

A Leading National Daily ABC Rectified The Spokesman

Barkat Rice Mills



MNAs stamp resolution against misuse of social media

The National Assembly on Wednesday passed a resolution against the misuse of social media. The House passed the resolution urging the federal government to strengthen the legal framework to ensure strict punishment for unauthorized video recording, cyber harass-ment and digital defamation.

Mobile internet suspended across Balochistan amid security concerns

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Safar 12, Thursday, August 7, 2025







Daily Spokesman Vol: 19, Issue: 112 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Meeting on Review

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting to review progress regarding Jinnah Medical Complex in



PM for ensuring global standards of specialized healthcare in construction of JMC

跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday directed the relevant authorities to ensure global standards of specialized healthcare in the construction of Jinnah Medical Complex.

"Jinnah Medical Complex will be a world-class hospital providing medical treatment parency. for patients from all four provinces, including Azad Kashmir plan to improve primary and and Gilgit-Baltistan," the prime secondary healthcare systems merit.

minister said while chairing a in Islamabad to reduce pressure review meeting on the progress of JMC's construction.

The prime minister directed to prioritize transparency and merit in the construction and staff recruitment for Jinnah Medical Complex.

He also instructed to ensure the third-party validation for construction quality and trans-

He directed to prepare a

on tertiary hospitals.

He said Pakistan Kidney and Liver Institute (PKLI) was effectively serving as a source of treatment for patients.

"Jinnah Medical Complex will be built with international-standard facilities and it will have even better facilities as compared to that of PKLI," the prime minister said stressing to outsource all related services, including janitorial, totally on

During the meeting, the prime minister was briefed on the concept design, board formation, land acquisition, and progress regarding the proposed commercial center

adjacent to the hospital. The meeting was informed that the concept design, land transfer, and board appointments were in their final stages. It was further noted that geotechnical studies and social ensure the highest construction cials attended the meeting.

standards and to enhance the hospital's utility for residents of Islamabad and surrounding

The meeting was also briefed on the timelines and targets for

various initiatives. Federal Ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Ahad Khan Cheema, Syed Mustafa Kamal, PM's Coordinator for Health Dr. Mukhtar Bharath, PKLI Chairman Professor Dr. Saeed impact studies are underway to Akhtar, and relevant senior offi-

Defence minister claims top bureaucrats buying property, seeking citizenship in Portugal



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Defense Minister Khawaja Asif has alleged that more than half of Pakistan's bureaucrats have purchased property in Portugal and are also preparing to obtain European citizenship'.

On social media platform X, Khawaja Asif allegedly stated in his tweet that many of the "eminent" bureaucrats among them have retired after corrup-

tion worth billions of rupees and are now living a peaceful life.

He further revealed that a bureaucrat close to former Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar collected Rs4 billion as "salami" only at the wedding of his daughters and is now living a retired life without any kind of accountability.

In defence of politicians, Asif said that unlike bureaucrats elected officials do not enjoy the bureaucrats in Portugal. luxury of dual citizenship or quit

retirement overseas, as they must face the public and take part in elections. He claimed that the real corruption lies in the ranks of bureaucracy and elite, who are 'defiling the holy land'.

The Defense Minister claimed that a "workman" is playing a central role in the investment and citizenship of these bureaucrats in Portugal. According to Asif, he is preparing shelters for

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Malik Riaz moves Supreme Court to halt Bahria Town property auction

№ City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Bahria Town founder Malik Riaz has approached the Supreme Court the IHC judgment that allowed in a bid to halt the auction of his the auction to proceed. company's properties scheduled for August 7, filing an appeal against a recent Islamabad High

Court (IHC) decision. Senior lawyer Farooq H. Naek submitted the appeal on Riaz's

suspend the auction process until a final verdict is reached. The petition also seeks the overturning of

The move comes a day after Malik Riaz issued a public statement via social media platform X (formerly Twitter), claiming that recent actions by government agencies have severely disrupted it impossible for the company to

behalf, urging the apex court to Bahria Town's operations and plunged the company into financial crisis.

In his statement, Riaz alleged that authorities had taken multiple coercive actions, including freezing the company's bank accounts, impounding staff vehicles, and arresting dozens of employees. As a result, he said, cash flow had collapsed, making provide routine services.

"We are unable to pay staff salaries, and we are now being forced to consider a complete shutdown of Bahria Town operations across Pakistan," Riaz stated. He described such a move as a last resort but said the situation had deteriorated to a critical level.

Calling for dialogue, Malik Riaz appealed for a chance to return to what he termed a "digni-

fied and serious resolution." He expressed willingness to participate in any form of arbitration and committed to fully complying with its outcome, including any financial settlement mandated.

The Supreme Court's response to the appeal will now be closely watched, as it may determine whether Bahria Town finds legal relief or faces escalating chal-

DPM Dar calls for strategic overhaul to boost skilled labour exports



跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister (DPM/FM), Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar Wednesday called for a strategic overhaul to boost skilled labour exports.

The DPM chaired a highlevel meeting to review Pakistan's Emigration, Overseas Employment, and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Policy, with a focus on aligning the country's workforce with global market demands, a DPM's Office news release said.

DPM Dar stressed the urgent need to invest in highdiversify into new employ-

ment sectors, and explore untapped international destinations for Pakistani workers.

He highlighted the importance of aligning Pakistan's human capital with international demand to increase foreign remittances, broaden employment avenues abroad, and improve the country's global economic footprint.

The meeting was attended by the Ministers for OP & HRD, Commerce, Minister of State for Health, SAPM on Finance Tariq Bajwa, federal secretaries from the Cabinet Division and HRD, as well as senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs quality skill development, and other relevant depart-

Corruption scam of Rs 1.24b unveiled in APP; I will take up it personally, says Atta Tarar



跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar said that he would personally follow up on the Rs1.24 billion embezzlement case in the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) funds, during a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting held here Wednesday.

He gave this response to a question raised by Senator

Sarmad Ali, who asked why FIR had not been lodged even after more than ten months of the exposure of the Rs1.24 billion scam.

Federal Minister Attaullah Tarar said the Managing Director of APP, Muhammad Asim Khichi, had uncovered a major scam involving misappropriation of Rs 1.24 billion provident fund (PF) and employees-related expenses (ERE) in the organization. He assured the committee that he would pursue the case himself for registration of an FIR against those responsible.

It was further told to the meeting that the amount mentioned in the mega corruption scam was duly endorsed in

Continued on Page 8

May 9 trial convictions followed lawful judicial process: Azam Tarar

跨 City Desk

Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar on Wednesday apprised the National Assembly that convictions in May 9 cases were the outcome of a lawful judicial process, adding that there was no role of the government

Responding to a point raised in the National Assembly by Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, he said that once a case reached the trial stage, it was the court's domain to conduct proceedings and deliver judgments. "This is a lawful process; objections can be raised, but the forum to do so is also the court," he said. Citing a recent example, he

ISLAMABAD: Minister for referred to Jamshed Dasti's case in which the Lahore High Court granted interim relief after hearing arguments, despite objections raised against the composition of the bench. He said similar principles applied to the current cases, and if interpretation of constitutional provisions like Articles 63(g) and (h) was required, it would ultimately be determined by the Election Commission and the courts.

> The minister said that in criminal law, separate trials could take place if the consequences or participation differed in each case.

A delegation led by Sardar Muhammad Hussain called on PM Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq

👺 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: A delegation led by Minister of State Sardar Muhammad Hussain called on Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq here today. Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said that the government has taken exemplary steps to improve the standard of living of the common man.

He noted that road infrastructure has been significantly upgraded, while key reforms have been introduced in the health and education sectors.

Highlighting the government's priorities, the Prime Minister said that collectivism has been at the core of policy-making. "We will continue our mission of public service," he affirmed. enhancing governance. He emphasized that the government has strengthened the relationship between the people and the state by is becoming a reality. We have eradithe Prime Minister added. He reiter-



"Through people-friendly measures, the dream of a real welfare state

cated mafias, eliminated nepotism, and ensured that taxpayers' money is spent solely for the welfare of the people,"

ated the government's commitment to sustainable development through continued public-oriented initiatives.

During the meeting, the Prime Minister was briefed on the welfare measures undertaken in Mang, the effective use of available resources, and the challenges that lie ahead.

The delegation also extended an invitation to the Prime Minister to visit Mang Jassa Pir.

The delegation included Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami District Sudhanuti Sardar Zulfigar, Member District Council Mang Sardar Shaukat Ali, Member District Council Sher Khan Sardar Aftab, President Muslim League (N) Sub-Division Mang Sardar Shabbir, Chairman Nawab Jassi Khan Foundation Sardar Tanveer Khadim, Chairman Union Council Mang Sardar Tahir, and others.

assures action

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan Wednesday said that pensioners of the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP), the country's premier national news agency, should not be deprived of their lawful annual pension increase as announced in the federal

APP pensioners demand fair treatment, Governor

Speaking to a delegation of pensioners led by Dr Waqar Ch Arain, Advisor to the Minister of State and Federal Tax Ombudsman, the Governor acknowledged the dedicated service of retired employees who served APP for 30 to 40 years in various capacities. He stressed that they deserve their rightful pension increments without discrimination.

The delegation informed the Governor that for several years, the approved increases had not been added to their pensions, causing financial hardship. Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan assured them he would take up the matter with the concerned authorities to ensure the implementation of budget-announced pension hikes.

The pensioners expressed gratitude for the Governor's support in addressing their legitimate demand. Other participants included Chaudhry Muhammad Zahid, Muhammad Ali Asif, Rehmat Elahi, Aziz Ur Rehman and Bashir Ahmad Tahir.

'Kashmir's freedom is our right' chant thousands in London

Spokesman Report

LONDON: Chairman of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference Youth Wing Sardar Usman Ali Khan participated in the protest demonstration against Indian atrocities held in London. The demonstration was organized on the occasion of Kashmir Exploitation Day in which hundreds of people participated and raised strong slogans against the cruel actions of India. On this occasion, former Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Azad Jammu and Kashmir Dr. Khalid Mahmood, President of Tehreek-e-Kashmir UK Raja Fahim Kayani, leading leaders of the Kashmiri community, workers, women and a large number of youth were present. The protesters were holding banners and placards against Indian atrocities on which slogans like "Kashmir's freedom is our right", "India is a terrorist state" and "We have not forgotten August 5th" were written. Addressing the protesters, Sardar Usman Ali Khan said that August 5, 2019 is a black day for the Kashmiri nation, when India, in clear violation of international laws, abolished the special status of occupied Kashmir and deprived the Kashmiris of their fundamental rights. He said that India's actions of turning the occupied valley into a prison, conspiracies to change the population ratio, enforced disappearances of youth, and desecration of women are unacceptable.

Strict measures taken in Attock to combat environmental pollution

👺 Raza Nagvi

ATTOCK: District Officer Environment Attock, Dr. Rabia Nosheen, has said that under the vision of the Chief Minister Punjab, significant measures are being taken across the province to combat environmental pollution, aiming to reduce air pollution, industrial emissions, smoke from brick kilns, and the use of plastic. She stated that industries and kilns are being urged to adopt modern, eco-friendly zigzag technology to curb the release of smoke and harmful gases.

According to Dr. Rabia Nosheen, coordinated actions are underway across the district to control industrial waste and pollution from brick kilns. As a result, dozens of industrial units and kilns were sealed last year, while heavy fines were imposed on those defying government policies. She informed that currently, out of 96 operational brick kilns in Attock district, 67 have been converted to zigzag technology in line with departmental policy, while notices have been issued to the remaining 29 to ensure compliance with environmental protection standards, and strict monitoring is in place.

She emphasized that the fight against pollution cannot be won by the government alone; every citizen must recognize their responsibility. Appealing to the public, she urged them to abandon the use of plastic shopping bags and switch to environmentally friendly cloth bags. Dr. Rabia Nosheen further announced that a plantation campaign will soon be launched in Attock district, during which saplings will be distributed free of cost among citizens to turn the dream of a clean and green Punjab into reality.

Man gets life term for killing his fellow tribesman

👺 Kamran Khamiso Khowaja

THATTA: The Model Criminal Trial Court in Thatta awarded life imprisonment to the accused in a murder case registered at the Thatta police station in 2023. Additional Session Judge-I Thatta, Islam ul Haq Arain, pronounced the verdict after hearing arguments from both sides and also imposed a fine of three hundred thousand rupees to be paid by convict Abdullah Walhari, who was found guilty of killing his tribesman Zahid Hussain Walhari over a land dispute. The court, in a detailed verdict, held that the prosecution had proved its case beyond

Advocate for the complainant, Sadam Abbasi, argued that the defense plea raised by the accused was baseless and didn't apply to the prudent mind. He further asserted that the accused had committed murder with malicious intention and with well-articulated conspiracy and planning.

Soon after the verdict, Abdullah Walhari was escorted to Central Prison Hyderabad, where he will serve his term of imprisonment.

Celebrations of Independence Day

RAWALPINDI: A view of the panflexes regarding the 14th August on the pole in the middle of the road, amid the celebrations of Independence Day in the City.



Kashmir Global Council Calls for Global Action to Resolve Decades-Long Dispute

Spokesman Report

WASHINGTON: A International Conference under the auspices of Kashmir Global Council convened in Capitol Hill on remembering Kashmir Martyrs' Day 13th July 1931with renewed calls for global action to resolve the decades-long dispute. The unanimous declaration adopted after the event, attended by U.S. Republican and Democratic representatives, Kashmiri and international scholars, human rights advocates and diaspora focussed on the risk of nuclear conflict in South Asia and ongoing human rights violations in the region.

KGC President Farooq Siddiqi miri people." said the Kashmir issue "will not be resolved through guns, sanctions



"through justice, universal princi- so-called Trump Doctrine as "a real- mobilizing diaspora groups, human ples and the free will of the Kash-

Siddiqi endorsed former U. S. President Donald Trump's proposed

prevent nuclear escalation in the

or constitutional changes," but only approach to Kashmir, describing the intensify its diplomatic campaign, Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

istic path" to defuse tensions and rights organizations and global powers to elevate the Kashmir issue at the United Nations, the U.S., The council announced plans to European Union, China and the

SAU's 'Maraka-e-Haq' initiative empowers female students through sports

Marchi Sarohi Sarohi

TANDOJAM: As part of the Independence Day celebrations, Sindh Agriculture University (SAU) Tandojam organized a vibrant series of sports competitions for female students under the thematic banner "Marakae-Haq".

The events were hosted by the Directorate of Sports at the witnessed enthusiastic participation from students of SAU,

Government Girls High School Farm Colony, and Gulshan from the same Govern-

Bukhari Model School. In the badminton competi-

tion, Hunfa Dahri from the IT department secured first place, while Dua Leghari from the Faculty of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Sciences came second, and Falak Tariq from the Faculty of Agricultural Social Sciences finished third.

In the one-leg race, Benazir from Government Girls School University's Sports Complex and Farm Colony clinched the top spot, followed by Umm-ul-Baneen from Bukhari Model School in second place, and

ment Girls School securing third

Addressing the prize distribution ceremony, SAU Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Altaf Ali Siyal distributed shields among the winning students and congratulated them on their achieve-

He lauded the energetic participation of young pation of female students, he female students, terming it a promising sign for national development.

"Engaging students in healthy extracurricular activities helps instill confidence, leadership,

and a competitive spirit, which are essential attributes for the growth of our youth," Dr. Siyal

He added that Independence Day is not just a ceremonial occasion, but a meaningful opportunity to reflect on national identity, unity, and patriotism. The active particinoted, is particularly commend-

The ceremony was attended by Dean Dr. Inayatullah Rajper, Dean Dr. Ghiasuddin Shah Rashdi, Dr. Aijaz Soomro, Dr.



Shehla Baloch, Dr. Muharram Anwar Hussain Khanzada, and several Qambrani, Director Sports Muhammad Ashraf Rustamani, members and staff.



Namaz Timings

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police9266044
Motorway Police9270601-20
Women Belice

Women Police **Stations**

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

ENOUIRY

Edhi Ambulance	115
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Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange	9270831-5
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CAA	9281092

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

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Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board .	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropol	itan
Corporation	9209224

RDA removes 35 illegal constructionsalong NullahLai

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA), in its ongoing drive against encroachments, removed 35 illegally constructed structures on the banks of Nullah Lai here on Wednesday.

According to the RDA spokesperson, the enforcement squad carried out the anti-encroachment drive in multiple areas of Nullah Lai and demolished washrooms, kitchen garages, and storage units.

He said RDA is actively continuing its operations $to \ remove \ encroach ments$ and reclaim public spaces in Rawalpindi.

These operations, often involving anti-encroachment drives, aim to maintain urban order, improve accessibility, and restore the city's planned infrastructure.

The operation was supervised by Director Land RDA, Malik Ghazanfar Ali Awan, in coordination with the Municipal Corporation of Rawalpindi and other concerned officials.

The RDA emphasized that the crackdown follows clear instructions from Chief Minister Punjab, Maryam Nawaz Sharif, who has mandated a zero-tolerance policy on illegal developments, encroachments, and unauthorized commer-

FIRs will also be lodged against those found in violation, and enforcement will be carried out without discrimination, he added.

Ambassador of Kazakhstan visits IIUI President to discuss academic and interfaith collaboration

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Kistafin, called on the President of the International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI), Prof. Dr. Ahmed Saad Alahmed, at his office on Wednesday at the new campus.

During the meeting, both dignitaries discussed avenues of strengthening academic collaboration and enhancing joint efforts to promote peace and interfaith harmony.

The ambassador emphasized the strong potential for cooperation between IIUI and higher education institutions in Kazakhstan, particularly in fields related to Islamic studies, law, and research.

The ambassador also extended a formal invitation to the IIUI President to attend the upcoming Congress and agreed to explore further collabora-Religions to be held in Astana, the

capital of Kazakhstan. The invitation was appreciated by Prof. Dr. Ahmed Saad Alahmed, who expressed his keen Kazakhstan to Pakistan, H. E. Yerzhan interest in participating in the significant global event. He noted that IIUI has been a member of the Congress' Secretariat since 2008 and has always remained committed to contributing to global discourse on interfaith harmony and peaceful coexistence.

President said that IIUI is keen to play an active role in initiatives that promote dialogue among civilizations, and we look forward to deepening our engagement with Kazakh institutions.

The meeting was also attended by the Director General of the Islamic Research Institute (IRI), and Dean of the Faculty of Shariah and Law, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq.

In the meeting, both sides reiterated the importance of continued dialogue of Leaders of World and Traditional tion in academic, cultural, and research



Called on

ISLAMABAD: Japanese Ambassador Akamatsu Shuichi called on Special Assistant to the Prime minister Haroon Akhtar Khan today in Ministry of industries and production, on Wednesday.



CCP Engages Dr. Amber Darr as External Expert for Centre of Excellence in Competition Research

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has appointed Dr. Amber Darr, an internationally recognized academic lawyer and researcher in competition law and policy, as an external expert to its newly established Centre of Excellence in Research in Competition.

Dr. Darr brings with her a wealth of experience in competition law, having taught and conducted research at leading global institutions including the University of Manchester, University College London, Lincoln's Inn, and Bryn Mawr College.

Her expertise in law and policy will strengthen the CCP's efforts to promote fair competition and curb anti-competitive practices in Pakistan.



The Centre of Excellence, set up by CCP, will serve as a dedicated platform to conduct in-depth research on markets and industrial sectors, generate evidencebased insights, and provide policy recommendations to government, businesses,

It will also function as a knowledge hub for competition-related issues, facilitating

better policymaking and awareness. Welcoming Dr. Darr's engagement, the CCP noted that her involvement will "add academic depth and international perspective to the Commission's research agenda, enabling Pakistan's competition framework to align with global best prac-

The initiative is part of CCP's broader reforms to strengthen regulation, encourage competitive markets, and protect consumers.

Alongside its enforcement actions against cartels, abuse of dominance, and deceptive marketing practices, the CCP is now investing in research-driven policymaking to ensure market efficiency and economic growth.

Launch of Climate Smart Village Initiative

City Desk

ISLAMABAD:: The Climate Smart Village Initiative (CSVI) was officially launched on August 4, 2025, at Lok Virsa Hall in Karor, Layyah, in a landmark event jointly organized by SAWiE Ecosystems Pvt. Ltd and Bank Alfalah.

The event brought together key stakeholders from government departments, academia, financial institutions, development partners, technology providers, and rural farming communities to mark the beginning of a transformative approach to agriculture in Pakistan. The CSVI is designed as a regenerative, climate-smart farming model that empowers smallholder farmers through digital advisory tools, sustainable agricultural practices, and access to green finance.

During the event, three pilot Climate Faisalabad, Vehari, and Layyah, each systems and environmental conditions



of their respective regions. Dr. Khalid the integration of regenerative prac-Mahmood, Co-founder of SAWiE Smart Villages were announced in Ecosystems, introduced the initiative as a strategic response to the escalating tailored to reflect the specific cropping challenges of climate change affecting Pakistan's agriculture. He emphasized

tices, digital innovation, and inclusive finance as a model to empower smallholders with the knowledge, tools, and incentives necessary for long-term sustainability.

Mr. Muhammad Yahva Wahla, Head of Agri Business at Bank Alfalah, Punjab Assembly Member Ms. Somia Atta Shahani, Dr. Ishfaq Ahmad, Consultant to the Asian Development Bank, Professors from Ghazi University, the University of Agriculture Faisalabad, and Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of Agriculture stressed the importance of university-led research in validating regenerative techniques. Additionally, experts from Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute and BUITEMS showcased how artificial intelligence, remote sensing, and predictive analytics can enhance farmlevel decision-making and climate risk

The launch of CSVI marks a significant step toward building climate-resilient and sustainable farming systems in Pakistan. The initiative has laid the foundation for a multi-stakeholder movement to promote regenerative agriculture, digital innovation, and inclusive rural development.

Blogging tops career dreams for 42% of youngsters: Kaspersky Survey

№ Commerce Desk

BAD: Kaspersky research findings show that 42% of children surveyed from the Middle East, Turkiye and Africa (META) region would like to become bloggers in the future. The seriousness of their intentions is evidenced by the



fact that 44% of them are already developing their own blog or working on content for the future.

53% of children surveyed named blogging as their dream career when explaining their wish to become a blogger. 46% of young respondents said that they simply enjoy creating video content. Interestingly, 36% stick to the view that blogging is a way to make money without much effort, while 32% are prone to choosing blogging because it's trendy and cool.

Only 16% of parents surveyed expressed a clear desire for their children to pursue a career as a blogger. For 44% this is acceptable only when the child grows up. And a quarter (25%) express unwillingness to have a blogging future for their children. Despite this, the majority of parents (74%) support their children in their blogging endeavors or at least do not mind it.

"Regardless of parents' opinions on blogging, creating, maintaining, and promoting a blog is a difficult task, which requires a wide range of skills that could be useful for a child's future career. It can help young people to discover their creativity and ways to express themselves. Blogging also provides mom and dad with valuable insights into their children's lives, bringing families closer together," comments Seifallah Jedidi, Regional Head of Consumer Channel for the Middle East, Türkiye and Africa at Kaspersky. "Parents' support helps young people take the first step to realizing their ambition with confidence and, what's important - with cybersecurity in mind.he added."

FDA enforcement team foils attempt to expand 8 housing schemes in Dijkot area

Zafar Chishti

FAISALABAD: Under the direction of Acting Director General Faisalabad Development Authority (FDA), the enforcement team successfully thwarted the establishment of eight illegal housing schemes and additional Abadies in the Dijkot area. The team demolished all their construction infrastructure.

The operation was conducted under the supervision of Director Town Planning Asma Mohsin with Estate Officer Aneeb Aslam Randhawa leading the enforcement team. During an inspection in Dijkot, the team discovered that developers were attempting to establish housing schemes and four additional abadies on land in Chak No. 262 and 263 RB under the names of Gulshan Habib, New Gulberg, Hidayat Town and Ali Garden. The FDA team took decisive action, demolishing roads, boundary walls and other construction structures. The developers have been warned to fulfill all legal requirements and departmental conditions to get official approval for their housing schemes and in case of failure to comply could lead to further legal action, including criminal proceedings against the offenders.

The FDA administration has also advised the public to verify the legal status of any housing scheme before purchasing a plot or making an investment to avoid future difficulties and complications.

Divisional Commissioner Ensures Smooth Arrangements for Upcoming Event

👺 Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: The Divisional Commissioner directed the administration and Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (HMC) officials to ensure effective planning for public security, cleanliness, and traffic management during the event.

He said such programmes help foster patriotism and spread

messages of peace and harmony among the youth.

Deputy Commissioner Zain-ul-Abedin Memon, SSP Adeel Hussain Chandio, and Mayor Kashif Ali Shoro also expressed full cooperation for the event's smooth arrangements, confirming that robust security, sanitation, and traffic control measures are in place.

At the occasion, Divisional Commissioner Fayaz Hussain Abbasi lauded the enlightened people of Hyderabad, saying they deserve such recreational activities. He appealed to the citizens to participate peacefully and respectfully in the mega musical night on August 8 and to extend full cooperation with the authorities in demonstrating their patriotism.

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Thal dwellers – A saga of resilience and hope

tretching from central to South Punjab as a resilient and life-sustaining Doab – Thal, the Pakistan's smallest desert, is a symbol of enduring human spirit, long thriving in an environment fraught with challenges.

Breathing between the mighty Indus to its west and twin rivers Chenab and Jhelum to the east, Thal revolves around hope with life often harsh and every drop of water deemed as a precious blessing.

Most of the land of this over 20,000 square kilometer stretch is barren and arid as it makes parts of Bhakkar, Khushab, Layyah, Mianwali, Muzaffargarh and some segment of Jhang

There are also some plain irrigated areas where people grow food crops like chickpea (Chana) and wheat and some other

În raid-fed areas, fodder crops like Sorghum, Berseem are cultivated but their survival depends on rains.

Singing folk songs is an ancient tradition. Dr. Ashu Lal, a noted intellectual from Layyah district, narrated that "in ancient times Thal people used to sing folk songs to seek divine intervention for rainfall and in some areas they still cling to this tradition."

"So the singing for them was like a 'Dua' to save them from harsh climatic conditions," Ashu Lal said.

Their music, rich in melody and culture, resonates in vast expanse of Thal, as a spiritual and practical expression of hope for

Historically, the Thal Desert was an expanse of raw wilderness and largely ignored in colonial development plans. The British described it as a "tract of barrenness," inhabited by scattered Rajputs, Jats and Baloch clans, sustaining through rudimentary agriculture and nomadic grazing.

People find solace in vibrant oral tradition, colorful folk tales and deep spiritual connections to Sufi saints, shaping a cultural identity rooted in simplicity, endurance and faith. They are brave, cultured and know how to endure harsh living conditions. Out of around 3.5 million populace, most of them live in rural

areas with meagre civic amenities. Their lifestyle remains deeply tied to desert with agriculture and livestock the key components of their economy. They build mud houses (Chhappars) as families live in extended kinship systems, helping one another during seasonal hardships. Folk dances, handcrafted embroidery and soulful music adds color to an otherwise sepia-toned environment.

In ancient times, women traditionally called 'Malariyan' remained confined to household roles," said Imtiaz Hussain, a social media activist and researcher on Thal culture from Khushab. "But things changed gradually and now they approach local markets to sell crafts, vegetables and dairy products.'

Another known tradition was that when any persons used to build a house, his sister would buy a clay pot (Gharra), fill it with water and travel long distance to deliver it to her brother as a symbol of congratulation and the brother also used to respond

The Return to Divine Reality

uncover the secrets of the universe. With every equawe thought we were inching closer to truth. But truth—real truth—was never locked in matter. It was always hidden in something more elusive, more sacred: consciousness.

Today, a profound shift is occurring. The world's most advanced scientists and spiritual thinkers are converging on a realization that religions proclaimed long ago: the foundation of the universe is not matter-it is mind. Not atomsbut awareness. Not logic—but the soul. This is not mysticism masquerading as science. It is science finally catching up

In the words of Nobel laureate Max Planck: "I regard consciousness as fundamental. I regard matter as derivative from consciousness. We cannot get behind consciousness." What does this mean? It means the laws of physics, the logic of philosophy, and even the frameworks of mathematics are not primal. They were created—by consciousness. This reverses everything we were taught. The human being is not a machine made of carbon and code. The human being is a carrier of divine consciousness, and through that consciousness, reality is perceived—and formed. The Qur'an hinted at this long ago: "And We breathed into him of Our spirit..." (Surah Al-Hijr 15:29).

In recent quantum research, it has been revealed that particles do not exist in any fixed form until they are observed. This is the infamous "observer effect." In simple terms: the universe appears because we are conscious of it. One phys-

looked up at the stars and as phenomena within the field of our deep into atoms, hoping to individual consciousness. The body is not separate from the cosmos. It is a living interface. And every cell within humanity is doing something remarktion solved and every particle smashed, our body—over 30 trillion of them— able. It is breaking the chains of sciencontains the entire genetic code of the tific reductionism and escaping the human being, making us holographic by prison of philosophical abstraction. We

design. The entire story of humanity is encoded in DNA in every part

Further strengthening this narrative is the scientific discovery that human DNA emits scalar waves-energy pulses capable of traveling faster than light,

crossing the cosmos without resistance, and returning with intact information. These waves, born of our conscious field, can metaphorically touch the moon and return in an instant. There is no delay, no degradation. Just presence, movement, and return—like divine will. "My command is but a single word: Be. And it is." (Surah Al-Qamar 54:50). This is not science fiction. This is science validating scripture.

The more we learn about consciousness, the more the divide between body and soul disappears. We are not flesh alone. We are vessels of perception, imagination, and spiritual energy. As Donald Hoffman proposes in his "Conscious Realism" theory, space-time is merely a user interface—a simplified projection of a far more complex, unseen reality. This aligns with the Bible: "The Kingdom of God is within you" (Luke 17:21), and with the Qur'an: "Indeed, it is not the eyes that are blind, but the hearts within the breasts" (Surah Al-Hajj icist said, "You are not inside space-time. 22:46). Our consciousness, it seems, is Space-time is inside you." Let that settle. not merely human—it is a reflection of

and perceiving because it is rooted in the Source that made it.

Now, at this historical junction,

are starting to see—not through telescopes or formulas—but through the eye of consciousness. We are realizing that science and philosophy, for all their power, cannot answer the ultimate questions: Why does anything exist at all? Who created it?

What is our role in it? And most importantly: what happens when we understand it all?

Here lies the climax of the story. Scripture tells us that the Day of Judgment would arrive when truth is laid bare, when all veils are lifted. Perhaps that Day is not just a physical apocalypse—but a spiritual reckoning. The Qur'an encourages us to explore the universe, to reflect, to discover. Not as a mere intellectual exercise—but because discovery itself is a pathway to divine realization. Now, for the first time in human history, we are reaching a point where we can comprehend the mechanics of the universe, understand the role of consciousness in shaping reality, realize that the universe exists because we are aware of it, and finally accept that this awareness—this consciousness—is the command, the breath, the will of Allah.

And perhaps, once that realization becomes widespread—once the secret is uncovered—the universe will no longer need to exist. Its purpose fulfilled. Its Creator revealed. Its witnesses awak-

or centuries, humanity has The planets, stars, galaxies—all appear divine light, capable of knowing, creating, ened. "On that Day, the people will be like scattered moths... and the mountains will be like carded wool" (Surah Al-Qari'ah 101:4-5). The universe may not end in fire or ice, but in awakening—when enough humans finally see the truth.

And so, as we step into this transformative age—one where science peers beyond its own frontiers and philosophy humbly pauses before the unknown we begin to witness the slow but steady unraveling of the final veil. The process of breaking free from the inherited constraints of materialism, logic, and abstraction has already begun. Humanity is not yet fully awakened, but the path is now visible. With each passing day, with each open mind, we draw nearer to the understanding that consciousness is not merely a faculty of perception—it is the very origin, essence, and enduring substance of all that exists.

This awakening will not be sudden, but it will come. The realization that what we see is formed through consciousness. It may take time, perhaps generations, for this understanding to permeate our institutions, languages, and disciplines. But the trajectory is clear, and the momentum is irreversible.

When that truth is no longer debated, but deeply known-when humanity collectively understands that consciousness preceded the cosmos and shall remain when the stars burn out—then perhaps the universe will have fulfilled its purpose. Perhaps then, with grace and not with fire, the veiled reality will dissolve, and the final chapter of existence will quietly, divinely, be written.

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

Operation Bunyan Marsoos Redefines Faith and Fear

and Pakistan, military operations often carry deep ideological, national, and religious significance. One such operation, Operation Bunyan Marsoos, recently launched by the Pakistani military, has garnered attention not only for its military objectives but also for the faith-driven motiva- Indian soldiers faced a different psychological

as a defensive response to Indian aggression, was more than just a military engagement; to Pakistani Muslims, it represented Jihad and a path to Shahadat (martyrdom).

In contrast, Indian military forces, involved in the confrontation, often experience anxiety and fear of death, especially when confronted

their adversaries. Operation Bunyan Marsoos, launched against Indian forces after their attacks on Pakistan's civilian population, was framed by Pakistani religious leaders and military commanders as an extension of defensive Jihad. This understanding of Jihad is further strengthened by the aspiration for Shahadat, which represents martyrdom in the path of Allah. For those involved in this operation, the battle was not merely about defeating the enemy; it is about achieving martyrdom, considered the highest spiritual honor in Islam.

In the context of Operation Bunyan Marsoos, the message was clear: those who die in battle are not seen as victims but as witnesses to their faith. For Pakistani Muslims, the operation presented an opportunity to reaffirm their commitment to Islam by participating in what they viewed as a holy war. The connection between religious duty and military engagement provides significant psycho-

n the ongoing conflict between India logical strength, transforming death from an obstacle to a goal. In this context, Shahadat is viewed as a reward rather than a loss. This perspective offers those fighting a sense of peace and acceptance in the face of potential death, as they believe their sacrifice serves a higher, divine purpose. On the other hand, tion behind it. This operation, seen by people reality. They confronted an enemy whose moti-

vations are rooted deeply in spiritual and religious beliefs. For the Indian military, the battle is primarily focused on national defense and territorial sovereignty, rather than a religious or spiritual mission. This contrast creates a unique tension, as Indian soldiers recognize that their adversaries are driven by a blend of

by what is perceived as the religious zeal of faith, ideology, and the promise of martyrdom, which does not play as central a role in their own motivations.

The fear of death may be more pronounced for Indian soldiers in this situation, especially when facing an enemy that does not fear death but embraces it as part of their divine mission. In contrast to the Pakistani view of Shahadat, where martyrdom is celebrated as an honor, Indian forces regard death as a tragic and unfortunate event to be avoided. In a secular military context, the concept of dying for a higher purpose is not as ingrained as it is in religiously motivated forces. For Indian soldiers, the psychological burden of fighting an enemy that sees death through the lens of religious zeal creates an environment of uncertainty and intimidation. This fear of death also leads to a psychological disadvantage for Indian forces when engaging in direct combat with an opponent who seems to be fighting for more any form of aggression against a nation with than just national pride—they are fighting for such unwavering faith.

spiritual redemption.

This contrast results in an imbalance in the battle, where one side is driven by a sense of spiritual victory while the other, despite its commitment to national defense, faces the natural fear of mortality. One of the central aspects of Operation Bunyan Marsoos was the ideological clash between the religious zeal of the Pakistani forces and the secular nationalism of the Indian forces. For Pakistan's military, Jihad is not only a geopolitical struggle but a spiritual one. The soldiers see themselves as part of a divinely ordained mission, aligning their actions with a larger narrative of Islamic resistance. The concept of Shahadat strengthens the Pakistani soldiers' sense of purpose, as they view their participation in the war as an act of devotion to Allah.

On the Indian side, however, the conflict was viewed primarily in terms of national sovereignty. The Indian military doctrine focuses on protecting the state, its territory, and its people. Indian soldiers face the inherent fear of death that comes from knowing their sacrifices carry no spiritual or religious reward. Death in combat is seen as a tragic loss rather than a transition to eternal life or a source of divine blessing. The stark ideological difference between these two perspectives creates a situation where religious passion and national survival intersect.

The outstanding success of Pakistan and the Pakistani Army in Operation Bunyan Marsoos serves as a wake-up call to both internal and external adversaries. For the Pakistani people and the armed forces, defending the country is not just a duty, but a matter of faith, and they are unafraid to give their lives for this noble cause. Our enemies should reconsider their actions and think carefully before launching

Pakistan's Power Puzzle

n a country where a former prime expression. minister remains behind bars, dozens the promise of democracy feels more like a of the democratic process. Yet, hope still persists. slogan than a system. As Pakistan enters yet Civil society, young voters, and independent another turbulent phase marked by controlled media platforms continue to demand transparelections, a fragmented opposition, and growing ency, accountability, and institutional reform. censorship, one pressing question continues to

haunt every political conversation: is parliamentary democracy truly alive, or is it merely the illusion of choice under the firm grip of the establishment?

Democracy may have been enshrined in Pakistan's founding narrative in 1947, but the system has never truly matured into a free and independent framework. Elected

yet the real centers of power often lie elsewhere. Political parties rise through the public vote, but their formation, fragmentation, and even downfall often reflect decisions made behind

The disqualification of Nawaz Sharif in 2017, the arrest and eventual disqualification of Imran Khan in 2023, and the mass removal of PTI legislators from Parliament in 2024 point toward a troubling pattern.

Pakistan's judiciary has historically played a controversial role in legitimizing military takeovers and providing legal cover to autocrats. While some judges in recent years have attempted to push back, their judgments and stances often face institutional resistance or encountered extensive censorship. Television channels have been taken off-air, journalists harassed or abducted, and dissenting voices labelled traitors. Even digital platforms are now subject to increasing regulation through cybercrime laws, narrowing the space for free

The future of democracy in Pakistan remains of elected representatives have been uncertain. The general elections of 2024 and de-seated, and televised debates are 2025, followed by a fresh political order, have increasingly dictated by unseen forces, only deepened suspicions around the integrity National dialogue is essential to recalibrate

civil-military relations within constitutional limits. Parliament must be empowered not only in law but in actual policy-making. Electoral reforms are crucial to restore public confidence in the voting process. Freedom of the press and judicial independence should be safeguarded through constitutional and legal guar-

representatives have continued to assume office, antees. Lastly, internal democracy within political parties is essential to nurture leadership from the grassroots level.

Pakistan's democratic future hangs in a delicate balance. The repeated undermining of parliamentary authority, the sidelining of political voices through legal and administrative tactics, and the invisible but undeniable hand of institutional influence have all contributed to an environment where democracy feels procedural but not participatory. Yet, despite this erosion, the public's desire for true representation has not faded. It is now up to Pakistan's power centers, elected and unelected alike, to decide whether the country will continue down the path of managed politics or embrace the difficult but necessary course of democratic public backlash. The media, similarly, has maturity. For a nation forged in the name of the people's will, the time has come to ask: Will the people ever truly govern?

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he Spokesman 5

President Zardari for boosting trade and economic ties with Oman

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Pakistan Fahad Sulaiman Khalaf Alkharusi Wednes-

en relations for the mutual benefit of the two countries. two brotherly nations.

president said that Pakistan and Oman enjoy close fraternal relations based on to increase bilateral trade and investment day called on President Asif Ali Zardari shared religion, culture and values. He at Aiwan-e-Sadr and discussed ways to emphasized that enhanced interaction further promote bilateral cooperation. at the leadership level would further and energy. Both sides underlined the need to deep-strengthen the cordial ties between the

The president highlighted the impor-Speaking to the Ambassador, the tance of expanding trade and economic cooperation, saying that Pakistan is keen in areas such as information technology, construction, healthcare, food security,

He stressed that government-to-gov-



robust private-sector collaboration, thereby boosting trade and investment

between the two nations. President Zardari expressed his gratitude to Oman for supporting Pakistan's candidature as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for 2025-2026.

He also appreciated Oman for hosting

over 400,000 members of the Pakistani diaspora, who not only contribute to Oman's development but also act as a vital bridge of friendship between the

Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP)

Malaysia-Pakistan bilateral ties deepen through education and cultural exchange

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The High Commission of Malaysia in Islamabad hosted the 3C Forum: Culture, Cuisines & Connecformer students of Malaysian universities. The event was officiated by the High Commissioner of Malaysia to Pakistan, H. E. Ambassador Dato' Mohammad Azhar Mazlan, and graced by Mr. Attaullah Tarar, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting of Pakistan.

The forum brought together a diverse group of attendees, including the Dean of Diplomatic Corp, Heads of Missions from ASEAN countries, Pakistani government officials, MTCP alumni, media professionals, and members of academia. This people-to-people initiative aimed to deepen Malaysia-Pakistan bilateral ties through cultural exchange, alumni diplomacy, and enhanced mutual understanding.

During the event, guests were shown series of corporate videos promoting Malaysia 2026 initiative, and the wideranging impact of the MTCP, which has benefited over 37,000 participants from 144 countries since its inception in 1980, including more than 800 Paki-rankings and niche sectors such as the

In his keynote remarks, Ambas- and semiconductors. dor Dato' Azhar Mazlan highlighted



sized Malaysia's aspiration to be a centre of excellence in higher education and technical cooperation, underscoring its strong performance in global university stani professionals across various sectors. halal industry, Islamic finance, aerospace,

H. E. Mr. Attaul

offerings. He noted that Malaysia's integration of culture, heritage, and modern development offers a valuable model for countries like Pakistan. The Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to strengthening bilateral ties with Malaysia, referencing the successful Official Visit of Prime Minister Dato' Seri the growing importance of alumni address, recalled his personal visit to Anwar Ibrahim to Pakistan in October Shehbaz Sharif to Malaysia later this year, on their experiences in Malaysia and and contribute to the strengthening of networks as strategic assets in fostering Malaysia, where he experienced first- 2024, which revitalized cooperation in which is expected to further enhance their current contributions to Pakistan's Malaysia, Pakistan relations through long-term diplomatic, educational, and hand the warmth of Malaysian hospitrade, investment, education, and the strategic collaboration, particularly in development. This was followed by an soft diplomacy and cultural connectivity.

that Malaysia holds a special place in his heart, not only due to his visit but also because of the deep and longstanding people-to-people connections that continue to flourish.



digital economy. Minister Tarar shared high-tech sectors, TVET cooperation, engaging Q&A session, promoting interand tourism exchange. He emphasized active dialogue among stakeholders. the need to capitalize on platforms like the MTCP and alumni networks to translate goodwill into tangible outcomes.

Minister Tarar also expressed optialumni panel discussion, where former cooperation. The 3C Forum served as a mism about the forthcoming Official MTCP participants and graduates of meaningful platform to celebrate shared Visit of Prime Minister Muhammad Malaysian universities shared insights values, expand alumni engagement

The event concluded with a networking high tea featuring Malaysian cuisine, allowing guests to further A highlight of the forum was the engage and explore areas of potential

Commissioner Multan tosses the ball into Press Club's Court

👺 Zain-ul-Abideen Abid

MULTAN: A delegation of senior journalists, led by Press Club President Shakeel Anjum, met with Commissioner Multan Division Aamir Kareem Khan to discuss local journalistic issues and present the ground realities in detail. The primary aim of the meeting was to foster cooperation between the media and administration. Commissioner Aamir Kareem Khan appreciated the social role of responsible journalism and assured the journalists of resolving their concerns.

During the discussion, both parties emphasized that mutual coordination and consistent communication between the press and the administration are essential for public welfare and journalistic values but also fosters regional development. Press Club President Shakeel Anjum high-



lighted the challenges faced by journalists and stressed the need for an effective strategy. Commissioner Aamir Kareem Khan noted that journalism is a cornerstone of democratic society, and that the publication of baseless and sensational news not only undermines social uncertainty. He stressed the importance of journalists in

curbing yellow journalism and said that mutual understanding between the media and the administration is key to good governance.

At the end of the meeting, the Commissioner attentively listened to the journalists' suggestions andquestions and promised administrative actions accordingly.

A significant and thought-provoking observation arises here:

the media publish false, baseless, and fabricated stories against the public, educational institutions, or government officials, the journalistic community generally remains a silent spectator. No one talks about accountability or ethical guidelines. Nor does anyone approach any official forum or the relevant administration to ensure the cleansing of journalism and the protection of truth. However, the moment legal action is initiated against a journalist - even if it stems from a false report or professional misconduct - it is immediately branded as an "attack on journalism." This double standard has damaged the credibility of journalism and shaken public trust.

Journalism demands truth, investigation, and integrity. If journalists themselves do not expose the irresponsible elements among them

when certain elements within and take steps against fake news, then all the noise made in the name of press freedom becomes meaningless. It is vital to differentiate between the freedom of journalism and its unbridled misuse and to promote self-accountability so that journalism truly becomes the voice of the people and a flag-bearer of truth, rather than a weapon in the

battle for personal or political gain. It is now time for the President and General Secretary of the Multan Press Club to demonstrate their leadership in action. Establishing a clear code of journalistic ethics will not only benefit the journalistic community but also send a positive message to both the administration and the public. Senior journalists must not prioritize personal friendships, relationships, or affiliations over journalistic principles, but must instead uphold truth and

integrity as their foundation.

ated newspapers must be identified, and the district administration — especially the Deputy Commissioner of Multan — should be formally informed in writing. Any newspaper violating the Press, Newspapers, News Agencies and Books Registration Ordinance of 2002 must be directed to get registered with the Press Registrar Office in Islamabad, as registration is mandatory within 90 days

of declaration issuance. If legal action is taken against any journalist or newspaper in an individual capacity, the journalist community should support their colleagues. However, labeling such legal action as an attack on journalism as a whole is incorrect.

Press clubs across Punjab should Ethics" — a comprehensive code of conduct that guides those asso-

Fake, unregistered, and self-creciated with journalism toward professional integrity, impartiality, and public interest. The charter should obligate journalists to pursue truth, ensure accuracy, and maintain neutrality at all costs. It must include key principles such as source protection, verification of news, avoidance of sensationalism, respect for vulnerable groups, privacy protection, and national security. Journalism's true purpose is to provide public awareness, access to truth, and social reform — not to serve the inter-

The charter must also require journalists to keep their writings, opinions, and broadcasts free from personal, political, or financial bias, to correct their mistakes, and to always prioritize truth, justice, and introduce a "Charter of Journalism transparency so journalism may remain a symbol of public trust and social honour.

ests of individuals or institutions.

Serena Hotels Launches Global Prestige Club Programme



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels officially launched its global loyal-

a special event hosted at Islamabad Serena Hotel and simultaneously across all Serena properties

ty programme, Prestige Club, at worldwide. The event was attended by ambassadors, government officials, corporate sector representatives, and esteemed Pres-



tige Club members, marking a benefits on dining, Maisha Spa key milestone in the brand's journey across eight countries and 33

destinations. The launch introduced the enhanced Prestige Club Plus programme, offering exclusive featuring a live demonstration

& Health Club, and a range of hotel services, further enriching the guest experience across the Serena portfolio. Guests explored an interactive Experience Zone



of the new Prestige Club mobile support at all Serena Hotels. app, designed to enable access to rewards, redemptions, reservations, and other services.

Speaking on the occasion, Aziz Boolani, CEO of Serena Hotels, stated, "Through the Prestige Club, we are bringing exceptional benefits to our members in and building deeper relationships

This launch is not just a loyalty programme; it is a commitment to elevating every guest experience across our hotels."

The celebration reaffirmed Serena Hotels' dedication to innovation, hospitality excellence, recognition of their unwavering with its valued guests worldwide.

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share

index Fluctuatio			
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index			
Current	Prev. Close		
145,088.49	143,037.16		
Day's High	Day's Low		
145,187.17	143,409.59		
Index Value	Change		
43,266,130,525	+2051.33		
Percentage	Time		
+1.43%	6 Aug, 2025 4:30 pm		
Europe: FTS	E 100 Index		
Index Value	Change		
9,164.31	+21.58		
Percentage	Time		
+0.24%	6 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1		
USA: Dow Jones I	ndustrial Averag		

+0.25%	6 Aug, 12:55 pm GMT-4		
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Averag			
Index Value	Change		
40,794.86	+245.32		
Percentage	Time		
+0.60%	6 Aug, 3:45 pm		

Change

+109.44

Time

GMT+9

Index Value

44,221.18

Percentage

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	183	188
Bahrain Dinar	752.75	755.25
Canadian Dollar	205	210
China Yuan	39.09	39.49
Danish Krone	43.55	43.95
Euro	328.45	330.20
Hong Kong Dollar	35.77	36.12
Indian Rupee	3.15	3.24
Japanese Yen	1.9025	2.0025
Kuwaiti Dinar	919.5	927.5
Malaysian Ringgit	65.78	66.38
NewZealand \$	165.47	167.47
Norwegians Krone	27.31	27.61
Omani Riyal	737.25	739.75
Qatari Riyal	77.19	77.89
Saudi Riyal	75.7	75.95
Singapore Dollar	218.5	223.50
Swedish Korona	29.02	29.32
Swiss Franc	348.05	350.80
Thai Bhat	8.6	8.75
U.A.E Dirham	77.40	77.65
UK Pound Sterling	377.60	379.55
US Dollar	284.35	285.15

ACCA and EY share new guidance to help businesses boost confidence in AI

Example 2 Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Businesses that undertake effective assessments of their artificial intelligence (AI) systems can better harness the technology's potential to boost innovation, productivity, and growth, according to a policy paper published by global accountancy body ACCA, (the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) and global professional services organisation, EY.

Helen Brand, chief executive, ACCA, said: 'As AI scales across the economy the ability to trust what it says is not just important, it is vital for the public interest. This is an area where we need to bridge skills gaps and build trust in the AI eco-system as part of driving sustainable business. We look forward to collaborating with policymakers and others in this fascinating and important area.'

Marie-Laure Delarue, EY Global Vice-Chair, Assurance, says: 'AI has been advancing faster than many of us could have imagined, and it now faces an inflection point, presenting incredible opportunities as well as complexities and risks. It is hard to overstate the importance of ensuring safe and effective adoption of

FPCCI demands clarification in infrastructure cess, Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI

KARACHI: Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, has strongly sought the clarification on infrastructure development cess (IDC) on imports in Sindh as it has been even further increased from 1.25% to 1.80%-1.85%. It is pertinent to note that Mr. Mukesh Kumar Chawla, Provincial Minister of Excise, Taxation and Narcotics, Government of Sindh, visited FPCCI Head Office at Federation House, Karachi, on Wednesday for a detailed, interactive and consultative session on the longstanding issue.

Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh explained that the business community in Sindh is primarily concerned about the financial strain, legal validity and lack of visible infrastructure improvements despite the substantial revenue generated from the cess. While the Sindh government defends the cess as essential for infrastructure maintenance, the ongoing legal battles and perceived mismanagement of funds continue to fuel tensions.

Mr. Mukesh Kumar Chawla offered the



session that provided the businesses and cases vis-à-vis infrastructure development cess, to 1.0% from the current 1.85% - and, keep it ment of export orders in a profitable, timely companies can all collectively withdraw all court the Sindh Government is ready to lower the cess at that level for the next 3 years. He also agreed

to consider withdrawing cess on solar panels.

On the issues of delay in the issuance of number plates, the Sindh provincial minister informed that 200,000 number plates will be delivered within a week; and, additionally, the government is planning to have the number plates generating plant installed at the civic center, Karachi, in order to fully resolve the

Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, SVP FPCCI, apprised that the recent efforts to resolve the cess issue through dialogue and collaboration indicate a potential path forward; but, the business community remains cautious - seeking tangible outcomes and greater transparency. He mentioned that cess on solar panels should

Mr. Abdul Mohamin Khan, VP & Regional Chairman Sindh, FPCCI, elaborated that international export markets are very competitive; and, any addition in cost of production through duties, taxes or cess on temporary imports; i.e. raw materials used for export-oriented production have direct detrimental effects on fulfilland competitive manner.

Renovation

LAHORE: A view of the renovation work by Walled City to restore the traditional Mughal era gate 'Sufaid Darwaza" on its original shape, in Provincial Capital.



SECP Publishes Report on Healthcare Ecosystem in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has released a comprehensive report titled "Healthcare Ecosystem in Pakistan." With a special focus on the role of health insurance, the report highlights the state of the healthcare ecosystem, relevant stakeholders, market dynamics, and performance, along with key challenges hindering the optimization of healthcare delivery.

healthcare Despite being a priority area for the Government of Pakistan as enshrined in Article 38 of the Constitution of Pakiof the United Nations' (UN) Sustainable Development underwriting, oversight and Goals-Pakistan ranks among monitoring, and creating a the highest in out-of-pocket value-based health insurance

stan's out-of-pocket spending far exceeds that of Sri Lanka (40%), Malaysia (38%), and China and Indonesia (both at 33%).

The development of the health insurance sector is one of the operational outcomes of the SECP's five-year strategic plan, "Journey to an Insured Pakistan," launched in December 2023. The report identifies various challenges and specific bottlenecks impeding the growth of the health insurance sector. Drawing from international best practices, it offers a strategic roadmap centred on key reform areas, including product innovation stan and recognized as one and inclusivity, conduct and administration, pricing and expenditures according to the ecosystem with enhanced WHO Global Health Expend- private-sector participation.

Independent study reveals USD 1.2 billion economic impact of foodpanda in Pakistan

KARACHI: foodpanda, Pakistan's leading online delivery platform, today announced the release of its comprehensive 'Economic Impact Assessment of foodpanda in Pakistan' study, independently conducted by the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS). The first-of-its-kind study unveils the significant economic contributions of foodpanda to Pakistan's

The study, spearheaded by an accomplished team at LUMS, utilised primary and secondary data sources including input output multipliers for the local economy to establish a technical assessment of the businesses' contribution to the fabric of the economy.

Commenting on the collaborative effort, Muntaqa Peracha, CEO foodpanda Pakistan stated, "This in-depth study by LUMS is a powerful validation of foodpanda's significant role in Pakistan's economic landscape. It showcases strong multiplier effects across industries and highlights our role in directly boosting income and jobs, along with a significant tax contribution.



The insights provided by the research are invaluable, and fuel our determination to continue innovating, expanding our services, and improving financial inclusion and social responsibility, all while building a truly prosperous digital future

Also speaking on foodpanda's impact on the nation's economy, Dr. Kashif Z. Malik, Associate Professor, Department of Economics at LUMS, commented, "Our research at LUMS reveals that foodpanda's impact extends far beyond just food and

Liberal import of used cars will cause potential loss to local industry besides rendering 40000 workers jobless

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: SAARC chamber of commerce and industry former president Iftikhar Ali Malik Wednesday opposing liberal import of used cars said it will cost local industry Rs 60 billions and render over

40,000 workers jobless. Talking to delegation of car dealers led by Alhaj Ishtiaq Ahmad Motianwali Sarkar, he feared of a potential shutdown of Pakistan's car assembly industry within the next two years if the government proceeds with plans to liberalise the commercial import of used vehicles.he said that used vehicles already account for 25pc of the market — over 40,000 units annually. In contrast, used car market share stands at zero in India, 0.3pc in Vietnam, and 1.2pc in Thailand, he noted.

He said import duties on completely built-up (CBU) units in Pakistan range from 50-100pc, compared to 125pc in India, 52pc in Vietnam, and 80pc in Thailand. The negligible used car imports in these countries are the result of both tariff and administrative measures, he added.

He asserted that used vehicles, as a category, now form the second-largest segment of Pakistan's car market, trailing only Suzuki, and have overtaken the collective sales of Toyota, Honda, Hyundai, Kia, Haval, MG, and Changan.

Iftikhar Ali Malik said imports and sales of used vehicles remain undocumented. "Remittances for imports are routed via hawala, while local sales are largely cash-based, bypassing formal channels," he said.

Chairman CCP showcases Pakistan's market potential to visiting Chinese delegation

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: A high-level business delegation from the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce (ACFIC), the national chamber representing private enterprises in China, visited the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) and held a meeting

with Chairman Dr. Kabir Ahmed

Yi Jiang, Director, along with Mr. Fuzhong Yang, Director for Logistics & Tourism, Mr. Ge Xu, Director, and Mr. Mingqian Sun, Managing Director of Leviathan

Holdings Ltd. Chairman CCP, Dr. Sidhu,

stan's market potential, invest-The delegation was led by Mr. ment climate, and the regulatory framework established to promote fair competition and prevent abuse of dominance. He highlighted the Commission's role in ensuring a level playing field for businesses and building investor confidence through transparency

briefed the delegation on Paki- and enforcement of competition

Chinese investors expressed keen interest in exploring opportunities in renewable energy, health, school education, and logistics sectors. They appreciated CCP's efforts in maintaining a strong regulatory regime that supports market efficiency



and fair competition.

ACFIC serves as a key platform supporting China's private sector and fostering cooperation between businesses and the government. With over 3,000 regional federations across provinces, cities, and

counties, ACFIC plays an important role in industry, commerce, technology, manufacturing, and trade, while also influencing policy reforms and promoting sustain-

able economic growth. Chairman CCP welcomed able development.

the delegation's interest in Pakistan and assured them of the Commission's commitment to facilitating competitive markets that encourage foreign investment, innovation, and sustain-

Sports key to student health: Rana Sanaullah

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Prime Minister on Political and Public Affairs, Rana Sanaullah, has stressed the significance of sports activities in student life, saying that students are not healthy if they are not involved in sports.

He made these remarks while inaugurating a Padel court at the Islamabad College for Girls F6 Wednesday.

The ceremony was attended by Ms. Farah Naz Akbar, Parliamentary Secretary, Secretary Inter Provincial Coordination (IPC) Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, and other officials.

Sanaullah emphasized that besides education, sports activities should also be given priority, as a student should be both mentally and physically fit. He highlighted the importance of educating women, saying that it is equivalent to educating the whole nation.

Sanaullah, who also holds the portfolio of the Ministry of Inter Provincial Coordination (IPC),

said that the government is giving top in the coming days. priority to sports and has already made Padel courts in three colleges in the federal capital, providing mind games rooms and track suits to students.

He also announced plans to



Ahmad Wani for promoting education and healthy sports activities in the federal capital.

Meanwhile, Ms. Farah Naz congrat-

are top priorities under the Prime Minister's vision.

ICG Principal Shazia Shamim thanked Rana Sanaullah, Ms. Farah construct more Padel and Futsal courts ulated Rana Sanaullah and Mohyuddin Naz Akbar, and Mohyuddin Ahmad mony.

Ahmad Wani for their initiative, Wani for the initiative, stating that ICG Sanaullah praised Mohyuddin emphasizing that education and health students will greatly benefit from the

> Earlier, Rana Sanaullah inaugurated the Padel court and was also presented with souvenirs at the end of the cere-





Pakistan Women's Cricketer Top-Ranked T-20 Bowler Sadia Iqbal Earns Category. A

Asim Tanveer

LONDON: Sadia Iqbal, currently ranked at the top of ICC T20I bowling rankings, has been awarded a Category 'A' central contract as the Pakistan Cricket Board announces the Women's Central Contracts for the 2025-26 season. To encourage young and budding cricketers, the PCB has also introduced an 'E' category, designated as the Emerging

Two players - Eyman Fatima (uncapped) and Shawaal Zulfiqar (three ODIs, seven T20Is) are part of the Emerging category. Both players are members of the Ireland-bound Pakistan women's squad, which is set to play three T20Is from 6 to 10 August in Dublin. Also, both players were part of the inaugural edition of the ICC Women's U19 World Cup held in South Africa in January 2023.

warded contracts across five catego-

ries, with 10 players placed in Category D. $\;\;$ home and away. The contracts, which run from 1 July



were finalised by the women's selection committee in consultation with head coach Muhammad Wasim.

Over the next 12 months, the Pakistan women's team will feature in two ICC events - ICC Women's Cricket World Cup (September-October 2025) and the ICC A total of 20 players have been Women's T20 World Cup (June 2026), in addition to playing bilateral series at

Among the 20 contracted players, 2025 to 30 June 2026, see a substan- Aliya Riaz (Category B), Natalia Parvaiz tial 50 per cent increase across all cate- (Category D), Sidra Nawaz (Category D), gories in player retainers. The contracts Waheeda Akhtar (Category D), Eyman



Fatima and Shawaal Zulfiqar (both Cate-

gory E) are new inclusions. (promoted from Category C to B) and the Winner and Runner up team. All ameen Shamim (from Category D to C) have earned upgrades.

Category A:

Igbal, Sidra Amin

Aliya Riaz, Diana Baig, Nashra Sundhu

Category C:

Rameen Shamim Category D:

Gull Feroza, Najiha Alvi, Natalia Parvaiz, Omaima Sohail, Sadaf Shamas, Sidra Nawaz, Syeda Aroob Shah, Tuba Hassan, Umm-e-Hani and Waheeda Akhtar

Eyman Fatima and Shawaal Zulfiqar Wing 999 Inter Department Cricket

League begains from 27 August Sports Desk

Karachi: Regional Cricket Association Karachi is Organizing Wing 999 Inter Department Cricket League Tournament with the collaboration of Wing 999 from 27th August at various Turf Wickets grounds of Karachi. The Cash Prize (Rupees Five Lacs and Rupees two In addition to Sadia Iqbal, Diana Baig Lacs Fifty Thousand) will be given to Departmental teams advised to collect their entry form of the Tournament from Regional Cricket Association Karachi Fatima Sana, Muneeba Ali, Sadia Office National Stadium from Monday to Thursday and Saturday between 3 to 7 pm. Before 20th August.

Punjab's trials for First National Youth Games start



Tahir Amin Malik.

LAHORE: The trials for the selection of Punjab teams for First National Youth Games have started at Nishtar Park Sports Complex (NPSC) on Wednesday.

On the first day, the male and female badminton trials were conducted at NPSC gymnasium hall in which more than 80 players (50 boys and 30 girls) participated. The trials were conducted under the supervision of 5-member selection committee. Tayyab Sohail, Assistant Director M Waseem, Sajid Hussain, senior badminton players Nadeem Javed and Irfan Saeed Bhatti were the members of the selection committee.

DG Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry said that the trials of Punjab's different teams will remain continue till August 90 at the multiple venues of Nishtar Park Sports Complex (NPSC). "After the completion of merit-based trials, the training camps of Punjab's selected athletes will be organised from August 22 to September 5".

He further said that Punjab players will participate in the first National Youth Games with full preparation. "We know that strong contingents from all over the country are participating in the National Youth Games and there will be tough competition but we are quite upbeat that Punjab contingent will emerge triumphant in the grand event".

Saim Ayub makes significant leap in ICC T20I Rankings

DUBAI: Pakistan players have made major gains in the latest ICC Men's T20I Rankings following their 2-1 series win over the West Indies, with Saim Ayub leading the charge.

Saim, who finished as the series' top scorer with 130 runs including two half-centuries, climbed 25 places to break into the top 40 for the first time.

The left-hander now sits at 37th spot in the ICC T20I Batting Rankings with 559 rating points.

Opener Sahibzada Farhan also impressed with 91 runs across three innings, gaining 34 spots to reach 63rd.

Skipper Salman Ali Agha and experienced left-hander Fakhar

Zaman moved up to 76th and 78th, respectively. The biggest leap came from middle-order batter Hassan Nawaz. whose explosive 79-run tally pushed him up 24 places to 30th

overall with 569 points. However, Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan, who haven't featured in T20Is this year, both dropped three places to 17th and 19th, respectively

Mohammad Haris also slid down 21 spots to 86th after a disap-

India's Abhishek Sharma continues to lead the T20I batting charts, followed by Australia's Travis Head and India's Tilak Varma. In the ICCT20I Bowling Rankings, no Pakistani bowler features

Haris Rauf retained 26th place, while Abbas Afridi slipped to 27th. The standout mover was left-arm spinner Sufiyan Muqeem, who jumped a massive 69 places to 34th.

Punjab Swimming Complex to organise South Asian Games swimming event

Tahir Amin Malik.

LAHORE: The swimming competitions of next year's South Asian Games will be organised at state-of-the-art Punjab International Swimming Complex. "The cooling, heating and water purification system of Punjab swimming pool is being improved and it is being equipped with the world's latest infrastructure ahead of mega

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial shared this information during his visit to state-ofthe-art Punjab International Swimming Complex on Wednesday.

During his visit, Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial inspected the ongoing construction work and directed the officers concerned to complete the remaining construction work till October this year.

Talking on this occasion, Muzaffar Sial said that Punjab International Swimming pool is the modern swimming pool of the country and it is our prime obligation to provide all latest facilities to talented swimmers so that they can excel at national and interna-



tional swimming competitions".

Anjum and Acting Project Director Planning Tariq Khanzada, Mubashar also present on the occasion.

PMU Farhan gave a detailed briefing Shaheen, Chief Sports Consultant Director Sports Rana Nadeem to secretary sports. Deputy Director Hafeez Bhatti and other officials were

Defence minister claims top bureaucrats buying property

Journalist Afzal Sial, while supporting Khawaja Asif's statement, claimed that the said person is an influential builder who also has a large office in Lahore's

According to Afzal Sial, the bureaucracy invests in Portugal through this person and is obtaining EU citizenship, which gives them the facilities of free business, residence and travel

Continued from Page 1 in 29 European countries.

On the other hand, users on social media have strongly criticised Khawaja Asif's statement.

Another commentor Sajid Khan, wrote, "Khawaja Sahib, you are probably forgetting that you are a federal minister. Your job is to make laws to stop the wrongdoers and punish them. You are not a journalist who just tells

the public and gets out of here." Another user, Raja Yasir, raised the

Muslim defense minister of a nuclear power. He holds a strong position in he posted. the government, and yet why is he so helpless?"

Even supporters of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League (N) expressed concern. A user named Abid urged the minister to implement reforms and accountability measures instead of merely making public accusations. investigation has been made by the "Change the system. Turn eight-

question, "Khawaja Sahib is the only kanal houses into ten-marla ones. That's how real change will happen,"

The matter is being hotly debated on social media and there is growing concern in public circles that if the country's top bureaucracy is making plans to leave the country, how will the trust of ordinary citizens be restored?

No action or announcement of an government on this revelation.

Corruption scam...

Continued from Page 1

the Commercial Audit Report

2023-24 and 2025-26. Moreover, the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) had also issued directions to FIA for initiating legal action to recover the embezzled funds.

The meeting was chaired by Senator Barrister Ali Zafar Siddiqui, Pervaiz Rashid, Jan Mohammad Belaidi, Syed Waqar

Mehdi, and senior officials from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, including Secretary Ambreen Jan and Additional Secretary Ashfaq Speaking to media after the

meeting, Senator Syed Waqar Mehdi said he would raise the matter in the Senate.

He said the delay in regisand attended by Senators Irfan tering the case was concerning, especially when the APP administration had already submitted

CCoSOEs meeting ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, chairing remotely the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on State-Owned Enterprises (CCoSOEs) held at the Finance Division, on Wednesday.

CCoSOEs stresses timely SOE appointments, endorses new boards

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: A meeting ment departments. of the Cabinet Committee on State-Owned Enterprises (CCoSOEs) was held today at the Finance Division under the chairmanship of Federal Minister for Finance and the Board of Trading Corpo-Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, who participated in The Committee endorsed the proceedings remotely.

Federal Minister for Housing the Board of TCP, Ms. Ayesha and Works Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada, Federal Minister for and Mr. Shoaib Mir Memon from the Ministry of Industries Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, as Chairman of the Board and Production regarding the

relevant ministries and govern-

During the meeting, the Committee considered and approved a proposal from the Ministry of Commerce ration of Pakistan (TCP). the nomination of Mr. Aasim The meeting was attended by Aziz Siddiqi as Chairman of nuity. Aziz as Independent Director,

The Committee further advised the relevant ministries, including the Finance Division, to review and streamline the appointment process for board positions in state-owned for filling vacant positions on enterprises. It recommended initiating the process well in advance of the incumbents' retirement to avoid administrative delays and ensure conti-

Additionally, the Cabinet Committee reviewed a proposal Chairman SECP, federal secre- of Pakistan Reinsurance reconstitution of the Board

taries, and senior officials from Company Limited (PRCL). of Directors of the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA). The Committee approved a panel of six private sector members for appointment as independent directors, including Mr. Saif Ali Rastgar (Punjab), Mr. Mashood Khan (Sindh), Mr. Osman Saifullah Khan (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), Mr. Israr Khan Kakar (Balochistan), Ms. Aasia Saail Khan (representing women), and Dr. Syed Zahoor Hassan

(development sector). The meeting concluded with a briefing by the Ministry

of Science and Technology on the restructuring and renaming of the Scientific and Technological Development Corporation of Pakistan as the Indigenous Research and Development Agency (IRADA), in line with a prior decision of the Committee. The Chair appreciated the reform initiative. noting that the objective of the restructuring was to enhance the organization's effectiveness, and expressed hope that IRADA would fulfill its envisioned mandate and contribute meaningfully to the national innovation ecosystem.

Pakistan and Turkish Navies successfully conclude Bilateral Amphibious Exercise

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy and Turkish Navy have successfully concluded first Bilateral Amphibious Exercise which marked a significant milestone in strengthening maritime collaboration and interoperability between two friendly navies. The exercise featured a comprehensive range of training activities including combat firing techniques, amphibious operation drills, convoy escorting drills and military operations in urban terrain, said a news release issued by Directorate General Public Relations (Pak Navy).

Live firing drills and close combat scenarios, designed to sharpen tactical coordination and readiness in littoral environments were also a part of the exercise. The exercise culminated with a comprehensive amphibious drill in the designated coastal area validating operational readiness of both navies. The conduct of bilateral exercise reflected deep rooted defence part- collaborative training initiatives. nership between Pakistan and Türkiye and reaffirmed shared commitment weapons firing and display of opertowards regional peace through regular ations according to different combat areas and to make the strategies more naval armies of both countries.



During the exercise, various

scenarios were also conducted. The effective. The exercise is an important purpose of the exercise was to get milestone in promoting cooperation prepared for joint operations on coastal and mutual coordination between the

NAB Organizes High-Level Seminar on **Anti-Money Laundering**

ISLAMABAD: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB), in collaboration with Adam Smith International and the British High Commission, organized a high-level seminar on "Anti-Money Laundering, Challenges and Responsibilities.

The seminar was attended by the Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Senator Azam Nazir Tarar, as the chief guest. In addition, officers from NAB's seven regional offices participated online.

The purpose of the seminar was to review financial crimes (money laundering) occurring in Pakistan, assess the efforts of law enforcement agencies, and collectively chart a strategy to combat this issue.



During the seminar, the Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazir Tarar expressed that this seminar was a milestone for the topic

strategy for addressing such sensitive matters is for all relevant Stakeholders to come together under one roof, raise issues, and find mutually agreed-upon at hand. He emphasized that the best solutions. He also mentioned that DIG UPSCALE.

challenge for any country and its

On this occasion, NAB's Deputy Chairman, Sohail Nasir, expressed that the goal of bringing all agencies together through this seminar was not only to learn from each other's expertise and working methods but also to identify and correct any

The event was also attended by Raja Riffat Mukhtar, DG: Sameera Azam, Director FIA; Aqeel Ahmed Siddiqui, DG FBR; Major General Abdul Moeed, DG; Israr Ahmad, Director ANF; Waseem

Ahmad Khan, Additional IG CTD; Muhammad Javed Ismail, DG FMU; Mushtaq Ahmed Sukhira, Chairman AML/CFT; and Umar Riaz Cheema,

Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi

Pak-China strategic dialogue on August 20-21



跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi is set to arrive in Pakistan on August 20 to participate in the annual Pakistan-China Strategic Dialogue.

According to official sources, the high-level meetings will cover a wide range of topics, including bilateral relations, progress on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor sions. The visit follows a series of (CPEC), defense cooperation, economic matters, and regional security. The Pakistani delegation during the talks will be led by Pezeshkian. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar.

stan-India ties, evolving develop- economic challenges.

ments in Afghanistan, and Islamabad's increasingly close engagement with the United States. These geopolitical shifts have become a focal point in international diplomacy.

This will be Wang Yi's first visit to Pakistan following the recent Pakistan-India conflict, and observers anticipate that Pakistan's deepening relationship with Washington may feature prominently in the discussignificant diplomatic engagements in Islamabad, including the recent visit of Iranian President Masoud

Analysts say the upcoming dialogue as critical for reaffirming Wang Yi's visit comes at a time the strength of the Pakistan-China of growing regional tensions, espe- partnership and addressing cially in the wake of strained Paki- emerging regional security and

Punjab govt gives nod for purchase of four bulletproof vehicles

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab government approved purchase of four bulletproof Mercedes cars for the security of (Very Important Persons) VIPs in the province.

The approval was granted during the cabinet meeting of the Punjab government. Every vehicle will be equipped with VR-10 level security.

These vehicles will be purchased from Shahnawaz Private Limited is Rs182.5 million. An amount of

million will be spent on the purchase of these bulletproof vehicles.

The cabinet approved the allocation of 1,220 flats for industrial workers in Sunder, Kasur and Taxila labour colonies to be distributed through balloting, while firmly rejecting suggestions to charge workers for housing. It also instructed officials to take immediate steps to construct an additional 3,000 flats free of cost for these workers.

A significant wage reform was also Company. The price of one vehicle approved, with a uniform minimum monthly salary of Rs40,000 set for Rs6.52 million will be spent on taxes. 102 categories of skilled, semi-skilled, Overall, an amount of Rs79.5418 and other workers

CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif fulfils her promise of providing homes to homeless

LAHORE: Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said, "Apni Chhat in terms of completion, quality and speed in a record time." She added,"Punjab government has set a new record in the history of Pakistan by building 62,500 houses in 6 months." She highlighted,"Interest-free loans of more than Rs 74 marla Apni Chhat Apna Ghar

Madam Chief Minister said,"- building houses on it.

Public has also set a record of 99.9% recovery in loan repayment." She added,"Both loan installments have been released to more than 37,000 Apna Ghar" project has become families. More than 52,000 houses an unmatched government project are under construction." She had promised the people to provide them one lakh houses every year.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said,"Target of building one lakh houses will be achieved in December this year." She reached Expo Center Lahore to launch a billion have been given under 05-10 new phase of 'Apni Chhat Apni Ghar' scheme, under which Punjab government will also provide land, besides

PM Shehbaz takes notice of urban flooding in Islamabad, orders swift rescue, safety measures

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister precautionary measures to protect

the flood-like situation that developed in various low-lying residential areas of the federal capital following recent heavy rainfall.

In a statement issued by the Prime borne diseases in the aftermath of Minister's Office, PM Shehbaz the rainfall. directed the Capital Development Authority (CDA) and district administration to immediately launch tions, assess the evolving situation, rescue operations and ensure swift drainage of rainwater from the affected citizens. affected neighborhoods near stormwater drains.

Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on people living in vulnerable areas Wednesday took serious notice of surrounding streams and nullahs.

He also ordered the health department to remain on high alert and take proactive steps to prevent the outbreak of water-

PM Shehbaz constituted a special committee to oversee rescue operaand ensure the safety and relief of

The prime minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to Expressing concern over the protecting lives and property during plight of residents in flood-prone natural calamities, stressing the need zones, the Prime Minister instructed for a prompt and organized response relevant authorities to implement from all concerned departments.