Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



IHC to hear Dr Aafia Siddiqui's repatriation case on

The bench will be headed by Justice Arbab Mohammed Tahir and will include Justice Khadim Hussain Soomro, Justice Azam Khan, and Justice Raja Inam Ameen Minhas. The previous hearing was cancelled due to the unavailability of one of the bench members



Mohsin Naqvi to visit Iran for ECO Interior Ministers' meeting

The meeting, which will also be attended by Afghan Deputy Interior Minister Ibrahim Sadr, will focus on enhancing security and counterterrorism cooperation among the 10 member states

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(a) @daily spokesman



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9th Future Investment Initiative

Deputy Governor of Riyadh Prince Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Abdulaziz receiving Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif upon his arrival at King Khalid International Airport to attend the 9th Edition of Future Investment Initiative being held in Riyadh



Field Marshal Asim Munir meets Jordanian King to strengthen defence ties

跨 Spokesman Report

AMMAN: Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, who is on an official visit to Jordan, called on King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein, the King of Jordan and Supreme Commander of the Jordan armed forces. Crown Prince Al Hussein bin Abdullah II was also present during the meeting, said ISPR.

During the meeting, both leaders discussed matters of mutual interest, focusing on enhancing bilateral defence and security cooperation and exchanging views on regional



developments.

COAS conveyed warm greetings from the people, government, and armed forces of Pakistan to His Majesty and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to strengthening its fraternal ties

the professionalism and contributions of the Pakistan armed forces toward regional peace and stability and expressed his desire to further enhance defence collaboration between the two countries.

Earlier, Field Marshal Asim in fostering stability in the region.

Munir met Major General Yousef Ahmed Al-Huneiti, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Jordan Armed Forces (JAF), at the General Headquarters in Amman, where he was given a Guard of Honour upon arrival.

Both sides reaffirmed the King Abdullah II appreciated historic and deep-rooted relations between the armed forces of Pakistan and Jordan.

Major General Al-Huneiti lauded the Pakistan Armed Forces' contributions to peace and regional security and expressed appreciation for Pakistan's role

Ahsan vows to position Pakistan among top 30 nations in material innovation

economy based on knowledge, innova-

ized scientists and engineers in this field and position itself among the top 30 nations in material innovation," he said while addressing the International Symposium on Advanced Materials at the National Centre for Physics here.

He said Islam strongly encouraged the pursuit of modern knowledge and scien-

science, research, and innovation," he

Highlighting the global significance for national progress.

of material science, Ahsan Iqbal said nearly 70 percent of global trade consists of products based on advanced materials, adding that material science was

the backbone of the new global economy. He said the government was establishing the Dr A. Q. Khan Institute of Material Sciences, which would serve as a hub for cutting-edge research, industrial partnerships and the training of young scientists.

Vision 2035, the government planned to establish five national research and development clusters in material sciences and promote 100 university-industry partnerships to strengthen innovation

on universities, research institutions, and

PM Shehbaz arrives in Riyadh to attend FII on Saudi crown prince's invitation

👺 Bureau Report

RIYADH: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif arrived in Riyadh on Monday to attend the 9th Future Investment Initiative (FII) conference on the special invitation of Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman.

At King Khalid International Airport, the prime minister was warmly received by Riyadh's Deputy Governor Prince Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Abdulaziz, Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Malki, and Pakistan's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Ahmad Farooq.

The prime minister is accompanied by a high-level the event.

delegation, including Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, Information Minister Attaullah Tarar, and Special Assistants Tariq Fatemi and Bilal bin Saqib.

During his visit, PM Shehbaz will represent Pakistan at the FII conference and hold a bilateral meeting with the Saudi Crown Prince to discuss enhanced cooperation in trade, investment, energy, and manpower sectors, along with regional and global issues of mutual interest.

He will also meet world leaders and heads of international organisations attending

Muqam pledges Pakistan's unwavering political, diplomatic and moral support for **Kashmiris**

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan, and SAFRON Engr. Amir Mugam on Monday reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering political, diplomatic and moral support for the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), emphasizing, Pakistan will continue to advocate for their right to self-determination at every international forum.

Addressing the Kashmir Black Day rally at D-Chowk, the minister paid rich tribute to the courage and sacrifices of the Kashmiri people who have been enduring brutal oppression since October 27, 1947 — the day Indian forces forcibly occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

The minister said thousands of Kashmiris have been martyred in custody and during decades of conflict. Despite India's continuous repression and military presence of nearly 900,000 troops, the determination of Kashmiri people for freedom and their love for Pakistan remain steadfast.

October 27 marks the darkest chapter in South Asian



Jammu and Kashmir. Since then, for more than 77 years, the people of Kashmir have faced unimaginable atrocities but have never let their spirit of resistance fade," said Amir Muqam.

The minister acknowledged the presence of Chairman Kashmir Committee Rana Qasim Noon, Secretary Kashmir Affairs Zafar Hasan, and Foreign Secretary Amna Baloch, among other dignitaries and representatives from diverse walks of life.

Muqam condemned India's every attempts to alter the demographic composition of Jammu and Kashmir through unconstitutional measures taken on August 5, 2019, rejecting it and continued to reject such illegal moves.

He also said that Indian authorities were demolishing and bulldozing homes and history when Indian troops attempting to alter the region's illegally entered and occupied demographic character.

Bilawal, Fazlur Rehman agree to continue talks on political cooperation

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman held an important meeting in Islamabad on Monday to discuss the evolving political situation in the

country. The meeting, held at Maulana Fazlur Rehman's residence, was attended by senior PPP leaders Navvar Hussain Bukhari. Humayun Khan, and Jameel Soomro, while the JUI-F was represented by Maulana Asad Mahmood and Mufti Abrar.

During the discussion, both sides exchanged views on the prevailing political situation, parliamentary affairs, upcoming legislation, and relations between the government and allied parties.

Sources said the meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere, adding that both leaders agreed on the need to maintain political stability and democratic continuity in the current circumstances.

Bilawal Bhutto expressed concerns over the growing tensions between the government and its coalition partners, while Maulana Fazlur Rehman emphasised the importance of reconciliation and dialogue in the prevailing political environment.

The two leaders also discussed electoral reforms, economic stability, and possible coordination during the upcoming parliamentary session.

Following the meeting, the PPP delegation left Maulana Fazlur Rehman's residence without speaking to the media.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi expresses strong solidarity with kashmiris on 'Kashmir Black Day'

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: On the occasion of Kashmir Black Day, Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering solidarity with the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and paid rich tribute to Kashmiri martyrs, Hurriyat leaders, prisoners, and oppressed families who have stood firm against Indian tyranny.

"We salute the Kashmiri martyrs, Hurriyat leaders, prisoners, and the families who have never bowed before Indian oppression," said Naqvi. "October 27 marks the darkest chapter in history - the day when India illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir."

The Interior Minister condemned India's continued atrocities, state terrorism, and human rights violations in the occupied valley, saying that since 1947, Indian forces have turned Kashmir into a torture chamber.

"Pellet guns, enforced disappearances,

extrajudicial killings, and the humiliation of women reveal the horrifying face of Indian brutality," he remarked. "Despite losing thousands of young lives, the Kashmiris' spirit for freedom remains unbroken."

Naqvi highlighted that media blackouts, internet shutdowns, and military sieges have transformed the valley into a prison where every voice of dissent is silenced. He criticized the international community's silence, calling it a serious question mark on global justice and human rights advocacy.

"United Nations resolutions clearly affirm the Kashmiris' right to self-determination," he said. "By defying these resolutions, India has violated international law and trampled on the sanctity of humanity.

Recalling the words of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Naqvi said: "Kashmir is Pakistan's jugular vein not merely a statement, but a reflection of our national identity."

City Desk ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Monday said that the government's Uraan Pakistan vision would build a strong national

tion and technology-driven development. "Pakistan will produce 5,000 special-

tific advancement.

The minister further shared that under

capacity.

He reiterated the government's "The Uraan Pakistan vision will lay commitment to transforming Pakistan the foundation of an economy built upon into a knowledge-based economy, calling industry to work in close collaboration

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Kashmiris observe Black Day to protest India's illegal occupation

跨 Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control (LoC) and across the globe are observing Black Day today (Monday) to condemn India's illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir and to urge the world to take notice of the ongoing human rights violations in the region.

October 27 marks the day in 1947 when Indian forces entered Jammu and Kashmir, violating the Partition Plan and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has called upon Kashmiris to observe the day with solidarity and to remind the international community of its unfulfilled promise to grant them the right to self-determination.

In their messages on the occasion, President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime the Kashmiri people. They described of oppression, violence, and denial of



Minister Shehbaz Sharif reaffirmed October 27 as one of the darkest days Pakistan's unwavering support for in history, marking the start of decades

fundamental rights. Pakistan Travel

President Zardari condemned India's unilateral and illegal actions of August 5, 2019, aimed at changing the demographic structure of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). He urged the United Nations and the global community to hold India accountable for human rights abuses and to implement the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif denounced India's draconian laws and restrictions on Kashmiri leaders. movement, and expression. He reaffirmed that Pakistan will continue to stand firmly with the people of Kashmir in their just struggle for self-determination, emphasizing that 240 million Pakistanis remain united in support of their cause.

President AJK held a meeting with the Chief Justice of the AJK Supreme Court



👺 Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: President Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, held a detailed meeting with the Chief Justice of the AJK Supreme Court, Justice Raja Saeed Akram Khan who called on him here today. During the meeting, both dignitaries discussed the appointment to a vacant position in the AJK Supreme Court. The Chief Justice also briefed the President on the recently held Judicial Conference in Muzaffarabad. President Chaudhry congratulated Justice Khan on the successful organization of the conference, terming it a significant achievement for Azad Kashmir. He noted that the participation of the Chief Justice of Pakistan, Justice Yahya Afridi, was a welcome and positive development that would further strengthen the relations between Pakistan and Azad Kashmir. The duo also exchanged views on matters of mutual interest.

Abdul Hameed Lone Reaffirms Kashmiris' resolve on Black Day

👺 Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: Hurriyat leader Abdul Hameed Lone on Monday said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are observing Black Day today on both sides of the Line of Control and across the world to mark what he described as the darkest chapter in Kashmir's history.

In a video statement released on the occasion, Lone recalled that on October 27, 1947, India violated the principles of

the partition plan and the wishes of the Kashmiri people by sending its troops into Jammu and Kashmir, thereby establishing an illegal occupation that continues to this day.

He said the day serves as a stark reminder of the grave hardships faced by the Kashmiri people, who have been denied their fundamental rights for over seven decades. "India has stripped the people of Jammu and Kashmir of all basic freedoms," he stated.

Lone emphasized that the unresolved Kashmir dispute remains a question mark on the credibility of the United Nations, urging the international community to honor the commitments made to the Kashmiri people. "This day reminds the world of the UN resolutions on Kashmir, which call for the right of self-determination," he said. "We want to make it clear to both the international community and India that the people of Jammu and Kashmir will continue their struggle until the realization of their inalienable right to self-determination."

Kashmiris observe Black Day against continual 78-year-long Indian unlawful Occupation of bulk of Jammu & Kashmir State

👺 Bureau Report

MIRPUR: Protest rallies warn world of the unending global war if the much-delayed unresolved internationally acknowledged issue of Kashmir was not peacefully settled immediately, on the eve of the Black day observed at both sides of the LoC in internationally acknowledged disputed Jammu & Kashmir State on Monday - October 27.

Our Special Jammu Kashmir state Correspondent Altaf Hamid Rao reports from Mirpur that Jammu & Kashmir people inhibiting both sides of the line of control - AJK and IIOJK, besides rest of the world observed black day on Monday - October 27 to mark strong protest and indignation against the continual forced and unlawful occupation of Jammu & Kashmir state for the last 78 years since this darkest day of 1947 in the history of Jammu Kashmir state.

Pople of the internationally-acknowledged dispute Himalavan state of Jammu & Kashmir living either side of the LoC treat the day of October 27 as bleak day in the history of the disputed Himalayan state of Jammu & Kashmir when India had forcibly landed her armed troops against the aspirations and the wishes of the people of the state.

The day is observed as black day by Jammu & Kashmir people every year to mark extreme resentment and indignation over the continued unlawful and forcible occupation of bulk of Jammu Kashmir state by the Indian tyrannical forces. India had landed her armed military troops in Srinagar this day 78 years ago on October 27, 1947 contrary to wishes of the people of the state.

Black Day

ISLAMABAD:Oct27- Federal Minister for Kashmir affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Amir Muqam participate in the rally at Consti-



Kashmiris mark Oct 27 as Black Day

跨 Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: Senior leader of All Parties Hurrivat Conference (APHC) and Chairman of Jammu Kashmir Salvation Movement (JKSM) Altaf Ahmed Bhat has said that Oct 27 stands as a painful reminder of the day in 1947 when Indian troops forcibly entered Jammu and Kashmir, betraying the will of its people and violating all norms of justice and international law.

In a statement, Bhat said that Kashmiris across the world are observing this day as



Black Day to reject India's illegal occupation and to remind the international community that the Kashmir dispute remains unresolved even after seventy-eight years.

"The United Nations Security Council itself acknowledged Kashmir as a disputed territory through its historic resolutions, most notably Resolution 47 of 1948 and subsequent ones in 1951, 1957, and 1962, all of which clearly guaranteed the Kashmiri people the right to decide their own political future through a UN-supervised plebiscite," he said.

Kashmir Black Day observed at diplomatic missions abroad

👺 Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: Kashmir Black Day is observed across Pakistan and at its diplomatic missions worldwide to condemn seventy-eight years of India's illegal occupation of Jammu Prime Minister underscored Pakiand Kashmir and to reaffirm Pakistan's unwavering commitment to the extending moral, diplomatic and just cause of the Kashmiri people.

The observance served as a solemn gally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir mate struggle for the right to self-determination, as enshrined in the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.

seminars, webinars, panel discussions, and photo exhibitions, were organ-Pakistan's missions abroad. The activities highlighted the plight of innobrutality perpetrated by Indian occu-

In their special messages on the occasion, the President, the Prime Minister, and the Deputy stan's steadfast resolve to continue political support to the Kashmiri people in their just struggle. They reminder of the grave injustices urged the international community endured by the people of Indian Ille- to play its due role in pressing India to end its illegal occupation of Jammu for more than seven decades and and Kashmir, halt its grave human express solidarity with their legiti- rights violations, and cease all repressive measures against the Kashmiri

The Deputy Prime Minister also addressed letters to the President of A wide range of activities, including the United Nations General Assembly, the President of the United Nations Security Council, the UN Secreized throughout the country and at tary-General, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the Secretary-General of the Organiza-

tion to the systematic repression and brutality perpetrated by Indian occution in IIOJK. He highlighted India's continued denial of the fundamental human rights of the Kashmiri people for more than seven decades, in blatant violation of international law and relevant UNSC resolutions. He cautioned that India's persistent defiance of these obligations, coupled with the increasingly hostile and irresponsible rhetoric of its leadership, aggravates tensions in the region and poses a grave threat to regional peace and stability.

A special Kashmir Solidarity Walk was organized from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Officers and officials from the Ministry participated in the

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also organized a special briefing for members of the Diplomatic Corps in Islamabad. A short documentary depicting Indian atrocities in IIOJK was screened for the diplomats.

The observance of 27 October as a





Black Day serves as a grim reminder and Kashmir. It also marks an occa-ience of the Kashmiri people who, steadfast in their struggle for the right cent Kashmiris drawing world's attention of Islamic Cooperation, apprising of India's unlawful assault on Jammu sion to pay solemn tribute to the resil-despite decades of oppression, remain to self-determination.





SERVICES		
Namaz Timings		
Fajr		
Zohr	11:52 am	
Asr	3:42 pm	
Maghrib	5:20 pm	
Isha	6:44 nm	

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi	/
Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 &
& Rescue Services	4451122
Motorway Police	.9266044
Motorway Police9	270601-20

Women Police Stations

istattiabau	9222391
Rawalpindi	. 9270601-20
ENQUI	RY
Edhi Ambulance	11!
DIA Flight Info	11

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

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

IGP Punjab takes notice of double murder in Bhakkar

LAHORE: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar has taken notice of a tragic incident in which two individuals were killed in a firing incident in the suburban area of Vithoay Wala Kallur Kot, Bhakkar.

According to a Punjab Police spokesperson on Monday, the IGP Punjab has sought a detailed report from the regional police officer Sargodha and directed District Police Officer (DPO) Bhakkar Shehzad Rafiq Awan to ensure the immediate arrest of those involved. He further instructed that all available resources be utilised to bring the culprits to justice and to ensure the provision of justice to the affected family.

The spokesperson added that the victims were identified as 55-year-old Ejaz and 38-year-old Muhammad Rizwan. Police reached the scene, collected forensic evidence, and launched a comprehensive investigation into all aspects of the case. DPO Shehzad Rafiq stated that the suspects would be arrested soon and brought before the court

Sardar Masood Khan urges Cadets to Build a Self-Reliant, Forward-Looking AJK, Pakistan

跨 Bureau Report

PALANDARI: In a thought-provoking address at Cadet College Palandri, Sardar Masood Khan, former President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan's former Ambassador to the United Nations, United States, and China, underscored the urgent need to rebuild faith in international institutions and create a new global ethic rooted in justice, equality, and mutual respect.

Referring to ongoing crises in Gaza and Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, he lamented the failure of the United Nations and major powers to uphold their own founding principles.

"The international system cannot survive if it remains indifferent to genocide, occupation, and oppression," he said. Ambassador Khan highlighted that



Pakistan's voice on global peace, humanitarian law, and regional stability must be sustained through intellectual and diplomatic renewal at home. "Our youth must become articulate defenders of

international law and human dignity," he urged, calling for a generation that links moral conviction with strategic thinking. Reflecting on Pakistan's diplomatic resurgence, he noted that the country is now "respected, received, and welcomed in global capitals once again." He concluded by urging youth to see themselves as architects of a fairer international order.

Addressing the theme of his lecture, The Modern United Nations and the Changing Global Order," Ambassador Khan drew on his experience as Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva and New York. He explained the origins of the UN after the Second World War, its ideals of peace, decolonization. and development, and its institutional structure led by the Security Council and General Assembly.

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications, Abdul Aleem Khan presided over a meeting to restructure National Highway Authority.



Sardar Attique Redefines October 27: Not Just a Black Day, but a Call for Justice

跨 Bureau Report

DHIRKOT: Former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir and President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan has said that October 27 is not just a memorial day as a black day but a demand of the Kashmiri people for "justice" and an expression of the state's resolve against the illegal occupation of India. He said in his statement that on October 27, 1947, the Indian forces had launched an illegal intervention in the state of Jammu and Kashmir, which plunged Kashmir into the lap of human tragedy and tyranny. Today we celebrate this day as a protest against this atrocity and nation's resolve for the right to village of Kashmir should be Kashmiri people. We have to



self-determination. Sardar Atiq freed from the slavery of India Ahmed Khan said that Azad Kashmir was founded with the He said that we will never as a renewal of the Kashmiri aim that every district, every forget the sacrifices of the

and integrated with Pakistan.

ensure respect for these resolutions before the nations and international courts." Finally, he also appealed to the people of Azad Jammu and Kashmir to pay tribute to their martyrs on the occasion of Black Day, express solidarity with the oppressed brothers of occupied Kashmir and continue their struggle until justice is achieved soon. Meanwhile, President Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan attended the wedding of Afkar Abbasi, brother of Muslim Conference activist and former Mayor of Slav Sardar Amjad Abbasi, in Sohawa Sharif, and visited the Sohawa Sharif Darbar and offered prayers to Ikram Abbasi on the death of his grand-

District Administration, Multan to Express Solidarity with the Kashmiri People

👺 Kiran Asim

MULTAN: October 27 was observed as Black Day against India's oppressive occupation of occupied Jammu and Kashmir. On this occasion, a grand seminar and awareness rally were organized by the district administration Multan at Raza Hall.

Deputy Commissioner Multan Waseem Hamid Sandhu led the rally to express solidarity with the Kashmiri brothers. The rally started from Raza Hall and reached Chowk Kachhari raised slogans in favor of Pakistan and Kashmir. The rally was attended by dignitaries of the city, representa-



where the participants tives of civil society, students, Muhammad Abu Bakr and participants held placards teachers and citizens in large

Commissioner

Additional Deputy Commissioner General Muhammad Saif also participated in the Revenue rally. On this occasion, the

and banners with slogans of Kashmir becoming Pakistan. During the seminar, a

minute's silence was observed

ities cannot dampen the morale of Kashmiris. The Deputy Commissioner said that Pakistan will always continue its moral, political and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri brothers. The world community should be alert to India's illegal occu-

pation and serious human

rights violations.

to express solidarity with the

Kashmiri people. Speaking

on the occasion, Deputy

Commissioner Waseem

Hamid Sandhu said that

India's usurpation of occu-

pied Kashmir on October 27,

1947, was the darkest chapter

He said that the Indian

leadership has got the ink of

the dark chapter of October

27 on its face. India's atroc-

in world history.

Jamaat-e-Islami is making a concerted effort to establish an Islamic system of justice in the country

跨 Tariq Khan Yousafzai

TAKHT BHAI: The Deputy Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami District Mardan and former Member of the Provincial Assembly, Mian Nadir Shah Bacha, has said that Jamaat-e-Islami is making a concerted effort to establish an Islamic system of justice in the country. He stated that the country's resources are controlled by the elite, while the poor are struggling to afford even two meals a day. He was speaking to media representatives at the Takht Bhai Press Club (Registered). The meeting was held in connection with the three-day public congregation (Ijtema Aam) organized by Jamaat-e-Islami, scheduled for November 21, 22, and 23. On this occasion, PK-60 Ameer Nauman Yousaf, General Secretary Haji Islam Din, former Tehsil Nazim Muhammad Nawaz Tahir, Shahid Qamar, and Qazi Shah Khalid were also present. Mian Nadir Shah Bacha said that the aim of Jamaat-e-Islami's struggle is to establish a system based on justice, equality, and public welfare. He added that the people are currently facing severe hardships, and the only solution to these problems lies in the implementation of an Islamic welfare system.

A meeting of the Wapda Hydro Electric Workers Union (ČBA) held

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of the Wapda Hydro Electric Workers Union (CBA) was held yesterday at Division No. 2, IESCO, Islamabad, which was chaired by Regional Secretary Imran Khan. On this occasion, Raja Imran Safdar was unanimously appointed as the Zonal Information Secretary (All Pakistan Wapda Hydro Electric Workers Union CBA), a formal notification of which was also issued.

On this occasion, Regional Joint Secretary Shaukat Khan, Zonal Deputy Chairman Chaudhry Waqas Akram, Zonal Secretary Qasim Raza Jafri, Zonal Joint Secretary Adnan Satti, Divisional Chairman Javed Akhtar from the Divisional Body were present.

Divisional Secretary Surat Khan, Divisional Joint Secretary Muhammad Tahir Yousafzai, Chairman Riaz Ahmed Baloch, Vice Chairman Muhammad Shahid, Imran Hameed, Gulzar Ahmed, Rashid Hussain Butt, Imran Asghar, Ramzan Shakir, Saud Khan Miankhel and others were also present.

Pakistan Debating Society organized the All Pakistan Izaze-Aala Debate



ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Debating Society organized the All Pakistan Izaz-e-Aala Debate from October 24 to 26, 2025, hosted by The City School Capital Campus Islamabad.

Teams of talented students from across Pakistan participated, showcasing their intellectual depth and critical thinking skills in thought-pro-

The Chief Guest, Principal of The City School Capital Campus Islamabad, Dr. Syeda Kaniz Bano, addressed the participants, appreciating their efforts and extending gratitude to the hosting teachers, students, and all supporting members. She also acknowledged the contributions of the school's debating coaches, Mr. Saad Sohail and Mr. Mahad Saeed.

At the closing ceremony, Ms. Saira Khurrum, Senior Mistress O Level, expressed her confidence by saying, "I am certain that our future rests in capable hands"

Accused in child abuse case gets 14-year imprisonment

RAWALPINDI: A local court has sentenced an accused, Jalil Nawaz, to 14 years in prison for molesting a 10-year-old boy.

The court also imposed a fine of Rs 500,000 as compensation and an additional Rs. 200,000 as a penalty.

The case was registered in September 2024 at Saddar Bairooni Police Station. CPO Syed Khalid Hamdani commended the SSP Investigation and the legal team for their efforts.

Ombudsman's team inspects facilities at Karachi Cant, City Railway Stations

KARACHI: A team of the Federal Ombudsman Secretariat Regional Office Karachi, led by Provincial Coordinator for Sindh Amir Ahmed Shaikh, visited Karachi Cant and City Railway Stations on Monday to review facilities provided to passengers and assess overall service standards.

The Member (In Charge) Amir Ahmed Shaikh, along with Adviser Moula Bux Shaikh and Director Rashid Ahmad, as well as officials of Pakistan Railways, visited platforms, waiting lounges, reservation block and facilities, and newly installed escalators.

The FOS team also had interactions with passengers to acquire their views on service delivery and their suggestions for improvement. They also inspected vending stalls and checked the quality of food being sold and directed to ensure hygiene practices.

During the visit, Divisional Superintendent (DS) PR Karachi Division, Mehmood Rehman Lakho, briefed about the operational structure and performance of the Karachi Division of Pakistan Railways and informed that Karachi is one of the seven administrative divisions of Pakistan Railways that connects the entire country with the largest port city and plays a central role in rail transportation with handling the daily operations of 26 passenger, including interprovincial, intercity and intracity KCR trains as well as 10 freight trains in each up and down directions.

The inspection team was informed that Karachi Cantt Railway Station was established in 1898 and remains one of the busiest stations in Pakistan. It consists of 8 platforms, 11 working lines, and 26 vending stalls, while 13 trains originate from the station daily, catering to a passenger footfall of nearly 30,000 to 35,000 people and generating an approximate revenue of Rs 11 million.

Amir Ahmed Shaikh appreciated the efforts to provide services to passengers despite limited resources and stressed the need to develop a service delivery model that ensures maximum facilities to the public. He also emphasized the importance of passenger comfort, courteous staff behaviour, and better facilitation, especially for senior citizens, women, and families traveling long distances.

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Pakistan observes Kashmir Black Day to reaffirm unwavering commitment to Kashmiris'

ashmir Black Day was observed across Pakistan and at its diplomatic missions worldwide on Monday to condemn seventy-eight years of India's illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir and to reaffirm Pakistan's unwavering commitment to the just cause of the Kashmiri people.

"The observance served as a solemn reminder of the grave injustices endured by the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) for more than seven decades and express solidarity with their legitimate struggle for the right to self-determination, as enshrined in the relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions," Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press statement.

The observance of 27 October as a Black Day served as a grim reminder of India's unlawful assault on Jammu and Kashmir.

"It also marks an occasion to pay solemn tribute to the resilience of the Kashmiri people who, despite decades of oppression, remain steadfast in their struggle for the right to self-determination," it was added.

A wide range of activities, including seminars, webinars, panel discussions, and photo exhibitions, were organized throughout the country and at Pakistan's missions abroad.

The activities highlighted the plight of innocent Kashmiris drawing world's attention to the systematic repression and brutality perpetrated by Indian occupation forces.

In their special messages on the occasion, the President, the Prime Minister, and the Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister underscored Pakistan's steadfast resolve to continue extending moral, diplomatic and political support to the Kashmiri people in their just struggle.

They urged the international community to play its due role in pressing India to end its illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir, halt its grave human rights violations, and cease all repressive measures against the Kashmiri population.

The deputy prime minister/foreign minister also addressed letters to the President of the United Nations General Assembly, the President of the United Nations Security Council, the UN Secretary-General, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), apprising them of the grave human rights situation in IIO-JK. He highlighted India's continued denial of the fundamental human rights of the Kashmiri people for more than seven decades, in blatant violation of international law and relevant UNSC resolutions.

tions, coupled with the increasingly hostile and irresponsible rhetoric of its leadership, aggravates tensions in the region and poses a grave threat to regional peace and stability.

While a special Kashmir solidarity walk was organized from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in which officers and officials from the ministry participated.

The ministry also organized a special briefing for members of the diplomatic corps in Islamabad.

A short documentary depicting Indian atrocities in IIOJK was screened for the diplomats.

Breaking Point: Israel Challenges Trump's Gaza Accord

effectively nullified Trump's resolution that authorized the expansion of settlements into the West Bank and renewed military operations even as the peace framework was being finalized. The move blindsided Washington's diplomatic team, particularly Vice President J. D. Vance, who was in Tel Aviv precisely to secure Israel's commitment to compliance. According to U.S. officials cited by Reuters and Haaretz, the vice president regarded the Israeli resolution as a deliberate breach of trust and a personal affront, describing tional. That policy is it privately as an insult delivered "at the highest level."

Initially, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government appeared cautiously supportive. Yet within weeks, domestic political pressures and far-right factions within his coalition began to dismantle that fragile understanding.

The rupture was more than symbolic; it revealed the widening gap between stability and an Israeli government increasingly driven by nationalist ideology.

This humanitarian devastation is not an unintended consequence but a calculated strategy. Israeli hardliners argue that prolonged economic collapse will weaken militant networks and deter future uprisings. History, however, teaches the opposite: despair breeds resistance. A society stripped of dignity and survival cannot be pacified through starvation. No peace plan can take root amid hunger, displacement, and grief.

For the United States, this crisis poses

n a stunning act of political defi- an excruciating dilemma. For decades, el's strategic calculus if the United States seek durable peace through justice and ance, Israel's hard-line cabinet the U. S.-Israel partnership has rested on three pillars — security cooperation, Gaza Peace Plan by passing a political alignment, and shared democratic ideals. But when an ally openly defies a sitting American vice president and undermines a peace framework General Assembly has called an emerpainstakingly negotiated by Washington, gency session to debate sanctions related

those foundations begin to crumble. According to Defense News, the United States currently provides Israel with roughly \$3.8 billion in annual military aid, most of it uncondinow facing bipartisan scrutiny in Congress.

Several senators have proposed conditioning aid on measurable improvements in civilian protection, echoing growing public sentiment that America must not bankroll violations of humanitarian law. A Pew Research poll conducted in September 2025 found that sixty-one percent of Americans favor an American administration seeking temporarily suspending arms transfers to compel a cease-fire.

Across the Middle East, the shockwaves have been immediate. Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Egypt — all early supporters of Trump's peace initiative — condemned Israel's annexation vote as an act of deliberate sabotage. Turkey and Iran warned that continued aggression could trigger regional retaliation, language that has raised fears of a broader conflagration. Analysts point out that these countries, along with Pakistan, now possess credible deterrent and precision-strike capabilities that could drastically alter Isra-

withdraws its protective shield.

Even without direct confrontation, the diplomatic cost for Israel is mounting. The European Union has suspended preferential trade talks, and the U. N.

> to settlement expansion. For the first time in decades, Israel finds itself not only at odds with its adversaries but estranged from its oldest allies.

The tragedy is that Israel's current trajecmirrors mistakes of history.

Nations that have endured persecution and suffering should understand, more than any others, the moral necessity of restraint. Post-war Germany and Japan, once militaristic powers, rebuilt themselves into peaceful, prosperous democracies by renouncing aggression and embracing accountability. Their transformation stands as proof that security arises not from domination but from legitimacy and trust. Israel, endowed vitality, and a globally connected diaspora, could follow a similar path — if its leadership chose coexistence over conquest.

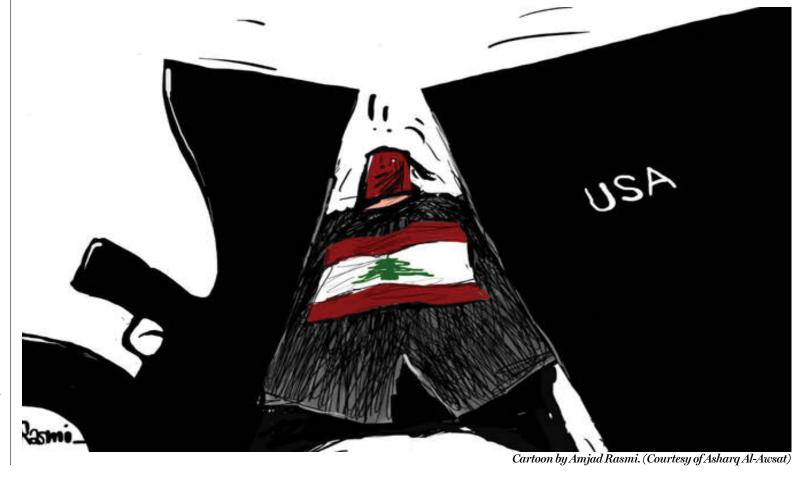
Instead, its current defiance threatens to turn strength into isolation. The illusion of invincibility can blind a nation to its own vulnerabilities. True power lies not in the ability to destroy but in the capacity to reconcile. A country surrounded by hostility cannot ensure its safety through endless wars; it must

empathy.

The immediate task now is to restore U. S.-Israeli trust and revive the 21-point peace roadmap before the window for diplomacy closes completely. That will require a verifiable halt to annexation, unrestricted humanitarian access to Gaza, a phased prisoner exchange, and credible international guarantees for demilitarization and reconstruction. Regional powers such as Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Egypt, and Turkey must act as guarantors, while the United States and European Union provide financial and institutional support for rebuilding. Without such coordinated engagement, the Middle East risks descending into yet another prolonged and destabilizing conflict.

 $Is rael's \ defiance \ may \ appear, to \ some,$ as a show of resolve. In truth, it reveals fragility - a dependence on foreign backing, on perpetual mobilization, and on the dangerous illusion that peace can be achieved through dominance. If Washington rediscovers its moral compass and conditions its support on accountability and restraint, it can still salvage both its peace plan and its repuwith immense scientific talent, economic tation as a global arbiter of justice. But if this spiral continues, the United States may one day realize that by shielding an ally from responsibility, it has imperiled not only Israel's survival but also America's credibility as the world's champion

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After the Floods, Education Needs Stronger Support

he Government of Punjab a month cannot cover transportation costs through stipend programs for Department Punjab, Punjab provides a quarterly stipend of Rs. 3,000 to secondary (6-10th grades) school-going girls in 17 districts of child labor or early marriage. Punjab, Whereas The Benazir Income Support of Rs. 1,000 per child to the children of BISP

beneficiaries who are enrolled in schools across Punjab, covering students from Grade 1 to Grade

initiatives commendable in spirit. They reflect the government's commitment to encouraging education, especially among girls in low-income households. They also align with Article 25-A of the Constitu-

shall provide free and compulsory education in female enrollment and a noticeable decline to all children aged five to sixteen years. The Punjab Free and Compulsory Education Act 2014 is enacted to operationalize this constitutional right. In this context, initiatives like Zewar-e-Taleem and the BISP education stipend schemes play a vital role in helping the government fulfil its constitutional and legislative obligations through conditional cash transfer mechanisms that incentivize school attendance. However, when viewed against the backdrop of rising inflation, economic stress, and the devastation caused by recent floods, these amounts seem increasingly inadequate. For many struggling families, such stipends make little difference in the decision to send a girl to school or to work.

For families living on the edge, Rs. 1,000

deserves credit for continuing or basic school supplies, let alone replace the its efforts to promote education income a girl might earn through domestic work or daily labor. When every rupee counts. low-income families. Under the the choice between survival and schooling Zewar-e-Taleem initiative of School Education becomes painfully clear. The result is that many girls, particularly in disaster-affected areas, are at risk of dropping out and being pushed into

The situation in Punjab mirrors challenges Programme (BISP) provides a monthly stipend seen in many developing countries, but there are valuable lessons from nations that have found

ways to turn financial incentives into lasting educational gains. Bangladesh, for instance, transformed girls' education through its Female Secondary School Stipend Program. The initiative provided not just cash incentives but also free tuition. extbook subsidies, and conditions tied to school attendance

Zia ur Rehman and delayed marriage. This tion of Pakistan, which declares that the state comprehensive approach led to a sharp increase

in child marriages. Similarly, Brazil's Bolsa Família program linked cash assistance to school attendance and regular health checkups, helping millions of poor families improve their living standards while ensuring that children stayed in school. In Rwanda, targeted stipends for girls' education were complemented with mentorship, transport facilities, and community engagement, making it easier for girls to continue schooling

safely and consistently. Punjab can draw inspiration from these examples. The stipend programs currently in place need to be re-evaluated, not just for their structure but for their impact. Increasing the stipend amount is essential; Rs. 1,000 a month today simply does not match the cost of living

or the financial pressures families face. If we truly expect families to prioritize education, particularly for their daughters, we must make it worth their while.

Doubling the existing stipend to Rs. 2,000 per month would not only help ease the immediate financial burden but would also send a strong signal that the state values girls' education as an investment in Pakistan's future. Infact support should also go beyond cash transfers such as subsidized transport, and school meals, can make education a more practical option for poor families.

There is also a need for greater community engagement to help families understand the long-term value of educating their daughters. In the poorest households, education is often viewed as an expense rather than an investment. Changing that perception requires consistent awareness campaigns and local champions who can demonstrate the benefits of keeping girls

Educating girls is not just a moral responsibility, it is an economic imperative. Studies have shown that every additional year of schooling for a girl can raise her future income potential and contribute to national economic growth. In a province still recovering from natural disasters and economic hardship, investing in girls' education is one of the surest ways to break the cycle of poverty.

Punjab's stipend programs have laid a strong foundation, but in their current form, they fall short of addressing the depth of today's challenges. Strengthening these incentives and adapting them to current realities is not just about keeping girls in classrooms, it's about safeguarding the province's future.

The writer, Mr. Zia ur Rehman, is the Founder and Chief Executive of Awaz CDS-Pakistan and a mathematician turned social and human rights activist

Pak-Egypt Strengthen **Military Ties**

Malik Faisal Munir

akistan and Egypt are two brotherly Islamic countries deeply connected through their shared history, civilization, and religious values. Both nations are not only pillars of the Islamic world but also play a prominent role in regional and international politics. Pakistan's military leadership has always played an active role in promoting regional peace, defense cooperation, and unity among Muslim countries. In this context, the visit of Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, to Egypt symbolizes a new chapter of vitality

in the relationship between the two nations. The purpose of this visit is to enhance military cooperation and defense collaboration between the two brotherly countries. This visit is not only significant for Pakistan but also a promising development for the entire Muslim world It comes at a time when the geopolitical landscape of the Middle East and South Asia is undergoing new

alignments, making closer cooperation among Muslim nations more crucial than ever before.

The Field Marshal also met with the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar University, Sheikh Ahmed El-Tayeb. During the meeting, Sheikh El-Tayeb shared his thoughts on the challenges faced by the Muslim Ummah, while Field Marshal Asim Munir emphasized the importance of countering extremist ideologies and eliminating misinterpretations of Islam.

Pakistan and Egypt are connected not only through faith, culture, and history but also by a shared commitment to the unity and defense of the Muslim world. Field Marshal Asim Munir's recent visit to Egypt is an important step toward strengthening this bond on practical grounds. The visit was not merely ceremonial; it reflected depth, vision, and the growing importance of modern military diplomacy.

The defense ties between Pakistan and Egypt run deep. Both countries have benefited from each other's experiences in various defense projects in the past. However, Field Marshal Munir's visit marks a new era in this relationship, with renewed prospects for cooperation in joint training, defense production, and counterterrorism.

Given their strategic locations and influence within the Muslim world, Pakistan and Egypt are natural partners. Their partnership is not only in the interest of both nations but also a positive sign for the collective stability of the Muslim Ummah.

Field Marshal Asim Munir's visit sends a powerful message of unity, wisdom, and shared vision, a belief that if Muslim nations open their intellectual, military, and economic resources to one another, a new era of peace and balance can emerge globally.

At a time when global power lynamics are rapidly shifting, closer ties between Pakistan and Egypt are

an encouraging sign for the unity of the Islamic world. This visit was not merely a series of meetings but the beginning of a new chapter in history, one of brotherhood, peace, and Islamic solidarity.

It would not be an overstatement to say that this visit will further strengthen Pakistan-Egypt relations and deliver a positive message across the Muslim world: that cooperation and mutual

understanding are the only pathways toward peace, unity, and progress. Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir's visit to Egypt was not just a military engagement but a foundation for renewed unity, intellectual awakening, and regional stability, a reflection of Pakistan's balanced foreign policy based on national security, religious moderation, and international cooperation. If this visit results in deeper ties between Pakistan and Egypt, it could open new avenues of peace, knowledge, and leadership for the entire Muslim world.

ISSI hosts Youth Policy Dialogue on Kashmir 2025

👺 City Desk

in March 2008.

ISLAMABAD: India Study Centre at the Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad, organised an event "Youth Policy Dialogue on Kashmir 2025" in collaboration with Youth Forum for Kashmir. More than 150 students from across Pakistan took part in the dialogue.

Speaking on the theme "The United Nations and Conflict Resolution - The Azerbaijan Experience", Mr. Ahmedli narrated the history of Azerbaijan's conflict with Armenia. While the United Nations Security Council passed four resolutions in 1993, Mr.

Ahmedli made special reference to

Resolution number 62/243 adopted

Earlier in his welcome remarks, the Director General ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood highlighted the importance of two dates - the 24th of October and the 27th October. On 24 October, the UN and the State of Azad Jammu and Kashmir were founded in 27th October, India landed its troops in Srinagar to occupy the state against India has sought to justify its military



and Kashmir on the pretext of alleged "raiders' invasion" and the so-called 'Instrument of Accession' allegedly signed by the Maharaja on 26 October

In his introductory remarks, Dr. 1945 and 1947, respectively, And on Khurram Abbas, Director India Study Centre, said that it is highly encouraging to see the enthusiasm shown by the wishes of its people. Historically, youngsters of Pakistan and participation in this very important debate on intervention in the State of Jammu the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

the importance of exploring areas of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute that are not discussed frequently, like the climate cost of the Jammu and

Kiyani, Barrister Nida Salam, Dr. Qamar Cheemaand Ambassador Abdul Basit expressed views on "Pakistan's Kashmir Policy in the 21st

Mr. Zaman Bajwa underscored Century: Challenges, Opportunities, and the Way Forward." He said that Pakistan's Kashmir policy is anchored in international law, UN charter and UNSC resolutions.

Chairman Board of Governors, ISSI, Mr. Shah Ghulam Qadir, Dr. Ambassador Khalid Mahmood said Muhammad Khan,, Ms Naila Altaf that while the League of Nations was more centred on security issues, the United Nations expanded its scope and included humanitarian and develop-

Services of Qazi Muhammad Akbar are unforgettable — Zafar Bakhtawari

跨 Spokesman Report

CHAKWAL: Secretary General of the UBG, Zafar Bakhtawari, has said that Qazi Muhammad Akbar, the group leader of the Chakwal Chamber of Commerce, was a great and compassionate personality who played a vital role in giving Chakwal a distinguished identity at the national level. He remained active in serving the business community and the public until his last breath.

He expressed these views while ence held in Chakwal in memory of Qazi Muhammad Akbar, organized by Khurram Abbasi, also known as Khurram Tony.

Zafar Bakhtawari said that Qazi Muhammad Akbar rendered remarkable services in promoting the Chakwal to uphold the positive identity of the expressed gratitude to Khurram Sufi Mushtaq, and others.

addressing a condolence refer- Chamber of Commerce across the country and also brought pride to Chakwal as the Vice President of FPCCI. He established strong relations with the chambers of Islamabad and other parts of the country and built a strong team in Chakwal that continues

Speaking on the occasion, Khurram Abbasi (Khurram Tony) said that people like Qazi Muhammad Akbar - sincere, kindhearted, and well-mannered — are born rarely. He possessed deep sympathy for traders, common citizens, and the needy. This condolence reference, he said, is an effort to pay tribute to his lifelong services.

Chakwal Chamber of Commerce Group Leader Khawaja Arif Yousaf said that both Qazi Muhammad Akbar and Zafar Bakhtawari played a foundational role in the establishment of the Chakwal Chamber. "In the early days of challenges, it was their guidance that helped us find the right direction," he said.

Addressing the gathering, Qazi Akbar's son, Qazi Muhammad Usman,

Abbasi (Khurram Tony), Zafar Bakhtawari, and all the guests who remembered his father's services.

He requested Zafar Bakhtawari to continue his patronage of the Chakwal Chamber as he did during his father's lifetime. "The chamber needs sincere and selfless people like him, and we will keep following my father's footsteps," he added.

Former President of the Chakwal Chamber, Haji Nazir Sultan, said that the late Qazi Akbar will always be remembered for connecting Chakwal's business community with the chamber.

The condolence reference was also attended by President of Chakwal Chamber Aamir Najeeb Bhutta, Shehzad Saadat, Khurram Kamran, Haji Murtaza, Malik Hafeez Anjum,

A New Chapter in Uzbekistan–EU Relations: Why the EPCA Matters

Eldor Tulyakov

n 24 October 2025, Uzbekistan and the European Union signed the Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (EPCA), a comprehensive framework that culminates negotiations launched in February 2019 and initialed in July 2022. More than a ceremonial milestone, the EPCA codifies a strategic upgrade in our relationship with the EU. It is broad in scope, nine titles, 356 articles, and 14 annexes, and practical in ambition: to align our cooperation with the realities of a rapidly changing world economy while reinforcing the rule-of-law foundations of sustainable devel-

opment at home. The agreement's timing is revealing. Uzbekistan's recent balanced, multi-vector foreign policy and people-centred reforms: strengthening the rule of law, expanding public administration openness, and advancing market reforms, have laid the necessary groundwork. These steps in human rights and governance have increased international confidence, enabling a rules-based partnership with vote of confidence in Uzbekistan's reform trajectory and a tangible roadmap to deliver measurable outcomes.

Economically, the EPCA offers a clear pathway for integration and growth. It EU norms on technical regulations, product safety, and sanitary and phytosanitary measures. The agreement is designed to reduce non-tariff barriers, simplify border procedures, and make our exporters more competitive in the EU market. It encourages joint ventures and industrial clustering, extends agro-processing and manufacturing long-term growth.



value chains, and supports energy efficiency and industrial modernisation. In short: more trade, more investment,

Human capital is an equally central pillar. The EPCA expands cooperation across education, science, skills development, and public health. It encourages joint univerprogrammes, faculty and student exchanges, and that accelerate knowledge transfer and help align our skills base with the demands of a digital and green economy. Europe. The EPCA is both a The spillovers are immediate and tangible: better public services, higher productivity, and new career pathways for our young people.

The rule-of-law dimension is another strategic gain. Deeper cooperation on judipromotes approximation to cial reform, anti-corruption, data protection, and cybersecurity increases predictability for citizens. The agreement's chapter on foreign and security policy expands dialogue and social safeguards. on conflict prevention, crisis management, non-proliferation, and export controls. This cooperation supports regional stability, which is essential for

Connectivity is the backbone that makes these ambitions feasible. Through synergies with the EU's Global Gateway and more quality jobs at home. initiative and the Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor, the EPCA supports logistics hubs, border modernisation, and greener infrastructure. Better connectivity means lower trade costs, faster delivery times, and diversified export routes, practical levers for competitiveresearch grants, mechanisms ness. It also enables cooperation on water management, climate adaptation, and resilient energy systems, strategic priorities for a land-linked Central Asian economy.

Critically, the EPCA opens structured avenues for collaboration on critical raw materials needed for the green and digital transitions. This builds on the EU-Uzbekistan memorandum of understanding signed in 2024. It creates opportunities to upgrade domestic standards, attract responsible investment. for investors and protections and join higher segments of global value chains, while maintaining environmental

> Beyond the text, the joint statement issued at the signing underscores a shared commitment to the UN Charter and to the principles of independence, sovereignty, and territo-

rial integrity, principles that guide our positions in international fora. It also welcomes the outcomes of the EU-Central Asia Summit, including see more diversified exports, plans for a Central Asia-EU Economic Forum and a Trans-Caspian Connectivity Investors Forum in Tashkent in 2025. In short, the EPCA is embedded in a wider, forwardlooking regional agenda.

In practical terms, success requires implementation of three clear priorities: coordinated institution building, enhanced business support, and transparent, data-driven tracking. These will ensure commitments translate to outcomes

First, institutional coordination. Translating commitments into outcomes requires a whole-of-government mechanism with clear mandates, timelines, and dashboards. A national EPCA coordination council, supported by technical working groups, should steer approximation to EU standards, monitor progress, and troubleshoot bottlenecks.

Second, business enablement. Firms need guidance to navigate new standards and opportunities. An "EU Helpdesk" for exporters and investors would offer practical

advice on certification, rules of origin, and compliance. This would turn legal text into business practice. Expanding the capacity of testing, inspection, and certification bodies will further reduce transaction costs and speed market entry.

Third, open, data-driven delivery. Customs and trade facilitation should be fully digitised through singlewindow systems and interoperable data exchange. Regular public reporting on milestones, such as education partnerships, financed projects, and adopted standards, will sustain credibility and invite feedback from business and civil society.

The EPCA also aligns with Uzbekistan's WTO accession path by encouraging marketbased reforms and transparent, rules-based trade. As reforms deepen, our economy will stronger investor protections, and a more competitive domestic market. These outcomes raise household incomes and expand oppor-

This agreement is ambitious by design. Ambition alone is empty; execution alone is stagnant. The EPCA combines both setting a high bar and supplying the means to reach it. By acting decisively, we turn this framework into a catalyst for inclusive growth, institutional maturity, and global credibility.

Ultimately, the EPCA is more than a diplomatic success; it is the engine for Uzbekistan's reform agenda. By linking citizen welfare, business competitiveness, and international engagement, the EPCA puts us on a path to fundamental transformation. The critical task ahead is to deliver on this promise and make the Uzbekistan-EU partnership impactful and

The writer is Executive Director, Development Strategy Centre, Uzbekistan

Istanbul Among Europe's Top City Escapes



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Set across Asia and Europe along the Bosphorus Strait, Istanbul continues to charm travellers with its historic landmarks, vibrant culture, and dynamic culinary scene. The city welcomed 13.5 million visitors in the first nine months of 2025 and was recently ranked among Europe's top five city breaks by consumer champion Which?, while Condé Nast Traveller readers also named it one of the best family-friendly destinations. As autumn arrives, Istanbul's timeless appeal makes it an ideal getaway for those seeking both cultural discovery and modern comfort.

With its rich heritage shaped by empires over millennia, Istanbul seamlessly blends history with contemporary life. The UNESCO-listed Historical Peninsula, home to the Hagia Sophia, Blue Mosque, Basilica Cistern, and Topkapı Palace, remains a living testament to the city's past. Nearby, the Grand Bazaar and Spice Bazaar immerse visitors in a world of colours and aromas, echoing Istanbul's centuries-old trading spirit.

Beyond its historic core, the Bosphorus Strait offers a spectacular experience unique to the world's only city spanning two continents. A ferry ride reveals panoramic views of palaces, mosques, and elegant waterfront mansions, while neighbourhoods like Karaköy, Galataport, and Istiklal Street pulse with art, music, and café culture. Venues such as Istanbul Modern, Arter, and the Atatürk Cultural Center further highlight the city's creative vibrancy.

This season, Istanbul's cultural calendar is packed with major exhibitions and festivals. Highlights include The Art of James Cameron at the Istanbul Cinema Museum, The Haunted Eye by Steve McCurry, the Istanbul Biennial, and the 29th Istanbul Theatre Festival, and Ars Electronica at Zorlu PSM. Visitors can also indulge in the city's famed cuisine, from traditional breakfasts and bustling street food to MICHELIN-starred dining. With its unique blend of past and present, Istanbul continues to bridge continents and capture hearts.

Neveen Syed Honored by Japan for Bridging Pakistani and Japanese Cultures Through Ikebana



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Japan has conferred Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendations 2025 upon Ms. Neveen Syed, Chairperson of the Lahore Floritage Sogetsu Study Group in recognition of her significant contributions towards the promotion of cultural relations between Japan and Pakistan. On August 28 this year, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan had announced the conferment of award to Ms. Neveen.

Lahore Floritage Sogetsu Study Group is a cultural organisation of Japanese-style flower arrangement, Ikebana.

The Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, H. E. Mr. Akamatsu Shuichi, on behalf of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, presented the Commendations to Ms. Neveen on the occasion of an annual Ikebana flower arrangement exhibition hosted by the Lahore Floritage Sogetsu Study Group.

Ms. Neveen Syed, Chairperson of the Lahore Floritage Sogetsu Study Group, has been working selflessly and with full dedication to spread Japanese culture by providing opportunities to introduce Japanese culture to Pakistani people by holding Ikebana flower arrangement classes and exhibitions in Pakistan.

While congratulating Ms. Neveen upon receiving the commendations, Ambassador Akamatsu said that the conferment of Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendations is the acknowledgement of her efforts and dedication towards enhanced cultural relations and people-to-people interactions between Japan and Pakistan. In addition, Ambassador expressed his expectation that Ms. Neveen continues to play an essential role in the promotion of Ikebana in Pakistan and has acted as a bridge of friendship and goodwill between the two countries.

Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan hold a joint roadshow in Czech *Řepublic*

TASHKENT: A joint roadshow of Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan took place in Prague as part of the large-scale project Highlights of the Silk Road. The event became part of a European tour covering six cities, including Frankfurt, Vienna, Zurich,



Budapest, Prague, and Barcelona.

The initiative is being implemented in partnership with the Azerbaijan Tourism Board (ATB) and the National PR Center of Uzbekistan. Its goal is to promote the cultural, historical, and natural tourism potential of the two countries, develop joint routes along the Great Silk Road, and strengthen professional ties between tour operators.

Representatives of tourism committees, PR centers, DMCs and hotel chains, as well as Czech tour operators and heads of relevant organizations, took part in the event.

During the presentation, the Uzbek side introduced the country's key tourist destinations, including Samarkand, Bukhara, and Khiva, all of which are inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List. Special attention was paid to the development of ecological, gastronomic, ski, MICE, and cultural tourism.

After the official part, a B2B meeting was held, during which tour operators from Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, and the Czech Republic discussed prospects for cooperation and exchanged proposals on the formation of joint tourism products.

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

IIIUEA	riocidation	
Pakistan: PSX 1	00-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close	
162,163.81	163,304.13	
Day's High	Day's Low	
163,570.83	161,766.61	
Index Value	Change	
22,638,816,420	-1140.32	
Percentage	Time	
-0.7%	27 Oct, 2025	
•	4:30 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
9,653.82	+8.20	
Percentage	Time	
+0.085%	27 Oct, 4:35 pm	
	GMT+1	
USA: Dow Jones I	ndustrial Average	
Index Value	Change	
47,461.58	+254.46	
Percentage	Time	
+0.54%	27 Oct, 12:52 pm	
	GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikk	ei Stocks Average	
Inday Value	01	

50,512.32	+1,212.07	
Percentage	Time	
+2.46%	27 Oct, 3:45 pm GMT+9	

	lates
Buying	Selling
185.25	190.25
746.7	754.20
205.5	212.5
39.2	39.6
43.7	44.1
331.75	335.25
36.3	36.65
3.12	3.21
1.8762	1.9762
913.5	922.5
66.3	66.9
160.4	162.40
27.85	28.15
731.35	738.85
76.95	77.65
75.6	76.25
216.9	221.65
29.6	29.9
352.54	355.29
8.45	8.60
76.85	77.85
380.85	383.85
282.65	282.75
	185.25 746.7 205.5 39.2 43.7 331.75 36.3 3.12 1.8762 913.5 66.3 160.4 27.85 731.35 76.95 75.6 216.9 29.6 352.54 8.45 76.85 380.85

HBL Zarai Services Limited Expands Footprint into Sindh with Launch $in {\it Mirpur Mathelo}$

№ Commerce Desk

DAD LEGHARI, MIRPUR MATHELO: HBL Zarai Services Limited has officiallv launched its services in Sindh, marking a major step in its mission to empower farmers across Pakistan. The launch ceremony was held in Dad Leghari, Mirpur Mathelo, and was attended by a large gathering of nearly 500 members of the farming

The event was graced by Amer Aziz, CEO-HBL Zarai Services Limited, and Engineer Sardar Abdul Bari Khan Pitafi, a renowned community leader, a respected figure & leading integrated agri-livestock specialist in the region, along with other local notables and farmer representatives from surrounding areas.

During the ceremony, Amer Aziz highlighted the importance of HBL Zarai's entry into Sindh and the company's vision for inclusive agricultural growth. He said, "HBL Zarai is committed to transforming Pakistan's agriculture through innovation, technology, and trust. Our expansion into Sindh reflects our promise to bring quality agri services closer to farmers, helping them improve productivity, profitability, and sustainability." Engineer Sardar Abdul Bari Khan Pitafi welcomed HBL Zarai's initiative and appreciated its focus on the farming community. He remarked,"The arrival of HBL Zarai in Sindh is a positive step for our farmers.

HBL Zarai has finalized its first Zarai Dera in Dad Leghari, which will become fully functional in the coming months. The mechanization services are already fully operational, and the response from local farmers has been overwhelmingly positive.

In the near future, HBL Zarai aims to establish additional Zarai Deras (full-service agri hubs offering advisory, inputs, mechanization, and crop procurement) and Zarai Dost Shops (village-level retail outlets providing support and linkage to farmers' needs through the nearest Zarai Dera) in Shikarpur and Larkana, followed by expansion into other key agricultural regions of Sindh. The company's teams are already deployed on ground, providing continuous support and advisory services to farmers in the areas they serve.

Meta, in Partnership with MoITT, launches AI Literacy and Government Digital Transformation Experience Program in Pakistan

"Future in Focus: AI and Innovation," an event dedicated to advancing digital transformation in Pakistan. The gathering brought together government leaders, industry experts, and academia to accelerate the adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) and digital innovation nationwide.

At the event, Meta announced a series of initiatives designed to empower Pakistan's public sector and the local community. Among these, Meta revealed the expansion of Meta AI's language capabilities, enabling users in Pakistan to interact with Meta AI not only

the Ministry of Information Technology and ment empowers more people to discover infor-Telecommunication (MoITT), today hosted mation, express themselves, and maintain connections with what matters most.

> The company also introduced the localized version of the "Transforming Public Sector Innovation in Asia Pacific with Llama" guide, developed in partnership with Deloitte. This guide, with support from the Ministry, demonstrates how Meta's open-source AI model, Llama, can streamline government operastudies from across Asia Pacific, including no one is left behind in our digital transfor- AI-driven growth and innovation.

ISLAMABAD: Meta, in partnership with in English but also in Urdu. This enhance- Pakistan's own advancements in digital mation." governance.

> On this occasion, Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Government of Pakistan, Shaza Fatima Khawaja stated: "Under the Prime Minister's Digital Nation Vision, Pakistan is accelerating toward a future where technology empowers every citizen. Our partnership with Meta reflects this commitment; advancing AI literacy, digital transformation, and innovations, enhance public services, and support tion across government and academia. The data sovereignty. It offers best practices for introduction of Urdu for Meta AI is a miledeploying AI securely and sustainably in stone in making technology more inclusive and Central Asia at Meta, said, "Meta is deeply the public sector, drawing on successful case and accessible for our people, ensuring that committed to supporting Pakistan's vision for

Dr. Sved Mansoor Sarwar, Vice Chair of the National Computing Education Accreditation Council (NCEAC), emphasized that enhancing the quality of computing education in Pakistan requires a strong focus on faculty capacity building.

Fizza Amjad, CEO of atomcamp. "By equipping non-technical faculty with AI knowledge, we're creating a ripple effect that will reach thousands of students and strengthen the link between academia and industry.

Sarim Aziz, Director of Public Policy South

Future in Focus

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication (MolTT), in partnership with Meta, hosted "Future in Focus: A1 and Innovation," an event dedicated to advancing digital transformation in Pakistan on Monday.



Faisalabad business leaders demand urgent UN Action on Kashmir



跨 Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: The business community of Faisalabad strongly condemns India's usurpation of occupied Kashmir and we demand that the Kashmir issue be resolved without delay in accordance with the UN

This was said by Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Farooq Yousuf Sheikh while addressing a symbolic walk organized on the occasion of Black Day to mark the completion of 77 years of India's illegal occupation of occupied

Kashmir. He said that the Indian army has suppressed the Kashmiris by force and in addition to atrocities on them, the genocide of the Kashmiris is also ongoing.

He said that instead of resolving this dispute in accordance with the UN resolutions, India has abolished the special status of occupied Kashmir so that the Muslim majority in the valley can be converted into a minority.

He said that unfortunately, despite the actions taken against the UN resolutions, this organization and the international community are not taking any action

against India, which is a clear violation of basic human rights. Farooq Yousuf Sheikh also appreciated the spirit of the Pakistan Army soldiers under the leadership of Field Marshal Asim Munir in defending the beloved homeland and said that our armed forces, who protect the borders and fight against terrorism, are worthy of praise and the business community is proud of their sacrifices.

The participants of the walk took out a symbolic walk under the leadership of the President of the Chamber and also raised slogans against India.

High Interest Rate Hindering Industrial Growth, Says SITE President

E Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Ahmed Azeem Alvi, President of the SITE Association of Industry Karachi, has expressed deep disappointment over the State Bank of Pakistan's decision to maintain the policy rate at 11 percent. He criticized the move, stating that the repeated demand by the business community to bring the interest rate down to single digits has once again been ignored, causing widespread concern among industrial stakehold-

that while Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif continues to emphasize the impor- ment. "The current interest tance of boosting industrial activity — including ment and stalling industrial the recent announcement progress," he added.

of a power subsidy package for industries - the bureaucracy appears to be resisting these efforts. "It seems the Prime Minister's initiatives for economic revival are not being digested by the bureaucracy," he remarked. "This is the fourth consecutive time the policy rate has not been reduced, which clearly indicates a lack of alignment with the Prime Minister's economic vision."

SAI President further explained that a reduction in the policy rate would have enabled industrialists to access bank financing for In a statement, Alvi said purchasing new machinery, thereby enhancing production and generating employrate is discouraging invest-

ACCA and AACSB join efforts to support accounting and finance education

Commerce Desk

ACCA (Association of Char-Collegiate Schools

of Business) have entered into a strategic partnership to support business and accounting and finance education, signing a three-year memorandum of understanding (MOU) on October 17, 2025.

Helen Brand, Chief Executive, ACCA, said: 'Accountancy is changing: accountants are driving sustainability, promoting social value and dealing with new ethical challenges, as well as enabling innovative technologies which are shaking up

the world of work.

Lily Bi, President and LAHORE: Leadership from CEO of AACSB, said: 'Business education is undertered Certified Accountants) going profound transforand AACSB Internation- mation, and AACSB Interal (Association to Advance national is proud to partner



with ACCA to help shape the future. Lucia Real-Martin, Executive Director - Relationships, ACCA, said: 'This partnership with AACSB will allow ACCA to deepen our support of accountancy education across Asia. Our team looks forward to the upcoming years of impactful collaboration.

Zong and ICBC Pakistan Operations Forge Strategic Partnership for Cloud, Data Center & Digital ICT Services

Example 2 Commerce Desk

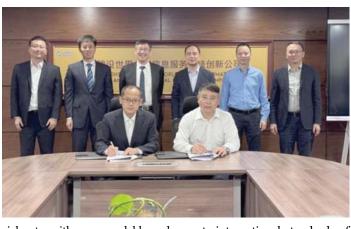
ISLAMABAD: Zong, Pakistan's leading information services & technology innovation company, has entered into a landmark strategic partnership with the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) Pakistan Operations to deliver a comprehensive suite of advanced ICT infrastructure and managed digital services.

Under this collaboration, Zong will provide a Cloud Platform designed to ship and executive teams from both meet ICBC's operational and security requirements, along with IT infrastructure and end-to-end secure in strengthening digital cooperation connectivity. These services will be between the two entities. It underhosted at Zong's state-of-the-art scores Zong's unwavering commit-

Center (HPCC) in Islamabad; one of Pakistan's most advanced digital

The scope of services will further extend to managed Wi-Fi and enterprise communication solutions, empowering ICBC's nationwide operations with seamless, reliable, and secure network performance.

The official signing ceremony took place at CMPak Headquarters, and was attended by senior leaderorganizations. This strategic alliance marks a significant milestone



cial sector with secure, scalable, and meets international standards of High-Performance Computing ment to enabling Pakistan's finan-resilient digital infrastructure that performance and compliance.

Speaking on the occasion, Fan Jiehuan, Deputy Director of Business Solutions said:

"We are proud to partner with ICBC in advancing their digital transformation journey. This collaboration reflects our shared vision to drive innovation, security, and reliability through world-class ICT infrastructure and cloud services in Pakistan's financial ecosystem."

Through this partnership, both organizations reaffirm their dedication to enhancing Pakistan's digital economy, fostering greater connectivity, innovation, and technological collaboration under the broader China-Pakistan economic frame-

Opening Ceremony of 3rd CNS All Pakistan Squash Championship 2025 held at Karachi

Sports Desk

KARACHI: An impressive opening ceremony of 3rd Chief of the Naval Staff All Pakistan Squash Championship was held at Roshan Khan-Jahangir Khan (RKJK) Squash Complex in Karachi. Commander Karachi, Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi, graced the occasion as Chief Guest and formally declared the championship open. The event will be held from 27 Oct - 2 Nov 25, featuring 15 matches with participation of 32 men and 16 women.

In his welcome address, Tournament Director, Commodore Mudassar Khurshid extended a warm welcome to the distinguished guests, players and sponsors. He highlighted Pakistan Navy's consistent efforts to promote sports and provide a platform for national athletes to show their professional acumen. He emphasized that the champi-



historic dominance in the sport, and promote gender inclusivity onship aims to nurture emerging through inclusion of women's category in the championship,

reflecting Pakistan Navy's commitment to equal opportunities in sports.

Pakistan Navy's association with rich legacy evolved into RKJK including a state-of-the-art four-

with a single court at Manora. This

squash stretches back to the early Squash Complex, inaugurated in years of independence beginning 1991. The facility now comprises five international-standard courts,

further elevating its status as a and military dignitaries, sponsors, premier venue.

The opening ceremony was fraternity.

sided glass court added in 2023, attended by a large number of civil senior squash players and media

Ramzan Mulghani Wins Second South Punjab Chess Festival in D. G. Khan

跨 Zain Khan Malghani

MULTAN: Commissioner DG Khan, worth Rs. 1 million was organized under the auspices of the Chess Association of Punjab (CAP), DC Office, DG Khan Chess Association and the Sports Department featuring participation from over 100 top players representing different districts of South Punjab.

The event aimed to promote chess, encourage positive activities among youth, and strengthen sports culture in the region.

Competitions were held in various age categories where children, youth, and senior players displayed their skills. In the open category, Ramzan Mulghani (Taunsa) secured first position with 6.5 points, followed by Naveed Akhtar (D. G. Khan) and Akhtar Hussain (Bahawalpur) with 6 points each.



In the junior category, Saif ur Rehman took first place with 6.5 points, while in the women's category, performers at the end of the ceremony.

Fareeha Siddique topped the chart with

Addressing the prize distribution ceremony, Raja Gauhar, General Secretary of CAP, said chess is the best exercise for mental training and decision-making. He added that under the visionary leadership of Dr. Naeem Rauf, President CAP, efforts are being made to promote chess in all parts of Punjab, especially in less-developed areas.

Commissioner D. G. Khan Ishfaq Ahmed Chaudhry and Deputy Commissioner DG Khan Usman Khalid appreciated the event, calling chess "the game of kings now made common for youth." They announced that the chess championships in DG Khan will be organized annually to provide young players with opportunities to progress to national and international levels. Prizes, shields, and certificates were distributed among the top

Kashmir Black Day Observed by CBP with Solidarity Across Peshawar's Cantt Area

👺 Bureau Report

PESHAWAR, PAKISTAN: CBP institutions across Peshawar's Cantt area, including the CBP Office and CPEIs observed Kashmir Black Day with a series of impactful activities to express their solidarity with the people of Jammu and Kashmir, in line with the directives of DG ML&C.

At the CBP Office, the day was marked by a solemn flag-hoisting ceremony, where the flags of Pakistan and Kashmir were displayed prominently, symbolizing unity and unwavering support. The event began with the national flag being raised, followed by a solidarity walk led by the Vice President and CBP staff. The walk was a powerful demonstration of commitment to the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination and their ongoing struggle for justice and freedom.

In addition to the ceremony, CBP launched a comprehensive outdoor branding campaign in the Cantt area, reinforcing the message of Kashmir's



plight. Large banners were displayed at ries highlighting the ongoing struggle key locations, while digital screens in the of the Kashmiri people. Pamphlets were

educate the public about the history and current situation in Jammu and

Similarly, CPEIs (Cantt Public Educational Institutions) which includes Cantt Public Schools, organized a Kashmir Solidarity Walk and a series of special assemblies, speeches and debates. The students participated enthusiastically, preparing posters, delivering speeches, and engaging in discussions about the significance of the day. Poster competitions were held in both CB schools, and pamphlets were handed out to further educate students and the local commu-

nity about the Kashmir issue. These collective efforts not only emphasized the resilience and sacrifices of the Kashmiri people but also highlighted the importance of raising awareness and promoting peace and justice. The observance of Kashmir Black Day by CBP serves as a reaffirmation of Pakistan's commitment to standing with Kashmir in their struggle for freedom area showcased poignant documenta- also distributed to raise awareness and and self-determination.

Pakistan Markazi Muslim League Honors Multan Journalists for Truth and Transparency

Main Tanveer

MULTAN: A grand ceremony was organized in honor of the journalist community at a local hotel organized by Pakistan Markazi Muslim League in which prominent journalists of Multan, media representatives and office bearers of Pakistan Markazi Muslim League participated.

At the ceremony, honorary shields were presented to those journalists who highlighted the problems of the affected families while being in the field and played a prominent role in bringing public issues to the forefront at the national level.

Addressing the ceremony, Pakistan Markazi Muslim League President Khalid Masood Sindhu said that the media is the eye of the society and journalists are the class that has the courage to speak the truth despite difficulties. He said that Pakistan Central Muslim



responsible journalism.

Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar, President Pakistan Central Muslim League Punjab, said in his address that the role of media is of utmost importance in any democratic system. The way journalists League always supports positive and highlighted the suffering of the people

tion of the authorities to the affected areas is commendable. Taha Muneeb, Deputy Information Secretary Pakistan Central Muslim League, said that the media is the guarantor of truth and transparency and only those nations

during the floods and drew the attendevelop which give freedom and respect to their media.

Hafiz Abul Hassan, General Secretary and Ahmed Ajmal, Deputy Information Secretary Pakistan Central Muslim League South Punjab also speak on the occasion.

KHA Women's Wing Secures Permanent Sponsorship from Mehran Bottlers



Sports Desk

KARACHI: The Karachi Hockey Association (KHA) Women's Wing has announced a major breakthrough in its efforts to promote women's hockey in the city. Mr. Zeeshan Habib Teli, CEO of Mehran Bottlers, has become a permanent sponsor of the organization, committing to support the development of women's hockey in Karachi.

Syeda Shehla Raza, MNA, Chairperson Karachi Hockey Association and President Sindh Women's Wing, appreciated Zeeshan Habib Teli's support and thanked him for backing women's hockey. Syed Imtiaz Ali Shah, President Karachi Hockey Association, also thanked and appreciated the initiative of Zeeshan Habib Teli.

The KHA Women's Wing is organizing a match series between Under 15 KHA Boys and Ghulaman E Abbas to prepare the players for the National Games. The training camp is currently underway $% \left\{ 1\right\} =\left\{ 1\right\} =\left\{$ under the supervision of Head Coach Naeem Ahmed.

"We are thrilled to have Zeeshan Habib Teli on board as a permant sponsor," said Mrs. Asma Ali Shah, President of KHA Women's Wing. "His support will go a long way in helping us develop women's hockey in Karachi and providing opportunities for young girls to pursue their passion for the sport.

Dr. Imran Ali Shah, Orthopedic Surgeon and CEO of A. O Clinic, also visited the girls and promised to bring more sponsors to support their development.

Prominent businessman Faisal Nadeem from the USA was also present and appreciated the Karachi Hockey Association and KHA Women's Wing. Olympian Waseem Feroz emphasized the importance of regular training camps in improving player skills.

The sponsorship was announced at a ceremony attended by Olympian Hanif Khan, who presented the KHA Women's Wing logo to Mr. Zeeshan Habib Teli and a badge to Dr. Imran Ali Shah. Ms. Hajra Nawab, District Sports Officer, presented bouquets to the esteemed guests, and Mrs. Asma Ali Shah presented a memorable shield souvenir to Mr. Zeeshan Habib Teli.

Batool Kazim, Honorary Secretary KHA Women's Wing, expressed a note of thanks to the distinguished guests. The guests, including Dr. Imran Ali Shah, Zeeshan Habib Teli, Hajra Nawab, and others, visited the KHA Sports Arena and appreciated the work and facilities.

Other distinguished guests included Irfan Tahir, Kashmala Batool, Syed Imtiaz Ul Hassan, and Faizan Sagheer Hussain.

Kashmir Black Day function held at TTSingh with ADC revenue Waqas Akbar in the chair



Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: In observance of Kashmir Black Day (Youme-Siah), a district-level central ceremony was held at the District Council Hall, under the directives of Deputy Commissioner Umar Abbas Mela. The event was chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Waqar Akbar, while Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Zeeshan Labbha Masih, Assistant Commissioners, heads of various departments, President of the Bar Association Mehr Rab Nawaz Dadowana, members of the Peace Committee, media representatives and civil society members also participated in large numbers. The ceremony commenced with the recitation of the Holy Quran, followed by the national anthems of Pakistan and Kashmir. A siren was sounded, and one minute of silence was observed in solidarity with the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Speakers paid glowing tributes to the sacrifices of the Kashmiri people, reiterating that Kashmir is the jugular vein of Pakistan and that their struggle for freedom will ultimately succeed.

Addressing the gathering, ADC (Revenue) Waqar Akbar said that Kashmir Black Day reminds us of the great sacrifices rendered by the Kashmiri brothers and sisters, adding that the Pakistani nation stands shoulder to shoulder with them on every platform.

At the end of the ceremony, a Solidarity Rally for Kashmir was taken out, during which participants prayed for the freedom of Kashmir and the prosperity and security of Pakistan. Meanwhile, similar Kashmir Solidarity Rallies were also organized in Gojra, Pirmahal and Kamalia, led by the respective Assistant Commis-



DPM Dar reaffirms Pakistan's unwavering support to just struggle of Kashmiri people

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Monday reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering political, moral and diplomatic support to the just struggle of Kashmiri people saying Pakistan will continue to raise its voice at every international forum until the realization of Kashmiris' legitimate right to self-determination.

"On this Day, Pakistan calls upon the international only attention but also mean- when Indian troops landed through a free and impartial in securing a just and lasting community to play their due ingful action," the deputy PM in Srinagar to enforce India's plebiscite conducted under solution to this long festering



IIOJK.

In the last seventy-eight Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) have suffered a systematic and relentless campaign of tyranny, oppression and subjugation at the hands of Indian occupation forces.

He recalled the dark sition of Jammu and Kashmir emphasized the critical role of Their plight deserves not events of 27 October 1947, would be determined the international community role in bringing an end to said in his message in connec-illegal occupation of Jammu the auspices of the United dispute in our region.

Nations," he said adding that India has blatantly defied years, the people of Indian these binding resolutions, choosing instead to tighten its grip on the occupied territory through sheer force and repression.

Pakistan, on its part, has always remained committed to the sanctity and centrality "The UN Security Council, of UN Security Council in a series of landmark reso- resolutions on Jammu & lutions, had unequivocally Kashmir. We have consistaffirmed that the final dispo- ently recognized as well as

Pakistan, European Parliament Delegation agree to strengthen partnership under GSP+ framework

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Kamal Khan held a detailed and the European Parlia- meeting with the delegation. ment have reaffirmed their commitment to strengthenble development.

from the European Parliament's Committee on Development visited the Ministry stan attaches great imporof Commerce in Islamabad

on Monday, where Federal Minister for Commerce Jam

During the meeting, both sides discussed avenues ing partnership under the to enhance cooperation GSP+ framework, with a in trade, investment, and focus on trade, investment, human rights, emphasizing human rights, and sustaina- the importance of transparency and sustainable growth A high-level delegation in Pakistan-EU relations.

Minister Jam Kamal tance to its relations with



Khan underscored that Paki- the European Union, high- areas including labor rights, lighting the country's ongoing climate action, and social reforms and progress in key

He informed the delegation about Pakistan's achievements, noting that the country's election to the UN Human Rights Council for 2026-2028 reflects international confidence in Pakistan's commitment to human rights.

He also mentioned that the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) has attained 'A-status' accreditation, a recognition of Pakistan's progress in institu-

Punjab announces stipends for imams of 65,000 mosques

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Punjab government on Monday announced monthly stipends for prayer leaders (imams) across 65,000 mosques in the province.

The decision, first of its kind, was taken at a meeting chaired by the Punjab Chief Minister on law and order — the fifth consecutive session on the subject - during which several decisions were taken.

During the meeting, Maryam Nawaz said that the imam of a mosque is a highly respected and honourable figure in society, and it is inappropriate for communities to collect donations to pay their imams.

She announced that the Punjab government would provide financial support to imams to meet their essen-



Maryam Nawaz also directed that

mosque construction and renovation projects be included in the Annual use of loudspeakers.

commissioners to personally visit and meet local imams to address their concerns. The meeting also gave in-principle

approval for the establishment of a Cybercrime Cell in Punjab and ordered strict enforcement against the illegal

instructed for their early completion.

maintenance work on connecting roads

Following her directives, repair and

Special bus services will be operated

The chief minister further instructed

deputy commissioners and assistant

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Pakistan, Bangladesh vow to boost defence, security cooperation



Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC) General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, who is on an official visit to Bangladesh, held separate meetings with the country's civil and military leadership to discuss regional and global security matters and bilateral defence cooperation.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), General Mirza met Chief Advisor Muhammad Yunus Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Mohammad Nazmul Hassan, Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Hasan Mahmood Khan, and Principal Staff Officer Armed Forces Division Lieutenant General S. M. Kamrul Hassan.

During the meetings, both sides discussed the evolving regional environment and emphasised the

ciation for its longstanding fraternal relations with Bangladesh and underscored the shared resolve to deepen these ties "on the basis of sovereign equality and mutual respect."

Both sides expressed optimism about enhancing defence collaboration and reiterated their commitment to expanding military-to-military engagements and related initiatives.

General Mirza also visited the School of Infantry and Tactics in Sylhet, where he interacted with faculty and students. The ISPR said the civil and military leadership of Bangladesh "appreciated the high professional standards of Pakistan Armed Forces and their achievements and sacrifices in the fight against terrorism."

Earlier, upon his arrival at Senakunjo, General Mirza was importance of strengthening bilat- presented a guard of honour by a eral defence and security ties. The smartly turned-out contingent and CJCSC reaffirmed Pakistan's apprelaid a wreath at Shikha Anirban.

Officer martyred in attack on Balochistan police station



👺 Bureau Report

QUETTA: A senior police officer was killed after unidentified armed men attacked a police station in the Bhag Nari area of Kachhi district, Balochistan, on Monday night.

According to initial reports, the assailants stormed the station after sunset, opened indiscriminate fire, and later set the building on fire.

During the exchange of fire, Police Inspector Lutf Ali Khosa was killed on the spot.

Later, the police and security forces reached the spot and cordoned off the area and launched a search operation.

Authorities have begun investigating the extent of the damage to the police station and ascertaining the motive behind the attack.

Aurangzeb Khichi reaffirms Pakistan's unwavering support for IIoJK people



👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Division, Aurangzeb Khan Khichi. has reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering support for the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), marking October 27 as Black Day to condemn India's illegal occupation of the region since 1947.

In his message, the Minister said dark chapter in history when Indian forces unlawfully entered Jammu and Council resolutions.

Kashmir against the will of the Kashmiri people and in violation of international norms and United Nations resolutions.

"This day reminds the world of the unfulfilled promises made to the Kashmiri people regarding their right

to self-determination," he stated. Khichi emphasized that Pakistan will continue to extend political, moral, and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri people until they achieve that October 27, 1947, marked a their legitimate right to self-determination as enshrined in UN Security