(صحيح بناری: حدیث نمبر 6435) **Barkat Rice Mills** 

فرمان رسول مالله عليه

The cultivation of the world's most expensive mango — the rare Japanese-origin Miyazaki — has begun in Karachi's Malir Memon Goth, where it is being sold at a staggering rate of Rs 300,000 per kilogram. The mango is purple in color and unmatched sweetness.

titled, "Dharkan per aik hi nam' in which rich tributes have been paid to the valiant armed forces for inflicting defeat on India in

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Ziqa'ad 28, Monday, May 26, 2025

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#### Meeting

ISTANBUL: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meeting with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Sunday.

## PM Shehbaz meets Turkish President Erdogan in Istanbul on first leg of four-nation tour

**Spokesman Report** 

ISTANBUL: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif arrived at Dolmabahce Palace on Sunday to meet Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

On arrival at the place, the Turkiye president greeted Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. The meeting of the two leaders at the delegation level has started.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Chief of Army Staff dent Recep Tayyip Erdogan for Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, their unwavering support of Paki-Minister for Information and

Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar and Special Assistant Tariq Fatimi are attending the meeting.

The Turkish president will host a dinner in honour of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and the Pakistani delegation.

Earlier, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif arrived in Istanbul on Sunday evening, on a two-day visit to Turkive.

The prime minister's visit is to express gratitude to the people of Turkiye and especially Presistan's principled position during

the recent Pak-India tensions. Earlier, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has arrived in Istanbul on Saturday on a

two-day visit to Turkiye.

Upon his arrival at Istanbul airport, he was received by Turkish Defense Minister Yashar Guler, Governor Istanbul, President of Pakistan-Turkiye Cultural Association, Pakistan's Ambassador to Turkiye, Consul General Istanbul, senior officials of the Turkish government and Pakistani diplomats posted in

Turkive. Deputy Prime Minister and

Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar, and Special Assistant Tariq Fatemi are accompanying the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister's visit is aimed at paying gratitude to the people of Turkiye and especially President Recep Tayyip Erdogan for their all-out support, as always, to Pakistan's principled position during the recent Pak-India tension.

The Prime Minister will meet

bilateral cooperation between the two countries in diverse fields including defense, economy, tourism and culture.

PM Shehbaz Sharif embarked on a significant diplomatic journey on Sunday, departing from Lahore to Turkiye for the first leg of his official four-na-

This crucial trip, spanning from May 25 to May 30, includes visits to Turkiye, Iran, Azerbaijan, and Tajikistan. The PM Office Media Wing confirmed the highthe Turkish President and will level delegation's composition in discuss further expansion of an official statement.

## **Security forces** kill nine Indiansponsored terrorists in KP operations



跨 City Desk

RAWALPINDI: The security forces killed nine Indian-sponsored terrorists in three separate engagements in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, said ISPR.

According to the military's media wing, an intelligence-based operation was conducted by the security forces in Dera Ismail Khan, on the reported presence of Indian sponsored khwarij.

During the operation, own troops effectively engaged the khwarij location, and after an intense fire exchange, four Indian-sponsored khwarij were killed.

Another intelligence-based fire exchange, two more Indi-

an-sponsored khwarij were killed by the security forces.

Read also: India uses Afghanistan against Pakistan: ISPR DG In the third encounter that

took place in general area Bagh, Khyber district, own troops successfully neutralised three more Indian-sponsored Weapons and ammuni-

tion were also recovered from the killed Indian-sponsored khwarij, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities in these areas.

Sanitisation operations are being conducted to eliminate any other terrorist found in the area, as the security forces of Pakistan are determined to operation was conducted in wipe out the menace of Indi-Tank district and in ensuing an-sponsored terrorism from the country.

#### India's efforts to undermine Pakistan's economy exposed

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: India's attempts to weaken Pakistan economically on the global stage have been revealed once again. Diplomatic sources and political analysts report that India has not only initiated a false propaganda campaign against Pakistan but is also actively working to reintroduce Pakistan into the FATF (Financial Action Task Force) gray list.

The dossier submitted by India to the FATF is filled with baseless accusations aimed

at exerting financial pressure on Pakistan and hindering its development projects. Analysts believe India is fearful of Pakistan's economic recovery and

Political observers highlight India's recent strong opposition to the World Bank's approval of \$20 billion in development projects for Pakistan, further showcasing its malicious intentions. India's strategy appears to be aimed at depriving Pakistan of financial assistance to disrupt its development and create internal instability.

## Death toll rises to eight in Khuzdar school bus attack



👺 Bureau Report

QUETTA: Two more their injuries while undergoing treatment after a terrorist attack on a school bus in Khuzdar.

The deaths of the two toll to eight, security sources confirmed.

The students were victims of a suicide attack orchesterrorists. Among the Soomro, Hifza Kausar, Esha Saleem, Haider, Malaika, and Sehr Saleem.

Security officials stated that the cowardly attack was planned on Indian soil, students, Sheema Ibrahim holding the Indian state and and Muskan, succumbed to its proxies responsible for shedding the blood of innocent schoolchildren. On May 21, a blast targeted

a school bus near Zero Point on the National Highway in children raised the death Khuzdar. It resulted in the tragic deaths of seven children and a teacher, and left 34 others injured.

According to trated by Indian-backed Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the school bus martyrs are seven girls and was destroyed in the blast. one boy, including Sania A total of 38 injured children were rushed to CMH Khuzdar for emergency medical treatment.

## Pakistan reserves 2,000 megawatts of power for Bitcoin mining

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has allocated 2,000 megawatts of surplus electricity exclusively for Bitcoin mining and artificial intelligence (AI) centres, reported 24NewsHD TV Channel on Sunday.

According to the Ministry of Finance, this initiative is part of the Pakistan Crypto Council's broader digital transformation strategy. In the first phase, addi-

tional electricity will be reserved specifically for AI infrastructure and Bitcoin mining facilities. The aim is to monetise excess electricity that previously went underutilised.

Officials believe this step will open new avenues for economic growth and position the country at the forefront of digital innovation.

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb stated that the government expects billions of dollars in foreign investment as a

result of this decision. He added that it will also

employment opportunities across Pakistan.

The Ministry revealed that Bitcoin miners and data infrastructure companies had already shown strong interest in the country.

Several international firms have reportedly visited Pakistan to explore collaboration opportunities in this area.

Bilal Saqib, a leading voice in the sector, remarked that the initiative offers a unique opportunity for Bitcoin miners and AI data centres to thrive.

Saqib further emphasised that with formal regulations and increased transparency, Pakistan has the potential to become a global crypto leader.

The Ministry of Finance has also announced tax incentives for AI infrastructure and duty exemptions for Bitcoin miners to attract further investment.

In the second phase, miners will be offered access to renewable energy sources to enhance sustainability in pave the way for high-tech the sector.



Monday, May 26, 2025

# Unveiling Ceremony of '55 Years of Love, Service, and Resistance' Pays Glowing Tribute to Khawaja Muhammad Shafiq's Legacy

#### Special Correspondent

MULTAN: A prestigious launch ceremony was held at a local club to unveil the book "55 Years of Love, Service, and Resistance," based on the life of Khawaja Muhammad Shafiq, Chairman of All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajiran. The event was attended by a large number of political, social, religious, business, and industrial dignitaries from across the region.

Renowned host Yasir Sheikh moderated the ceremony. The distinguished guests included veteran politician Makhdoom Javed Hashmi, prominent industrialist Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum, IG Prisons Mian Farooq Nazir, Dr. Shafiq Patafi (CEO Crop Group), former Chief Commissioner Inland Revenue Khawaja the author of the book, Shakir Hussain



Muhammad Shafiq expressed heart- servant of the trader community and felt gratitude for the love and appreciation shown by the attendees. He stated that he always considered serving the trader community as the mission of his life and remained stead-Saleem Raza Asif, former provincial fast in his principles—never bowing, minister Hafiz Iqbal Khakwani, and never compromising, and always standing with the oppressed.

Senior politician Javed Hashmi Addressing the gathering, Khawaja praised Khawaja Shafiq as a lifelong through legal means.

a sheltering figure for them. He said Khawaja's struggle is a beacon of hope for future generations.

Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum remarked that Khawaja Shafiq selflessly served traders from Khyber to Karachi with great courage and that his principled life is an inspiration for those fighting for traders' rights

Mian Farooq Nazir said that nity. Khawaja Shafiq remained committed to solving public issues without envy, conspiracy, or greed and lived a life of dignity and simplicity, winning the hearts of traders across the country.

Dr. Shafiq Patafi highlighted Khawaja Shafiq's efforts to empower small businesses, noting that even politicians admire the respect he commands among the trader commu-

Former Chief Commissioner Khawaja Saleem Raza Asif noted that Khawaja Shafiq played a key role in promoting FBR's trader-friendly initiatives, traveling across the country to raise awareness.

said writing about Khawaja Shafiq's 55 years of service was like showing a left a lasting impact and now stand lamp to the sun. His lifelong struggle recorded in history.

for the rights of the trader community is as clear as day and widely acknowledged by the speakers at the event.

The ceremony also featured the official unveiling of the book on stage by the honored guests. Among those present were Khawaja Shafiq's sons-Khawaja Ammar Yasir, Khawaja Nabeel Shafiq, Khawaja Salahuddinas well as prominent lawyers, current and former parliamentarians, senior government officials, and renowned trader leaders such as Syed Hussain Jahanian Gardezi, Azhar Mughal, Asim Sharif Butt, Azhar Baloch, Rao Naeem Shahid, Chaudhry Tariq Kareem, Sheikh Tahir Amjad, Sheikh Basharat Shoukat, Malik Akhtar Hussain, Mirza Ejaz Ali, Saleem Bhatti, and many more.

The event concluded with a formal book unveiling and heartfelt trib-Author Shakir Hussain Shakir utes to Khawaja Muhammad Shafiq, whose exceptional contributions have

#### High-level Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi chairing a high-level meeting in Islamabad.



## AIOU Holds 'Entrepreneurship Fair in the Digital Age' to Empower Youth

ISLAMABAD: Under the auspices of Allama Iqbal Open University and with the financial support of the Regional English Language Office (RELO) Pakistan, a grand and vibrant event titled "Entrepreneurship Fair in the Digital Age: Flight of Talent and Business Intelligence" was held as part of the ongoing Access English Micro-Scholarship Program.

The chief guest of this lively event was Lisa Swinarski, Counselor for Public Diplomacy at the U.S. Embassy, while the guest of honor was Mr. Jerrold Frank, Regional English Language Officer (RELO).

Speaking at the event, Lisa Swinarski said,"This program not youth but also serves as an excellent tions between the United States and only highlights the capabilities of example of strengthening friendly rela-



Pakistan.

The driving force behind the event, Program Director Dr. Amjad Khan,

expressed his views by saying, This fair is not just an event but a reflection of the dreams, talents, and innovation of our youth. Today, we witnessed how our students practically demonstrated entrepreneurial skills despite limited resources. This fair symbolizes cooperation among institutions, cultures, and across borders. We aim for our youth to be not just educated but also independent, confident, and productive citizens."

In his special message, Vice Chancellor of Allama Iqbal Open University, Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, said,"Such programs not only enable academic growth but also instill leadership, critical thinking, and a drive to prepare for practical life in the youth."

#### Ghulam Bilal Javid selected as a chief of All Pakistan Car dealers & importers KPK

**E** Commerce Desk

PESHAWAR: The new cabinet of the All Pakistan Car Dealers & Importers Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has been officially announced. Ghulam Bilal Javid has been elected as Chairman, Hasan Taimoor as President, and Hashar Zarif as General Secre-

A grand dinner was organized on this occasion, attended

by the central and regional leadership of the association from across the country. Prominent participants included Group Leader Mian Shoaib, Central Chairman Sardar Irfan, Haji Tariq Mehmood (President Punjab), Raja Amir Kareem (Vice Chairman), Malik Qaiser (General Secretary), Jarrar Zaidi (Senior Vice President, Multan), Rana Furman (President Khanewal), Ajaib Khan (President G-8 Islamabad), Waseem Abbasi (General Secretary G-8), Malik Ijaz (Vice President Punjab), Haji Arshad (Vice President Rawalpindi), Rashid Abbasi (Vice Chairman Rawalpindi), Chaudhry Hameed (Rawalpindi), Chaudhry Arshad (General Secretary Zone 4), and Adnan Qureshi (Rawalpindi).

During the event, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa cabinet was also announced. Nisar Babar and Haji Ihsan were appointed as Senior Vice Chairmen, Ghulam Hussain Chand as Vice Chairman, Ammar Khan as Deputy General Secretary, Abdul Haseeb Chughtai as Information Secretary Basit Khan as Finance Secretary Sajiad Khan as President Ring Road Peshawar, Kamran Arif as Vice President Ring Road, Syed Bilal Rasool as President Peshawar Cantt, Bilal Nizam as Vice President Peshawar Cantt, and Mr. Furman as Senior Vice President Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

### Regional Drama Festival kicks off at Punjab Arts Council Rawalpindi

👺 City Desk

On the first day of the Regional Drama Festival under auspices Punjab Arts Council Rawal-

pindi, the drama



Rishte Aur Ferishte was presented. The drama was written and directed by Yar Muhammad. Renowned artists Raja Sattar, Anjum Abbasi, Shahid Bhola, Allama Sajjad, Anjum Abbasi, Rizwana Khan, Zahra and Yar Muhammad performed well in the drama team. In this drama, it was told that the abundance of money makes a person arrogant and he tries to build his relationships on the basis of wealth, but a time comes when wealth does not work, then he realizes that only the passion of love for the homeland is the greatest relationship. Director Arts Council said that according to the vision of the Punjab government, the Regional Drama  $\,$ Festival is being presented, the aim of which is to promote and develop fine arts and provide clean and quality entertainment to the people. In this drama festival, a new story and a new drama team will present their performance every day. A large number of people watched this drama and appreciated the efforts of the Punjab government. This festival will continue till June 5.

## Members of Chakwal Bar Association Call for Uniform Legislation to End Child Marriages in Pakistan

News Dewsk

CHAKWAL: The particurged the government to Punjab—and across the action. country—to 18 years, to 18 years of age. To support this Advocate

underage marriages. The underscored by the fact that comprehensive legal analysis ipants of a consultative Pakistan ranks sixth globalsession organized by PODA ly in terms of the prevalence of child marriage, highlightraise the minimum legal ing the critical need for deciage of marriage for girls in sive legal and administrative

Atiqu-u-Rareform, they called for the sool provided an in-depth to legislate a minimum introduction and implemen- review of the penalties under tation of an online marriage the Punjab Child Marriage registration system linked Restraint Act 2015 and to National Identity Card advocated for the manda-(NIC) verification. This step, tory online registration of they emphasized, would help marriages to ensure age veristreamline efforts to prevent fication and accountability.

Advocate urgency of this demand is Zahid Naseem presented a of child marriage laws across Pakistan, emphasizing key judicial rulings. He referenced the Federal Shariat Court's 2023 judgment in the Ali Azhar vs. Province During the session, of Sindh case, which upheld the government's authority marriage age of 18 for both boys and girls, affirming that such legislation does not contradict Islamic prin-

He further cited the 2024 Lahore High Court decision

Khawaja in "Azka Wahid vs. Province of Punjab," which declared setting different marriage ages for boys (18) and girls (16) violates Article 25 of the Constitution, which ensures gender equality. The court directed the Punjab government to amend the law within 15 days to align with constitutional and human rights standards. Participants also acknowl-

edged recent progress, including the Islamabad Capital Territory's legislation, which sets the minimum marriage age at 18 for both genders. They stressed the urgent need for uniform child marriage legislation across all provinces to ensure legal clarity and equal protection for all children in Pakistan.

Faisal Kahut, former Vice President of the District Bar Association Chakwal. suggested updating the Nikah Nama (marriage contract) to reflect modern needs, including digital verification to prevent underage marriages.

The session reaffirmed the legal community's commitment to protecting the rights



of children and ensuring that every girl has the opportunity to live a safe, healthy, and empowered life.





## **Namaz Timings** Maghrib

#### **EMERGENCY**

EIMEIVOEI16 I	
Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/	
Islamabad1122 8	<u>&amp;</u> 16
Emergency Ambulance 112	22 &
& Rescue Services 445	1122
Motorway Police9266	044
Motorway Police9270601	l-20

#### ENGLIIDV

ENQUIKT			
Edhi Ambulance115			
PIA Flight Info114			
PIA Cargo 9280979			
Railway Inquiry117			
Railway Exchange9270831-5			
WASA Rawalpindi5555489			
CAA 9281092			
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#### **HOSPITALS**

CMH	561111
MH	561110
MH	561110
Cantt Hospital	9270907-1
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-
Holy Family	9290322-
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International .	4603660

CDA	5221334 43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886

#### "Fear Grips Jati Taluka: Robbers Target Locals and Businesses

#### **Kamran Khamiso** Khowaia

SUJAWAL: The main Jati-Sujawal road, which connects several villages, coastal localities, and small residential areas to the district headquarters Sujawal, has become a sanctuary for bandits over the past two months, this correspondent learned on Sunday. Frequent incidents of robbery have sent waves of fear across the district, mainly in Taluka Jati of Sujawal district, which has recently grown as a commercial locality.

Local residents are dissatisfied with the performance of the area police in curbing the soaring in dents of robbery. Local merchants, trade organizations, members of civil society, and noted citizens have termed the ongoing state of affairs a threat to flourishing economic activities in Jati Taluka, particularly in areas like Jati town, Baran Abad, Nohria Abad, Kachi Begna, and Begna.

The Station House Officer (SHO) of Police Station Jati stated that complainants were reluctant to report robbery incidents to the police, which had delayed action against the bandits. "For the first time in my lifetime, I have been posted in this district,' he mentioned, adding that he would require some time to take decisive measures

against robber gangs. A driver, Deedar Hussain Notivar, said that trave ling at night on the main Jati-Sujawal road was tantamount to risking his own life as well as the lives of passengers. They urged the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Sujawal to take stern steps against robbers operating in the area with impunity.

# Punjab Chief Minister abolishes birth and death registration fee

"Identity is a fundamental right of every citizen, we want to create convenience for the citizens," said Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif while abolishing the birth and death registration fee, that has been charged from the applicants for years.

She added, "Death and Birth Digital Certificate is mandatory to get services. By registering births and deaths on time, we can ensure protection of civil rights of the citizens." She directed the authorities concerned to effectively implement 'Birth & Death Registration Rules 2025 in Punjab, under which birth and death registration fee has been abolished."

Madam Chief Minister said, "Birth and Death Registration can be done free of charge throughout Punjab." She added, "Citizens can register in Union Councils and Municipal Committees free of charge for 7 years." She highlighted, "The condition of court decree for the late registration of



and Death Computerized Certificates will also be issued free of charge."

Meanwhile: Senior Provincial Minister Maryam Aurangzeb has announced that Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has implemented a modern branchless banking system in the Forest Department to ensure transparency in wage payments. Replacing the centu-

dignified, and technologically advanced payment method for daily wage workers in the forests.

Maryam Aurangzeb stated that workers will now receive their wages directly through mobile banking accounts, with verification conducted via SMS and biometric authentication. "Transparency is the mission of Chief Minister Punjab, and this step by the Forest Department is a true birth and death in Punjab has also ry-old manual system, the Chief reflection of that vision," she said, been abolished." She noted, "Birth Minister has introduced a secure, adding, "Transparency and justice arrangements for branchless



will be the top priority in every government payment system. Corruption, delays, and deductions associated with the cashbased system are now a thing of the past.

banking have been finalized through a collaboration between the Forest Department and the Bank of Punjab. This initiative is being hailed as a significant step toward international standards She further stated that all of good governance and financial transparency.

"This system will restore the trust of the working class and ensure their financial security," she said. "We are prioritizing technology, transparency, and public welfare in every sector — and the Forest Department has set a new benchmark.

### African Day

ISLAMABAD: H. E Ms. Dorsaf Maaroufi, Chargé d'Affaires of the Republic of Tunisia in Pakistan and others posing a group photo on the occasion of African Day hosted by, Resident & Humanitarian coordinator-United Nations, Additional Secretary Africa-Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Dean Africa Group Islamabad



Photo by Ramzan Mughal

## GCWUF organized Entrepreneurial Skill Development project

FAISALABAD: The Department of Art and Design at GCWUF organized the final display of the Entrepreneurial Skill Development project. Featuring innovative products by 8th-semester graphic design students.

The event was inaugurated by respected Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Kanwal Ameen (T. I). Dr. Rukhsana Bibi, Dr. Tuba Najam, and other senior faculty members accompanied the Vice Chancellor.

Various creative items including scented candles, handmade jewelry, baked goods, and customized accessories-were exhibited reflecting strong interdis-



and enthusiastically sold, ciplinary engagement and The event successfully demon- on practical skills, creativity, students' entrepreneurial flair. strated the department's focus and industry preparedness.

#### Rana Basharat Ali Khan urges immediate humanitarian access to Gaza

#### 👺 Zafar Chishti

GENEVA: Rana Basharat Ali Khan, Chairman of the International Human Rights Movement, has issued an urgent call for Israel to lift its blockade on Gaza and allow the immediate, unrestricted delivery of humanitarian aid. This appeal aligns with UN Secretary-General António Guterres' recent condemnation of the worsening crisis, where over 2.3 million Palestinians face starvation, displacement, and escalating violence.



Khan expressed deep concern over Israel's proposed privatized aid distribution model, which would replace established UN-led operations with a network managed by the U. S.-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF). This plan, involving biometric checkpoints and centralized hubs guarded by private contractors, has been widely criticized by humanitarian organizations for violating international humanitarian principles and potentially facilitating forced displacement.

"The International Human Rights Movement stands firmly against any aid mechanism that undermines the principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, and independence," Khan stated. "Replacing trusted humanitarian channels with militarized, politically influenced schemes is not only unethical but endangers the lives of the most vulnerable."

The International Human Rights Movement remains committed to advocating for justice, peace, and the protection of human rights for all.

#### ILISAA, Federal Chapter, successfully conducted its elections-2025

#### 👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Islamians Library and Information Science Alumni Association (ILISAA), Federal Chapter, successfully conducted its elections for 2025 at the Department of



Libraries Islamabad, under the guidance of Director General, Sheikh Mohammad Arshad. The elections saw active participation from library professionals across the twin cities, marking a significant moment for the association and its members.

Khurram Shahzad, elected as President and others are as Zahoor Ahmad, Finance Secretary

Mr. Mohammad Shahid Amin, Vice President (Unopposed), Nasir Khan Abbasi, General Secretary (Unopposed), Kashif Kamal, Information Secretary (Unopposed) Mr. Head Librarian, Air University,

The newly elected office bearers are expected to play a key role in strengthening the association, fostering professional development, and advancing the interests of the library and information science community in the region.

## Maroof International Hospital celebrated International Nurses Day 2025

#### **Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Maroof International Hospital celebrated International Nurses Day 2025 with a vibrant and heartfelt event on Thursday, 24 May, honoring the compassion, commitment, and professionalism of its nursing staff. The gathering brought together distinguished guests, including Mr. Asif Iqbal, Secretary of the Pakistan Nursing and Midwifery Council (PNMC); the Deputy Head of Mission from the Iraq Embassy; and the Spouses CEO of Maroof International

of the Ambassadors of Azerbai- Hospital, stated, "Nursing ian and Syria, reflecting the global importance and recognition of the nursing profession.

In his speech, Mr. Asif Iqbal remarked, "Today, as we celebrate our nurses, we also acknowledge a global call to action for investment in nursing education, leadership, and recognition. Pakistan is proud of its resilient and skilled nurses who serve communities at every level."

Expanding on the global context, Mr. Haroon Naseer,

constitutes nearly 60% of the global health workforce, yet we face an alarming shortage of almost 6 million nurses worldwide. At Maroof, we recognize that bridging this gap requires more than numbers—it demands strategic investment in education, retention, and advanced clinical

Dr. Mir Waheed, Medical Director, emphasized the direct impact of nursing on clinical quality: "Clinical excellence hinges on the seamless integration of nursing expertise within multidisciplinary teams.

In her presentation, Ms. Catherine Bordon, Chief of Nursing, shared key milestones achieved by the Nursing Division over the

Ms. Bordon also noted that 12 senior nurses completed leadership training in "Leading to Healthcare Quality Assurance" and the department produced 36 clinical guidelines, policies, and procedure manuals. Continuous improvement was supported through regular equipment



maintenance and the tracking touching reminder of the ethical ting ceremony, symbolizing pride,

of 14 key performance indicators. and compassionate founda-The event also featured a tion of the profession. The day that defines the Maroof nursing collective Nurses' Pledge, a concluded with a joyful cake-cut-

unity, and the shared purpose

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Bureau Chief Lahore:

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#### Lifting sanctions on **Syria**

n a significant shift in US foreign policy, President Donald Trump has initiated the easing of long-standing sanctions on Syria, marking a pivotal moment for the war-torn nation and the broader Middle East. This decision comes in the wake of President Trump's successful Gulf tour and discussions with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. It reflects a pragmatic approach to fostering stability and economic recovery in the region.

To understand the implications of this policy change, it is essential to revisit the origins of the sanctions. The US first designated Syria as a "state sponsor of terrorism" in 1979, citing its support for groups like Hezbollah and its military presence in Lebanon. Further sanctions were imposed in 2004 under the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act, targeting Syria's alleged pursuit of weapons of mass destruction and its interference in neighboring Iraq. The most stringent measures came in 2011, in response to the Assad regime's brutal crackdown on peaceful protesters, leading to the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019, which aimed to hold the regime accountable for war crimes.

The decision to ease sanctions is not an endorsement of past actions but a recognition of the changing dynamics on the ground, and a bet on a future that the US, Saudi Arabia, and other moderate states can help support the great — and now free people of Syria in rebuilding their country. The sanctions were primarily aimed at the Assad regime's oppressive policies and its destabilizing role in the region. With the regime's fall, maintaining these sanctions would only hinder the Syrian people's aspirations for peace and prosperity. Moreover, Al-Sharaa's commitment to forming an inclusive government, respecting minority rights, and focusing on reconstruction efforts aligns with the broader goals of regional stability.

Syria's economy has been devastated by years of conflict and sanctions, with over 90 percent of the population living in poverty. The lifting of sanctions opens the door for international investment, aid, and the rebuilding of critical infrastructure. It also allows Syria to shift from being a hub for illicit activities, such as drug trafficking, to becoming a center for trade and tourism, reminiscent of its pre-war status.

Al-Sharaa's overtures to Arab nations and his efforts to distance Syria from former allies like Iran and Russia suggest a potential realignment that could serve US strategic interests. His political moves, including hiring successful technocrats such as renowned entrepreneur Abdulsalam Haykal in the role of information technology minister, indicate his sincere desire to rebuild he nation. Will he be suc later on? Time will tell.

However, the one definite fact is that the easing of sanctions on Syria represents a pragmatic approach to a complex situation. It acknowledges the transformative changes in Syria's political landscape and offers a pathway for the country to rebuild and reintegrate into the international community. For the Syrian people, it brings hope for a future free from conflict and economic despair. For the region and the world, it presents an opportunity to foster stability and counteract extremist influences.

## Trump's TAKE IT DOWN Act: Not Enough to End Sexual Exploitation

exploitation did not happen by chance. It was the direct consequence of a single legal decision: the June 21, 1973 ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court in Miller v. California, which legalized the distribution and marketing of adult content under the guise of free speech. This decision unleashed a monster that grew unchecked, embedding itself into cultures, economies, and digital landscapes worldwide. Today, we are living with the consequences of that decision, and unless the root cause is reversed, no legal reform, including the recently passed TAKE IT DOWN Act, will be enough to stop the damage.

The pornography industry is not a small fringe sector—it is a global behemoth. Estimates put its annual revenue between \$97 billion and \$100 billion. In the United States alone, the industry contributes between \$12 and \$20 billion to the economy. In California, over 50,000 individuals work in the porn sector, from performers to production crews. This industry thrives on the exploitation of women, children, and marginalized communities—turning human intimacy into a commodity for mass consumption.

Africa: Trafficking networks in Nigeria, South Africa, and other regions have expanded, with victims—especially minors—coerced into sex work, Human trafficking for sexual exploitation is now one of the fastest-growing criminal

he global crisis of sexual enterprises across the continent.

Europe: The European Union reported over 10,000 victims of human trafficking in a single year, with the majority subjected to sexual exploitation. Eastern Europe, in particular, has become a pipeline for trafficking women into Western markets.

United States: Despite its legal protections, the U. S. is far from immune. The National Human Trafficking Hotline identified 15,299 victims in 2022, with 5,572 cases involving sex trafficking. The FBI has flagged an alarming rise in cases of child exploitation linked to online pornography.

Globally, the University of Edinburgh estimates that over 300 million children are victims of online sexual exploitation and abuse annually. In the UK alone, reports of AI-generated child sexual abuse material surged by 380% in a single year. These statistics are not just numbers—

they are lives shattered, futures stolen, and human dignity erased. This is the landscape in which the

TAKE IT DOWN Act was introduced. The Act, passed in December 2024 and signed into law by Trump on 19th of May 2025 was championed by First Lady Melania Trump aimed at criminalizing the distribution of non-consensual intimate images, including deep-

fakes, and requires platforms to remove tion of the vulnerable, the normalizasuch content within 48 hours of notification. It is a necessary step, but let us be honest-it is not enough. The law addresses the symptoms of the problem, not its cause.

The real issue is that the legal framework created by Miller v. California remains intact. As long as pornography-whether consensual, adult, or otherwise-is legally protected and commercially distributed, the monster will continue to thrive. The victims, especially in poorer nations, will not have the resources, knowledge, or legal access to in the right direction, but unless we seek redress. They will remain trapped in a system that profits

> to expect millions of exploited individuals across the globe to navigate complex legal systems to have their images removed. Laws like the TAKE IT DOWN Act are reactive;

from their suffering.

It is not practical

they respond after the harm is done. By then, the damage-psychological, reputational, and financial—is irreversible.

What is needed is a complete reversal of the 1973 decision. Pornography, in all its forms—whether adult, consensual or otherwise-must be outlawed. This is not about censorship or prudery; it is about common sense and basic human decency. It is about dismantling an industry that profits from the exploitation of deviance, and the destruction of societal values

The numbers speak for themselves. The global sex trade, fueled by legalized pornography, is estimated to involve over 25 million people, with children-both girls and boys-making up a significant portion of the exploited. Human trafficking for sexual purposes alone is a \$99 billion industry. These figures represent not just economic data but a moral failure on a global scale.

The TAKE IT DOWN Act is a step confront the root cause—the legal and commercial normalization of pornography—the exploitation will continue. The world must learn from America's mistake, not repeat it. It is time for countries to outlaw pornography entirely, dismantle the legal frameworks that protect it, and take decisive action to protect their citizens—especially the most vulnerable.

This is not a call for censorship; it is a call for sanity. A call to protect the fundamental dignity of the human person, to stop treating bodies as commodities, and to halt an industry that has done untold harm. The TAKE IT DOWN Act has opened the door. Now, the world must walk through it and finish the job.

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



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

## Army Chief's Take on the 'Forwarded as Received' Mindset

Chief General Asim Munir highlighted the importance of verifying information before sharing it, referencing a verse from the Holy Quran to emphasize his point. He cited Surah Al-Hujurat, verse 6, which instructs believers to investigate any of questionable integrity—to avoid unintentionally causing harm and later regretting it. General

Munir also expressed concern over a troubling trend in Pakistan, where certain individuals and groups spread information with a "forwarded as received" mindset, without any verification. He noted that this behavior goes against the true teachings of Islam.

One of the most well-known examples of the consequences

of spreading unverified news is the incident of the slander (al-Ifk) against Aisha (RA), the wife of the Prophet Muhammad PBUH. In this incident, false rumors were spread about her character. The consequences were severe, and Allah revealed verses in Surah An-Nur (Chapter 24) condemning those who propagated the lie without evidence: "When you received it with your tongues and said with your mouths that of which you had no knowledge, and you thought it was insignificant while it was, in the sight of Allah, tremendous." — (Surah An-Nur, 24:15).

**Abdul Basit Alvi** 

Those who spread the falsehood without verification were publicly rebuked, and some were subjected to the punishment of 80 lashes for slander (qadhf), which is the Islamic legal punishment for accusing someone of adultery without four witnesses (Surah An-Nur, 24:4). This case became a foundational precedent in Islamic law, highlighting the serious consequences of circulating harmful rumors without evidence. In

n a recent speech at a forum, Army Islamic jurisprudence, one of the harshest worldly punishments for spreading unverified accusations is the hadd punishment for qadhf (slander). This applies when a person accuses another of fornication or adultery without presenting four reliable witnesses. Allah says: "And those who launch a charge against chaste women, and news—particularly when it comes from a source produce not four witnesses (to support their allegation)—flog them with eighty stripes; and reject their evidence ever after: for such men are

wicked transgressors." — (Surah An-Nur, 24:4) This law was not only applied during the time of the Prophet PBUH but also during the rule of the righteous caliphs and throughout Islamic legal history. The punishment of 80 lashes was meant to protect people's honor and prevent the chaos that can arise from unverified claims. The hypo-

crites (munafiqeen) in Medina were notorious for spreading false news to create panic and division within the Muslim community. In response to their actions, Allah revealed the following: "If the hypocrites, and those in whose hearts is disease, and those who spread false news among the people of Medina, do not stop, We will surely incite you against them; then they will not remain your neighbors therein except for a little." -(Surah Al-Ahzab, 33:60). According to scholars, this verse signaled a warning of banishment or even execution if the hypocrites continued to spread lies and destabilize the society. While the Prophet PBUH exercised mercy and restraint. this verse illustrates how seriously Islam views the act of spreading unverified and harmful information. Historically, Islamic societies governed under Shariah law implemented strict policies regarding the spread of unverified news, especially if it involved reputations, governance, or public safety. If someone's rumors led to civil unrest, they

could be punished under ta'zir (discretionary punishment by the judge), depending on the level of harm caused. These punishments could include fines, imprisonment, public shaming, or even corporal punishment in severe cases. Even if a person escapes worldly punishment, Islam teaches that they remain accountable in the sight of Allah for the consequences of their words. The Prophet PBUH emphasized that sins caused by the tongue-such as lying, gossiping, and slandering-are among the most dangerous. On the Day of Judgment, a person may find that the consequences of a seemingly small rumor have multiplied due to its far-reaching effects. The Prophet PBUH said: "Whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day should speak good or remain silent." — (Sahih al-Bukhari and Sahih Muslim) This simple yet powerful hadith reminds believers to weigh their words carefully and avoid unnecessary speech and news-especially when it is unverified or harmful.

It is clear that spreading unverified information is not only harmful but also fundamentally at odds with both Islamic teachings and the principles upheld by civilized societies. Unfortunately, there is a growing disconnect from the core values of Islam, which emphasize truth, justice, and responsibility. At the same time, rather than learning from the positive aspects of developed societies-such as their commitment to accuracy and accountability—we too often imitate the negative influences of their cultures.

Only through unity and shared responsibility can Pakistan protect its national security and move toward long-term stability and peace. The recent statement by the Army Chief regarding the dangers of spreading unverified news has been widely welcomed across the nation. There is a strong public demand to take firm action making Pakistan a resolute state that holds wrongdoers and anti-state elements accountable under the law.

## **'Pakistan-UAE Relations: A** Model of Regional Cooperation and Economic Growth'

ates (UAE) is one of the strongest two countries. and most important in the region. have developed close ties in many areas such benefits include increased foreign invest-

to-people connections. These relations are based on shared values, mutual respect, and a long history of cooperation. In recent years, especially in 2024 and 2025, this partnership has become even more important for both nations, offering new opportunities for growth and development.

Economically, the UAE is one of Pakistan's biggest trading partners, after Pakistan-UAE relations appears very bright. China and the United States. Trade between the two countries has seen strong growth in recent years. In the financial year 2023-24, the total trade value crossed 10.9 billion US dollars. Out of this, Pakistan exported goods worth around 1.59 billion dollars to the UAE. These exports mainly include items like textiles, rice, fruits,

vegetables, leather products, and sports goods. The cultural connection between the people of Pakistan and the UAE is another important aspect of their relationship. The two nations share religious, historical, and cultural similarities. In April 2025, a new cultural agreement was signed between the UAE Ministry of Culture and Pakistan's Culture Division. This agreement aims to promote mutual understanding through art, music, literature, and uting to both economies. With continued coopheritage programs. The large Pakistani diaspora in the UAE also helps in promoting Pakistani culture and traditions in the region. Pakistani

schools, restaurants, and cultural centers in

he relationship between Paki- cities like Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and Sharjah are stan and the United Arab Emir- a sign of the strong cultural ties between the

This strong partnership has a positive Over the years, both countries impact on both countries. For Pakistan, the as economy, trade, politics, culture, and peoplement, high remittances, growing exports, and

new job opportunities. These factors help improve Pakistan's economic condition and create a better future for its people. For the UAE, it gains access to a young, skilled workforce and a growing market in South Asia. The UAE also benefits from Pakistan's support in regional and international matters.

Looking ahead, the future of

Both countries are planning to expand cooperation in modern sectors such as information technology, agriculture technology, clean energy, and tourism. The formation of the UAE-Pakistan Joint Business Council is a step toward stronger business-to-business engagement. Digital platforms are being developed to make trade faster and easier. With continued efforts, this relationship will become even more strategic and fruitful in the coming years.

Pakistan and the UAE share a strong and valuable partnership. This relationship is built on trust, shared goals, and mutual benefit. The hardworking Pakistani youth living in the UAE play a major role in supporting this friendship by sending valuable remittances and contriberation and friendship, this bond is set to grow even stronger in the future.

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## Quenching spiritual thirst: Taif attracts millions of intending pilgrims each year





begins each year, the mountainous city of Taif attracts millions of intending pilgrims from around the world to quench the historic sites where the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) once took refuge over 1,400 years ago.

pilgrims from every nook and corner of the world were seen flocking to various historical religious sites, such as Masjid Abdullah bin Abbas and Masjid Addas in the 'City of Roses' (Taif), to express their deep reverence and affection for the and hope. They said they paid Holy Prophet Muhammad

Taif is more than just a stop on the way to Makkah; it is a sanctu-TAIF, (SAUDI ARABIA), MAY ary—a city that once hosted the 24 (APP): As the Hajj season Prophet (peace be upon him), a place filled with memories of perseverance, pain, and purpose.

Although the main rituals of Hajj take place in Makkah, many their spiritual thirst by visiting pilgrims consider Taif a place for sacred introspection. It is a city that teaches the soul to endure, to forgive, and to grow.

Saifullah and Altaf Hussain A large number of intending from Bangalore, India, shared that performing Hajj had been a lifelong dream. But beyond the rituals, they deeply longed to walk where the Prophet (peace be upon him) once walkedplaces that still echo with stories of struggle, compassion, 335,000 Indian Rupees under the government Hajj scheme;

however, the package did not include meals or the 'qurbani' (sacrifice).

Quenching spiritual thirst: Taif attracts millions of intending pilgrims each year

Raees Khan from Kandahar, Afghanistan, led a group of 12 pilgrims. He said their coach driver charged them 270 Saudi Rivals for a round trip to Taif. "How could we miss visiting the historical sites where our Prophet (PBUH) once came to spread the message of Islam?" he said. The Afghan government, he added, charged each pilgrim 282,000 Afghanis, also excluding meals and 'qurbani'.

Quenching spiritual thirst: Taif attracts millions of intending pilgrims each year

A family of three from Lahore, Pakistan, spoke emotionally as

they traveled along the scenic Al-Hada Road. Muhammad Aziz told this correspondent that their hearts swelled knowing they were walking in the shadow of sacred history. With tearful voices, they shared their feelings about visiting the area believed to be near the orchard where Addas, a Christian servant, offered grapes to the Prophet (PBUH) after he had been wounded by stones.

Quenching spiritual thirst: Taif attracts millions of intending pilgrims each year

Hussain from Dhaka, Bangladesh, who was buying fruits for his family members from vendors adjacent to the historic Masjid Addas, said, "Taif is not iust a citv—it is a moment in divine history. Here, rejection turned into resilience, and pain

into prayer." He narrated that after offering two rakats of prayer in the mosque, he visited the old stone paths that lead into the heartfelt prayer," he said.

(PBUH) once prayed alone. that Taif also has lively markets "After climbing a gentle trail, I offering local perfumes, rosestood atop a hill and offered a

It is also worth mentioning more

water, handwoven prayer rugs, honey, dried fruits, dates, and

### Meeting

Ambassador of Pakistan to the European Union, Belgium and Luxembourg H. E Rahim Hayat Qureshi met with Ambassador Luke Feeney, Ireland's Representative to the EU Pol & Security Committee. During the meeting they exchanged views on the evolving regional and global geopolitical landscape.



### Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi's Arts Alumni Festival 2025 concludes with a dazzling Qawwali

**₿** PNP

KARACHI: Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi Organized a three-day Arts Alumni Festival 2025, concluding with a vibrant showcase of artistic talent. On the last day of the festival, a performance of Tennessee Williams' acclaimed play The Glass Menagerie captivated the audience. Renowned TV director, producer, and actor Khalid Ahmed conducted a voice workshop covering public speaking, acting, teaching, and hosting.

Highlights of the closing day also included the panel Alumni Stars: Past and Future, a discussion on Masterclass in Music — The Art of Sonic Storytelling: From Folk Traditions to Future Melodies, and storytelling and dance showcases. Students of the Dance Academy stole the show with mesmerizing cultural performances representing all four provinces of Pakistan.

The festival also paid tribute to the golden era of Pakistani cinema through dance. Dance Academy head Mani Chao, along with students, presented a cil's journey, Shah remarked,



of the ancient civilization of Mohenjo-Daro.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, President Arts Council, Muhammad Ahmed Shah, expressed immense pride in the enthusiastic participation of the younger generation.

"The energy and passion of our youth over these three days was truly inspiring. I am proud to say that the students of our academies have now become experts in their respective fields," said Shah. He congratulated the entire Arts Council team for successfully organizing the festival and added, "We have created a factory of happiness — and our finest product is the skilled artist."

Reflecting on the Coun-

"When I took charge, we had nothing. We began with a single teacher for our theatre academy, then established music and dance academies. Today, these institutions are thriving. Our art school, originally launched in 1964, was revived and now serves as Pakistan's first dedicated art school. The work of our young artists is now being exhibited in top galleries across the country and is in demand by prominent collectors"

He further shared that the Council's music students perform not only across Pakistan but also at international festivals. "We dedicated this festival to our martyrs and celebrated the victory of Pakistan's armed forces by paying tribute to the heroes of the Pakistan-India wars," he said.

## 'Taste the World' - A Celebration of Cultures Through Cuisine



Spokesman Report

Serena Hotel, in collaboration with the Islamabad Foreign Women's Association (IFWA), proudly hosted "Taste the World" on Sunday, May 25, under Serena Hotels' Cultural Diplo-

event brought together people from across the diplomatic, Hawkins, President of IFWA, cultural, and local communities to experience the rich culinary heritage of 28 countries, each showcasing traditional dishes

from their homelands. Speaking at the occasion, macy Initiative. This vibrant Mr. Aziz Boolani, CEO of celebration of global cultures

Serena Hotels, and Ms. Dianne emphasized the significance of cultural exchange in fostering peace, mutual understanding, and global harmony.

"Serena Hotels is proud to host Taste the World, a true



especially through the universal language of food," said Mr. Boolani. "Events like these build bridges between communities and remind us how diversity enriches us all."

Ms. Hawkins added,"This event not only highlights our cultural diversity but also supports a meaningful cause. The proceeds from today will go toward charitable initiatives backed by IFWA, making this celebration both joyful and impactful."



music, and camaraderie. "Taste the World" exemplifies Serena Hotels' ongoing commitment to cultural diplomacy bringing people together through shared experiences and supporting community-led

跨 Photos by Ramzan Mughal





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

Index Fluctuation				
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index				
Current	Prev. Close			
119,931.45	118,971.12			
Day's High	Day's Low			
120,106.21	119,128.38			
Index Value	Change			
17,152,953,582	+960.33			
Percentage	Time			
+0.81%	21 May, 2025 4:30 pm			
Europe: FTSE 100 Index				
Europe: F15	E IUU Inaex			
Index Value	Change			
Index Value	Change			
Index Value 8,787.71	<b>Change</b> +6.54			
8,787.71 Percentage +0.071%	Change +6.54 Time 21 May, 4:00 pm			
8,787.71 Percentage +0.071%	Change +6.54 Time 21 May, 4:00 pm GMT+1			
Index Value 8,787.71 Percentage +0.071% USA: Dow Jones I	Change +6.54 Time 21 May, 4:00 pm GMT+1 ndustrial Average			
Index Value 8,787.71 Percentage +0.071%  USA: Dow Jones I	Change +6.54 Time 21 May, 4:00 pm GMT+1 ndustrial Average Change			

#### GMT+9 **Open Market Forex Rates**

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Change

Time

21 May, 3:45 pm

-230.51

**Index Value** 

37,298.98

**Percentage** 

-0.61%

Open Market Forex Rates			
Currency	Buying	Selling	
Australian Dollar	183.75	186.00	
Bahrain Dinar	752.30	760.30	
Canadian Dollar	206.60	209.00	
China Yuan	37.59	37.99	
Danish Krone	41.89	42.29	
Euro	320.10	322.85	
Hong Kong Dollar	35.74	36.09	
Indian Rupee	3.21	3.30	
Japanese Yen	1.98	2.04	
Kuwaiti Dinar	916.25	925.75	
Malaysian Ringgit	64.95	65.55	
NewZealand \$	165.24	167.24	
Norwegians Krone	27.1	27.40	
Omani Riyal	736.35	744.85	
Qatari Riyal	76.85	77.55	
Saudi Riyal	75.15	75.8	
Singapore Dollar	220.25	222.25	
Swedish Korona	28.83	29.13	
Swiss Franc	335.55	338.35	
Thai Bhat	8.27	8.42	
U.A.E Dirham	76.85	77.50	
UK Pound Sterling	379.15	382.65	
US Dollar	282.50	284.00	

#### FTO Coordinator Applauds Govt's Firm Action Against Tax Evaders

**№** Commerce Desk

LAHORE MAY 25:- Coordinator to the Federal Tax Ombudsman, Saif Ur Rehman, Sunday hailed the government judicious decision to bring all tax evaders into tax net without succumbing any sort of pressure.

In a statement here today he emphasized that this steps in right direction demonstrates a firm commitment to strengthening the national economy and promoting a tax culture of transparency and accountability. He stated that widening the tax base is essential for ensuring equitable distribution of the tax burden and reducing reliance on indirect taxation, which disproportionately affects lower-income groups. He appreciated the government's resolve to implement robust measures that target those who have long evaded their fiscal responsibilities, calling it a much-needed step toward economic justice. The Coordinator further added that this initiative would restore public trust in the tax system and pave the way for sustainable development. He assured full support from the Federal Tax Ombudsman's office in facilitating fair enforcement and protecting the rights of honest taxpayers throughout the process.

# National Grid Company and LUMS Energy Institute host National Consultative Workshop

#### **Example 2** Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Grid Company of Pakistan (NGC), formerly NTDC in collaboration with the LUMS Energy Institute, successfully convened the National Consultative Workshop on the Power Sector Indigenization Roadmap at LUMS. The high-profile event brought together senior leadership from the power sector, manufacturing industry, regulatory bodies, policymakers and academia to chart a cohesive national strategy for accelerating the localization of Pakistan's electrical power equipment manufacturing ecosystem.

Federal Minister for Energy (Power Division), Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari addressed the workshop through video link and commended the joint initiative, stating, "NGC is the first national entity to implement an approved Indigenization Policy, and its strategic procurement model is already delivering tangible results". He urged WAPDA, DISCOs, KE, and state-owned and private power generation plants to adopt indigenization as a strategic imperative—not as CSR, but as a core procurement principle zation strategy—anchored in policy reform



2023-2027.

Dr. Chaudhry stated, "NGC's indigeni-

aligned with the National Electricity Plan and targeted educational orders—has already saved over USD 10 million in foreign exchange through import substitution."

Muhammad Waseem Younas, outlined the tangible progress under the Indigenization Policy. Since 2022, NGC has placed over PKR 2 billion in local orders, including PKR 781 million in educational orders aimed at building industrial capacity.

The workshop featured a distinguished panel of institutional leaders, including Dr. Tahir Masood, Chairman BOD, IESCO; Engr. Abid Latif Lodhi, MD, PPMC; Syed Moonis Abdullah Alvi, CEO, K-Electric; Dhanpat Kotak, Chairman BOD, NPPMC; and Mian Suhail Husain, former BOD member, EDB, among other senior representatives from regulatory institutions and industry. The discussions addressed bottlenecks to localization across the generation, transmission, and distribution value chain, and explored enabling policies for the manufacturing sector.

Dr. Tariq Jadoon, Provost, LUMS, added, "LUMS stands committed as a national platform for evidence-based policymaking, innovation, and industry transformation." Dr. Naveed Arshad, Director, LUMS Energy Institute and BoD Member, NGC, noted, "LEI is helping to reimagine energy localization Managing Director NGC, Engr. through interdisciplinary R&D."

#### Interactive Session

Ambassador (R) Farukh Amil, Chairperson IPO-Pakistan held an interactive session on Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge (GR & TK) at KIU, Gilgit.



## Resolution Passed to Extend Tenure of FPCCI Office Bearers by One Year

**Example 2** Commerce Desk

KARACHI: A joint meeting of the Executive and General Body of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) was held under the chairmanship of FPCCI President Atif Ikram Sheikh. During the meeting, a resolution was unanimously passed to extend the tenure of the current office bearers by one year.

The resolution was presented by FPCCI Vice President Qurat-ul-Ain. According to the resolution, if the elections of FPCCI are not extended by one year, the election schedules of chambers across the country and FPCCI will become unsynchronized, leading to persistent issues during every election cycle.

Atif Ikram Sheikh further stated that there is an existing anomaly in the National Assembly, where the term for chambers and trade organizations has been set at two years, but the matter of the Federation has been left unaddressed. If the National Assembly and the Cabinet approve a one-year extension in FPCCI elections, the entire system will become permanently aligned.



Patron-in-Chief S. M. Tanveer, along with members from the federal level and all four provinces. The recent achievements of the Pakistan Armed Forces against India were strongly appreciated, and praise was also extended to the political leadership.

The meeting also discussed the issues faced by the business community, and members were briefed on the steps

The meeting was attended by UBG taken by the Federation. The resolution to extend the tenure of the current office bearers by one year was unanimously approved. Members of the Executive and General Body expressed full confidence in the leadership of FPCCI President.

In addition, FPCCI Vice President Amaan Paracha expressed satisfaction over the unanimous approval of the resolution to extend the tenure of FPCCI office bearers by one year.

### **Shahid Imran called** for robust incentives to enhance Pakistan's food exports globally

**Commerce Desk** 

LAHORE: Shahid Imran, Convener Regional Committee on Food of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers (FPCCI), Sunday called for robust incentives to enhance Pakistan's food exports glob-

In a statement here today, he emphasized the urgent need for supportive government policies, infrastructure improvements, and export subsidies to compete in international markets. Pakistan holds significant potencially in value-added prod-supplier, he concluded.

ucts, but lacks the incentives necessary to expand its global footprint. "With proper support in forthcoming annual budget Pakistan can greatly increase its of Commerce and Industry food export volume and earn valuable foreign exchange," he added.

He also urged the government to facilitate exporters through streamlined regulations, enhanced research and development, and international marketing support. Imran highlighted that tapping into new markets and ensuring quality standards could position Pakitial in the food sector, espe- stan as a leading global food

#### Pakistan's automotive sector under threat: Iftikhar Malik sounds alarm



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry former President Iftikhar Ali Malik Sunday urged the government to withdraw the proposed 15 percent customs duty to protect the indigenous auto industry.

Talking here today to a delegation of Pakistan Association of Automotive Parts and Accessories Manufacturers (PAAPAM) the popular octogenarian trade leader of South Asia, he said worldwide all countries protect their industries and never levy taxes detrimental to the growth of their local industries. He voiced his concerns that this duty will severely impact the indigenous automotive parts industry, increase production costs, and undermine the competitiveness of local

manufacturers. He emphasized that the proposed duty contradicts the government's goal of promoting industrial growth and localization. Instead of fostering development, the new tax regime risks reversing years of progress by making locally produced parts more expensive and less attractive to assemblers.

Iftikhar Ali Malik highlighted that the local industry, which supports thousands of jobs and contributes significantly to Pakistan's economy, relies heavily on specific imported raw materials not available locally. Imposing additional duties will create an artificial cost burden, forcing manufacturers to scale down operations. He urged policymakers to reconsider this move seriously and work collaboratively with industry stakeholders to develop a sustainable, growth-oriented policy. Immediate withdrawal of the proposed duty is essential to safeguard local production, preserve employment, and ensure the long-term viability of Pakistan's automotive sector.

## Livoltek Unveils Advanced Solar and EV Charging Solutions at ISEM 2025 in Lahore

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD:-Livoltek, a leading provider of smart solar energy solutions, has a strong presence today at the 10th ISEM Pakistan Solar Exhibition, held at the Expo Centre Lahore from May 23-25, 2025. The company drew significant attention on the opening day as it showcased its best-selling residential, commercial, and industrial solar product lineup, built to support Pakistan's transition to clean, reliable energy.

Visitors to Livoltek's booth are exploring its robust off-grid inverters, including the dependable GF1-3K624S2 (3.6kW) and the high-capacity GF1-6K24S3 (6.2kW), both

with weak or no grid access. The grid-tied GT series, 6kW - 125 kW, continues to generate interest among installers and EPCs for its efficiency and seamless integration in largescale commercial applications.

Livoltek's hybrid solutions are also highlighted, featuring the HP3 Series (ranging from 10kW to 30kW) and the iPower HES-6000 6kW-10 kW, IP-66 Low Voltage Single Phase Hybrid Inverter series (6kW, 8kW, 10kW, 12kW) known for intelligent power management that ensures smooth energy flow between solar, battery,

The BLF-B51100 (51.2V, 100Ah)-IP21 and

designed for uninterrupted power in areas BLF51-100 (51.2V, 100Ah)-IP65, BLF24-100 (24V, 100Ah)-IP65 lithium battery models, along with the high-voltage stackable battery system, are drawing attention for their high cycle life, safety, and compact design, suitable for both homes and businesses.

Max Maa, Director Sales at Livoltek, commented on the exhibition kickoff: "We are excited to engage directly with Pakistan's solar professionals and energy users here at

Livoltek's solutions are already making a meaningful impact across the country—from powering homes in remote areas to enabling large-scale commercial projects—and we're here to strengthen those partnerships.



# Pak Navy to receive special tribute during PSL final in Lahore

LAHORE: To celebrate the Pak forces that humbled India in Operation Bunyan-un-Marsoos, the Pakistan Navy will be formally honoured during the innings break of the Pakistan Super League Season 10 final at Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium today.

According to the details: similar ceremonies earlier paid tribute to the Pakistan Army and Air Force.

President Asif Ali Zardari arrived from Islamabad to attend the championship match and the Navy tribute. He will spend three days in Lahore and stay tonight at the Governor's House.

The grand finale—scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Pakistan time—pits the Quetta Gladiators against the Lahore Qalandars. Should rain intervene, a reserve day has been set for 26 May.

The champion will collect a prize of US\$500,000, while the runners-up will receive US\$200,000.

Lahore clinched the last playoff berth, yet they convincingly defeated Quetta by 79 runs in the teams' first league encounter; the return match was washed



Across nine PSL seasons, the two sides tonight's decider finely poised. have met nineteen times, winning nine

games apiece with one no result, leaving a heartfelt naval salute on the card, fans

are counting down the minutes to one With silverware, national pride, and of the most anticipated nights of the

## M. Alam of Garrison wins Third President PGA Professional Golf Tournament

**Tahir Amin Malik** 

LAHORE: The Third President PGA Professional Golf Championship came to a thrilling conclusion, at the Defense Raya Golf Course, Lahore.

The ultimate winner, Mohammad Alam of Lahore Garrison Golf Club, surprised all including the participants, by bringing in a final score of 66, 6 Under Par and an aggregate of 211.

M. Alam was not playing in the final flight because of his poor score. In fact the final flight comprised of players and champions like Ahmed Baig, Muhammad Munir and Muhammad

But, the ultimate winner, M. Alam, had different plans. He played like a champion and every aspect of his game was just perfect!

As a result, when the play ended, he turned out to be the winner, with a score of 71 on the First Day, 74 on the Second Day and an exciting 66 on the Final Day of play.

All compliments to him for putting up with brilliance. While he won the championship, players like Ahmed Baig and Muhammad Munir had to be content Club. The all scored 223 points each. a score of 149. Muhammad Javed of Golf Association, gave away the prizes to with the second position. Their scores Some more participants who played Lahore Gymkhana, came third, with a the top performers.



72, 68, 74 and 69,72,74 on each respective day of play.

The third position went to Ashiq Hussain of Multan with a score of 219. As for the other participants, Muhammad Shahzad of Lahore Garrison Golf Club, came 5th with a score of 220. Others who played well are Kashif Masih, Mudassir Ighal and Shahid Pervaiz of Quetta Golf

well are: Matloob Ahmed of Lahore Garrison Golf Club and M. Nagas of Margalla Greens.

As for the competition, in Senior Professionals category, Muhammad Naseer of Defense Raya won with a Gymkhana came second with a score a score of 152. of 149. Also in second place was Muhammad Tariq of Islamabad, with

In the Junior Professionals race, Muhammad Sahil of Peshawar Golf Club came first, with a score of 146. In second position was Muhammad Ashaas of Islamabad, with a score of 151. Rehan score of 147. Tahir Naseem of Lahore Babar of Lahore Garrison, was third with

> At the conclusion of the tournament, t. Gen. Abdul Aziz. President of Puniab

#### Rustam-e-Pakistan contender survives gun attack in Gujranwala



**Example 2** Correspondent

GUJRANWALA: Renowned wrestler Adnan Tairanwala Pehalwan, who recently clinched victory in the semi-final of the prestigious Rustam-e-Pakistan title, miraculously escaped unhurt after an armed attack in Gujranwala.

According to the First Information Report (FIR), the incident occurred in the Mandiala Warraich area under the jurisdiction of the Cantonment Police Station.

A large crowd had gathered to congratulate Adnan Tairanwala on his victory when suddenly, gunfire erupted.

Two unidentified individuals, reportedly affiliated with a rival group, opened fire on him, sparking panic among the attendees.

Adnan Tairanwala, recounting the incident, stated that he survived the attack without injury. He accused individuals named Ashfaq and Zahid, along with two unidentified men, of orchestrating the assault.

Adnan Tairanwala further revealed that tensions between the two groups had escalated after a previous altercation, which he believes motivated the attack.

Despite the intensity of the firing, no injuries were reported. Law enforcement authorities have launched an investigation into the matter, and efforts are underway to apprehend the suspects.

#### Babar Masih downs Pankaj in Asia-Oceania Q event



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Babar Masih is through to the final round of Asia-Oceania Q School event two in Bangkok following a 4-1 victory over Pankaj Advani.

According to information, Masih had already knocked out the likes of Tian Pengfei and Peng Yisong and his 4-1 defeat of Advani, highlighted by a break of 74 in the fourth frame, leaves the 38-year-old one more win away from a place on the World

This victory is a proud moment for Pakistan, which has produced world-class snooker talent, including Muhammad Asif, Hamza Akbar, Haris Tahir, and Asjad Iqbal, all of whom have represented the nation at the highest level of professional snooker.

## Shoaib wins Federal Cup National Tennis C'ships title

**Sports Desk** 

ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Shoaib bagged the men's title of the 37th OGDCL Federal Cup National Rank- and 58 minutes. Shoaib claimed victory ing Tennis Championships here at the PTF-SDA Tennis Complex.

This year's tournament featured over 120 players competing across six categories including Men's Singles & Doubles, Ladies' Singles, Boys' U18 Singles, Boys' U14 Singles, and Girls' U12 Singles. A among winners and runners-up as prize money and travel allowances.

In a thrilling showdown, 23-year-old

top seed Muhammad Shoaib of PAF successfully defended his title against Muzammil Murtaza in an exhilarating three-set battle that lasted over 2 hours with scores of 7-6(6), 2-6, 6-4.

Muzammil started strong, breaking Shoaib early and taking a 3-0 lead. However, Shoaib quickly adjusted his strategy, breaking back in the fifth game and forcing a tiebreak after both players held serve. In the tiebreak, Shoaib's early total of PKR 850,000 was distributed mini-break and consistent pressure earned him a hard-fought 8-6 win in the first set.

The second set saw Muzammil



bounce back with renewed focus, breaking Shoaib's serve in the 4th and 6th games to level the match with a 6-2

In the deciding set, both players showcased exceptional baseline rallies and strategic cross-court play, reaching 4-4.

mance, breaking Muzammil's serve in the ninth game with powerful down-theline winners. He maintained his composure while serving for the match, forcing unforced errors from his opponent and sealing the final set 6-4.

The enthralling final was officiated by ITF White Badge Umpire Husnain Mehmood, ensuring a high standard

of officiating. Earlier in the day, in the Junior 18 & Under Singles Final, Muhammad Salar emerged as the champion, defeating promising Islamabad youngster M. Hazik Aasim in a competitive straight-

the growing depth of talent in Pakistan's junior tennis ranks, with both players displaying impressive skill and compo-

Although Ahmad Havat Lak. Managing Director of OGDCL, and Ch. Muhammad Aslam, Managing Director of Air Blue, were unable to attend the final due to urgent official engagements, the prize distribution ceremony was graced by distinguished guests.

Muhammad Shafik, Director Commercial - Air Blue, Majid Bashir, President of the Islamabad Tennis Association, and Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi,

President of the Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF), attended as Guests of Honor and distributed trophies and prizes to the winners and runners-up. Additionally, M. T. Cheema, Secretary of the Islamabad Tennis Association, and Ahsan Raza Zaidi also took part in presenting awards and acknowledging the players' commendable perfor-

Men's Singles Final: Muhammad Shoaib beat Muzammil Murtaza 7-6(6), 2-6, 6-4.

Junior 18&Under Singles Final: Muhammad Salar beat M. Hazik Aasim

### Lahore Qalandars thump Quetta Gladiators to clinch PSL title for third time

#### Kusal Perera and Sikandar Raza guide Qalandars to big victory in high-voltage PSL fight

After defeating the Quetta Gladiators, Lahore Qalandars lifted Pakistan Super League (PSL) trophy for the third time, becoming the only second team to achieve this milestone after Islamabad United.

In a thrilling chase of 202 runs, Lahore Qalandars began aggressively with Mohammad Naeem and Fakhar Zaman laying a strong foundation. The duo put together a 39-run opening partnership, setting the tone for the innings.

However, the partnership was broken when Fakhar was dismissed by Abrar Ahmed after scoring just 11 runs off 10 balls, including two boundaries.

Abdullah Shafique then joined Naeem at the crease, and the pair quickly accelerated, hitting boundaries and building a crucial

second-wicket partnership. The 26-year-old was in fiery form as he approached his PSL to an end courtesy of Faheem past 10.

The opening batter scored a valuable 47 runs off 27 deliveries, featuring a boundary and six sixes. His dismissal ended the important 46-run stand, with the team positioned at 85 for 2 after

Abdullah Shafique continued to impress, forging a 30-run partnership with Kusal Perera, who also contributed important runs with his eyes set on surpassing the target.

The partnership was eventually broken by Usman Tariq, who dismissed Shafique. Shafique played a fiery knock of 41 runs off 28 balls, including four boundaries and a six, with the team at 115 for 3 in 12.3 overs.

Bhanuka Perera and Rajapaksa were scoring runs but came under pressure as Quetta Gladiators' formidable bowling restricted them with dot balls, 10 fifty, but his innings came pushing the required run rate

In the 17th over, Mohammad Amir picked up his first wicket, dismissing Rajapaksa, who scored 14 off 16, leaving the side at 145-4 in 16.4 overs.

Sikandar Raza came to the crease and started hitting boundaries off Mohammad Amir's back-to-back deliveries, easing the pressure with 47 runs needed off 18 balls.

On the other hand, it was Perera with the bat who was easing the pressure on the team's shoulders by notching up a brilliant fifty off 28 deliveries.

With just 13 overs remaining in the final over, Sikandar Raza hit the winning runs with a four and a six to seal the win with one delivery remaining.

After winning the toss and electing to bat first, Quetta suffered an early setback as captain Saud Shakeel was dismissed by Qalandars' skipper and left-arm pacer Shaheen Afridi for just fours runs off six

balls, leaving the Gladiators at 17-1 in 2.4 overs. Quetta's troubles continued in

the next over when Salman Mirza removed Finn Allen for 12 off 11 deliveries, putting the side under early pressure.

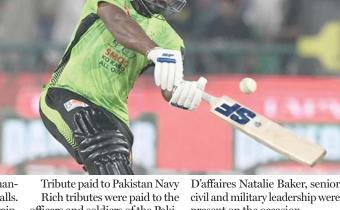
However, a 38-run partnership between Rilee Rossouw and Hasan Nawaz steadied the

Rossouw looked dangerous, but his stay was cut short by Sikandar Raza, who made an immediate impact by dismissing him for a quickfire 22 off just 11 balls. At that stage, Quetta were 58-3 in 6.2 overs.

Fernando was dismissed for 29 off 22 balls by Rishad Hossain, who claimed his first wicket with the score at 125-4 in 12.5 overs.

Dinesh Chandimal then joined Nawaz and provided valuable support, striking two sixes off Sikandar Raza in the 17th over to propel the score to 170-4. Shaheen Afridi returned to halt the charge, removing Chandimal for a brisk 22 off 13 balls. Two balls later, he struck again, dismissing the well-set Hasan Nawaz for a brilliant 76 off 43 deliveries, reducing Quetta to 172-6 in 17.5 overs. However, Faheem Ashraf

played a vital cameo in the final over, smashing 28 off just eight balls, including multiple boundaries, to help Quetta breach the 200-run mark. He was dismissed on the final delivery of the



officers and soldiers of the Pakistan Navy in the innings break during the PSL X final.

A special ceremony marked by performances by renowned singers like Abrar Ahmed Pakistan Naval force. The ceremony was attended by Chief of Ashraf, Federal Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, US embassy Islamabad Charge

civil and military leadership were present on the occasion. Chairman Pakistan Cricket

Board (PCB) Mohsin Naqvi welcomed the distinguished guests at the Gaddafi stadium.

The stadium resonated with showed solidarity with the celebratory slogans while green and white flags of Pakistan created a patriotic atmosphere the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed in filled to capacity stadium. The spectators praised the valor and professionalism and readiness of the Pak Navy.

## The Spokesman

#### Inauguration

LAHORE: Chairman Senate Yousaf Raza Gilani inaugurating the ISEM Expo B2B 2025 on Sunday.



## Dar, Uzbek FM discuss railway project and regional cooperation

**E** City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) and Foreign Minister, Senator Ishaq Dar, held a significant telephone conversation today with Saidov Bakhtiyor Odilovich, is expected to enhance trade, the Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan, on Sunday.

According the tries 24NewsHD TV channel, the discussion centred around the existing bilateral relations between Pakistan and Uzbekistan, with a particular focus development. on the Uzbekistan-Afghani-

stan-Pakistan Railway Line

Both leaders expressed optimism about the early finalisation of the framework agreement for the regional connectivity initiative, which transport, and strategic cooperation among the three coun-

The proposed railway line is seen as a critical step toward facilitating efficient regional integration and economic



exchanged views on the for collective progress. broader regional situation, underlining the importance Dar paid a visit to the revered The two ministers also of stability and collaboration shrine of Hazrat Data Ganj

Earlier in the day, Senator

Bakhsh (RA) in Lahore. He offered prayers and reviewed the ongoing reconstruction and renovation work at the site. During the visit, he directed relevant officials to ensure the timely completion of the work in accordance with the approved plans and technical standards.

Following these engagements, the Deputy Prime Minister departed from Lahore to Turkiye, accompanying Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif as part of the premier's official multi-nation tour.

## Peshawar: Dozens of vehicles destroyed as fire erupts at excise warehouse

**Example 2** Commerce Desk

PESHAWAR: A massive fire broke out at the Excise Department's warehouse near the Toll Plaza in Peshawar, reducing dozens of seized vehicles to responded swiftly, and after hours of effort, the blaze was successfully extinguished.

According to the Rescue under control.

1122 spokesperson, the fire started suddenly and quickly engulfed the entire warehouse. Thick plumes of smoke were visible from a distance, causing panic in the surrounding area.

Four fire vehicles and an ashes. Rescue 1122 teams ambulance were dispatched to the scene, and the firefighting before the flames were brought



reported, the fire caused the operation lasted several hours complete destruction of vehi-initiated. cles worth millions of rupees.

While no casualties were unknown, and an investigation into the incident has been

Sources in the Excise The cause of the fire remains Department revealed that the

legal cases and were being held pending court or administra-

## Over 8,000 police personnel deployed for PSL X final, says IG Punjab

**Bureau Report** 

LAHORE: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Dr Usman Anwar on Sunday said that over 8,000 police officers and personnel have been deployed for the final match of the Pakistan Super League (PSL X) between Lahore Qalandars and Quetta Gladiators as part of comprehensive security arrangements.

According to the Punjab police spokesperson, the IGP has directed authorities to ensure comprehensive security measures for both local and international players, officials and cricket fans during the match.

Dr Usman emphasized that supervisory officers will personally review all arrangements related to security, traffic management and general safety during the match.

vigilant, with a sharp eye on everyone involved," said Dr.



any suspicious activities. "We have adopted a more

personnel stationed at duty the PSL matches, ensuring points should remain highly a safer environment for

Usman, lauding the efforts the successful coordination of the Lahore, Rawalpindi between district administra-He stressed that police advanced security strategy for and Multan police for main- tions, security agencies and Force teams will conduct taining peace during previous relevant institutions, which targeted patrols around key

has contributed to the seamless

Dolphin Squad, Police Response Units and Elite routes, the stadium and

The IGP also highlighted execution of the PSL events. surrounding areas. Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi

# DG ISPR says 'Afghan elite' receiving money from India for giving refuge to terrorists



跨 City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Calling the people of Afghanistan brothers, DG ISPR Lt General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry on Sunday accused the 'Afghan gentry' of giving refuge to terrorists in lieu of money received from the Indian government.

Speaking to over 2,500 students from different universities of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), who held a special sitting with him, he urged Afghanistan not to play into the hands of India.

The DG ISPR said the time had come for Kashmir's independence. He further said that India was under the impression that Pakistan might not defend itself as there existed a gulf between its people and the armed forces. "But the nation, by standing with their armed forces, proved the enemy wrong," he said, and added, "This was a strategic

miscalculation on the part of India."

always been like this and would remain so.

Lt Gen Chaudhry made it clear to India that if it attacked Pakistan again, the latter's response would be even tougher.

"We decided to attack 26 sites in India," the DG said, adding that the Pakistan Air Force destroyed those air bases from where the Indian Air Force's jets flew to kill innocent Pakistani men, women and chil-

"Likewise, we destroyed the brigade headquarters on whose orders shells were dropped on Muzaffarabad and which had resulted in the martyrdom of a seven-year-old Irtaza.'

Carrying national flags in their hands, the students shouted slogans of 'Pakistan hamesha zindabad' and 'Kashmir bane ga Pakistan.'

The Pakhtun students, on the occasion, vowed that they would not spare the enemies of the country and Pakistanis, he went on to say, had inflict a humiliating defeat on them.

### Hafiz Kareem elected **Ameer of Jamiat Ahle** Hadees unopposed

**№** City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Hafiz Abdul Kareem has been elected as Ameer of Jamiat Ahle Hadees unopposed on Sunday. Hafiz Abdul Kareem was elected new Ameer unanimously by

members of party's Mailis-e-Shura after the death of Prof Sajid Mir. Voting for the election of the new ameer was held at the Ahle Hadees Markaz in Lahore. More than 600

members of the Central Shura Council from all four provinces, including Gilgit-Baltistan, attended the meeting. The election process was completed under the supervision of the chairman of the election board, Dr Abdul Ghafoor. After the election, Hafiz Abdul

Kareem took oath of his office. Hafiz Abdul Kareem was elected Nazim Ala for five consecutive time.

Addressing press conference, new Ameer thanked Majlis Shura and Jamiat members to reposing trust on his leadership. Hafiz Abdul Kareem respect of madrasas and scholars in pledged that he would continue the country.



to work for the party leaders and members.

He also thanked PML-N Quaid Nawaz Sharif for offering him Senate ticket.

On the occasion, he lauded security forces for foiling Indian aggression. He vowed that being head of the Jamiat, he will struggle for restoration of democracy and Sharia in the country. New Ameer stressed that he will protect the honor and

### Govt launches anti-polio drive to vaccinate 45m children across country

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The countrywide anti-polio campaign of varied duration will commence from Monday (today).

During the campaign, over 45

million children under the age five would be administered anti-polio drops.

Prime Minister's Focal Person for Polio Eradication Ayesha Raza Farooq

inaugurated

the campaign in Islamabad. Speaking on the occasion, she said that eradication of polio is our

national duty and commitment. She extended deep gratitude to the 400,000 frontline workers driving this campaign including 225,000 female vaccinators.

Earlier, two new cases of the wild poliovirus were detected in the country's northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, bringing the tally of 2025 cases to 10.

National Institute of Health had confirmed two new cases of wild poliovirus in District Lakki Marwat and District Bannu. The total number of confirmed

The Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio Eradication at the



polio cases in Pakistan in 2025 has risen to 10, five from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, four from Sindh, and one from Puniab.

Meanwhile, Federal Health Minister Syed Mustafa Kamal expressed concern over the rising number of poliovirus cases being reported from Sindh, directing authorities to submit a detailed report on the number of families refusing to get their children vacci-

# Removing Regulatory Duties on Instant Coffee Imports-A Brew for Economic Growth

**Arisha Asif** 

akistan stands at the point of a unique opportunity unlock the potential of a fast-growing global market: coffee. Despite a burgeoning middle class and a rising demand for specialty beverages, the country's coffee industry remains stunted, held back not by lack of demand, but by outdated and burdensome import duties.

Under SRO 840(I)/2021, enacted in June 2021, the import of instant coffee, even in raw bulk form, faces disproportionately high taxes. Finished coffee prod-

raw material such as instant coffee is subject to a punitive 28% total duty comprising a 15% Regulatory Duty (RD) and a 2% Additional Customs Duty (ACD).

In comparison, tea, the country's staple hot beverage, is subject to only 13% in import duties. This uneven treatment places coffee at a significant disadvantage, limiting consumer choice and stifling sectoral growth.

However, there is now a compelling case to align coffee import policy with broader economic and trade reform agendas. According to the National Tariff Policy, specifically para 6.3 sub-paras (iii), ucts are taxed at rates between (iv), and (v), duties on raw

production and value addition should be rationalized. Removing the RD and ACD on instant coffee imports would be a step fully in line with this policy direction.

Lower Costs, Greater Access The most immediate impact

of removing these duties would be a reduction in costs for local businesses. Importers and manufacturers sourcing bulk instant coffee would benefit from lower input costs, encouraging more investment in the domestic coffee value chain. Lower prices can, in turn, be passed on to consumers, making coffee more accessible to a broader population.

This cost reduction would

variety of coffee products at competitive prices, driving both consumption and innovation. It's not just about making coffee cheaper-it's about building a sustainable and scalable market. **Catalyst for Investment and Job** Creation

Lower import duties can also trigger a wave of investment in local processing, packaging, and distribution infrastructure. By making raw material more affordable, companies would be incentivized to set up local manufacturing units. This not only creates employment but also brings in new skills and technol-

The coffee sector, currently in

potential to develop into a significant contributor to the food and beverage industry. With proper policy support, it could mirror the transformation seen in other consumer goods sectors over the past decade.

**Broader Economic and Fiscal Gains** 

Some might argue that reducing duties would mean revenue losses for the government. However, the reverse is more likely to be true. As the sector grows, the government stands to gain from a broader tax base, increased corporate activity, and job creation. Growth in the formal economy almost always offsets initial drops in tariff

youth population and shifting consumption trends suggest that coffee will continue to rise in popularity. Removing unnecessary import duties now would be a proactive move to shape this growth rather than react to it later. **Export Potential and Global Competitiveness** 

Reduced duties on imported avenues for value-added exports. Ready-to-drink coffee beverages, instant coffee mixes, and flavored products could find markets in the Middle East, Central Asia. could use Pakistan as a base for

tional sectors.

The removal of Regulatory **Duty and Additional Customs** Duty on bulk instant coffee imports is not just a tax reform, it's a strategic economic opportunity. It would lower input costs, encourage investment, increase consumer access, and potentially even boost exports. More importantly, it would signal that Pakiinstant coffee could also open stan is ready to embrace modern consumption trends and align its tariff policies with long-term industrial goals.

The government must act now to foster a thriving, inclusive coffee and beyond. Local manufacturers market that serves both domestic consumers and international regional exports, enhancing our markets. It's time to give coffee competitiveness in non-tradi- the policy support it deserves.

## The Language of Diplomacy: How Words Shape Conflict and Peace in the Middle East

how they say it are important in the world of diplomacy. The terms used by leaders, in diplomatic meetings and for describing struggles and those involved can affect how react and help guide the course of emergencies. There is nowhere this is more noticeable than in the Middle East — a place that has often been amid fighting and peacemaking and where diplomacy is important. As violence reached new levels in Gaza in May 2025, the importance of using diplomatic language in peacekeeping came again to the fore.

Many times, chosen words in diplomacy ensure that a dispute does not get worse without purpose. It is possible to use it to seem kind, to rebuke a decision, to call for a conversation or to signal possible trouble. Because governments, organizations and media carefully scrutinize every statement in the Middle East, language acts as both a means to make deals and a way to weaken oppo-

Words like "terrorist," "freedom fighter," "genocide," and "self-defense" can strongly affect the view since Israel deserved to keep complete that members of various countries control over Gaza after the fighting take about a conflict. The way action ended. The language expressed Israis referred to, either as a strike or as a el's military goal and delivered a political mission, matters in how the audience warning to people near its borders and

of a terrorist network to gain or lose the world's support.

Recent Example of The Gaza Crisis 2025 is the rocket attack on Israeli citizens in May 2025, the Israeli military carried out serious airstrikes in Gaza. people think, affect how other countries In response, important doors were opened by the international media, various governments and humani-

> Both sides make statements to describe their views, dissociate themselves from

blame and request the support of other places in the world.

tarian groups. The responses of other leaders were quite diverse in how they were written and what tone was used.

The Israeli Prime Minister said the airstrikes were needed for the country's safety and self-defense. The politician said the attack was justified understands it. Just as you can refer to to world leaders: Israel will not accept

oth what countries say and the resistance as a movement instead any threats close to its borders.

However, Palestinian officials along with humanitarian agencies considered things to be a "disaster for people" and a form of "attacking civilian areas without discrimination." The purpose of these events was to make people across the globe feel sadness for what Palestinians

go through. United Nations representatives said the situation was rapidly becoming a major humanitarian problem, without apportioning blame but suggesting an urgent de-escalation. language

**Afnan Malik** terms conflict demonstrates that language plays a big role in point to how they try to act in ways that shaping the story of wars. Both sides make statements to describe their views, dissociate themselves from blame and request the support of other places in

International and official statements about events are very important in influencing both what the public thinks and what governments decide. In 2025, Western media companies such as BBC, CNN and Al Jazeera used different expressions to explain what took place in Gaza and their headlines varied from "Israel Attacks Hamas Targets" to "Israeli Airstrikes Kill Several

reporting events can influence the way move forward. A big aspect of negotipeople view those events and the actions their governments could adopt.

Foreign governments choose their language carefully in making diplomatic remarks. Israel's close partners, for example the United States, generally address concerns about casualties

from both the conflict and protect Israel's actions to defend itself. Alternatively, countries such as Turkey and Qatar call what Israel does "massacres" or "a violation of international law." Different techniques in language used by governments

serve both their national concerns and humanitarian interests.

Most negotiations require people to use clear and polite words. The way agreements are worded at Middle Eastern peace talks often affect a country's willingness to accept or reject the agreement. Every term—"ceasefire," "truce," "temporary suspension of hostilities," and "permanent peace agreement"-has its own definition.

In most cases, a ceasefire means battle actions are slowed but the main issues are not fully resolved. With a truce, both groups get the time they need in the Gaza Strip." The path taken in to find ways to act differently as they

ation involves choosing how to speak and write, since one minor change can affect any party's point of view.

Both sides in the Gaza conflict have shown many times how easily these talks can fall apart. Different wording in the ceasefire was an obstacle to progress at the recent meetings organized by Egypt and the United Nations.

It is clear from the recent Gaza unrest that how we speak can either start more

fighting or encourage peace. As time goes on, language will keep playing a major and influential role in the area's diplomatic activities.

Israel hoped that the ceasefire would ensure security going forward, so Hamas asked for Gaza's blockade to be removed permanently. Simply not being able to decide on terms of peace kept the fighting going, showing just how important language is for peace and disagreements.

Diplomacy is given greater weight

in Middle Eastern politics than it is generally elsewhere. The way foreign policy is discussed often depends on the language being used. When a group is called a terrorist organization, nations are likely to act forcefully, whereas acknowledging that group as a resistance group could attract help and answers from other countries.

Politicians may change how people feel about them by what they publicly say. Drawing attention to issues that upset people frequently leads to nationalism and makes calmness difficult for everyone. Addressing people equally with how we speak encourages others to share their views.

In the Middle East, there is constant tension between conflict and the attempt at diplomacy. Because the environment is complicated, diplomacy's words shape international responses, direct support from countries and impact peace negotiation outcomes. It is clear from the recent Gaza unrest that how we speak can either start more fighting or encourage peace. As time goes on, language will keep playing a major and influential role in the area's diplomatic activities.

The author is a student of International Relations at the National Defense University, Islamabad, and can be contacted at afnanmalik283@

### The Pen Heals What the **Sword Cannot**

#### **Eushaib Ahmed**

ince the beginning, our story has shown two powerful influences working to destroy and to create. The sword is dangerous & works very quickly. Though gentle, writing with a pen is very effective. Instead of the sword, the pen played the key role in forming our future in Pakistan..

From its founding, words have had more influence than even our strongest weapons. Besides fighting, the formation of Pakistan was shaped by the great ideas of thinkers like Allama Igbal. His poem acted as more than art; it urged people to bring about change. He desired a country where Muslims could live without problems in Asia. Even though his dreams were not achieved in his lifetime... His words encouraged all the people around us.

Instead of fighting battles, Muhammad Ali Jinnah usually addressed Pakistan's problems with his writing. The successful political movement that led to Pakistan was

weapons for victory; he won with his kindness, regular learning & underwords, laws and reasoning. Battles may be won by swords, but only the pen can help grow a nation that will

Problems remained after Pakistan was established. In hard times, writers, poets and journalists kept the truth from being shut down while leaders frightened people with threats. Faiz Ahmed Faiz's poems inspired people even while he was in jail. Even when it was dangerous, Habib Jalib spoke what was real. They expressed the thoughts of the people most others tried to ban. They

brought relief to the nation's sorrow. Technology can do harm, but education through writing allows us to learn more. Killing people destroys societies, whereas writing unites people. In Pakistan, poets and writers from different walks of life have come together through their stories. Many, like Bano Qudsia and Saadat Hasan Manto, wrote about the anguish of Partition without any anger or bias.

Nowadays, we have to deal with so many uncertainties, fake stories and conflicts that it often appears that force is where true power lies. Yet guided by his powerful speeches and history proves that ideas are the main courageous ideas. He didn't rely on source of true power. Introducing

standing free thoughts are the better alternatives to resorting to violence. Reading and writing in schools, along with the lessons in books and on the internet, support our efforts to fight hate and build peace.

Pakistan did not achieve victory over terrorism only by using guns. Teachers, writers and activists helped stop the terrorist organization by encouraging people to think differently, Malala Yousafzai responded to her attack without resorting to violence. She grabbed her pen. What she said had strong meaning and filled people's lives with hope.

The information we write on paper can also correct the errors in our past. It helps us learn about ourselves and what we might grow into. Pakistan's people have often found comfort, wisdom & guidance in writing. It may not produce a roar like a sword, yet we move ahead through our speech and not through violence which is the

Words can affect every part of the mind, but bullets only end what words can help give meaning to.

Eushaib Ahmed, a student of bachelors at National Defence University.

## New regional order

#### Zain Yaqoob

he incident in Pahalgam occurred on April 22, 2025, in which three terrorists opened fire. resulting in the deaths of twenty-six men. As always, India blamed Pakistan for the attack, just as it did in Pulwama and other previous attacks. To make matters worse, the Indian media exaggerated the incident to such an extent that both the military and political leadership came under public pressure, launching an air and drone war against Pakistan, which they named "Operation Sindoor." In particular, Major Gaurav openly challenged Pakistan on every TV show, daring them to strike military sites if

they had the courage. Pakistan's Prime Minister and political leadership offered an independent investigation and strongly condemned the incident in order to avoid any possible escalation. But the itch doesn't go away until it is scratched. On the evening of May 7, India carried out fourteen attacks—nine of them targeting locations in Azad Kashmir and various cities within Pakistan.

Along with France's modern Rafale jets. One prominent move in this entire scenario was the suspension of the Indus Water Treaty. The entire

incident that occurred on April 22 is being labeled a false flag operation suggesting that India wanted to abolish the treaty and establish a new agreement based on its own terms and conditions. In its press release about launching Operation Sandur, India claimed to have targeted terrorist hideouts. However, civilians were affected, including the martyrdom of a threevear-old child. Afterwards, drones were used to try to destroy military infrastructure, prompting Pakistan to launch Operation Banyan Marsous in

The point I want to draw your attention to is BLA's recent statement regarding India. In their statement. they claimed that the BLA is bringing the seventh nuclear state to its knees. They said that if India provides us with political, diplomatic, and military support, the BLA can end the state's dominance. This statement clearly shows that the violent movement in Balochistan has been using vile tactics at the behest of India from the very beginning — something I mentioned in my article "Internal Strife" published in Daily The Spokesman. Undoubtedly, the ceasefire has taken place due to Trump's intervention, but now India will openly direct its war from Balochistan toward Pakistan.

Trump has proposed a solution to the Kashmir issue, but India will

never agree to it, as it would never let go of a region rich in natural resources and water blessings. India will use every tactic to destabilize Pakistan. It will continue violating the ceasefire on the Line of Control (LoC), fuel unrest in Balochistan, and to the extent possible, use Afghanistan for its own objectives. The Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) has expressed its desire to become India's military arm under the plan that India and the BLA would

attack Pakistan from the east and west. What is ironic in all this is that in its press release, the BLA portrays itself as peaceful and progressive and a guarantor of global peace. Even if, for a moment, we assume that Balochistan becomes an independent country, would it truly be a guarantor of global peace? Absolutely not. Even in that case. it would attempt to make life miserable for Pakistan. Therefore, it is time to uproot this cancer completely. Any delay in doing so will allow India to supply its resources to the BLA, inflict internal attacks on Pakistan, and create such economic instability that it becomes easier for India to gain a grip over Pakistan — because in a direct confrontation, India is behind Pakistan.

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## India and Pakistan are at Risk: Why they cannot afford another war

#### **Hassaan Tasawar**

Every few shootout, or the death of an innocent person in Kashmir Jets scramble, accusations fly across borders, and millions of people on both sides of the India-Pakistan divide hold their breath, wondering, is this it? Is this the moment when everything goes

India and Pakistan are at yet another

severed ties through important diplomatic agreements because it believes istory seems to be that Pakistani militant groups were replaying itself at responsible for the attack. Pakistan has reacted with equal vigor after feeling years, a bombing, a cornered and degraded. The outcome? Two neighbors with nuclear weapons. their fists clenched and their trigger triggers the start of another war. fingers itchy, looking down at one

If all of this sounds familiar, it is. We've seen this film before, from Kargil in 1999 to the Balakot strikes in 2019. The fact that there are no longer any safety nets, however, is what makes this moment particularly dreadful. There is perilous juncture as a result of the most hardly any backchannel communicarecent flashpoint, the fatal attack in tion, little diplomacy, and hardly any

Pahalgam earlier this year. India has political will to resolve the issue. And in the midst of everything? regular

People like the Lahore shopkeeper who fears that if war breaks out, he won't be able to provide for his family. The Srinagar student who simply desires a peaceful learning environment. The Line of Control soldier who hopes he won't have to shoot someone who looks exactly like him-the same age, same language, but with a different uniform.

The story's nuclear dimension is its most terrifying element. The bomb is in both India and Pakistan. This has long been known as "mutually assured destruction," a theory that holds that neither side will initiate a

conflict since it would be disastrous From here, where do we go? for both. However, deterrence is only effective when everyone acts sensibly. What happens if a calculation goes wrong? What happens if one side interprets a regular military exercise as an assault? What if nationalism and the need to appear "strong" cause political leaders to make irrevocable decisions?

This goes beyond theory. Pakistan has made it clear that if it feels cornered, it will use nuclear weapons first. India, on the other hand, has abandoned its "No First Use" stance and is now discussing limited conventional strikes. In a region as politically and emotionally charged as South Asia, that is a surefire way to end badly.

Although the solution is not simple, t begins with taking a step back from the brink. Both governments must keep in mind that the lives of more than a billion people are on the line, not just political points or strategic territory. Leadership that prioritizes peace over pride is what we need.

There is also a role for the international community. The world appears to be happy to observe from a distance at the moment. However, India and Pakistan won't be the only victims of a conflict, particularly one involving nuclear weapons. The shockwaves would reverberate throughout the entire region and possibly the entire

And it is up to us, the people, to speak up. Politicians are not the only ones who need to work for peace. Everyone must resist the poisonous narratives that feed this animosity, including journalists, artists, students, and educators. Some families in Delhi weep for the same reasons as those in Karachi. Our greatest hope is that we are all human.

Pakistan and India cannot afford to go to war again. Not right now. Never. Before history is repeated too many times, it is time to end the cycle and ensure that nothing is left for future

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## 10 The Spokesman

## Kashmir dispute remains flashpoint between India and Pakistan, says Azad Kashmir **President**

**Spokesman Report** 

ISLAMABAD: President Azad Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has expressed his profound gratitude to the people and government of Azerbaijan for their steadfast support to Kashmiris' legitimate struggle for right to self determination.

In an exclusive interview to Head of Media and Information Literacy Center of Azerbaijan and Vice Rector of Tele-Radio Academy AZ Television Almaz Mahmood Nasibova here today, the president expressed the optimism that Azerbaijan will continue to play its role to seek an early and amicable settlement of the lingering dispute in line with Kashmiris' wishes and aspirations. Terming India's imperialistic presence in the region as a threat to peace and stability in the region, Barrister Chaudhry said that the



the territory poses an existential threat fighting for the past several decades to achieve their birthday, guaranteed India's illegal and forcible control over to them under multiple UNSC reso-

lutions."The Kashmir issue is one of to Kashmiris, who he said have been the unresolved issues pending on the UN agenda", he said, adding that the lingering dispute has been the bone

India." The threat of war will continue to loom over South Asia unless the Kashmir dispute is addressed in its historical perspective", the president remarked. Barrister Chaudhry hailed Azerbaijan for its all out support to Pakistan during the recent Pakistan-India tensions. He also praised the friendly countries including the US, UK, Saudi Arabia and other countries for their significant role in diffusing tension in the region and facilitating ceasefire between the two nuclear armed nations. He said that India has miserably failed in its attempts aimed at tarnishing Pakistan's image at international level under the guise of false flag operation. He highlighted the Pakistan Army's significant contribution in defending the country's territorial sovereignty and delivering a crushing response to India, which he said has compelled the enemy to lick the dust

### Presenting gift

Azerbaijan delegation led by Alma Mehmood Nasibova head of Information and Literacy Center while concluding visit of Azad Kashmir Raja Sohail District Information Officer presented gift Kashmiri Shawl and Cap at Muzaffarabad capital



## Pakistan's Defense Capability Unbreakable: Muslim Conference President

👺 Abdul Majeed Tahir

RAWALPINDI/GHAZIABAD: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Atiq Ahmed Khan has said that India is in a state of panic after a major defeat. The capture of pilot Kulbhushan is proof that India is involved in terrorism internationally. All political parties and institutions should come together to establish peace in the country. At this time, the nation needs to be united. The unity of the nation is the need of the hour to confront every attack of the enemy. These views were expressed while talking to the media persons at Mujahid-Manzil Rawalpindi. He said that it is as clear as day that India is involved



continuation of lawlessness. There is be a declaration of war. India has once no clause or scope in the Indus Water Treaty to unilaterally terminate or suspend the agreement. The international community will not support the in terrorist activities in Balochistan. illegal and inhumane act of using water India's behavior regarding the Indus as a weapon in any way. Stopping water

Water Treaty is a manifestation of a for a population of 250 million would again resorted to misleading information, deviation and denial. Round talk by India cannot hide the facts. India sponsors terrorism and target killings all over the world, including Pakistan. He said that the statements of the Indi-

statements of the Indian leadership reflect the terrorist thinking of Hindutva, the map of Akhand Bharat in the Indian Parliament indicates hegemonic thinking and nefarious objectives, the Indian leadership's playing the Pakistan card for internal needs and fueling nationalism is a very dangerous tactic, the narrative of hate is being promoted to cover up electoral losses. If India is truly committed to the principles of peace, security and good neighbourliness, it should stop state terrorism, end the oppression of the Kashmiri people, abide by international law, the IN Charter and bilateral agreements, and initiate meaningful negotiations for a peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, as per relevant Security Council resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people.

an leadership are fueling tensions, the

## Dr. Sawera Prakash Emphasizes Importance of Supporting Martyrs' Families

跨 Tariq khan Yousafzai

TAKHT BHAI: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader and former provincial assembly candidate, Dr. Sawera Prakash, hailing from Buner, visited Takhte Bhai to pay tribute to Senior Radar Technician Muhammad Ayaz Shaheed, who was martyred in an Indian attack at Sargodha Airbase. On this occasion, Dr. Sawera Prakash met with the family of the martyr, expressed heartfelt condolences, and declared his sacrifice a matter of great national pride. She also visited Muhammad Ayaz Shaheed's grave, offered prayers (Fatiha), and laid a floral wreath. She was accompanied by her father Dr. Om Prakash, PPP Divisional Infor-



mation Secretary Ibrahim Yousafzai, former candidate and Divisional Vice President Irfan Mohmand, as well as Aslam Khattak, Shaukat Khan Ganjai, and other party officials and workers.

Speaking to the media at the Takht Bhai Press Club, Dr. Sawera Prakash said, Brave individuals like Muhammad Ayaz Shaheed are the true heroes of our nation, who laid down their lives

fices will not go in vain, and the entire nation stands in solidarity with their families in this moment of grief. She emphasized that those guarding the borders of the nation are not just wearing uniforms—they are human beings too. The medals on their chests are testament to their bravery and sacrifices, but within their chests beat hearts that long for their loved ones. These soldiers are someone's sons, husbands, fathers, brothers, and friends. While they stand at the frontlines, their families back home constantly pray for their safety. Their mothers' eyes remain teary, their children's prayers become their shield, and their wives' hearts beat with worry.

to defend the homeland. Their sacri-

## "Jammu and Kashmir Martyrs and Public Rights Conference' hold

Maieed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: The "Jammu and Kashmir Martyrs and Public Rights Conference", which began on Saturday evening in Lal Chowk, Muzaffarabad, the capital of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, under the auspices of Joint Awami Action Committee concluded peacefully on Sunday morning. This conference was attended by public convoys from different districts of Azad Kashmir, who were warmly welcomed by show-



ering flower petals. Local traders and hotel associations provided free accommodation and food to the participants. The participants in the conference protested strongly against inflation, load shedding, elite privileges, corruption, and state insensitivity.

Addressing the conference, Senior leader of Traders Shaukat Nawaz Mir, the central leader of the Joint Action Committee and a member of the core committee, gave the Azad Kashmir government a deadline of June 8 and made it clear that if the committee's demands, which include free education and health, ending elite privileges, eliminating refugee assembly seats, reviewing the refugee quota, and taking action against corruption, were not met, a new phase of the statewide protest movement would be launched.

Shaukat Nawaz Mir strongly rejected Prime Minister Anwarul Haq's allegations of "raw funding" of the protest movement, saying that this allegation was malicious. He said that the movement was being run with public donations and the support of overseas Kashmiris and all its financial details were being shared transparently on social media.

Shaukat Nawaz Mir announced a new 16-point charter of demands, giving the government until June 8 to implement them, which included demands such as free medical treatment, uniform education, elimination of corruption, and the functioning of the international airport. Shaukat Nawaz announced that if the demands were not implemented by June 8, the Joint Action Committee would convene a representative meeting in Mirpur division and issue a new protest call. "We are in favor of peaceful struggle, but if we are put on the wall, we will exercise our democratic and moral right to break the bloody line," he said.

Other members of the core committee, including Sardar Umar Nazir Kashmiri, Sardar Liaquat Hayat, Khwaja Mehran, Raja Amjad Ali, Mujtaba Raja, Sehrish Kashmiri, Gohar Kashmiri, Shujaat Kazmi and other leaders, also addressed the conference. According to observers, the conference was not only a manifestation of public awareness but also the basis for the next phase of an organized protest movement.

#### Rescue 1122 conducts Flood Mock Exercise at River Indus site in Attock

👺 Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: In preparation for potential flooding in the region, Rescue 1122 Attock conducted a large-scale flood mock exercise at the River Indus near Shadi Khan, officials said on Saturday.

The event was attended by Additional



Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Waqas Aslam and Assistant Commissioner Hazro Ayesha Badr as chief guests. Representatives from the Health Department, Civil Defence, Livestock Department, Forest Department, Municipal Committee Hazro, All Brothers Welfare Society, and Sawera Welfare Society were also present, along with Rescue 1122 staff and volunteer

During the exercise, the chief guests inspected camps set up by various departments and expressed satisfaction with the level of preparedness displayed by Rescue 1122 Attock. District Emergency Officer Ali Hussain briefed the attendees on the equipment used in rescue and relief operations.

The mock drill included practical demonstrations by Rescue 1122 personnel, showcasing their skills in saving drowning victims, performing CPR, and transporting injured individuals to medical facilities. They also demonstrated the safe relocation of livestock and personal belongings to higher ground.

A salute was presented to the chief guests by the rescue personnel as part of the formal proceedings.

Speaking on the occasion, ADC(R) Waqas Aslam praised the leadership of District Emergency Officer Ali Hussain and lauded the performance of Rescue 1122. He emphasized that such exercises are crucial for evaluating the operational readiness of both equipment and inter-departmental coordination during flood situations.

District Emergency Officer Ali Hussain reiterated that Rescue 1122 is fully prepared to handle any flood emergency and that all available resources will be utilized to ensure public safety.

#### Center of Excellence for Research, Development and Training inaugurated at UET, Lahore



**№** News Desk

LAHORE: The Center of Excellence for Research, Development and Training" has been officially inaugurated at the University of Engineering and Technology (UET) Lahore, in collaboration with Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL). The prestigious event was jointly hosted by Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, Vice Chancellor of UET Lahore, and Mr. Imran Abbasi, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of PPL. In his address, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir stated that this center will further strengthen the link between industry and academia and create new opportunities in research and development. He emphasized that UET Lahore will continue to play a pivotal role in national progress by promoting research, innovation, and industrial partnerships. The center will not only offer new avenues for research and training but also serve as a robust platform to tackle future challenges in the fields of energy and technology. On this occasion, PPLMD Imran Abbasi remarked that the center is a significant step towards sustainable development in Pakistan's energy and technology sectors. He affirmed that PPL will continue to contribute to national development through its collaborations with academic institutions. The event was attended by Chairman PEC Engr Waseem Nazir, deans and heads of various academic and administrative departments