6-4, 6-3; Zohaib Afzal Malik (PAK) beat Saad Bukadida (TUN) 6-2, 6-2; Mohammad Ali (CAN) beat Muhammad Yahya (PAK) 6-3, 6-3

Girls Singles 1st Round: Zihan Feng (CHN) beat Vinethya Dharmarante (SRI) 6-3, 6-0; Soha Ali (PAK) beat Alissa Korolyova (KAZ) 6-1, 6-0; Da Eun Lee (KOR) beat Maham Ashraf (PAK) 6-3, 6-0; Seo Hee Jeon (KOR) beat Zara Khan (PAK) 6-0, 6-0.

# Shabbir Iqbal makes history with sixth JA Zaman Memorial title

Tahir Amin Malik

ISLAMABAD: The 11th J. A. Zaman Memorial Open Golf Championship concluded in grand fashion at Lahore Gymkhana, drawing over 500 golfers from across the country in a spirited celebration of sport, tradition, and talent.

Golfing icon Shabbir Iqbal cemented his legendary status by capturing the championship for a record sixth time, finishing with an impressive score of 274. He was followed closely by Muhammad Ashfaq (277), while Muhammad Minhaj and Matloob Ahmad tied for third at 278.

In the amateur category, Wazir Ali Khan topped the net leaderboard (141), while Qasim Ali Khan won the gross with 143. The ladies' competition saw Bushra Fatima winning net on a tiebreaker (230), and Parkha Ijaz claiming 1st gross with 234.

Junior stars under the Ace Junior Golf League (AJGL) delivered standout performances, including Haman Irfan and Yahya Ahsan in the elite categories. The championship also spotlighted young prodigies, with 11-year-olds Zoay Qureshi and Maria Waqar competing in WAGR events.

Among senior professionals, Muhammad Tariq emerged victorious with 142. In the seniors' amateur division, Tariq Usman won 1st net, and Ahmad Zafar Hayat secured 1st gross



with a score of 150.

The closing ceremony, graced by the Zaman family, paid tribute to the late J. A. Zaman, whose passion for golf continues to inspire. Tournament

Director Ayyan Mumtaz shared that the event was not only Pakistan's largest-ever golf championship but also the first to be streamed live on YouTube. Plans are underway to take the tournament inter-

national in its 12th edition.

From elite champions to rising juniors, the tournament captured the very spirit of golf — legacy, excellence, and a bright future ahead.

# Over 50 doctors, nutritionists deputed for Punjab athletes

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: More than 50 doctors and nutrition specialists have been deputed to look after health of Punjab's athletes during 2-week training camps being organized for the preparation of upcoming National Games.

DG Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal shared this information while presiding over a meeting at the National Hockey Stadium on Monday. The meeting was convened to review the

arrangements of Punjab's training camps.

Director Admin Dr M Kaleem, Punjab Olympics Association CEO Idris Haider Khwaja and more than 50 doctors and nutritionists attended the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, Khizar Afzaal said that this important decision has been taken for the better healthcare of Punjab's male and female athletes during the camp training at different venues of Nishtar Park Sports Complex (NPSC).

He said that doctors and nutritionists will give lectures to coaches and players



on diet and its importance. "The fitness and nutrition of players participating in the 35th edition of National Games is very important".

He said that Sports Board Punjab is

taking all essential measures for the better health of the Punjab players so that they can exhibit their best performance in the mega event being organised at Karachi from May 1 to 9.

# Pakistan dominate West Indies in second warm-up match for Women's WC Qualifiers

Pakistan continued their winning momentum ahead of the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup Qualifier, defeating the West Indies by five wickets in their second warm-up match. The team comfortably chased down the 189-run target, securing victory with 23 balls to spare.

Pakistan's chase of a modest 189-run target was propelled by superb batting performances from vice-captain Muneeba Ali and Natalia Parvaiz.

The duo anchored the chase, with Muneeba top-scoring with 87 runs off 113 balls, while Natalia contributed with a 53-run knock from 60 deliveries. Their partnership guided Pakistan

to the target without much difficulty, losing only five wickets along the way.

Gull Feroza also played a supporting role, contributing a crucial 28 runs to the chase.

Earlier, West Indies were restricted to 188/8 in their 50 overs, as Pakistan's bowlers put on a disciplined display. Sadia Iqbal led the charge with the ball, claiming impressive figures of 3/21.

Nashra Sandhu supported with two wickets for 47 runs, while skipper Fatima Sana, Diana Baig, and Rameen Shamim each picked up one wicket.

For the West Indies, Shabika Gujanbi was the top scorer with an unbeaten 68, while Jannillea Glasgow chipped in with

41 runs. However, it wasn't enough to prevent Pakistan from sealing the win.

This victory marked Pakistan's second consecutive warm-up win, following a dominant seven-wicket victory over Thailand, where they won with 187 balls to spare.

The ICC Women's Cricket World Cup Qualifier will officially begin on April 9, with Pakistan set to face Ireland in the opening match. West Indies will take on Scotland on the same day.

The top two teams from the Qualifier will earn a spot in the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup, joining Australia, England, New Zealand, South Africa, Sri Lanka, and India, who secured their



places by finishing in the top six of the ICC Women's Championship (2022-25).

## Induction Ceremony

Group photo of Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf along with Senior Naval Officers and Ship's company during the Induction Ceremony of Offshore Patrol Vessel PNS YAMAMA.



# Induction Ceremony of Fourth Offshore Patrol Vessel PNS Yamama held at Jinnah Naval Base Ormara

### Bureau Report

KARACHI: In a ceremony held at Jinnah Naval Base, Ormara, Pakistan Navy marked a significant milestone with the induction of its fourth Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV), PNS YAMAMA, into its fleet today. Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

PNS YAMAMA, constructed at DAMEN Shipyard, Romania, is a multipur-

pose platform equipped with modern stealth features, the latest Command and Control systems, and sophisticated weapons and sensors, enabling it to operate in a multi-threat environment. As the fourth in the series, the induction of this state-of-the-art ship significantly enhances Pakistan Navy's capability to ensure seaward defence, protect Sea Lines of Communication, and maintain order at sea.

The induction ceremony at

Jinnah Naval Base Ormara underscores the Pakistan Navy's enhanced reach on the western seaboard, providing flexibility in fleet operations, enhancing maritime security, thus contributing to regional peace and stability, and ensuring the protection of vital maritime infrastructure, including the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of immense national importance.

While addressing the cere-

mony, the Chief Guest highlighted the precarious geo-strategic environment in the Indian Ocean and emphasized the need for a potent naval force to counter emerging traditional and non-traditional challenges. He reiterated that the addition of PNS YAMAMA to the PN fleet would significantly enhance Pakistan Navy's capability to safeguard the maritime frontiers of Pakistan and reinforce its commitment to ensuring safety and security

in international waters.

He also acknowledged the professional competence of DAMEN Shipyard Galati and the entire project team for delivering a capable platform that symbolizes the deep-rooted cooperation and strong bilateral relations between the two friendly countries.

The ceremony was attended by a large number of government officials, local dignitaries, and senior Pakistan Navy officers.

## 'Pak-Morocco Armies Unite Against Terrorism in Joint Exercise'



### City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Opening Ceremony of 3rd Pak-Morocco Joint Bilateral Military Exercise-2025 was held between the Armies of Pakistan and Morocco in Counter Terrorism domain at Special Operations School, Cherat. Special Services Group of Pak Army and Special Forces of Moroccan Army are participating in the

Exercise.

Commandant Special Operation School, Cherat graced the ceremony as Chief Guest.

The Exercise is aimed at refining professional skills through joint training and harnessing historic military to military relations among the friendly countries. Participating troops are looking forward to benefit from mutual expertise/experience.

## Aafia Siddiqui's lawyer in US to arrive in Pakistan on May 4, IHC told

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani neurologist Dr. Aafia Siddiqui's lawyer in the United States (US) has decided to reach Pakistan to attend the case hearing regarding the release and repatriation of her client.

This was informed by the lawyer Imran Shafiq during the hearing of a case related to the release and repatriation of Dr. Aafia Siddiqui.

The IHC was informed that Dr Aafia Siddiqui's US-based attorney Clive Stafford Smith has decided to visit Pakistan. Smith is scheduled to

arrive in Pakistan on May 4.

Citing the arrival of Smith, Advocate Imran Shafiq requested the IHC to adjourn today's hearing and set the next hearing for May 6 to allow time for consultation with Stafford Smith.

At this juncture, Justice Sardar Ijaz Ishaq Khan, who was presiding over the hearing, inquired from the government representatives if they had any objections to the proposed date.

The law officer responded that there were no objections, and later, the court accordingly scheduled the next hearing for May 6.

## EU delegation meets Azam Tarar, discusses bilateral ties

### Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: A European Union delegation, led by Serban Dimitrie Sturdza, Chair of the Delegation for Relations with the Countries of South Asia (DSAS), met with the Federal Minister for Law & Justice and Human Rights, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar.

The delegation included Dr. Riina Kionka, EU Ambassador to Pakistan, along with Members of the European Parliament Michael McNamara (Renew, Ireland), Ruth Firmenich (NI, Germany), Cristina Stanculescu, Songul Dogan, and Liviu Adrian Natea, said a press release.

The meeting reaffirmed the strength of Pakistan-EU bilateral relations, underscoring shared commitments to democratic values, human rights, and inclusive development. Both



sides acknowledged the positive trajectory of cooperation under the GSP+ framework, with the Minister appreciating the EU's support and emphasizing Pakistan's resolve to align its legal and institutional frameworks with international human

rights conventions.

The minister highlighted Pakistan's steady progress in promoting democracy, constitutionalism and the rule of law, despite complex internal and regional dynamics. He reaffirmed the coun-

try's strong commitment to peace, pluralism, and institutional resilience as part of its vision for a stable and inclusive future.

European Union, to recognize and acknowledge our ongoing journey toward a more

inclusive, just and peaceful society," the Minister stated.

The meeting concluded with a reaffirmation of mutual respect, partnership, and a shared vision for a just, democratic, and equitable global order.

## Three get jail terms in Khalil-ur-Rehman Qamar honey-trap case

### Bureau Report

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Lahore has awarded jail terms to three accused in the high-profile honey-trap and kidnap-for-ransom case involving renowned playwright Khalil-ur-Rehman Qamar.

Pronouncing the reserved verdict on Monday, ATC Judge Arshad Javed acquitted other eight accused in the case who were Hassan Shah, Tanveer Ahmad, Qaisar Abbas, Rasheed Ahmad, Falak Sher, Mian Khan, Yasir Ali and Javed Iqbal.

The three convicts - Amina Arooj,



Zeeshan Qayyum and Mamnoon Haider - received seven-year jail sentence each.

The court had reserved its decision in Qamar's kidnapping case, with the verdict scheduled to be delivered on April 14.

Qamar's lawyer had formally requested that the accused be sentenced to death.

Khalil-ur-Rehman had been abducted in July last year and the prosecution said that Amina Arooj lied to him while calling the famous playwright to her flat where he secretly filmed him and then abducted him for ransom.

## Neelum-Jhelum Project shutdown bleeds Rs42b annually, reveals federal minister

### Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The prolonged shutdown of the Neelum-Jhelum Hydropower Project is causing a massive annual loss of Rs42 billion to the national exchequer, the National Assembly was informed on Monday.

Federal Minister for Water Resources Moin Wattoo, in a written reply, confirmed that the project has remained non-operational since May 2024 due to a serious defect in the headrace tunnel.

According to the minister, a blockage located 9.8 kilometres from the dam site has once again forced a complete halt in operations.

Efforts are currently underway to negotiate with the original contractor to find a feasible way to revive the project, which has faced multiple

interruptions since its inauguration.

To get to the bottom of the technical failures, the federal government has formed three separate investigative committees. In addition, the services of Canadian engineering consultancy firm Dan Baraks were hired to conduct an independent inquiry.

The Canadian firm has completed its investigation and submitted its report on March 18, but the findings are still under government review, the minister stated.

The Neelum-Jhelum Hydropower Project, once hailed as a cornerstone of Pakistan's energy future, has now become a cautionary tale of mismanagement and structural oversight - with billions draining from public coffers as a result.

## Massacre in conflict-ridden Sudan's Darfur region leaves over 100 people dead: UN

UNITED NATIONS: As Sudan's devastating war enters its third year, UN rights investigators have warned that its "darkest chapters" may still lie ahead, following the massacre of more than 100 people at displacement camps in Darfur over the weekend.

The latest attacks, which began on 11 April, saw Rapid Support Forces (RSF)-affiliated forces launch coordinated assaults on Zamzam and Abu Shouk - two of the largest camps for internally displaced people (IDPs) in Darfur - as well as the regional capital, El Fasher.

Among those killed were 23 children as well as nine humanitarian workers who were operating one of

the last remaining health posts.

The UN Independent International Fact-Finding Mission (IFFM) for Sudan condemned the violence, warning that the situation is deteriorating as ethnically driven violence and hate speech escalate.

"The world has witnessed two years of ruthless conflict which has trapped millions of civilians in harrowing situations, subjecting them to violations and suffering with no end in sight," Mohamed Chande Othman, IFFM chairman, said in a statement Monday.

"Amid the rising tide of hate speech and ethnically driven violence and reprisals, we fear the darkest chapters of this conflict have yet to unfold."