Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

Pakistan ready to deepen anti-narcotics cooperation with Gulf states: Naqvi

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Wednesday said that Pakistan in collaboration with Gulf countries will take effective measures to save the future of our outh and protect society from the menace of drugs. Mohsin Naqvi expressed these views while addressing Pak-Gulf Anti-Narcotics Conference in Islamabad.

Govt removes cap on petrol levy

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Shawwal Al-Mukarram 18, Thursday, April 17, 2025



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Called on

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of ACCA led by Ms. Helen Brand OBE calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday.

Govt prioritizing international-standard skills training for workforce: PM

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on ment was prioritizing efforts to equip the country's workforce and capable manpower. with skills and training aligned with international standards.

He was talking to a seven ciation of Chartered Certified ment project. Accounts (ACCA) led by its Chief

Executive Helen Brand OBE ments in the government's which called on him here at the PM House.

Welcoming the delegation, the Wednesday said that the govern- prime minister said the country was blessed with talented youth

member delegation of Asso- basic part of the every govern- new professional skills to improve delegation highlighted impor- a strong desire to actively support

performance and governance was top priority of the government.

"Improvement in Pakistan's investment rating by Fitch is a welcoming sign but we have validation to improve transparthat the association could play for future course of action. ency and governance was the an important role in imparting

encourage the ACCA's efforts to enhance the capacity of the government institutions.

The prime minister directed the relevant authorities to to make further efforts," the increase cooperation with the He noted that the third party prime minister said adding association and hold discussions

During the meeting. the competition of Pakistan's tant role, the ACCA played for Pakistan's Green Economy Trans-He said that bringing improve- manpower at international level. the development of Pakistan's formation Plan.

The delegation informed the prime minister that the ACCA's 13000 Pakistani members were serving across the world in various sectors, whereas around 40,000 students were in process of receiving the membership of ACCA.

SC hears comparison between Kulbhushan, May 9 accused military trials

Court's constitutional bench hearing on civilian trials in military courts on Wednesday, the Ministry of Defence's counsel, Khawaja Haris, drew a comparison between the May 9 accused

According to the 24NewsHD is termed the "sending state." TV channel, he said an objection was raised from PTI that those involved in the May 9 riots were

one. Kh Haris explained that ISLAMABAD: In the Supreme Kulbhushan Jadhav was granted consular access under the Vienna

Presenting his rebuttal, Khawaja Haris clarified that Article 36 of the Vienna Convention pertains to foreign nationals. and Indian spy Kulbhushan If a person commits a crime, the country from which they originate

Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar responded by saying that if Kulbhushan Jadhav came from India, denied the right of appeal, while then India would be regarded as

additional attorney general stated that the person would be considered a citizen of the sending state.

Justice Mazhar remarked that whether India accepts it or not, under the Vienna Convention, India would still be considered the sending state in Kulbhushan's case. To this, Khawaja Haris reiterated that while Jadhav was granted consular access under the Vienna Convention, that does not equate to granting him the right

Justice Mazhar stressed that

consular access should be available to any foreign national, not just Jadhay, Justice Hasan Azhar Rizvi asked whether the government provides a lawyer if the accused cannot arrange one themselves. Khawaja Haris replied, "Yes, absolutely. In such cases, the govern-

ment provides a state counsel." Kh Haris also assured the court that he would inform it whether rules were followed during the military trials. He cited the Shah Zaman case, where the accused admitted that grounds were

provided, but not for a lawyer of

Despite detailed arguments, Khawaja Haris could not complete his submissions, after which the court adjourned the hearing for one day.

The case was heard by a sevenmember constitutional bench headed by Justice Aminuddin Khan. Other judges on the bench included Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Musarrat Hilali, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Hasan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan, and Justice Shahid Bilal.

DPM Dar reiterates commitment to multifaceted Pak-**UK** partnership



跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar has reiterated Pakistan's commitment to a strong, broad-based, multifaceted Pakistan-UK partnership.

He was talking to UK's Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State Lord Wajid Khan in Islamabad Wednesday. Ishaq Dar also appreciated the British Pakistani community's role in fostering goodwill. Lord Wajid Khan acknowledged the Government's commitment to economic reforms and noted Pakistan's economic stability. spokesperson said.

Besides, they discussed issues of mutual interest.

Meanwhile, Ambassador of Hungary Béla Fazekas Wednesday called on Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and discussed matters relating to mutual

During the meeting, they expressed keen interest in strengthening bilateral ties and looked forward to the upcoming visit of the Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Péter Szijjártó, a press release their encouraging impact on issued by the foreign office

NA secretariat refutes Omar Ayub's allegations on questions, calling attention notices

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly Secretariat on Wednesday categorically rejected the allegations made by Leader of the Opposition, Omar Ayub Khan, against Speaker National Assembly Sardar Avaz Sadiq concerning the handling of parliamentary questions and calling attention notices.

In an official statement, the Secretariat spokesperson clarified that a complete and trans-

parent record is maintained regarding the submission, admissibility, and proceedings of questions and calling attention notices, including those submitted by the Leader of the Opposition.

The spokesperson said that a detailed response had already been issued to Omar Ayub, outlining data pertaining to question hours and calling attention notices addressed during multiple sessions of the National Assembly.

Afghan envoy urges refugees to return, thanks Pakistan for hospitality

跨 Bureau Report

Afghani-PESHAWAR: stan's Consul General Hafiz Mohibullah Shakir on Wednesday acknowledged Pakistan's four-decade-long support for Afghan refugees but stressed that the time has come for their return to their homeland.

Addressing a press conference at the Afghan Consulate, Shakir drew a historic parallel, saying, "Pakistan treated our refugees with the same spirit of brotherhood shown by the Ansar to the Muhajireen in Islam's early days."

He noted that Afghan children studied alongside Pakistani students and enjoyed complete freedom of movement during their stay.

The envoy revealed that Taliban Supreme Leader Mawlawi Haibatullah Akhunzada has assured that Afghanistan is now peaceful and ready to welcome its citizens back. "The Supreme Leader himself confirmed that the era

of conflict has ended," he said. He said that Torkham border crossing has been fully prepared to facili-



tate returning families and a special commission will oversee the rehabilitation process. Returnees will initially stay in temporary camps before being relocated. He said that land allocations planned in Kunar and Nangarhar provinces and job opportunities in agriculture and business sectors to be provided.

16-member highlevel Afghan delegation, led by Commerce Minister Nooruddin Azizi, is arriving in Islamabad for talks. The agenda includes finalizing the repatriation process and enhancing bilateral trade relations between the two neighboring countries.

"Pakistan will always remain our brotherly nation," the Consul General concluded, "but now we must rebuild our own country with the same determination our people showed during difficult times."



Thursday, April 17, 2025

CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif announces historic package worth Rs 15 billion for farmers

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif has announced the first unique, exemplary and unprecedented package in the history of the province for the wheat farmers in Punjab. Funds worth Rs 15 billion have been approved for 550,000 wheat farmers directly under the Wheat Support Fund. The Wheat farmers will be given direct financial support through Kisan Card.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif also announced exemption from paying irrigation/fixed tax for the wheat farmers during current year. Under the package of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, free storage Electronic Warehouse Receipt (EWR) facility will be provided for four months to protect wheat from climate change effects Within 24 hours, this receipt can be and farmers from market pressure.

Heavy hailstorm



ISLAMABAD: A man is covering himself with towel to protect during heavy hailstorm and rain at a road in the Federal

It has been decided to implement Electronic Warehouse Receipt (EWR) system in the province. The farmers storing wheat under the Electronic Warehouse Receipt (EWR) system will get an electronic receipt. given to the bank to obtain a loan up

to 70 percent of the total cost.

It has been decided to pay a markup of loans obtained from the Bank of Punjab up to Rs 100 billion to flour mills and green license holders for wheat purchase. It has also been decided to immediately seek approval from the cabinet for immediate and

mandatory purchase of wheat by flour mills and green license holders. Wheat storage up to 25 percent of the total storage capacity has been made mandatory.

It was decided to contact the federal government for the export of wheat and wheat products. The Bank of Punjab will provide financing to the private sector for the renovation and construction of warehouses for wheat storage

The Punjab government will pay a markup of Rs 5 billion to provide storage facilities to the wheat farmers. The ban on transportation of wheat and flour at provincial and district borders has been lifted.

The Chief Minister has expressed her firm resolve that she will not let farmers suffer any loss. She said, "Farmers are our brothers, we stand with them and will remain so. If any farmer has cultivated wheat, then he will get full compensation for it.'

CM Punjab Wildlife Internship Programme 2025" launched for young graduates

TOBA TEK SINGH: The Punjab government has launched the "Chief Minister Punjab Wildlife Internship Programme 2025" for young graduates. According to the Wildlife Department, the internship is aimed at providing hands-on training in wildlife conservation, research and monitoring to students who have recently completed a BS (Hons) in Zoology or a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree. The internship will span a duration of three months. Applicants must be between the ages of 18 and 25 to be eligible. Interested candidates can apply online at the Wildlife Department's official website — https://wildlife.punjab.gov.pk — by April 23, 2025. This initiative not only offers young graduates a valuable professional development opportunity but also contributes to the important cause of wildlife conservation in Punjab.

Ramesh Singh Arora reviews security arrangements at Gurdwara Sri Panja Sahib

ATTOCK: Punjab's Provincial Minister for Minority Affairs, Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora, visited Gurdwara Sri Panja Sahib in Hassan Abdal. Upon his arrival at the gurdwara, he was received by Assistant Commissioner Hassan Abdal Arif Qureshi and SDPO Hassan Abdal Firasat Ali. During his visit, the provincial minister met with Sikh pilgrims on the occasion of Baisakhi and reviewed the security and administrative arrangements at the gurdwara. AC Hassan Abdal and SDPO Hassan Abdal briefed him on the situation. The minister stated that Pakistan is a safe country in every respect and that all necessary facilities have been provided to the Sikh pilgrims for Baisakhi. This year, approximately 7,500 Sikh pilgrims are visiting Pakistan.

Punjab CM's crackdown on illegal encroachments in Attock yields results

👺 Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: On the instructions of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, a grand operation was conducted against illegal encroachments under the supervision of Chief Officer Municipal Committee, Sardar Aftab Ahmed Khan. The municipal staff, in a late afternoon to evening operation, took action against violators, confiscated goods falling under illegal encroachments, and imposed heavy fines. According to details, Chief Officer Sardar Aftab Ahmed Khan, along with the municipal team, visited Meena Bazaar, Civil Bazaar, Fawara Chowk, Madni Chowk, Sarafa Bazaar, and other areas at night. During the visit, a grand operation was carried out against shopkeepers involved in illegal encroachments, their goods were confiscated, and heavy fines were imposed. Many were also issued warnings. He also ordered the removal of unauthorized sheds and extended platforms in front of shops. On the occasion, Sardar Aftab Ahmed stated that illegal encroachments severely impact the beauty of Attock city. Items placed on footpaths force pedestrians to use the roads, leading to traffic disruptions and increasing the risk of accidents. He $further \, added \, that \, such \, violations \, will \, no \, longer \, be \, tolerated, \, regardless \,$ of how influential the violator may be. The public appreciated this move by the municipal committee and expressed hope that such operations would continue in the future.

IESCO notifies power suspension programme

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Wednes $day \, is sued \, power \, suspension \, programme \, for \, Thursday \, for \, various \, areas \, of \,$ its region due to necessary maintenance and routine development work.

According to IESCO Spokesperson, the power supply of different feeders and grid stations would remain suspended for the period from 08:00AM to 13:00 PM, Islamabad Circle, Athal, Treat, T&T, Bhara Kahu. I&II, Golf City, Shahpur, Sharifabad Feeders, Rawalpindi City Circle, Azhar Abad Feeder, Rawalpindi Cantt Circle, New Kaliam, Bisali, Pind Jatla, Islamabad Feed Mill, Jhatta Hathial, Lab. I&II, Industrial, Reliance Weaving Mill, Bhal, Jarrar Camp, Fazl Ahmed Shaheed Feeders, Attock Circle, Ghauri, Nawazish Shaheed, Sher Shah Suri, SSD/Army Brigade, Comist University, Khanda, Gagan, Batiot, Azim Shaheed, Minawala, Noorpur, Feeders, Chakwal Circle, Lawa, Sagarpur, Abdullahpur, CWO, Jalalpur Feeders, Jhelum Circle, Ajmal Shaheed, F-7 Kachary, Abbaspura, Pakhwal, F-9 Chak Daulat, Jakhar, Industrial, Borin, F-2 Chipboard, F-10 Kala Base Feeders and surrounding areas.

8 illegal arm holders arrested

RAWALPINDI: Police have arrested eight illegal weapon holders and recovered weapons, ammunition from their possession during crackdown here on Wednesday.

According to police spokesman, Banni police held Qaiser Aslam and recovered a 30-bore pistol from his possession.

Similarly, Cantt police arrested Sarmad Ali and recovered a 30-bore pistol from his custody.

While, Taxila police recovered a 30-bore pistol from accused Aftab. Gujjar Khan police recovered a 30-bore pistol from accused Kamran. While taking action, Mandra police recovered a 30-bore pistol from accused Muzammil. Chontra police nabbed Tahzeeb and recovered a 30-bore pistol from his possession.

In another operation, police have arrested Iqrar and recovered 30-bore pistol from him. Kahuta police recovered a 12-bore rifle from accused

Police have registered separate cases against all of the nad further investigation was in progress.

Nearly half of children aged 11-17 years old hide their online activities from their parents: Kaspersky survey

Example 2 Commerce Desk

held

👺 Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: In line with

the vision of Punjab Chief Minister

Maryam Nawaz Sharif, developmen-

across the district of Toba Tek Singh.

ISLAMABAD: According to the findings from a recent Kaspersky survey, among respondents from the META region (Middle East, Turkey and Africa), 48% of children aged 11-17 years old their parents and other grownups. To do this, 28% of youngsters set passwords on all their devices, while 20% clear the browsing history after each access to ly members couldn't check what intended for adults.

they were doing online. And 16% prefer going online when their

parents are not around. Among those who tend to keep their online activities a secret, a significant number of 57% of teenagers don't want their parents to know how much time they hide their online activities from actually spend on the Internet, or which websites they frequent (37%). Even more worryingly, a quarter 25% conceal information about visiting websites with aggressive or adult content, and the Internet so that other fami- 33% about watching content

monitor all the online activities of their children. However, it is not necessary to do so. Instead. it is more important to build and maintain close relationships with children. Regularly chatting with them about their experiences, including those related to their digital lives, is essential. Creating a communication strategy that allows them to reach out when they have concerns is also crucial," comments Seifallah Jedidi, Head of Consumer Channel in the

"It is understandable that Middle East, Turkiye and Africa parents may not be able to at Kaspersky. "Applying parental control is not showing distrust to your child; it's a sensible precaution with which you can, among other things, protect the device and the data on it. It allows parents to control which sites their children visit and which games they play, as well as disallowing file downloads, blocking access to content on unwanted topics and preventing the disclosure of confidential information".

Kaspersky recommends that by staying informed about the



latest threats and actively moni- child from downloading any as Kaspersky's digital parenting toring their children's online malicious files during their online app Safe Kids, parents can effecactivities, parents can create a safer online environment for trusted security solution on their against cyber threats in the digital

experience, we advise to install a tively safeguard their children their children. To secure your device. With the right tools such

sanitation, and providing basic civic In this regard, an important meeting of the District Development Commitamenities to the public. Speaking tee (DDC was held under the chairon the occasion, DC Muhammad manship of Deputy Commissioner Naeem Sindhu emphasized that, as Toba Tek Singh Muhammad Naeem per the directives of Chief Minister Sindhu. During the session, Depu-Maryam Nawaz Sharif, public welfare ty Director Development Ahmad projects are being prioritized across the district. Jawad Sardar gave a detailed brief-He assured that each project will improvements in the lives of the ency and quality in the execution of ing on 31 schemes related to street pavement (soling) and drainage be completed on time and with high- common people. He directed the these development initiatives, adding under the Sustainable Achievement quality standards to bring tangible concerned officers to ensure transparthat no negligence will be tolerated.

Programme (SAP). Heads of various

departments also attended the meet-

ing and discussed issues pertaining to

aimed at improving drainage systems,

The Deputy Commissioner

their respective sectors.

District Development

tal projects are progressing rapidly approved all 31 SAP-related schemes

Committee meeting





Namaz Timings Maghrib ..6:40 pm .. 8:07 pm

EMERGENCY

EINIEIZOEIZO I
Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 16
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& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police9266044
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Rawalpindi 9270601
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MH	561116
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Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09

Former PM Shahid Khaqan Abbasi Calls for Effective Political Representation in Pakistan

₿ City

RAWALPINDI: Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, the central convener of the Awaam Pakistan Party and former Prime Minister of Pakistan, said that for the development of Pakistan and the supremacy of the constitution, the country must be given effective political representation. Everyone talks about their power and chair. We talk about the fundamental rights of the people, differences of opinion are the soul of democracy. Today, we have converted political differences into opposition. The Awaam Pakistan Party is the only party in the country that has the full potential to lead Pakistan on the

path of development. He said this while addressing an important women's meeting. A large number of women workers were present to welcome the leadership, who enthusiastically welcomed the leadership by clapping and raising slogans. On this occasion, he was accompanied by Miftah Ismail, Chaudhry Inam Zafar, Dr. Mehr Liaquat Ali, Usman Abbasi, Nazir Ahmed Kashmiri, Samina Shoaib, Fatima Atif and others. Addressing the women, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, the central convener of the Awaam Pakistan Party and former Prime Minister of Pakistan, said that the political meeting is not successful without the representation of women. Politics should have a goal. We felt that there should be a political party in the country that has the full potential to lead the country on the path of development.

PM's initiative empowers 300 agricultural graduates for China journey

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif held a send-off ceremony for 300 agricultural graduates embarking on a journey to China. These graduates have been shortlisted as part of "Pakistan's Prime Minister's Initiative for Capacity Building of 1,000 Agricultural Graduates in China." The Prime Minister's initiative marks a strategic step toward transforming the future of Pakistan's agriculture sector through human capital development and international collaboration.

The Prime Minister's initiative is a step towards the sustainable development and attaining food security of the nation. It is an investment in the education sector as it tends to create an empowered next generation of agricultural professionals with international exposure. In future, this initiative will address the challenges posed by climate change, resource limitations, and outdated farming practices.

Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, in his address to the gathering,

stressed the need to modernize agricultural methodologies and strengthen the capacity of youth through global learning experiences. He underscored the visionary leadership of the Prime Minister in introducing ways to incorporate climate-smart agriculture towards attaining a green Pakistan. This initiative aims to bridge the gap between conventional agriculture and cutting-edge scientific approaches, such as precision farming, farm mechanisation, biotechnology, genomics, artificial intelligence, and high-efficiency irrigation systems.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Federal Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain congratulated the graduates on their selection for this opportunity. They expressed confidence that these young professionals on return will act as changemakers who will boost our national growth and food system resilience.

The Ministry of National Food Security and Research remains fully committed to revolutionizing Pakistan's agriculture sector through knowledge exchange, international collaboration, and inno-



Mismanaged

ISLAMABAD: A view of massive traffic jams at Islamabad Expressway after the heavy rain, in the Federal Capital.



Massive hailstorm blankets Islamabad in white, damages vehicles

№ Tooba Khan

ISLAMABAD: A sudden and severe hailstorm struck Islamabad and its surrounding areas on Wednesday, transforming the city into a winter-like landscape.

It has caused extensive damage to vehicles, solar energy infrastructure, and residential properties.

The storm began abruptly in the afternoon, unleashing large hailstones—some reportedly the size of cricket and golf ballsaccompanied by heavy rainfall and strong winds.

The sheer volume and size of the hail quickly covered roads, rooftops, and open spaces in a thick white layer, creating scenes reminiscent of snowfall.

also led to significant destruc-Numerous cars suffered shat-

The intensity of the hailstorm

tered windshields and dents, leading to traffic disruptions as several solar carports designed structure has raised concerns



drivers sought shelter. Emergency

services responded to multiple reports of property damage, though no injuries have been reported so

Particularly affected were

to provide charging stations for electric vehicles.

These structures sustained severe damage, with solar panels shattered and frames bent under the force of the hailstones.

The damage to solar infra-

about the resilience of green energy solutions in the face of extreme weather events.

In addition to property damage, the storm caused power outages across various parts of the city, leaving many residents without electricity.

Youth can play key role in future development of Pakistan': Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan



Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University successfully hosted the Education Expo 2025, which received overwhelming appreciation from students, teachers, and attendees. The purpose of the expo was to introduce the younger generation to educational, professional, and technical advancement opportunities.

At the opening of the event, the university's Vice Chancellor, along with Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences Prof. Dr. Abdul Aziz Sahir, Dean of the Faculty of Sciences Prof. Dr. Sher Muhammad, Registrar Raja Umar Younis, Director Administration and Coordination Prof. Dr. Syed Aamir Shah, Additional Director ORIC Dr. Saima Nasir, and other senior officials, visited all the stalls.

Speaking at the event, Vice Chancellor Dr. Nasir Mahmood expressed immense pride in his university team, especially Additional Director ORIC Dr. Saima Nasir, for her tireless dedication and passion. He stated that it was because of her leadership and efforts that they successfully held the Education Expo for the second consecutive year.

Kashmiris will not be silenced by Indian tyranny: Sardar Attique

Bureau Report

RAWALPINDI: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan has said that the Indian government led by Narendra Modi is brutally using military force to suppress the struggle of



to self-determination, but it will never succeed in its nefarious intentions. India has waged a war against the defenseless people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir and Indian atrocities have intensified after August 5, 2019. India has been subjecting Kashmiris to brutal atrocities for the last 76 years for demanding the right to self-determination. However, Indian oppression has not been able to force the Kashmiri people to give up their legitimate demands. He appealed to international human rights organizations to raise their voices against Indian atrocities in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. He expressed these views while talking to Muslim Conference delegations at Mujahid Manzil in Rawalpindi.

Digital Transformation, AI, and Tax Reform Take Center Stage on Day 2 of PSDE's 38th Conference

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The second day of the 38th Annual Conference of the Pakistan Society of Development Economists (PSDE), hosted by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), brought together renowned scholars, economists, policymakers, and development professionals from across Pakistan and abroad. Held in collaboration with the Ministry of Planning, Devel-(MoPD&SI), the Asian Devel-Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF), TEVECON model, he argued that

RASTA, CPEC Centre of Excellence, and the Bank of Punjab, the day focused on pressing national challenges including digital transformation, artificial intelligence (AI), and fiscal sustainability. With expert insights and policy-focused dialogue, the conference continues to chart a bold course toward inclusive, tech-enabled economic development.

Professor Pier Paolo Saviotti of Utrecht University delivered the prestigious Allama Iqbal opment & Special Initiatives Lecture, presenting a powerful case for structural change in opment Bank (ADB), Pakistan economic development. Using the

while improving efficiency within existing sectors provides temporary gains, long-term growth depends on qualitative change through the creation of new sectors and diversified output. He described this phenomenon as "creative destruction," where the economy continuously regenerates itself through the emergence of new industries.

In the Quaid-e-Azam Lecture, Nobel Laureate Professor Michael Spence presented "Digital Transformations, AI, Productivity, and the Future of Work: A Conversation for Pakistan." He explored the global AI landscape, stating that AI is a transformative force fundamentally altering productivity and labor markets. Dr. Khalid Hafeez and Dr. Huma Baqai, as discussants, noted the unequal global distribution of AI benefits and stressed the importance of national readiness. Chairing the session, Dr. Eatzaz Ahmed concluded that technological literacy and social learning are now as important as reading and writing in building a modern

The second panel session of the day addressed one of Pakistan's most critical issues: tax reform and public trust. Titled



Trajectory: Enhancing Transparency & Trust," the panel brought Co.), and Dr. Ikram Ul Haq (Legal ethical concerns were raised, together experts including Dr. Hamid Ateeq Sarwar (FBR), Dr. Mahmood Khalid (PIDE), Mr. Tobias Haque (World Bank), Dr. the evolving role of AI in academic ulum integration.

"Charting Pakistan's Fiscal Ali Salman (PRIME Institute), research. While generative AI Ms. Hina Usmani (Usmani &

Nasruminallah Mian (ADB). Further discussions addressed

boosts research productivity, Tax Expert), moderated by Mr. prompting calls for training on responsible use, light-touch institutional regulation, and curricGroup Chairman/Chief Editor: Almass Ayoub Sabir

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Bureau Chief Lahore:

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Punjab Launches Three-Day Punjabi **Culture Day** Celebrations

unjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari, has announced that a three-day celebration of "Punjabi Culture Day" is commencing across Punjab from today. The event aims to highlight the rich cultural heritage of Punjab and reconnect the people with their roots.

She has said that the main event will be held at Alhamra Arts Council Lahore, where Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz will participate as the Chief Guest and address the attendees.

The three-day festivities will include traditional Punjabi music, dance performances, handicrafts exhibitions, a food festival, and various other cultural activities. The Alhamra Arts Council has been transformed into a vibrant representation of Punjabi

culture to provide an immersive experience for visitors. The Information Minister further added that all aspects of Punjabi culture will be showcased practically and engagingly, especially to introduce the younger generation to their cultural roots. A key highlight of the event is that entry is completely free for the public. Those wishing to attend the events can register through Alhamra's official website, Facebook page, or other social media platforms.

The Government of Punjab invites all citizens to actively participate in this historical and cultural celebration and join in honouring the province's proud cultural legacy.

Across Punjab, the day was filled with colors, joy, and a strong sense of pride, as communities united to honor their cultural roots and pass them on to future generations.

Lahore Commissioner Zaid Bin Maqsood also issued a message on the occasion, stating that "Punjab's culture is deeply cherished and recognized worldwide." He emphasized that cultural celebrations help connect the younger generation with their ancestral traditions and way of life. He added, "The turban is a proud symbol of Punjabi culture, representing self-respect and openness.

Earlier: In Multan, Punjab Culture Day was marked in various schools, where students wore traditional Punjabi clothing and set up food stalls. Swings and entertainment activities were arranged for children. CEO Education Dr. Safdar stated that the purpose of this celebration is to introduce children to their cultural roots and ensure they take pride in Punjabi traditions.

In Jhang, renowned poet Dr. Mohsin Maghiana celebrated in unique way by decorating his house and clinic with traditional Punjabi elements. He said that the day is a tribute to the legacy of elders and a reminder for the new generation to stay connected to their cultural identity and also in Bahawalnagar, a grand event was held at Haider Stadium, where Deputy Commissioner Zulfigar Ahmed Bhawan and District Police Officer Kamran Asghar participated as chief guests. The event was inaugurated with an archery display by the DC. A variety of cultural performances, sports competitions, and stalls representing local traditions drew large crowds, as citizens paid tribute to the vibrant Punjabi culture.

Islam From Graphic Novels to Media (Part-II)

n a world where fashion has Arab Emirates, Turkey, and Indonesia become the stage for bold experimentation, the lines between tradition and futurism are increasingly blurred. The Muslim silhouette—once marginalized in Western fashion shows—has now emerged as an icon of transformation and creativity.

Today, Muslims across the globe, especially those in fast-developing societies and diasporic communities in the West, are spearheading a revolution in the fashion world. They are no longer silent or sidelined. After years of facing Islamophobia and passive or active discrimination, they are asserting their identities with newfound confidence. Bold, intuitive, creative, and forward-looking, they are shattering the psychological barriers that once hindered their entry into high

Several countries have emerged as critical players within this transformative landscape. Turkey, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, and Italy have been particularly influential in shaping the modest fashion industry. On the consumer front, the strongest demand has consistently come from markets such as Iran, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and Egypt. These nations not only represent significant consumer bases but are also increasingly influential in shaping global fashion trends.

Investment activity further validates the vibrancy and potential of this sector. Between 2022 and 2023, Islamic fashion

are leading the investment charge, acting both as substantial consumer markets and as proactive developers and exporters of Islamic fashion.

Innovations such as modest surfwear, garments designed to optimize vitamin D absorption, and practical water and windproof hijabs reflect the sector's

dynamism. Furthermore, trends like social commerce, clothing resale, and rentals to promote sustainability, alongside rising demand for specialized modest sportswear for women, represent exciting growth opportunities highlighted by the SGIE Report.

Meanwhile, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has seen ten of its member countries emerge as top importers of Islamic fashion. These include the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Malaysia, Kazakhstan, Iraq, Indonesia, Qatar, Kyrgyzstan, and Kuwait. This proves that demand is not limited to Western Muslims or diaspora populations—it's global, encompassing the heartlands of Islam and reaching well into Central Asia and beyond.

This surge is not merely economic or aesthetic; it is cultural and political. Muslim women and men are using fashion as a tool of empowerment and resistance. In the face of homogenizing attracted approximately €121.6 million global trends, they are reclaiming their in trade-related investments. The United an arrative—showing that modesty does

not hinder freedom of expression.

For years, Muslim attire was seen through a narrow lens-too traditional, too conservative, or simply incompatible with Western ideals of beauty and style. But today, hijabs are worn with high heels, abayas are tailored with futuristic silhouettes, and turbans grace the covers

of fashion magazines. In an era that celebrates individuality, Muslims are proving that their style is not only relevant but revolutionary.

This transformation is driven in part by rising levels of education and purchasing power among Muslims-

particularly in the Middle East and in Western societies. Today's Muslim consumers are globally aware, digitally savvy, and eager to support brands that reflect their values. This has led to the emergence of Muslim-owned fashion labels, modest fashion weeks in major cities, and collaborations with international luxury brands.

What's remarkable is that this fashion revolution is occurring without compromising on Islamic principles. Modesty remains central—but it is being reinterpreted through a modern lens. Flowy garments, layered designs, and elegant accessories are replacing outdated stereotypes. The result is a unique style that respects religious guidelines while pushing creative boundaries.

This also allows Muslims to engage

not preclude modernity, and faith does confidently with the global fashion community, no longer needing to justify their beliefs or fashion choices. In fact, their designs are now inspiring non-Muslim audiences who seek stylish, ethical, and sustainable alternatives to mainstream fashion.

In the West, this has translated into broader social recognition. Islamic fashion is being integrated into mainstream runways, covered by global media, and appreciated in multicultural neighborhoods. This not only boosts the visibility of Muslims but also fosters greater understanding of Islamic culture in secular societies.

As Islamic fashion asserts itself as a pillar of the global economy, it paves the way for a new wave of stylistic diversity. It challenges long-held assumptions about beauty, femininity, and identity. More importantly, it tells a powerful story: one of resilience, creativity, and a refusal to be sidelined.

Fashion is no longer just about clothing—it's about values, identity, and self-expression. The global Islamic fashion movement offers a glimpse into the future of style—one that fuses spirituality with sophistication, and heritage with high fashion—where tradition meets innovation, modesty meets modernity, and where Islam, far from being a constraint, becomes a canvas for elegance, creativity, and cultural pride.

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

Syed Jawad Ali Shah

Trump's Gratitude to Pakistan: Yet Another Setback for Imran

as his government faced mounting polit-media, and Khan's supporters viewed ical opposition and challenges, Khan his removal as the result of foreign began accusing the United States of manipulation. The United States denied being involved in a conspiracy to remove the allegations, with both US officials him from power. In the months leading and diplomats in Pakistan dismissing up to his ousting in April 2022, Khan any involvement in Pakistan's domestic repeatedly claimed that the US, in coor- affairs, asserting that Washington had dination with certain factions within no interest in meddling in Pakistan's Pakistan's political and military lead- internal politics.

ership, orchestrated a plot to destabilize his government. His central accusation was that the US had engineered a no-confidence motion against him in Pakistan's National Assembly, mainly due to his independent foreign policy stance,

ests. Khan argued that the US disapproved of his refusal not to align with the West, particularly regarding his He also criticized the US for its negative response to his outspoken opposition to the US-led war in Afghanistan and its broader foreign policy in the region.

Khan further alleged that a letter removal would be necessary to improve US-Pakistan relations. This "foreign conspiracy" narrative became a central part of his political messaging as he

confrontation with the campaign aimed at undermining his US occurred toward the government's sovereignty and legitiend of his tenure as Prime macy. The so-called conspiracy theory Minister. In early 2022, gained significant traction in Pakistani

Khan's shift in relations with the US seemed to be influenced by personal politics. While he had previously accused the US of interference, his tone changed dramatically after his imprisonment. He and key

members of his party which clashed with Washington's interbegan lobbying for US support to secure his release. PTI leaders like Zulfi Bukhari were active in establishing connections with US officials, growing ties with China and Russia. meeting with congress members, and urging them to push Pakistan to release Khan. They placed significant hope in President Trump, working hard to align with the Trump administration. However, as previously noted, from the US embassy in Islamabad the policies of countries typically do conveyed the US's dissatisfaction with not change with leadership transitions. his government and suggested that his US-Pakistan relations are shaped by broader structural factors, and leadership changes alone are unlikely to

shift this cooperation. Khan faced another setback when

han's most significant framed himself as a victim of a covert US President Donald Trump recently thanked Pakistan for its cooperation in counterterrorism efforts. In his first extensive address to Congress since taking office, Trump expressed gratitude to Pakistan for its role in the arrest of a terrorist involved in the Kabul blast of 2021. Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif also thanked Trump for recognizing Pakistan's counterterrorism efforts. US National Security Adviser Michael Waltz further praised Pakistan's actions, reaching out to Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar to convey Trump's appreciation. The terrorist in question had been arrested based on intelligence, linked to a terrorist plot executed during the US troop withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021.

> This development was a significant blow to Khan, who had hoped for a supportive tweet from Trump. However, Trump demonstrated restraint by refraining from involving himself in Pakistan's internal matters or pressuring its legal system. This move served as an eye-opener for Khan, underscoring the need for him to face Pakistan's legal system with moral courage and integrity. As a vocal proponent of establishing Riasat-e-Madina, he should understand its fundamental principle that all individuals are equal in Islam, and that the same rules and regulations apply to everyone. He should avoid hypocrisy and practice what he preaches. Any relief or support the PTI leadership seeks will come from Pakistan's institutions and justice system. Imran Khan must recognize this reality and refrain from actions that could harm Pakistan's interests.

China's Roar: America is not the end of the world

rom the land of Beijing echoed the powerful voice of Victor Gao, shaking the global powers. He said the world does not end with America. That was not merely an emotional statement but a declaration of a bitter and undeniable truth that challenges America's arrogance. China is not simply speaking words but fighting this battle with numbers, products, and market power.

In the language of hard facts and firm logic, let us understand what China is selling, how much it is selling, and what catastrophe may strike America if China stops selling to it.

China's Grip on the US Economy:

Ninety percent of the mobile phone components, computer chips, circuit boards, and assemblies sold in American markets come from China. Even a brand like Apple, which America considers its pride, conducts a significant part of its production on Chinese soil. If China halts these supplies, the US smartphone market will be plunged into darkness.

Household and Kitchen Appliances:

Over 70 percent of microwaves, blenders, toasters, refrigerators, and lighting equipment are imported from China. If China stops supplying them, the American people will have to give

Textiles and Clothing:

up modern conveniences. China supplies approximately \$30 billion worth of clothing and textiles to the US annually. Chinese-made jeans, jackets, and even underwear have become a daily necessity for Americans.

Medicines and Medical Equipment:

Over 40% of pharmaceutical raw materials, surgical masks, sanitizers, and medical equipment come from China. During the COVID, America had to import ventilators and kits from China. If China stops it today, the US healthcare system will collapse. According to 2023 data, the in poor countries, the global economy US imported approx-

imately \$575 billion of goods from China. Drone Technology:

China is the world's largest drone manufacturer. American police, border forces. and several intelligence agencies use Chinese drones, Many

relied on Chinese AI chips and coding software for combat drones, radar systems, and autonomous attack technology. Several parts used in US satellite systems are imported from China, scarce earth materials, without which modern satellites and guided missile systems are incomplete. The F-35, one of the most advanced American fighter jets, costing billions of dollars to develop, contains many sensitive microchips made in China or using raw materials mined in China. American financial institutions have used Chinese hardware in digital infrastructure, cloud services, and cyber security systems. If China shuts this down, the American banking system will face immediate disruption.

Message from Pakistan: China recognizes that people in Paki-

stan respect its dignity, security, and benefits both nations.

prosperity. We wish China to remain strong in its defense but not head toward war. We send the same message to America: Do not collide: rather, walk together. When China and America move forward hand in hand, the whole world will progress. Jobs will be created

will stabilize, and the world will move toward peace.

American Policy: America still has the chance for reconciliation before its arrogance drowns it. Now is the time for America to consider its policies and public needs and

American defense companies have establish strong ties with China. The leading powers must understand that the global balance of power no longer depends solely on force. It is shaped through wisdom, mutual under-

standing, and economic strategy. Chinese products form the foundation of American markets. This reality highlights the need for positive US-China relations. If America considers its declining economy, people's growing needs, and future development. In that case, it should pursue diplomacy and negotiations with China instead of hostility. China's economy and its trade relations are significant on the global stage. It is time for America to shake hands with China, not wage a confrontation against it. America must reform its policies and lay the foundation for a new trade and economic relationship with China that

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Oscar winning Documentary 'No Other Land' Screened at ISSI

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East and Africa (CAMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised the screening of the Oscar-Winning Documentary 'No Other Land'in collaboration with the Embassy of the State of

H. E. Dr. Zuhair Zaid, Ambassador of the State of Palestine, Mr. Jamal Shah, Former Minister for Culture and Heritage, and Mr. Jawad Sharif, a renowned filmmaker and National Geographic explorer, Director General ISSI, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, and Director CAMEA, Ms. Amina Khan spoke before the screening.

Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, while giving his remarks said that today's screening of No Other Land is more than just an experience, it is a call to conscience. It reminds us of the collecmembers of the global commuunwaveringly for justice and

land; it is about identity, survival, and the right to live with dignity and freedom. What sets 'No Other Land' apart is not just its subject matter, but its collaborative nature. The film is co-directed by both Palestinians and Israelis, providing a rare insight into the systematic oppression of living under occupation.

Ms. Amina Khan, while speaking at the occasion, was of the view that the screening of 'No Other Land' serves as a powerful moral awakening. Israel has persistently worked to erase Palestine from the political map, rendering the Palestinian struggle for justice a challenging one. She further said the film does not simply chronicle suffering; it highlights the determination of the Palestinian people to stay on their land and preserve their way of life despite the odds.

Ambassador Dr. Zuhair Zaid. tive responsibility we bear as while speaking at the occasion, appreciated the efforts of the Instinity to amplify the voices of the tute of Strategic Studies Islam-Palestinian people and to stand abad (ISSI) for screening the documentary. He said that such human dignity. The Palestinian initiatives play a crucial role in

people's struggle is not just about keeping the Palestinian narrative alive and in amplifying the truth that is often silenced. He stated that Israeli repression has continued unabated since 1948. "The Palestinian people," he said, "have suffered for generations due to systematic discrimination, forced displacement, and apartheid-like policies that began the very day Israel was established." He emphasized that what the world is witnessing today is not just a conflict, it is a genocide, unfolding in real time. He highlighted that the Palestinians are being denied basic rights, from cultivating their land to living without fear. Villages are wiped out, homes demolished, and life stifled by checkpoints. "The occupation," he said, "steals childhoods, dreams, and futures."

> In his remarks, Mr. Jamal Shah said that the crisis in Palestine stems from a long history of injustice, beginning with the 1948 Nakba that led to mass displacement and denial of rights. He described Gaza as a place under siege, facing blockades, poverty, and violence. Calling it a moral and human rights crisis, he



stressed the power of art in be heard. resisting oppression. Films like

Mr. Jawad Sharif said the situa-'No Other Land' remind us that tion in Palestine is heartbreaking. the voices of the oppressed must He added that the documen-

tary 'No other Land' affirms the importance of Palestinian voices and highlights the role of art in

The event was attended by diplomats, academics, area experts, students, and members of civil society and the media.

Grand Business Forum held in Rawalpindi to mobilize business community for single country exhibition in Addis Ababa

Example 2 Commerce Desk

RAWALPINDI: A grand business forum was held at the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) on Wednesday to mobilize the business community for Pakistan's Single Country Exhibition in Addis Ababa, scheduled for May 15-17, 2025.

The business forum was organized by the Ethiopian Embassy in Islamabad, in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), and the RCCI.

H. E. Dr. Jemal Beker, Special Envoy and Ambassador Extraordinary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, co-preside the business forum along with H. E. Usman Shaukat, President of the Rawalpindi Chamber of

Commerce and Industry. The event was graced by H. E. tial participation from the business Ambassador Hamid Asghar Khan, Additional Secretary (Africa) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a Chief Guest, while H. E. Nudrat Hussain, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce, attended

as the Guest of Honor. The forum witnessed a substan-



community interested in exploring business and investment opportunities in Africa, including Ethiopia.

On the occasion, Ambassador Dr. Jemal urged the business community to explore the significant business, trade, and investment opportunities in Ethiopia as well as in Africa.

He highlighted the potential benefits of participating in the Single Country Exhibition in Addis Ababa that coincides with the High-Level Business Forum 'Invest in Ethiopia', aimed at a only from their Ethiopian counglobal audience, which will also be held in Addis Ababa on May entire African continent - a conti-

"These two events present an opportunity for the Pakistani business community to participate in significant gatherings that will feature representation not terparts but also from across the

nent with a population exceeding 1.4 billion and possessing abundant natural

On the other hand, the RCCI President encouraged the business community members to participate in the Single Country Exhibition, describing Ethiopia as a large market brimming with opportu-

H. E. Ambassador Hamid Asghar Khan underlined the need for Pakistani businesses to explore new markets, particularly in Africa, highlighting the continent's huge population. He also recalled his recent visits to African countries, including Ethiopia, noting the significant transformation the country has undergone under the leadership of H. E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister of Ethiopia.

The Joint Secretary of the Commerce Ministry stated that the Single Country Exhibition in Addis Ababa is being organized under Pakistan's 'Look Africa' and 'Engage Africa' policy. She affirmed that the Government of Pakistan is fully committed to strengthening its relations with African countries, including Ethi-

Pakistan, UAE sign MoU for second **International Date** Palm Festival 2025

Spokesman Report

ABU DHABI: In a significant step towards strengthening agricultural ties between Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed for the Second Pakistan International Date Palm Festival 2025, set to be held later this year in Pakistan.

The agreement was signed by Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research Rana Tanveer Hussain, and Professor and General Secretary of the Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation Dr. Abdelouahhab Zaid here on the sidelines of the grand ceremony of the 17th Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation at the Emirates Palace on Wednesday.

The event, held under the patronage of Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Vice President and Deputy Prime Minister, honored global leaders in agricultural innovation, including Pakistani scientist Dr. Ghulam Sarwar Markhand who received the prestigi award in the "Influential Figure" category.

Rana Tanveer Hussain appreciated the UAE's visionary leadership in promoting sustainable agriculture and fostering international partnerships. He emphasised the strong bilateral ties between Pakistan and the UAE, particularly in agricultural research and innovation.

'The Khalifa International Award is a beacon of excellence in agricultural advancement, and Pakistan takes great pride in Dr. Markhand's recognition," said Minister Hussain. "This achievement reflects Pakistan's commitment to scientific research and sustainable farming, aligning with global efforts to combat food security challenges and climate change."

Pakistan Charts a Sustainable Future at Leaders in Islamabad Business Summit 8th Edition

Edition of Pakistan's biggest course forward. Climate change corporate event, Leaders in Islamabad Business Summit (LIIBS), commenced at a local hotel. Under the theme Navigating the Unknown, the Summit transforming vulnerability into convened a bespoke gathering of leaders from both the public and the private sector, who confronted the critical challenges of rapidly evolving ecosystems and forged pathways toward powerful solu-

Muhammad Azfar Ahsan, Founder & Chairman, Nutshell Group & Pakistan's former Minister for Investment, opened the day with a compelling welcome address highlighting the dual challenge of unprecedented economic and environmental uncertainty and way forward for the desired transformation. He stated, "National prosperity hinges on pioneering sustainable solutions. All ecosystems, whether natural or that of workspaces, need reframing of ecological and financial understanding of indigenous resourcing including that of overseas Pakistanis, as cornerstones of Pakistan's future competitiveness." economic Amir Shehzad, Chairman, Unity Foods Limited, and co-host of the Summit opened his welcoming keynote with a spotlight on evolving trade routes and ticking climate clock for Pakistan to revolutionize its approach. "At today's global crossroads, Pakistan's defining journey requires political stability with clear, consistent

remains the greatest challenge, demanding unified public-private action rather than mere reaction. Our future depends on opportunity through deliberate, panoramic thinking."

The inaugural session comprised motivating addresses and significant takeaways; Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Federal Minister for IT & Telecom, said, "The digital transformation of Pakistan rests on three foundational pillars: connectivity that reaches every village and household, enablement that equips our citizens with necessary tools and infrastructure, and literacy that empowers them to harness technology's full potential." Aisha Humera Chaudhary. Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination, stated, "Climate challenge requires transition into real commitments on the ground, inspiring local action. Our ministry is committed to actiondriven climate policy-cross-sector collaboration is our mandate." Faisal Karim Kundi, Governor, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, concluded. "Local action matters most -KPK is historically and potentially one of the richest lands. An empowered KPK is working to ensure that its unmatched potential becomes a resource for best regional connectivity for Pakistan. A gateway for the past will now be

the bridge to the future." Senator Dr. Musadik Malik,

ISLAMABAD: Day 1 of the 8th policies for investors, to chart the Federal Minister for Climate Change & Environmental Coordination, in his Keynote Address, stated, "We must reclaim and restore nature; move from ambition to execution-climate goals demand urgent fulfillment."

In the session titled Forging the $\,$ Future, three powerful conversations took place. Muhammad Ali, Federal Minister & Advisor to the Prime Minister on Privatization, was joined by Saquib Ahmad, Managing Director, SAP Pakistan, Iraq, Afghanistan & Bahrain. Ali emphasized, "Pakistan's potential remains untapped due to the disconnect between opportunity and investment. With government footprint exceeding private sector involvement, we lack the accountability that comes from having skin in the game. The solution is clear: we must meaningfully engage the private sector to bridge this systemic gap." Saquib added, "Data-driven governance is key to sustainability-SAP is ready to partner with Pakistan on this transformation."

Dr. Ishrat Husain, N. I., H. I., Author, Economist, former Federal Minister & Governor, State Bank of Pakistan, shared. Tariff escalation and trade war, accompanied by the paralysis of the World Trade Organization, and the dissolution of the USAID, have created an atmosphere where developing countries are striving to find their feet on the ground."

In a conversation moderated by Mosharraf Zaidi, Founder, Tabadlab, while speaking on Forging the Future, Gen Zubair Mahmood Hayat, N. I., Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (2016-2019), emphasized on the importance of AI and data centers. "Pakistan must build quality AI labs and educate their youth with the right knowledge. Individuals fade away but systems and institutions last longer." Justice Ayesha Malik, Judge, Supreme Court of Pakistan, emphasizing on inclusion, said, "When it comes to law-making, what we are missing is a narrative. We must include the voices and stories of women to give them justice."

Amongst prominent keynotes, Yousaf Hussain, President, Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce & Industry (OICCI), shared, "Transforming uncertainty into advantage is imperative for Pakistan. True navigation requires genuine collaboration across sectors. Our goal must shift from mere survival to performance excellence." Aamir Ibrahim, CEO–Jazz, Chairman– Mobilink Bank & Group Executive Committee Member, VEON, added, "The connectivity gap will soon become our capability gap. The smartphone in our hand is the remote control to our lives." Jimmy Nguyen, Founder & CEO, New Win Global and Senior Advisor, Prism Carbon Solutions LLC, stressed, "Build solutions, build bridges that cross valleys, build boats that take you across oceans, build beacons of light

that take you through darkness.

Then build solutions that will help you navigate the unknown." Helen Brand, Global CEO, ACCA, "Environmental remarked. threats can be avoided by thinking that no one can do everything, but everyone can do something. We must advocate new ways to judge success." H. E. Dr. Riina Kionka, European Union's Ambassador to Pakistan, said, "The private sector can play a crucial role in decarbonizing the power systems and advancing bilateral trade, investment and innovation in line with the Paris agreement."

The session Climate and Sustainability had Dr. Samuel Rizk, Resident Representative Pakistan, United Nations Development Programme stating, "Climate change impacts are inevitable – a matter of when. not if. Our focus must shift from recovery to preparedness and prevention, UNDP is focused on inclusive climate solutions-our goal is to leave no one behind." Maya Inayat Ismail, Chairperson, Sustainability Forum, HBL & Chairperson, HBL Microfinance Bank, alongside Sadia Dada, Chief Distribution & Marcomms Officer, K-Electric: Avla Maiid. Global President, ACCA and Founder & CEO, Planetive; and Umar Ahsan Khan, CEO. Dawlance, collectively reflected on business responsibility and regulatory reform to be in sync for best impact. To Maya's statement, "Business practices have to align with the sustainability requirement of the day or else



need for discerning the urgent from the long term and roll out an action plan. A Keynote Conversation, titled Future of Climate Finance, Africa, emphasized, "Narratives included Michael Blank of Prism Carbon Solutions, who said, "Carbon markets are real opportunities - under the Paris Agreement, Pakistan must reduce its Initiatives & Investments, Senate carbon emissions by 15% by 2030." Nadia Rehman, Member Climate Change & Food Security, Planning Commission of Pakistan, stated, "We are confronted with declining funding and will need increased focus on multilateral development funding." Rizwan Ata, President & CEO, BankIslami Pakistan Limited, all levels of society.

a unique opportunity to lead in ethical, sustainable investment."

The final session, titled Changing Narratives, concluded the day with a fresh perspective on storytelling and engagement. Sharon Ezzeldin, Founder, summed up the event with the HONOR, UK, said, "Youth voices are vital - if they are not at the table, we are missing the future." Mahmoud Ashraf Hatem, Partner, Synerjies Middle East & shape behavior-climate storytelling must be hopeful, not just dire." The session was moderated by Rida Qazi, Advisor on Special of Pakistan, who said, "It is time to reframe climate as a story of opportunity - not sacrifice."

> The conference is set to resume on day two for delivering a strong message that it may be Navigating the Unknown, but Pakistan is prepared to lead with purpose, vision, and commitment across

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share

Index Fluctuation				
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index				
Current	Prev. Close			
116,020.10	116,775.50			
Day's High	Day's Low			
117,424.04	115,776.11			
Index Value	Change			
30,714,128,519	-755.4			
Percentage	Time			
-0.65%	16 Apr, 2025 3:30 pm			
Europe: FTS	E 100 Index			
Index Value	Change			
8,226.22	-22.90			
Percentage	Time			
-0.29%	16 Apr, 3:11 pm GMT+1			
USA: Dow Jones I	ndustrial Average			
Index Value	Change			
40,137.23	-231.73			
Percentage	Time			
-0.57%	16 Apr, 10:14 am GMT-4			
Asia Pacific: Nikk	ei Stocks Average			
Index Value	Change			
33,920.40	-347.14			
Percentage	Time			

Open Market Forex Rates

-1.01%

16 Apr, 3:45 pm

-		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	178.50	180.75
Bahrain Dinar	739.80	747.80
Canadian Dollar	201.35	203.75
China Yuan	37.59	37.99
Danish Krone	42.26	42.66
Euro	318.25	321.00
Hong Kong Dollar	35.81	36.16
Indian Rupee	3.18	3.27
Japanese Yen	1.97	2.03
Kuwaiti Dinar	901.90	911.40
Malaysian Ringgit	62.92	63.52
NewZealand \$	162.54	164.54
Norwegians Krone	26.14	26.44
Omani Riyal	724.10	732.60
Qatari Riyal	76.28	76.98
Saudi Riyal	74.75	75.30
Singapore Dollar	213.5	215.50
Swedish Korona	28.38	28.68
Swiss Franc	314.94	317.69
Thai Bhat	8.2	8.35
U.A.E Dirham	76.40	77.05
UK Pound Sterling	371.10	374.6
US Dollar	280.65	282.15

OICCI President calls for unified economic execution to unlock Pakistan's true potential



Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce& Industry

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Speaking at a high-level economic forum on "Navigating the Unknown," Yousaf Hussain, President of the Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI), urged the government and national stakeholders to commit to a unified, future-ready economic execution strategy driven by planning, technocratic leadership, and collaboration.

Representing over 200 leading multinational companies operating in Pakistan, Mr. Hussain called for the creation of a comprehensive National Economic Execution Plan — integrating trade, industry, fiscal, energy, and human development policies - each led by experts and aligned under a single national economic

He highlighted Pakistan's youth bulge and geo-economic positioning as strategic assets that must be leveraged through skills development, export diversification, and regional trade integration. He also emphasized the full inclusion of women and digital transformation as critical enablers of economic progress

"Multinational companies operating in Pakistan are not just investors — they are centres of excellence and engines of innovation," Mr. Hussain said. He urged the government to engage the industry players in private sector early — as partners — in planning and delivery, while improving ease of doing business and building a credible national investment narrative.

"This is Pakistan's decisive decade we must stop managing crises and start designing the future," he concluded.

MOITT, ITU, and Huawei unite to bridge the digital divide with Swabi Smart Village Launch

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: After the successful launches and implementation of two smart villages in Gokina and Sambrial, The Ministry of IT and Telecommunication (MOITT), in collaboration with Huawei Technologies and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), inaugurated the much-anticipated third Smart Village Swabi today. The Smart Village Pakistan initiative is designed to digitally transform rural and remote communities across Pakistan. Through a strong partnership of MOITT, ITU and BBC Huawei, Smart Village Pakistan is a unique initiative to address the rural-urban digital divide in Pakistan.

The smart Village Swabi aims to serve as a model for the digital transformation of rural communities, particularly of women and farmers through comprehensive digital skills training programs covering a range of areas from basic digital skills to online marketing, e-commerce, digital financial inclusion, and digital agriculture etc.

On the prestigious event, Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication MS. Shaza Fatima Khawaja, expressed her enthusiasm for the project, stating, "The Swabi Smart Village



Project represents a major milestone in our journey towards achieving a digitally inclusive Pakistan. This initiative underscores our commitment to bridging the digital divide and ensuring that no community is left behind."

She also acknowledged the valuable support of ITU and Huawei in advancing Pakistan's digital infrastructure and promoting innovation across key sectors.

Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, Director communities.

of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau said, "The launch of the Swabi Smart Village is a shining example of how digital innovation can transform lives and communities, we are proud to support this initiative, which aligns with our mission to connect the unconnected and ensure that everyone, everywhere, has access to the opportunities that digital technologies provide.

Ahmed Bilal Masood Deputy CEO of Huawei Pakistan, shared his thoughts on the occasion, stating, "Huawei is proud to be a part of this transformative initiative. Our mission has always been to leverage technology to create opportunities and improve lives. The Swabi Smart Village Project is a testament to our commitment to bridging the digital divide and empowering communities and we look forward to continuing our collaboration with MOITT, ITU and other Partners to drive innovation and inclusion across Pakistan."

The smart village Pakistan initiative sets a precedent for transformative efforts across the country by integrating innovative solutions, fostering collaboration, and promoting digital skills, the project aims to create lasting impacts and transform the lives of rural

Hardwork

RAWALPINDI: Laborers are busy in their work at Woods stall at Amurpura area to earn daily wages for the livelihood of their families.



Kashf Foundation celebrates 30 years of empowering women entrepreneurs

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Kashf Foundation, Pakistan's trailblazing microfinance institution dedicated to economic empowerment, proudly hosted the 30th Anniversary Kashf Women Entrepreneurship Awards 2025 at Faletti's Hotel, Lahore. This prestigious event was hosted by the iconic Sania Saeed, honoring three decades of groundbreaking work in enabling female entrepreneurs and fostering inclusive growth across the nation.

Presided over by Chief Guest Ms. Sultana Siddiqui, President & Founder of HUM Network Ltd., and Ms. Roshaneh Zafar, Founder & Managing Director of Kashf Foundation, the awards spotlighted 12 extraordinary women entrepreneurs. Winners were recognized across categories such as Sustainability, Innovation, Heritage Craft Preservation, and Community Impact-demonstrating the vital role of women-led enterprises in reshaping Pakistan's socio-economic fabric.



"For three decades, Kashf has champi-

oned women who defy barriers to build businesses and uplift communities," said Ms. Roshaneh Zafar. "This anniversary is a testament to their resilience and a call to amplify their voices globally. Pakistani women are internationally competitive, showcasing their excellence through relentless drive and remarkable talent on the global stage."

The ceremony commenced with a reflective opening on Kashf Foundation's 30-year journey of transformation, followed by compelling keynote addresses by Ms. Zafar and Ms. Siddiqui. A thought-provoking panel discussion titled "Power Remix", moderated by renowned actor and director Omair Rana, featured visionary leaders including Ms. Maheen Rahman (CEO, InfraZamin), Ms. Fatima Asad-Said (CEO Abacus), Ms. Andleeb Abbas (CEO FranklinCovey Pakistan) and Dr. Sara Saeed Khurram (CEO, Sehat Kahani), offering diverse perspectives on gender, innovation and financial inclusion.

CCP slaps PKR 25 million fine on Hyundai for misleading Tucson launch offer

E Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has cracked down on Nishat Hyundai Motors, slapping the auto giant with a PKR 25 million penalty for deceptive marketing tactics during the much-hyped 2020 launch of its Hyundai Tucson SUV.

The CCP launched an investigation after Hyundai's big Facebook Live event where it introduced the Tucson with "introductory prices" PKR 4,899,000 for the GLS/FWD model and PKR 5,399,000 for the pointed out that Hyundai ULTIMATE/AWD model.

However the Commisless than 24 hours, and the Right after the short booking with consequences.

window, Hyundai increased the prices by PKR 200,000 and removed all mentions of the original prices from their website and social media pages.

The CCP ruled that this marketing strategy was misleading and unfair, saying Hyundai didn't clearly explain the terms of the offer and created confusion among customers. They called it a case of "bait advertising", where consumers are attracted with a low price that disappears almost immediately.

The Commission also follows better marketing practices in other country sion found that the special and Pakistani consumers prices were only valid for deserve the same standards.

This fine is a clear warning disclaimer "for a limited to companies: honest time only" was printed in advertising matters and very small, hard-to-read text. misleading the public comes

HBL Zarai Services Launches Wheat Procurement Initiative Under ANAAJ Brand

Example 2 Commerce Desk

LAHORE: In line with its core mission to empower farmers and transform Pakistan's agriculture landscape, HBL Zarai Services Limited (HZSL) has launched its wheat procurement initiativeunder its flagship retail brand ANAAJ, staying true to its motto "Khet Say Dastarkhwan" — a compelling expression of the Farm to Fork model.

Crop procurement is core service offerings and has market for growers.

been consistently practiced to support farmers by ensuring fair market access, transparent pricing, and timely payments. HZSL's procurement journey began with maize, followed by sesame, which was successfully exported to China; and then expanded into rice procurement, leading to the launch of the company's first consumer-facing retail brand. With wheat now added to the portfolio, HZSL is reinforcing its commitment to building a primarily one of HZSL's tructured and sustainable

EU and Pakistan to Foster New Trade and Investment Opportunities

E Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Secretary General of United Business Group (UBG), Zafar Bakhtawari, held an important meeting with the Head of the European Union Delegation, Jeroen Willems. The two discussed bilateral trade and investment relations, mutual cooperation, and the upcoming Pakistan-European Union Business Forum to be held in Islamabad next month.

Speaking on the occasion, Jeroen Willems said that the high-level Business Forum scheduled for May 14 and 15 in

promoting trade and investment between the EU and Pakistan. He added that the forum will not only provide high-level networking opportunities for the business community, but also help establish direct links between European institutions and Pakistani business circles.

Jeroen Willems emphasized that the European Union is a larger trade and investment partner for Pakistan than both the United States and China, and that the EU is keen to further expand these rela-

On this occasion, UBG Secretary

Islamabad will prove to be a milestone in General Zafar Bakhtawari appreciated the European Union's efforts to strengthen trade and investment ties with Pakistan and assured full cooperation from UBG. He said that UBG will play a proactive role in promoting connections between European and Pakistani business institutions, investors, and traders—not only at an institutional level but also personally.

Zafar Bakhtawari added that such forums promote mutual trust, economic growth, and sustainable trade partnerships, and Pakistan's business community is fully prepared to take advantage of this opportunity

'HEMS 2025, Int'l Expo' to commence today

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan Wednesday announced that the Health, Engineering and Mineral Show (HEMS) will officially commence on April 17 at the Lahore Expo Centre, with participation expected from over 860 foreign delegates representing countries across the globe.

Organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce, the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), and the confidence in Pakistan."

provincial government, the event has been successfully arranged within a short span of just one month-marking a significant achievement for Pakistan, said a press release. The HEMS is part of a

series of sector-specific trade exhibitions previously held in Pakistan, including those focused on food, textiles, and other industries. Speaking about the expo,

Jam Kamal Khan stated, "This event is a practical step towards restoring investor

Messe Frankfurt Pakistan hosts **Inaugural Padel Networking Evening at Emaar**

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Messe Frankfurt Pakistan, in collaboration with the newly established Trade Promotion Alliance (TPA), successfully hosted their first social networking event - a Padel Tennis Evening held at the Emaar-Maidan Padel Courts.

The event brought together key stakeholders from Pakistan's business and trade community in an informal setting designed to encourage meaningful networking.

Notable participants included: Omer Salahuddin, CEO Messe Frankfurt Pakistan and Founder, Trade Promotion Alliance, Asfandayar Farrukh, Chairman, Retail Association of Pakistan and Director, Hub Leather, Abdus Samad, CEO, Pinnacle Fibre, Amin Sakhia Al-Faz Garments, Farrukh Karim-UBL, Ammar Akbani from Gul Ahmed and Mohammad Abbas-Proline.

Omer Salahuddin said, "This event marks a new way of building business



connections — in a more relaxed space where people can talk openly. An evening aims to hold more events like this on a Texworld. Automechanika, Beautywith sport, casual chats, and food is something we plan to do with different industry leaders every month."

stani businesses grow through exhibi- markets.

The Trade Promotion Alliance (TPA) tions like Heimtextil, Apparel Sourcing, regular basis. These activities support world and Techtextil where companies Messe Frankfurt's efforts in helping Paki- can meet buyers and expand into global

All qualification scenarios at ICC Women's Cricket World Cup Qualifier

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Only four teams remain in contention to reach the marquee tournament in India later this year.

The Women's Cricket World Cup Qualifier is well and truly underway with all the thrills and spills we love to see in the sport, on the road to the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup in India later this year.

As the teams enter the final stage of the Qualifier, only Bangladesh, Pakistan, Scotland and the West Indies remain in the race to progress.

According to the ICC it is how each

side stands at the Qualifier: Bangladesh: (3 wins, 6 points, NRR:

Bangladesh have three wins from as many outings, with their impressive 34-run triumph over Scotland on Tuesday catapulting them to the top of the table and putting them in the box seat to earn one of two spots at this year's Women's World Cup.

ith match-ups against the West Indies and Pakistan remaining as they seek to at the Qualifier. book their place at the 50-over showcase.

One win from those two matches will be enough for Nigar Sultana's side, who are chasing their second consecutive appearance at the Women's World Cup following their debut at the 2022 event in New Zealand.

Pakistan: (3 wins, 6 points, NRR:

The hosts are in a relatively strong position with three wins from as many



outings, boasting six points already. They had comprehensive wins against Scotland and Ireland by 38 runs and six wickets respectively and most recently sealed a 65-run victory over West Indies.

Pakistan have been bolstered by Their remaining fixtures are tough, various players stepping up during key moments from their three outings so far

They face Thailand and Bangladesh in their final fixtures, and another triumph will see them progress to the Women's World Cup in India later this year. Scotland

Scotland: (2 wins, 2 losses, 4 points,

NRR: +0.136) Scotland's chances of finishing in the top two on the standings and earning a

other results to go their way if they are to have any chance of sneaking in.

First and foremost they will need to record a comfortable victory over Ireland in their remaining fixture at the Qualifier, but even that might not be enough.

Scotland will also need one of Bang- NRR: -0.526) desh or Pakistan to lose both their run rate is boosted enough to surpass one of those sides and into the top two staged an upset. on the standings.

Ireland: (1 win, 3 losses, 2 points, NRR: -0.052)

Ireland finally registered their first win of the Qualifier so far when they defeated Thailand by 46 runs on Tuesday, but the European side are now out of contention place at this year's Women's World Cup of earning a top two spot on the standlook slim, with the side now relying on ings.

A win in their final fixture against Scotland would boost their tally to four points, but Bangladesh and Pakistan already have three wins on the board and cannot be overtaken.

West Indies: (1 win, 2 losses, 2 points,

The winners of the previous edition of remaining fixtures and ensure their net the tournament, the West Indies had a shaky start to the Qualifier as Scotland

While Hayley Matthews managed to rally her troops to a nail-biting win over Ireland, another loss at the hands of Pakistan leaves them in a tough spot.

Facing Bangladesh and Thailand in their remaining two fixtures, West Indies will need to win both of these contests to have any chance of qualifying for the main event in India later this year.

Pomona Fairplex to host historic Olympic 2028 cricket matches

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The ICC have welcomed the announcement allowing each nation to field a that the Fairgrounds in Pomona, Southern California, will Angeles Olympics.

Excitement around cricket's

On 9 April, the Executive Board of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) confirmed the player quotas and number of participating teams for cricket at the 2028

T20 competitions will feature that should appeal to new audisix teams each, with a 90-player ences. quota allocated per gender, squad of up to 15 players.

The full tournament schedule host cricket at the 2028 Los will be finalised closer to the start of the Games.

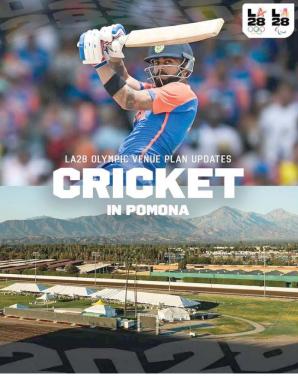
"We welcome the announce-Olympic comeback has been ment of the venue for cricket building since it was confirmed at Los Angeles 2028 as it is a that the sport would return to significant step towards the the Games after a 128-year gap. preparation for our sport's return to the Olympics," ICC Chair Jay Shah said.

"Although cricket is a hugely popular sport, it will be a fantastic opportunity to expand traditional boundaries when it features in the Olympics in the ously featured in multi-sport Both the men's and women's fast-paced, exciting T20 format events, with both men's and

"On behalf of the ICC, I want to express my gratitude to LA28 and the International Olympic Committee for their support and look forward to collaborating with them and ICC Members in preparing for LA28 and making cricket a huge success there."

Cricket's return to the Olympics was confirmed in October 2023, alongside the inclusion of five additional sports for the Los Angeles Games - baseball/ softball, flag football, lacrosse (sixes), and squash.

The T20 format has previ-



women's competitions held at wealth Games in Birmingham the Asian Games in 2010, 2014, featured a women's T20 tourand 2023. The 2022 Common-

Faisalabad hosts Punjab's kabaddi, taekwondo, volleyball and handball training camps



Sports Desk

LAHORE: The training camps of 21 games are underway in the provincial capital while the training camps of four games, including kabaddi, taekwondo, volleyball and handball are being conducted in Faisalabad, DG Sports Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry shared this information while talking during his visit to different training camps at Nishtar Park Sports Complex (NPSC) on Wednesday.

Sports Board Punjab is organizing Punjab contingent's training camps at the various venues of NPSC for the preparation of upcoming 35th National Games.

DG Sports Punjab Khizar Afzaal was accompanied by Director Admin Dr M Kaleem, Director Sports Rana Nadeem Anjum and other officials during his inspection visit.

Talking on this occasion, Khizar Afzaal said that right now more than 600 male and female athletes of Punjab contingent are being trained in the training camps. "After the completion of 2-week camp training, 485 best athletes will be picked to represent Punjab in the National Games being organized at Karachi from May 1 to 9, 2025".

He said that Sports Board Punjab's coaches are imparting training in morning and evening sessions. "The camp probables are being taught modern playing techniques during the camp training. Besides this, special emphasis is also being given on the

Khizar Afzaal witnessed the training of players under the supervision of expert coaches. He also inquired the athletes about their training schedule and facilities being provided to them at their

Malam Jabba Ski Resort hosts grand dinner to promote skiing, winter tourism in Pakistan

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Malam Jabba Ski Resort on Tuesday hosted a grand dinner in honour of the International Advisory Board (IAB) members here at a local hotel as part of its efforts to boost winter tourism and skiing in Pakistan.



The event brought together

high-level dignitaries, tourism stakeholders and international advisors committed to shaping the future of ski sports in Pakistan. The IAB plays a vital role in offering strategic direction for

enhancing visitor experiences, attracting international tourism and investment, and developing world-class ski infrastructure in the country.

The dinner was attended by Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi, members of the IAB Board, including Lord Sarfraz of Kensington, Chair of the International Advisory Board, Lord Lancaster of Kimbolton TD PC, former National Security Advisor, UK, Wagar Malik, Ambassador at Large, Ahmer Bilal Soofi, fomer Federal Minister and Yousaf Jamal Shah, senior lawyer and decretary to the Board.

Talking to APP, Lord Sarfraz of Kensington underlined the importance of such collaborations in promoting Pakistan as a premier skiing destination. He said that Pakistan's breathtaking mountain ranges, particularly in the northern regions and Malam Jabba offer immense potential for winter sports development. "But we will also have to engage local people to get the desired results," he said.

Ahmer Bilal Soofi said: "Pakistan possesses a proper skiing infrastructure. The nature has bestowed the country with stunning mountains, which are perfect for any skiing. I'm sure soon it will an ideal hub for international skiing events," he added.

He underscored a collective commitment to reviving Pakistan's image as a haven for adventure and eco-tourism.

Meanwhile, attendees engaged in productive discussions on sustainable tourism models, international collaborations and strategies to position Pakistan prominently on the global ski map.

The event concluded on a high note with optimism and renewed momentum for transforming Pakistan into a global hotspot for skiing and winter sports.

'Magician' Chahal casts spell with IPL heroics

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Veteran spinner Yuzvendra Chahal has been out of the Indian national team for two years but is toast of the cricketing world after a stellar IPL show for Punjab Kings.

The 34-year-old returned an IPL best of 4-28 Tuesday as Punjab defended the tournament's lowest-ever total of 111 to beat Kolkata Knight Riders by 16 runs in a thriller.

Chahal — IPL's leading bowler with 211 wickets in 166 matches - was bought for a whopping \$2.13 million by Punjab in the November auction but had ordinary outings this season prior to the match-winning spell. After Punjab were bowled out for 111 in 15.3 overs at Mullanpur, Chahal came into his own to rattle Kolkata who were cruising at 62-2 in their chase.

"In the last game I conceded 56 for four overs, but I had full confidence and backed myself and my abilities," Chahal said after being named player of the match.

"I always have the mindset of how to get the batters out, I varied my pace and if they have to hit, they will have to make an effort."

Universal Studios, Venice Beach to host LA 2028 events

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: An iconic Hollywood studio lot and the golden sands of Venice Beach are among an array of Los Angeles landmarks that will stage events for the 2028 Olympic Games, organisers said Tuesday.

Games, LA28 confirmed venues for surfing, triathlon, baseball, cricket and squash amongst other sports.

Universal Studios will play host

to squash's Olympic debut, with the that cricket — which is making its sport taking place on Courthouse Square — the mock-up town square featured prominently in Oscar-winning movies such as "Back to the Future" and "To Kill a Mockingbird".

Venice Beach meanwhile will host the triathlon — relocating from its In an updated list of venues for the initial venue in Long Beach — and will also be the starting point for the men's and women's marathon, as well as the cycling road races.

LA28 organisers also confirmed

return to the Olympics for the first time in more than a century — will be held at a purpose-built venue at Pomona, just east of Los Angeles. Earlier reports had suggested cricket could have been staged thousands of miles from Los Angeles in New York.

The venue for surfing was also confirmed, with the competition taking place at Trestles Beach in the coastal town of San Clemente, roughly 61 miles (98 kilometers)

from Los Angeles.

Trestles is widely considered to be one of the best surfing locations in California, known for consistent waves and a classic point break.

Baseball will take place at Dodger Stadium, the home of the Los Angeles Dodgers, which also hosted the sport at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.

"We've promised the world an incredible Olympic Games and today we're proud to share the plan that will make it happen," LA28 chief execu-

tive Reynold Hoover said in a state-

invites communities from across the region to celebrate the Games coming to their backyard with the most exciting sports staged at some of the world's top-tier existing stadiums and arenas, famous beaches and

purpose-built temporary structures." Los Angeles mayor Karen Bass said the venue plan announced Tuesday would "bring the Games to all corners

of our city like never before". "From the Sepulveda Basin to the

The 2028 Olympic venue plan iconic shores of Venice Beach, our world-famous neighborhoods as well as our hidden gems will be on full display for all to experience and enjoy," Bass said.

Other event venues announced on Tuesday include horse racing's Santa Anita Park, which will host the equestrian events and Anaheim's Honda Center, which will host volley-

The Spokesman

Passing out parade LAHORE: Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif participated in the first passing out parade of the Environment Protection

Punjab CM Maryam launches first Environment **Protection Squad**

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minis- Emission Test System, Chief ter Maryam Nawaz Sharif participated in the first passing out parade of the Envi-sticker to the vehicle. ronment Protection Force.

Nawaz Sharif also launched the Environmental Approval Management System.

Chief Minister Maryam

Chief Minister Maryam Maryam Nawaz Sharif hoisted the flag of the Environment Protection Maryam Nawaz said. Authority.

Nawaz Sharif also launched Chief Minister Maryam ment established Crime said that government also

is making the Punjab a role After checking under the model for other provinces.

We are trying our best to crimes of rapes and sodomy. Minister Maryam Nawaz make environment of the Sharif affixed the first ETS country pollution free and for the purpose were taking Chief Minister Punjab measures at all levels. No previous governments took initiatives in this regards,

said that for Speaking the occasion, controlling crime, governthe Emission Testing System Nawaz said that government Control Department (CCD) focusing the education sector

which will deal in heinous and the brilliant students will crime including serious be given scholarships and laptops as well.

She said we provided envigovernment allocated Rs100 ronment friendly green line billion for the provision of e-buses buses in the Lahore initially and the people will free medicines to the citizens in government hospital see soon these buses plying and there is zero tolerance if on the roads across the provthe patients were not being

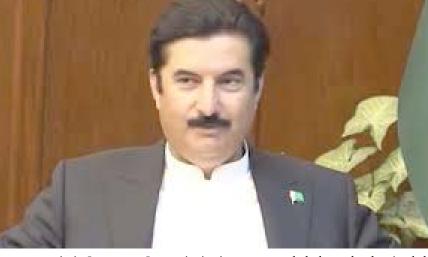
> Punjab government is will soon import more than 1500 e-buses for the big cities of the province.

Governor KP advocates enhanced Pak-Oman trade

of Pakistani-origin businessmen residing in Oman called on Governor Khyber Pakhat his residence here Wednes-

Ahmad Kundi, Parliamentary Leader of the Paki-ISLAMABAD: A delegation stan Peoples Party in KP Assembly, was also present at the meeting.

The delegation was led tunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi by Shaandar Bukhari and ness community in Oman. included M. Imran Siddiqui, day and discussed strength- Ahmad Subhani and Sajjad and economic collaboration. members of the Pakistani busi-



Maryam Nawaz said that

provided free medicines.

Chief Minister

Governor Kundi highlighted the potential of ening bilateral trade, tourism Hussain all distinguished launching a direct ferry service between Pakistan and

Oman, viewing it as a means larly those related to visa chalto promote tourism and facilitate trade.

that the issues raised particu-

lenges faced by overseas Pakistanis would be presented at He assured the delegation the federal level for appro-

Motorway in GB to be game changer, says Aleem Khan

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan, Haji Gulbar Khan and Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan held a meeting and discuss key matters, including the construction of highways and roads in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB).

federal minister The emphasized that the proposed Motorway for Mansehra, highlighted the need for new which can support the growing Kaghan and Naran could be five-star hotels on tourist desti-tourism, said a press release game changer for the area. He nations such as Gilgit, Skardu issued here on Wednesday.



that the scenic and tour- ment of road infrastructure is ism-rich northern areas of essential to transform tourist Pakistan hold immense impor- destinations in Gilgit-Baltitance and that it is crucial to stan to match the standards of provide maximum facilities to the people visiting here. He announced that all highways in Gilgit-Baltistan will be integrated with the Rescue the support extended by the 1122 Emergency Service and if required, helicopter services will also be introduced to further facilitate in emergency response. He reiterated that the promotion of tourism is a major Motorway Police.

Abdul Aleem Khan stated goal and that rapid developdeveloped countries.

During the meeting, Chief Minister Haji Gulbar Khan expressed his gratitude for Federal Minister Communications Abdul Aleem Khan in the past year and acknowledged the various initiatives launched by NHA including induction of

Sardar Yousaf, Rana Mashhood discuss technical training in Madaris

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Sardar Muhammad Yousaf and Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood on Wednesday held an important meeting to discuss the integration of technical education into religious seminaries (madaris) and youth empowerment initiatives across Pakistan.

Rana Mashhood revealed that the government is planning to introduce technical and vocational training programs in madaris to empower students with practical skills. "We aim to provide 1.5 million employ- ment opportunities abroad annually.



Students of madaris, owing to their discipline and knowledge of Arabic, have significant potential in Gulf countries," he said.

Federal Minister Sardar Yousaf emphasized the important role of madaris in Pakistani society. "Our seminaries are doing exemplary work. Students from madaris are second to none in terms of discipline and training," he said adding that during the previous term, a Council of Ulema and Mashaikh comprising over 50 senior religious scholars was established, and now efforts are underway to revive it for guidance on

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PM Azad Kashmir commends Army Chief's keynote address on Kashmir

跨 Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir, Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, has commended the keynote address delivered by Pakistan Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir during the Overseas Pakistanis Conversation, wherein he reaffirmed the nation's steadfast support for the Kashmir cause.

In a special statement, the Prime Minister noted that the Army Chief's comments embody the country's principled position on Kashmir, rooted in the words of the founding father, Hazrat Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, who stated that "Kashmir is the jugular vein of

He mentioned that during his recent visit to Azad Kashmir, the Army Chief made similar remarks that boosted up the morale of Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control (LoC).

the Pakistan Army in safeguarding Pakistan.



the country's territorial integrity, the Prime Minister asserted that as long as the Pak Army is stationed at the LoC, adversaries will think twice before threatening Pakistan.

He recalled that the Kashmiris, through a resolution unanimously adopted at a historic summit in Srinagar on July 19, 1947, chose to Emphasizing the crucial role of align their destiny with the state of

Hungarian envoy calls on Deputy PM Ishaq Dar



👺 City Desk

Foreign Minister, Senator Moham- Trade, Péter Szijiártó, a press release mad Ishaq Dar and discussed matters issued by the foreign office spokesrelating to mutual interests.

During the meeting, they expressed keen interest in strengthening bilat-ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of eral ties and looked forward to the Hungary Béla Fazekas Wednesday upcoming visit of the Hungarian called on Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and

NIH issues health warning on CCHF and heatstroke risks amid heatwave alert

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's National Institute of Health (NIH) has an-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) and increased heatstroke risks. With climate-related challenges intensifying, the NIH urges healthcare institutions and authorities to take timely actions. These measures aim to prevent disease outbreaks during the hot summer

CCHF is a serious viral disease

to humans mainly through infected ticks found on livestock, like goats and sheep. The virus can also transfer through contact with the blood or released advisories about Crime- tissues of infected animals. In 2024, Pakistan reported 61 cases of CCHF, highlighting the need for public

To protect themselves, the NIH advises people to wear light-colored clothing, making ticks easier to spot. Citizens should avoid areas with heavy tick populations and safely remove any visible ticks from their skin or clothing. This simple practice caused by the Nairovirus. It spreads can help reduce the risk of infection.

PM directs Health Ministry to expedite completion of Jinnah Medical Complex

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Kamal briefed the prime minister Wednesday directed the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination to expedite the completion of the Jinnah Medical Complex, highlighting its significance in strengthening the healthcare infrastructure of the capital.

The prime minister made these directions during a call on paid by the Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, Syed Mustafa Kamal to review the progress of ongoing initiatives in the healthcare sector, a Prime Minister's Office news release

During the meeting, Minister on various health projects currently underway and shared proposals aimed at enhancing medical facilities for patients in federally administered hospitals. The discussions focused on improving the quality and accessibility of healthcare services across the country.

The federal minister also updated the prime minister on the status of the national polio eradication campaign. Emphasizing its critical importance, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif instructed for the continuous and effective monitoring of the campaign to ensure its success.