(مصحح بخاری: حدیث نمبر 6006) **Barkat Rice Mills**

Birthday message from Chinese President to Pakistani President

The Ambassador of China to Pakistan, Mr. Jiang Zaidong, presents a birthday message from President Xi Jinping to President Asif Ali Zardari, conveying warm wishes on his upcoming birthday, at Aiwan-e- Sadr, Islamabad.



No plan to protest in Islamabad on August 5: Barrister Gohar

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Saudi Naval Chief

calls on CJCSC

General Sahir

Shamshad

跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chief of the

Naval Staff, Royal Saudi

Naval Forces called on Gener-

al Sahir Shamshad Mirza, NI

(M), Vice Admiral Mohammed

bin Abdulrahman Al Ghurav-

bi, Chief of the Naval Staff of

the Royal Saudi Naval Forc-

es, called on General Sahir

Shamshad Mirza, Chairman

Joint Chiefs of Staff Commit-

tee (CJCSC), during his official

visit to the Joint Staff Head-

quarters in Rawalpindi on

According to the Inter-Ser-

vices Public Relations (ISPR),

both dignitaries held detailed

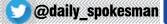
discussions on the evolving

regional security dynamics,

with a particular focus on rity challenges.

Muharram 29, Friday, July 25, 2025







Daily Spokesman Vol: 19, Issue: 99

Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

maritime security in the Middle East and South Asia.

General Mirza highlighted

the "historical brotherly rela-

tions" between the Kingdom

of Saudi Arabia and the Islamic

Republic of Pakistan, and reaf-

firmed the "mutual resolve for

enhancing existing bilateral

defence cooperation," the offi-

chief's arrival at the headquar-

ters, a smartly turned-out

presented a Guard of Honour in recognition of the visit.

The visit reflects the growing

emphasis on strengthening

defence ties between the two

countries, especially in the

face of shared regional secu-

Earlier, upon the Saudi naval

contingent

cial statement said.

tri-services



PM Shehbaz hosts Jirga, restores college, universities quota for merged districts of KP

跨 Spokesman Report

al government is taking all possi- areas. ble steps for the economic development of the merged districts

He was speaking to a dele-Pakhtunkhwa led by Jamiat neering universities. Ulema-e-Islam (F) President visited the Prime Minister's

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister in the merged districts of Khyber ter's House today." Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Pakhtunkhwa and the construc-

gation, the prime minister the glorious historical heritage and the welfare of their people. announced the restoration of the quota of the merged districts gation of tribal leaders of the of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in merged districts of Khyber medical colleges and engi-

The tribal elders welcomed Maulana Fazlur Rehman, who the decision, expressing happiness over the restoration of the quota. The prime minister said,

The jirga discussed in detail "I am very happy to host the forces, police and law enforce-ment budget for the improvethe improvement of public order tribal elders at the Prime Minis-

belong to those areas of Paki-While welcoming the dele-stan that are the guardians of and traditions."

"Tribes have always made immense sacrifices for the security and peace of Pakistan," he said, adding, "Establishment of law and order in the merged districts is the top priority of the

government." He said Pakistan's security

martyrdom while fighting During a conversation with bravely against terrorists.

Thursday assured that the feder- tion and development of these the delegation, he said, "You He urged that leaders of all chools of thought will have to play their role together to make lished under the chairman-Pakistan a cradle of peace.

"Providing equal and best opportunities for education, health, skills and employment to the people of the merged tribal districts, especially the youth, is our priority," he stressed.

He said, "The federal government has allocated a huge amount in this year's develop-

ment agencies were embracing ment of FATA University and police infrastructure in the merged districts."

He directed to expand the scope of the committee estabship of Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and Frontier Regions Engineer Amir Muqam on the issues of the merged districts.

The prime minister said more such consultative sessions will be held with the tribal elders regarding the improvement of the merged tribal districts.

Three Fitna Al **Hindustan terrorists** killed, two officers martyred in Mastung operation: ISPR

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A Pakistan Army major and a sepoy were martyred during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) targeting Indian-sponsored terrorists in Balochistan's Mastung district on July 23, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a state-

According to ISPR, the operation was launched on the reported presence of terrorists affiliated with Fitna Al Hindustan, an Indian proxy group.

"During the conduct of the operation, own troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location and, resultantly, three terrorists were sent to hell," the statement said.

Tragically, during the intense exchange of fire, Major Zeeyyad Salim Awal, aged 31,



Sepoy Nazam Hussain, aged 22, from Jhelum, embraced martvrdom

Major Awal was leading his troops from the front and fought gallantly, the military's media wing added.

"Sanitisation operation is being conducted to eliminate any other Indian sponsored terrorist found in the area, as the security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of Indian Sponsored Terrorism from the country," the ISPR said.

It further noted that the "sacrifices of our brave men further strengthen our resolve" a resident of Khushab, and to eradicate terrorism.

Nearly 50 people on board feared dead in Russian plane crash

ISLAMABAD: A Russian Antonov An-24 passenger plane carrying about 50 people crashed in the country's far east on Thursday, and everyone on board was feared to have been killed, emergency services offi-The burning fuselage of the plane, which

a helicopter, and rescue crews were rushing to the scene. Video shot from a helicopter and posted on social media, showed the plane came down in a densely forested area. Pale

was made in the Soviet era and was nearly

50 years old, was spotted on the ground by

smoke could be seen rising from the crash



The plane was on a flight by a privately owned Siberian-based regional airline called Angara.

The aircraft's tail number showed it was built in 1976 and was operated by Soviet flag carrier Aeroflot before the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union. The plane was en route from the city of

Blagoveshchensk to Tynda, a remote town and important railway junction in the Amur region bordering China. It dropped off radar screens while preparing to land. There were 43 passengers, including

five children, and six crew members on board, according to preliminary data, Vasily Orlov, the regional governor, said. The federal Russian government put

the number of passengers on board at 42. Debris from the plane was found on a hill around 15 km from Tynda, the Interfax news agency quoted emergency service officials as saying.

DG ISPR addresses students at King Edward Medical University in Lahore

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Director General of Inter-Services Public Relations (DG ISPR), Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry received a warm welcome from the university administration and students during his visit to King Edward

Medical University in Lahore. DG Sharif in his address sent a clear message to the enemies. He stated that a handful of terrorists cannot hinder the path of progress and prosperity in Balochistan or

the rest of Pakistan.

the people of Balochistan are support to the Kashmir's struggle connected to Pakistan with unbreakable bond that is not only by land but also by deep-rooted ties of history, religion, culture, and tradition bonds, that no force

Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif highlighted that Pakistan has been keeping strong relationreaffirming that "Kashmir was, is, and will remain Pakistan's jugular

DG Sharif also stressed that Pakistan will continue to extend He further emphasised that moral, political, and diplomatic eignty.

for freedom at every level.

He further shed light on the future strategy, determination, and successes of the Pakistan Armed Forces during "Operation Bunyan un Marsoos.

He noted that the decisive victory in this just battle was not merely the result of military ship with the people of Kashmir, advances but also the unwavering support of the nation especially the youth. He praised the passion and role

of young people in ensuring Pakistan's security, stability, and sover-



At the end of the event, univer-Forces and pledged to make every sity students expressed strong solisacrifice necessary for the defense darity with the Pakistan Armed of the motherland.

Pakistan's plan for AI, industrial sectors

IMF turns down

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has rejected Pakistan's Ministry of Energy's proposed threeyear marginal energy package.

The package was intended to provide the country's surplus electricity at a cheaper rate to artificial intelligence (AI), data mining and industrial sectors.

Senior officials of the Ministry of Energy have failed to convince the IMF for the marginal package, due to which this important project is currently stalled. However, officials stated that renegotiation is expected in the next Economic

Review negotiations The marginal energy package was based on the availability of 8,000 MW of surplus electricity

According to the plan proposed, consumers would have to pay only the cost of production and capacity charges on this surplus electricity while all other surcharges

and taxes would be eliminated. In this way low-cost supply of energy to the industrial and technology sectors would be possible.

Initially, the package was introduced to boost artificial intelligence and the digital economy, aiming to enhance Pakistan's regional competi-

tiveness. $However, the \,IMF \, made \, the$ approval of the package conditional on "100 percent recovery" of all dues, which the Ministry of Energy has not been able to ensure at present.

Azad Kashmir in crisis: League leaders demand fresh elections

MUZAFFARABAD: The Muslim League-N Azad Kashmir has demanded early elections to end ideological and intellectual chaos and strengthen the political process.

A severe crisis has arisen in Azad Kashmir at the constitutional, legal and administrative levels. The public and employees have been incited at the government level for protests and

Regarding the new elections, meetings will be held with the leaders of all political parties and they will be made part of the consultative process.

The only way out of the current situation is a new mandate. The people should take over the system.

The press conference was addressed by former Prime Minister Azad Haider Khan, Chaudhry Tariq Farooq, Barrister Iftikhar Gilani, while former

Called on



Bashir, Raja Bashir Khan, Rafaqat Awan, Dr. Muhammad Arif, Mayor Muzaffarabad Sikandar Nisar Gilani, District President PML-N Faraz Arif, Chaudhry Shafqat and others were also

The league leaders said that if the Kashmir Raja Muhammad Farooq Action Committee enters politics, they will welcome the elections. Fight, present your manifesto For the last two Minister Noreen Arif, Dr. Mustafa years, the government of unpopular,

non-ideological, non-party MLAs has allocated state resources for MLAs instead of the people.

The assembly and the cabinet have failed miserably in playing their constitutional role. In the last two years, the ideology of accession to Pakistan has been damaged, which is the center of the aspirations and hopes of the people

The president of the PML-N is problems.

abroad and he is involved in the consultation. The leaders of the league, while addressing a press conference, said that the current government has created a serious crisis in Azad Jammu and Kashmir at the constitutional, legal and administrative levels. The assembly and the cabinet have failed miserably in playing their constitutional and administrative role.

The non-appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner on time and the unconstitutional obstacles in this regard have put the parliamentary system of Azad Jammu and Kashmir at serious risk.

For the last two years, a government of extremely unpopular, non-ideological and non-party MLAs has allocated state resources only for MLAs instead of the people, due to which the functioning of the government and the state administration has been severely affected. These days, government employees are facing their own

RAWALPINDI: A group of bright and driven minority youth from South Punjab called on Mr. Isphanyar Bhandara, who warmly welcomed them and appreciated their entrepreneurial spirit. In an engaging exchange, Mr. Bhandara advised them to follow the American and European model of part-time work during university studies, so they enter the job market



Jamshoro DC launches crackdown on illegal encroachments in city

👺 Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

HYDERABAD: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Jamshoro, Ghazanfar Ali Qadri, has launched a comprehensive operation against growing illegal encroachments in Jamshoro city. Acting on public complaints, DC Qadri led enforcement teams to the Jamshoro Phatak area on Sehwan Road, where unauthorized vehicle stands, kiosks, shacks, and stalls were promptly cleared. During the operation, he addressed the media, stating, "A crackdown against all illegal encroachments across the district has begun on public demand, and strict action will be taken against violators."



Key officials present at the operation included Assistant Commissioner

Kotri Nadeem Qadir Khokhar, Mukhtiarkar Majid Ali Khaskheli, Assistant Mukhtiarkar Feroz Mustafa Barfat, officers from the Jamshoro Town Committee, the anti-encroachment force, revenue, police, and other relevant departments.

DC Qadri emphasized that the entire district would see similar anti-encroachment actions to restore public spaces and address concerns regarding congestion and lawlessness caused by such illegal occupations

DC Qadri reiterated his resolve: 'Our mission is to act transparently and fairly, responding to public requests and making Jamshoro cleaner and more organized for all residents."

Seminar was Organized, Participation of Director Pest Warning Zulfiqar Ghauri

Zafar Chishti

paddy crops.

In this regard, a special diseases. seminar was organized for and stakeholders, in which the harmful effects of these pesticides on human health, environment and crops were highlighted.

of prohibited pesticides aban.

causes serious damage to JHANG: The Department of lation system. Residues of Agriculture has launched an chemicals like imidacloprid rice and cause long-term

The Department of Agrifarmers, agricultural experts culture has directed farmers will be used. to use alternative, safe and registered medicines.

The indiscriminate use strictly enforced along with

Participants soil fertility and the popu- seminar emphasized that pests will be controlled through natural methods awareness campaign against and acetamiprid can enter by following the principles prohibited pesticides on the human body through of Integrated Pest Management and that only medicines included in the list issued by the government

At the end, the director also requested the partici-Government officials have pants to display Panaflexes warned farmers that the use on the prominent place of prohibited poisons will be of the shop as maximum participants of the seminar were pesticides dealers.



The participants were also nate products to be used as intimated about the alter- safe pesticides for Rice crop.

Sindhi Businessman makes history as first representative in Forbes Business Council

VIRGINIA: A great honor for Sindhfor the first time, a Sindhi businessman, Farman Ali, has been selected as a member of the Forbes Business Council, a global business forum.

The Forbes Business Council includes top business leaders and CEOs from around the world, selected purely on merit. Farman Ali, originally from Sehar, Sindh, has made his mark in the real estate business in the United

The Forbes platform has 5,000 members globally, chosen on merit, among which seven are from Paki-

stan, and now Farman Ali has become the eighth and the first Sindhi

Farman Ali stated, "This honor and pride truly belong to Sindh." He further added that through this forum, he plans to share global ideas regarding real estate and business.

"My goal," he said, "is to bring a revolution in the world of real estate and to encourage the youth of Sindh, paving new ways for their investment opportunities.

Public Committees to solve neighborhood problems, says Jamaat-e-Islami

👺 Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: In a meeting of members held under the chairmanship of Jamaat-e-Islami Zone PP-112 Ameer Mian Asif Islam, it was decided that a members' convention would be held on August 8 after the completion of the public committees. Each member should play his role in the formation of public committees. Public committees will take practical steps to solve the problems of every neighborhood, street, police station, court, youth and unemployed people. The committees will ensure that the legitimate issues of the common man are heard in government departments. The meeting was also addressed by District Deputy Ameer Mian Anwarul Haq Advocate, former UC Nazim Mian Tahir Ayub, Zonal $Secretary\ Khalid\ Mahmood\ Chaudhry, and\ Deputy\ Ameer\ Shakir\ Alvi.$ The meeting reviewed the previous performance and the Ameer Zone appointed Rashid Siddique as the in-charge of the public committees based on the opinion of the members and Shakir Alvi will assist him. It was decided in the meeting that a study circle will be held regularly every month and meetings of members and workers will be held at the circle level so that the number of members can increase. Speaking on the occasion, Zonal Ameer Mian Asif Islam said that Jamaat-e-Islami has $restarted \ an \ organized \ and \ peaceful \ struggle \ against \ the \ corrupt \ system$ and the clique that has been in power for seven decades.

Time to account for soil thieves in Wapda Town Phase 3

S Asim Tanvee

MULTAN: Superintending Engineer MEPCO Multan Circle Engineer Amjad Nawaz Bhatti has said that the time has come for accountability of those who stole soil from Wapda Town Phase 3. The soil thieves will soon be behind bars and every penny will be recovered from them. The process of approval of the map and drawing of lots for Wapda Town Phase 3 will be completed within six months. It is our responsibility to protect and safeguard every asset of Wanda Town. Under the rules, bye-laws and policy of the MEPCO Board of Directors, a serving government officer can participate in the elections of WAPDA Employees Cooperative Housing Society. With the cooperation and patronage of voters and allottees, all goals will be achieved. The propaganda of the opponents in this regard is a conspiracy to spoil the elections. Talking to the media after submitting the nomination papers for the WAPDA Employees Cooperative Housing Society (WAPDA Town) elections, Amjad Nawaz Bhatti said that WAPDA and Residence Group is the guarantor of the construction and development of WAPDA Town. Wapda Town will be provided with a modern and automated security system. Wapda Town voters should express their trust in us, God willing, we will fulfill their trust. On this occasion, Prime Minister Youth Program Coordinator Habibur Rehman Sanghera, Engineer Rana Abdul Sattar, Engineer Muhammad Ali Yasir, Engineer Ghulam Mohiuddin Maitla, Engineer Muhammad Akram Bhatti, Engineer Arif Vance, Mian Nadeem Ahmed, Engineer Babar Ali Sarwar Gujjar, Engineer Masab Ali Saleemi, Taj Mahmood Qamar, Engineer Ikram Sial, Arif Sial, Engineer Iqbal Pahor, Engineer Chaudhry Muhammad Arshad, Ali Ahmed Sabir, Hydro Union Zonal Chairman Rana Mazhar Latif, Sajjad Ahmed Baloch, Chaudhry Muhammad Khalid, Rashid Amin, Rana Khizr Hayat, Rao Aamir Jamil, Muhammad Ilyas Jatt, Rana Muhammad Anwar, Mehr Altaf Mahar, Malik Usman Raan, Fayyaz Raan, Mehr Ansar Abbas, Imran Bashir A large number of serving and retired officers and employees of MEPCO, including Chaudhry Shafaqat, Imran Shah, Saeed Sial, Hassan Gardezi, Farhan Qadir, Salman Wahab, participated. The candidates, officers and employees participating in the election were brought to the election office in the form of a rally, garlanded and showered with flowers.

ADCG Labbha visits to City Hospital Toba Tek Singh

Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: Additional Deputy Commissioner General (ADCG) Zeeshan Labbha Masih visited City Hospital Toba Tek Singh to review the provision of public facilities at the district level, in line with the relief vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif and the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Naeem Sandhu. He inspected various wards, laboratories and medicine storage. He meet the patients and inquired about the facilities provided. He also reviewed the medicines given to the patients and the stock register records. Zeeshan Labbha Masih directed that the supply of medicines should be ensured in a transparent manner and all records should be updated regularly. He said that under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Naeem Sandhu, monitoring of hospitals and transparency of medicine are being ensured so that quality medical facilities can be provided to the public.

BISE opens applications for papers rechecking

LAHORE: After official release of the Punjab boards' class 10th results, the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) Lahore has announced rechecking applications of papers.

According to a spokesperson for the board, candidates who appeared in matriculation annual exams and are not satisfied with their results, now have an opportunity to apply for paper re-evaluation through an

The deadline for submitting rechecking applications is August 8, 2025. To streamline the process and improve accessibility, the BISE Lahore has made the entire rechecking application procedure digital. He said that students can apply via the official Lahore Board website, eliminating the need for in-person visits.



Namaz Timings

EMERGENCY

	- -
Rescue (Police)	1
Bomb Disposal	1
Fire Services Rawalpindia	′
Islamabad	1122 & 1
Emergency Ambulance	1122 8
& Rescue Services	445112
Motorway Police	926604
Motorway Police92	70601-20
Woman Do	lico

Women Police Ctations

Stations		
Islamabad	922259	
Rawalpindi	. 9270601-2	

Rawalpindi	9270601-
ENQ	UIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEDADTMENTS

PELAVI	IVILIAIS
CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board	d 9270151-3
Islamabad Metrop	olitan
Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

COMPLAINTS

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

Rescue 1122 evacuates 40 people stranded in River Indus Near Shinka, Hazro

👺 Raza Nagvi

ATTOCK: In a significant rescue operation, Rescue 1122 Attock successfully evacuated 40 individuals stranded on a river island (bela) in the River Indus near Shinka in Tehsil Hazro on 24 July 2025.

According to official sources, the water level of the River Indus rose considerably due to ongoing monsoon rains, leaving several people trapped on a bela (river islet) at Shinka. Upon receiving the alert, Rescue 1122 teams, under the supervision of District **Emergency Officer Ali**

Hussain, rushed to the site. The operation lasted over five hours, during which all 40 affected individuals were safely rescued and transported to safer areas. No casualties were reported.

Local residents and officials have lauded the swift and coordinated response of the emergency teams in preventing a possible tragedy.

Unordinary partnerships to shape a healthier tomorrow: Novo Nordisk hosts dialogue on countering obesity

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Novo Nordisk Pakistan hosted "Unordinary Partnerships to Shape a Healthier Tomorrow" that brought together healthcare professionals, policymakers, and leaders to address the crucial issue of serious chronic diseases, particularly obesity, which impacts millions across Pakistan. The event was graced by the Ambassador of Denmark to Pakistan, H. E. Jakob Linulf, along with the senior management of Novo Nordisk Pakistan.

Speaking at the occasion, H. E. Jakob Linulf, the Danish Ambassador to Pakistan, emphasized on the importance of collaboration, in healthcare by Danish companies like Novo Nordisk operating in Pakistan. He said, "Partnerships are essential in the fight against obesity. Together, we can foster a healthier society and defeat obesity. I am confident that this culture will continue to positively impact the people of Paki-

Rashed Rafique Butt, General Manager of Novo Nordisk Pakistan,



shared the organization's 100-year legacy of embracing new ideas and different approaches to defeat serious chronic disease which is reflected in their new corporate brand platform-Unordinary Drives Change.

Pakistan Society of Internal Medicine, on both individuals and the healthemphasized that obesity affects nearly care system. Meanwhile, Dr. A H Amir, 38 million people in Pakistan and is President, Pakistan Society of Obesity, classified as a disease by the World urged the stakeholders to prioritize media campaigns.

Highlighting the urgent need for Health Organization. He acknowl- countering obesity in the public health action, Dr. Javed Akram, President, edged the extensive impact of obesity discussions, advocating for an inclusive approach that promotes prevention and management while combating the stigma around obesity through effective

Enjoyment

KHANPUR: People are enjoying paragliding during pleasant weather at Khanpur dam.



Illegal Occupation of Attock Press Club Building Sparks Outrage Among Journalists

ATTOCK: The district administration has been illegally occupying the Attock Press Club building for a long time, depriving active journalists of their rightful place for the past 12 years. Despite repeated appeals on all relevant forums, no action has been taken, and the administration continues to ignore the matter.

Senior Patron of the Attock Press Club (Registered), Syed Raza Haider Naqvi, while speaking to reporters, said that He pointed out that despite the passage of federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting must intervene and resolve the registered Attock Press Club remain this issue so that journalists can receive their constitutional right.

Minister for a visit to Attock, so that the Punjab — was repeatedly informed about rights restored.



true facts of the matter can be presented. more than 12 years, the active members of deprived of the club's building. Every ruling government — including Chief He extended an invitation to the Federal Ministers, MNAs, MPAs, and Governors of matter can be resolved and journalists'

the issue, yet no resolution was provided. The building was in the possession of journalists for 25 years after it was officially handed over to them in a 1987 District Council meeting by the then District

Chairman, Syed Ejaz Hussain Bukhari. Syed Raza Haider Naqvi added that the club possesses all legal documents to prove its rightful ownership. He urged the government to make a swift and fair decision, stating that it is shameful for journalists to be denied access to their own constitutional institution. However, he made it clear that this injustice will no longer be tolerated. He demanded that either the Federal or Provincial Minister for Information announce a visit to Attock so the

BARD Foundation Joins Hands with Right To Play and CARE Foundation

₿ PNP

LAHORE: In a significant step toward empowering children through sportsbased learning, BARD Foundation has partnered with Right To Play and CARE Foundation to launch the 'Skills for Life' program across 15 CARE Foundation-adopted schools. This collaboration reflects the shared mission of all three organizations to improve the quality of education and life outcomes for children across Pakistan by integrating sports-based learning into school environments.

Mehreen Dawood,



said"Through this collabo- investing not only in educa-Member, Board of Gover- ration with Right To Play and tion but in the holistic devel- helping them build confi-

nors - BARD Foundation, CARE Foundation, we are opment of children through dence, resilience, and essen-

tial life skills that will stay with them forever."

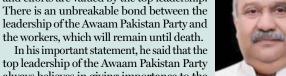
This initiative marks another meaningful step in BARD Foundation's mission to remove barriers and create opportunities for youth across Pakistan. The Skills for Life program is designed to promote inclusivity, resilience, and lifelong learning by placing sportsbased learning at the core of its educational approach.

Together, BARD Foundation, Right To Play, and CARE Foundation are taking a collaborative step toward creating a more empowered, emotionally intelligent, and confident generation of learners through the power of sports-based learning.

Workers are a valuable asset of the Awaam Pakistan Party: Čhaudhry Inaam Zafar

跨 City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Political and social leader Chaudhry Inam Zafar said that workers are a valuable asset of the party, whose services and efforts are valued by the top leadership. There is an unbreakable bond between the leadership of the Awaam Pakistan Party and the workers, which will remain until death.



always believes in giving importance to the priorities of its workers. Chaudhry Inam Zafar said that every senior member of the party, including Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and Miftah Ismail, stands with its workers in their joys and sorrows. Loyalty is the hallmark of our party. He said that the country and the people are currently facing several economic difficulties, but our party stands in solidarity with every citizen of our country. Chaudhry Inam Zafar said that the integrity of Pakistan today is permanent because of the Pakistani forces. The entire nation will have to support the Pakistani forces in every hour of difficulty.

UET Lahore hosts Awards Ceremony to celebrate outstanding global ranking achievements

跨 City Desk

LAHORE: The University of Engineering and Technology (UET) Lahore held a special ceremony to honor its departments and faculty members for their exceptional performance in international university rankings. The event was graced by the presence of Prof. Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan, Chairman of the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC), as the chief guest.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, along with members of the UET Ranking Committee, welcomed the Chairman. During the event, Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan commended UET's remarkable improvement in global rankings and presented awards and certificates of appreciation to department heads and faculty members recognized as Best Researchers, Highly Cited Researchers, and for achieving top subject-specific rankings worldwide.

In his address, the Chairman emphasized the importance of universities focusing on research, innovation, and international ranking standards to compete globally. He praised UET's continuous progress under the leadership of Dr. Shahid Munir and expressed hope that the university would continue its upward trajectory.

MPAs launch tree plantation drive in Sialkot



SIALKOT: Members of the Provincial Assembly (MPAs) Muhammad Manshaullah Butt and Chaudhry Faisal Ikram, along with the officials of Dawat-e-Islami Sialkot, formally launched an environmentally friendly activity by planting saplings on the green belts of Imam Sahib Road. Regional scholars, volunteers, and citizens of Dawat-e-Islami also participated in large numbers on this occasion.

Addressing the ceremony, MPA Muhammad Manshaullah Butt said that climate change, temperature rise and unbalanced weather are actually the result of deforestation and environmental imbalance. He said that if we do not play our role in tree plantation and protection of the environment today, future generations will have to bear the serious consequences.

He added that planting saplings is not only a national but also a religious duty. Islam teaches us to love nature and make the earth green. Every citizen should plant his share of trees and take care of them himself. Manshaullah Butt said that the current government under the leadership of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif is implementing a comprehensive strategy for environmental protection, in which public participation is of key importance. Dawat-e-Islami leaders said that their organization is planting millions of trees across the country under the Madani Environment Campaign to make Pakistan green and lush. Finally, the participants planted saplings together $\,$ and pledged to take responsibility for their protection.

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UAE Media Council Board reviews H12025 performance

bdulla bin Mohammed bin Butti Al Hamed, Chairman of the National Media Office (NMO) and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the UAE Media Council, has reaffirmed the UAE's commitment to strengthening its global position as a leading hub for media production, emphasising that expanding international partnerships in the media sector remains a national priority for the coming phase.

Al Hamed stated that the UAE Media Council, under the directives of the leadership, is advancing flexible policies and regulations that enhance the country's regional and global competitive-

He noted that this approach contributes to solidifying the creative economy as a key pillar of GDP growth, supported by an advanced regulatory framework that keeps pace with global media developments and anticipates future trends with ambition and vi-

His remarks came as he chaired the Council's second board meeting of 2025, which reviewed the Council's performance in the first half of the year and discussed key initiatives, projects and programmes aimed at enhancing regulatory infrastructure and fostering an attractive media ecosystem for investors and creatives.

During the first half of 2025, the UAE Media Council issued 2,562 media licences and permits, including 2,152 media licences. 235 social media digital media licences, 103 filming permits and 72 licences for newspapers and magazines, reflecting the accelerating growth of the media business environment.

In the publishing sector, the Council handled over 514,000 book titles and issued 35,000 distribution permits for books in the local market, while banning 32 titles found to conflict with national values or existing legislation.

In the cinema sector, the Council approved 611 films for screening during the first half of 2025, with total ticket sales exceeding 6 million and generating more than AED309 million in revenue. Additionally, the Council authorised the distribution of 131 electronic games across the country.

The meeting also reviewed the UAE Media Council's new legislative framework, designed to enhance governance and foster a flexible regulatory environment that supports growth and aligns with rapid digital transformation.

Council members were briefed on the development stages of a new integrated digital platform, currently being developed in partnership with Presight. The platform aims to boost efficiency in licence management, content monitoring and regulatory responsiveness using artificial intelligence and advanced analytics.

Attending the meeting were members of the UAE Media Council: Sheikh Abdullah bin Humaid Al Qasimi, Director of Ras Al Khaimah Ruler's Court; Maryam AlMheiri, Director-General of the Abu Dhabi Media Office; Saeed Mohammad Al Eter, Assistant Minister for Strategic Projects at the Ministry of Cabinet Affairs and Chair of the UAE Government Media Office; Tariq Saeed Allay, Director-General of the Sharjah Government Media Bureau; Dr. Saeed Saif Al Matrooshi, Secretary-General of the Executive Council of the Government of Ajman; Mohammed Saeed Al Shehhi, Secretary-General of the UAE Media Council; and Maitha Majed Al Suwaidi, Executive Director of the Media Strategy and Policy Sector, and Secretary of the UAE Media Council Board.

A New Dawn for Jammu and Kashmir: Why the UN Must Lead a Multilateral Path to **Lasting Peace**

eventy-seven years after the transformation. first ceasefire drew the line Drawing on across Jammu & Kashmir, the bitter legacy of partition still haunts its mountain passes and river valleys. Civilians on both sides of the Line of Control live under heavy military shadow, even as hopes for resolution flicker in the chilly night air. It's time, argues Sardar Aftab Khan of the Jammu Kashmir Council on Foreign Affairs (JKCFA), to break this cycle not through bilateral brinksmanship, but by harnessing the full weight of United Nations multilateralism.

Since 1947, conflicts over the former princely state have cost countless lives, displaced families, and bred a siege mentality that stifles voices of moderation. Traditional diplomacy has treated Jammu and Kashmir like a problem to be "settled"—with ceasefires, plebiscites, or blanket integration into India or Pakistan. Yet none of these stopgap measures has healed decades of distrust or addressed the deep wounds of identity, rights abuses, and power imbalances.

"What we need now," writes Khan, "is a process-driven framework rooted in international law, inclusive dialogue, and sustained civic engagement—not another one-off agreement that unrayels within months." Rather than see Kashmir as a bilateral impasse, he insists, the UN Security Council should reassert its oldest mandates, engage its top legal bodies, and forge a living architecture for conflict

Drawing on lessons from Cyprus, Timor-Leste, and other protracted conflicts, the JKCFA position paper outlines six interlocking measures:

Reinvigorate Legal Mandates. Refer Kashmir to the International Court of Justice for an advisory opinion on plebiscite procedures, sequencing of demil-

itarisation, and transitional-justice guarantees. At the same time, launch UN-moderated dialogues among India, Pakistan, and Kashmiri representatives.

Launch a Peace Transformation Commission. A standing, Chapter VII-mandated body would oversee phased troop with-

drawals, district-level citizens' juries on governance and rights, and pilot confidence-building measures such as family reunions and across the UNMO-GIP-monitored ceasefire line trade links.

Embed Human-Rights Monitoring. Co-design with local NGOs a "Peace, Justice & Resolution Scorecard" that tracks security, health, education, and freedom-of-movement indicators—triggering rapid UN responses when conditions deteriorate.

Convene a Transformation Forum. An informal coalition of UN member states. regional bodies (SAARC, SCO, OIC), and

technical working groups on govern- shared prosperity. ance reform, economic recovery, youth exchanges, and psychosocial healing.

Strengthen UNMOGIP's Role. Empower the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan to feed detailed ceasefire reports into the Scorecard and support reconciliation workshops along the ceasefire line in Jammu

and Kashmir. **Embed Transitional** Justice Mechanisms. Establish a truth and reconciliation commission, deploy UN-trained trauma-response teams, and launch survivor-led reparations programmes to heal deep social fissures. The urgency

of this plan is hard to overstate. Recent skirmishes in May 2025 reignited fears that a minor spark could engulf South Asia in a wider conflagration. Meanwhile, ordinary Kashmiris endure international travel restrictions, checkpoints, curfews, and constrained civil liberties-conditions that breed resentment and radicalisation in equal measure.

"Without a sustained UN-led process," Khan warns, "every new ceasefire rings hollow, and every unilateral move deepens the sense of injustice." By institutionalising a multiyear, legally grounded transformation framework, the Security Council can restore civilian safety, uphold fundacivil-society networks would sustain mental rights, and reinvigorate hopes for

For Pakistan and India, embracing this pathway means ceding a measure of bilateral control in order to secure a broader guarantee of peace. For New Delhi, it will require serious engagement with international legal advice on plebiscite modalities and a willingness to revisit the constitutional changes of August 2019. For Islamabad, it offers a tangible mechanism to protect Kashmiri voices and shape reconstruction of inclusive local governance.

Finally, the UN Security Council must reclaim its own fading credibility on South Asia's oldest agenda item. A Presidential Statement reaffirming Resolutions 47 (1948) and 80 (1950), followed by a clear roadmap for ICJ referral and a standing Peace Transformation Commission, would demonstrate that multilateralism still has the power to turn conflict

The Kashmir dispute defies quick fixes. But a process-driven, multilateral engine—anchored in legal clarity, rigorous monitoring, and community-led dialogue—can transform a frozen stalemate into a dynamic path toward reconciliation. It's a bold agenda, but as Kashmir's mountains teach us, only by unfreezing long-held divisions can new streams of hope begin to flow.

Author is Executive Director of the Jammu Kashmir Council on Foreign Affairs, an independent think tank amplifying Kashmiri voices in global



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

Widespread Public Support for Unity, Pak Army and Institutions - II

ndia's disinformation strategy has and manipulate perception. The more aggressive able resolve—and reaffirming that Kashmiris extended beyond the military, seeking to delegitimize Pakistan's judiciary, intelligence services, civil administration, and constitutional bodies such as the Election Commission. These campaigns aim to portray Pakistan's governance systems as corrupt or incompetent, thereby undermining public confidence-especially during periods of political transition or uncertainty.

Fake social media accounts, often operated from India or Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK), impersonate Pakistani users and spread false information about judicial decisions, military promotions, or political events-hoping to provoke unrest or civil discord. National celebrations like Pakistan Day (March 23) and Defense Day (September 6) are routinely

to ridicule national pride and dampen public

Abdul Basit Alvi

Indian mainstream media has been central to promoting this narrative war. Channels like Republic TV, Times Now, and Zee News have abandoned journalistic neutrality in favor of hyper-nationalism and inflammatory rhetoric. These outlets often serve as echo chambers for government-sanctioned hostility toward Pakistan, spreading unverified claims, conspiracy theories, and openly advocating for punitive action-frequently without evidence or account-

Instead of informing their audiences, such media platforms have played a dangerous role in fueling public hatred and poisoning international perception. Yet ironically, these efforts often unite Pakistanis, who recognize the attacks for what they are: desperate attempts to sow discord

the propaganda, the more resolute the public response becomes.

In the face of years of relentless attempts to fracture national cohesion. India has failed to break the bond between the Pakistani public and its armed forces and institutions. If anything, these efforts have exposed a pattern of obsession and desperation, attracting criticism from global think tanks and neutral observers alike.

Whether inside the country or across the diaspora, Pakistanis continue to demonstrate strong national

pride, civic responsibility, and unwavering support for their military and state institutions—resisting foreign narratives and reinforcing the nation's collective resolve. From flaghoisting ceremonies in schools to youth-led defense awareness campaigns across social media,

targeted by coordinated cyber efforts meant public participation in fostering national solidarity has continued to grow-especially in response to foreign propaganda. The rising national discourse around digital security, sovereignty, and hybrid warfare reflects a population that is not only more informed but increasingly resilient—refusing to be swayed by external narratives or disinformation.

> Pakistan also remains the only beacon of hope for the oppressed people of Kashmir, consistently advocating for their right to self-determination on international forums. This commitment is what unsettles India—the truth that Pakistan speaks. and the mirror it holds up to Indian repression. Before recent escalations in Pakistan-India relations, adversaries may have assumed internal divisions would weaken the Pakistani stance. But the nation's unified response shattered that illusion. The people, armed forces, and institutions stood side by side, demonstrating an unbreak-

stand with this unity. Frustrated by its failure to divide Pakistan

through conventional means, the enemy has now resorted to non-kinetic warfare—spreading chaos, disinformation, and divisive rhetoric. Even Azad Kashmir, long known as the base camp of the Kashmiri freedom movement, has become a target in this hybrid campaign to undermine national unity and sabotage the Kashmiri cause. Yet, the Pakistani nation is fully aware. We understand that our greatest strength lies in our unity, our armed forces, and our trusted institutions.

At this stage, identifying the enemy is no longer our challenge-preserving mutual trust and unity is. This internal cohesion is our most effective defense. India's ongoing attempts to fracture public trust in the Pakistan Army, national institutions, and collective unity are part of a calculated strategy to sow division and destabilize. But these efforts have largely failed, thanks to Pakistan's enduring national consciousness, social resilience, and shared determination.

The Pakistani public recognizes that unity is not just symbolic-it is strategic. Trust in institutions is not born of blind allegiance, but from a deep understanding of what is at stake in an age of evolving threats. Far from weakening national morale, India's propaganda war has backfired, triggering a renewed sense of cohesion among Pakistanis. It has reminded citizens of their common identity, shared sacrifices, a disciplined military, reliable institutions, and-above all—an unyielding spirit that continues to define Pakistan's strength.

As long as Pakistanis continue to stand united across ethnic, sectarian, and political lines no external force, no matter how well-funded or deceitful, can break the backbone of this nation. And it is this unity, forged in fire and preserved with faith, that ensures that Pakistan will always remain Zinda o Painda (alive and flourishing).

Journalist Protection Bill — A Shield for the Pen, and the **Reality of PECA**

ment) Protection Bill." This was not just legisla- addressing crimes against journalists.

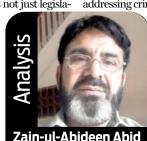
tion - it was a solemn declaration of the sanctity of the pen. A sanctity for which countless fearless journalists have searched for light amidst darkness.

This bill echoes the thousands of unheard screams buried within columns, reports, and live broadcasts — cries that continued to rattle our collective conscience. For the first time, the

of truth - and protecting guardians is a fundamental demand of justice.

The bill is based on the belief that freedom of expression is not just the right to voice an opinion, but also includes the right to seek, publish, and disseminate information. Under this bill, assaulting a journalist on duty is no longer a trivial offense — it is now a punishable crime with a penalty of seven years imprisonment and a fine of three hundred thousand rupees. If anyone tries to force a journalist to disclose their sources, they may face three years of imprisonment. Any interference in a journalist's professional autonomy may result in five years of imprisonment. Does the "Journalist Protection (Amendment) Bill" include any clause that exempts journalists from the PECA (Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act)? No. The Journalist Protection (Amendment)

t times, nations find themselves Bill, passed by the Senate, does not include any standing at a crossroads where a clause that explicitly exempts journalists from the law, a decision, or a development Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA). The is not just a collection of words on bill is primarily focused on protecting journalists, paper — it touches the very soul their families, and close associates from threats, of society. Pakistan's Senate has recently made violence, and intimidation during the course of such a decision when it unanimously passed the their professional duties. It proposes the creation "Journalists and Media Professionals (Amend- of a protection commission and special courts for Let's take a detailed look at



PECA. The Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, originally passed in 2016 and amended in 2025, covers various cybercrimes including online harassment, cyberbullying, and defamation. Meanwhile, the Journalist Protection Bill focuses on shielding journalists from physical harm, threats, and profes-

state has officially acknowledged that journalists sional coercion so that they can operate in a safe are not mere merchants of news, but guardians environment. Nowhere in the new bill does it explicitly state that journalists are exempt from PECA's jurisdiction. Therefore, if a journalist violates any clause of PECA through their online activities, they may still be held accountable under that law - just like any ordinary citizen. There are legitimate concerns that PECA could be used to target journalists critical of the government, despite the protection efforts introduced in the new bill.

> The Journalist Protection (Amendment) Bill and PECA function in entirely different domains:

> The former ensures physical safety and journalistic freedom. While the latter deals with digital crimes and content regulation. While the new bill provides essential legal safeguards for journalists, it does not mean they are immune to PECA if they violate its provisions.

> > Author is senior analyst and he can be $reached\ at\ zakhan multan @yahoo.com$

President Tebboune Showcases Algeria's Economic Progress in Rome at Algeria Italy **Business Forum**

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD / ROME: The Algerian President, Abdelmadjid Tebboune, emerging countries in Europe." underscored the achievements of the Algerian economy on Wednesday in Rome, characterizing Italy as an "essential and serious partner" in supporting Algeria's ambitious economic dynamism for their mutual benefit.

Co-chairing the closing session of the Algerian-Italian Business Forum with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, the President stated that organizing the forum "reflects the depth of our commitment to further strengthen and elevate them to the desired level."

In this context, he observed that the Algerian economy is experiencing sectors, evidenced by the positive results achieved in recent years," with indica- remarked. tors ranking "among the best in the Mediterranean region."

diversification of the economy, and tial and serious partner in supporting

he asserted, "demonstrate the effectivemodel aligned with those classified as

After emphasizing the "political and institutional stability" enjoyed by Algeria, the President pointed out the development of infrastructure, stating that Algeria, which possesses "the largest road network in Africa," aims to create "the largest railway transport network on the continent."

He also noted that Algeria has 24 airports and a robust human capital base. "Thanks to its talented workforce historical relations and embodies our and ambitious youth, Algeria presents significant investment opportunities in diverse fields such as renewable energy, pharmaceuticals, transformation industries, digital innovation, "significant momentum across various mining, agriculture, tourism, and the development of financial services," he

Regarding bilateral cooperation opportunities, the President reiter-He highlighted "economic growth, ated that for Algeria, Italy is "an essenmanagement of major balances," which, our country's ambitious economic

dynamics, serving mutual interests ness of the measures taken to achieve a through fruitful cooperation and the exchange of expertise," emphasizing that Italy "is among our most reliable partners.

> 'I would like to reaffirm our desire to revitalize industry on a sustainable basis that first meets national market needs and then shifts toward export," declared the President.

"We seek to benefit from Italy's globally recognized expertise, which has positioned it as the second-largest economic power in Europe, particularly concerning the ecosystem of industrial zones," he continued. Addressing economic operators from

"leverage the capital of historical relations between our two countries and the momentum of their strategic enterprises, aiming to strengthen the partnership based on the win-win principle," while "capitalizing on complementarities across various sectors, particularly in executing major projects, extending the railway network



valorizing raw materials, and advancing both nations, he encouraged them to digitization."

In conclusion, President Tebboune praised the bilateral projects undertaken in the hydrocarbons sector, specifically citing the recent contract signed between the Italian company ENI and the Sonatrach group, valued at "over one billion dollars."

The Algerian-Italian Business Forum officially began on Wednesday in the Greater South over 8,000 km, morning in the Italian capital, Rome,

coinciding with President Abdelmadjid Tebboune's official visit to Italy. The forum is co-chaired by Ahmed Attaf. Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs, National Community Abroad, and African Affairs, alongside Antonio Tajani, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the

of several cooperation and partnership agreements between the two nations

Republic of Italy.

During this occasion, the President expressed his gratitude to the Prime Minister for her "tireless efforts to strengthen relations that benefit both countries and their peoples."

In turn, Meloni referred to Algeria as a "dynamic friendly country," highlighting the "promising" prospects for bilateral cooperation.

The Algerian-Italian Business Forum commenced earlier that morning as part of the President's official visit to Italy, drawing significant participation from business leaders across various sectors in both countries.

This forum served as a vital platform to explore investment opportunities and forge new partnerships in diverse fields such as energy, infrastructure, transportation, agriculture, industry, and pharmaceuticals.

At the conclusion of the forum, a commemorative photo was taken, featuring the Algerian President, the Italian Prime Minister, and represent-The event culminated in the signing atives from the companies that signed the agreements.

Souvenir

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Division Aurangzeb Khan Khichi presenting a shield to



AIOU STEM Camp 4.0 Inspires Hands-On Learning and Scientific Thinking

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) successfully concluded its transformative initiative, STEM Camp 4.0 marked by vibrant scientific activities, hands-on experiments and an atmosphere of academic enthusiasm. The camp has been widely praised as a significant milestone in fostering scientific curiosity, creative thinking, and practical skills among the youth.

The closing ceremony featured Professor Syed Komal Taibi, President of the prestigious Eco Science Foundation, as the chief guest. The event was moderated by Dr. Tanveer Afzal, Head of AIOU's Science Department.

In his keynote address, Professor Taibi described the modern era as one driven by research, observation, and scientific



we must move beyond traditional education models and engage them in scientific experimentation, innovation, and experiential learning," he remarked. Reflecting on the camp's achieve-

ments, Dr. Tanveer Afzal shared that 130 students and 30 volunteers actively participated in the week-long program. The students not only conceptualized consciousness. "To enable our youth to but also executed their own scientific

them a foundational idea — from there, it was their journey of discovery, innovation, and self-driven learning. Through this process, we uncovered incredible talent and provided a platform for it to flourish."

Dr. Afzal also expressed his deep gratitude to the university leadership, especially Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood. "This success would not have

support, vision, and commitment of our Vice Chancellor to creating a progressive and dynamic educational environ-

 $A\,major\,highlight\,of\,the\,event\,was\,the$ engaging "Fun Science Show" by Abdul Rauf from the Pakistan Science Club, Karachi, which captivated participants with live, interactive scientific demon-

OICCI Security Survey 2025 highlights notable progress in major cities; calls for broader improvements



Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce& Industry

Example 2 Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI) has released the results of its Annual Security Survey 2025, reflecting feedback from leading foreign investors operating across Pakistan. Covering the period from June 2024 to May 2025, the survey reveals a measurable improvement in the overall security environment, particularly in key business hubs of Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad.

According to the survey, over 70 percent of respondents reported a notable decline in serious crimes in Karachi, Lahore, and across Punjah with street crimes also reducing significantly in Karachi Lahore, and Islamabad.

Additionally, employee perceptions of personal safety during daily commutes improved for two-thirds of the respondents, especially in the aforementioned cities.

However, the findings also highlight that security challenges persist in certain sensitive regions. While street crimes moderately declined in Quetta and Peshawar, these cities continue to be perceived as the least secure for personal safety. Most notably, Balochistan witnessed a deterioration in serious crimes compared to the previous year, impacting the positive trend seen in other provinces. This divergence reinforces concerns that while perception has improved in major cities, the fragile security situation in regions like Balochistan continues to impact Pakistan's global image and undermines long-term investor confidence.

Importantly, despite visible progress in key urban centers, security remains one of the top three concerns for Chief Executives, signaling that continued and inclusive improvement is essential for sustaining business confidence.

Commenting on the findings, Secretary General OICCI M Abdul Aleem stated: "The OICCI Security Survey 2025 reflects a cautiously optimistic outlook, with clear gains in major cities like Karachi and Lahore, a positive signal for investor confidence. However, sustaining and expanding these improvements across all regions is essential to maintain momentum and reassure both local and foreign stakeholders about Pakistan's overall security trajectory."

While the number of overseas business visits to Pakistan remained similar to 2024, the decline in meetings held abroad indicates growing confidence in Pakistan's internal security environment. The few instances of postponed travel were primarily due to geopolitical tensions, particularly India-Pakistan escalations, rather than domestic security concerns.

OICCI reiterates its commitment to partnering with government and law enforcement institutions to promote a more secure and enabling business climate throughout Pakistan.

BOOK TALK

Discussion held on New Technologies and Evolving India-Pakistan Warfare

👺 Anjum Gul

ISLAMABAD: The Department of International Relations at MY University recently hosted an insightful book talk on "Changing Patterns of Warfare between the Impact of New and Disruptive Technologies." The book, co-au-Prof. Dr. Rizwana Abbasi, delves into how advanced technologies are reshaping conflict dynamics between the two South Asian nuclear powers.

remarks from Dr. Waseem Khokhar, Head of the Department of International Relations. He welcomed distinguished speakers, faculty members and students, and emphasized the crucial role of technology in India and Pakistan: Navigating the shifting patterns of warfare between Pakistan and India, particularly in light of Pakistan's thored by Dr. Saeed Uzzaman and air superiority in recent limited The event, moderated by

Lecturer Ms. Anjum Gul Mughal, featured key speakers including Prof. Dr. Noman Sattar, a discus-The discussion opened with sant in the book with expertise and significance. He explained

in South Asian nuclear deterrence, and co-author Dr. Saeed Uzzaman. They explored how these novel technologies complicate traditional deterrence, enable "surgical strike stratagems," and accelerate escalation risksthemes thoroughly developed in the book's chapters, such as "Surgical Strike Stratagem" and "Disruptive Technologies: Deterrence Erosion." The author, Dr. Saeed

Uzzaman also provided a comprehensive explanation of the book's rationale, relevance, deterrence stability, and strategic



the advanced nuclear platforms (such as nuclear submarines, MIRVs, BMD systems, and ASAT weapons) and disruptive tools (like hypersonic missiles, artificial intelligence, drones, cyber capabilities, and lethal autonomous weapons) are profoundly transforming crisis management, postures between India and Paki-

Prof. Dr. Saeed ul Hassan Chishti, Vice-Chancellor of MY University, underscored the talk's alignment with the institution's interdisciplinary mission. He commended the Department of International Relations for its visionary initiatives and encouraged continued focused discus-



The event offered deep schol- has also garnered international arly insights into how precision attention due to its timely reletechnologies and AI are reshaping military doctrines. It emphasized the urgent need for renewed focus Pakistan and India, which highon regulatory measures and confidence-building to maintain crisis stability in South Asia, echoing the book's concluding reflections on evolving deterrence mechanisms. The book University, concluded the session.

vance following recent intense military confrontations between lighted the impact of technology and changing warfare patterns.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Munir, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at MY

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share

inaex	Fluctuation
Pakistan: PSX 1	00-Share Index
Current	Prev. Close
138,692.66	139,254.35
Day's High	Day's Low
139,867.82	138,614.09
Index Value	Change
15,942,344,052	-561.69
Percentage	Time
-0.4%	24 Jul, 2025 4:30 pm
Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
9,138.37	+76.88
9,138.37 Percentage	_
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	+76.88
Percentage +0.85%	+76.88 Time 24 Jul, 4:35 pm GMT+1
Percentage +0.85%	+76.88 Time 24 Jul, 4:35 pm GMT+1
Percentage +0.85% USA: Dow Jones	+76.88 Time 24 Jul, 4:35 pm GMT+1 ndustrial Average
Percentage +0.85% USA: Dow Jones Index Value	+76.88 Time 24 Jul, 4:35 pm GMT+1 Industrial Average Change
Percentage +0.85% USA: Dow Jones Index Value 44,862.57	+76.88 Time 24 Jul, 4:35 pm GMT+1 ndustrial Average Change -147.72

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Index Value	Change
41,826.34	+655.02
Percentage	Time
+1.59%	24 Jul, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

0	Denvisor	Calling
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	187.5	192.5
Bahrain Dinar	754.75	764.75
Canadian Dollar	208.50	213.50
China Yuan	39.32	39.72
Danish Krone	44.17	44.57
Euro	336.50	338.50
Hong Kong Dollar	35.94	36.29
Indian Rupee	3.22	3.31
Japanese Yen	1.9250	2.0250
Kuwaiti Dinar	921.70	933.70
Malaysian Ringgit	66.74	67.34
NewZealand \$	168.95	170.95
Norwegians Krone	27.94	28.24
Omani Riyal	739.65	749.65
Qatari Riyal	77.57	78.27
Saudi Riyal	76	76.55
Singapore Dollar	221.25	226.25
Swedish Korona	29.61	29.91
Swiss Franc	352.88	355.63
Thai Bhat	8.7	8.85
U.A.E Dirham	77.70	78.25
UK Pound Sterling	388	390.40
US Dollar	286.50	287.55

22nd Environment Conference & Awards 2025 to be held on July 28th

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The National Forum for Environment & Health (NFEH) is set to host the **22nd Environment Conference 2025 alongside the 22nd Annual Environment Excellence Awards (AEEA)on July 28, 2025, at the Local Hotel, Karachi. With the theme "Environment, Climate Change & Corporate Leadership - Towards a Sustainable Pakistan," the event aims to bring together leading stakeholders to discuss pathways toward a greener and more sustainable future for the country.

The conference will open with a welcome address by Mr. Muhammad Naeem Qureshi, President NFEH, followed by keynote speeches from prominent figures including **Mr. Nadeem Arif (CEO, EMC Pakistan), Mr. Tariq Ali Nizamani (MD, Sindh Solid Waste Management Board), and Mr. Waqar Phulpoto (DG, Sindh EPA)**. Renowned parliamentarian Ms. Mehtab Akbar Rashidi, Member National Assembly, will also address the session.

A high-level panel discussion will be moderated by Ms. Afia Salam, a noted environmental expert, and will feature. Ms. Raazia Anum, Sustainability Lead, SGS Pakistan, Mr. Rashid Azeem, Divisional Head - ESG, United Bank Ltd. and Ms. Lubna Panjwani, Environmental Educator

The 22nd Annual Environment Excellence Awards 2025 ceremony will follow the conference, honoring over 70 companies and institutions for exemplary commitment to environmental sustainability. Speeches will be delivered by Ms. Shaheena Sher Ali, Minister for Women Development, Government of Sindh, and Mr. Dost Muhammad Rahimoon, Advisor to the CM on Environment, Climate Change & Coastal Development. Noted ecologistMr. Rafi ul Haq and Jury Member Mr. Shams ul Haq Memonwill also share their insights.

The event will conclude with a Vote of Thanks by Ms. Ruqiya Naeem, Project Head AEEA 2025 and General Secretary, NFEH, followed by dinner and a group photo with the award winners.

This prestigious event gathers leading voices in sustainability, government, civil society, and industry to align on a collective vision for a greener and more resilient

Pak-Qatar Family Takaful selected by KPK Government as Pension Fund Manager

Example 2 Commerce Desk

PESHAWAR: In a historic development for Pakistan's Takaful sector, Pak-Qatar Family Takaful Limited (PQFTL) has been officially appointed by the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) as a licensed Pension Fund Manager under its Contributory Pension Fund (CPF) Scheme. PQFTL is now the first and only Takaful company in Pakistan to hold this prestigious position — a distinction that sets a new precedent for innovation, trust, and excellence.

This achievement was formalized during a high-level agreement signing ceremony, led by KPK Finance Minister Mr. Muzammil Aslam, and attended by senior government officials including Mr. Amer Sultan Tareen, Secretary Finance; Mr. Abdul Qayyum, Team Lead DMU; and Mr. Naveed Alam, Deputy Director, Pension Department.

Representing Pak-Qatar's leadership were Mr. Said Gul and Mr. Kamran Saleem, Founders and Board Members; Mr. Waqas Ahmed, CEO; and Mr. Mehmood Arshad, Group Executive Director.



Pak-Qatar Family Takaful not only met Takaful operator in Pakistan with a Pension these strict criteria — it stood out, as the only fund manager license with a AM2 rating from

PACRA with stable outlook. After a rigorous evaluation process, PQFTL earned the KPK government's confidence to manage contributions in compliance with Shariah principles.

"We are honored to be entrusted by the KPK Government. This partnership aligns with our mission to provide ethical and Shariah-compliant financial solutions. It is a privilege to contribute to the long-term financial wellbeing of public servants through our Voluntary Pension Scheme and other tailored pension offerings." said Mr. Waqas Ahmed, CEO of Pak-Qatar Family Takaful.

This groundbreaking appointment underscores Pak-Qatar's exclusive status as the only Takaful company in Pakistan licensed as a Pension Fund Manager with a AM2 credit rating by PACRA, with a Stable Outlook and the sole Takaful entity chosen by any provincial government for pension fund management

Pak-Qatar's inclusion in the CPF Scheme reinforces its reputation as a trailblazer in the Islamic financial ecosystem, committed to financial inclusion through ethical financial

Economic Intergration

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Mr. Rana Tanveer Hussain, addressing the Interactive Session on Economic Integration between Pakistan and the ASEAN Region as Chief Guest — organized by FPCCI on Thursday, at FPCCI President Secretariat.



11th ISEM Solar Exhibition 2025 Opens at Expo Center Karachi

Example 2 Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The 11th International Solar Energy Meet (ISEM) 2025 officially opened today at Expo Center Karachi, marking a major step forward in Pakistan's transition to clean and sustainable energy. Organized by WPS (White Paper Summits), this threeday international exhibition brings together innovators, industry leaders, and policymakers from across the solar and renewable energy sectors.

ISEM 2025 features cutting-edge solar panels, hybrid systems, energy storage solutions, and off-grid technologies — providing a platform for collaboration and innovation in the fight against energy shortages and climate change.

Khawaja Wahaj Ul Haque, Country Manager for WPS, remarked: "Our goal with ISEM is to go beyond exhibitions. Every technology displayed here is a step toward energy independence and a greener future for Pakistan."

With Pakistan's growing focus on renew-



able energy and falling global solar costs, ISEM 2025 highlights the country's readiness to adopt a low-carbon, self-sufficient energy model.

The three-day exhibition will continue until July 26, 2025, welcoming professionals, institutions, and the general public to engage with the future of clean energy.

Meta announces new safety updates to better protect teens and children online

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Meta has announced a set of new tools and updates aimed at strengthening protection for teens and children on its platforms, including Instagram and Facebook. These updates include improvements to direct messaging for teen users, expanded nudity protection, and enhanced safeguards for adult-managed accounts that primarily feature children.

Teen Accounts will now display more contextual information about who people are safety tips, account creation date, and a new option to block other platforms.

and report a message sender in one go. In June alone, teens used Meta's safety notices to block 1 million accounts and reported another 1 million after seeing a safety notice.

Additionally, Meta will reduce the visibility of these accounts to suspicious people, making them harder to find via search or recommendation. This complements previous efforts like removing the ability for such accounts to accept gifts or offer paid subscriptions.

Meta is working closely with other tech companies via the Tech Coalition's Lantern messaging with, including program to prevent harmful actors from resurfacing on

Rafique Suleman elected President of Pakistan-**Kenya Business Council**



KARACHI: Prominent Pakistani rice exporter Rafique Suleman has been elected President of the Pakistan-Kenya Business Council (PKBC). Suleman, Rice Exporters Association who has played a key role in strengthening trade relations between the two nations, vowed to work towards deepening the long-standing economic partnership and friendship between Pakistan and Kenya.

figure in the rice export stated:

SIGNING CEREMONY

as Convener of the Rice Standing Committee at the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) and as a former Chairman of the of Pakistan (REAP). He has made significant contributions to boosting Pakistan's rice exports to Kenya and beyond.

Speaking to the media upon his return to Karachi from Nairobi, the newly Suleman is a well-known elected PKBC President

UBL expands Strategic Partnership with Teradata to strengthen Data & AI Capabilities

Example 2 Commerce Desk

Limited (UBL), one of Pakistan's leading financial instiexpansion of its strategic partnership with Teradata. The collaboration includes an upgrade of UBL's data environment, leveraging Terada-

at scale, with the flexibility partnership is a major mileto deploy cloud infrastruc-ISLAMABAD: United Bank ture where applicable. This collaboration marks a pivotal step in UBL's digital transfortutions, has announced the mation journey, as the bank transitions to a cutting-edge, open, and connected Data Lakehouse platform.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, UBL's Chief Inforta's enterprise analytics and mation Officer, Mr. Sohail data platform for Trusted AI Aziz, emphasized that this

stone in the bank's digital evolution, unlocking powerful analytics and AI capabilities to drive innovation and enhance customer experiences. He highlighted that the upgraded platform will enable faster, and more personalized banking services. Teradata's Area Vice President for Paki-

reinforced the long-standing data-driven decision-making collaboration, stating that Teradata's AI-powered data platform will allow UBL to harness the full potential of its stan, Mr. Waqas Hashmi, data, accelerate strategic initi- front of building a modern

ership in Pakistan's competitive banking sector.

With this strategic step, UBL remains at the fore-

atives, and strengthen its lead- AI ecosystem-where data is not just stored, but actively leveraged to enable smarter services, actionable insights, responsive operations, and future-ready capabilities.

Over 15,000 youths attend PMYP-Lahore Qalandars talent hunt trials in Larkana, Sukkur

ISLAMABAD: Over 15,000 young cricketers from across Sindh flocked to Larkana and Sukkur to participate in the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP)-Lahore Qalandars Talent Hunt cricket trials, held over two electrifying days in each city.

The initiative, a collaborative effort between the government of Pakistan and Lahore Qalandars, continues to rewrite the narrative of cricket development in the country, unlocking doors of opportunity for boys and girls from underrepresented regions, said a press release.

In Larkana, more than 7,000 aspiring cricketers braved the heat and pressure, turning out in massive numbers to showcase their skills with the bat and ball. From early morning to sundown, the local ground was a picture of ambition, teeming with young players ready to seize a future they had only dreamt of. Not to be outdone, Sukkur saw an even larger turnout, with over 8,000 participants gathering across two action-packed days, making it one of the largest turnouts so far in the nationwide campaign.

This initiative is more than just a talent hunt, it is a movement to democratize



moved by the turnout and the sheer

quality of talent unearthed. "What we

witnessed in Larkana and Sukkur was

nothing short of extraordinary," he said.

tion. These young boys and girls came

not just with passion, but with discipline,

skill, and hunger to grow. At Lahore

Qalandars, we have always believed

"This is a revolution, a cricket revolu-

access to cricket and bring the national sport back to its roots. With Lahore Qalandars' expertise in talent identification and development, and the government's support through PMYP, young athletes are being offered a once-in-alifetime platform to rise through the ranks purely on merit.

Speaking at the conclusion of the Larkana and Sukkur trials, Lahore Qalandars CEO Atif Rana was visibly tap into this hidden treasure." Rana stressed that this initiative would

Program has made it possible for us to

lead to the formation of five regional teams from Sindh, providing consistent opportunities, exposure, and professional development. "We're not here to host a one-off event. We are here to build sustainable cricketing pathways, to transform lives, and to give every talented player a fair shot at glory."

As the trials wrapped up, emotions ran high. For many participants, this was the first time they were playing in front of professional selectors and under structured supervision.

"This opportunity has changed my life," said a young girl from Larkana, bat in hand, beaming with pride. "No one ever came to ask about our talent before. Now I believe I can make it to the national team one day."

Selected participants expressed deep gratitude to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the PMYP team, and Lahore Qalandars for bringing this transformative initiative to their hometowns. For them, this was not just about trials, it was that the next superstars are waiting in about hope, recognition, and a chance the heartlands of Pakistan, not just in to dream big.

Training process of young camp probables is underway at Punjab Sports Department's Summer Sports Camps

Muhammad Hussain, Arsalan Farzand and Saifullah Shine in PCB Regional Inter District

KARACHI: The highlights of the 3rd day of the three day matches of the PCB Regional District Senior (Karachi Region) was Fighting knock of Zone-V Muhammad Hussain 139 and 95 by Muhammad Asif added 163 runs for the 4th wicket Partnership. Century by Arsalan Farzand 116 and deadly bowling by

The Tournament is being Organized by Regional Cricket

At UBL Sports Complex Zone-VI winning their 3rf match

against Zone-IV by 49 runs and their total Points are 27. Zone-VI

286/9 and 184/6 in 52 overs Declared. Ashir Ahmed 37 5x4,

Maaz Khurram 33 4x4 both not out, Abdullah Alam 40 4x4 2x6, Abdul Rehman Niazi 26, Ebad Khan 22. Asadullah Hamza

Zone-IV 1st Innings 141 and 280 allout in 79.4 overs. Arsalan Farzand 116 19x4x4 1x6 Danish Rafiq 35, Syed Abdul Rafay

33, Muhammad Afzal 31, Afnan Khan 30. Saifullah (ob) 5/83,

At NBP Sports Complex Zone-III and Zone-V match ended

After follow on Zone-V 2nd innings 452/9 Declared. Muhammad Hussain 139 16x4, Muhammad Asif 95 14x4, Syed

Muhammad Hussain and Muhammad Asif added 163 runs

for the 4th Partnership, Shahzaib 3/101, M. Ismail 2/58, Israr

in Draw. Zone-III 1st Innings $399/7\,\mathrm{and}\,72/2\,\mathrm{in}\,14\,\mathrm{overs}.$ Sami

Muhammad Makki 2/53, Muhammad Usman 2/75.

Afri 28 not out, Shahzar Muhammad 28.

Zone-V 1st Innings 229 and

Senior (Karachi Region)

off spinner Saifullah 5/83.

Association Karachi.

Scores in Brief:

(mf) 3/42.

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The training process of young camp probables is underway at Punjab Sports Department's Summer Sports Camps being organized at different venues of Nishtar Park Sports Complex on Thursday.

The senior qualified coaches are imparting valuable training in 14 games including badminton, table tennis, boxing, taekwondo, swimming, hockey, football, athletics, tennis, archery,

cricket, wushu, squash and yoga.
Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry is monitoring the proceedings of training camps on daily basis. He said that several highly talented players are

being identified from Summer Sports Camps. Expert coach M Ayub at boxing camp, taught children how to make an attack and take evasive position during a boxing contest. Senior coach Shahzad Asghar conducted a session of physical

exercises at football camp. He also supervised a friendly football match among the participating players to assess their game skills and fitness level. A large number of young athletes attended the taekwondo camp where qualified coach Raees-ur-Rehman taught children

modern methods of self-defence and avoid an attack during a

taekwondo competition. The badminton and table tennis camps are also in full swing at Nishtar Park Sports Complex gymnasium hall under the supervision of qualified coaches, who taught children finer points of the games besides conducting practice matches among the

Best arrangements being made to organize Azadi Family Fun Race in a befitting manner: Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry

跨 Tahir Amin Malik

participating children.



Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry said that best arrangements are being made to organize Azadi Family Fun Race in a befitting manner on the eve of national Independence Day, The Azadi Family Fun Race will prove to be an ideal platform for youngsters to demonstrate their talent in a festive atmosphere.

Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry expressed these thoughts while presiding over an important meeting at the National Hockey Stadium on Thursday. The key meeting was convened to review preparations of Azadi Family Fun Race scheduled to be organized at Nishtar Park

Sports Complex (NPSC) on August 9. Director Admin Dr M Kaleem, Director Sports Rana Nadeem Anjum and all the officers of the Punjab Sports Department attended the meeting in person while sports officers from Multan, Rawalpindi and Bahawalpur participated in the meeting through

Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry directed the officers concerned to make best arrangements at water points and medical camps during the mega race. "Girls and boys aged 5 to 14 and women with no age limit will participate in separate 1 km of Azadi Family Fun Races," he added.

Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry said that the officials of Rescue 1122, traffic, security and other departments will be present at the Azadi Family Fun Races to complete all the race proceedings smoothly.

Pakistan vs Bangladesh Three Match T- 20 Cricket Series

Pakistan Defeats Bangladesh by 74 runs in Final Match of Three-Match T20 Series







Asim Tanveer

MIRPUR/ DHAKA: Pakistan may have lost the T20 series against Bangladesh, but they avoided a whitewash defeat. In the final T20 International match, Sahibzada Farhan's 63-run innings and Hassan Nawaz's 33 runs provided some stability to Pakistan's batting. As a result, with the help of Mohammad Nawaz's 27 runs in the end, Pakistan managed to post a strong total of 178 runs for the loss of 7 wickets — their best score in the

Sahibzada Farhan and Saim Ayub provided a solid and surprisingly delightful start with an 82-run partnership. Saim Ayub was dismissed after scoring 21 runs off 15 balls. Mohammad Haris made 5 runs, Salman Ali Agha 12, and Hussain Talat managed just 1 run. Farhan played an aggressive

innings, scoring 63 runs off 41 balls, which included five sixes and six fours. Mohammad Nawaz scored 27 runs off 16 balls, hitting two sixes and two fours. For Bangladesh, Taskin Ahmed was the most successful bowler, taking three wickets but conceding 38 runs.

In reply, Bangladesh's innings also started disastrously, mirroring Pakistan's collapse in the previous match. They lost five wickets for just 25 runs and were six down by 34 runs. The main architects of this destruction were Salman Mirza and Faheem Ashraf. Tanzid Hasan was dismissed for a duck (0), Mohammad Naim scored 10, Anamul Haque 8, Mehidy Hasan Miraz 9, and Zakir Hasan just 1 run. Mohammad Hasan also got

Mohammad Saifuddin put up some resistance. He played an unbeaten innings of 35 runs, helping his team avoid



desh team was bowled out for 104 runs Faheem Ashraf and Mohammad Nawaz in 16.4 overs. For Pakistan, Salman Mirza gave away only 19 runs in 4 overs and took three wickets — his second consecu- 74 Runs

complete embarrassment. The Bangla- tive impressive performance after debut. also took two wickets each.

Pakistan Won the 3rd T-20 Match by

Under Pakistan presidency

Continued from page 8

"The Security Council notes that the United Nations and the regional and subregional organizations, including the Organization of Islamic Cooperation work in promoting and facilitating the resolution of conflicts, and stressed the need for this work to be consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant resolutions of the Security

firms its commitment to the

particular Chapter VI. The Security Council notes the interest of utilizing the existing and potential capabilities of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in this regard, including through encouraging its member countries to resolve differences peacefully through dialogue, reconciliation, consultation, negotiation, good offices, mediation, and

judicial settlement of disputes. "The Security Council recog-"The Security Council reaf- nizes the important role of the good offices of the Secrepacific settlement of disputes, tary-General and encourages the in conformity with the Charter Secretary-General to continue macy, and stresses the need for

of the United Nations, in to use mediation as often as possible to help resolve conflicts peacefully, working in close coordination with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in that regard, as appropriate.

Security Council welcomes the efforts of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, which have been undertaken in coordination with the United Nations, in strengthening its role in conflict prevention, confidence-building, peacekeeping, conflict resolution and post-conflict rehabilitation, mediation and preventive diplo-

this work to be consistent with through the contribution of of Islamic Cooperation is rele-the maintenance of internathe UN Charter and relevant resolutions of the Council.

"The Security Council recognizes the importance of interaction and cooperation, where appropriate, between the Peacebuilding Commission and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in support of nationally owned and inclusive peacebuilding efforts.

"The Council commends the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation for their ongoing commitment and peacebuilding, including

troops to United Nations Peacekeeping Operations.

The Security Council recognizes the value of close cooperation, as appropriate, with regional and subregional organizations, including the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, in order to enhance the implementation of United Nations a coherent, efficient and effective manner.

"The Security Council notes that sharing of information and to international peacekeeping analysis between the United

vant for advancing their shared peacebuilding, and encourages exploring further cooperation in this area.

commends the commitment in his next biannual report to of the Organization of Islamic the Security Council and the Cooperation to building its General Assembly on coopera-Security Council resolutions in capacity in the field of conflict tion between the United Nations prevention and resolution, mediation and preventive diplomacy.

"The Security Council recog-Nations and the Organization tion of Islamic Cooperation in Cooperation."

tional peace and security and concerns on conflict preven- expresses its intention to hold tion, conflict resolution and regular Briefings of the Security Council, as appropriate, in this regard. The Security Council requests

Security Council the Secretary-General to include and regional and other organizations, recommendations on ways to further enhance cooperanizes the relevance of enhancing tion between the United Nations cooperation with the Organiza- and the Organization of Islamic

The Spokesman

Group Photo

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani in a group photo with members of tribal jirga from the merged districts (Formerly FATA) led by the Faisal Karim Kundi, Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at Parliament House, on Thursday.



Under Pakistan presidency, UNSC adopt statement renewing commitment to pacific settlement of disputes

Spokesman Report

UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations Security Council Thursday reaffirmed its commitment to the pacific settlement of disputes, and urges the UN Secretary-General to continue to use mediation to help resolve conflicts peacefully, working in close coordination with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

nizes the value of close coopizations, including the Organiin order to enhance the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions in a coherent, efficient and effective manner," a Council's pres-



"The Security Council recog-idential statement said at the stan's signature event. end of a debate on promoting eration, as appropriate, with cooperation between the UN

> The presidential stateconsensus, was read out by Deputy Prime Minister and who presided over the Security Council meeting on Paki- reiterates that cooperation expresses its appreciation for

The Statement said "The Security Council recalls the tive partnerships between the regional and subregional organ- and OIC, convened by Pakistan. purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, zation of Islamic Cooperation, ment, which was adopted by and reaffirms its primary responsibility under the Charter for the maintenance of interna-Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, tional peace and security and in this regard, the Security Council

between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations and arrangements in matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security, and consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, can improve collective security

"The Security Council recalls and statements of its President tance of developing effec-United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant statutes of the regional and subregional organizations.

"The Security Council

the briefings of the Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Khalid Khiari, and the Assistant Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Mr. Yousef M. Al Dobeay.

"The Security Council takes note of the 16th biennial general meeting of the organizations and agencies of the United its previous relevant resolutions Nations system and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation which underscore the impor- and its subsidiary organs and specialized and affiliated institutions, held in Astana from 22 to 24 July 2024 to review and appraise the level of cooperation between the two organizations and acknowledges the value of further strengthening cooperation in areas of common interest.

Continued on Page 7

PN holds launching ceremony of PNS Sahiwal Gun Boat



neering Works (KS&EW) on Thursday. The PNS Sahiwal (Desig) has Platform Design Wing (PDW) of the Pakistan Navy and is currently under construction at KS&EW, said a news release issued by the Directorate General Public Relations (Pakistan Navy).

The state-of-the-art vessel will be equipped with high-performance, long-range semi-automatic guns, enhancing its operational effectiveness in maritime missions.

Vice Chief of the Naval Staff, Vice graced the occasion as the chief guest. and the shipbuilding industry.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice Admiral Ovais Bilgrami appreciated ISLAMABAD: The launching cerejoint efforts of the Platform Design mony of PNS Sahiwal Gunboat was Wing (PDW) and the KS&EW in held at Karachi Shipyard & Engi- advancing the Pakistan Navy's policy of indigenization.

He expressed gratitude to the been indigenously designed by the Ministry of Defence Production for its continued support to KS&EW.

He highlighted that the vessel will be equipped to perform diverse maritime security tasks.

He also stated that the Pakistan Navy is considering additional production of gunboats which would boost both the indigenization process and uplift of KS&EW.

The launching ceremony was attended by high-ranking officials from the Pakistan Navy, including Admiral Ovais Ahmed Bilgrami, representatives from MODP, KS&EW

Pakistan and Türkiye hold inaugural meeting of Joint Committee on Security, Defence and Intelligence

Spokesman Report

meeting of the Pakistan-Türtee (JSC) on Security, Defence Ambassador Syed Ali Asad on 12-13 February 2025. and Intelligence was held today in Islamabad, marking a significant step in deepening bilateral cooperation between the two nations.

was led by Ambassador Cihad South Asia, while the Paki-Gillani, Additional Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign

ISLAMABAD: The first Erginay, Director General for Level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSCC) between kiye Joint Standing Commit- stani side was headed by Pakistan and Türkiye, held

> During the meeting, both (Afghanistan & West Asia) sides engaged in discussions on emerging geopolitical dynamics, focusing on committee was global and regional security a long-standing relationship technology.

serve as groundwork for the upcoming session of the Joint co-chaired by the Deputy Minister/Foreign Prime Minister of Pakistan and the

Foreign Minister of Türkiye.

The Turkish delegation established following the developments. The outcome founded on deep-rooted reliaseled by Ambassador Cihad 7th Session of the High- of these deliberations will gious, cultural, and strategic connections. Both countries continue to collabo-Commission, which will be rate across a wide range of sectors, including defence, trade, energy, transport, culture, tourism, education, defence industries, agricul-Pakistan and Türkiye share ture, health, and science and

Sugar profiteers' days numbered as noose tightens around mafia: *Tanveer*

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain on Thursday said the government would ensure a smooth supply chain of sugar across the country, showing no leniency towards those involved in black marketing and profiteering of the commodity.

'Sugar profiteers will be dealt with an iron hand and brought to justice by taking stern action and ensuring exemplary punishments through the due course of law," he said while speaking to APP.

The minister said necessary directives had already been issued to all provincial chief secretaries and deputy commissioners to ensure the availability of sugar at controlled prices.

Under the guidelines, he said, district administrations were required to enforce the ex-mill rate of sugar at Rs161 per kilogram and the retail rate at Rs173 per kilogram.

Tanveer assured that a sufficient supply of sugar was being maintained, adding that no leniency would be shown to those exploiting the poor for profit, regardless of political affiliation.

CTBCM policy to be implemented in next two months: Awais Leghari

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Power Division Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari on Thursday said that Competitive Trading Bilateral Contract Market (CTBCM) policy will be implemented in next two months for the first time in the country's history adding that after that the government will not purchase electricity directly. The Minister expressed these views during a meeting with a high-level World Bank delegation led by Ousmane Dione, Regional Vice President for the Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, said a press release.

He said under CTBCM model, electricity will be freely traded in the market. Mechanisms such as "wheeling charges" are being introduced, and the government's role will be confined strictly to the regulatory framework, he added. He said that this transition will be gradual and guided by a comprehensive strategy to maintain stability in the system.

The Minister also briefed the delegation in detail about the government's energy sector reforms, net metering policy, privatization efforts, regulatory improvements, and investment opportunities.

Federal Minister terms NIT-ASU collaboration milestone in higher education transformation

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui termed the collaboration between NIT and ASU as a significant step in Pakistan's academic transformation, allowing Pakistani students access to internationally recognized higher education through dual degrees, global curricula and cutting-edge research platforms. He shared these remarks while chairing a high-level meeting Thursday with representatives of the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Lahore, and Arizona State University (ASU), USA. The meeting highlighted Pakistan's growing commitment to integrating global educational standards and building a digitally empowered, knowledge-based econo-

"Pakistan is home to over 150 million youthwe must transform this potential into a producresolve to empower youth with future-ready skills," the Minister stated. "NIT will serve as a national talent pipeline for sectors like IT, Artificial Intelligence, fintech, and e-commerce, aligned with the Digital Pakistan vision," he added.

my, said a press release.

tive national asset. This partnership exemplifies our

Solid evidence against accused in May 9 incidents case resulted in award of punishment to accused: Tarar

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar said on Thursday that there was solid evidence against the accused of May 9 tragedy and they were awarded punishment on its basis.

Talking to the media, he said CCTV footage was available, rupees of the business tycoon. and it was known who were involved in these incidents.

To a question, he said in the 190 million pound case, the founding chairman of PTI could not present any evidence in his favour.

The minister said that the PTI leadership having no defence in 190 million pounds case, so they were trying to hide behind religion and the State of Medina.

"They say that we were talking about the state of Medina, so we were convicted in the 190 million pound case", Attaullah Tarar added.

"The answer to the 190 million pound case is not religious, nor is the state of Medina. They should tell the nation how they used billions of



The minister said that the sons of the founding chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf had the right to campaign, but wherever they are going, they should tell people that their father had been convicted in the 190 million pound corruption

He said the sons of PTI founding chairman should carry the fact sheet of the 190 million pound case with them and tell anyone they meet that this was a corruption case, not a political one.

He remarked that the PTI leadership was trying to give the impression that the 190 million pound case is a politically motivated case, which

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