Barkat Rice Mills



Pakistani-British culinary talent Sunia Imran has been crowned Champion of the UK National Curry Week Cook-Off 2025. The annual competition, held in London's Covent Garden, brought together six of the UK's most promising home chefs.



PSX benchmark KSE-100 index plunges 1286 points

points, driven by profit-taking ahead of futures contract ro

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Jamadi-ul-Awwal 2, Saturday, October 25, 2025



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💟 @daily spokesman



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Recognition

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif presents awards to polio workers for the recognition of their services in the



PM Shehbaz calls for enhanced efforts to achieve polio-free Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said that the persistence of polio in country was a moment of introauthorities as well as the polio workers to put in their enhanced the World Polio Day here. efforts to purge the country of this crippling disease.

accept the challenge and start ciated their courage and unwa-

which we're all wanting to have sooner rather than later. If the whole world can become poliofree, except Pakistan and our Pakistan and its neighboring neighbouring country, I think it's a moment of introspection," the spection, urging the government prime minister said addressing a ceremony held in connection with

The prime minister, who also distributed appreciation shields "Let's brace ourselves and among the polio workers, appre-

running and achieve the trophy, vering commitment to achieve polio-free Pakistan, saying that the nation owed huge gratitude to all of them.

> The event was attended by Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, Syed Mustafa Kamal, Information and Broadcasting Minister Attaullah Tarar, Focal Person Polio Ayesha Raza Farooq, and representatives of international partners, including

WHO and UNICEF.

Appreciating the role and contributions of the international partners, he said that the polio field workers had done a "remarkable" job in these preceding years, risking their lives at times in areas where polio eradication had become a challenge.

The prime minister urged the health minister and focal person to further solidify their efforts and bring fame to Pakistan by eradicating the disease.

He particularly thanked Saudi

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman for contributing a huge amount of around half a billion dollars in collaboration with the Bill Gates Foundation to be spent over the next few years for polio eradication.

Photo: PID

"And I think this window of opportunity is limited. Let's not waste it... Suffice it to say that time and tide wait for none," he said and prayed to Allah Almighty for a safe and healthy future for the children of the country.

Pakistan, Afghan Taliban to hold second round of talks in Istanbul today

Spokesman Report

day said that the second round of talks between Pakistan and the Afghan Taliban will take place today (Saturday) in Istanbul, Türkiye, as a follow-up to the Doha dialogue that resulted in a temporary ceasefire last

Office Spokesperson Tahir Andrabi said that all points discussed in Doha will form the agenda of the Istanbul meeting.

He added that both sides will approach the talks with the same sincerity and seriousness shown

talks, no major cross-border terrorist attack has been reported from the Afghan side, which he described as "a positive outcome" of the negoti-

He confirmed that a document was signed in Doha, saying, "It does not matter whether the Afghan Taliban government calls it an agreement or not — what matters is the ongoing conflict.

understanding reached and the

The spokesperson said that Pakistan temporarily closed border crossings with Afghanistan due to recent security concerns, emphasising that "the life of an ordinary Pakistani is more valuable than the flow of goods

He reiterated that the security situation changed after repeated terrorist attacks launched from Afghan soil, adding that Pakistan has consistently demonstrated sincerity in its engagement with Afghanistan.

cross-border terrorist attacks must stop, and the Afghan authorities must take verifiable action against the perpetrators," Andrabi said.

Responding to a question, he said Pakistan continues to take India's threats seriously, adding that the country is fully prepared to respond to any aggression in Azad Jammu

He also said that Pakistan is closely monitoring Israeli violations and the regional fallout of the

Eight Indian sponsored Khwarij terrorists killed in Tank IBO



跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Security forces killed eight Indian sponsored Khwarij terrorists during an intelligence based operation (IBO) in Tank District, said a statement issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) Friday.

According to the ISPR statement, on 24 October 2025, on reported presence of Khwarij belonging to Indian Proxy, Fitna al Khwarij, Security Forces conducted an intelligence based operation in Tank District.

"During the conduct of the operation, own troops effectively engaged the Khwarii locations, and after an intense fire exchange, eight Indian

"Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the killed khwarij, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against the Security Forces and Law Enforcement Agencies, as well as the killing of innocent civilians.

"Sanitization operation is being conducted to eliminate any other Indian sponsored Kharji found in the area as relentless Counter Terrorism campaign under vision "Azm e Istehkam" (as approved by Federal Apex Committee on National Action Plan) by Security Forces and Law Enforcement Agencies of Pakistan will continue at full pace to wipe out the menace of foreign sponsored and supported sponsored Khwarij were killed. terrorism from the country."

President, PM strongly condemn Hangu attack by India-backed terrorists

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday strongly condemned the attack at a police check post in Hangu carried out by the India-backed terrorists.

The president and prime minister, in separately issued statements, expressed deep grief over the martyrdom of police personnel, including SP Operations Asad Zubair, in the attack.

They prayed to Allah Almighty for the elevation of the martyrs' ranks in paradise and expressed condolences to the bereaved families.

President Zardari said that the terrorists were the enemies of the country's peace and stability, and their cowardly



actions were intolerable

Paying tribute to martyred SP Operations Asad Zubair and other police personnel, he said that the nation was proud of the sacrifices of its brave soldiers.

"I salute the resolve and courage of the police in the war against terrorism," the president remarked. Prime Minister Shehbaz said that the police had always played a frontline role in the war against terrorism.

"We are determined to completely eradicate terrorism from the country," he resolved.

Amir Muqam extends congratulations to the Kashmiri Nation on the 78th Founding Day



跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON, Engr Amir Muqam, has extended heartfelt congratulations to the Kashmiri nation on the occasion of the 78th Founding Day.

The minister paid rich tribute to the founding leaders of the Kashmiri nation and lauded their historic struggle for freedom and self-determination, said a press release.

Muqam also paid homage to the martyrs who laid down their lives for the liberation of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK). He acknowledged the brave people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for their unwavering support to the Kashmiris during the freedom struggle. "The people of Pakistan and

Kashmir are bound together as one soul in two bodies," he said. He reaffirmed that Paki-

stan will continue to extend its political, diplomatic, and moral support to the Kashmiri people in their just struggle for self-determination.

Muqam condemned India's brutal and illegal occupation of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and denounced the grave human rights violations being committed by the Indian forces in the region.

DPM reiterates Pakistan's commitment to UN Charter for peace, development

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: As the international community observes the United Nations Day today, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar reiterated Pakistan's commitment to working with member states and the UN system to reinvigorate the UN Charter's promise to pursue peace, development and human dignity for

The deputy prime minister, in his message on the Day, said that Pakistan also joined the world community in reaffirming its steadfast commitment to multilateralism.

"We believe the United Nations, as the world's most representative multilateral institution, remains uniquely placed to address shared global challenges, including grave threats to international peace and security, the worst settlement of disputes.



tent development gaps, and the existential climate crisis." he remarked.

He said that guided by Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's vision, Pakistan's foreign policy was firmly rooted in the UN Charter's principles: the sovereign equality of states, non-interference, the right to self-determination, and the peaceful

He said that Pakistan's history also reflected a consistent preference for diplomacy over confrontation, engagement over isolation, and partnership over polarization. Deputy Prime Minister

Dar said that Pakistan's commitment to multilateralism was demonstrated through decades of active engagement with the UN system.

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thurs-

At a weekly press briefing, Foreign

during the Doha dialogue. Andrabi noted that since the Doha

results achieved."

or trade."

"Our message is loud and clear:

and Kashmir.

AJK PM: True Independence hinges on liberating Occupied Jammu and Kashmir

跨 Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that the dream of complete independence and the objective of establishing an Azad government will be realized in the true sense only when the people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir are freed from Indian illegal and forcible occupation.

Addressing the 78th Foundation Day ceremony of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, the Prime Minister said it was a moment of collective gratitude that we are celebrating the foundation day this year with greater pride than ever

He noted that Pakistan's the freedom struggle. historic success in Operaand infused a fresh spirit into forefathers who not only sacrifices rendered by twen-



He said that Azad Jammu regime but also courageously tion Bunyan-al-Marsoos has and Kashmir was liberated resisted Indian aggression. brought joy to Kashmiris on after a great struggle and Referring to the July 13, 1931, both sides of the ceasefire line unmatched sacrifices by our incident, the PM said that the

marked the beginning of the end of Dogra tyranny.

Recalling the events of the plan for partition of the subcontinent was announced, Congress leaders, in collab-Muslim-majority state of Jammu and Kashmir. On July 19, 1947, the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference, a representative organization of the Kashmiri Muslims, passed a resolution calling for

state's accession to Pakistan. The Maharaja, he said, began disarming Muslims and distributing weapons non-Muslims, forcing Kashmiris to launch an armed resistance in June

On October 17, India dispatched Patiala forces into the state, and the people fought both Dogra and

y-two Muslims on this day, Indian troops", he remarked. The Prime Minister also

paid tribute to the tribal mujahideen who, he said, 1947, the PM said that when came to the aid of Kashmiris after their request. Paying rich tributes to the Pakistani armed forces for safeguarding oration with Maharaja Hari the region's freedom, he Singh, conspired to seize the recalled the sacrifices of Captain Sarwar Shaheed, Pakistan's first Nishan-e-Haider recipient, who was martyred in the Uri sector.

The freedom of this region, he emphasized, was not a coincidence or gift but the result of unmatched sacrifices rendered by the Kashmiri people, tribal mujahideen, and the Pakistan Army. He said Operation Bunyan-al-Marsoos has written new chapters in modern military history, as the Pakistan army delivered a crushing defeat to an enemy country that is many times bigger in size and

Rehana Khan vows support for oppressed in Kashmir and Palestine on 78th Foundation Day

👺 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Chairperson Women Commission Rehana Khan's message on Foundation Day "We will not let the sacrifices of our ancestors go in vain, we stand with the oppressed of Kashmir and Palestine" Chairperson of Women Commission Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Ms. Rehana Khan, said in her message on the occasion of the 78th Foundation Day that breathing in free air is the result of the great sacrifices of our elders and these sacrifices will not be allowed to go in vain. She said that the day is not far when the people of occupied Kashmir will be with us after getting rid of



Indian atrocities. Rehana Khan said, "The historic struggle that took place in 1947 under the leadership of Ghazi-e-Millat Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan, thanks to this, the foundation of the Azad government was laid on October 24, 1947. Those great leaders Chaudhry Ghulam Abbas, Ghazi-e-Millat Sardar Ibrahim Khan and Mujahid-e-Awwal Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan represented the Kashmiri nation in this movement and paved the way for freedom." The Chairperson emphasized She said that she will not sit with China until the defenseless Muslims of occupied Jammu and Kashmir are given their right to self-determination.

UNICEF-ComNet Renews Commitment to Eradicate *Poliovirus*

B Rafiullah Mandokhel

ZHOB: On the occasion of World Polio Day, UNICEF-ComNet organized an awareness event in Zhob to reaffirm the global pledge to eradicate poliovirus that continues to threaten children across Pakistan.

The gathering brought together district administration and health officials, notables, social figures, religious scholars, and representatives of non-governmental organizations to mark the day. The day is observed globally on October 24, raising awareness about polio. Poliovirus is a highly infectious and potentially life-threatening disease that causes irreversible paralysis in children.

In their welcoming remarks, CCO ComNet Saeedullah Lawoon and Mirwais Khan Mandokhel shed light on the history, significance, and progress of global anti-polio initiatives.

Addressing the event, Additional Deputy Commissioner Aurangzeb Kasi lauded the invaluable contribution of female frontline workers engaged in polio campaigns.

Chairman of the Municipal Committee Shah Baran Kakar termed polio a crippling virus that leaves its victim paralyzed and dependent for their entire life.

District Health Officer Dr. Fareed Tareen highlighted the crucial role of the community in extending cooperation during anti-polio drives. Religious scholar Molvi Rafiullah Sherani spoke about the humani-

tarian essence of vaccination in the light of Islamic teachings. HDF Team Leader Naeem Gul Mandokhel commended UNICEF-ComNet for organizing the awareness event.

Among those who attended the event were Police Inspector Gulab Din Kakar, journalist Rafiullah Mandokhel, Nawab Khan Mandokhail, Mufti Ikram-ud-Din, Hafiz Samiullah, UCPO Ehsanullah Babar, Abdul Salam Nasar, Community Mobilizer Abdul Samad Nasar, and Ataullah

Attock Administrators emergency measures eliminate Dengue

ATTOCK: Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Attock, Aneel Saeed, has said that emergency measures are being taken across the district to eliminate dengue. He stated that the protection of public health is the top priority of the district administration, and that all departments are working in a coordinated manner to achieve this goal.

He expressed these views while chairing the weekly meeting on the anti-dengue campaign at the DC Office Attock. Officers from the Health Department, Education Department, and other government institutions attended the meeting.

During the meeting, detailed reviews of the preventive measures were conducted, and the concerned departments were instructed to make cleanliness drives, fumigation, and public awareness campaigns more effective.

The Additional Deputy Commissioner emphasized that officers must leave no stone unturned in the elimination of dengue larvae and in public awareness activities to completely prevent the spread of the disease.

Punjab introduces "Surrender of Illegal Arms Act 2025" to curb unlicensed weapons

 $LAHORE: Inspector \, General \, of \, Police \, (IGP) \, Punjab \, Dr. \, Usman \, Anwar$ on Friday held an important press conference at the Central Police Office, Lahore, announcing the introduction of the Punjab Surrender of Ille-

Special Secretary Home Fazal-ur-Rehman and Additional IG Counter Crime Department (CCD) Sohail Zafar Chattha were also present.

Speaking at the press conference, he announced the introduction of the Punjab Surrender of Illegal Arms Act 2025, under which citizens are required to surrender all illegal weapons within 15 days. He warned that possession of illegal arms after the deadline would lead to imprisonment of four to fourteen years along with fines ranging from Rs 1 million to Rs 3 million.

The IGP stated that the initiative aims to eliminate the "display of arms culture" from Punjab and ensure complete eradication of unlicensed weapons. He said over one million licensed weapons would be reverified, while scrutiny and search operations are being launched across the province. Strict, indiscriminate action will be taken against those keeping or trading in illegal arms, he added.

Dr. Usman Anwar said illegal weapons could be surrendered at CCD offices, designated police stations, and notified collection centres, and all recovered arms would be destroyed under CCD supervision. Scanners are also being installed at provincial border check posts to curb

He further informed that the recruitment and training of private security guards are being restructured, with all guards to be trained under police supervision and their licenses strictly monitored. A panic button system linked to Police Helpline 15 is also being introduced for

Highlighting other achievements, the IGP said more than 2,500 abducted or missing children have been safely reunited with their families through the Virtual Center for Child Safety.

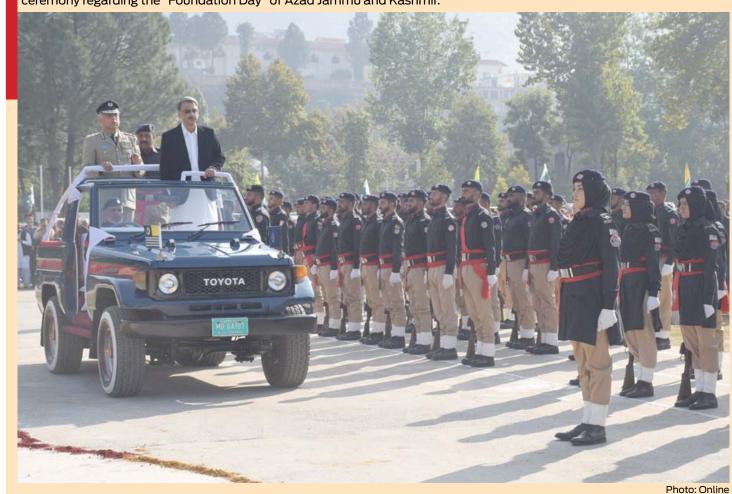
Special Secretary Home Fazal-ur-Rehman said that under the new Act, illegal arms possession is a non-bailable offense carrying imprisonment of 4-14 years and heavy fines.

Additional IG CCD Sohail Zafar Chattha shared that since the establishment of the CCD, crime rates have dropped significantly—murders by 33%, vehicle snatching by 62%, vehicle theft by 51%, dacoities by 70%, and street robberies by 71%. He said the department targets a further 75% reduction in weapon-related crimes within the next four months.

Guard of Honor

MUZAFFERABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq inspects the guard of Honor during ceremony regarding the "Foundation Day" of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

overthrew the brutal Dogra





👺 Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD/RAWALPINDI: Former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir and President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference Sardar

Kashmir freedom movement a test of global conscience: Sardar Ateeq

for their freedom are unprecedented in the history of the world.

The Freedom of Kashmir movement is not only a question of one region but Ummah. He said that despite Indian occupied Kashmir are still fighting

for their right to self-determination. They said that the freedom of

Attique Ahmed Khan has said that the Kashmir has now become a test of sacrifices made by the Kashmiri people international conscience. The world should understand that the problem of Kashmir is not of any land but of the future of 150 million people.

We are the people of occupied of the conscience of the entire Muslim Kashmir at the center of every policy, every action and every struggle. He said state terrorism, the brave people of that India has deprived the Kashmiri people of their basic rights and has set up an open jail. If Kashmiris do not get their rights, the region could esca-

late towards serious military conflict. They are brightening the name of the country and nation with their talents.

In Azad Kashmir, education, employment, technology, increasing opportunities for economic self-sufficiency should be part of state policy.

The freedom movement cannot be stopped, it will not be stopped. Freedom is the destiny of Kashmiris and the day will soon rise when the flag of Pakistan will be hoisted in Srinagar.

The whiteness of the nation... who tasted the price of telling the truth

Mufti Muhammad Hanif

Whenever there is talk of courage and character in the politics of the state of Jammu and Kashmir, one name will always be written in golden letters — Pir is the personality who did not sell his was in the houses of power. Such persons became servants, not ministers, and this sense of service ran in their veins.

The position of the Ministry of Saeed Shah was not a mere administrative service was a moral and religious duty. He highlighted the good deeds this gentle man Peer of the government with full fidelity, but where the state or public interest

are right by becoming prisoners of the times, Mazhar Saeed Shah considered himself entrusted with both pen and language. There was that fragrance of weight in her speech, confidence in Muhammad Mazhar Saeed Shah. This her tone, and truth in her statements that did not leave without impressing tongue and conscience even though he even opponents. He proved that ministries are fleeting, but character always

After Antis September, when the situation in the state took a dangerous Information in which Pir Mazhar turn, when the scales of people's patience seemed to be overflowing, and the cloud of injustice became deep, so

Mazhar Saeed Shah Who said goodbye to his position and set an was determined, He did not pause for example that is very rarely seen. He a moment to speak the truth. At a time said: "In the inevitable circumstances

when people are afraid to say that they of the state, I am not able to hold a higher position, so I am separating myself from the ministry." These words were based on the pain of the heart and the voice of conscience, not out of any resentment or interest. It was not a resignation — it was a declaration of right, a need that stirred the hearts of the people of the state. During his ministry, Mazhar Saeed

Shah not only performed government in a better manner but also set an example of sincerity and insight in his speeches, press conferences and public statements that cannot be forgotten. He was not merely a minister, he was an ideologue — a style of thought, a school of character. He did not let the media become a weapon of conspiracy or propaganda, but rather a source of public service, transparency and truth. citizen with respect.



There was warmth in his words, and in that warmth hid the light of faith. In his presence, the Ministry of Information has become not a machinery but a mirror of the conscience of the nation.

Where his temperament spoke of courage, it also reflected humility and denial. Even when he was in a high position, he treated every ordinary





Namaz Timings ..6:47 pm

EMEDGENCY

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| Bomb Disposal 15 |
| Fire Services Rawalpindi/ |
| Islamabad1122 & 16 |
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| Motorway Police9266044 |
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Women Police **Stations**

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| CMH | 561111 |
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| Holy Family | 9290322- |
| PIMS | 9261170-7 |
| Polyclinic | 9218300-0 |
| Shifa International. | 460366 |
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DEPARTMENTS

| CDA | 9221334-43 | | |
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| CDA | 9208301-04 | | |
| Met Office | 9250360-6 | | |
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COMPLAINTS

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| G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, | H-89266316 |
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| Wasa Water Tank | |
| Rawalpindi | .0331-5022125 |
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SMEDA to **Promote** Subcontracting in Msmes For e-Vehicle Sector

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Small and Medium Enterprises **Development Authority** (SMEDA) is taking measures to promote subcontracting in SME sector for gearing up manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (EVs) in Pakistan.

The initiative has been undertaken under SMEDA's Vendor Development Program and is in line with the Government of Pakistan's new Electric Vehicle Policy

2025-30. Mr. Socrat Aman Rana Chief Executive Officer of SMEDA, assured full support to e-vehicle manufacturers in developing a robust subcontracting network within

the MSME sector. Speaking on the occasion, Mr Rana stated that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had revitalized SMEDA to accelerate the growth of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises across the country. In line with the Prime Minister's vision, SMEDA is prioritizing subcontracting promotion, particularly in the automobile and textile sectors, to enhance growth of MSMEs, he

Parking Prohibited Under Kutchery Flyover, Multan

$Parking \ Plaza \ Becomes \ Functional, \ Traffic \ Streamlined$

📂 Zain Khan Malghani

MULTAN: Parking arrangements at the Lawyers Parking Plaza near Kutchery Multan have been completed, following which the District Bar Association has formally issued guidelines for lawyers. According to the instructions, parking of vehicles under the Kutchery Flyover is strictly prohibited. Additional traffic police personnel have been deployed in the area, and banners have been placed at various points to guide the public.

Lawyers and citizens have been urged to park their vehicles only in the designated parking areas in compliance with the administration's directions, ensuring the smooth flow of traffic. The initiative has been widely appreciated by resi-

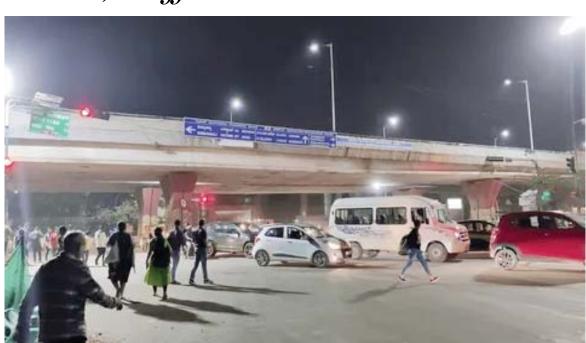
In the past, due to illegal parking and encroachments around Kutchery Chowk, under the flyover, and up to 7-No. Chowngi, traffic congestion had ation caused difficulties not only for city's beauty and overall discipline.

students of the Women's University and public transport but also hindered access to the Police Lines, CPO Office, DC Office, and Commissioner's Office.

The Commissioner of Multan stated that the parking plaza has been completed by the C&W Department at a cost of 692 million.

After the completion and activation of the parking plaza, citizens, government officials, and employees have expressed satisfaction, noting that traffic congestion in and around Kutchery has significantly reduced. Earlier, unregulated parking on sidewalks and along the roads severely affected movement, but now a marked improvement is visible.

Citizens and office staff have welcomed this development, stating that the establishment of the parking plaza has not only reduced congestion and disorder but also made the roads wider, more organized, and easier to navigate. This step will not only improve become a routine problem. This situ- the traffic system but also enhance the



ISLAMABAD: A view of the National Buildings along the Constitution Avenue illuminated with Red Colors which is associated with Turkiye National Flag, as the illumination will continue whole week to honor the Turkiye following its National Day on 29th October.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Multan: National Cricketer Sohaib Maqsood's Car Recovered from Suspects and Handed Back to Him

跨 Zain Khan Malghani

MULTAN: The car of national cricketer Sohaib Magsood, which had been fraudulently taken from him through deception, has been recovered by the police.

Under the directives of CPO Sadiq Ali Dogar, the Gulgasht Police Station conducted a timely operation and successfully recovered the vehicle from Lahore. The car, valued at approximately Rs. 14 million, was later handed over to Sohaib Maqsood.

Following the instructions of the CPO, SHO Gulgasht, along with his team, carried out a raid in Lahore to retrieve the vehicle from the accused

Cricketer Sohaib Maqsood expressed complete satisfaction over the police investigation and lauded their swift action. He also thanked CPO Multan Sadiq Ali Dogar for his efforts and support in recovering the car. On this occasion, CPO Multan Sadiq Ali Dogar



stated that "national cricketers are our injustice against them will not be tolervaluable assets, and any act of fraud or

Renowned Educationist Dr Muhammad Afzal Babar laid to rest

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Eminent educationist and senior member of the Executive Council of the Nazriya Pakistan Council Trust, Dr. Muhammad Afzal Babar, passed away last night due to cardiac arrest. He was laid to rest at the CDA Graveyard, Bhara Kahu.

The funeral was attended by Chairman Nazriya Pakistan Council (NPC) Mian Muhammad Javed, Executive Secretary Gauhar Zahid Malik, Senior Vice Chairman Senator Faisal Zahid Malik, Ambassador Salahuddin Chaudhry, Dr. Muhammad Saleem of Taleem Network Pakistan, office-bearers



of the Private Schools Network, teachers, students, and distinguished figures from the education sector and civil society.

Speaking on the occasion, Mian Muhammad Javed and GauharZahid

Malik expressed deep grief over the demise of Dr. Afzal Babar, terming it a great loss for the education fraternity and for "Taleem Network Pakistan." They paid rich tributes to his lifelong services for the promotion of education and his role in uniting private educational institutions across the country.

Prayers were offered for the departed soul, and participants lauded Dr. Babar's contributions to educational reform, describing him as a visionary leader and a true advocate for quality learning in Pakistan.

Senator Razina Alam Khan said Dr Afzal had devoted his life to the promotion of education among the students

of deprived classes and for this he had full support of the NPC Chairman Mian Muhammad Javed and all his team.

We were supposed to visit a non-formal school under the Taleem Network at Bhara Kahu on Thursday and he had asked me. Nargis Nasir another active member of the NPC Executive Committee and Amb Salahuddin Chaudhry to visit him on Thursday but unfortunately when we reached, we only saw his dead body sur-rounded by his family and loved ones, she said.

Nargis Nasir also paid rich tributes to Dr Afzal Babar calling him a man of parts, a kind-hearted man and a very responsible human being.

Air University Hosts 2nd International Conference on Data and Statistical Sciences



Example 2 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Air University organized the 2nd International Conference on Recent Trends in Statistics and Data Analytical Sciences (ICRTS-DAS-2025) at its main campus in Islamabad. The event gathered leading researchers, academicians, and professionals from Pakistan and abroad to discuss advancements in statistics, artificial intelligence, and data analytics. Vice Chancellor Air Marshal (Rtd.) Abdul Moeed Khan, HI(M), emphasized the importance of data-driven decision-making, while Dr. Naeem-uz-Zafar (SI), Chief Statistician, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, highlighted the role of analytical tools in national development. International scholars, including Prof. Dr. Shahjahan Khan (Australia), Dr. Fereshteh Osmani (Iran), and Dr. Carolina Franco (USA), delivere keynote addresses. Over 100 research papers were presented across 11 sessions. The closing ceremony was graced by Mr. Nadeem Mahbub, Chairman HEC, who appreciated Air University's efforts to promote research and innovation in data analytics.

Meezan Bank and Mastercard Strengthen Cross-Border Payments with "Spend Big, Win Big!"Campaign



Example 2 Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Meezan Bank, Pakistan's leading Islamic bank, in collaboration with Mastercard, has successfully concluded the "Spend Big, Win Big" cross-border spending campaign. The initiative encouraged customers to use their Meezan Mastercard Debit Cards for international transactions, reinforcing the Bank's commitment to promoting secure and Shariah-compliant global payment solutions.

The event was attended by senior management from Meezan Bank, including Dr. Syed Amir Ali, Deputy CEO, Mr. Ahmed Ali Siddiqui, Group Head Consumer Finance, and Mr. Abid Malik, Head of Cards, Unsecured Business and New Initiatives, along with Mr. Arslan Khan, Country Head, Mastercard Pakistan.

Mr. Ahmed Ali Siddiqui highlighted the campaign's role in driving international digital transactions through Meezan Mastercard Debit Cards, contributing to the growing adoption of cashless payments among customers, while Mr. Arslan Khan emphasized Mastercard's dedication to providing secure and seamless global payment solutions.

RWMC conducts anti-smog drive in Banni area

RAWALPINDI, OCT 24 (APP): The communication teams of Rawalpindi Waste Management Company (RWMC) carried out its cleanliness and anti-smog awareness campaign in the area of Union Council-34, Banni area on Friday. According to the RWMC spokesman, the teams asked the shopkeepers and residents of the area to play their part in educating the people about the importance of cleanliness.

He said the objective of the activity was to reach as many people as possible, educating the general public about precautionary measures

The teams also distributed waste bags and leaflets among the people to educate them about the importance of cleanliness. The teams also asked the residents to ensure the spraying of water to prevent dust and to use $% \left\{ 1,2,...,n\right\}$ masks and glasses. He said that the promotion of tree plantation was vital for avoiding smog and checking environmental pollution.

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: Almass Ayoub Sabir Vice Chairman:

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COVID-19 vaccines may help some cancer patients fight tumors

he most widely used COVID-19 vaccines may offer a surprise benefit for some cancer patients - revving up their immune systems to help fight tumors.

People with advanced lung or skin cancer who were taking certain immunotherapy drugs lived substantially longer if they also got a Pfizer or Moderna shot within 100 days of starting treatment, according to preliminary research being reported Wednesday in the journal Nature.

And it had nothing to do with virus infections.

Instead, the molecule that powers those specific vaccines, mRNA, appears to help the immune system respond better to the cutting-edge cancer treatment, concluded researchers from MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston and the University of Florida.

The vaccine "acts like a siren to activate immune cells throughout the body," said lead researcher Dr. Adam Grippin of MD Anderson. "We're sensitizing immune-resistant tumors to immune therapy."

Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has raised skepticism about mRNA vaccines, cutting \$500 million in funding for some uses of the technology.

But this research team found its results so promising that it is preparing a more rigorous study to see if mRNA coronavirus vaccines should be paired with cancer drugs called checkpoint inhibitors — an interim step while it designs new mRNA vaccines for use

A healthy immune system often kills cancer cells before they become a threat. But some tumors evolve to hide from immune attack. Checkpoint inhibitors remove that cloak. It's a powerful treatment - when it works. Some people's immune cells still don't recognize

Messenger RNA, or mRNA, is naturally found in every cell and it contains genetic instructions for our bodies to make proteins. While best known as the Nobel Prize-winning technology behind COVID-19 vaccines, scientists have long been trying to create personalized mRNA "treatment vaccines" that train immune cells to spot unique features of a patient's tumor.

The new research offers "a very good clue" that maybe an offthe-shelf approach could work, said Dr. Jeff Coller, an mRNA specialist at Johns Hopkins University who wasn't involved with the work. "What it shows is that mRNA medicines are continuing to surprise us in how beneficial they can be to human health."

Grippin and his Florida colleagues had been developing personalized mRNA cancer vaccines when they realized that even one created without a specific target appeared to spur similar immune activity against cancer.

Grippin wondered if the already widely available mRNA coronavirus shots might also have some effect, too.

So the team analyzed records of nearly 1,000 advanced cancer patients undergoing checkpoint inhibitor treatment at MD Anderson - comparing those who happened to get a Pfizer or Moderna shot with those who didn't.

Vaccinated lung cancer patients were nearly twice as likely to be alive three years after beginning cancer treatment as the unvaccinated patients. Among melanoma patients, median survival was significantly longer for vaccinated patients – but exactly how much isn't clear, as some of that group were still alive when the data was

Parliamentary Diplomacy: Enhancing Pakistan's Global Engagement

the Inter-Parliamentary Conference in Islamabad this November, bringing together parliamentary leaders and representatives from around the world to foster dialogue, cooperation, and global legislative collaboration. The upcoming conference aims to provide a platform for lawmakers across regional and international parliaments to exchange views, strengthen partnerships, and work collectively on issues of global concern such as regional peace, sustainable development, and mutual prosperity. The initiative underscores Pakistan's growing emphasis on parliamentary diplomacy, a tool that complements traditional stateto-state diplomacy by promoting dialogue and understanding among elected representatives.

Parliamentary diplomacy refers to the engagement of parliamentarians in international relations through dialogue, exchanges, and cooperation beyond formal executive-level diplomacy. It allows lawmakers to represent the interests, values, and voices of their people in the global arena, contributing to a more inclusive and participatory form of foreign policy. In an era of complex interdependence, parliamentary diplomacy has emerged as a crucial avenue for building trust, resolving conflicts, and addressing transnational challenges such as climate change, terrorism, poverty, and migration. Unlike traditional diplomacy that often involves closed-door negotiations between governments, parliamentary diplomacy thrives on openness, dialogue, and mutual respect, encouraging consensus-building across political and ideological divides.

Globally, parliamentary diplomacy has

akistan's Senate will host been institutionalized through various Raza Gilani and National Assembly taryties, enhancing defense cooperation, inter-parliamentary forums such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the European Parliament's foreign delegations, the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly, and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA). These bodies enable legislators from different countries to engage in sustained dialogue, share and global affairs through parliamentary legislative practices, and work collabo- engagement.

ratively on issues like democracy promotion, gender equality, and peacebuilding. For instance, the IPU established in 1889, continues to play a leading role in promoting dialogue and peace among nations through parliamentary engagement. Similarly,

the European Parliament's diplomatic missions often mediate and promote dialogue in conflict zones, showcasing how elected representatives can act as bridges for understanding when state diplomacy faces limitations. This model of diplomacy empowers parliaments to contribute to the resolution of disputes. humanitarian cooperation, and the strengthening of democratic governance worldwide.

Within this broader global context, Pakistan has been an active advocate of parliamentary diplomacy, recognizing its potential to build regional solidarity and enhance the country's international engagement. The National Assembly and Senate of Pakistan have consistently used inter-parliamentary platforms to promote dialogue, cooperation, and mutual understanding with friendly nations. Under the leadership of Chairman Senate Yousaf

Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Pakistan's parliamentary diplomacy has witnessed renewed vigor and purpose. Yousaf Raza Gilani, in particular, has emphasized the need for an active, people-centered, and inclusive approach to diplomacy, one that strengthens Pakistan's voice in regional

Recently, several highlevel engagements have taken place to promote parliamentary diplomacy. A parliamentary delegation from Pakistan, led by Speaker Ayaz Sadiq, visited Azerbaijan and held a meeting with Prime Minister

Ali Asadov, along with several other official engagements. Similarly, Bahrain's Shura Council member Dr. Jameela Al-Sammak visited Islamabad and met with the Speaker of the National Assembly, showing the shared desire to strengthen parliamentary and institutional ties between Pakistan and the Gulf states. These interactions are part of Pakistan's broader vision to utilize parliamentary channels to complement traditional diplomacy, particularly with friendly nations such as Türkiye, Azerbaijan, Russia, and Bahrain, to advance shared goals of peace, prosperity, and regional integration.

A landmark example of parliamentary diplomacy is the Third Trilateral Speakers' Conference among Pakistan, Türkiye, and Azerbaijan, held at the Parliament House in Islamabad. The three brotherly nations reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening parliamen-

and working together for lasting peace, stability, and prosperity in the region. It underscored that parliaments are not only legislative bodies but also vital channels of diplomacy that promote dialogue, trust, and collective action on issues such as regional security, counterterrorism, climate change, and humanitarian crises. The event marked a new chapter in parliamentary cooperation among the three countries reflecting their unity, mutual respect, and common vision for a peaceful and prosperous future.

Parliamentary diplomacy in Pakistan has gained a forward-looking and dynamic direction under Yousaf Raza Gilani's guidance. His approach emphasizes global engagement, exchange programs, and promoting Pakistan's stance on international platforms. By fostering dialogue and cooperation, he has strengthened Pakistan's image as a responsible and peace-oriented nation. His efforts highlight the role of parliaments in advancing peace, stability, and mutual understanding worldwide.

Despite the many challenges in global politics, the upcoming Inter-Parliamentary Conference in Islamabad represents more than just a diplomatic event. it embodies Pakistan's evolving vision of inclusive, cooperative, and proactive diplomacy. Parliamentary diplomacy continues to act as a bridge between nations, fostering trust and understanding in an increasingly divided world. As Islamabad prepares to host parliamentary delegations from around the globe, it sends a clear and confident message: Pakistan's commitment to dialogue, peace, and people-centered cooperation remains



The Battle Beyond the Ballot Box— A Sign of Major Change

MA Tahir

n Pakistan, the elections of bar associations are not merely professional exercises for lawyers; Without a doubt this is a constitutional battle that shake the very foundations of the country's political, judicial, and democratic structure. General elections hold their own significance, yet when it comes to the Supreme Court Bar Association, the stakes are infinitely higher. These elections are not just about choosing leadership — they are contests for the nation's constitutional soul, the dignity of justice, and the equilibrium of power.

The election of the Supreme Court Bar Association carries a symbolic weight comparable to that of selecting a Prime Minister, a President, or even the heads of the armed forces. In fact, it is far more consequential, for those who rise through this process become the very interpreters of constitutional boundaries, legal meanings, and the legitimacy of every other high office in the land. The individual who wins here represents not only the community of lawyers but the integrity of Pakistan's entire judicial system — a voice for the Constitution, democracy, and human dignity itself.

At a time when efforts are quietly underway to weaken the judiciary and bring the high courts and bars under subtle control, these bars have become the final bastions defending the constitutional identity of the state. The powerful understand that once these bars stand firm, no "law of convenience" will prevail again. These elections are not simply about ballots and numbers — they are moral referendums. They pose the most fundamental question: will law continue to bow before power, or will power finally submit to law?

essence, a test of Pakistan's constitutional sovereignty. Whoever triumphs does not merely win an office — they emerge as a guardian of the nation's judicial honor, democratic conscience, and the future of human freedom. In these moments, a lawyer does not just cast a vote; he writes a line in the history of justice.

Yet the bitter truth remains that where the Supreme Court Bar elections should symbolize transparency, integrity, and neutrality, they have too often been drawn into the orbit of power. What was meant to be a non-political, non-partisan process has been turned into an extension of political ambitions. Centers of power have infiltrated even this sacred space, attempting to turn it into another instrument of influence. The legal fraternity, once revered as the guardians of law and conscience, now finds itself caught in a web of pressure, coercion, and manipulation.

Some are tempted with the glitter of wealth; others are seduced by promises of position and privilege. And when these tactics fail, intimidation takes over — threats, family pressure, and even attempts at personal humiliation all designed to extinguish the voice of truth.

Figures like Asma Jahangir remain living examples of this oath. She walked a path paved with sacrifice and illuminated by courage a reminder that those who serve the law do not surrender to pressure; they reshape the verdicts of history. The Supreme Court Bar elections, therefore, are not simply contests of votes; they are wars between the believers in iustice and the slaves of power. And history, as always, remains a faithful witness. It immortalizes those who refuse to let the light of truth fade in the darkness of fear.

Amid this landscape of compromise and power games, a remarkable event has unfolded in Pakistan's judicial and political history — an Each Supreme Court Bar election is, in event that has unsettled the corridors of power,

startled dynastic politicians, and surprised the self-serving elites. The 2025 elections of the Supreme Court Bar Association have upended the long-held perception that the bars remain under the thumb of ruling political forces.

This year, a new idea prevailed — an idea rooted not in money or political patronage, but in service, honesty, and principle. The resounding victory of Khalid Masood Sandhu, head of the Central Muslim League Pakistan, as Vice President of the Supreme Court Bar Association, stands as a refreshing breeze in the suffocating atmosphere of political conformity. His triumph is a declaration — that Pakistan's lawyers are no longer slaves to power, privilege, or fear. They cast their votes not for a political figurehead but for a man who represents humanity, justice, and constitutional supremacy.

For the traditional political dynasties, this victory is an alarm bell. It proves that the guardians of law can no longer be bought, silenced, or subdued. The legal fraternity is now awake, dignified, and resolute. It has made clear that the future of Pakistan will not be dictated by families, factions, or vested interests, but by the rule of law and the will of the

Khalid Masood Sandhu's success is not merely an electoral win — it is a movement of awakening, a revival of conscience. It signals a return to the ideals upon which Pakistan's justice system was built. It is the voice of a new generation of lawyers echoing through the marble corridors of the judiciary:

"We are the torchbearers of justice. We will not let its light be extinguished - even if the halls of power are drowned in darkness."

Perhaps this moment will become the $cornerstone\ of\ a\ new\ tomorrow\ -a\ tomorrow$ where law, justice, and human dignity forever stand above all else.

Single National Curriculum in Pakistan: Challenges and **Opportunities**

he Single National Curriculum, launched in 2021, is a Pakistani initiative aimed at standardizing the education system across public, private, and religious schools (Deeni Madaris) from primary to grade 12. This initiative seeks to create a uniform curriculum for all students across Pakistan, promoting socioeconomic equality, social cohesion, and national unity by providing equal access to high-quality education for all children, regardless of their

social and political background. By fostering patriotism, national integration, and equal opportunities, this unified curriculum aims to bridge educational disparities and promote upward social mobility among youth.

However, the initiative has faced significant challenges, including provincial resistance Khalil Rehman Gharshin and reluctance from elite private

schools, which could hinder its effective implementation. Despite being a remarkable milestone in Pakistan's education system, the curriculum was rejected by the government of Sindh in August 2021, citing concerns about provincial autonomy.

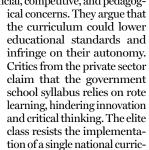
Although the Government of Pakistan provides free education from age 5 to 16 in Urdu medium schools, these students are at a disadvantage in high-level job examinations. Consequently, students from Urdu medium schools often end up in low-level jobs, while students from English medium schools secure high-level positions, widening the gap between the rich and the poor.

The implementation of the Single National Curriculum (SNC) in Pakistan has been challenging due to several issues, including conflicts

with provincial autonomy, resistance from private

schools, inadequate teacher training, and insufficient funding. The 18th Amendment, which granted autonomy to provinces, has complicated the implementation of a single national curriculum, as it emphasizes provincial patriotism over national unity. Provinces consider the single national curriculum a violation of their autonomy, arguing that it would lead to cultural alienation and diminish regional identity.

Private schools also resist implementing the SNC, citing financial, competitive, and pedagog-



ulum, fearing it would threaten their privilege

and power. In conclusion, implementing a single national curriculum can play a crucial role in bridging educational disparities in Pakistan. However, it is not a panacea for all the issues plaguing the education system. To make a meaningful impact, the government must also focus on providing teacher training, improving school facilities, and promoting critical thinking over rote memorization. Teachers should be allocated based on merit, and alternative solutions, such as conducting examinations in local languages or adopting a uniform medium of instruction, could be explored. Ultimately, provincial collaboration and flexibility will be essential in developing an inclusive, effective, and equitable education system for all students.

Republic Day Marks 35 Years Since Kazakhstan's Declaration of Statehood

跨 Aibarshyn Akhmetkali

since the adoption of the Declaration Kazakhstan's State Sovereignty, celebrated as Republic Day on Oct. otism, and the resolution of the most 25, political experts say the document important issues of state life by demonot only defined the birth of modern cratic means, including voting in a Kazakhstan, but continues to shape its foreign policy.

According to Baurzhan Sheriyazdanov, senior researcher of the adopted amid the political, legal, and Institute of State History of the Science Committee of the Kazakh Ministry of Science and Higher Education, the declaration of sovereignty laid the foundations for Kazakhstan's statehood.

Republic Day is celebrated not only to mark the adoption of the declaration but also to honor its core message: the pursuit of sovereignty based on the desire to create dignified and equal living conditions for all citizens of the and every word of the document had

researcher of the Institute of State eignty was an important milestone in History of the Science Committee of the Kazakh Ministry of Science and particular, in the future creation of a Higher Education. Photo credit: professional Parliament," said Sheri-

"The main provisions of the declaraitself as a democratic, secular, legal, and social state, whose highest values are the individual, his or her life, rights, policy.

and freedoms," said Sheriyazdanov in an interview with Kazpravda news-

The fundamental principles are social harmony and political stability, economic development for the benefit of the entire population, Kazakh patrirepublican referendum or in Parliament," he said.

The declaration of sovereignty was social upheavals of the late 1980s and early 1990s, when economic hardship and social tension fueled heated debates in various areas.

"Working on the document was no easy task, given the country's complex ethnogeographical structure. There were heated discussions in the Supreme Council, the Parliament at that time, and throughout society. Every article to be defended and justified. The adop-Baurzhan Sheriyazdanov, senior tion of the declaration on state soverthe development of statehood and, in

The declaration also established tion were used in the first article of the the country's exclusive ownership 1995 Constitution, which states that of all natural resources, as well as its the Republic of Kazakhstan affirms economic and scientific-technical potential, which allowed Kazakhstan to pursue an independent economic



In the political history of the formation of sovereign Kazakhstan, a special role belonged to the Supreme Council of the 12th convocation, whose elections were held in March 1990. For the first time, it ensured the broadest representation of the scientific and creative community. Under the leadership of statesman Salyk Zimanov, a working group of intellectuals, lawyers, and deputies drafted the declaration in just six months.

"On Oct. 25, Salyk Zimanov presented the final draft of the declaration to 360 deputies at a session of the Supreme Soviet of the Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic. The people's representatives carefully examined and declaration itself contained only 17 of the people, a decision proven by

points, its discussion in the Supreme Council lasted almost six hours," said Sherivazdanov

Looking back, Sheriyazdanov noted that submitting the draft declaration for public discussion increased its legitimacy. The document, in turn, established Kazakhstan as an independent subject of international relations, allowing it to determine its foreign policy in its own interests, exchange diplomatic and consular representations, and participate in the activities of international organizations.

"On that day, the country took a huge step toward the freedom that our ancestors had dreamed of for centuries. In this regard, I consider Oct. 25 to be a special day in the history of the discussed each article. Although the country. (...) After all, this is the will

history," said Sheriyazdanov.

Establishing Kazakhstan's role in international relations

Kazpravda newspaper writes that over the years of sovereign development, the declaration enabled Kazakhstan to occupy a unique place in the system of international relations.

"It was at that moment that Kazakhstan began to establish itself as an independent player on the world political stage. In fact, even before the Declaration of Independence, which came more than a year after the adoption of the declaration [of sovereignty], our active role in foreign policy," reads the

It was evidenced by several highlevel visits. In 1991, Kazakhstan hosted landmark visits by then-Turkish President Turgut Özal, UN official Peter Hansen, then-U. S. Secretary of State James Baker, and then-German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, marking its growing international recognition and laying the foundation for future diplomatic and economic cooperation.

Kazakhstan has been a UN member since 1992, becoming the first Central Asian country to serve as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council in 2017-2018. In 2025, the UN Regional Center for Sustainable Development Goals for Central Asia and Afghanistan was inaugurated in

In 1992, Kazakhstan joined the

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and later, during its 2010 chairmanship, hosted the OSCE's only summit of the 21st century.

The country also initiated the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA), joined the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), co-founded the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the Organization of Turkic States, and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), and continues to promote regional dialogue country began to play a much more among Central Asian nations through regular consultative meetings.

> This is Kazakhstan's superpower as a middle power – building bridges between major powers and entire regions, taking an active part in building a safer world, and getting involved in finding solutions to global challenges and problems," reads the article..

As President Tokayev notes, foreign policy is always a reflection of domestic policy.

"Dialogue, cooperation, understanding the importance of peace, and promoting unity in diversity are values that are organically woven into not only Kazakhstan's foreign agenda but also its domestic agenda. In essence, they are part of the national identity and a key element of the image of the future state," reads the article.

The articles were originally published on Kazpravda

Kashmir National Day marks in United Kingdom

Spokesman Report

UNITED KINGDOM: Civic leaders across three major UK cities hosted receptions and flag-raising ceremonies today to mark Kashmir National Day, celebrating the heritage, culture and civic contributions joined attendees in discussions on of British Kashmiris while renewing youth engagement, skills developcommitments to deeper community partnership.

Bradford brought together councillors, MPs, community representacoordinated programme of speeches, cultural performances and policy-focused discussions led by the Kashmir Development Foundation (KDF).

Kashmiri community to a special civic 2040 — "A place to thrive". reception in the Lord Mayor's Suite,

heritage of every community in this for everyone.' way, we strengthen the bonds that

sive city for everyone."

Former Lord Mayor Councillor Naeem ul Hassan said the ceremony honoured decades of community leadership and contribution, while Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Shaukat Ali and other civic leaders ment and community wellbeing.

KDF Executive Director Sardar Events in Manchester, Luton and Aftab Khan highlighted the organisation's focus on education and civic collaboration to expand opportunities tives, young people and residents for a for young people and local businesses across Manchester.

Luton: Linking cultural celebration with the ambitions of Luton 2040

At Luton Town Hall, Mayor Coun-At Manchester Town Hall, the Lord cillor Amy Nicholls led a recep-Mayor of Manchester, Councillor tion that celebrated heritage while Carmine Grimshaw, welcomed the aligning the day's message with Luton

"The people of Luton are what as the Azad Jammu & Kashmir flag make this town strong and resilwas displayed at the historic building. ient," said Mayor Nicholls. "Today, "It is a privilege to welcome the we celebrate the rich culture and civic Kashmiri community to Manchester contribution of the Kashmiri commu-Town Hall," said Councillor Grim- nity and reaffirm our commitment to shaw. "When we recognise the inclusivity, opportunity and wellbeing

Dr Mazher Kiani emphasised make Manchester a fairer, more incluthat Kashmir National Day must

strengthen civic purpose and shared futures, while Councillor Javed called for deeper engagement with Kashmiri residents through partnerships on skills, youth, family hubs and climate initiatives.

KDF volunteers coordinator Sabir Gul committed the organisation to supporting local employers, schools and voluntary groups through cultural programming, apprenticeships, mentoring and community-led environmental action.

Bradford: One of Britain's largest Kashmiri communities recognised

At Bradford's Centenary Square, the Lord Mayor of Bradford, Councillor Mohammed Shafiq, hoisted the AJ&K flag alongside the Union Flag before hundreds of residents.

"Hoisting the Kashmir flag in entenary Square is a proud symbo of Bradford's diversity and our commitment to inclusion, belonging and mutual respect," he said.

With around 150,000 residents of Kashmiri heritage, Bradford is a national centre of British Kashmiri life. Civic and parliamentary leaders, including MP Imran Hussain, attended the ceremony. Hussain reaffirmed the APPG on Kashmir's role in ensuring representation and recogni-



tion at national level.

Prominent community figures including Mohammed Ajeeb, the heritage Lord Mayor, also joined the gathering.

KDF aims to align ongoing partnership work with each city's civic ambicity's first Asian and Kashmiri tions, helping ensure British Kashmiris thrive as key contributors to public life.

underscored both civic pride and a shared commitment to sustained engagement, community resilience and future-focused collaboration across the United Kingdom.

UAJK, APHC Jointly Observe 78th Foundation Day of AJK Government

👺 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK) on Thursday organized a seminar to commemorate the 78th Foundation Day of the Azad Government of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, reaffirming the collective resolve to continue the struggle for the complete liberation of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

The seminar titled "From Liberated AJK We Vow: Until Every Inch of IIOJK is Free, Our Struggle Continues" was jointly organized by the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir in collaboration with the All Parties Hurrivat Conference Jammu and Kashmir at the Education Hall, Chella Campus. The event was hosted by the Directorate of Students Affairs,

Addressing the gathering as the chief guest, Convenor of All Parties Hurriyat Conference Jammu and Kashmir, Ghulam Muhammad Safi, said that the day serves as a reminder of the purpose for which the Azad Government was established in the liberated territory. "We must reflect on the history of our struggle and ask ourselves why, even after 78 years, we have not succeeded in freeing the occupied part of Jammu and Kashmir from Indian control," he remarked.

Calling Kashmir not a territorial dispute but a question of the lives, rights, religion, and culture of millions of Kashmiris, Safi emphasized that the issue must be seen in its broader humanitarian and political context.

Outlining the way forward, he urged the leadership of Pakistan and AJK to sit together and



devise a unified, pragmatic policy for the Kashmir cause. "We need to engage global powers, neutralize those with veto authority, and break India's obstinate stance," he said. He added that the freedom struggle requires robust political, diplomatic, and military strategies to counter India's unyielding policies in the region.

veteran Kashmiri leader and Chairman of the Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR), Islamabad, Altaf Hussain Wani, drew a sharp comparison between the situation in IIOJK and Azad Jammu and Kashmir since 1947. "While AJK has seen progress and empowerment in powerment and suppression," he

Wani lauded Pakistan's vital role in supporting AJK's governance structure, saying that "we have a Prime Minister, President, Chief Justice, and complete institutional setup here, while the occupied territory is directly ruled from New Delhi." He further highlighted that the recent revelations in 'Banyan ul Marsoos' have helped internationalize the Kashmir issue, exposing India's long-standing designs of subjugation.

Hurriyat leader Abdul Hameed Lone urged students and young researchers to play their part by studying and documenting the history of the Kashmir liberation movement. He said that many every sector; education, health, international writers had already Director, Institute of Kashmir

Jammu and Kashmir as early as of academic institutions in 1947. "It is time our own youth take the lead in telling the truth to the world," he emphasized.

Representing the host institu-Saadat Hanif Dar said that the foundation of the Azad Governobjective of securing the freedom ask ourselves what contribution we have made individually and collectively to the freedom movement." he said. He added that universities have a moral and intellectual responsibility to produce informed citizens who can effectively advocate for the rights of their people.

Earlier, Dr. Sumaira Shafique, Speaking on the occasion, and infrastructure, IIOJK has exposed India's nefarious plans Studies, also addressed the

witnessed continuous disem- for the complete annexation of seminar, emphasizing the role promoting research-based under-

standing of the Kashmir conflict. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Prof. Dr. Muhammad tion, Registrar UAJK Prof. Dr. Rafique, Dean Faculty of Sciences, who appreciated the speakers for their insightful contributions and ment was laid with the clear reaffirmed UAJK's commitment to continue academic and intellecof the entire state of Jammu and tual engagement with the Kashmir Kashmir. "On this day, we must cause. At the conclusion of the event, Dean Faculty of Sciences Prof. Dr. Rafiq Ahmed, Registrar Prof. Dr. Dar, and Director Students Affairs Dr. Rehana Kousar presented souvenirs to the APHC leaders in recognition of their participation and continued services for the Kashmir cause.

> Mr. Aamir Jhangir, Lecturer, Department of Kashmir Studies, moderated the session.

ISSI Hosted a Pre-COP Roundtable Discussion on "Pakistan's Climate Negotiation Strategy and Preparations for COP-30"

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) convened a high-level roundtable discussion titled "Pakistan's Climate Negotions for COP-30." The session brought together senior policyexperts, including Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General Institute of Strate-

gic Studies Islamabad (ISSI): Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman Board of Governors ISSI; Mr. Jamil Ahmad, Director, Intergovernmental Affairs at UNEP-Washington; Ms. Nadia Rehman, Member Climate Change, Ministry of Planning, tiation Strategy and Prepara- Development and Special Initiatives; Ms. Sadia Munawar, Depu-Kakakhel, climate finance expert.

the importance of revisiting Pakistan's climate strategy ahead of COP-30 in Belem, Brazil, to ensure that the country's commitments are aligned with its developmental needs and climate vulnerabilities. ty Director, Ministry of Climate emphasized that COP-30 marks

In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood makers, diplomats, and climate Change; and Ms. Kashmala a defining moment in global climate diplomacy one where Opening the session, Dr. the world must shift decisively Neelum Nigar welcomed the from promises to performance.

country contributing minimally to global emissions yet among the most climate-vulnerable, the outcomes of COP-30 would be of profound consequence. Delivering a video message,

Mr. Jamil Ahmad of UNEP observed that COP-30, dubbed the COP of Implementation, must convert commitments into measurable action, particularly for vulnerable nations like Pakistan. He commended Pakistan's Living Indus Initiative as

participants and underscored He noted that for Pakistan, a a model for linking water security, biodiversity, and livelihoods, and urged that national and local governments alike translate global goals into community-level action.

From the government side, Ms. Nadia Rehman highlighted that Pakistan's negotiation strategy has traditionally aligned with the G-77 and Gulf states but called for a more issue-based approach centred on technology transfer and climate

COP-30, including national and provincial participation, thematic events, and side Balochistan, Gilgit-Baltistan, climate resilience initiatives in

Ms. Kashmala Kakakhel

Ms. Sadia Munawar, repre- of Pakistan's climate readiness, senting the Ministry of Climate noting that while the country has Change, detailed Pakistan's made strides in climate governmulti-tiered preparations for ance, it must sharpen its negotiation focus.

In closing, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood thanked all speakers sessions. She informed that all and participants, reaffirming provinces Punjab, Sindh, KP, ISSI's commitment to fostering informed debate and policy and AJK would showcase their dialogue on Pakistan's climate priorities. He noted that insights from the roundtable would feed into Pakistan's preparatory work provided a candid assessment for COP-30 and beyond.

Bull & Bears

| Index Fluctuation | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|--|
| Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index | | | | |
| Current | Prev. Close | | | |
| 163,304.13 | 164,590.41 | | | |
| Day's High | Day's Low | | | |
| 165,025.85 | 163,041.97 | | | |
| Index Value | Change | | | |
| 22,020,462,018 | -1286.28 | | | |
| Percentage | Time | | | |
| -0.78% | 24 Oct, 2025 4:30 pm | | | |
| Europe: FTSE 100 Index | | | | |
| Index Value | Change | | | |
| 9,645.62 | +67.05 | | | |
| Percentage | Time | | | |
| +0.70% | 24 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1 | | | |
| USA: Dow Jones I | Industrial Averago | | | |
| Index Value | Change | | | |
| 47,249.64 | +515.03 | | | |
| Percentage | Time | | | |
| +1.10% | 24 Oct, 12:54 pm GMT-4 | | | |

| +1.35% | 24 Oct, 3:45 pm |
|--------|-----------------|
| +1.33% | GMT+9 |

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Change

+658.04

Time

Index Value

49,299.65

Percentage

| Open Market Forex Rates | | |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| Buying | Selling | |
| 185.3 | 190.3 | |
| 746.55 | 754.05 | |
| 205.3 | 212.3 | |
| 39.25 | 39.65 | |
| 43.5 | 43.9 | |
| 331.65 | 335.15 | |
| 36.1 | 36.45 | |
| 3.12 | 3.21 | |
| 1.8762 | 1.9762 | |
| 913.3 | 922.3 | |
| 66.21 | 66.81 | |
| 160.3 | 162.30 | |
| 27.82 | 28.12 | |
| 731.25 | 738.75 | |
| 76.9 | 77.60 | |
| 75.55 | 76.2 | |
| 216.85 | 221.6 | |
| 29.69 | 29.99 | |
| 352.54 | 355.29 | |
| 8.45 | 8.60 | |
| 76.75 | 77.75 | |
| 380.85 | 383.85 | |
| 282.4 | 282.6 | |
| | Buying 185.3 746.55 205.3 39.25 43.5 331.65 36.1 3.12 1.8762 913.3 66.21 160.3 27.82 731.25 76.9 75.55 216.85 29.69 352.54 8.45 76.75 380.85 | |

SECP Engages with Market Participants to Promote Cost *Efficiency*

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), Mr. Akif Saeed, met with the senior management of Asset Management Companies (AMCs), the Central Depository Company of Pakistan, and the Chief Executive Officer of the Mutual Funds Association of Pakistan.

A key agenda item was promoting cost efficiency in the mutual funds industry by exploring options to outsource relevant functions to specialized service providers. Participants appreciated the concept, noting its potential to reduce costs, standardize user experiences, and enhance transparency in critical functions like NAV calculation, while leveraging fintech benefits. This initiative would allow the industry to focus on its core activities of fund management and intensify efforts toward investor outreach and efficient product distribution. This aligns with the SECP's overarching goal of a "mutual fund for masses" and would lower entry barriers for new entrants. A similar model has been successfully implemented in the brokerage industry through the introduction of Professional Clearing Members.

Following discussions, it was agreed to form a working group comprising the SECP, market participants, trustees, and fintech companies. The group will review the proposal in detail, engage with relevant stakeholders, analyze the impact of technological evolution—including blockchain and recommend a way forward within 60

 $Another\,key\,agenda\,item\,focused\,on$ increasing liquidity in Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs). It was noted that ETFs, by virtue of their ability to mimic the returns of multiple securities and their low-cost structure, are ideally poised to meet diverse investor needs and are crucial for expanding investor outreach.

The SECP has already formed a committee of market participants, the Pakistan Stock Exchange, CDC, NCCPL, and stock brokers to review the product, identify practical issues hindering its growth (such as large lot sizes and inefficient distribution), and propose solutions.

Emirates celebrate 40th Anniversary of Operations to Karachi

Commerce Report

KARACHI: Forty years ago, Emirates, the world's largest international airline, launched its first flight, EK600, on the route to Karachi. To commemorate the milestone Emirates today showcased its retrofitted B777, featuring Premium Economy cabins. at Jinnah International Airport.

The special preview, held on the eve of the airline's 40th anniversary, provided VIPs and stakeholders from the aviation and travel industry, and members of the media a walkthrough tour of Emirates' reconfigured and refreshed four-class aircraft, sporting its latest

The special flight featuring Premium Economy cabins, and operating as EK600, arrived in Karachi at 10:45am for guests to preview Premium Economy cabins which is available on a growing number of routes in its global network. In attendance at the event were Consul General UAE, H. E. Bakheet Ateeq Al-Rumaithi and other local dignitaries from the civil aviation and airport authorities, hosted by Emirates' Vice President for Pakistan, Mohammed Alhashmi.

On the occasion, Mohammed Alhashmi said: "Karachi holds a special place in Emirates' history as the first international destinations where Emirates made its maiden trip from its hub in Dubai.

Over the past 40 years, we have proudly



connected Pakistan to the world, supporting our commitment to the country, we have also aviation sector and economy and played an travellers, businesses and communities. In contributed to the growth of the country's active role in job creation."

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Australian Acting High Commissioner MS Nicole Guihot meets Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Industries and Production Haroon Akhtar Khan today in Ministry of Industries



Photo: PID

Z SAIS Cloud and CyMax Technologies Forge Strategic Partnership to Expand Pakistan's SaaS Ecosystem

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Zong, Pakistan's leading technology innovation company, has entered into a strategic partnership with CyMax Technologies, marking a key milestone in the expansion of Z SAIS Cloud's Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) portfolio. The signing ceremony was attended by senior representatives from both

Cloud will integrate CyMax's advanced ERP (BizSync), Campus Management System (EduSphere), and Enterprise-as-a-Service (EaaS) offerings, alongside cuttingedge cybersecurity innovations including Smart Parameter Security Solution (S4), Smart DLP, and Secure WebCon.

The partnership will enable Z SAIS Cloud to deliver a more comprehensive suite of enterprise-grade solutions;



tion, enterprise, defense, and government sectors with secure, AI-powered, and scalable digital platforms.

Speaking at the ceremony, Mr. Farooq Raza, Head of Zong Business Solutions

"This partnership reflects our commitment to continuously evolve Z SAIS Cloud ecosystem. By integrating CyMax's proven SaaS and cybersecurity technologies, we are

expanding our ability to serve Pakistan's digital economy with next-generation solutions that combine intelligence, scalability, and security."

The partnership also strengthens Z SAIS Cloud's capabilities in AI, secure communications, data management, and enterprise transformation, positioning it as a comprehensive digital solutions provider. With CyMax's expertise in ERP, Campus Management, and

Through this collaboration, Z SAIS empowering organizations across educacybersecurity, Z SAIS Cloud is set to redefine how businesses and institutions adopt cloud technology in Pakistan.

The partnership marks a significant step in advancing Pakistan's digital landscape. By combining Z SAIS Cloud's robust infrastructure with CyMax Technologies' expertise in SaaS and cybersecurity, the collaboration aims to accelerate cloud adoption and empower organizations with intelligent, secure, and scalable digital solutions.

PSO posted Rs **20.9B PAT for FY25**

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan State Oil (PSO) held its 49th Annual General Meeting in Karachi, chaired by Mr. Asif Baigmohamed, Chairman of lence remained a key focus, the Board of Management. with advancements in Managing Director & CEO, Syed Taha, along with the tion, including the Faisalsenior management, attended the session. PSO reported a profit after tax of PKR 20.9 billion and declared a dividend of PKR 10 per share, queries, reaffirming PSO's representing a 22.5% payout ratio for FY 2024-25.

PSO continued to expand network of 3,649 retail outlets across the country. inspire.

The company made significant progress on the White Oil Pipeline project, enhancing fuel transportation efficiency and reliability. Operational excelautomation and digitizaabad Terminal Automation System.

The management addressed shareholders' strategic vision and commitment to ensuring Pakistan's management energy security. Shareinformed shareholders that holders commended the management for its strong its footprint with a robust performance, leadership, and the trust it continues to

Fakt Exhibitions in collaboration with the Ministry of **Housing & Works**

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Fakt Exhibitions (Pvt.) Ltd., in collaboration with the Ministry of Housing & Works, Government of Pakistan, is organizing "Build Pakistan - Let's Build Together" Exhibi-

30th October to 1st November 2025 at the Expo Centre, Lahore. The national event will be inaugurated by Honorable Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada, Federal Minister

will showcase Pakistan's housing, and sustainable urban development. More than 100 leading companies will present the latest construction technologies, materials, and innovative

Aligned with national initiatives such as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Special Economic Zones (SEZs), Build Pakistan 2025 will highlight opportunities in industrial construction, urban expansion, and tion & Conference from investment. With the partic-



economic growth across Pakistan's construction and infrastructure landscape.

Walled City of Lahore and AkzoNobel Collaborate to Revamp the Lahore's Historic Food Street

Example 2 Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Walled City of Lahore Authority (WCLA), in collaboration with AkzoNobel Pakistan Limitribbon-cutting ceremony to mark being carried out under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between WCLA and AkzoNobel, aimed at restoring the cultural vibrancy and aesthetic charm of one

of Lahore's most iconic landmarks. The initiative aims to rejuvenate heritage and enhancing its tourism

the beauty of this historic and tourist landmark of Lahore and to revive its traditional and cultural vibrancy. The ribbon cutting ceremony was held at Food Street on 22nd Oct, ed, held a groundbreaking and 2025 and was attended by Mr. Mubbasher Omar, CEO AkzoNobel the beginning of the revitalization Private Limited, Director General of and repainting of the historic Fort the Walled City of Lahore Authority Road Food Street. This initiative is Najmus Saqib their team, and distinguished guests.

Speaking on the occasion, Najmus Saqib, Director General of the Walled City of Lahore Authority, said "This project reflects our ongoing commitment to preserving Lahore's cultural

potential. Fort Road Food Street is a beautiful blend of the city's historic legacy and modern cultural expression, and this initiative will further enhance its charm and appeal."

Speaking at the ceremony Mr. Mubbasher Omar CEO of AkzoNobel Pakistan said this ground-breaking ceremony marks another milestone in our journey of using colours to create a positive impact through this partnership with WCLA, Akzo is proud to bring our Let's Colour initiative to Lahore, preserving the heritage and spirit of this iconic food street while adding vibrancy to its architectural beauty."



Women's University Multan **Concludes Vibrant Sports Grand Gala**

MULTAN: The annual colorful Sports Grand Gala of alumni and Girl students at Women's University Multan concluded with the resolve that such events for the promotion of culture, co-curricular activities and entrepreneurial training of female students will be made a part of the university calendar.

According to the spokesperson, the annual Grand Gala of Women's University concluded after continuing for two days. Qawwali night, barbecue dinner and successful stories of alumni made the sports gala a grand success.

On the final day, sports competitions were held in which the female students displayed excellent skills. Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Kulsoom Paracha inaugurated the sports gala, while the focal person of the event, Dr. Samina Akhtar (Director Career Counseling and Alumni Affairs/ Registrar) and Director Sports Dr. Raima Naz Rane led the sports gala.

In the event, students, faculty members and administrative staff actively participated in various sports. Addressing the



Paracha said that the Sala Grand Gala is coming to an end spreading happiness among the students, employees and

The aim of starting this event was to bring the alumni closer to the institution, attract the students towards co-curricular activities and eliminate the tense environment in which we were successful.

The highlight of this event was our entrepreneurial students who set up

gala, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Kulsoom stalls of handmade goods, which is a step towards their independence. Women's University has been trying to build the character of its students

> Such events not only instill self-confidence in the students but also teach them to blend in the society. The alumni also played an important role in making this

> Their support is essential for the develfuture, such events will be made a part of

the university calendar so that this series continues, said Director Sports Dr. In her address, Raima Nazar said that the aim of Women's University is not only to achieve academic success but also to make every student physically, mentally and socially strong.

Through sports, we are developing a balanced, confident and healthy generation that will play leadership roles in the future. The focal person of the Grand Gala, Registrar Dr. Samina Akhtar, said that Women's University is a historic university of South Punjab which has been playing an important role in women's education since college days.

In Women's University, not only quality education has been ensured but also co-curricular activities have been made a part of the curriculum to instill self-confidence in the students so that these students can represent their country and institution in a dignified manner in their future lives. In the closing ceremony, certificates were distributed among the students who opment of this institution. In the near participated in the competitions, organized the Gala and made them successful.

PCB's Legal Notice Issued to Multan Sultans Cricket Team CEOAli Khan Tareen



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Pakistan Cricket Board's legal Notice to Multan

The notice demanded the withdrawal of Multan Sultans owner Ali Tareen's statements and a public apology from the PSL administration. The notice also threatened to terminate the contract with the franchise and blacklist Ali Tareen.

Ali Tareen has responded to the notice. Multan Sultans expressed regret over the notice. Whatever statement Ali Tareen, the owner of the Multan Sultans cricket team, has made has been made in the best interest of the PSL. Ali Tareen has taken valuable steps for the betterment of cricket and young cricketers from the Multan Sultans platform, including the establishment of academies. Ali Tareen has invested billions of rupees in Multan Sultans and has personally incurred a loss of Rs 7 billion. It is incomprehensible to consider constructive criticism a crime. This shows the weakness of the PSL administration. Multan Sultans.

It seems that the PSL administration is not ready to listen to questions and answer them.

PCB appoints Shan Masood Consultant Int'l Cricket, Players' Affairs



₿ Sports Desk

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has appointed left-handed batter Shan Masood as Consultant International Cricket and Players' Affairs.

The 36-year-old has featured in 44 Tests, nine ODIs and 19 T20Is, scoring 3,108 international runs, including six Test centuries. Shan has also captained Pakistan in 14 Tests, including the $\,$ recently concluded two-match ICC World Test Championship series against South Africa.

Under his leadership, Pakistan defeated England 2-1 last year, their first Test series win against England on home soil

Women's World Cup: Winless Pakistan bow out after washout against Sri Lanka



COLOMBO: Pakistan final group-stage fixture against Sri Lanka ended in a washout at the ICC Women's World Cup here at the R. Premadasa Stadium on Friday.

Following this, the women in Green ended their campaign on a disappointing note, finishing in seventh place without winning a single game, only ahead of Bangladesh on three points.

The persistent rain in Colombo continued today as Pakistan opted to bat after a toss delay, with the match reduced to 34 overs per side.

Pakistan had scored 18-0 in 4.2 overs, after which rain had the final say, and the match was abandoned. Opening batters Muneeba Ali scored seven and Omaima Sohail remained unbeaten on nine.

Pakistan were already out of the tournament semi-final race on Tuesday when they faced a big 150-run defeat (DLS method) to South Africa.

Sports projects worth billions of rupees are being built in North and South Punjab: **Secretary Sports**

₿ Sports Desk

LAHORE: Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial has presided over an important meeting at the Punjab Stadium on Friday to review 37 sports development schemes of South and North Punjab.

Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudharv. Additional Secretary Mian Usman Ali, Deputy Director Mirza Nadeem and officers of PMU participated in the

Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhary presented an in-depth briefing in the meeting about sports development schemes of South and North Punjab.

Addressing the meeting, Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar an Sial said that sports projects worth billions of rupees are being constructed in



Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs North and South part of Punjab province. Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial further said "Many mega sports projects are being that as many as 23 sports projects are Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial said that the athletes can prepare themselves for top constructed in south Punjab divisions being built in North Punjab. "Several of Multan, Bahawalpur and Dera Ghazi mega sports projects are being completed

province."

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs ment is development of sports culture titions in a befitting manner".

projects are being completed in all divisions of the province so that our talented prime objective of Punjab Sports Depart- national and international sports compe-

Zone-III Whites Moved into Semi Final of Medicam Trophy U-19 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Zone-III Whites Moved into Semi Final after beating Zone-II Whites by 34 runs and winning all their Matches in Group "A" in the Medicam Trophy Under-19 Inter Zonal Cricket at KCCA

The Tournament is being organized by Regional Cricket Association Karachi with the collaboration of Medicam Group of Companies.

Batting first Zone-II Whites 108 all-out in 31.1 overs. Umair Ahmed Khan 38, Jawad Ahmed 18.

Salman Sarwar (rlb) 2/3, Asadullah Khan (rlb) 2/15, Anas Balouch (mf) 2/31 In reply Zone-III Whites 109/3 in 22 Overs. Noor ul Irfan 52 3x4 1x6, Imran



Khan 32, Salman Sarwar 19 not out. Saghir Ahmed (rlb) 2/26. After the end of the Match Noor ul Irfan of Zone-III Whites received the Medicam Man of the Match Award from Former Cricketer Ahsanullah.

In the another Match Zone-I Blues defeated Zone-VII Blues by 36 runs at Annu Bhai Park Ground. Zone-I Blues 176 all-out in 36.4 overs. Sahil Nisar 54 6x4 1x6, Muhammad Ahmed 52 4x4 2x6, Affan Abbasi 24. Sahil (ob) 3/17. Zaid Hasan (sla) 3/32

In reply Zone-VII Blues 142 all-out in 36.3 overs. Arsalan Magsi 40 2x4 2x6, Jalal 40 40 3x4. Ibtisam Ayaz (rlb) 5/36. Mustufa Rasheed (mf) 3/13. Later Ibtisam Ayaz received the Medicam Man of the Match Award.

Pakistan volleyball team outplays Saudi Arabia in Asian Youth Games 2025

Ch.

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan volleyball team continued its winning momentum by defeating Saudi Arabia in the Top 8 Classification Round of the 3rd Asian Youth Games 2025,

currently being at Bahrain. Pakistan showcased exceptional teamwork and determination, securing victory by 3-1 with set scores of 25-16, 25-21, 23-25, and 26-24, said a press

release. The match was an intense contest, as both teams fought hard, but Pakistan's consistent attacking and resilient defense

ensured well-deserved

the standout performers of the day were Libero Khizar Hayat, Muhammad Yahya, and Muhammad Anas, who displayed remarkable skill and control throughout the game, helping Pakistan maintain its dominance in key moments.

With this win, Pakistan has officially qualified for the quarterfinals of the championship. The team now leads Pool

E and will face the 4th-ranked team from Pool F on October 26 at 1:30 PM (Pakistan Time) in the quarterfinal match.

Speaking on the team's

Muhammad Yaqoob, Chairman, Pakistan Volleyball Federation, congratulated the players and coaching staff, saying, "The team has shown great consistency and fighting spirit throughout this tournament. Their dedication and discipline are commendable, we are confident they will continue to make the nation proud in the quarterfinals."

continued success,

The team is being managed by Naseer Ahmed (Team Manager) and coached by Saeed Ahmed Khan Sady (Head Coach), who have played a key role in guiding and motivating the players throughout the event.



Regional Transport Ministers Conference

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a group photo with world leaders at the Regional Transport Ministers' Conference on Friday.



Connectivity projects to synergize economic strength: **PM Shehbaz Sharif**

E City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday that the cooperation in the theme "Regional Connechighlighting the significance trade and economic spheres tivity: Opportunities for the of CPEC and transnational rail and road projects, said that the connectivity projects would synergize the economic strengths of regional coun-reinforce efforts for devel-national organisations like tries and usher in a new era opment in the region. Let Asian Development Bank, of enhanced trade, economic us together sow the seeds of Economic and energy cooperation in the cooperation so that we may Organization, International region and beyond.

session of the two-day beyond," he said. Regional Transport Ministers

common stake in peace, and countries as well as interharvest the fruits of devel- Road Transport Union, and ities have breathed new life The prime minister, opment and prosperity for the United Nations Economic into this ancient corridor.

Hosted by the Ministry Conference held here, said of Communications, with a was a win-win proposition, Region," the conference was offering rich dividends to all. attended by transport minis-"This would strengthen our ters and delegates from 20 Cooperation

Asia and the Pacific.

The prime minister told the gathering that for centuries, the present-day Pakistan had thrived on connectivity, as from the ancient Silk Road to today's Belt and Road Initiative, the region had always been a conduit of connectivity and opportunity.

"Today, shifting geopolitical dynamics and the growing dominance of economic prioraddressing the concluding our people, our region and and Social Commission for transforming it from a relic of

the past into a strategic necessity for our future."

Shehbaz Sharif lauded the vision and foresight of his brother and former Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who also signed China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, which had been a transformative experience for the region, connecting markets and people across China, Central Asia, South Asia, and the Middle East, besides opening new routes for trade and energy cooperation.

PM invites Qatari investors to explore new avenues of collaboration under SIFC

跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday highlighting Pakistan's investor-friendly policies, invited the Qatari investors to explore new avenues of collaboration under the government's Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) framework.

The prime minister, in a meeting with Minister of Commerce and Industry of Qatar Sheikh Faisal bin Thani bin Faisal Al-Thani. underscored the importance of enhancing bilateral trade and investment cooperation, emphasizing opportunities in energy, agriculture, food security, information technology, tourism and infrastructure development.

The minister is visiting Pakistan to co-chair the 6th Session of Pakistan-Qatar Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC).

prime minister expressed satisfaction over the positive trajectory of Pakistan-Qatar relations, anchored in shared faith, values, and role as an important partner



mutual respect. He also appreciated Qatar's

and an influential regional bin Faisal Al Thani conveyed firmed Qatar's commitment warm greetings from the to further deepen economic Sheikh Faisal bin Thani Qatari leadership and reaf- engagement with Pakistan.

Sharp decline in Supreme Court's caseload

E City Desk

ISLAMABAD: For the first time in almost 10 years, the upward trend in case pendency at the Supreme Court of Pakistan has been reversed and the total number of pending cases has now declined to 56,169 from 60,446.

For nearly a decade, the number of pending cases in the Supreme Court of Pakistan had been steadily increasing - rising from 25,686 cases in 2015 to a record high of over 60,446 in early 2024. This consistent build-up placed growing pressure on the justice system and affected the timely resolution of cases, impacting public confidence in the delivery of justice. Recognizing the seriousness of this challenge, the Chief office in October 2024, made the reduction of case pendency and the institution one of his foremost prior-



A comprehensive review was undertaken to identify the underlying causes behind the persistent rise in pendency. The study revealed three core challenges: gaps in case management and coordination, outdated manual Justice of Pakistan, upon assuming processes, and limited use of technology in monitoring and managing cases. Guided by these findings, the transformation of the Court into a Chief Justice launched the Judicial people-centric, technology-driven Reform Action Plan — a structured initiative aimed at improving institutional efficiency, modernizing systems,

and enhancing transparency, accessibility, and responsiveness to the needs of citizens.

Under this reform agenda, several transformative measures were introduced. The Court implemented digital filing, online case tracking, and electronic certified copies, enabling faster access to information and reducing unnecessary delays. Coordination among registries and benches was strengthened, while data-driven management tools were adopted to rity, and speed.

enhance decision-making and ensure optimal utilization of judicial resources. These steps have brought greater efficiency and accessibility to court procedures, reflecting a clear shift toward a citizen-focused and technology-enabled model of justice.

The impact of these reforms has been both visible and encouraging. For the first time in almost ten years, the upward trend in case pendency has been reversed. The total number of pending cases has now declined to

56,169 by October 2025. This turnaround marks a significant milestone in strengthening public trust and ensuring that justice in Pakistan is delivered with greater efficiency, transparency, and fairness. The Supreme Court of Pakistan remains committed to consolidating these gains by deepening its reform agenda and advancing its vision of a people-centric, technology-driven justice system that serves every citizen with accessibility, integ-

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CJCSC General Sahir calls on **Maldives President**



Spokesman Report

General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, NI, NI (M), Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC), while on an official visit to the Maldives, called on H. E. Dr Mohamed Muizzu, President of Maldives, H. E. Mr Mohamed Ghassan Maumoon, Defence Minister and Major General Ibrahim Hilmy, Chief of Defence Force of Maldives.

Both sides held discussions on mutual interest, including bilateral Honour to CJCSC.

defence and security cooperation. They also considered avenues to further enhance military-to-military engagements between the two countries and reaffirmed their shared commitment to further strength-

ening the partnership. The civil-military leadership of the Maldives lauded the professionalism of the Pakistan Armed Forces and acknowledged their sacrifices in the fight against terrorism.

Upon arrival at MNDF Headthe evolving global and regional quarters, a smartly turned-out security environment and issues of contingent presented a Guard of

Interior ministry declares TLP banned organisation over terrorism links



Interior has declared the Tehreek-terrorism. e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) a banned

federal government believes that Sharif. TLP is involved in acts of terrorism; therefore, under the Anti-Terrorism Act, the Ministry of Interior has

declared it a proscribed organisation. Following the ministry's notification, TLP is now officially considered a banned outfit. The Interior Ministry's report will be forwarded to the Law Ministry, which will prepare a reference and submit it to the Supreme Court.

The notification further states that the federal government has solid ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of evidence linking TLP's activities to

organisation, issuing a notification to the federal cabinet had approved include it in the First Schedule list. the ban on TLP during a meeting According to the notification, the chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz

According to sources, the decision was made during a meeting of the federal cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, where the interior ministry was directed to complete the necessary legal procedures.

Sources said the Punjab government had recommended the ban, leading to a federal cabinet session to deliberate on the proposal.

Aleem Khan holds key meetings with foreign ministers



E City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan on Friday held separate meetings with transport ministers and senior officials from various countries on the sidelines of the Regional Transport Ministers Conference (RTMC).

Those who held separate meetings included Türkiye's Minister of Transport and Infrastructure Abdulkadir Uraloglu, Saudi Arabia's Deputy Minister for Transport and Logistics Dr. Rumaih Al-Rumaih, Sri Lanka's Minister of Transport Bimal Niroshan Rathnayake Weerakon, and ECO Secretary General and former Ambassador Dr. Asad Majeed, said a press release.

The discussions focused on promoting investments and strength-



Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan stated that Pakistan seeks a logistic partnership with Türkiye, highlighting the vast opportunities available for collaboration through the National Logistics Cell (NLC). He emphasized the importance of stronger linkages and partnerships between the business communities of both countries. Türkiye's Minister of Transport and Infrastructure enhancing bilateral cooperation, Abdulkadir Uraloglu reaffirmed his developing logistic partnerships, country's commitment to enhancing cooperation with Pakistan and its ening regional connectivity were in economic partners.